

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT WILL BE CELEBRATED TODAY

# Holy Nativity

**Priest:**  
Rev. Fr. Dean  
Kouldukis

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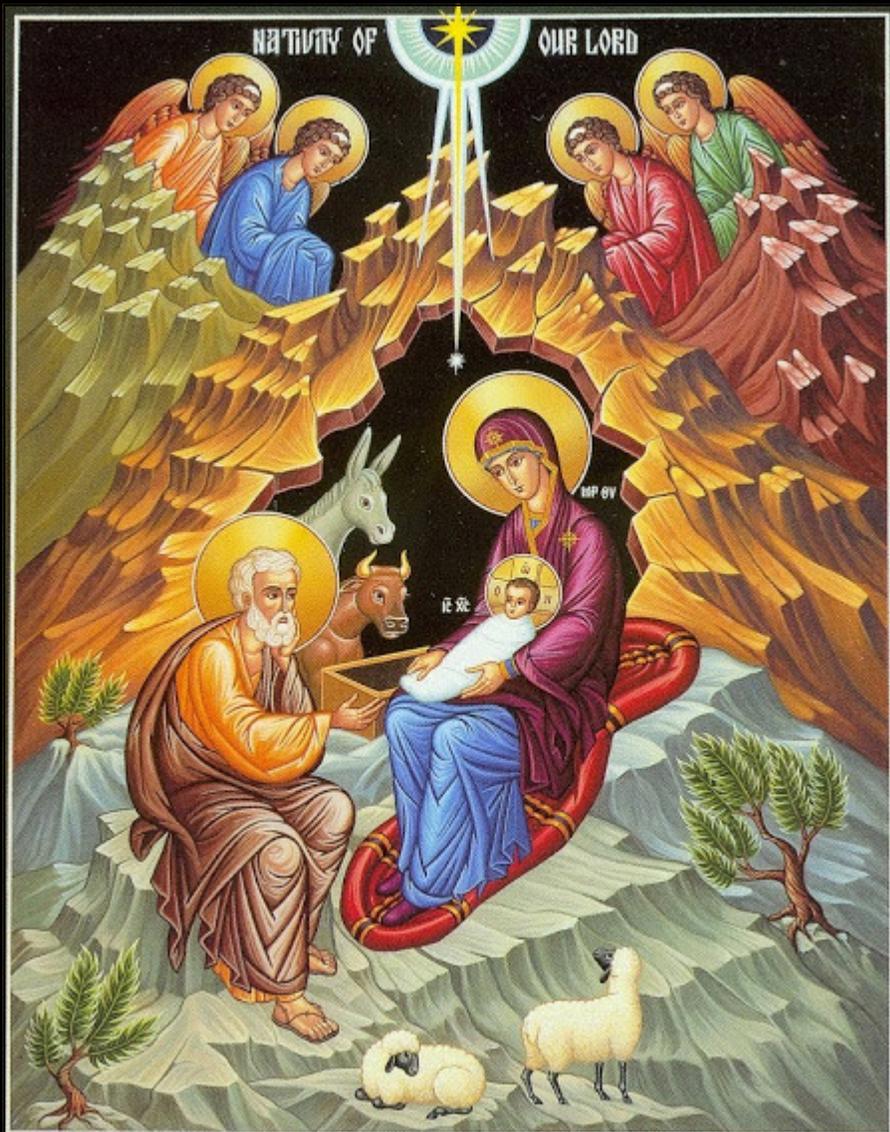
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**Saturday Vespers:**  
4:00 pm

**Sunday Morning:**  
Orthros: 8:45 am

**Divine Liturgy:**  
10:00 am



## The Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

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### Ἐ ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ after ΔΟΞΟΛΟΓΙΑ

### APOLYTIKION after DOXOLOGY

Ἡ Γέννησίς Σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, Σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ Σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν. Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Your birth, O Christ our God, dawned the light of knowledge upon the earth. For by Your birth, those who adored stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to know You, Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You.

### ΤΟ ΠΡΩΤΟΝ ΑΝΤΙΦΩΝΟΝ

### THE FIRST ANTIPHON

α´ Ἐξομολογήσομαί Σοι, Κύριε, ἐν ὅλῃ καρδίᾳ μου, διηγῆσομαι πάντα τὰ θαυμάσιά σου.

v.1 *I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.*

β´ Ἐν βουλῇ εὐθέων καὶ συναγωγῇ, μεγάλα τὰ ἔργα Κυρίου.

v.2 *In the assembly and congregation of the upright, great are the works of the Lord.*

γ´ Ἐξεζητημένα εἰς πάντα τὰ θελήματα αὐτοῦ.

v.3 *Sought out in everything of His will.*

δ´ Ἐξομολόγησις καὶ μεγαλοπρέπεια τὸ ἔργον αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἡ δικαιοσύνη αὐτοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τοῦ αἰῶνος.

v.4 *Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness endures to the age of the ages.*

### REFRAIN (after each stichera):

Ταῖς πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, Σῶτερ, σῶσον ἡμᾶς.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

## ΤΟ ΔΕΥΤ. ΑΝΤΙΦΩΝΟΝ

## THE SECOND ANTIPHON

- α' Μακάριος ἀνὴρ, ὁ φοβούμενος τὸν Κύριον· ἐν ταῖς ἐντολαῖς αὐτοῦ θελήσει σφόδρα.
- β' Δυνατὸν ἐν τῇ γῆ ἔσται τὸ σπέρμα αὐτοῦ.
- γ' Δόξα καὶ πλοῦτος ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἡ δικαιοσύνη αὐτοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τοῦ αἰῶνος.
- δ' Ἐξανέτειλεν ἐν σκότει φῶς τοῖς εὐθέσιν.
- v.1 *Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.*
- v.2 *His descendants will be mighty on the earth.*
- v.3 *Glory and wealth will be in his house, and his righteousness endures to the age of the age.*
- v.4 *Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness.*

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### REFRAIN (after each stichera):

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς, Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθεὶς, ψάλλοντάς Σοι· Ἀλληλούϊα.

Save us, O Son of God, Who was born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

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## ΤΟ ΤΡΙΤΟΝ ΑΝΤΙΦΩΝΟΝ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΝ ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ (Απολυτικιον Της Εορτης)

## THE THIRD ANTIPHON THE NATIVITY APOLYTIKION (The Hymn of the Feast)

Ἡ Γέννησίς Σου Χριστέ...

Your birth, O Christ our God...

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## ΕΙΣΟΔΙΚΟΝ

## SMALL ENTRANCE HYMN

Ἐκ γαστρὸς πρὸ ἑωσφόρου ἐγέννησά σε· ὤμοσε Κύριος καὶ οὐ μεταμεληθήσεται. Σὺ εἶ Ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς. Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθεὶς, ψάλλοντάς σοι· Ἀλληλούϊα.

Before the morning star, from the womb, I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn and will not repent. You are a Priest forever in the order of Melchisedec. Save us, O Son of God, who was born of the Virgin, as we sing to You, Alleluia.

## ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΝ ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ

Ἡ Γέννησίς Σου Χριστέ...

## NATIVITY APOLYTIKION

Your birth, O Christ our God...

## ΚΟΝΤΑΚΙΟΝ

Ἡ παρθένος σήμερον τὸν ὑπερούσιον  
τίκτει καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ σπήλαιον τῷ ἀπρο-  
σίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ ποιμε-  
νῶν δοξολογοῦσι· Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἀστε-  
ρος ὁδοιποροῦσι· Δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ  
ἐγεννήθη παιδίον νέον ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων  
Θεός.

## KONTAKION

Today the Virgin gives birth to Him who is  
above all being, and the earth offers a cave  
to Him whom no man can approach. Angels  
with shepherds give glory, and Magi journey  
with a star. For unto us is born a young  
Child, the pre-eternal God.

## Ο ΤΡΙΣΑΓΙΟΣ ΥΜΝΟΣ

Ὅσοι εἰς Χριστὸν ἐβαπτίσθητε,  
Χριστὸν ἐνεδύσασθε. Ἀλληλούϊα. (3x)...

## THE TRISAGION HYMN

As many of you have been baptized in  
Christ, you have put on Christ. (3x)...

## THE EPISTLE READING

**Priest:** Let us be attentive.

**Reader:** Let all the earth worship you, and sing praises to you.

Verse: Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

**Priest:** Wisdom.

**Reader:** The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (4:4-7).

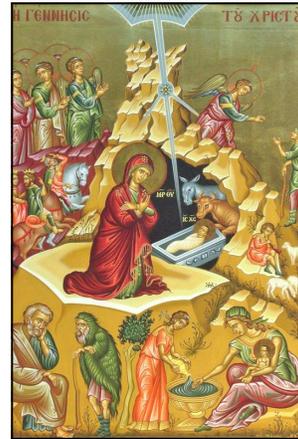
**Priest:** Let us be attentive.

**B**rethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

## THE GOSPEL READING

### Matthew 2:1-12

**N**ow when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: `And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"



Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

## ΤΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΛΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΠΙΣΤΕΩΣ THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

### ΜΕΓΑΛΥΝΑΡΙΟΝ

Μεγάλυνον, ψυχή μου τὴν τιμιωτέραν καὶ ἔνδοξοτέραν τῶν ἀνωστρατευμάτων. Μυστήριον ξένον ὄρω καὶ παράδοξον· οὐρανὸν τὸ σπήλαιον· θρόνον χερουβικὸν τὴν Παρθένον· τὴν φάτνην χωρίον· ἐν ᾧ ἀνεκλήθη ὁ ἀχώρητος Χριστὸς ὁ θεός, ὃν ἀνυμνοῦντες μεγαλύνομεν.

### HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

Praise, my soul, her who is more honorable and more glorious than the highest ranks. I see a mystery and paradox strange: heaven is the cave; the cherubic throne is the Virgin; space is the manger in which lies Christ our God, uncontainable, hymning whom we praise.

## ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΟΣ ΥΜΝΟΣ

Ἐλύτρωσιν ἀπέστειλε Κύριος τῷ λαῷ  
αὐτοῦ. Ἄλληλούια.

## COMMUNION HYMN

The Lord has sent deliverance to His  
people. Alleluia. (Repeat)...

## ΕΙΔΟΜΕΝ ΤΟ ΦΟΣ

Ἡ Γέννησίς Σου Χριστέ...

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Your birth, O Christ our God...

✠✠✠ ✠✠✠ ✠✠✠ ✠✠✠ ✠✠✠ ✠✠✠ ✠✠✠ ✠✠✠ ✠✠✠

## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK...

### WEDNESDAY the 26<sup>th</sup>

#### SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

- Matins: 8:45 am
- Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

### THURSDAY the 27<sup>th</sup>

#### ST. STEPHEN

- Matins: 8:45 am
- Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

### SATURDAY the 29<sup>th</sup>

- Great Vespers: 4:00 pm



## ARCHIEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL FOR THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (2018)

Protocol Number 217/18

December 25, 2018  
The Nativity of Christ

***“And His name shall be called the Prince of Peace.”***

Isaiah 9:6

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to the Flesh is depicted throughout our churches in the familiar and radiant icon of the Nativity. Every element of the Gospel account, historically and theologically, appears before our eyes to inspire wonder, worship, and peace. In every detail, the icon proclaims without words that the Child born this day in Bethlehem is none other than the Prince of Peace. For by His birth, peace entered into a world plagued by hatred, hurt, and conflict.

Our Lord came to bring *peace between heaven and earth*. We see this depicted in the shepherds as they hearken to the voice of an angel. The Evangelist Luke tells us that they were *greatly frightened* at the angel's appearance (Luke 2:9). But in the icon their faces manifest reverence and attention, not terror or guilt. As the great company of the heavenly host chanted *Glory to God in the highest*, the shepherds received and believed their message of *Peace on earth, goodwill towards mankind* (Luke 2:14). In that peace they journeyed to Bethlehem to seek the Child of promise. There, the shepherds witnessed God's answer to sin and death, as forgiveness, reconciliation, and life shone forth from the cave in the face of the Prince of Peace.

Our Lord came also to bring *peace among the peoples of the earth*. We see this depicted in the figures of the Magi. The Evangelist Matthew tells us that these astrologers from the East followed the rising of a star (Matthew 2:2) and left their homes, traversing for many months and long miles to reach the place where the newborn King dwelt. The Magi came in peace, bearing gifts in order to honor the newborn Messiah, even as the prophets had foretold: *Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn* (Isaiah 60:3).

Our Lord came to bring *peace within the realm of nature*. We see this depicted in the animals who kneel in worship before the manger. Strange wonders happen before them; unfamiliar visitors crowd their stable. But the animals neither cower nor flee; they calmly remain to witness the miracle. *The ox knows his owner, and the donkey his Master's manger*, as was fore-

*continued* →

told again by Isaiah (1:3). For so many millennia, the story of human development has been a history of cruelty towards animals; but on this night, and by Christ's birth, there was serenity and peace.

Our Lord came to bring *peace to our fallen human nature*, beset by weakness and mortality. In the center of the icon we behold the Virgin Mother bowed down in adoration before her Son and God. She shows no hint of pain or trauma, even after a long journey and childbirth. For with His entrance into this world, Jesus Christ came only to heal and save, not to harm or destroy. He caused His mother no injury in His birth. In her immaculate body, the destiny for all humanity is revealed: health, restoration, and resurrection. Already at His Nativity, the icon declares, *Christ is the master of life and death, and in Him is the ancient curse abolished (cf. Genesis 3:16). The Prince of Peace will destroy the final enemy, which is death (1 Cor. 15:26).*

### **Brothers and sisters in Christ,**

We glorify the Prince of Peace by spreading the peace He granted to us in His Birth. In this Christmas season - as we gather with family and friends, as we worship in the house of the Lord, as we break bread and share the bounties of our lives - let us also strive to be people of peace.

Out of the stable of Bethlehem, peace from heaven shines forth: let us therefore be quick to forgive and ready to reconcile with all those around us. From the lowly manger in Judea, peace prevails over man and beast: let us therefore be diligent as faithful stewards of God's creation, neither exploiting nor misusing His gifts through overconsumption, materialism, or waste. Through the gifts of the Magi, peace for all peoples is foretold: let us therefore through almsgiving and generosity be strong advocates of justice, equality, and compassion. From the face of the Holy Theotokos, peace overflows, royal and radiant: let us therefore embrace purity and complete dedication to Christ in our minds and bodies and spirits, giving glory to the Prince of Peace who came to save us.

May the peace, good will, and glory of the Christmas season be yours today and always, and unto the ages of ages. **“Christ is Born! Glorify Him!”**

With paternal love and heartfelt wishes  
in the Incarnate Lord,

+ DEMETRIOS  
Archbishop of America