



## Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

*A parish of the Orthodox Church in America*

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### **DECEMBER 20, 2020 / SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY (TONE 3)**

#### TODAY'S SAINTS

***Holy Ancestors of Christ.*** Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, Bishop of Antioch; St. Philogonius, Bishop of Antioch; St. John of Kronstadt; St. Dominic, Bishop of Brescia; St. Ursicinus, Bishop of Cahors; St. Ursicinus, Founder of Saint-Ursanne Monastery (in Switzerland); St. Daniel II, Archbishop of Serbia

#### RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE THREE

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: // "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

#### TROPARION OF SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

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.

- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

#### RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION IN TONE THREE

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, / leading us from the gates of death. / On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; / with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

- *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

#### KONTAKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY IN TONE ONE

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

#### PROKEIMENON IN TONE FOUR

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!  
*v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!*

## THE EPISTLE

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)**

Brethren, 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 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.

## ALLELUIA IN TONE FOUR

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*v. We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.*

*v. For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us.*

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 fulfil 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.

### COMMUNION HYMNS

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### PARASTAS

Parastas in memory of Fr. John Chepeleff and Fr. Damian Krehel

### TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

**Altar Vigils** offered by Russ and Andrea Wyskanycz in memory of Juliana and Andrew Bacsik. **Sanctuary Lamp** offered by Russ and Andrea Wyskanycz in memory of Juliana and Andrew Bacsik.

### NEXT WEEK'S SERVICES

4:30 PM (Thursday) – Vigil w. Lity  
9:30 AM (Friday) – Divine Liturgy  
9:30 AM (Saturday) – Divine Liturgy  
5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers  
9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour  
9:30 AM (Sunday) – Divine Liturgy

*“And God the Word was truly born of the Virgin, having clothed Himself with a body of like passions with our own. He who forms all men in the womb, was Himself really in the womb, and made for Himself a body of the seed of the Virgin, but without any intercourse of man.”*  
– St. Ignatius of Antioch (c. 30-107)

**Христос Рождается! Christ is Born!**