

THE MESSENGER

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

Sunday, December 23, 2018 - Κυριακή, 23 Δεκεμβρίου 2018

Sunday Before Nativity - Κυριακή Πρὸ τῆς Χριστοῦ Γεννήσεως

Forefeast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Ten Martyrs of Crete, Naoum the Enlightener of the Bulgarians, Paul, Archbishop of Neo – Caesarea, Nicholas & John the New Martyrs, Remembrance of the Founding of the Holy and Great Church of Christ, Hagia Sophia in Constantinople



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



Ten Martyrs of Crete



These Saints, who were all from Crete, contested for piety's sake during the reign of Decius, in the year 250. Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, and Eunician were from Gortynia, the capital; Zoticus was from Knossos; Agathopus, from the port city of Panormus; Basilides, from Cydonia; Evarestus and Pompey, from Heraklion. Haled before the Governor as Christians, they were subjected to torments for thirty days, being scourged, racked, dragged upon the ground through dung heaps, stoned, spit upon. They were questioned again, but their constancy roused the Governor to greater fury. After subjecting them to torments more bitter still, he had them beheaded.

(From the website of the Orthodox Church of America)

ORDER OF HYMNS FOLLOWING THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Απολυτίκιον

Απολυτίκια

Ἀναστάσιμον Ἀπολυτίκιον. Ἦχος πλ. α΄

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ἠδύοκησε σαρκί, ἀνελεθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγειραὶ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τὸ Προεόρτιον. Ἦχος δ΄

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ἥνοικται πᾶσιν ἡ Ἑδέμ. Εὐτρεπίσου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκεῖνης γαστήρ, ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδάμ τεθνηξόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τῶν Πατέρων. Ἦχος β΄

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμήν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἰκεσίαις Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ. Ἦχος δ΄

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ Κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις, ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Κοντάκιον. Ἦχος γ΄

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode pl. 1

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate * with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born * for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. * For in His goodness He was pleased * to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, * and to raise up those who had died, * by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion for the Forefeast. Mode 4

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life * has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image.

Apolytikion for the Fathers. Mode 2

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

Apolytikion of the Church. Mode 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the mystery which was hidden from eternity. The Son of God becomes the Virgin's Son, and Gabriel announces the grace of this Good News. Let us also join with him, calling to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O Woman full of grace; the Lord is with you.

Kontakion. Mode. 3

On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word * in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds * Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn Child, * the pre-eternal God.



Sunday before Nativity—Κυριακή Πρώ τῆς Χριστοῦ Γεννήσεως

TODAY'S EPISTLE READING IS FROM:
ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE HEBREWS 11:9-10; 32-40
READER: ANGELA PAPPADAKIS

PROKEIMENON: *BLESSED ARE YOU, O LORD, THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS.*
VERSE: *FOR YOU ARE JUST IN ALL YOU HAVE DONE.*

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.

TODAY'S 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.

“Take up and read, take up and read.” St. Augustine, *Confessions XII*

DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 51 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK





ACOLYTES GROUP FOUR

Alexander Redd
Jack Demos
Jack McClure
John Syribey
John Xides
Manoli Pappas

Matthew Davis
Nicolas Adams
Niko Reynolds
Niko Tiliakos
William Adams
Yanni Kitas

HANDMAIDENS GROUP FOUR

Andreanna Kitas
Bella Reynolds
Christina Pribas
Gabriella Mayes
Natalia Nicolaides

Reece Hughes
Remy Hughes
Sophia Vallianatos

Paraskevi Baker

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

Group: St. John Chrysostom

Chris Adams

Tom McBride III

Stacie Nefos

Constance Nagle

George Karolis

Dimitri Shreckengost

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.

WELCOME EVERYONE!

Welcome everyone! We extend a warm welcome to our visitors worshipping with us today in our Cathedral. You are invited to join us for our fellowship following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy in Carlos Hall next to the Church. Thank you for your visit! Please stop by our hospitality table and sign the register in the Narthex.

*“Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
And put your trust in the LORD.” Psalm 4:5*

Assistive
Listening
System
Available
-Please Ask-



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

2500 Clairmont Road N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30329
404-633-5870
www.atlgoc.org