

WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 20, 2020

Vol 37



St. ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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*His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached*

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

December 20, 2020

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.

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!

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.

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!

Gospel for the Sunday Before Christmas

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

1 An account of the genealogy^[a] of Jesus the Messiah,^[b] the son of David, the son of Abraham.² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram,⁴ and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon,⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,^[c]⁸ and Asaph^[d] the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah,⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos,^[e] and Amos^[f] the father of Josiah,¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel,¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the

father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.^[a]

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah,^[a] fourteen generations.

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but did not know her until she had borne a son;^[a] and he named him Jesus.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

CHRISTMAS HOLY WEEK

6th Sunday of Advent

**28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3 –
Forefeast & Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ.
Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer Bishop of
Antioch**

Saturday, December 19

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, December 20

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John

Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Lighting of the 6th Candle on the Advent Wreath

***Bethlehem, Land of Judah, prepare the divine cavern
as a dwelling for God to be born in the flesh,
from a Virgin who new not a man
to save race of men!***

***Come, all you faithful, begin the celebration;
Sing with the Magi and Shepherds:
Salvation comes from the Virgin's womb,
Recalling the faithful to life***



FEAST OF CHRISTMAS

***The Nativity According to the Flesh of
our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ***

Wednesday, December 23

6:00 pm Royal Hours of Christmas

Thursday, December 24 *CHRISTMAS EVE*

5:00 pm Vigil of Christmas

Friday, December 25 - *CHRISTMAS DAY*

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John
Chrysostom**

**SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE
NATIVITY – Synaxis of the Theotokos**

Saturday, December 26

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John
Chrysostom**

**29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4
THIRD DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE
NATIVITY. Sunday after the Nativity. Holy
Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the
King, and James the Brother of the Lord.**

Saturday, December 26

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, December 27

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Reader Aaron Gray

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John

Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Aaron Gray

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

**THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. St. Basil the Great,
Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia**

Thursday, December 31

**6:00 pm Vespersal Divine Liturgy of Saint
Basil the Great**

Prayers for the New Year 2021



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please make your donations for flowers for the celebration of the Feast of Christmas. Flower Offering envelopes are available at the Candle Desk.

2021 CHURCH CALENDAR and OFFERING ENVELOPPES

Please pickup yours up from the front pew.



My dearly beloved in Christ,

When everything was ready, ***“in the fulness of time”*** (Galatians 4:4), God brought to a decisive turning point the plan He had for humanity’s happiness.

“God chose us in Him before the world began, to be holy and blameless in His sight, to be full of love;.” (Ephesians 1:4)

God had created humans in His image. To be in God’s image is to be given a share in God’s creative love. It means to be authentically human, to fulfill God’s intention in creating us, we must love – selflessly, creatively. Not to love is to become subhuman. As Paul put it in his famous hymn to love: If I ***“have not love, I am nothing.”***

Sadly, men and women over the years chose self-love over creative love. This choice destroyed them. To regain their human dignity they would need to be shown the way. To this end, God ***“sent forth His Son,”*** Who was perfectly in God’s image.

People could see in Jesus what it was like to be gloriously human. Jesus shared their weaknesses, their ordinariness, their uncertainty and fear and pain. Jesus rose above these obstacles by denying Himself and by loving creatively and selflessly.

And He did this as one of us. That is the whole point of the Incarnation –of Christmas. Christmas is the celebration of humanity. Christmas is a ringing proclamation that human life is precious, destined for glory. Christmas says once more that the secret of human fulfillment and happiness is love, human love – the love of men and women created to share the creative love of their Creator.

Let us celebrate this Christmas by fully living the Gift that Jesus has given to us by loving Him and embracing one another in the fulness of His love.

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Yours in the love of our Lord Jesus,

Fr. Don Anthony Freude



PARISH STEWARDSHIP

<u>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020</u>	
Candles:	\$ 18.00
Sunday Offering:	956.29
Diamond Fundraising:	466.25
<u>Flower Fund:</u>	<u>20.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,460.54

Important Guidelines on Attending the Divine Services

All services will continue to be *live streamed* by visiting our website www.saintelia.com.

In accordance with the State of Ohio, CDC, and Diocesan guidelines we all must follow these simple steps when attending:

- 1) If you or your family member is sick please stay home.
- 2) All must wear masks in church (disposable masks are provided in the vestibule).
- 3) Sanitize your hands before entering the church (sanitizer is located in the vestibule).
- 4) All are required to keep 6 feet social distancing. Pews are marked for available and not available seating.

5) Please... **THERE WILL BE NO GATHERING IN THE VESTIBULE, OFFICE OR PARISH HALL**

So sorry to say... but we cannot kiss the icons, cross, chalice, gospel book, and/or Father's hand.

Lastly, due to limited seating to ensure safe distancing and Diocesan Guidelines, parishioners must pre-register to attend liturgical services. Please call Fr. Don (330) 472-6456 by Saturday.