

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



Icon of the Holy Ancestors

The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us. Human being have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned – this God continues to work through the same melange. If it was a challenge to recognize in the last part of

Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

Father Raymond E. Brown, S.S.

ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

1123 44TH St NE, Canton, OH 44714

Website: stgeorgeoh.org

Tel: 330-492-8413 FAX: 330-493-9963

Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355

Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413

Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355

Deacon Viorel Badiceanu – 330-493-9355

Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Vespers: 6:30 p.m.

Day of Feast: 10:00am and 6:30 p.m.

Confessions: See calendar or at any time by request.

Ann Fosnaught, Secretary 330-492-8413 or annf@rcdcanton.org

December 19, 2021

Sunday before Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

This Sunday: Epistle Hebrews 11:9-10; 17-23; 32-40

Gospel Matt 1:1-25

Christmas: Epistle Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel Matt 2:1-12

Next Sunday: Epistle Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel Matt 2:13-23

Weekly Liturgy Schedule

Monday 12/20

No Liturgy

Tuesday 12/21

8:00am Divine Liturgy: +Carrie Norris by Murari Family

Wednesday 12/22

8:00am Divine Liturgy: H/S All Parishioners for Christmas

Thursday 12/23

8:00am Divine Liturgy: +Marie Shaheen

Friday 12/24

9:00am Divine Liturgy: Royal Hours for the Nativity

Friday 12/24

6:00pm Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy: Eve of Nativity

Saturday 12/25

10:00am Divine Liturgy: Nativity of our Lord (Christmas)

Sunday 12/26

10:00am Divine Liturgy: Synaxis of the Mother of God

Church Bulletin donated in December 2021 by ...

To schedule Confession, call Fr. Ovi on his cell 330-327-0516 if outside the already regularly scheduled times.

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at <https://stgeorge.click2stream.com/>. Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner.

Coffee hour provided in the large hall by Dave and Debbie Murari. Thank you!

Sunday Collection: December 12, 2021

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Sunday envelopes | \$1,445.00 |
| Martyr Bishops Collection | \$225.00 |
| Candles | <u>\$57.00</u> |
| Total | \$1,737.00 |

Online Donations: <https://www.stgeorgeoh.org/donate>

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Sunday envelopes | \$25.00 |
|------------------|---------|

DONATION TO THE SF. MARIA LADIES AUXILIARY:

By Ann, Monica, Victoria, Bernadette and Constance Unger For the 30th Anniversary Memoriam of +Aurelia Unger, mother \$150.00

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| In memory of all Zagan Family Members | The Zagan Family |
| +Husband Dan Cseak and Family | +Natalie Cseak |
| +All family members and angel +Trisha | Del and Sandy |
| H/S All family members | Del and Sandy |
| Special intention for family | Doru Jacobs |
| H/S Ann and Max | Anonymous |
| H/S Bob and Nancy Maciag | Mark Botean |
| Special Intention | Anonymous |
| +Cathy Beck, Nancy's sister | Ana and William Galida |

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| +Edward Maciag, Bob's brother | Ana and William Galida |
| H/S All Parishioners | Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian |
| H/S Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian | Mircea Cristea |
| H/S Rita Cristea and Family | Mircea Cristea |
| +John Dragos, dad | Drew and Susie Xeloures |
| +Stella Lazar, nasa | Drew and Susie Xeloures |
| H/S Suzie Dragos, mom | Drew and Susie Xeloures |
| H/S Mircea Cristea, nasu | Drew and Susie Xeloures |
| Special Intention for Family | Drew and Susie Xeloures |
| +Jim McDonald | Aurel Bosca |
| H/S Fr. Marginean Family | Aurel Bosca |
| +Peggy Rowles | Walsh Family |
| H/S Craig McElroy | Walsh Family |
| +Robert Powell, Virgil Stroia Jr., Parents and All Family Members | Chuck Roska Family |
| H/S Powell and Donahue Family, Aunt Alice Loop, Sheila Diotale, Jerry Donahue, Bonnie Stroia and Family | Chuck Roska Family |
| +John, husband | Suzie Dragos |
| +Susie Stenzel, grandmother | Suzie Dragos |
| +Joanne Mailat | Suzie Dragos |
| +Edward Maciag | Suzie Dragos |
| +Patricia Frame | Suzie Dragos |
| +Patrick Todoran | Suzie Dragos |
| +Cathy Beck | Suzie Dragos |
| H/S All Family | Suzie Dragos |

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Special Announcement:

Please pray for: Joanne Black, Theresa Orlando, Connie McAdams, Maria Marcu, Amparo Adkins, Lance Downey, Sonya Paul, Bryan Pryce, John

Contini, Missy Lawver, Veronica Maier, End to Corona Virus attack, Clore Family, Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian, Grace Mary Fein, Barbara Greavu, Virginia Rogers and all who need our prayers.

Sick and/or homebound: Mary Cornea (Home), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Ann Stimer (Home), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home), Eugene Popa (St. Joseph, Louisville), Doris Rotar (Solaris Senior Living North Naples #127; 10949 Parnu St, Naples, FL 34109) and Irene Pontones (Chapel Hill Retirement Community)

For holy Baptism contact the parish office at least one month prior to the date requested.

For First Reconciliation contact the parish office when your child turns 7.

For Weddings contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date requested.

To guarantee announcements for the bulletin, they need to be given to the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

To facilitate **accurate counting**, please use separate checks/cash for the special collection, candle and Sunday collection envelopes. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

Please let the office know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc., so we can put you on our prayer list. Thank you!

Altar Candelabrum for December 2021 is donated by **Tim and Deb Reichel** in celebration of their **30th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!**

Left Iconostasis Candelabrum for December 2021 is donated by **Pete and Dodi Zbuka** in celebration of the wedding anniversary. **Congratulations!**

Right Iconostasis Candelabrum for December 2021 is donated by **Harry and Kathy Walsh** in memory of the **Savage and Walsh Families: +Gerald and +Doris.**

Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum for December 2021 is donated by **Del and Sandy Schock** in loving memory of **+Trish Schock**, daughter for her birthday on December 2.

Prescura for 2021: Amparo Adkins, Annie Collins, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Mariana Greavu, Nancy Maciag, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Virginia Rogers, Kathy Walsh, P-sa. Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and P-sa. Gabriela Marginean

Announcements

“For a synodal Church (journeying together)”. Please pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit for us to understand what He wants for us as individuals and a member of the Body of Christ, the Church. Prayer cards are on the table in the narthex. Talk with someone in the Chancery if you would like to be part of this important celebration in the Church.

Parish events:

TODAY, all items need to be turned into the church. This year for the Giving Tree, pastoral council decided to support the **Domestic Violence Project**. They do not need to be wrapped. Thank you for your support of this worthy cause at the Christmas season!

Sarmale (Cabbage rolls) can be purchased! \$20 per baker’s dozen (13 pieces). Order at <https://www.romaniancathedral.com/shop/> or call the office by Tuesday. Pick up is between noon and 1pm on Friday, December 24.

There will be a **reception** following Divine Liturgy on Christmas day, Saturday, December 25. All are invited to bring some goodies to share. Thank you for your generosity at this celebration of Jesus’ birth!

There are plans for a **New Years Eve party** for parishioners and close friends. It will start at 8:00pm and BYOB. \$25 per person or \$40 per couple.

We have several Romanian wines for sale if you are interested. On the narthex table you will find the bottles and a list next to them. Please list your name and the wines you want. **The price is \$10/bottle**. The wine called Poem to Ovidiu is \$12/bottle. For the **Feteasca Neagra wine** - we have only 20 bottles and they are sold on the first come, first serve basis.

To Tickle Your Funny Bone ☺

The teacher gathered her Sunday school group around her and exclaimed, "Well, class, all those who want to go to heaven raise your hands."

Everyone around the circle raise their hands come except one boy.

"Don't you want to go to heaven, Henry?" asked his teacher.

"I can't, ma'am", Henry replied. "My mom wants me to come straight home."

Word of Life

"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her.
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

For all parents awaiting the birth of their child:

May they look to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph

and follow their example of cherishing and protecting human life;

Let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mercy.

Happy Birthday! La mulți ani!!

Frank Getz – December 21st

Rachel Bollon – December 21st

Kate Sima – December 24th

Advertising Opportunity – business card size:



Financial strategies.
One-on-one advice.

 **Jacqueline M Oprean, AAMS***
Financial Advisor
1840 Town Park Blvd
Unlontown, OH 44685
330-899-0721

Edward Jones
MAKING WISDOM OF INVESTING
edwardjones.com



| | Mon 12/20 | Tue 12/21 | Wed 12/22 | Thu 12/23 | Fri 12/24 | Sat 12/25 | Sun 12/26 |
|------|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | Christmas Fast - Common abstinence (unless otherwise noted) | | | | Kate Sima's birthday | Dispensation (Harti) | |
| | St. Ignatius of | Frank Getz's birthday | Abstinence | 10 Martyrs of Crete | Abstinence | +CHRISTMAS DAY - | Pete and Dodi |
| | | Rachel Bollon's | Anastasia, martyr, | | Strict fast and | Nativity in the Flesh | +SYNAXIS OF THE |
| | | Juliana of Nicomedia, | | | Vigil of the Nativity. | Christmas Day | SUNDAY AFTER |
| | | | | | Christmas Eve | | |
| | | | | | Day off for Christmas | | |
| 8am | | Liturgy: +Carrie Norris by Murari Family 8am - 9am | Liturgy: H/S All Parishioners for Christmas 8am - 9am | Liturgy: +Marie Shaheen 8am - 9am | | | |
| 9am | | | | | Royal Hours 9am - 11am | | |
| 10am | | | | | | Divine Liturgy: Christmas 10am - 11:30am | Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am |
| 11am | | | | | | | |
| 12pm | | | | | Confessions 12pm - 1pm | Shared meal in the Large Hall 11:30am - 12:30pm | Coffee: Tony Orlando 11:30am - 12:30pm |
| 1pm | | | | | | | |
| 2pm | | | | | | | |
| 3pm | | | | | | | |
| 4pm | | | | | | | |
| 5pm | | | | | Confessions 4:30pm - 5:30pm | | |
| 6pm | | | | | | | |
| 7pm | | | | | Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy: Eve of Nativity 6pm - 8pm | | |

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

December 2021

It is an old Chinese custom that near the end of the year a man would make every effort to pay all of his past debts, in order that he might begin the new year with a clean slate, owing no one. To us, “near the end of the year” means the Christmas season, and it is more often than not a time of running up new bills rather than paying old ones. We buy toys for the children; gifts for friends and relatives.

We often invest in a major purchase for the family, a flat-screen TV or a larger refrigerator, and take on new payments for another 24 to 36 months. This is our custom in the season of giving.


We give to those we love to express our love, on the birthday of the one who taught us what love is all about. This is the principle involved. But, too often, gift giving becomes an end in itself, a custom without meaning, a distraction, a Santa Claus thing, and we lose sight of Love with a capital L. We forget about God! All year we have been giving to God. We have given out of a feeling of love and gratitude. The end of the year is an excellent time to re-appraise our giving to God.

Why not adopt the old Chinese custom? Let us assume our obligation to re-pay God, in light of all that God has given us. And, in the spirit of our Lord’s birthday, let us see what gift of self we can give out of our love. We know by now what our annual income is or will be from all sources, including possible gifts and bonuses. We know, too, how much we have given to God, both through the church and through worthy charities other than the church.

Does the amount I am giving truly represent what I think of Almighty God? Does it represent my love, my gratitude, my repentance, my acts of self-denial, my crosses and joys? Does it represent an acceptable share of my material goods?

Am I pleased with what I am giving? Is God pleased? Can I say I have sincerely given to the best of my ability?



In this season of giving, we should take time to re-appraise what we have offered God this year. Let’s use tithing as a measure, an acceptable standard, and determine now if our gift of love is worthy of us. 

Let us be generous with gifts we can give to others: Time, Good Example, Acceptance, Seeing the Best in People, Self-esteem, Self-disclosure, Helping Someone Learn Something New, Listening, Fun, Letting Others Give to You.



Gift of the Magi

Have you ever noticed the people who return to God a truly grateful portion of their income, in thanksgiving for all the blessings that God gives them, seem almost always to be happy or content?

The reason why is illustrated beautifully in O. Henry's famous Christmas story, "The Gift of the Magi," in which the husband and wife each sacrifice their most precious possession for the sake of the other.

The wife sells her beautiful hair to buy her husband a watch fob, while he sells his watch to buy her an expensive comb.

Each gift, then, is materially useless; but the couple is exuberantly happy because they realize that each one's gift represents an act of truly unselfish love.


Our gift of money to God represents our love for him; and when we sacrifice, or give of ourselves, we more fully appreciate the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. It is this

appreciation, this feeling of love and trust, that shows in the person who returns to God the first portion.

Think of the different things in life that make you happy: an entertaining motion picture, for example, a good book, a child uttering its first words, a birthday celebration, or a wedding. These occasions give us joy because we project ourselves into them or become a part of them.

The experience of sacrificial giving is much like this, but with one tremendous difference. Material pleasures are temporary. Giving is permanent. The giver's joy does not end with the last chapter of the book or the final scene of the movie. It stimulates a lasting joy because the good steward constantly gives of himself in deep appreciation of what God has given them.

We realize that the joy of sacrificial giving then is love. In spite of trial and tribulation, love emerges as the factor in the individual's happiness

It is the inner glow that distinguishes those people who become good stewards of their money from others. It is the joy of sacrificial giving. 

Monetary gifts to God teach us patience and prudence. We learn how to control our inordinate wishing for many things that we buy. This discipline of our will makes it easier for us to live God's law. Therefore giving definitely helps us to do God's will.



"It was a stroke of genius Reverend, asking them each to give the price of a movie!"

The Good Steward

One bleak Christmas Eve many years ago, a Yale student, spending his vacation in settlement work in the lower end of New York City, found a German widow woman in a cheerless attic tenement with three little daughters that all had typhoid fever, without fuel or food or medical attention. He got fuel and made a fire, brought food and a doctor. One of the children died; the other two recovered. The woman came to the Neighborhood House, then to the church, then to Christ. Hearing of the famine in India, she made up her mind to show her gratitude by taking up the support of one or more Indian famine waifs in memory of the little girl whom she had lost. She was earning her living and supporting her family by scrubbing floors at night in a great office building in the neighborhood.

“Yes” to Something Better

Just saying “No” to temptation isn’t usually easy by itself. In resisting temptation, we need to say “Yes” to something better, such as good stewardship in all areas of life.

Tempted to eat or drink too much? Say, “Yes,” to better health and good nutrition. Tempted to run up credit card debt? Say, “Yes,” to living within your means and your budget.

If you’re tempted to be selfish, say, “Yes” to sharing God’s gifts to you with others and finding the joy that it brings. Tempted to be lazy? Say, “Yes,” to being a giver and using your time and unique talents wisely. Tempted to pass on gossip? Say, “Yes,” to speaking

Out of her hard earned wages, she began to set aside a dollar and a half a week, and found that she was able to take care of four famine waifs. She also began to interest herself in those about her neighborhood who were in poorer circumstances than herself.

On the following Christmas Eve, when I went to the new rooms to which she had moved from her attic tenement, I found that she had papered them with her own hands and had put in a baby organ that the children were learning to play. She gathered together a group of poor children for a Christmas party and got her fellow scrubwomen to join in providing for the treat. Out of the newborn love of her Savior, she soon had learned the great lesson of Christian giving. ☩



about others in the way you wish they would speak about you. Tempted by an “ego trip”? Say “Yes,” to putting God first.



Jesus too was tempted. But in saying, “No,” to each temptation, Jesus said, “Yes,” to something much better. ☩


God is a great giver. We can never out-give God. When we share what we have generously, God blesses us with priceless gifts. Peace, health, happiness and satisfaction, courage can never be purchased. They are the rewards of proper investments.



Live music fascinates me. Unable to play myself, I become enrapt watching a great artist infuse music with emotion while mastering the correct notes in perfect timing. A great performance moves me.

It can teach us about stewardship too! This is especially true in watching a hand bell choir perform. The transcendence of the music and the message of stewardship are unmistakable: we have a note to play in the beautiful music of Christian community. Notice the similarities:

- **Individuality** Each ringer is independent, but inextricably a member of the group. All are needed, no one is left out.
- **Distinction** Each individual's contribution is distinct as the highs and lows of the notes are struck. Our God-created uniqueness shines forth.
- **Choir** An individual cannot make music alone. Only together is harmony created.
- **Importance** Every single ringer is vital. No one is more or less important than another.
- **Togetherness** The group must move together as a whole or the music doesn't ring out.
- **Faction** In some pieces, a subset of ringers moves in another direction, but always returns bringing resolution to the musical tension.
- **Direction** To achieve unity, the group needs direction. A visionary director brings out the best in everyone.
- **Choir and Director** It's tempting to think that the director is everything. But without the choir, the director accomplishes nothing.

Call it the musical parable of stewardship: God directs a choir resounding to use our time, talent, and treasure to bring about his Kingdom. 



Theophany of Our Lord in the Jordan
January 6th

O our Savior, the armies of angels trembled when they saw You baptized by your servant, and the Holy Spirit bearing witness and descending, and when they heard the voice of the Father speaking from heaven: This One upon whom the Forerunner lays his hands is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. O Christ our God, glory to You! O God and Lord, when you resolved to save those who had strayed from You, You condescended to take the form of a servant, for it was fitting that You assumed our human nature for us. And when You were baptized in the flesh, O our Redeemer, it made us worthy of your forgiveness. Therefore, we cry out to You: O Christ our God, our Benefactor, glory to You!



Synaxis of John the Baptist
January 7th

When the Jordan River received You, O Fountainhead, the Comforter descended in the form of a dove. Now behold the marvel: the One who bowed the heavens bows his head to the Forerunner, and the one made of clay cries out to his Maker: Why do You command me to perform what is beyond my power? It is I who need to be baptized by You. O Christ our God, O Sinless One, glory to You!

I manifest myself as completely human. I who am rich have willingly become poor, so that I may enrich with incorruption and deliverance all the poor. Come! Baptize the One who is not subject to corruption and who frees the world from decay.

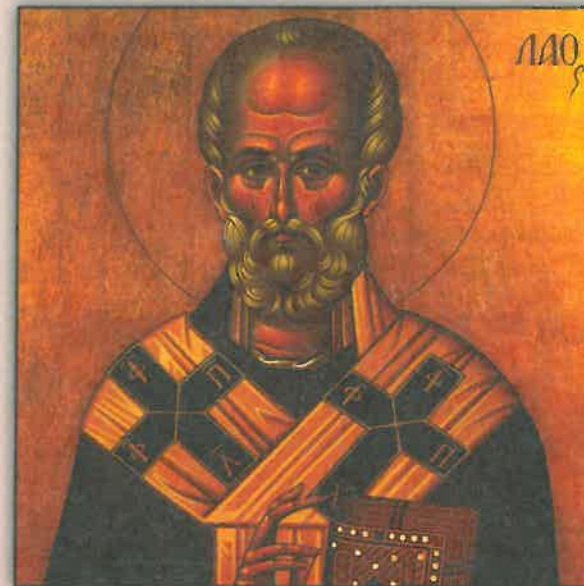
*All text from Vesper Stichera, The Festal Menaion,
Sisters of Saint Basil, Uniontown, PA*



CHRISTMAS AND THEOPHANY
THE INCARNATION AND MANIFESTATION OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

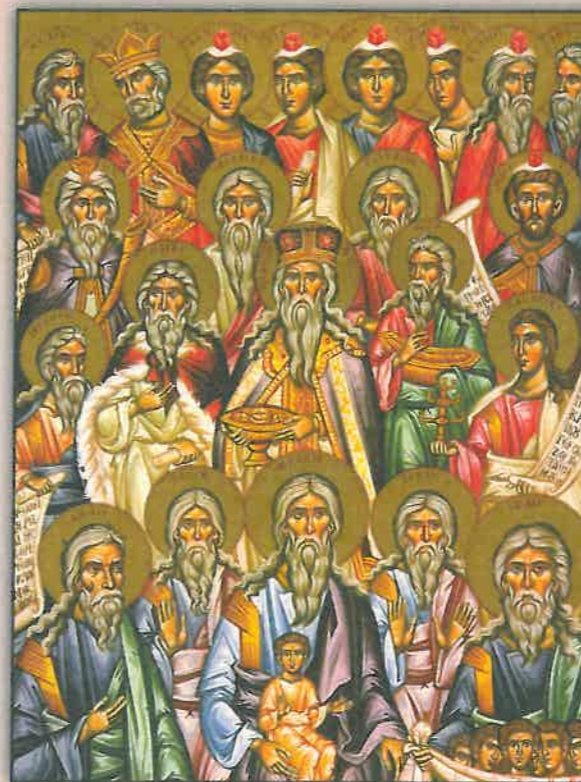
Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker
December 6th

We have gathered to celebrate and to praise with song the model of bishops and a glory to the fathers, a fountain of miracles and a great helper of believers. Let us sing to the saintly Nicholas: Rejoice, O Protector of Myra who was revered as its leader and strongest pillar. Rejoice, O Radiant Star whose light of miracles shines throughout the world. Rejoice, O Divine Joy to those in sorrow. Rejoice, O Defender of those who are oppressed; for even now, all-holy Nicholas, you still pray to God for us who celebrate your feast with faith and who honor you with zeal and joy.



Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, the Patriarchs

Today we commemorate the ancestors of Christ. Sing with fervor a hymn of praise to Christ the Savior who exalted them among all nations. He is the Lord who does wondrous deeds because He is powerful and mighty. From them He brought forth a royal scepter, the immaculate maiden of God and virgin Mary. From her, Christ our God came forth to give life and eternal salvation for all. O believers, let us give praise today to all the Fathers who lived before the Law. Abraham who was beloved by God, Isaac who was born according to the promise, Jacob and the twelve Patriarchs, the very meek David and the favored prophet Daniel. Let us also glorify with them the three youths who changed the fiery furnace into a place of refreshing dew. Let us beg forgiveness of our sins from Christ our God who is glorified in his saints.



Sunday of the Holy Fathers

He who is carried by the Cherubim has taken human nature in the abode of the immaculate womb. He has come to earth to be born of the tribe of Judah. The holy cave has been adorned like a splendid palace for the King of all; the manger, like a ruby throne. The Virgin will place the Child into it for the renewal of his boundless creation.

Having conceived in a manner beyond understanding, the Virgin places You into the manger of the dumb animals, O eternal Word of God, because You come to pardon the ignorance that I acquired through the envy of the serpent. You come to be wrapped in swaddling clothes in order to break the chains and fetters of my sins. O only-blessed One and Lover of Mankind, I most joyfully glorify, extol, and adore You and your coming in the flesh; for through You I have been freed.



Nativity of Our Lord December 25th

Because the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin, all creation is enlightened. Behold! The shepherds keep watch and the Magi are adoring; the angels are singing hymns of praise and Herod is trembling; for the Savior of our souls has revealed himself in the flesh.

O Christ, what shall we offer You for your coming on earth in our humanity for our sake? Every creature that has its being from You gives thanks to You: the angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star; the Magi present their gifts and the shepherds, their wonder; the earth provides a cave and the desert, a manger. As for us, we offer a Virgin Mother. O God who are from all eternity, have mercy on us.



Synaxis of the Holy Mother of God December 26th

O Christ our God, your kingdom is eternal, and your reign is from generation to generation. You became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and became man from the ever-virgin Mary. Your coming, O Christ, has shed a great light upon us. You are the Light of Light and the radiance of the Father. You have illumined the whole creation. Therefore, everything that breathes sings a hymn of praise to You. You are the image of the Father's glory. You are the eternal God, existing before all ages, who shone forth from the Virgin. O Lord our God, have mercy on us.

Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth. Today Bethlehem receives the One who at all times sits with the Father. Today the angels sing the praises of the newborn infant. Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will to all.



Saint Basil the Great January 1st

O venerable Father, you became a lover of wisdom, preferring life with God to all possessions of the world. Your contemplation of death made you forsake the wealth of the earth, and by your perseverance in fastings, you overcame the sting of passions. By study of the divine law you preserved the freedom within your soul.

By your generous practice of virtue you subjected the passions of the flesh to the spirit. You renounced the flesh, the world, and the princes of the earth; now you stand in the presence of Christ. Intercede with Him for great mercy upon our souls.

