

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016**

**SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY**

**Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Tone**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Your immaculate Body, You did arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the Heavens cried out to You, O Lifegiver: Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your Kingdom. Glory to Your dispensation, O only Friend of man.

**Apolytikion for Sun. before Nativity in the Second Tone**

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ our God, 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 comes to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.

**FASTING THIS WEEK**

This week, during the Nativity Fast, wine & oil are allowed on Sunday; Tuesday and Saturday and the rest of the week we follow a strict fast.

**THIS WEEK'S SERVERS**

**Epistle Reader:** Cathe Skefos

**Prosfora:** Enosis Touliatos

**Usher Duty Team 2:** Naji Nassif, Diane Kavelaras & Peter Melonas

**Greeters:** Angela Buchanan & Friends

**DOP Christmas Bake Sale** following Christmas Pageant



**ANNUNCIATION GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Parish Priest

Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Pastor Emeritus

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016**

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 18th day of the month of December, we commemorate the Sunday before Nativity, Sebastian the Martyr & his Companions and Our Righteous Father Michael Syngellon the Confessor.

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

**Epistle Reading - Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40**

**Prokeimenon. Fourth Tone. Daniel 3.26,27.**

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.

**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 Ram, and Ram 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 Amos, and Amos 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 Shealtiel, and Shealtiel 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.

**VISITATION COMMITTEE**

The following parishioners have requested visitation. Please contact them directly to schedule visitations. For address &/or contact information please check your parish directory or contact the office.

Alec Collis

Pat Bacopulos Cooper - contact Marianthe Pilcher for visiting arrangements

Edna Nichopoulos

Zoe Nickas

Presvytera Bess Vieron

**Visitation Committee Volunteers for 2016-2017**

**December:** Anastasia Terranova & Athena Jameson

**January:** Nancy Tashie, Jan Futris & Tina Liollo

**February:** Vicki Hoover & family

**March:** Linda Nichols & Anne Schmitt

**April:** Cary Chiungos & Mary Katherine Taras

**May:** Demie Bitinis, Tricia Grantham & Emily Love

**June:** Despina Karas/Angela Tobias

**July:** Maria Moore & Diane Kavelaras

**August:** Stephanie Poplos & friend

**September:** Susanna Peters, Maria Apalodimas & Cathe Skefos

**October:** Sophie Theodore & Kristine Wagner

**November:** Connie Cotros, Loretta Taras & Tasia Vergos

*Please contact Kristine Wagner if you would like to volunteer to be on the visitation committee.*

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, December 18**

- ◆ **Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy immediately following**
- ◆ **Nursery Available 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon**
- ◆ **Sunday School Christmas Pageant 11:30 am**
- ◆ **DOP Christmas Bake Sale 12:00 in Cotros Hall**
- ◆ **JOY & GOYA Christmas Caroling 2:45 pm**
- ◆ **More Than A Meal - Service Team (Blessing Bags) 3:00 pm**

### **Monday, December 19**

- ◆ **Parish Council Dinner 6:00 pm at Ciao Bella**

### **Friday, December 23**

- ◆ **Royal Hours 9:00 am**

### **Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve**

- ◆ **Vesperal Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 6:00 pm**
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Reception immediately following Services**

### **Sunday, December 25**

- ◆ **Orthros 8:45 am**
- ◆ **Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great immediately following Orthros**
- ◆ **Nursery Available 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon**
- ◆ **NO Sunday School today**
- ◆ **Coffee Hour hosted by Elpis Philoptochos**

### **Monday, December 26**

- ◆ **Parish Closed**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Sunday School Giving Project** - For this Christmas season, we are encouraging the students to bring paper products (towels, plates, napkins) and kitchen supplies to help "Forgiveness House" – a men's Center at Summer/Highland. A box will be located upstairs until Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> to place your donations.
- ◆ **Sunday School Christmas Pageant**, Sunday, December 18 following Divine Liturgy
- ◆ **DOP Christmas Bake Sale**, Sunday, December 18 in Cotros Hall following Christmas Pageant
- ◆ **JOY & GOYA Christmas Caroling**, Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 pm - meet in Parking Lot at 2:45 pm
- ◆ **Christmas Carols at St. Paul Skete, Monday, December 26 at 10:00 am** - Mother Nektaria invites everyone to St. Paul Skete in Grand Junction to celebrate the Second Day of Christmas, the Synaxis of the Theotokos, on Monday, December 26th. Fr. Philip from St. John will serve Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m., followed by a potluck meal – bring some Christmas "overabundance" (foods that don't need heating) – and the singing of Christmas carols. Please try to let Mother Nektaria know by Wednesday, December 21st, if you plan to come so she can better prepare for the day.
- ◆ **GOYA at Memphis Grizzlies**, Thursday, December 29 at 5:00 pm
- ◆ **New Year's Eve Party**, December 31st in Cotros Hall at 8:00 pm immediately following Great Vespers - RSVP on Sundays in Cotros Hall after Divine Liturgy - RSVP on Sundays in Cotros Hall or in the office during the week. Reservation Forms can be found in the Epistle - online and in print, on our Facebook page, on the website at [www.goann.net](http://www.goann.net) or in the office.
- ◆ **St. Nicholas Winter Youth Retreat** - January 14-15, 2017 - We are excited to announce that the Assumption Church in Louisville, KY has agreed to host this year's St. Nicholas Winter Youth Retreat on January 14-15, 2017. This retreat is open to all youth age 8-18. It is a great opportunity for our youth to gather together in fellowship. We will also be promoting the St. Nicholas Summer Camp! Details, including a flyer and online registration, will be available soon! Please email [youth@detroit.goarch.org](mailto:youth@detroit.goarch.org) with questions!