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

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**Sunday December 27, 2020** 29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4. Third Day of the Feast of the Nativity. Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34). Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. Ven. Theodore Graptus (“the Branded”), Confessor and brother of St. Theophanes the Hymnographer (ca. 840). St. Theodore, Archbishop of Constantinople (ca. 686).

## **This Week’s Schedule**

**Saturday 1/2** Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday 1/3** 30th 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-27	DORAZIO	BUNITSKY	PECK
Jan-3	LEWIS	SKOMORUCHA	LEWIS
Jan 6	<b>HOLY THEOPHANY</b>		
Jan-10	DORAZIO	BUNITSKY	CAREY
Jan-17	PECK	PECK	PECK

## Hymns and Prayers

### **Tone 4 Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy 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 4 Troparion**      *(Feast)*

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,  
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!  
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,  
were taught by a star to adore Thee,  
the Sun of Righteousness,  
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. //  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

### **Tone 2 Troparion**      *(Righteous Ones)*

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,  
to David, the ancestor of God;  
thou hast seen a Virgin great with child;  
and thou didst give glory with the shepherds;  
thou didst worship with the Magi,  
and didst receive the news from the Angel. //  
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

### **Tone 3 Kontakion**      *(Righteous Ones)*

Today godly David is filled with joy;  
Joseph and James offer praise.  
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.  
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, //  
and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

### **Tone 3 Kontakion**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,

and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!

Angels with shepherds glorify Him!

The wise men journey with the star, //

since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

**Tone 4**                      **Prokeimenon** (*Resurrection*)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

*(Ps. 103:26)*

*V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great! (Ps. 103:1)*

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon** (*Righteous Ones*)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. *(Ps. 67:35a)*

**Epistle** Galatians 1:11-19 (*Sunday After*)

*But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.*

*For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

*For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.*

*And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.*

*But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,*

*to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,*

*nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.*

*Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.*

*But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.*

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth! (Ps. 44:3b)*

V. *For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. (Ps. 44:6)*

**Tone 4**

V. *Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Ps. 131:1)*

**Gospel Matthew 2:13-23 (Sunday After)**

*Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."*

*When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."*

*Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.*

*Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."*

*Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."*

*Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.*

*But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.*

*And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."*

**(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)**

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,

more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.  
I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:  
heaven—the cave;  
the cherubic throne—the Virgin;  
the manger—the place where Christ lay;  
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

*(or, the ninth heirmos of the second canon)*

### **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**

***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, Jan. 5th at 6:30 p.m. then on Jan. 6th Theophany Divine liturgy of St. Basil the Great at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Great Blessing of Waters.

***Poinsettias Thank You*** Thanks to Jim and Anne Riley for their time, work, and donation of the Poinsettias for Christmas. Anyone who is interested may take a poinsettia plant home today following the liturgy.

***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.

**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.**

### *Nativity of our Lord 2020*

*To the Venerable Hierarchs, Esteemed Clergy, Reverend Monastics, and Beloved Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,*

*My Beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord, on this the glorious and light-filled Feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, I greet you with the words that resound throughout our Churches and homes during this season: Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*

*By the grace of God, we have come through an extraordinary year fraught with challenges and trials that none of us could have expected. We have found ourselves confused, scared, and anxious. As we realized the frailty of our earthly life and the many fleeting things of this world to which we so often cling, more than anything, we have found ourselves in need of a Savior.*

*It is especially in these challenging moments that we are strengthened by God's promise, spoken in the book of Deuteronomy, "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them: for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you (Dt 31:6)." As children of God, as children of the promise, we should remain steadfast in hope. We should never let our hope waiver, because, as the*

*present feast reminds us, we are strengthened continually by the presence of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus, who saves us from our sins and weaknesses, and reconciles us with our heavenly Father. The scripture, hymns, and rites of the feast testify that Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, is He who has also died on the Cross, and become the first-born of the dead, raised us all by the Power of God, and opened the gates of the kingdom to us.*

*The great Prophet Isaiah, speaking of this kingdom, tells us:*

*Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever (Is 9:7).*

*Beloved hierarchs, clergy, monastics, and faithful, let your hope be renewed at the Nativity of Christ! Be assured that God is with us! Perceiving the mystery of this feast, difficulties and trials in this life will become bearable, as your faith is strengthened, and your hope remains firm.*

*With all the blessings of the feast, I remain*

*Sincerely Yours in Christ,*

*+ Tikhon*

*Archbishop of Washington*

*Metropolitan of All America and Canada*

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

*“Recollect the fall of the strong, that thou mayest remain humble under thy virtues. And think of the heavy sins of those who fell and repented; and of the praise and honour they received afterwards, so that thou mayest acquire courage during repentance.”*

*+ St. Isaac the Syrian, “Six Treatises on the Behaviour of Excellence”*

*“In the mercy of God, the little thing done with humility will enable us to be found in the same place as the saints who have labored much and been true servants of God.”*

*+ St. Dorotheos of Gaza*

**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>27-Dec</b>	Telep/Baldychev	Baldychev/Shatley/Sylvest
<b>3-Jan</b>	Bunitsky/Morjana	Sulpizi
<b>10-Jan</b>	Riley/Riley	Riley
<b>17-Jan</b>	Sulpiz	Bunitsky/Finck

**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**