

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 27, 2020

Vol 37



## St. ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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[www.saintelia.com](http://www.saintelia.com)

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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 AFTER CHRISTMAS

## **Troparion** *(Feast of the Nativity)*

Your 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 You,  
the Sun of Righteousness,  
and to know You, the Orient from on high.  
O Lord, glory to You!

## **Troparion** *(Righteous Ones)*

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, to David, the  
ancestor of God; you have seen a Virgin great with  
child; and you gave glory with the shepherds; you  
worshipped with the Magi, and received the news  
from the Angel. Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

## **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 You!"

## **Kontakion** *(Feast of the Nativity)*

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!

# Gospel – Sunday after Christmas

Matthew 2:13-23

## The Flight into Egypt

<sup>13</sup> 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."

<sup>14</sup> When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> 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."

## Massacre of the Innocents

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

<sup>18</sup> "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."

## The Home in Nazareth

<sup>19</sup> Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup> 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." <sup>21</sup> Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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."



# ***FEAST OF CHRISTMAS***

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

**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**

***CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!***  
***Christos Razdajetsja! Christos e Rodi! Mir Boze!***  
***C Rozdectvom Christovim! Christos Gennatai!***  
***Masheeh Wuleda! Buon Natale! Feliz Navidad!***  
***Joyeux Noel! Wesoly Swiat! Krisztus Szuletik!***  
***Froliche Weinachten! Chestita Koleda!***

**29<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Thursday, December 31**

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

*Prayers for the New Year 2021*

**30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5 SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY. Forefeast of the Theophany. Holy Prophet Malachi**

**Saturday, January 2**

**5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**

**Sunday, January 3**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Sbd. Terrence Bilas**

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

**Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush**

**Epistle 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

*SLAVA of St. Juliana the Merciful, Patroness of our Parish Sisterhood*



**2021 CHURCH CALENDARS & OFFERING ENVELOPES**

**Please pick up yours from the front pew**

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020**

|                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Candles:</b>            | <b>\$ 15.00</b>     |
| <b>Sunday Offering:</b>    | <b>1,865.00</b>     |
| <b>Christmas Offering:</b> | <b>160.00</b>       |
| <b><u>Flower Fund:</u></b> | <b><u>20.00</u></b> |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>              | <b>\$2,060.00</b>   |

# 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



# Orthodox Christian Women

Presents

Our Annual Winter Mini-Retreat  
Saturday, January 23, 2021 10:00 am

## Zoom Event

Free Event ~~ Everyone Welcome!  
**“ST. BASIL & HIS NEW CITY”**

(Orthodox Christian response of love to the  
issue of poverty)

## **SPEAKER: JOE MAY**

Joe May is a graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He spent 10 years working in homeless ministry with the Catholic Worker Community and Matthew 25 House in South Akron. Joe is currently the Corporate Social Responsibility Manager at State and Federal Communications. He is a member of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and St. Elia the Prophet Church in Akron.

Contact Nikki Bober (330-409-3552 or email at [nlbober@gmail.com](mailto:nlbober@gmail.com)) Or Nancy Studebaker (330-655-9638) For questions or information regarding the Zoom link

# **Important Guidelines on Attending the Divine Services**

All services will continue to be *live streamed* by visiting our website [www.saintelia.com](http://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 or 330 724-7009.**