

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For health of:**

William D. Kuzemchak, on his birthday, son of MaryAnn and Bill

Fr. **Matthew**, Matushka **Barbara**, and **all the parishioners of the Mother of God**, offered by Linda and Richard. Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Happy New Year!

Readings:

- **Galatians 1:11-19 (Sunday After)**
- **Matthew 2:13-23 (Sunday After)**

BRETHREN, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:**

Hours – 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy** – 10:00 AM
Private Confession – Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.
General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month
Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month
Coffee hour – after Liturgy

Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)

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

Announcements:

- We would like to thank **Fr. Joseph Ramishvili**, of the Georgian Orthodox Church, for celebrating the **Nativity of Christ** with us last Wednesday.
- We would like to thank everyone that helped out in our parish this past year. Special thanks to all who cleaned and maintained the church building, sang or read at the services, taught Church school classes, helped at the candle stand, maintained the church grounds, brought food for coffee hour and luncheons, help to spread information about our Church, and donated to our collections. May God bless you and bring you a happy new year!
- Our Orthodox Church Calendar for 2014 is available at the candle stand. It is the St. Tikhon's Lectionary Wall Calendar that contains Icons from the Monastery. It contains the readings for the year along with feast and fast days.

Special Announcements:

- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign-up sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Sunday after the Nativity:

The Holy Prophet-King David, St Joseph the Betrothed, and St James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, St Stephen (December 27), Sts James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Sts Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted St James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, St. Joseph was linked with Sts David and James.

Afterfeast of the Nativity:

On December 29, in the Afterfeast of the Nativity, we commemorate the 14,000 holy infants who were put to death by King Herod in his attempt to kill the new-born Messiah (Mt. 2:16).

Today there is also a commemoration of all Orthodox Christians who have died from hunger, thirst, the sword, and freezing.

*God is with us!
God is with us!
Understand all ye nations,
And submit yourselves,
And submit yourselves,
For God is with us!"*



See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
E-Mail us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

Founded 1966

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Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!

Sunday after the Nativity

Today godly David is filled with joy;

Joseph and James offer praise.

The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.

They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth,

and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!"

Kontakion -

Today the Church remembers:

Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ • Sunday after Nativity • Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord • The 14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem • Ven. Marcellus, Abbot of the Monastery of the "Unsleeping Ones" (485) • Ven. Mark the Grave-digger, Theóphil, and John, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—11th - 12th c.) • Ven. Theóphil of Luga and Omutch (15th c.) • Ven. Thaddeus the Confessor, of the Studion (818).

December 29, 2013

**27th Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday after the Nativity**

Tone 2 of the Octoechos