



# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church



## Sun, Dec 20, 2020 - Genealogy of the Lord

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3.

Forefast of the Nativity of Christ. Repose of St. John of Kronstadt. Sunday before the Nativity.



will rejoice, beholding Him, and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! Glorify with the angels and the shepherds the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

### Epistle Reading - Hebrews 11:-910, 17-23, 32-40

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered

### Hymns for Today

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.

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn thyself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers

**DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS:** *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting.*

about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

### **Gospel Reading – Matthew 1:1–25**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might

be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’” Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

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### **THIS WEEK’S SERVICE SCHEDULE**

NATIVITY FAST: Nov 15–DEC 24

**SAT, Dec 19:** 5 PM Great Vespers

**SUN, Dec 20:** 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy

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#### **TODAY: Parastas**

**In Memory of Stephen Krill**

*Offered by Sonja Kay*

**In Memory of Anna Lahr**

*Offered by the Mcllosky Family*

**In Memory of William & Julia Talpash**

*Offered by Marie Talpash and Family*

**In Memory of Walter & Helen Cherkis**

*Offered by Christina Cherkis and Family*

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#### **Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**THURS, Dec 24:** 8:00 AM Royal Hours

**THURS, Dec 24:** 6:30 PM Compline & Matins w/ Litya

**FRI, Dec 25:** 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy

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#### **Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God**

**SAT, Dec 26:** 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy

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**SAT, Dec 26:** 5 PM Great Vespers

**SUN, Dec 27:** 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy,

Special Parish Council Meeting, 11:15 AM ZOOM  
Christmas Caroling

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### **UPCOMING FEAST DAYS SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**St. Basil the Great / Circumcision of Our Lord**

**THURS, Dec 31:** 6:30 PM Great Vespers w/ Litya

**FRI, Jan 1:** 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy

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**Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**TUES, Jan 5:** 6:30 PM Great Vespers w/ Litya

**WED, Jan 6:** 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy

**Dec 27: SPECIAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Because we weren't able to have our meeting on the 13th it has been moved to the 27th. The special meeting will be for the election of new parish council members. The meeting will be in the Church immediately following Divine Liturgy.

**Dec 27: ZOOM Christmas Caroling/Fellowship**

We are putting together a ZOOM Christmas Carol & Fellowship Event for a few of our shut ins. We are hoping to do this following Divine Liturgy and a very brief special meeting on Dec 27. This will be accessible by phone OR you can stay at church. We will keep you posted should the day or time need to be adjusted.

**2021 Parish Calendars are here!**

A very special thank you to Michael and Patricia Yeosock and the Yeosock Funeral Home for sponsoring this year's beautiful calendar published by St. Tikhon's Monastery. Pick up your calendar at the candle stand. One calendar per family please.

**WREATH SALE - THANK YOU!**

Wreath Sale made \$240. Thanks to everyone for your support of the Church School.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

Our Christmas Poinsettias have been ordered. If you would like to make a donation please see the sign up sheet in vestibule (\$10 donation) and give your donation to Mary Ann Kudey.

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES - MANY YEARS!**

**December Birthdays:** David Clark (12/1), Helen Gudaitis (12/5), Stephen Dutko (12/8), Nina Grymko (12/10), Andrew Kondratick (12/11), Lydia Dutko (12/12), Andrew Conklin (12/13), Nora Clark (12/16), Joan Austin (12/18), Christa Talpash (12/19), Dcn Lawrence Worlinsky (12/19), Jeri Basarab (12/21), Mary Ann Kudey (12/21) Dolores Rilko (12/21), Kellie Ann DiBattista (12/27), Anessa Cardoni (12/28), Daniel Bisset Jr. (12/31)

**This Week:** Jeri Basarab (12/21), Mary Ann Kudey (12/21) Dolores Rilko (12/21), Kellie Ann DiBattista (12/27)

**Altar Server Schedule**

**Sunday, Dec 20:** Kaleb D, Symeon C

**Friday, Dec 25:** Alex H, Vladimir H

**Sunday, Dec 27:** Tommy D, Alec B

**Sunday, Jan 3:** Christopher D, Andrew C

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**PARISH PRAYER LIST Living:** Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Rosalie Bagenski, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Brian Cawley, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Rebecca King, Delores Karas, Antonette Terry, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Mat Delores Donlick & Fr. Daniel Donlick, Violet Filipi, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Camden Thomas, Peter Holoviak & Family, Mary Krill, Marni Bachman & Family, Rose Marie, Elaine Benczkowski, Helen Gudaitis, Mahaffey Family, George Scott, Evelyn Kosmiski, Joe Sloan

**Departed:** Archbishop David, John Gurka Jr., James Balchune, Maria Severino, Mary Ellen, Anna Hutz Lahr, Dr. Peter Kaminski

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**A Nativity Message**

from His Eminence Archbishop Mark

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!  
Beloved Clergy, Matushki, and Faithful,

“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be

with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her (Luke 1:26).”

As the Archangel Gabriel reminds us, “For nothing will be impossible with God!” Let us earnestly seek to prepare our hearts, minds, bodies and souls to fully receive His Life Giving Presence. He is our peace and our hope. He is the source of Life!

Have a blessed Feast of the Nativity and a Joyous New Year! May our Lord bless you with good health, length of days and a happy and peaceful new year! Thank you for your hospitality over the last year as well as your generosity.

Yours in Christ,

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

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## On The Virtue of Honesty

From the book *The Orthodox Faith: Volume IV*

The wise man who has knowledge lives according to the truth through a totally honest life. Honesty means first of all, to speak the truth and never to “bear false witness” (Ex 20.16).

*There are six things which the Lord hates, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to do evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and a man who sows discord among brothers (Prov 6.16–19; cf. 11.1, 12.17, 17.4, 21.28, 25.14, 18).*

This basic scriptural teaching is also that of the apostles.

*For we pray to God that you may not do what is wrong . . . but that you may do what is honest . . . for we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth (2 Cor 13.7–8).*

Honesty also means to act truly and openly, without pretense, or the presentation of a false image of oneself. It means, in a word, not to be a hypocrite.

Above all things, Christ the Lord hated and condemned hypocrisy, lying and deceit. He accused the devil himself, first and foremost, of being a deceiver and liar, pretending to be other than he is, presenting himself and his teaching as totally other than the falsehood and wickedness that they actually are (cf. Jn 8.44–47). This is the way of all the false prophets, and of the antichrist himself.

*For many deceivers have gone out into the world, men who will not acknowledge the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh; such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist (2 Jn 7).*

*Take heed that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name saying “I am the Christ,” and they will lead you astray. . . . and many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. . . . For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect (Mt 24.4, 11, 24).*

In His fierce condemnation of the evil of the scribes, pharisees and lawyers, Christ was most violent against their hypocrisy. Of all the evils of men, the most vile in the sight of the Lord is undoubtedly hypocrisy.

*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you cleanse the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside you are full of extortion and rapacity. You blind Pharisee! first cleanse the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.*

*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead men’s bones and all impurity. So you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but within are full of hypocrisy and iniquity (Mt 23.25–28).*

The spiritual person is not a hypocrite. He shows himself honestly for what he is, and does not pretend to be what he is not. He reveals himself to all exactly as he actually is. He does not say or do anything that would lead people to have a false impression of him or of anyone or anything. He is utterly honest and pure in all that he thinks, says and does, knowing that God sees all and judges with righteousness all those who “walk in integrity” (cf. Ps 26.1, 11).

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