

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY

December 19, 2021

Saints Commemorated today: Martyrs Boniface, Probus, Ares, Timothy, Polyeuktos, Euthychios, & Thessaloniki; Righteous Father Gregentius, Bishop of Ethiopia; Aglaia the Righteous of Rome

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to

take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

ENTRANCE HYMN: 1ST TONE

When the stone was sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life unto the world. For which cause the powers of heaven cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

FOURTH MODE

As the first-called of the Apostles, and brother of their leader O Andrew, entreat the Master of all that peace be granted unto the world and great mercy to our souls.



PHILANTHROPY AT SAINT ANDREW

Christmas Pastry Sale, Tsourekia and Olive Oil - Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas pastry sale! Please pick up your items this Saturday, 10-12 in the Good Samaritan Hall. Drive around to the back of the church for pick up. We also have Tsourekia and Greek extra virgin olive oil for sale. Both make excellent gifts and stocking stuffers. Please contact Tina Assimos [via email](#) for those two items.

Wishing Tree - This year's Wishing Tree will support the Children's Dispensary and Hospital on Lasalle Ave. in South Bend. This organization, which may not be known to many, works to enhance the learning and enrich the lives of individuals with special needs. Please follow this link to learn more about this local organization [here](#). This facility needs new (not used) board games and craft supplies (coloring pencils, crayons, markers, craft paper, ribbons, etc. - and whatever else your imagination tells you is a good craft supply for this scenario). Basically items that they can use to make things with. And then of course craft boxes to maybe store these items in. Collection bins are in front of the small decorated Christmas tree in the church foyer. Deadline for donations is this Sunday December 19, so we can deliver the items before Christmas. Thank you in advance for your generosity with this community outreach project.

We wish everyone a very blessed, healthy and happy holiday season, and thank you every chance we get for helping Saint Andrew spread Christ's light to our parish and our home community.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2022

We are once again at the time of year when we must all submit our stewardship pledges for 2022, in support of our church. We ask that parishioners submit their pledges for time, talent and treasure through the mail or [online](#) by Dec 31. To date we have received 37 pledges, totaling \$79,342 (the 2022 annual church operating budget is Income \$344,300/Expense \$344,150). This year's stewardship theme established by the Archdiocese is "Our Church - Our Spiritual Home". Christian Stewardship is about becoming good caretakers of all that God has given us. God has given each of us special and unique gifts, and through Holy Scripture He teaches us that everything we have is a loan from Him. Saint Paul instructs us: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" Colossians 3:23. When we see our work in this way, we are able to become stewards of our work and our church. Christian stewardship of work also teaches us that we are responsible to those with whom we work and those that may be served by our work. We are called to reflect the light of Christ in their lives, encourage them, support them and even love them. So remember that stewardship is not ONLY defined as

dollars, although reality says that with no money, we have no church. But true stewardship involves offering your time AND work to keep your church alive and viable. Thank you for being devoted stewards to Saint Andrew.

SOCIALLY DISTANCED SECTION

We kindly remind everyone that we have set aside a section of pews for those who wish to wear masks and continue to socially distance. Masks and distancing are required in this section, as per the Metropolis of Chicago. We ask that if you are not wearing a mask and distancing, that you sit in another section. Thank you for your consideration and understanding.

DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Discretionary Fund is to assist local parishioners (individuals, and families) who have encountered financial hardship. If you would like to help please contact Father John or make donations payable to the Discretionary Fund.

VISITING SAINT ANDREW?

People of different religious affiliation or tradition are always welcome at the liturgical services of our Holy Orthodox Church. If you are interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity or have specific questions, please set up a time to speak with Father John.

YOUR PRAYERS HELP...

“...I was sick and you visited Me...” St. Matthew 25:36. “Holy Father, Physician of our souls and bodies have mercy, forgive and heal thy servants.” The following brothers and sisters in Christ need your constant prayers and love, recovering at home or ill at home/hospital: Makarios Ngure, Vasilios Spentzos (home) and Nick Limberopoulos (home).

In nursing homes or home bound: Artemis Hoke (Westgate Garden), and Amelia Morris (Miller's Merry Manor, Walkerton).

Today's **Ushers** are: Manolis Anagnostou, Anna Napoleon, Leon Andrews, Kurt Metros, Nick Giannakakis. If you are not serving in the pangari today, please join everyone in the Sanctuary.

Today's Epistle Lesson will be read by an Altar Boy.

Rose Rorres prepared the Prosforo for this morning. May our God grant you spiritual joy always.

Coffee Hour was lovingly prepared for our entire community by the **Sunday School**. We thank you for your love and generosity.

MEMORIAL: A one year Memorial for **Jim Zeinis** is being offered this morning by his loving nephew, Sam Moskolis and family. May his memory be eternal.

THIS WEEK

Sat Dec 18	Great Vespers	5pm
Sun Dec 19	Sunday Before Nativity	8:20 Matins 9:30 Liturgy
Mon Dec 20	St. Ignatius of Antioch	7:30a Liturgy

Fri Dec 24	Eve of the Nativity of Christ	8:30a Great Hours & Vesperal Divine Liturgy
Fri Dec 24	Nativity of Christ	6p Orthros & Liturgy
Fri Dec 24	Office Closed	
Sat Dec 25	The Nativity of Christ	8:15a Matins 9:15a Liturgy
Sun Dec 26	Sunday after Christ's Nativity	8:20a Matins 9:30a Liturgy

LOOKING AHEAD

Mon Dec 27	St. Stephen	9:30a Liturgy
Mon Dec 27	Office Closed	
Tue Dec 28	Office Closed	
Wed Dec 29	Office Closed	
Thu Dec 30	Office Closed	
Fri Dec 31	Office Closed	
Sat Jan 1	St. Basil the Great Christ's Circumcision	8:30a Matins 9:30a Liturgy
Sun Jan 2	Sunday before Theophany	8:20a Matins 9:30a Liturgy
Wed Jan 5	Eve of Theophany	8:30a Great Hours & Vesperal Divine Liturgy
Thu Jan 6	Theophany	8:30a Matins 9:30a Liturgy & Great Blessing of Waters
Fri Jan 7	Synaxis of St. John the Prophet & Forerunner	8:30a Matins 9:30a Liturgy
Sun Jan 9	Sunday after Theophany	8:20a Matins 9:30a Liturgy
Fri, Jan 14	Leavetaking of Theophany Fathers of Sinai/Raitho	9:30a Liturgy
Sat Jan 15	Great Vespers	5p
Sun Jan 16	Twelfth Sunday of Luke	8:20a Matins 9:30a Liturgy
Mon Jan 17	St. Anthony the Great	8:30a Matins 9:30a Liturgy
Mon Jan 17	Office Closed	
Tue Jan 18	Sts. Athanasios and Cyril	9:30a
Tue Jan 18	Office Closed	
Wed Jan 19	Office Closed	