



Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

A parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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DECEMBER 27, 2020 / SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY (TONE 4)

TODAY'S SAINTS

Ss. David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord; Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen; St. Theodore “the Branded,” Confessor; St. Theodore, Archbishop of Constantinople; St. Fabiola of Rome

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, // granting the world Great Mercy.

FESTAL TROPARION IN TONE FOUR

Thy 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 Thee, the Sun of righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

TROPARION OF SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God; thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; and thou didst give glory with the shepherds; thou didst worship with the Magi, and didst receive the news from the Angel. // Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

TROPARION OF PROTOMARTYR STEPHEN IN TONE FOUR

Protomartyr and mighty warrior of Christ our God, / you were victorious in battle and crowned with glory, holy Stephen. / You confounded the council of those who persecuted you, / beholding your Savior enthroned at the Father’s right hand. / Never cease praying that our souls may be saved!

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

KONTAKION OF SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

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 Thee!”

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

FESTAL KONTAKION IN TONE ONE

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!

PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (1:11-19)

Brethren, I make known to you 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.

ALLELUIA IN TONE FOUR

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!
v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity.
v. Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness!

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (2:13-23)

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."

FESTAL MEGALYNARION

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.

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!

TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Altar Vigils offered by offered by John and Helen Wanko in memory of June Bianchini (anniversary of birth).
Sanctuary Lamp offered by Fr. Sophrony Royer in memory of Angelo Cusano Jr.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICES

9:30 AM (Friday) – Divine Liturgy
5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers
9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour
9:30 AM (Sunday) – Divine Liturgy

"We are celebrating the feast of the Eternal Birth which God the Father has borne and never ceases to bear in all eternity ... But if it takes not place in me, what avails it? Everything lies in this, that it should take place in me."

– Meister Eckhart (c. 1260-1328)

Христос Рождается! Christ is Born!