

THE MESSENGER

Weekly Worship Guide of The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation, Atlanta Georgia

Monday, December 25, 2017 – Δευτέρα 25 Δεκεμβρίου 2017

Merry Christmas! - Καλά Χριστούγεννα!

The Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, The Adoration of the Magi, the commemoration of the worship of the Shepherds in Bethlehem.



We are Blessed to have Serving the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios



ON THE NIGHT OF NATIVITY

BY ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN



Pure is the present night, in which the Pure One appeared, Who came to purify us! Let our hearing be pure, and the sight of our eyes chaste, and the feeling of the heart holy, and the speech of the mouth sincere!

The present night is the night of reconciliation; therefore, let no one be wrath against his brother and offend him!

This night gave peace to the whole world, and so, let no one threaten. This is the night of the Most Meek One; let no one be cruel! This is the night of the Humble One; let no one be proud!

Now is the day of joy; let us not take revenge for offences! Now is the day of good will; let us not be harsh. On this day of tranquility, let us not become agitated by anger!

Today God came unto sinners; let not the righteous exalt himself over sinners!

Today the Most Rich One became poor for our sake; let the rich man invite the poor to his table!

Today we received a gift which we did not ask for; let us bestow alms to those who cry out to us and beg!

The present day has opened the door of heaven to our prayers; let us also open our door to those who ask of us forgiveness!

Today the Godhead placed upon Himself the seal of humanity, and humanity has been adorned with the seal of the Godhead!

Father Paul, Father Christos, the Parish Council and the Cathedral staff would like to wish everyone a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

ORDER OF HYMNS FOLLOWING THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Απολυτικά Απολυτίκια

Απολυτίκιον Τῆς Ἑορτῆς Ἦγος δ'.

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς 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.

I Gennisis sou Hriste o Theos imon, anetile to kosmo, to fos to tis gnoseos; en afti gar I tis astris latrevodes, ipo asteros edidaskonto, se proskinvn, to Ilion tis dikeosinis, ke se ginoskin ex ipsous Anatolin. Kivrie doxa si.

Κοντάκιον Τῆς Ἑορτῆς Ἦγος γ'.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερούσιον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἀστέρος ὁδοιποροῦσι· δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ αἰῶνων Θεός.

I Parthevnos sivmeron to IperouvSION tivkti, ke I gi to Spivleon, to aprosivto prosavgi. Avngeli, metav Pimevnon doxologouvsi, Mavgi de, metav astevros odiporouvsi; di imavs gar egennivthi pedivon nevon, o pro eovnon Theovs

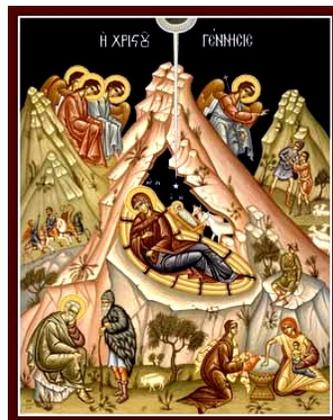
Apolytikion of the Feast Mode 4.

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.



Kontakion of the Feast Mode 3.

On this day the Virgin gives birth unto the Super-essential. To the Unapproachable, earth is providing the grotto. Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. He was born for our salvation,* a newborn Child,* the pre-eternal God.



The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
Ἡ Κατὰ Σάρκα Γέννησις τοῦ Σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Χριστοῦ

TODAY'S EPISTLE READING IS FROM
ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS 4:4-7
EPISTLE READER: CHRISTINA NASTOPOULOS

PROKEIMENON: *Let all the earth worship You, and sing praises to You.*

VERSE: *Shout with joy to God, all the earth.*

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.

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 2:1-12

Now 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.

"Take up and read, take up and read."

St. Augustine, *Confessions XII*

DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 29 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK





ACOLYTES - METROPOLITAN'S GROUP

Athanasios Grivakis	Nikolaos Odenwelder
Eric Jackson	Pano Karatassos
Evangelos Katsoudas	Pete Constantinides
Gus Karas	Platon Constantinides
Jack McClure	Robby Keenan
Jerod Spetseris	Robert Weimar
Nick Pappas	Spears Vavalides
Niko Skiouris	

HANDMAIDENS - METROPOLITAN'S GROUP

Alexis Vallianatos	Callie Davis
Bella Reynolds	Mela Xides
Christina Nastopoulos	Reece Hughes
Gabriella Pappas	Helena Panos
Katherine Spetseris	Penelope Melissas
Zoe Franklin	

ACOLYTES GROUP THREE

Alexander Vastakis	Alexandros Katsoudas
Gus Karas	Evangelos Katsoudas
George Poulos	Ian Alexander
John Syribey	Nicholas Vastakis
Nick Karas	Nicko Kostopoulos
Robert Weimar	Theo Pappas
Theo Weimar	

HANDMAIDENS GROUP THREE

Alexis Vallianatos	Christina Pribas
Elena Karas	Dee Dee Kostopoulos
Elli Moraitakis	Phoebe Franklin
Renna Moraitakis	Sophia Karampelas
Zoe Franklin	

The following Parish Council members will be on duty today during the Divine Liturgy:

Costa Panos	Ned Biehler	Sandy Papadopoulos
Al Galloway	Scott Davenport	Noula Zaharis

GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered in the Orthodox Church only to those individuals baptized and chrismated (confirmed) in the Orthodox Faith. To participate in Holy Communion one must be in good standing with the Church spiritually (for example, married people must have had their marriage blessed in the Church; and, all must be without grave sin on their hearts). For all Orthodox Christians, the proper preparation for Holy Communion must be observed: that is, examination of conscience, confession, reading the prayers for Holy Communion, and the proper fasting. If you have any further questions about this, please speak with the clergy. Women should remove all lipstick when approaching for Holy Communion. Please let parents with their babies and the elderly approach first. Thank you.

Fr. Christos will be away from the Cathedral on Tuesday, December 26th through Saturday, December 30th on vacation with his family. We wish them a safe trip.

“The light of your face was made a sign upon us, O Lord!” - Psalm 4:5-6



Rev. Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis, *Dean*
 Rev. Fr. Christos P. Mars, *Presbyter*
 Elias Lampropoulos, *Pastoral Assistant*

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