



Sunday December 23, 2018 30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — *Tone 5. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity. Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete: Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, Zoticus, Pompeius, Agathopus, Basilides, and Evaristus (3rd c.). Martyr Euporus (3rd c.). Repose of St. Theoctist, Archbishop of Novgorod (1310). St. Niphon, Bishop of Cyprus (4th c.). St. Paul, Bishop of Neo-Cæsarea (4th c.).*

This Week's Schedule

Monday 12/24 Eve of the Nativity

Royal Hours 9:00 a.m.

Parish Holy Supper 5:00 p.m. & Vigil 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday 12/25 The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Saturday 12/29 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 12/30 Hours 8:40 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

followed by coffee hour

Reader Schedule

DATE	3RD HOUR	6TH HOUR	EPISTLE
Dec 23	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY
Dec 25	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST		
Dec 30	SOUDER	SULPIZI	FINK

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 5 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

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

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!
Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the
Virgin in the cave!
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;
if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.//
Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

Tone 5 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//
and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

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 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 Hymn

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

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: Monday December 24th Royal Hours at 9:00 a.m. with Vigil for the Nativity of our Lord at 7:00 pm. Then on Christmas morning Tuesday December 25th at 9:00 am we will offer the Divine Liturgy for the Nativity. Please be sure to make plans now to be with us for this blessed feast of our Lord.

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 5:00 p.m. followed by Nativity Vigil. All are welcome to join us. Please see the sign up in the Narthex.

Study Group Nativity Break This past Thursday five of us continued reading and discussing the Sermon on the Mount in the 4th chapter of St. Matthew. Our Study group will be taking a break for Nativity and Theophany. We will meet again on Thursday January 10 at 10 a.m. All are welcome to join us.

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.

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon
Christ is born! Glorify Him!

To the Honorable Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My beloved brethren and blessed children in the Lord,

Today, the glorious feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ shines forth and brings joy to all of creation. The sacred hymnography and iconography of the Church provide words and images to help us interpret the light-filled feast that we celebrate on this day, when He Who *"has adorned the vault of heaven with stars has been well pleased to be*

born as a babe,” and He Who “holds all the earth in the hollow of His hands is laid in a manger of dumb beasts.”

Holy Tradition offers us the account of the universal hush that took place at the incarnation, expressed in Joseph’s encounter with the stillness of the natural world: birds hanging motionless in flight, men and beasts frozen in their tracks and the waters ceasing their flow. The continuous passage of time and movement of history came to a halt as creation paused in astonishment as the Eternal enters into the heart of time and the pre-eternal God is born as a little child.

This miraculous moment may be unique in history, but it provides us with some inspiration for the manner in which we ought to receive the sacred mystery that we celebrate today. The Apostle Paul writes: *“Be ye thankful”* (Colossians 3:15) and *“In everything give thanks”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It is in this spirit of gratitude that we should receive this feast.

We live in a world in which the offering of thanksgiving has become a scarce commodity and a rare virtue. In almost every aspect of our human existence, it seems that our first instinct is not to give thanks, but rather to reply, to respond, or to react. At every second of our waking, we are compelled to reply to emails, to texts and to posts. Daily, we respond to our own passionate desires, to every perceived threat and to every offense, and we are drawn to react to every instance of human fallenness, political division and ecclesiastical conflict.

While it may be easier to blame the world for these challenges, we should remember that it is from within our hearts that our actions and attitudes spring forth. We may long for perfection, but we are confronted by our own weaknesses. But even here we should remember, as Saint Barsanuphius reminds us, that thanksgiving intercedes before God for our weaknesses. Thanksgiving is not the crown of the perfect but the strength of the weak.

Thanksgiving is what allows us as broken, sorrowful, hurting and frail human beings to join our voices to the rest of creation in singing:

Make glad, O ye righteous; Greatly rejoice, O ye heavens; Ye mountains dance for joy.

*Christ is born; and like the cherubim the Virgin makes a throne,
Carrying at her bosom God the Word made flesh.*

Shepherds glorify the new-born Child.

Magi offer the Master gifts.

Angels sing praises, saying:

“O Lord past understanding, glory to Thee” (Praises at Matins).

Sincerely yours in the new-born Christ,

+ Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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, Catalina Mary Finck, Infant John David Finck

Prayers for Catechumen: Robert Jaquette

Prayers for Women and the Child to be born: Ruth Kendall

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
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

Important Dates for 2019

- Great Fast Begins.....March 11
- Holy Pascha.....April 28
- Ascension.....June 6
- Pentecost.....June 16
- Apostles Fast Begins.....June 24