



Sunday, December 29, 2019

Sunday after Nativity

14,000 infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod in Bethlehem

Our Righteous Father Marcellus, Abbot of the Monastery of the Unsleeping Ones

English Liturgy

First Antiphon

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He has done for you.

The Lord in heaven has prepared His throne, and His kingdom rules over all.

Second Antiphon

Praise the Lord, O my soul; I will praise the Lord in my life; I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being.

Blessed is He of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

The Lord shall be King unto eternity; your God, O Zion, from generation to generation.

Third Antiphon

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Let the heavens and the earth praise Him.

HYMNS AT THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Apolytikion of the Nativity of Our Lord - Fourth Tone

Your Birth, Christ our God, has shed the light of knowledge upon the world. Through it, those who had been star-worshippers learned through a star to worship You, as the Sun of Righteousness, and to recognize You as the dawn from on high. Lord, glory to You!

Isodikon – Second Tone

Come let us worship, falling down before Christ, Save us O Son of God who didst arise from the dead, sing we to You Alleluia.

The Resurrection Apolytikion, Mode 3

Come rejoice all ye Heavens and be glad all ye on earth, for within the arc of His great arms He created a vast Dominion, by His own death He conquered death, for He became the first born of the dead. From the depths of Hades, He delivered us and He granted to mankind His great mercy

Apolytikion of Joseph, David and James – Second Tone

Proclaim, O Joseph, unto David, the forefather of God, that you have seen these miracles: you beheld the Virgin great with child; with the Magi you worshiped Him; with the shepherds you glorified Him; by the angel you were forewarned. Entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

Troparion of Saint Sophia (Holy Wisdom)

Blessed are You O Christ our God, Who as all wise the fishermen You showed forth; By sending your Holy Spirit down upon them and through them the universe You drew unto your net. O lover of mankind Glory to You.

Kondakion of the Nativity of Our Lord – Third Tone

On this Day the Virgin bears Him who surpasses all essence, and the earth offers a cave to Him who is beyond our approaching! Angels sing along with shepherds, praising His glory. Magi come; led by a star, they journey to find Him, who for us is now brought forth as a newborn child, God who existed before all time.

Megalynarion – Fourth Plagal Tone

Magnify, my soul, her who is more honorable and more glorious than all the hosts of heaven!

We prefer silence, for silence is harmless, O Virgin, our love is great compared to our poor attempts to sing perpetual praise through harmonious hymns. O Mother, allow us to fulfil our intentions that we may complete this task of praising you worthily.

SAINT SOPHIA CATHEDRAL

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V. Rev. Father John S. Bakas

Dean

Fr. Christopher Kolentsas

Assistant Priest

Scripture Reading

Faith comes by hearing...

Epistle Reader: Karen Scherrer

Priest: Let Us Attend...

Reader: God is wonderful among his saints, bless God in the congregations.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (1:11-19)

Priest: Let us be attentive...

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW (2:13-23)

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Memorials

May their memory be eternal...

Among the spirits of the righteous perfected in faith, give rest, O Savior to the souls of your servants...

*Theophanis Sirus
Symeon Zagorianos
William Michel
Vasiliki Michel
Foti Fotiades
Zina Fotiades
Nicholas Fordes
Aphrodite Fordes
Procope Costas*

*Mary Costas
George Michel
Helen Michel
Alfred Michel
Anne Michel
Zachary Contes
Sarantos
Vasiliki*

SOLEA CANDLES

Offered in loving memory of William and Vasiliki Michel and Foti and Zina Fotiades by William N. and Taryn Fordes.

Offered in loving memory of Nicholas and Aphrodite Fordes and Procope and Mary Costas by William N. and Taryn Fordes.

PERPETUAL CANDLES

Offered in loving memory of Symeon (Sam) Zagorianos by his daughters Marsha and Kathy Zagorianos.

Offered in loving memory of Zachary Contes by William N. and Taryn Fordes and Celia Costas.

Five Qualities of Saint Joseph

by Sam Guzman
Part 1

St. Joseph was a righteous man:

Scripture refers to Joseph as a “righteous” man (Matthew 1:19). In other words, he was a holy and devout Jew who fulfilled the two greatest commandments—he loved the Lord his God with all his heart and strength, and he loved his neighbor as himself. He was also a man of prayer who knew the Psalms and the Mosaic Law inside and out, and, like all devout Jews, he prayed at least three times daily. He fulfilled all that was required with him with a humble heart of worship, not legalism. Unlike the Pharisees, he understood the spirit as well as the letter of the law.

As Christians, we can imitate St. Joseph by giving God the first place in our lives and by loving our neighbor selflessly. We can fulfill the commandments of Holy Mother Church without grumbling or complaining. After all, the law of the Church is incredibly easy to fulfill, especially in comparison to the Mosaic law. We should be men of prayer, reading Scripture and sanctifying each day with prayer.

The Tenth Commandment

Man's Relation to Man

The remaining Commandments belong to the second table and deal with the relation of the faithful to their neighbors. The commands are given in a negative form. The Christian interpretation, though, should be accepted in an affirmative context. It is not the general "You shall not" that should be stressed, but rather what I ought to do" in the name of the Lord and for the benefit of my neighbor.

The Tenth Commandment

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house."

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, not his manservant, not his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's."

Ex. 20:17

Evil desires are a product of loose character, uncontrolled and malnourished. To covet your neighbor's house, which in itself is an unlawful desire, has its roots in the heart of man after the fall of Adam. The human heart, if it is not well protected and shielded, will become a prey of the evil spirit and an instrument of diabolical activities against society.

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God', for God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one; but each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desires. Then desire, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death"

James 1:13-15

A person who is nourished in the pastures of the Gospel should bear true witness for his neighbor, and thus become the very channel of the Gospel of Christ, which is the truth par-excellence that prevails forever.

The Mission of Saint Sophia Cathedral

- 1. Proclaim and teach the Gospel according to the Orthodox Christian Faith*
- 2. Sanctify and enhance the spiritual life of the faithful through Orthodox Christian worship.*
- 3. Receive persons into the Church through instruction, baptism and/or chrismation.*

Sunday, December 29

8:30 am — Orthros

9:45 am — Memorials

10:00 am — *Divine Liturgy*

12:30 pm — Bible Faith Studies

Wednesday, January 1

Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

9:00 am — Orthros

10:00 am — Divine Liturgy