

Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:**For the health of:**

Denise Hartzel, on her birthday, offered by Joseph Hartzel.

MaryAnn Kuzemchak, on her birthday, offered by her family.

For the memory of:

Newly departed **Arch Priest Stephen**, brother-in-law of Bill Kuzemchak

Vyacheslav Markevich, offered by his daughter, Tatsiana Markevich-DaGrosa

Readings:

Hebrews 11:9-10; 17-23; 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.

Saturday service:

Vespers – 6:30 PM

(Private Confession – After Vespers by appointment.)

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

(General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)

(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School

All classes will meet every Sunday.

Grades 5-8 – 9:30 am

Preschool and Grades K through 4 – immediately after communion.

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

Announcement:

- We will be celebrating the **Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Flesh on Christmas's Eve, Tuesday, December 24, at 6:30 pm.**

Sunday before the Nativity:

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord (December 18-24) is known as the **Sunday of the Holy Fathers**. On this day the Church commemorates all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to Saint Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered today, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (December 17).

The Troparion to the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths ("Great are the accomplishments of faith...") is quite similar to the Troparion for Saint Theodore the Recruit (February 17, and the first Saturday of Great Lent). The Kontakion to Saint Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).

*Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the flames as though at the waters of rest,
and the prophet Daniel appeared,
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!*

Troparion – Tone 2

Forefeast of the Nativity of our Lord

The Forefeast of the Nativity of the Lord begins on December 20. From now on, most of the liturgical hymns will be concerned with the birth of the Savior.

At Vespers for this third day of the prefeast of the Nativity we sing, "Christ is born on earth to crush the power of evil, to enlighten those in darkness, and to free the captives. Let us go forth to meet Him."

*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 comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning!

Troparion – Tone 4

*Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Eternal Word.*

Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!

Glorify with the angels and the shepherds

the Eternal God, who is willing to appear as a little child!

Kontakion – Tone 3

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2019/12/22>

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

See us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/mayslandingmog

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**Glory
Forever**

Sunday before the Nativity

*Rejoice, Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha!
The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb.*

*The God-bearing forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,
and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.*

Kontakion – Tone 1

Today the Church remembers:

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ • Sunday before the Nativity • Great Martyr Anastasia, "Deliverer from Bonds", and her teacher, Martyr Chrysogonus, and with them Martyrs Theodota, Evodias, Eutychianus, and others, who suffered under Diocletian (ca. 304)

December 22, 2019

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Nativity Fast

Tone 2 of the Octoechos

Sunday of the Holy Fathers