

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

**Fr. Matthew**, Matushka **Barbara**, and **all our parishioners**, offered by Linda and Richard. Christ is Born, Glorify Him.

**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 – 6:00 PM****Sunday service:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM** **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**  
(**Private Confession** – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)

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

(**Pannikhidas** – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month)

**Church School** – 9:30 AM

No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.

**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:**

- **There will be a meeting of the Parish Council today**, after coffee hour.
- The Great Blessing of Water takes place in the Orthodox Church on the **Feast of the Epiphany, next week, January 6<sup>th</sup>**. Remember to bring a container to bring Holy Water home with you.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored**; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- **Special Announcements** for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**Afterfeast of the Nativity:**

On December 30, the **Afterfeast of the Nativity**, let us offer thanks to Christ our God, Who is born of a Virgin for our salvation.

As the days begin to grow longer, we recall that the Lord is also called the **Sun of Righteousness**, and enlightens those who were in darkness. At this season of the year the daylight increases, and we remember the words of St John the Baptist, "*He must increase, but I must decrease*" (John 3:30).

**Sunday after the Nativity: Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord:**

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.

*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 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 3

See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)

E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

Sunday Bulletin

**Church of the Mother of God**

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

**Very Reverend Doctor Matthew Searforce,  
Temporary Rector**



Sunday after the Nativity

**Christ is Born**

**Glorify Him!**

*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 - Afterfeast

**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**  
• Virgin Martyr Anysia at Thessalonica (285-305) • Martyr Zoticus, Keeper of Orphans (4th c.) • Apostle of the Seventy, Timon the Deacon (1st c.) • Martyr Philoterus of Nicomedia (311) • Ven. Theodora of Caesarea in Cappadocia (8th c.) • Ven. Theodora of Constantinople (10th c.) • Monk Martyr Gideon of Karakallou (Mt. Athos—1818) • St. Makáry, Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia (1563)

**December 30, 2012**

**Tone 5** of the Octoechos

**Sunday after Nativity  
30th Sunday after Pentecost**