

St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Sunday, December 25, 2022

**The Nativity of our Lord,
God and Savior Jesus Christ**

Celebrant: Fr. Ben Kjendal

LITTLE ENTRANCE WEEKLY VARIABLES

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN): From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR: Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE: On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth 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 Who existed before the ages as God.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN (Sung in place of “Holy God”)

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION

All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace: the angelic hosts and the race of men. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God who is before all the ages; for he made thy womb a throne, and thy body more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace. Glory to thee.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE EIGHT

The Lord hath sent redemption to His people. Alleluia.

The Mission of St Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church is to love and worship God, to grow closer to Him, and to proclaim and to spread the Good News of the salvation of Jesus Christ to our parishioners, our neighbors and people everywhere.

We worship and pray in English. We experience the beauty and joy of living the Holy Orthodox Christian faith – sharing love and fellowship, teaching and leading by example, growing together through service, education, stewardship and forgiveness.

A NOTE REGARDING HOLY COMMUNION: *Since we understand Communion to mean we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession may participate in Holy Communion. We invite all present to partake of the blessed bread distributed at the end of the service.*

UNLESS YOU ARE INJURED OR UNABLE, PLEASE REMAIN STANDING DURING COMMUNION

SCHEDULE:

- **Friday December 23:**
 - 8:30 AM Royal Hours
 - 4:00 PM Vespers for the Paramon (Eve) of the Nativity of Christ
- **Saturday, December 24**
 - 8:30 AM Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Paramon of the Nativity of Christ
 - 4:00 PM Vespers for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ
- **Sunday, December 25**
 - 8:30 AM Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ
- **Wednesday, December 28**
 - 7:00 PM Paraklesis Service
- **Saturday, December 31**
 - 5:00 PM Vespers for the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ
- **Sunday, January 1**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ

<p>There is a new ecclesiastical calendar for 2023 at the back of the church. The suggested donation is \$10 for each calendar.</p>

*****In case of emergency, there are emergency numbers posted next to the telephones in the coat room and in the kitchen*****

PLEASE SEE ST MICHAEL HAPPENINGS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS & CHARITABLE NEEDS OVER THE COMING WEEKS. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU!

***** DON'T FORGET NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR FOOD PANTRY *****

PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR

Our People are our Choir! We love to hear you sing with us! WELCOME!

We are glad to have you worship with us today!

Father Ben Kjendal is available to visit with you in your home for pastoral care, counseling and inquiries regarding Orthodoxy by appointment. His cell number is (978) 397-3285.

THE EPISTLE

Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee.

Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a 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!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Nativity: "The Genealogy")

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; 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, until 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.



ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

WEEKLY BULLETIN CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE
ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Nativity Gift Ideas

Please support Women's Group with your purchase of our Cookbooks that include our family memories and pictures (\$30 each or 2 for \$50). We also have Angel Greeting Cards - a pack of 8 Holy Archangels as drawn by our own iconographer, Zarina Sheglov, for only \$10 a set!

Also, thanks to the generous donation of Mr Bob Hazelton in memory of his late Babuskha, Lydia Petrovna, we have some beautiful porcelain plates depicting Russian Orthodox images, still in their original shipping boxes and with narrative descriptions of the images. Only \$15 each for these rare, beautiful plates to be displayed in your home or as a hostess gift! We have a collection with varying images. Come look thru and see what you like. These are collector items!



Please also check out a great assortment of religious gifts, incense, icons, books as offered by our SOYO group and support their efforts and projects with your purchase. Our youth group works tirelessly to support different community and parish events and proceeds from bookstore sales supports those efforts. Thank you for your continued and loving support of St Michael. A blessed Nativity season to all!

CHRISTMAS MEALS

Thank you for your monetary and cookie donations to families in need this Christmas!



THE SYNAXARION

On December 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Verses

The Child born is God, and the Mother, a Virgin;
what greater marvel hath appeared in creation?

On the twenty-fifth Mary the Virgin gave birth to God.

On this day we commemorate the Adoration of the Magi:
Worshipping Thee, O Word, this cohort, come from the nations,
Showeth the worship that Thou shalt receive from the nations.

On this day we commemorate the Shepherds that behold the Lord:
Shepherds their own flock do now abandon,
and hasten to see Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Thus entered into the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when a foreigner named Herod, who sought to kill the infant Messiah, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind.

Unto Him be glory unto ages of ages. Amen.