

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016
HOLY NATIVITY

Apolytikion for Holy Nativity in the Fourth Tone

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You, the Day-spring from on high. O Lord, glory be to You.

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.

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

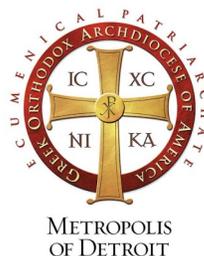
August: Stephanie Poplos & friend

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.



**ANNUNCIATION GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

573 North Highland Street, Memphis, TN 38122

Phone: (901) 327-8177 † FAX: (901) 327-4440

www.goann.net † annunciationmemphis@gmail.com

Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Parish Priest

Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Pastor Emeritus

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 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 25th day of the month of December, we commemorate the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar & Balthasar and the Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord.

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

Epistle Reading - Galatians 4: 4-7

Prokeimenon. Plagal First Tone. Psalm 65.4,1.

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.

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.

FASTING THIS WEEK

This week we are fast free.

THIS WEEK'S SERVERS

Epistle Reader: Ted Poplos

Prosfora: Enosis Toulaiatos

Usher Duty Team 3: Romulus Stoian, Ed Morrison and Ted Poplos

Greeters:

Coffee Hour hosted by Elpis Philoptochos

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 25

- ◆ Orthros 8:45 am
- ◆ Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great immediately following Orthros
- ◆ NO Sunday School or Nursery today
- ◆ Coffee Hour hosted by Elpis Philoptochos

Monday, December 26

- ◆ Parish Closed

Tuesday, December 27 Feast of Saint Stephen

- ◆ Orthros 9:00 am
- ◆ Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 10:00 am

Thursday, December 29

- ◆ GOYA at Memphis Grizzlies 5:00 pm

Saturday, December 31 New Year's Eve

- ◆ Great Vespers 7:00 pm
- ◆ New Year's Eve Party 8:00 pm

Sunday, January 1 Feast of St Basil the Great

- ◆ Orthros 8:45 am
- ◆ Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great immediately following Orthros
- ◆ NO Sunday School or Nursery today

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Christmas Carols at St. Paul Skete, Monday, December 26 at 10:00 am** - Mother Nektaria invites you 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 – and 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 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. To register, download flier or download the retreat info packet, please visit www.detroit.goarch.org/winterretreat.