

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015

Sunday after Nativity

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal First Tone

Let us worship the Word, O you faithful, praising Him that with the Father and the Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

Apolytikion for the Forefathers of the Lord in the Second Tone

O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. You have seen a Virgin great with child; you have given glory with the shepherds; you have worshipped with the Magi; and you have been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Apolytikion for Protomartyr Steven in the Fourth Tone

The crown of the Kingdom has adorned the brow of your head because of the contests that you have endured for Christ God, you first of the martyred Saints; for when you had censured the Jews' madness, you saw Christ your Saviour standing at the right hand of the Father. O Stephen, ever pray to Him for us, that He would save our souls.

Hymn of the Annunciation in the First Tone

Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before the Ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the great grace. Therefore, with him let us cry out unto the Theotokos, "Hail, Rejoice, O highly favored one; the Lord is with you."

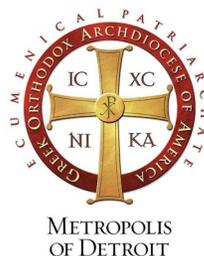
Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις· ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Tone

On this day the Virgin bears the Transcendent in essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth does offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He that existed * before the ages as God.

FASTING THIS WEEK

This week we are fast free.



**ANNUNCIATION GREEK
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Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Parish Priest

Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Pastor Emeritus

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015

We welcome you to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and are blessed that you have come to our worship service. We hope that this worship experience is both enlightening and inspirational. Each Sunday is the day in which we commemorate the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. The Christian Orthodox Church is the Church of the Resurrection and we rejoice in the Lord's triumph over death.

If you are a visitor to our Parish we encourage you to follow the Divine Liturgy book to assist you in following the Liturgy. Please understand that the Christian Orthodox Church does not practice inter-communion with other Christian denominations. Though we may share a common belief in the Holy Trinity, our churches are not yet one in faith and practice. We believe that Holy Communion is not the means to Christian unity but it is in fact the fullest expression of that unity. We fervently pray for this unity as noted in every divine service of the Orthodox Church. Please do not approach for Holy Communion if you are not a baptized/chrismated Orthodox Christian. Feel free to contact Father Simon if you desire to learn more about the Christian Orthodox Church, the Church of the New Testament.

We would like to remind all Orthodox Christians to be spiritually prepared and in proper canonical standing with the Church in order to partake of the Holy Eucharist.

THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

On this the 27th day of the month of December, we commemorate Stephen, Archdeacon & First Martyr, Theodore the Confessor, Brothers Theophanes and Poietus, and Theodore, Patriarch of Constantinople.

By their holy intercessions, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

EPISTLE READING - ACTS 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.
Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyre'nians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cili'cia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. And the high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chalde'ans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?' "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

GOSPEL READING - MATTHEW 2:13-23

Now when the Magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archela'us reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

THIS WEEK'S SERVERS

Epistle Reader: Scott McKee

Prosfora: Enosis Touliatos

Usher Duty Team 2: Magdi Wasseff

Greeters: John Tashie & Daughters

Coffee Hour hosted by Dr. & Mrs. Steve Futris on the occasion of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 27

- ◆ **Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy following**
- ◆ **Nursery Available 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon**
- ◆ **NO Sunday School today**
- ◆ **Coffee Hour** hosted by Dr. & Mrs. Steve Futris on the occasion of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary

Monday, December 28

- ◆ **Funeral Services** for George Nickas: Visitation at 9:00 am followed by Funeral at 10:00 am
- ◆ **GOYA Trip** to Nashville for Predators Game

Thursday, December 31

- ◆ **Orthros/Divine Liturgy for St, Basil 6:00 pm**

Sunday, January 3

Vasilopita Sunday

- ◆ **Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy following**
- ◆ **Nursery Available 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon**
- ◆ **No Sunday School today**
- ◆ **Coffee Hour** Hosted by Elpis
- ◆ **GOYA Meeting 12:00 Noon**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Funeral Services for the servant of God, George Nickas will be held at Annunciation on Monday, December 28. Visitation will begin at 9:00 am with Funeral at 10:00 am.

- ◆ **GOYA Trip to Nashville** for Predators Game December 28
- ◆ **Orthros/Divine Liturgy** New Year's Eve 6:00 pm
- ◆ **Elpis Board Meeting** Tuesday, January 5 at 6:30 pm
- ◆ **DOP Board Meeting** Friday, January 8 @ 10:30 am
- ◆ **AHEPA Meeting** Saturday, **January 9 at 9:00 am**
- ◆ **Sunday School Classes** Resume January 10 at 11:00 am
- ◆ **DOP Monthly Meeting** Sunday, January 10 at 12:00 noon
- ◆ **Father Vieron's Adult Greek Class** begins on Monday, January 18 at 6:30 pm - Please see him for details.
- ◆ **Parish Council Meeting** Monday, January 18 at 6:15 pm
- ◆ **Young at Heart Luncheon** Thursday, January 21 at 11:30 am
- ◆ **Elpis Girls' Night Out** Friday, January 22 at 6:00 pm