
St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

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Sunday December 29, 2019 28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. The 14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem. Ven. Marcellus, Abbot of the Monastery of the “Unsleeping Ones” (485). Ven. Mark the Grave-digger, Theophilus, and John, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves – 11th-12th c.). Ven. Theóphil of Luga and Omutch (15th c.). Ven. Thaddeus the Confessor, of the Studion (818).

This Week’s Schedule

Saturday 1/4 Great Vespers 5: 00 p.m.

Sunday 1/5 Eve of Theophany

Hours 8:40 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Eve of Theophany Vigil 7:00 p.m.

Reader Schedule

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>3RD HOUR</u> | <u>6TH HOUR</u> | <u>EPISTLE</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Dec 29 | RILEY | RILEY | RILEY |
| Jan-5 | LEWIS | SKOMORUCHA | LEWIS |
| Jan 6 | THEOPHANY | | |
| Jan-12 | DORAZIO | BUNITSKY | CAREY |
| Jan-19 | J PECK | PECK | PECK |

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 3 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

Tone 4 Troparion *(for the Feast)*

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom.
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore You,
the Sun of righteousness,
and to know You, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to You!

Tone 2 Troparion *(of the Righteous Ones)*

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancestor of God;
you saw a Virgin great with child;
you gave glory with the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi;
you received the news from the Angel.//
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Tone 3 Kontakion *(of the Righteous Ones)*

Today godly David is filled with joy;
Joseph and James offer praise.
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth,
and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!”

Tone 3 Kontakion of the Feast

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
the Wise Men journey with the star, //
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! (*Ps 46/47:6*)

v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
(*Ps 46/47:1*)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel. (*Ps 67/68:35*)

Epistle Galatians 1:11-19 (*Sunday after the Nativity*)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,

to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Tone 3

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: In You, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame! (Ps 30/31:1)

v: Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me! (Ps 30/31:2)

Tone 4

v: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Ps 131/132:1)

Gospel Matthew 2:13-23 *(Sunday after the Nativity)*

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

(Instead of “It is truly meet,” we sing:)

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:
heaven—the cave;
the cherubic throne—the Virgin;
the manger—the place where Christ lay—
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

(or, the ninth heirmos of the second canon)

Out of fear, we should choose to love silence,
for that is a safer course;
so difficult it is to lovingly compose
intricately woven songs to you, O Virgin.
But grant us strength, O Mother,
equal to our natural calling!

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (*Ps 32/33:1*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

This Week’s Announcements

Theophany (Baptism) of our Lord The feast of Theophany, means the shining forth and manifestation of God, the emphasis in the present-day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Thus, in the baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus identifies himself with sinners as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (Jn 1:29), the “Beloved” of the Father whose messianic task it is to redeem men from their sins (Lk 3:21, Mk 1:35). We will celebrate this blessed feast with Vigil on the eve of Theophany, Sunday, Jan 5th at 7:00 p.m. then on Monday January 6th Theophany Divine liturgy of St. Basil the Great at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Great Blessing of Waters.

Holy Water and Home Blessings Holy water will be available following Holy Theophany's Great Blessing of Waters (Jan. 6). Fr. Barnabas will also be available for home blessings, please see Fr. Barnabas or Mat. Daria for scheduling.

Nativity Thank You A special thank you to all who helped make our Nativity celebration a joyous feast! May our Lord continue to bless St. Michael's with a willing spirit of stewardship and care for all that we have been given.

Parish Holy Supper Thank you to Juliana Peck and to all for the efforts with this year's Nativity Holy Supper. The dinner was well attended and a blessing to all. We hope and pray that you will all join us for the dinner again next year.

Poinsettias Thanks Jim and Anne Riley for their time and work and to all who donated Poinsettias for Christmas. We ask that all who donated, please take their poinsettia plants home today following the liturgy.

Study Group Nativity Break Our study group continued this past week with four of us finishing chapter 8 in the Gospel of St. Matthew. Our Study group will take a break for the feasts of Nativity and Theophany. We will resume Thursday Jan. 9th at 10 :00 a.m.

Parish Directory We are currently updating the church directory in preparation for 2020. We are asking parishioners to review the directory in the Vestibule and to make any necessary changes. For new members, or members not currently listed and would like to be included, please add your information--name(s), address, telephone number(s), email address and also birth date(s) for the Birthday List.

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

“Once when I was a young novice I was praying before an icon of the Mother of God, and the Jesus Prayer entered into my heart and there began to repeat itself of its own accord. Here is a wondrous thing which passes understanding: she dwells in heaven and ever beholds the glory of God, yet she does not forget us, poor wretches that we are, and spreads her compassion over the whole earth, over all peoples. And this most pure Mother of His, the Lord has bestowed on us. She is our joy and our

expectation. She is our Mother in the spirit, and kin to us by nature, as a human being, and every Christian soul leaps to her in love”.

+ *From Saint Silouan the Athonite by Archimandrite Sophrony*

“Recollect the fall of the strong, that thou mayest remain humble under thy virtues. And think of the heavy sins of those who fell and repented; and of the praise and honour they received afterwards, so that thou mayest acquire courage during repentance.”

+ *St. Isaac the Syrian, “Six Treatises on the Behaviour of Excellence”*

“In the mercy of God, the little thing done with humility will enable us to be found in the same place as the saints who have labored much and been true servants of God.”

+ *St. Dorotheos of Gaza*

'A true Christian is made by faith and love toward Christ. Our sins do not in the least hinder our Christianity, according to the word of the Savior Himself. He deigned to say: not the righteous have I come to call, but sinners to salvation; there is more joy in heaven over one who repents than over ninety righteous ones. Likewise concerning the sinful woman who touched His feet, He deigned to say to the Pharisee Simon: to one who has love, a great debt is forgiven, but from one who has no love, even a small debt will be demanded. From these judgments a Christian should bring himself to hope and joy, and not in the least accept an inflicted despair. Here one needs the shield of faith.'

+ *St. Herman of Alaska*

"Don't be afraid of them [the demons]. You don't see how many of them fall and turn their backs with every prayer you say. You only see how much you are wounded. But they are also thrashed; they also suffer. Every time we are patient, they flee with leaps and bounds, and every time we say the prayer, they are seriously injured. So at the time of battle, when you are firing shots and bullets, don't expect them to throw marshmallows and chocolates."

+ *Elder Joseph the Hesychast*

Prayers for the Departed: Peter Melnik, Michael Sinovich, Marie Karawulan, David Rex

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Fr. Deacon James Carpenter, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Lemlem Resat, Olga Riley, Barbara Hicks, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Maria & Doug Dozier, Mona Elia, Mary Anne Farrell, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Lubov Baldychev, Stephanie Hojnicky, Laura Cristina Najemy, Harry Kutch, Dimitrios Jim Petrides, Albert Shock, Elizabeth Melnik, Alexandra Grishin, Sam Sylvest

Prayers for Catechmens Kristin Mackenzie, Edward Jones

| Date | <u>Coffee Hour</u> | <u>Service Duty</u> | <u>Church Cleaner</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 29-Dec | Shatley/Hines | Sulpizi/Finck | Skomorucha/Lewis/M Kiflemarian |
| 5-Jan | Bacuta/Fravel/Riley | Hojnicky/Najemy | S. Peck |
| 12-Jan | Stephanie P/Grishin/Afoworkis | Telep/Baldychev | N. Carey |
| 19-Jan | Hojnicky/Flynn/Roberts | Bunitsky/Morjana | Baldychev/Shatley/Sylvest |

Upcoming Dates to Keep in Mind

Theophany Jan. 6th

Entrance of our Lord into the Temple Feb. 2nd

Important Dates for 2020

Great Fast Begins.....March 2

Holy Pascha..... April 19

Ascension.....May 28

Pentecost.....June 7