

Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:**For the health of:****Denise** on her birthday, offered by Joseph Hartzel**Daniel** on his birthday, offered by his mother Viktoryia Kuzmitskaya**MaryAnn** Kuzemchak offered by her family.**Billy** Kuzemchak offered by his family.**For memory of:****Vyacheslav** Markevich offered by Tatsiana DaGrosa Markevich**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.

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:****Hours - 9:40 AM****Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM****(Private Confession – After Vespers by appointment.)****(General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)****(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)****Church School**

2nd through 8th grades – 9:30 AM (No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.)

Preschool through 1st grades meet immediately after communion every Sunday.

Coffee hour - after Liturgy

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

Announcements:

- The Sisterhood's Gourmet Popcorn and Holiday Treats fundraiser items are in. Please see Tammy Zimmerman to pick up your order.
- Our parish will celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh on Monday evening December 24 at 6:30 PM with the Nativity Liturgy.
- There will be a Church Council meeting December 30th after coffee hour.

Special Announcements:

- **Any Announcements or prayer requests for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org**
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign-up sheet at the candle stand.
- **The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous** meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- **The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous** meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.

Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord:

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).

*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

Readings on all saints remembered today can be found at:

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/12/23>

The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, (December 25) can be found at:

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/12/25/103638-the-nativity-of-our-lord-god-and-savior-jesus-christ>

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

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Temporary Rector

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Sunday before the Nativity

**Glory to
Jesus
Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

*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 (Sunday before the Nativity) – Tone 2

On this day the Church remembers:

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ • Sunday before the Nativity • Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete: Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, Zoticus, Pompeius, Agathopus, Basilides, and Evaristus (3rd c.) • Martyr Euporus (3rd c.) • Repose of St. Theoctist, Archbishop of Novgorod (1310 • St. Niphon, Bishop of Cyprus (4th c.) • St. Paul, Bishop of Neo-Cæsarea (4th c.).

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December 23, 2018 - Bulletin

Nativity Fast

30th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 of the Octoechos

Sunday before Nativity