

SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



Icon of the Nativity of Our Lord — December 25th

LAMP LIGHTING PSALMS

*If You retain sins, Lord, O Lord, who will be left?
With You there is forgiveness.*

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us proclaim the present mystery by which the partition has been broken and the flaming sword withheld: now shall the Cherubim let us all come to the Tree of Life. As for me, I am returning to the bliss of Paradise whence I had been driven by the original disobedience. Behold, the Image of the Father and His immutable Eternity has taken the form of a servant! He has come down to us from a Mother all-pure, and yet He has remained unchanged: He has remained true God as He was before, and has taken on Himself what He had not been, becoming Man out of His love for man. Wherefore, let us raise our voices in hymns and sing: “O God who was born of the Virgin, O our God, have mercy on us!”

If you For Your Name’s sake, O Lord, I have waited for You; my soul has waited for Your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord.

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us proclaim the present mystery by which the partition has been broken and the flaming sword withheld: now shall the Cherubim let us all come to the Tree of Life. As for me, I am returning to the bliss of Paradise whence I had been driven by the original disobedience. Behold, the Image of the Father and His immutable Eternity has taken the form of a servant! He has come down to us from a Mother all-pure, and yet He has remained unchanged: He has remained true God as He was before, and has taken on Himself what He had not been, becoming Man out of His love for man. Wherefore, let us raise our voices in hymns and sing: “O God who was born of the Virgin, O our God, have mercy on us!”

From the watch of dawn until the night, from the watch of dawn let Israel long for the Lord.

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Virgin, the whole creation lit up. Behold: the shepherds keep watch, the Magi adore, angels sing hymns of praise and Herod trembles, for the Savior of our souls has appeared in the flesh.

*For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him abundant redemption
And it is He who will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.*

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Virgin, the whole creation lit up. Behold: the shepherds keep watch, the Magi adore, angels sing hymns of praise and Herod trembles, for the Savior of our souls has appeared in the flesh.

Praise the Lord, all you nations, exalt Him, all you peoples.

GREAT DESPERS OF THE NATIVITY

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, 25 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Hebrews:1:1-2:3 †† Luke 2:1-20

8:30 a.m. - Festal Orthros

10:00 a.m. - Basil Great Divine Liturgy

Monday, 26 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Second Day of the Nativity

Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

Hieromartyr Euthymios, Archbishop of Sardica

Hebrews 2:11-18 †† Matthew 2:13-23

Tuesday, 27 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Third Day of the Nativity

Protodeacon Stephen

Venerable Father Theodore the Branded, Confes-

sor, brother of Theophane the Hymnographer

Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5 & 47-60 †† Mt 21:33-42

Wednesday, 28 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Fourth Day of the Nativity

Holy Martyrs burned at Nicomedia

James 2:14-26 †† Mark 10:46-52

Thursday, 29 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Fifth Day of the Nativity

Holy Innocents put to death by King Herod

Venerable Father Marcellus,

Hegumen of the Monastery of the Acemetes

James 3:1-10 †† Mark 11:11-23

Friday, 30 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Sixth Day of the Nativity

Holy Martyr Anysia

James 3:11-18; 4:1-6 †† Mark 11:22-26

Saturday, 31 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Leave-taking of the Nativity

Venerable mother Melany the Roman

Holy Martyr Zoticos, the Feeder of Orphans

James 4:7-17; 5:1-9 †† Mark 11:27-33

Sunday, 01 January ♦♦♦♦♦

CIRCUMCISION IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

Father among the Saints Basil the Great,

Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia

Holy & Just Man Joseph, Spouse of Theotokos

James, the Brother of the Lord

David, the King and Prophet

Protodeacon Stephen

Venerable Father Theodore the Branded, Confes-

sor, brother of Theophane the Hymnographer

Colossians 2:8-12 †† Luke 2:20-22, 2:40-52

9:00 a.m. - Festal Orthros

10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

Parish Potluck Patronal Celebration

Monday, 02 January ♦♦♦♦♦

First Day of the Forefeast of the Theophany

Father among the Saints Sylvester, of Rome

1 Timothy 3:13-16; 4:1-5 †† Matthew 3:1-6

Tuesday, 03 January ♦♦♦♦♦

Second Day of Forefeast of the Theophany

Holy Prophet Malachy

Holy Martyr Gordios

2 Timothy 4:5-8 †† Mark 1:1-8

10:00 a.m. - Royal Hours

Wednesday, 04 January ♦♦♦♦♦

Third Day of Forefeast of the Theophany

Synaxis of the Seventy Holy Disciples

Venerable Father Theoctistos,

Hegumen of the Monastery of Cucume in Sicily

1 Timothy 4:9-15 †† John 5:17-24

Thursday, 05 January ♦♦♦♦♦ Fast Day

PARAMONY OF THE THEOPHANY

[DAY OF STRICT ABSTINENCE,

& FASTING UNTIL NOON]

Holy Martyrs Theopemptos & Theonas

Venerable Mother Syncletica

1 Corinthians 9:19-27 †† Luke 3:1-18

5:30 p.m. - Great Vespers

Friday, 06 January ♦♦♦♦♦

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND

SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

[HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION]

Titus 2:11-14; 3:3-7 †† Matthew 3:13-17

9:00 a.m. - Festal Orthros

5:30 p.m. - Divine Liturgy

- Great Blessing of Waters

LAMP LIGHTING PSALMS

December 22

[Isaiah 2:4 and 9:7.]

O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

O King of the Gentiles and the Desired of them, Thou Cornerstone that dost make both one, come and deliver man, whom Thou didst form out of the dust of the earth.

December 23

[Isaiah 7:14.]

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, exspectatio gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos Domine Deus noster.

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the Nations and their Saviour, come to save us, O Lord our God.

In the Liturgical practice, the Antiphon is first sung, then the Hymn of the Magnificat is sung and concludes with the Antiphon sung again.

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Because He hath regarded the humility of His slave:

For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Because He that is mighty hath done great things to me; and holy is His name.

And His mercy is from generation unto generations, to them that fear Him.

He hath shewed might in His arm: He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble.

He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.

He hath received Israel His servant, being mindful of His mercy:

As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for ever.

Glory be the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forever and ever, Amen.

GREAT DESPERS OF THE NATIVITY

O Christ our God, Your kingdom is eternal and Your dominion from generation to generation. You have become incarnate of the Holy Spirit, being made Man through the ever-virgin Mary. Your coming, O Christ, has shed upon us a great light, O You Light of Light and Radiance of the Father! You have illumined the whole creation. Wherefore everything that breathes sings to You a hymn of praise, O Image of the Father's glory, eternal God, existing before all ages, who shone forth from the Virgin! O Lord, glory to You!

For mighty is His love for us, and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.

O Christ, what shall we offer You for Your coming on earth as a Man for our sake? Every creature that has its being from You gives thanks to You: the angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star; wise men present their gifts, and the shepherds, their wonder; the earth provides a cave and the desert a manger. As for us, we offer You a Mother, a Virgin Mother. O God who are from all eternity, have mercy on us!

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

When Augustus became supreme ruler of the world, the multiplicity of powers among men came to an end. When You became incarnate of the spotless Virgin, the worship of many gods had to cease. The cities came under a universal power, and the Gentiles believed in a single divine Power. Nations were registered in the name of Caesar Augustus, and we the faithful were registered in Your divine name by Your incarnation. O Lord who are born, great is Your mercy! Glory to You!

(There is no Prokimenon)

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Genesis. (1:1-13)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the book of Numbers. (24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18)

And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and saw Israel encamping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him, and he took up his discourse, and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Be'or, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, the oracle of him who hears the words of God, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down, but having his eyes uncovered: how fair are your tents, O Jacob, your encampments, O Israel! Like valleys that stretch afar, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the LORD has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters. Water shall flow from his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. God brings him out of Egypt; he has as it were the horns of the wild ox, he shall eat up the nations his adversaries, and shall break their bones in pieces, and pierce them through with his arrows. He couched, he lay down like a lion, and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? Blessed be every one who blesses you, and cursed be every one who curses you."

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not nigh: a star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab, and break down all the sons of Sheth. Edom shall be dispossessed, Se'ir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed, while Israel does valiantly.

THIRD READING:

A reading from the prophet Micah. (4:6-7, 5:1-3)

In that day, says the LORD, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away, and those whom I have afflicted; and the lame I will make the remnant; and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and for evermore. Now you are walled about with a wall; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike upon the cheek the ruler of Israel. But you, O Bethlehem Eph'rathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in travail has brought forth; then the rest of his brethren shall return to the people of Israel.

GREAT DESPERS OF THE NATIVITY

O Wisdom, Who didst come out of the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come and teach us the way of prudence.

December 18

[Isaiah 11:4-5 and 33:22.]

O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, Who didst appear to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, and didst give unto him the Law on Sinai: come and with an outstretched arm redeem us.

December 19

[Isaiah 11:1 and 11:10.]

O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem Gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.

O Root of Jesse, Who dost stand for an ensign of the people, before Whom kings shall keep silence, and unto Whom the Gentiles shall make their supplication: come to deliver us, and tarry not.

December 20

[Isaiah 9:6 and 22:22.]

O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel; qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

O Key of David and Sceptre of the house of Israel, Who dost open and no man doth shut, Who dost shut and no man doth open, come and bring forth from his prisonhouse the captive that sitteth in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 21

[Isaiah 9:2.]

O Oriens, splendor lucis æternæ, et sol justitiæ: veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

O Dawn of the East, Brightness of the Light Eternal and Sun of Justice, come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

IN LOVING MEMORY:

Edward & Dorothy Abda

Mrs. Karen Kane

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Barrett

Janice Assaf

Joseph & Catherine Zaydon Family

Helen Anna Bartnicki

Joseph Stanley Bartnicki

Thomas Bartnicki

Mr. Steve Bartnicki

Edward and Marie Barrett

Mr. & Mrs. A. Barrett

A.J. Bolus

Frank G. Bolus

George R. Bolus

Joseph Bolus

Mrs. Veronica Bolus

Adele Carker

Ms. Karin Mille

John R. & Louise Chally

Mary Lou Vandorick

George Ceirran

Catherine & Joseph Zaydon Family

Ann Kinzer Clark

Dr. & Dr. Patrick Clark & Family

Paul Diedrich

Lois Diedrich

Dr. & Dr. Patrick Clark & Family

Rosemary Eber

Mrs. Veronica Bolus

Rev. William Egan

Ms. Karin Mille

Anne E. Lohmann

Joseph & Catherine Zaydon Family

Frank & Minnie Milewski

Sonny Milewski

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Milewski

The Milewski Family

Dr. & Dr. Patrick Clark & Family

Mille Family

Ms. Karin Mille

Karen Murry

Mrs. Veronica Bolus

Eugene J. O'Hop

Helen M. O'Hop

Steve Bartnicki

Amen Sirgany Family

Ms. Karin Mille

Dennis Staffine

Dr. & Dr. Patrick Clark & Family

Baby Joseph Zaydon

Joseph & Catherine Zaydon

Thomas & Helene Zaydon

Louis & Helen Zaydon

Catherine & Joseph Zaydon Family

GRATEFULLY RECOGNIZE:

Dr. & Dr. Nathan & Annie Lefler Family

Mr. & Mrs. William J. Patchoski

Divine Liturgy Intentions

24 December: *Eugene &
Thalia Marlene Assaf

24 December: John Coury* James
Kane* Susan Vieselmeyer*

25 December *Thalia Assaf
01 January *Deceased members SJB.

07 January *Thalia Assaf
from M./M. James Moran

08 January
Michael & Carolyn DeTar*
from Zachary & Catherine Bateman

14 January *Thalia Assaf
from Judith Manley

15 January
Russell & Kathleen Bateman*
from Zachary & Catherine Bateman

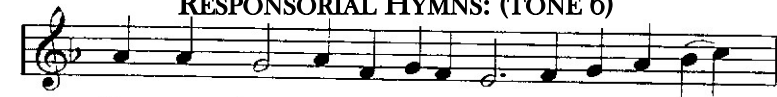
**Thank you to all those who cleaned
and decorated the Church for
Christmas.**

**Sean & Sophie Fitzpatrick Family
Margaret Benedetto
Nathan & Annie Family**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

All Stand

RESPONSORIAL HYMNS: (TONE 6)



You were born hidden in a cave, but heaven spoke



through a star and proclaimed You to all, O Sa-viour.



It brought to You the Ma-gi to worship You in



faith: with them have mer-cy on us.

(After each versicle the refrain is sung by the cantors, all sing:)



It brought to You the Ma-gi to worship You in



faith: with them have mer-cy on us.

(After the Glory be to the Father... all sing the full hymn as above.)

FOURTH READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. (11:1-10)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie

2022 CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

GREAT DESPERS OF THE NATIVITY

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down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him shall the nations seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious.

FIFTH READING:

A reading from the prophet Baruch. (3:35-4:2)

This is our God; no other can be compared to him! He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to Jacob his servant and to Israel whom he loved. Afterward she appeared upon earth and lived among men. She is the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endures for ever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk toward the shining of her light.

SIXTH READING:

A reading from the prophet Daniel. (2:31-36, 44-45)

Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar: "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it smote the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces; then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. "This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation. And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for ever; just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."

GREAT DESPERS OF THE NATIVITY

O ANTIPHONS HYMNS

The "O" Antiphons refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Divine Office in the Western Church. They cover the special period of the Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil.

The exact origin of the O Antiphons is not known. Boethius (c. 480-524) made a slight reference to them, thereby suggesting their presence at that time. At the Benedictine abbey of Fleury (now Saint-Benoit-sur-Loire), these antiphons were recited by the abbot and other abbey leaders in descending rank, and then a gift was given to each member of the community. By the eighth century, they are in use in the liturgical celebrations in Rome. The usage of the O Antiphons was so prevalent in monasteries that the phrases, Keep your O and The Great O Antiphons were common parlance. One may thereby conclude that in some fashion the O Antiphons have been part of our liturgical tradition since the very early Church.

The importance of O Antiphons is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel*. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, the only-begotten son of God the Father, born of the holy Virgin, Mary, for the sake of our salvation.

Let us now look at each antiphon with just a sample of the Prophet Isaiah's related prophecies

December 17

[Isaiah 11:2-3 and 28:29.]

O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.



DIOCESE OF NEWTON
for the Melkite Catholic Church
in the United States of America

Office of the Bishop

Christmas 2022

"We have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2).

Dear Melkite Catholic faithful and beloved friends,

Christ is born! Glorify Him. Almaseeh Wulidah. Fa-Majidoo.

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we remind ourselves that we are no longer estranged from our Creator, because the Creator has entered His creation and taken our human nature to Himself.

This mystery is not a past reality. Through our Baptism into Christ, we are made one with Him and we are able to experience the Incarnation and the Manifestation of God as a present and daily reality.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we remind ourselves that we who are one with the Lord are called *"Christ"ians* and have received the greatest gift of all, that of becoming children of God. The Acts of the Apostles tells us: "in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians" (11:26). Therefore, the blessing of being called a Christian is especially meaningful to us as Melkite Catholics who trace our roots to the first Christian communities in Jerusalem and Antioch.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remind ourselves of our Apostolic roots and our commitment to sharing this authentic faith with our brothers and sisters in the United States and anywhere around the world.

My prayer for all of us is that we discover our greatest joy of all, that we are beloved children of God. Transformed by this, may the light of our faith in Christ, radiate from us to our family and our community, and be lived in an overflowing way in all our Melkite Catholic parishes.

To you and to all our friends across the United States and around the world, I send my warmest greetings and heartfelt Christmas blessings.

May our newborn King grant mercy, peace, health, and salvation to you and to all this Christmas season and in the upcoming year.

+ François

Bishop François Beyrouth
Diocese of Newton for the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America

BISHOP FRANÇOIS NATIVITY LETTER

GREAT DESPERS OF THE NATIVITY

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

All Stand

RESPONSORIAL HYMNS: (TONE 6)



You rose from the Virgin, O Christ, spi-ri-tu-al Sun



of jus-tice. A star pointed to You held in a cave,



O un-con-tain-a-ble God.



You led the Ma-gi to a-dore You: with them we



mag-ni-fy You, O Gi-ver of life, glo-ry to You.

After each versicle sung by the cantors, all sing:)



You led the Ma-gi to a-dore You: with them we



mag-ni-fy You, O Gi-ver of life, glo-ry to You.

(After the Glory be to the Father... all sing the full hymn as above.)

SEVENTH READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. (9:6-7)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlast-

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

ing Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it wit justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

EIGHTH READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. (7:10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10)

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Im-man'u-el. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. Then the LORD said to me, "Take a large tablet and write upon it in common characters, 'Belonging to Ma'her-shal'al-hash-baz.'" And I got reliable witnesses, Uri'ah the priest and Zechari'ah the son of Jeberechi'ah, to attest for me. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the LORD said to me, "Call his name Ma'her-shal'al-hash-baz; for before the child knows how to cry 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Sama'ria will be carried away before the king of Assyria." God is with us ! Be broken, you peoples, and be dismayed; give ear, all you far countries; gird yourselves and be dismayed; gird yourselves and be dismayed. Take counsel together, but it will come to nought; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

SMALL LITANY:

TRISAGION: All of you who have been baptized

PROKIEMENON: Psalm 63: 11, 2

The Lord said to Me: "You are My Son; today I have begotten You!"

Stichon: "Ask Me, and I shall give You nations as Your Lot and the ends of the earth as Your domain."

PROKIEMENON: Ps. 65:4, 1

Let all on earth worship You and sing praise to You.

Stichon: Shout joyfully to God, all the earth.

EPISTLE:

Brethren, when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, that He might redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" So that one is no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, an heir also of God through Jesus Christ

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Tone 4

(Tone 8)

Galatians 4:4-7

GREAT DESPERS OF THE NATIVITY

DAY LITURGY OF THE NATIVITY

shepherds. But Mary kept in mind all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken to them.

HIRMOS:

In you, O woman full of grace, all creation exults, the hierarchy of angels together with the race of men: in you, sanctified Temple, spiritual Paradise, Glory of virgins of whom God took flesh from whom our God Who exists before the world, became a child! For He has made your womb His throne, making it more spacious than the heavens. In you, O Woman full of grace, all creation exults: glory to you!

KINONIKON:

Liturgy Book p. 155

The Lord has sent redemption to His people: He has established His covenant forever. Alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: Troparion of the Nativity

Liturgy Book p. 152



LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

DAY LITURGY OF THE NATIVITY

and like a garment they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.

But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Therefore, we must attend all the more to what we have heard, so that we may not be carried away. For if the word announced through angels proved firm, and every transgression and disobedience received its just recompense, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? Announced originally through the Lord, it was confirmed for us by those who had heard.

ALLELUIA:

Tone 8

The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand
until I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

The scepter of Your power the Lord will stretch forth from Sion:
Rule in the midst of Your Enemies!

GOSPEL:

Luke 2:1-20

In those days, a decree went forth from Caesar Augustus that a census of the whole world should be taken. This first census took place while Cyrinus was governor of Syria. And all were going, each to his own town, to register. And Joseph also went from Galilee out of the town of Nazareth into Judea to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and family of David) to register, together with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child. And it came to pass while they were there, that the days for her to be delivered were fulfilled. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds in the same district living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them and the glory of God shone round about them, and they were very much afraid. And the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all the people; for today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, Who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will among men.” And it came to pass, when the angels had departed from them into heaven, that the shepherds were saying to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste, and they found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in the manger. And when they had seen, they understood what had been told them concerning this Child. And all who heard marveled at the things told them by the

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

VIGIL LITURGY OF THE NATIVITY

ALLELUIA: *Psalm 18:2, 3*

(Tone 1)

The heavens declare the glory of God
and the firmament proclaims the work of His hands.
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night proclaims knowledge.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi came from the East to Jerusalem saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” But when King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and so was all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and Scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. And they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for thus it is written by the prophet, ‘*And you, Bethlehem, of the land of Judah are by no means least among the princes of Judah; for from you shall come forth a leader who shall shepherd my people Israel.*’” Then Herod summoned the Magi secretly, and carefully ascertained from them the time when the star had appeared to them. And sending them to Bethlehem he said, “Go and make careful inquiry concerning the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may go and worship Him.” Now they, having heard the king, went their way. And behold, the star they had seen in the East went before them, until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. And when they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly. And entering the house, they found the Child with Mary His mother, and falling down they worshipped Him. And opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another way.
spoken to them.

GREETING: Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

HIRMOS:

Liturgy Book p. 154

O my soul, magnify the One Who is more honorable and glorious than the heavenly powers! Behold a mystery, a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave has become heaven, the Virgin a throne of the Cherubim, and the manger a noble place where Christ our God reposes. Wherefore let us praise and exalt Him!

KINONIKON:

Liturgy Book p. 155

The Lord has sent redemption to His people: He has established His covenant forever. Alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: *Troparion of the Nativity*

Liturgy Book p. 152

LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Faith:

All are welcome to come forward and approach the Holy Chalice who believe and profess the Catholic faith in the Holy Eucharist; namely, that what we *perceive* as bread and wine, we *believe*, in truth, is the precious and all-holy Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ and worship it with the same adoration we ascribe to the Holy Trinity.

Charity:

Furthermore, you should approach these Life-giving Mysteries if you are a practicing Catholic, have not be neglectful of your religious observances, and are not aware of having committed any grave sins, unless having first received sacramental confession, as commanded by St. Paul (1 Cor. 11:27–30):

★ Absence from the weekly Sunday divine services. [School activities such as sports on a regular basis, inconvenience, ‘fatigue’ or anger at fellow parishioners do not excuse]

★ Works of the Flesh: fornication (contraception), impurity (masturbation), immodesty (pornography), idolatry, enmities, wrath, murder, drunkenness, reveling (excessive feasting). [Gal. 5:19-21]

One should try, if possible, to be reconciled with any estranged family and neighbor. (Mt 5:23)

Hope:

All who approach will have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting, and be, as is possible, at peace with all men.

[Since the proper effect of the reception of the Holy Eucharist is the divine union (communion) with Christ and His Body, the Church; those Christians who are not members of the Catholic Church will see that Holy Communion requires first establishing that visible bond of love.]

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

DAY LITURGY OF THE NATIVITY

GREAT DOXOLOGY:

Liturgy Book p. 17

ANTIPHONS: Nativity of Our Lord

FIRST:

Liturgy Book p. 26

SECOND:

Liturgy Book p. 151

O Son of God, who were born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia

THIRD:

Liturgy Book p. 152

ENTRANCE HYMN:

Liturgy Book p. 151

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

TROPARIA:

Nativity of our Lord (Tone 4)

Liturgy Book p. 152

Hypakoi of the Nativity

(Tone 8)

O Little Child lying in a manger, by means of a star, heaven has called and led to You the Magi, the first-fruits of the Gentiles, astounded to behold, not scepters and thrones, but extreme poverty. What, indeed, is lower than a cave? What is humbler than swaddling clothes- and yet the splendor of your divinity shone forth in them resplendently. O Lord, glory to You!

KONTAKION: Nativity of Our Lord (Tone 3)

Liturgy Book p. 153

TRISAGION: All of you who have been baptized...

Liturgy Book p. 51

PROKIEMENON: Psalm 63: 11, 2

Tone 4

The Lord said to Me: “You are My Son; today I have begotten You!”

Stichon: “Ask Me, and I shall give You nations as Your Lot and the ends of the earth as Your domain.”

EPISTLE:

Hebrews: 1:1-12; 2:1-3

In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, He spoke to us through a Son, whom He made heir of all things and through whom He created the universe, who is the refulgence of His glory, the very imprint of His being, and who sustains all things by His mighty word. When He had accomplished purification from sins, He took His seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say: “You are My Son; this day I have begotten You”? or again: “I will be a Father to Him, and He shall be a Son to me”? And again, when He leads the First-born into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” Of angels He says: “He makes His angels winds and His ministers a fiery flame.” But of the Son: “Your throne, O God, stands forever and ever; and a righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You loved justice and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, anointed You with the oil of gladness above your companions.” And: “At the beginning, O Lord, You established the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment. You will roll them up like a cloak,