



Sunday December 16, 2018 29th SUNDAY AFTER
 PENTECOST — Tone 4. Sunday of the Forefathers.
 Prophet Haggai (Aggæus—50 B.C.). Martyr Marinus of
 Rome (3rd c.). Bl. Empress Theophano (Theophania—
 893-4). St Sophia (1542).

This Week's Schedule

Saturday 12/22 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 12/23 Hours 8:40 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

followed by coffee hour

Monday 12/24 Eve of the Nativity

Vigil 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday 12/25 The Nativity of our Lord &
 Savior Jesus Christ Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Reader Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>3RD HOUR</u>	<u>6TH HOUR</u>	<u>EPISTLE</u>
Dec 16	WALES	WALES	WALES
Dec 23	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY
Dec 25	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST		
Dec 30	SOUDER	SULPIZI	FINK

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 *(Forefathers)*

Through faith You justified the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.
These saints exult in glory,
for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:
she who bore You without seed.//
So, by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Tone 6 Kontakion *(Forefathers)*

You did not worship the graven image,
O thrice-blessed ones,
but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,
you were glorified in a trial by fire.
From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:
“Hasten, O compassionate One!
Speedily come to our aid,//
for You are merciful and able to do as You will!”

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 Children, v. 3*)

v: For You are just in all that You have done for us! (v. 4)

Epistle Colossians 3:4-11 *(Forefathers)*

*When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him
in glory.*

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps 99/100:6)

v: They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps 99/100:6)

Gospel Luke 14:16-24 (Forefathers)

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'

But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'

And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'

Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.'

And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'

Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'

'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

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

Thank You General Church Cleaners! Thanks to the individuals who came for the general church cleaning yesterday. May God bless you for your efforts and service to Christ's Holy Church!

Poinsettias for Nativity It's time to order Poinsettias to beautify the church for our Lord's Nativity. Please see Fr. Dn. James if interested.

Study Group Our study group will continue this Thursday with chapter 5 of the gospel of St. Matthew (*The Sermon on the Mount*). All are welcome to join us!

Nativity Parish Holy Supper Holy Supper on Nativity eve 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 **5:00 p.m.** followed by Nativity Vigil at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us. Please see the sign up in the Narthex.

Family Promise We'll be co-hosting Family Promise January 14, 15 and 17 at St Philips Lutheran Church, 5320 Limestone Rd, Wilmington 19808. Please sign up on the Family Promise board in narthex. We will serve home cooked meals and share fellowship with 4 homeless families in our community. Please see Ellen Gundersen or email her at puffins1000@gmail.com with questions.

2019 Church Directory We are currently updating the church directory in preparation for 2019. We are asking parishioners to review the 2018 directory in the Vestibule and to make any necessary changes. For new

members, or members not currently listed and would like to be included, please add your information--name(s), address, telephone number(s), email address and also birth date(s) for the Birthday List.

Bookstore Nativity Gifts Our Parish Bookstore has a wide selection of gifts for this Nativity season. Stop by and pick something up today!

The Nativity Fast This is just a reminder that the Nativity fast continues until Dec. 25th .(please make an effort) The celebration of the feast of the Nativity of Christ in the Orthodox Church is patterned after the celebration of the feast of the Lord's Resurrection. A fast of forty days precedes the feast, with special preparatory days announcing the approaching birth of the Savior. Thus, on Saint Andrew's Day (November 30) and Saint Nicholas Day (December 6) songs are sung to announce the coming birthday of the Lord: 'Adorn yourself, O Cavern. Make ready, O Manger. O Shepherds and wisemen, bring your gifts and bear witness. For the Virgin is coming bearing Christ in her womb' (Vesperal Hymn of Saint Nicholas Day)

The Royal Hours at Christmas

All Divine Liturgies in the Orthodox Church are preceded by the chanting of the Hours services, consisting of psalms, hymns and prayers. But in the great cathedral of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, the Byzantine Emperor was present each year at the service beginning the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. Therefore, the Hours preceding the Vespers and Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great on Christmas Eve are given the name "Royal Hours."

The Emperor's attendance at the service was in part a demonstration of his humble acknowledgment that Jesus Christ reigns over all mortal beings. The third psalm is Psalm 45: "My heart overflows with good tidings as I sing my ode to the King; my tongue is like the pen of a skillful scribe. Thou art the fairest of the sons of men; grace is poured upon Thy lips; therefore God has blessed Thee forever. Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O mighty one, in Thy splendor and beauty. Draw Thy bow, ride forth in triumph and reign, for the sake of truth, and meekness, and righteousness." Such words could apply to only one Sovereign.

The verses of the Royal Hours make no attempt to conceal the human confusion and anguish of Joseph. He tells Mary, "I am troubled; what can I say to you? Doubt clouds my mind; depart from me! What has

happened to you, O Mary? Instead of honor, you bring me shame. Instead of joy, you fill me with grief. Men who praised me will blame me."

The verses also chillingly describe the effect of one powerful man's jealousy and fear. Herod was willing to kill innocent children to keep his unique position as ruler: "Herod was filled with alarm when he saw the righteous wise men. Overcome by fury, he determined precisely when the child was born. Mothers were robbed of their infants: Their tender lives were reaped as a bitter harvest."

Mary could not stop the terror and sorrow created by Herod. But she could lovingly reassure Joseph. In the verses she says: "Why are you so troubled? Why are you in misery seeing me with child? Do you not understand at all? I bear a fearful mystery! Cast your fears away, and learn a strange wonder: God in His mercy descends from heaven to earth. Within my womb He has taken flesh! When He is pleased to be born, you will see Him. You will rejoice, and worship Him, your Creator."

The Royal Hours give us a whole atmosphere surrounding the birth of Our Lord: the venality of Herod who fears being supplanted; Joseph's fear of disgrace; Mary's faith, which leads her to inspire Joseph, and us, with words like "mystery" and "wonder" to describe the event she does not fully understand but has fully accepted.

Father Alexander Schmemmann has called the Royal Hours "one last meditation on the cosmical meaning of the Nativity, on the decisive and radical change it performed in the entire creation."

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"For this purpose, then, the incorporeal and incorruptible and immaterial Word of God entered our world. In one sense, indeed, He was not far from it before, for no part of creation had ever been without Him Who, while ever abiding in union with the Father, yet fills all things that are.. But now He entered the world in a new way, stooping to our level in His love and Self-revealing to us. He saw the reasonable race, the race of men that, like Himself, expressed the Father's Mind, wasting out of existence, and death reigning over all in corruption. He saw that corruption held us all the closer, because it was the penalty for the

Transgression; He saw, too, how unthinkable it would be for the law to be repealed before it was fulfilled. He saw how unseemly it was that the very things of which He Himself was the Artificer should be disappearing. He saw how the surpassing wickedness of men was mounting up against them ; He saw also their universal liability to death. All this He saw and, pitying our race, moved with compassion for our limitation, unable to endure that death should have the mastery, rather than that His creatures should perish and the work of His Father for us men come to nought, He took to Himself a body, a human body even as our own. Nor did He will merely to become embodied or merely to appear; had that been so, He could have revealed His divine majesty in some other and better way. No, He took our body, and not only so, but He took it directly from a spotless, stainless virgin, without the agency of human father-a pure body, untainted by intercourse with man. He, the Mighty One, the Artificer of all, Himself prepared this body in the virgin as a temple for Himself, and took it for His very own, as the instrument through which He was known and in which He dwelt. Thus, taking a body like our own, because all our bodies were liable to the corruption of death, He surrendered His body to death instead of all, and offered it to the Father. This He did out of sheer love for us, so that in His death all might die, and the law of death thereby be abolished because, having fulfilled in His body that for which it was appointed, it was thereafter voided of its power for men. This He did that He might turn again to incorruption men who had turned back to corruption, and make them alive through death by the appropriation of His body and by the grace of His resurrection. Thus He would make death to disappear from them as utterly as straw from fire."

+St. Athanasius the Great, (297-373 AD), Bishop of Alexandria and important theological writer of the 4th century AD, in *The Divine Dilemma and Its Solution in the Incarnation* , Chapter 2

"Do you want to live properly? Make sure you have humility, because without it there's no proper life. People start being abandoned by God once they lose their humility. Love humility and you'll never fall into one of the devil's traps."

- St. Ephrem the Syrian, 306-373 AD

Prayers for the Departed: Archpriest Joseph Martin, Virginia Sekerak Marie Holowatch, Maria Proch, Mark Gundersen, John Berket, George Sarmousakis, Alfred Mokhiber

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Fr. Deacon James Carpenter, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Lemlem Resat, Peter Melnik, Olga Riley, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Maria & Doug Dozier, Mona Elia, Mary Anne Farrell, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Benjamin, Patrica, Lubov Baldychev, Stephanie Hojnicky, Michael Sinovich, Laura Cristina Najemy, Harry Kutch, Dimitrios Jim Petrides,

Prayers for Catechumen: Robert Jaquette

Prayers for Women and the Child to be born: Ruth Kendall, Catalina Mary Finck

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
16-Dec	Najemy/Kendall	Baldychev	Suplizi	Skomorucha
23-Dec	Hojnicky/Flynn/Roberts	Bunitsky/Lewis	Riley	Maloney
30-Dec	Pacienza/George	Elia/Morjana	Bunitsky	Lewis
6-Jan	C. Peck/Sulpizi/ Skomorucha	Riley/Riley	Farrell	Gundersen
13-Jan	Whalen/Clause/Gabriel	Sulpizi/Finck	Clause/Whalen	Farrell