



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY RIGHTEOUS DAVID THE KING, JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD DECEMBER 29, 2024

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 2

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 – Tone 4

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 – Tone 2

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!

Kontakion – Tone 3

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!”

Kontakion – Tone 3

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 – Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.

V. *The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.*

Prokeimenon – Tone 4

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.

Saint Joseph had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah, Joses, and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian. Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. He had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah, Joses, and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian. After he became a widower, Saint Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity. An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. Saint Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God and the Infant Jesus, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child, working as a carpenter. Saint Joseph reputedly died at the age of one hundred. Saint Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, his Feast is moved to December 26. The Righteous Joseph is also commemorated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers.

The Holy Prophet-King David was a forefather of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh. The youngest son of Jesse, David shepherded a flock of sheep belonging to his father. He was distinguished by his deep faith, and he zealously fulfilled the will of God. During a battle with the Philistines, he vanquished the giant Goliath in single combat, which decided the outcome of the war in favor of the Israelites. He endured many things from King Saul, who saw him as a favorite of the people and his rival. David, however, showed his own decency and magnanimity. Twice, when he had the possibility of killing Saul, he did not do so. After Saul and his son perished, David was proclaimed king of the southern part of Israel, and after Saul's second son was killed, he became king of all Israel. He built a new capital, Jerusalem ("the City of Peace"), and a new tabernacle. His great wish to build a Temple was not realized. It was foretold to him that his son would build the Temple.

The life of the Prophet David was darkened by a grievous falling: he took Uriah's wife for himself, and sent Uriah to his death in battle. He was also an example of great repentance, humbly and with faith bearing the sorrows sent in punishment for his sins. Saint David gave a model for repentance in Psalm 50/51. King David died in great old age with steadfast faith in the coming of the promised Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. His divinely-inspired Psalter is widely used in the divine services and in personal prayers. (See the Books of Kings and Chronicles). The holy Prophet-King David is invoked by those facing a difficult situation, such as an interview, etc.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

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.

Gospel: 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."

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

To add a name, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

For the Sick / Caregiver

Michael (12/15)
 Anna (12/15)
 Michael (12/15)
 Carmine (12/15)
 Marianne (12/15)
 Subdeacon Serge (12/22)
 Melody (12/22)
 Michael (12/22)
 Charlotte (12/22)
 Mihai (12/22)
 Virgiliu (12/22)
 Thomas (12/22)

Emilia (12/22)
 Adrian (12/22)
 Paula (12/22)
 Valentin (12/22)
 Alexandru (12/22)
 Anamaria (12/22)
 Liam (12/29)
 Kelly (12/29)
 Alexandra (12/29)
 Father Paul (12/29)
 Matushka Mary (12/29)

For the Deceased

Saverio (12/22)
 Maria (12/22)
 Ioan (12/22)
 Matushka Maria (12/22)
 Paulina (12/22)
 Ioan (12/22)
 Mia (12/22)
 Carolina (12/22)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of December 29

- Sunday December 29** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall
- Tuesday December 31 – EVE OF FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION** 5:00 PM Vespers with Litya
- Wednesday January 1 – FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- Saturday January 4** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession
- Sunday January 5 – EVE OF FEAST OF THEOPHANY** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall ; 5:00 PM Great Compline with Litya
- Monday January 6 – FEAST OF THEOPHANY** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Blessing of Water
- Tuesday January 7 – SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

December 22 – 95 adults, 14 youth, \$3,700

December 25 – 89 adults, 21 youth, \$5,124

ORTHODOXY 101

The Divine Liturgy

Have you ever noticed, when gazing upon the Nativity Icon, that the Christ child is Not dressed in swaddling clothes. He is clothed in a burial garment! This is a sober reminder, amid the joy and festivities of Christmas, of why Christ took on human flesh and came into the world. The purpose of the incarnation is the resurrection, i.e., the destruction of sin, death and the raising up of humanity. However, between His incarnation and His resurrection, Christ must encounter the cross. *“Jesus said to His disciples, you know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified” (Matthew 26).* Jesus gathered with his disciples to celebrate His last Passover meal (last supper) and He freely embraced the Cup handed to Him by His Father. Jesus identifies with the Lamb of God, sacrificed for the forgiveness of our sins.

When gazing upon the Christ child, born into the world, remember that God is working His plan for the salvation of mankind. Never forget that there is a spiritual reality, a cosmic battle between good and evil, that is underway. The devil has lost but seeks to convince as many as he can that he is victorious, thereby keeping humanity in bondage to sin and death. The devil is the ruler of this world and is engaged in spiritual destruction leading humanity away from God. God’s battle plan, and answer to the devil’s onslaught, is a humble little baby! God’s infinite wisdom is to destroy the power of the enemy by taking on human flesh and by manifesting love. Christ is born, lives among us and offers Himself freely as a living sacrifice manifesting God’s love for you and me. Love is the weapon that destroys the power of the enemy and transforms the entire cosmos. By embracing Christ, the world can be filled with God’s presence and grace. Remember, Emanuel means God with us! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We extend our sincere congratulations and gratitude to our beloved Fr. Paul who on December 28 celebrated the 77th anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood, which was held at the Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection in New York City – the day of the longtime record holding “blizzard of 1947.” God bless you, Fr. Paul, for your years of faithful service. Mnogaya L’eta!

The Ladies Assumption Altar Society will be raffling off a handmade winter wreath and table runner starting **next Sunday**, January 5. The wreath is perfect for a door or wall, and the matching table runner highlights a lovely table winterscape. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

The FOCA Club is having a Game Night for adults and young adults in Daria Hall on Saturday January 11 after Vespers. Bring your favorite game, snacks, and beverages for a night of fellowship and fun!

Pierogies are for sale! Please see a member of the FOCA Club during Coffee Hour to purchase.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Genevieve Brasowski – December 30

Vasily Serpikov – January 2

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church

services. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

If your menu includes a pork dish, please keep in mind that several of our parishioners do not eat pork, so please provide an alternative for them.

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

- Dec. 29 Natalia Kolomatskaia, Guy Radcliffe
- Jan. 5 Darice Keyes, Bill & Margie DiCicco
- Jan. 12 Aftan Chowansky, Matthew & Nana Barrett
- Jan. 19 Juan Garcia, Benjamin & Julie Stell
- Jan. 26 **Annual Parish Meeting, FOCA Chili Cook-Off**
- Feb. 2 Anna, Leon, & Simeon Brasowski, Brittani & Alex Brasowski
- Feb. 9 Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Stefania Balasa
- Feb. 16 Karina Kotelnicki, Paul & Patty Denko
- Feb. 23 Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Manny & Lourdes Montiel
- Mar. 2 Tony & Chris Villabon, Cole Johnson
- Mar. 9 **FAST** John Cassar, Christina DiDonato
- Mar. 16 **FAST** Viktoryia Baranava, Tamara Karkusova
- Mar. 23 **FAST** Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
- Mar. 30 **FAST** Herman & Francine Meyer, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt
- Apr. 6 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla Strauss
- Apr. 13 **FAST** Lynne Sheedy & Bill Hazelton, Melody Stavisky
- Apr. 20 **PASCHA – No Coffee Hour**
- Apr. 27 Alan & Mimi Berck, Isaiah Maldonado

Have a healthy, blessed week!