

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

To the parish on the occasion of the New Year, offered by the Dawson Family

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)

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."

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.

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 Church Council meeting today**, December 30th after coffee hour.
- **There will be a meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God** next Sunday, January 6th.
- Next Sunday, January 6th, the church celebrates the **Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. The Great Blessing of Water takes place on this day, parishioners should bring a container for Holy Water.

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 signup 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 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, 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 3

Readings on all saints remembered today can be found at:
<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/12/30>

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>

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searforce,

Temporary Rector

856-227-6915



Sunday after the Nativity

Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!

*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 (Sunday after the Nativity) – Tone 2

On this day 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).

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Tone 6 of the Octoechos

30th Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday after Nativity