

December 20th, 2015

Our Vision: *To know and love Christ, sharing His love with others*

Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 2 Troparion (Fathers)

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!

Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn yourself, 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.

Tone 1 Kontakion

(Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, 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.

Tone 3 Kontakion

(Forefeast)

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

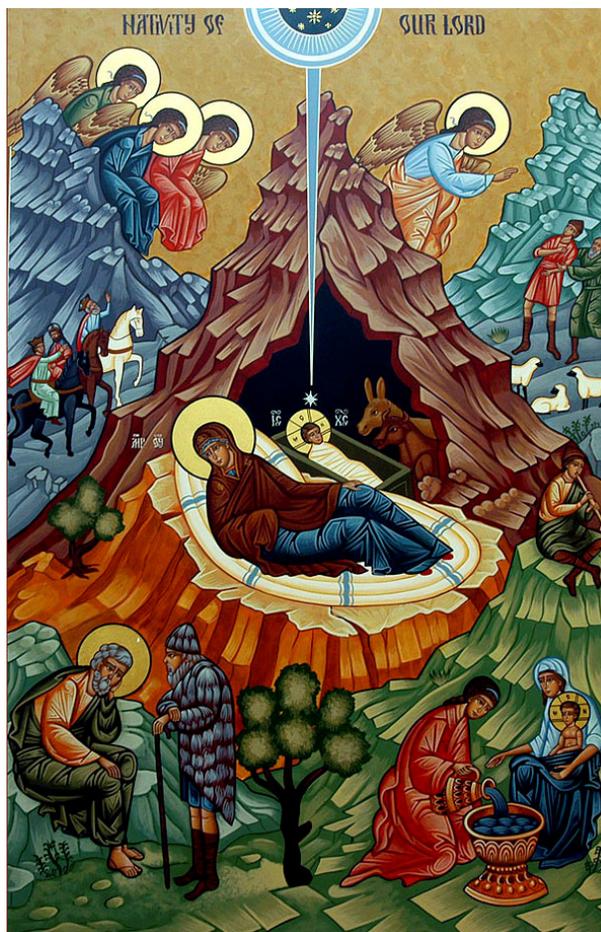
Today’s commemorated feasts and saints

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Repose of St. John of Kronstadt (1908). Sunday before the Nativity. Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, Bishop of Antioch (107). Ven. Ignatii (Ignatius), Archimandrite of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—1435). St. Philogonius, Bishop of Antioch (323). (1338).

the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Song of the Fathers)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever! (Song of the three Holy Youths, v. 2) v: For You are just in all that You have done to us. (v. 3)



Epistle

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
(Sunday before Nativity)

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps 43/44:1)

v: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us. (Ps 43/44:7)

Gospel

Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday before the Nativity)

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!



Announcements

Today, following Liturgy we will have our **church school Christmas Program (Yolka)**!

Pledge Cards for 2016 are in your mailboxes. Please prayerfully consider your giving and how you can do your part to help the ministry of the Church!

The **Coffee Hour sheet** for the first half of 2016 has been posted on the bulletin board.

Parish Council nominations are open for 2016, if you are interested in possibly serving on Parish Council, please see Fr Stacey or Kathy.

Congratulations to **Seth Watson** who was Chrismated yesterday! Seth is a theology major at Malone University.

Orthodox theology courses offered through the Diocese of the Midwest (St. Macrina Institute) will be offered in Cleveland starting in January. These courses are available to all, but are specifically designed for continuing education and for those training for teaching roles in the parish and for the diaconate. More information is on the bulletin board, but please check out <http://www.stmacrina.org/apply/> The first course will be on Orthodox Spirituality, starting January 10.

10 motorcycles for the Archdiocese of Kenya

There are some 250 priests serving the Archdiocese of Kenya. Many of them minister to multiple communities, some of which are extremely remote and only accessible by foot or motorbike. The distance between communities presents another obstacle in serving the faithful regularly.

“With this in mind, I would like to ask our diocesan parishes and missions

to raise alms during the Nativity Fast to purchase at least 10 motorcycles for the Archdiocese of Kenya,” Bishop Paul wrote in [a letter addressed to all Clergy and Faithful of the](#)

[Diocese](#). “One motorcycle costs a mere \$1,000.00. Perhaps one parish can donate the entire amount to purchase a motorcycle; two parishes could donate \$500.00 each to purchase one, or four parishes might donate \$250.00 each to purchase another. Of course, any gifts of any amount would be greatly appreciated. What a wonderful way for parishes of our diocese to work together to raise these funds.”



WELCOME VISITORS!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed in your time with us! Regarding participation in the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion is treated with the utmost respect and reverence in the Orthodox Church, and it is the rule that only practicing Orthodox Christians may receive it. Our non-Orthodox guests are welcome, however, to participate with us in any other way they may desire, and are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Please Join us for Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy in the Social Hall!



If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able. For those interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity please ask any of our church community – or feel free to contact Fr Stacey. Our parish library is available for your reading interests. Children are welcome to join church school classes after liturgy.

CONFESSIONS

Fr Stacey can usually hear confessions after any weekday service or after Saturday Vespers. He is also available by appointment, or during his regular office hours.

Mission Statement:

Bringing the love of Christ to our community through prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship, service, and outreach within the tradition of historic Orthodox Christianity.

Going to miss a service? Listen online to our Divine Liturgy and other Orthodox Christian Teachings

Coffee Hour Schedule

DEC 20 RICHTER, MONAHAN, KKW, KISHA
DEC 27 CONDO, MILLER, KRAJCI, GATES

This Week:

Today

Hours	9:15 AM
Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Christmas Yolka Program	11:00 AM
Coffee Hour	11:30 AM

Wednesday

Royal Hours	6:30 PM
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Thursday

Christmas Eve Vigil	6:30 PM
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Friday

Christmas Liturgy	9:30 AM
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Saturday

Great Vespers	5:00 PM
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Next Sunday

Hours	9:15 AM
Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Coffee Hour	11:30 AM

Upcoming

Royal Hours for Theophany	Mon 4 Jan
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Great Vespers, Great Blessing of Waters	Tues 5 Jan
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Divine Liturgy for Theophany, Outdoor Blessing of Water at Stadium Park	Wed 6 Jan
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