



Sunday December 18, 2016 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. Sunday before the Nativity. Martyr Sebastian at Rome and his companions: Martyrs Nicostratus, Zoë, Castorius, Tranquillinus, Marcellinus, Mark, Claudius, Symphorian, Victorinus, Tiburtius, and Castulus (ca. 287). Ven. Sebastian, Abbot of Pshekhónsk Monastery (Vologdá—ca. 150).

This Week's Schedule

Saturday 12/24 Nativity Eve Vigil 5:00 p.m.

*Sunday 12/25 The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.*

Reader Schedule

DATE	3RD HOUR	6TH HOUR	EPISTLE
Dec 11	L SULPIZI	SOUDER	CAREY
Dec 18	L WALES	A WALES	L WALES
Dec 25	<i>NATIVITY OF CHRIST</i>		
	A RILEY	J RILEY	J RILEY
Jan-1	LEWIS	SOUDER	BRASOWSKI
<i>Jan 6</i>	<i>THEOPHANY</i>		
Jan-8	BUNITSKY	BUNITSKY	CAREY

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 1 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure [^]body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your [^]Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Tone 2 Troparion *(Fathers)*

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in
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!

Tone 1 Kontakion *(Fathers)*

Rejoice, O 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.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Song of the Fathers)*

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is
Your name forever! *(Song of the three Holy Youths,)*

v: For You are just in all that You have done to us. (v. 3)

Epistle Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 *(Sunday before Nativity)*

*By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country,
dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same
promise;*

for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"

concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps 43/44:1)

v: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us. (Ps 43/44:7)

Gospel Matthew 1:1-25 (*Sunday before the Nativity*)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.

Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.

Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse,

and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa.

Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.

Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah.

Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.

Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor.

Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud.

Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.

And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us."

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps 32/33:1*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

This Week's Announcement

Nativity Parish Holy Supper Holy Supper is a pious tradition from the Christian faithful of various Eastern European regions. The supper is observed on the eves of our Lord's Nativity in the flesh and His baptism by Saint John in the Jordan River. The meal is a fasting meal with 12 courses representing Christ's twelve apostles. We will once again have a Parish Holy Supper on the Eve of Nativity. We will begin at 3pm followed by Nativity Vigil at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us. Please see the sign up in the Narthex.

Service Schedule for Nativity The schedule for the feast of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ will be as follows: ***Saturday December 24th the Vigil for the Nativity of our Lord at 5:00 pm.*** Then on Christmas morning ***Sunday December 25th at 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for the Nativity followed by coffee for those who wish to stay.*** Please be sure to make plans now to be with us for this blessed feast of our Lord. Please note there will be no Royal Hours on Friday due to the funeral.

Memory Eternal Funeral arrangements for Joe Wojciechowski will be Funeral Service at St. Michael's on Friday Dec. 23rd at 10:30a.m. Calling hours will be prior to the funeral at the church. May his memory be eternal! If anyone is interested in helping Joe's family you can contribute to the funeral expenses at <https://www.gofundme.com/help-support-our-fathers-funeral>

Study Group Nativity Break This past Thursday seven of us continued reading and discussing the fourteenth step on "On that Clamorous Mistress the Stomach" in *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. Our Study group will be taking a break for Nativity and Theophany. We will meet again on Thursday January 12 at 10 a.m. All are welcome to join us.

Basics of Orthodoxy Class Our class will break for December and we will return again on a *NEW* night, Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. starting January 12th, 2017. All are welcome to join us

***Metropolitan Tikhon addresses recent bombing
of Cairo Coptic church***

SYOSSET, NY [OCA]

In a letter addressed to His Holiness, Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of All Africa of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria, dated Thursday, December 15, 2016, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon expressed "the deep sorrow and shared grief of the Bishops, the clergy, the monastics and the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America" in response to the deadly bomb blast at Cairo's Saint Peter Church, adjacent to the city's Coptic Cathedral of Saint Mark, on Sunday, December 11.

As of Monday, at least 25 persons had been reported to have been killed in the blast, with at least 49 others known to have been injured. Media reports indicate that most of the victims were women and children. The text of the letter is as follows:

*His Holiness Tawadros II
Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of All Africa
Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria
Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
Amba Rueiss Building
222 Ramses Street Abbasseya*

*P.O. Box 9035
Nasr City, Cairo EGYPT*

Your Holiness,

Christ is in our midst! It is with sorrow and yet with hope that I extend to Your Holiness the above traditional words of greeting in which Christians express their faith in the risen and ascended Lord who nevertheless remains among us, even in our darkest moments. The world has once more witnessed such a dark moment in the brutal and senseless murder of the faithful of Saint Peter's Coptic Orthodox Church in Cairo this week. These cruel and inhuman acts, which have been perpetrated by militant extremists upon the Coptic Orthodox Church, are an affront against all of humanity.

I would like to express the deep sorrow and shared grief of the Bishops, the clergy, the monastics and the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to the families and friends of those whose lives were brutally cut down in this most recent attack. This sorrow and grief is felt in the hearts of all Christians, and indeed, should resonate with all who would consider themselves human beings.

This act is made more tragic in that it has taken place during this season in which the Christian world prepares for the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, who became incarnate to heal this broken world and to raise up fallen humanity. Even the natural world proclaims this great mystery: "Make ready, O cave, for the Ewe Lamb comes, bearing Christ in her womb. And do thou, O manger, accept Him who by His word has loosed us dwellers on earth from acts that are against reason.

Our prayer is that all dwellers on earth would indeed receive the life-giving Word and become reason-endowed creatures who stand fast in their faith in God and refrain from acts against reason and against their fellow human beings. May we enter a new time of tolerance and religious peace in Egypt and in the entire region of the Middle East through Christ who has mercy on us and on His whole world.

With love in the Lord,

+ TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Prayers for the Departed: Nabil Gouda, Dolores Kozak, Jesse Jones, Ardythe Hope, Joseph Wojceichowski

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need:, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Lemlem Resat, Alfred Mokhiber, Peter Melnik, Agnes Timchak, Olga Riley, Anna Hotrovich, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, James Hicks, Maria Current, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell, Michael Vannello, Catalina(Mary) & Jeremy (John) Finck, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Carson, Stephen, Maria, Aiden, Peck Family, Walter Danchenka,

Service Ministries

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
18-Dec	Hojnicki/Flynn/ Roberts	Riley	Farrell	Farrell
25-Dec	Nativity	Sulpizi/ Finck	Kendall	No Library
01-Jan	New Years			No Library

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

DATE	VESPERS and LITURGY
Dec-11	Team Conover
Dec-18	Team Gabriel
Dec-25	All Servers
Jan-01	Team George
Jan-06	All Servers
Jan-08	Team Conover
