

**Bulletin sponsors this week are for the:****Health of:****Sandra** on her birthday, offered by Linda Dantinne**Maribeth** Romanofsky, on her birthday, offered with love by her family.**Memory of:****Aunt Jean**, offered by Linda Dantinne**Readings:****Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40** (*Sunday Before Nativity, Sunday of the Holy Fathers*)**Matthew 1:1-25** (*Sunday Before Nativity, Sunday of the Holy Fathers*)

**BRETHREN**, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

**Sunday Services:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM      Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**  
**General Confession – 9:45 AM** on the first Sunday of each month  
**Private Confession - by appointment, contact Father Matthew**  
**Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month**

**Coffee hour - after Divine Liturgy.**

**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee Hour.**

**Sunday school classes meet every Sunday.**

**Please see your child’s teacher for meeting times.**

**Announcements:**

- A special thank you to **Tammy Zimmerman, Nicholas Zimmerman, Linda Dantinne, and Mat. Barbara Searfoorce** for putting together a wonderful **St. Nicolas Day program!** The children thoroughly enjoyed it, as did the rest of the parish!
- Service for the **Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Flesh** will be celebrated on **Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.**
- The next meeting of the **parish council will be on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**, after coffee hour.
- **On Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual parish meeting after Divine Liturgy.** The annual meeting of the parishioners is for the election of the Parish Council and its officers, reports by the Rector and Council members, and for other business.

**Reminders:**

- While thinking about **Christmas gifts this year, please consider religious and imported items from our parish store.** Items available for purchase can be viewed in the case downstairs. If you are interested in purchasing an item, please see Mat. Holly Dawson or Linda Dantinne.
- The **Parish Council** has created a special fund for a **parish rectory.** Please **mark** any **donations** for this important fund with the designation “**Rectory**”.
- **The Sisterhood’s food drive is ongoing.** Please be generous with your donations as many people experience food insecurity at this time of year. Collection bins are located both downstairs and in the back of the church. Thank you for your donations!
- **Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.** And please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.

- Bulletin sponsors, prayer requests, or announcements for the bulletin should be **submitted by email to:** [bulletin@churchmotherofgod.org](mailto:bulletin@churchmotherofgod.org)
- Thank you to everyone who has been donating to our parish. There is a donation basket at the candle stand. Also, a **Venmo account** can be used for donations. It is at <https://venmo.com/u/Hala-Dawson>.
- **The Grey Book Step Meeting Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 PM downstairs in the community room.
- **The Living Clean Group** of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 PM downstairs in the community room.

### Sunday before the Nativity (Holy Fathers):

*Be glad, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha;  
for the Lamb is on her way to give birth  
to the Great Shepherd she carries in her womb.  
The God-bearing Fathers will rejoice, beholding Him,  
and with the shepherds, they will praise the Virgin who nurses Him.*

Kontakion — Tone 1

### Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ:

*Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!  
Adorn yourself, O Ephratha,  
for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave!  
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;  
if we eat of It, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.  
Christ is born to raise up again what fell in former times, His image.*

Tone 4—Troparion

*He Who holds the earth in the hollow of His hand  
now is beheld in Bethlehem wrapped in swaddling bands.  
We offer prefestal hymns to his Mother, who maternally rejoices  
having held to her bosom the Son of God.*

Kontakion — Tone 2

### Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Holy Fathers):

*Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Your Name forever! (Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*

*V. For You are just in all that You have done for us! (v. 4)*

### Tone 4 Alleluia verses:

*V. We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps. 43:1a)*

*V. For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. (Ps. 43:8)*

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/12/21>

Please check the website of our Diocese: [nynjoca.org/](http://nynjoca.org/)

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: [www.oca.org/](http://www.oca.org/)

See our Website at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

See our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog](https://www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog)

Email us at: [bulletin@churchmotherofgod.org](mailto:bulletin@churchmotherofgod.org)

# Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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*Glory to  
Jesus Christ*

*Glory  
Forever*

Sunday before the Nativity (Holy Fathers)

*Great are the accomplishments of faith,  
for the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the source of the flame, as if by restful waters,  
and the Prophet Daniel appeared  
as a shepherd of lions as of sheep.  
By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.*

Tone 2—Troparion

## December 21, 2025

### Today the Church remembers:

**Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ • Sunday before the Nativity •** Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia, and with her 500 men and 130 women (304) • Repose of St. Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow, Wonderworker of All Russia (1326) • Right-believing Princess Juliana of Vyazma (1406) • Repose of Bl. Procopii (Procopius) of Vyatka, Fool-for-Christ (1628) • Martyr Themístocles of Myra in Lycia (251)

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Tone 3 of the [Octoechos](#)  
**Nativity Fast**