

Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:

(no sponsors this week)

Readings:**Galatians 1:11-19** (*Sunday after Nativity*)**Matthew 2:13-23** (*Sunday after Nativity*)

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****(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:**

- There will be a meeting of the Church Council today after coffee hour.

Reminders:

- We offer general confession the first Sunday of each month, and Private Confession after Vespers by appointment on Saturday evenings. It is important that every Orthodox Christian go to confession.
- Upcoming bulletins can also be sponsored by using the signup sheet at the candle stand. If using the signup sheet, please give two weeks' notice.
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- Prosphora (bread) is available at the candle stand. Before the Divine Liturgy, while the Hours are being read, the faithful can have the bread sent into the altar with a list of names for prayers of health and salvation for the living and for the repose of the departed servants of God. (Bread must be purchased a week in advance of the Sunday Liturgy.)
- 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 after the Nativity:

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint 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, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints 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 Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.

*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 – Tone 2

*Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom.
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore You,
the Sun of righteousness,
and to know You, the Orient from on high.
O Lord, glory to You!*

Troparion Nativity - Tone 4

*Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.*

*Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
the Wise Men journey with the star,
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!*

Kontakion Nativity - Tone 3

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2019/12/29>

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E-Mail us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

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Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!

Sunday after the Nativity:

Commemoration of the Holy Righteous
David the King, Joseph the Betrothed,
and James the Brother of the Lord

*Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God:
you saw a Virgin great with Child, you gave glory with the shepherds,
you worshipped with the Magi, you received the news from the angel.
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!*

Troparion - Tone 2

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,
Theophilus, and John, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—11th-12th c.) • Ven. Theophil of
Luga and Omutch (15th c.) • Ven. Thaddeus the Confessor, of the Studion (818)

December 29, 2019

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

fast free week

Tone 3 of the Octoechos

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ