



Sunday December 24, 2017 29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Eve of the Nativity of Christ . Sunday before the Nativity. Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her Martyrs Philip, her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia (ca. 262). Ven. Nicholas the Monk, of Bulgaria (9th c.).

This Week's Schedule

Tonight 12/24 Nativity Vigil 6:30 p.m.

Monday 12/ 25 The Nativity of our Lord

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Saturday 12/30 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 12/31 Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Reader Schedule

DATE	3RD HOUR	6TH HOUR	EPISTLE
Dec 24	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY
Dec 25	NATIVITY OF CHRIST		
Dec 31	SOUDER	SULPIZI	BRASOWSKI
Jan 6	THEOPHANY		
Jan-7	LEWIS	SOUDER	BRASOWSKI

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the women Disciples of the Lord
learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the Apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

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 4 Troparion of the Forefeast

Mary was of David's seed,
so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man.
The time for the birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen.//
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

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.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Eternal Word.
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!

Glorify with the Angels and the shepherds
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

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. 2)

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 5pm followed by Nativity Vigil at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us.

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. Today

December 24th the Vigil for the Nativity of our Lord at 6:30 pm. Then on Christmas morning Monday 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.

Paraklesis Small Paraklesis will pause for the Nativity and Theophany season. We will resume on Wed. Jan. 10th at 6:30 p.m. Please consider making a commitment to be a reader or to learn and help offer the responses. Come be a part of the mid-week service of supplication.

Family Promise Please help cook, serve a meal and eat with homeless families Mon. Jan.8, Tues. Jan. 9, and Thurs. Jan. 11, at St. Philips Lutheran church 5320 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808. Family Promise helps homeless families find jobs, training and homes and has an 83% success rate of keeping them in homes after more than one year. We need to share our hope, compassion, smiles and encouragement with them and especially their children. Please sign up on board in narthex. see Ellen Gundersen 610.388.0695 or puffins1000@gmail.com.

81st Novogodny Ball The Novogodny (New Year's) Ball will take place on Sunday 1/14/18. The Ball is a benefit for Orthodox Christian & other deserving charities. For info & reservations email novogodnyball@gmail.com or call Andre Cox at 215-290-4542.

2018 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY The 2018 Diocesan Assembly will be held January 25-26, 2018 sponsored by St. Michael the Archangel Church. We will need help with the preparations, the food, hospitality, and cleanup. We will also need help with the singing of the responses for the divine services. Please see Jeff Kendall if you can help.

Teen Retreat The diocesan teen retreat will be held on Feb. 9-11, 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in Canadensis, PA. The retreat is an excellent opportunity for Orthodox teen fellowship. The retreat is open to all youths ages 12-17. There will be snow tubing, winter hiking, and more. Download your registration form at www.ocayouth.org.

Seminary Appeal the Diocese of Eastern PA is taking a collection for the three seminary families from our diocese (including the Conover family from St. Michael's). The collection will be taken for the seminarians on Sunday Dec. 31st. Individuals may also send donation to the Diocese of

EPA or send to the individual families themselves. Please see Bulletin insert for more information.

Parish Library Thank you to Juliana and Kate Bunitsky who continue to do an excellent job bringing library books from the basement library to the more convenient place in the social hall. Thank you very much for giving us interesting Orthodox reading material all year. Everyone is invited to visit our library downstairs. We have more than 500 books available. Check a book out today!

Study Group Our weekly study group will take its annual Christmas / Theophany break (Dec28 and Jan 4) so that we can all spend some time with family and friends. Study group will resume on Thurs. Jan.11th. All are encouraged to come for continued Adult Education.

Theophany (Baptism) of our Lord The feast of Theophany, means the shining forth and manifestation of God, the emphasis in the present-day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Thus, in the baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus identifies himself with sinners as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (Jn 1:29), the “Beloved” of the Father whose messianic task it is to redeem men from their sins (Lk 3:21, Mk 1:35). We will celebrate this blessed feast with Vigil on the eve of Theophany, Friday, Jan 5th at 7:00 p.m. then on Saturday January 6th Theophany Divine liturgy at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Great Blessing of Waters.

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"Imagine a monk faced with the possibility of choosing: monastery or world. Let us suppose that his character and his notion of monasticism are such that he wants the monastery. Isn't that too much to want? It would be normal for the whole world to want to be in a monastery but the whole world does not have access to an external monastery! The gravely ill person wants a sanatorium, mountain air, fortifying nourishment, medical help - - but not every sick person has access to it. Many must of necessity content themselves with a dark little basement, poor food, bad air. The same thing happens in the spiritual world. A monastery is like a spiritual sanatorium: we do not all have an incontestable right to it. There is more love, more humility, more need in remaining in the world's backyard, in breathing it's bad air, in hungering after spiritual food - - sharing all these burdens and all the world's anguish with others, lightening them for others." +Saint Maria Skobtsova

Prayers for the Departed: Archpriest Stephen Mack, Archpriest Wsevolod Drobot, Protodeacon Keith Russin, Matushka Martha Ermikov, Matushka Marie (Gambal) Kreta

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Fr. Deacon James Carpenter, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Lemlem Resat, Peter Melnik, Olga Riley, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, JamesHicks, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell, Catalina(Mary) & Jeremy (John) Finck, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Benjamin, Charles, Patrica, Lubov, Marilyn Coyle, Alfred Mokhiber,

Prayers for Women and the Child to be born: Mary (Misty) Robinson, Elizabeth Brasowski, Laura Cristina Najemy, Maria Peck, Rachel Facaros, Leah Reed

Prayers for Catechumens: Stephanie Smiertka Riley

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
24-Dec	Eve of Nativity	Elia/Morjana	Suplizi	Skomorucha
31-Dec	Whalen /Clause//Bisrat	Riley	Riley	Maloney
7-Jan	POT LUCK - Riley			
14-Jan	Shatley/Hines			

Church School Reminder

Dec 24 No Class Nativity Eve
 Dec 31 No Class Nativity/
 Theophany Break
 Jan. 7 No Class Nativity/
 Theophany Break

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Dec-24 Rafael
 Dec-25 NATIVITY All servers
 Dec-31 Roel
 Jan-7 Andrew

Last Week's Attendance:
 12/ 17 Divine Liturgy 110