

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

December 25, 2022

Saints Commemorated today: Adoration of the Magi: Melchoir, Gaspar & Bathasar; Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 4:4-7

Brethren, 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 you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir of God through Christ.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

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.

ENTRANCE HYMN: 3RD TONE

Let the heavens rejoice, and let things on earth be glad, for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm; He hath trampled upon death by death. He hath become the first-born of the dead. From the bowels of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

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.

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CHRISTMAS ENCYCLICALS

The Christmas Encyclicals from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Elpidophoros, and Metropolitan Nathanael can be found [HERE](#).

PHILANTHROPY AT ST ANDREW

Our Wishing Tree this year will support Angels in the Attic -This local organization was formed 11 years ago, and helps women and children leaving abusive situations. You can learn about this organization

at www.theangelsintheattic.org. Women who are helped by this group, are given a laundry basket full of NEW personal hygiene and household items, since they are typically moving into a new location and out of the abusive home - Examples: Tooth brush, tooth paste, bath soap, face wash, bath sponge, towels, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, All-purpose cleaner, cleaning cloths and sponges, etc etc. Think of all the basic items one needs when they enter a new home - items needed to take care of themselves and set-up a basic living area. They also include baby items - diapers (UNOPENED), baby wipes, baby bath wash, etc etc. We will be collecting these items through the end of December and will deliver them to their office in Granger in early January. Please put your donations in the blue bins near the Philoptochos table. Thank you in advance for helping these women and children achieve a more peaceful and healthy life.

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO – LIVING WATER PRODUCTIONS

Through the guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael, the Metropolis of Chicago has released a religious education initiative called Living Water Productions. The Metropolis will produce videos, podcasts, and other media forms to help the faithful grow in our Orthodox Christian faith. For more information and for announcements on the first video series (featuring our own Fr. Alexis), click [HERE](#).

ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

For the second year in a row, we're pleased to offer an iconography workshop that will be held at St. Andrew. Brian Whirledge is a local iconographer and will be offering the classes from January 9th-13th, 2023. There is a cost to attend, but Brian offers a discount to St. Andrew parishioners. To see information on the workshop click [HERE](#). To visit Brian's website, go to www.brianwhirledge.com.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2023

As we look forward to the new year arriving in just under a month, let's put at the top of the list our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our spiritual home of Saint Andrew. All that we have to be thankful for comes from the Father above, so let's reflect our recognition of that by being generous stewards of Saint Andrew, devoting time, talent and treasure to keep our church alive for the ages to come. Thank you to everyone for helping us increase stewardship income in 2022, and in offering time and talent to maintain and grow our various church ministries. Although time and talent are extremely critical and valuable to the church, if we aren't generous with the donation of our treasure, there will be no Saint Andrew church to need our time and talent! We are getting close to covering our church operating budget solely with stewardship, but we still have room to grow. If all of us gave just a little bit more, we'd be golden. Maybe one fewer dinner out, or 2 fewer Starbucks coffees per week, or one fewer trip to the mall would free up some funds that can go toward stewardship. Or maybe offer your time to accomplish a task that the church is currently paying for. Look at the church budget. What are we paying for? Do you maybe have the skills and time to do that work so we don't have to hire it out? There are many creative ways to look at stewardship and how we can lower church costs and cover the budget strictly with stewardship. Scan the QR Code to renew your stewardship now!



Below is some inspiration regarding stewardship from the Archdiocese:

Christian Stewardship is..

...learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work., for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

...our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

...caring for the needs of others.

...offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.

...what a person does after saying "I believe...", as proof of that belief.

...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

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 (home), Vasilios Spentzos (home) and Nick Limberopoulos (home).

Today's **Ushers** are: Manolis Anagnostou, Anna Napoleon, George Mighion, Chris Strafford, Pete Arvan. 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.

Maria Giannakakis prepared the Prosforo for this morning. May God grant you spiritual joy always.

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

THIS WEEK

Fri Dec 23	Great Hours for the Nativity	9:00am
Sat Dec 24	Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ - Vigil	5:00pm Vespers 6:00pm Matins 7:00pm Divine Liturgy
Sun Dec 25	Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ	8:15 Matins 9:15 Divine Liturgy
Mon Dec 26	Office Closed	
Tue Dec 27	Office Closed	
Wed Dec 28	Office Closed	
Sun Jan 1	Circumcision of our Lord; St. Basil the Great	8:20 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy

LOOKING AHEAD

Thu Jan 5	Eve of Theophany	8:00am Great Hours of Theophany & Vespers 9:30am Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of Waters
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Fri Jan 6	Theophany of our Lord	8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Blessing of Waters
Sat Jan 7	Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner	9:30 Divine Liturgy
Sun Jan 8	Sunday after Theophany	8:20 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy
Sat Jan 14	Great Vespers	5pm
Sun Jan 15	12 th Sunday of Luke	8:20 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy
Tue Jan 17	St. Anthony the Great	9:30 Divine Liturgy
Sat Jan 21	St. Maximos the Confessor	9:30 Divine Liturgy
Sun Jan 22	15 th Sunday of Luke	8:20 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy
Tue Jan 24	St. Xenia of St. Petersburg	9:30 Divine Liturgy
Sat Jan 28	Great Vespers	5pm
Sun Jan 29	Sunday of the Canaanite	8:20 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy
Mon Jan 30	Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs	8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy