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# **St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church**

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**Sunday December 20, 2020** 28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Repose of St. John of Kronstadt (1908). Sunday before the Nativity. Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, Bishop of Antioch (107). Ven. Ignatii (Ignatius), Archimandrite of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves – 1435). St. Philogonius, Bishop of Antioch (323). St. Daniel II, Archbishop of Serbia (1338).

## **This Week's Schedule**

**Thursday 12/24** *Eve of the Nativity of Christ Vigil 5:00 p.m.*

**Friday 12/25** *Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ*

*Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.*

**Saturday 12/26** *Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.*

**Sunday 12/27** 29th *Sunday after Pentecost*

*Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.*

*\*Please Note Services will also stream Online\**

## **Reader Schedule**

<u><b>DATE</b></u>	<u><b>3<sup>RD</sup> HOUR</b></u>	<u><b>6<sup>th</sup> Hour</b></u>	<u><b>EPISTLE</b></u>
Dec-20	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY
Dec-25	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST		
Dec-27	DORAZIO	BUNITSKY	PECK

## Hymns and Prayers

### **Tone 3 Troparion**     *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.  
He has trampled down death by death.  
He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world//  
great mercy.

### **Tone 4 Troparion**     *(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 2 Troparion**     *(Holy 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 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** (*Holy 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** Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (*Sunday Before*)

*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. 43:1a)*

*V. For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. (Ps. 43:8)*

#### **Gospel Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday Before)**

*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. 32:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## ***This Week's Announcements***

***Service Schedule for Nativity*** The feast of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ will be Thursday December 24th Vigil for the Nativity of our Lord at 5:00 p.m. Then on Christmas morning Friday December 25th at 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the Nativity. Please be sure to make plans now to be with us for this blessed feast of our Lord or join us via Live stream online.

***Gift Cards for Veterans*** We are now collecting money for Acme gift cards for the needy and homeless veterans. Please give or send your checks (marked VETS) to St. Michaels. We will buy gift cards to deliver to Veterans Hospital. Contact Ellen Gundersen (ellengundersen5@gmail.com).

***Online Streaming Help*** We are currently look for help with our live streaming services. Please see Thaddeus (Scott) Lewis if you are willing to help.

***The Nativity Fast*** This is just a reminder that the Nativity Fast is now upon us (Nov.15th). The fast continues until the Nativity of our Lord (Dec. 25th). 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. Please try and make an effort!

***Study Group*** Our study group will be taking a break for Nativity and Theophany. We will resume on Thurs. Jan 14 with chapter 17 of St. Matthew.

***Sacraments for Those Staying Home*** Recognizing the need for many to quarantine due to the deadliness of the pandemic, Fr. Barnabas is available to meet individually on Wednesdays and Fridays to offer Confession and Communion for those still at home. Fr. Barnabas is also willing to meet in other creative ways , like on your porch, to assure everyone remains connected. Please email or call the office to set up a time for the Sacraments.

**Questions Everyone Should ask themselves Before coming to In-Person Worship:** Do you have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, and or trouble breathing? Persistent pain, pressure or tightness in chest? Any recent loss of taste/smell or gastrointestinal upset? Any contact with anyone with C-19? **If you answer YES to any of these questions you should stay at home.**

### *The Forefeast of the Nativity*

*The Forefeast of the Nativity of the Lord begins on December 20. From now on, most of the liturgical hymns will be concerned with the birth of the Savior. Many of the Church's hymns of this period are slightly modified versions of the hymns of Holy Week.*

*From December 20-23 we sing the Troparion (Tone 4) "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."*

*We also sing the Kontakion (Tone 3) "Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth ineffably to the pre-eternal Word. Hearing this, rejoice, O inhabited earth! With the angels and the shepherds glorify the pre-eternal God, Whose will it was to appear as a young child!"*

### **Wisdom from the Holy Fathers**

#### *On giving thanks to the Creator*

*"As thou takest thy seat at table, pray. As thou liftest the loaf, offer thanks to the Giver. When thou sustainest thy bodily weakness with wine, remember Him Who supplies thee with this gift, to make thy heart glad and to comfort thy infirmity. Has thy need for taking food passed away? Let not the thought of thy Benefactor pass away too. As thou art putting on thy tunic, thank the Giver of it. As thou wrappest thy cloak about thee, feel yet greater love to God, Who alike in summer and in winter has given us coverings convenient for us, at once to preserve our life, and to cover what is unseemly. Is the day done? Give thanks to Him Who has given us the sun for our daily work, and has provided for us a fire to light up the night and to serve the rest of the needs of life..."*

+St. Basil the Great

**Prayers for the Departed:** Metropolitan Theodosius, Archbishop David, Barbara Hicks

**Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need:** Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Myra Kovalak, Lemlem Resat, Olga Riley, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Luke Wales, Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Maria & Doug Dozier, Mona Elia, Mary Anne Farrell, Stephanie Hojnicky, Harry Kutch, Dimitrios Jim Petrides, Albert Shock, Elizabeth Melnik, Alexandra Grishin, Sam Sylvest, Paula Daubert, Elizabeth Clause, Jamie Clause, David Telep

**Prayers for Catechmens** Kristin Mackenzie,, Andrew Ashton

<b>Date</b>	<b><u>Service Duty</u></b>	<b><u>Church Cleaner</u></b>
<b>20-Dec</b>	Hojnicky/Najemy	Carey
<b>27-Dec</b>	Telep/Baldychev	Baldychev/Shatley/Sylvest
<b>3-Jan</b>	Bunitsky/Morjana	Sulpizi
<b>10-Jan</b>	Riley/Riley	Riley

**Upcoming Dates to Keep in Mind**

***Theophany Jan. 6th***

***Entrance of our Lord into the Temple Feb. 2nd***

***Important Dates for 2021***

***Great Fast Begins.....March 15th***

***Holy Pascha..... May 2nd***

***Ascension.....June 10th***

***Pentecost.....June 20th***