

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN DECEMBER 30, 2018

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM was held last Sunday, and as always, it was moving and touching to see the young people in the role of those blessed to witness the Savior's birth some 2,000 years ago. Thanks to **Deb Sedares** and **Valarie Stamoulis** for organizing it. And thanks to the children who participated and their parents for encouraging them.

FOOD PANTRY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center **next Saturday, January 5th, from 9 am - noon.** About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be dropped off at the Food Pantry housed at St. Spyridon Cathedral. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please speak with **Lisa Mielnicki** or **Nicole Apostola**.

REMEMBER DIVINE LITURGY ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. Liturgy of and for St. Basil the Great, 10:00 AM; Matins 9:00 AM.

METROPOLITAN NICOLAE'S PASTORAL LETTER on the occasion of the **Lord's Nativity** is available for you to read in English and Romanian at the candles.

GREETERS TEAM 3:
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP:
HELP NEEDED
PICK UP A CUP - LEND A HAND

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



THE SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

THE PROPHET-KING DAVID; JOSEPH THE BETHROTHED; JAMES THE LORD'S BROTHER

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 1:11-19 ☩ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-23

TONE 5 ☩ MATINS GOSPEL 8

THE 2019 CHURCH CALENDARS are here, in both English and Romanian. Pick them up at the candles. Please consider a small donation to cover the costs.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the good faithful of our parishes that bought Christmas gifts for the residents of Holy Trinity. Thoughtful gestures such as these really make a difference in the lives of those who live in our nursing home. It shows that they are not forgotten. *God bless you and all those who support Holy Trinity in so many ways!*

THE DECEMBER ISSUE of the *Holy Trinity Times* is available at: www.htnr.net. Check out the latest news.

DIVINE LITURGY is celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9:30AM. And please always keep Holy Trinity Nursing Home, it's staff, directors, residents, and families in your prayers. And remember: you can always visit!

NEVER FORGET: Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is an Orthodox Charity and relies on your donations to continue its mission of providing the best care possible.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tues, Jan 1 New Year's. St. Basil the Great
Liturgy 10:00 AM, Matins 9:00 AM
Sat, Jan 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9AM-noon
Eve of Theophany. Liturgy 10:00 AM
Sun, Jan 6 Theophany. Baptism of the Lord

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

NAMEDAYS

December 23

The Sunday of the Ancestors of our Lord, according to the flesh

The Patriarch Jacob

Jacob Datz

The High Priest Aaron

Aaron Paul Christo

The Righteous Deborah

Deborah Rucho

Deborah Sedares

The Righteous Noah

Noah Peter Christo

The Righteous Rebecca

Rebeka Tanacea

The Righteous Sarah

Sarah Maria Blanchard

Sarah Maria Bourisk

December 25

The Holy Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ

Christopher Blanchard

Chrysanthi Charalambides

Christopher Demake

Cristean Dumitriu

Kristjan Endriko

Cristina Gavala

Cristian Ionete

Christine Kelly

Christian Andrew Polymeros

Christian Prizio

Christopher Rucho

Rev. Fr. Milad Selim

Christina Soter

Christo Spyrou

Christian Thoren

Christina Thoren

Christine Toda

Christina Marina Tonna

Chris Zaruha

Cristian Zaruha

December 27

The Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

Stephanie Elizabeth Demake

Stephen Fotos

Ivi Katragjini

Stephen Maynard

Stephen Michael Mountzouris

Steven Thoren

December 30

The holy and righteous Joseph, the betrothed of the Virgin

Josephine Mbuthi

Joseph Opio

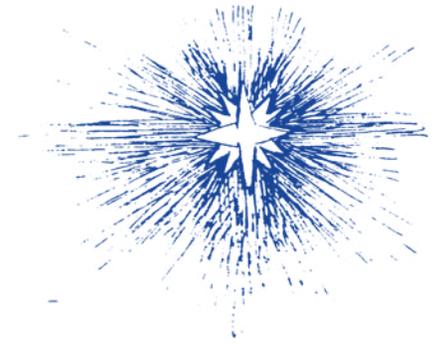
The Holy Prophet and King David

David Zonia

December 31

St. Melania the Younger, nun of Rome

Melanie Mentis



A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

O GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: Today,

at the celebration of the birth in the flesh of your only Son, we hasten to wreathe the portals of our hearts with love and desire, that your Holy Spirit may be drawn to enter and dwell within us, sanctifying us by his very presence. Let his inspiration help us accomplish your will in all things, so that, just as your Son deigned to dwell in the womb of the virgin in a bodily way, so will he deign to dwell in our souls in a spiritual way.

By the grace and mercy and love for us of your only Son, with whom you are blest, together with your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



OUT OF EGYPT HAVE I CALLED MY SON

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF THE SAVIOR is dedicated to the relatives of Christ, especially David the King and Prophet, Joseph the betrothed of the Theotokos and “step-father” of our Lord, and James the Lord’s brother, Joseph’s son from his first marriage. In the Gospel lesson for this Sunday we hear St. Matthew’s (2:13-23) conclusion to the Nativity narrative. In it he recounts: the fury of Herod when he realized that the Magi had tricked him; the warning that Joseph received in a dream to flee to Egypt in order to save the baby Jesus and His mother; the massacre of the infants in and around Bethlehem; and finally the return from Egypt to Nazareth.

As you can see, there are a number of themes in this relatively short passage, many of which overlap. Let us look first at Herod. We know from other ancient sources that Herod was a ruthless and terrible tyrant. He was jealous of others and feared threats to his power. He killed a number of his own family members when he thought they were plotting against him. And while there is no record outside of the Bible of the specific massacre mentioned by Matthew, it is quite in keeping with Herod’s personality. He often ordered indiscriminate massacres.

Matthew has also another purpose in telling us this story of the massacre of the innocents. He wants us to understand how the lives of many of the people whose stories are chronicled in the Old Testament should also be seen as pre-figuring Christ in God’s plan for our salvation. Christians generally view the Old Testament as a preparation for the coming of Christ. Through and in the Children of Israel, God is readying the world to hear and receive God’s full revelation of Himself. This is partly what is meant by the phrase used to describe the period in and around Christ’s com-

ing as “the fullness of time.”

In his account of the Nativity, St. Matthew draws a particular parallel with two persons in the history of Israel: the Patriarch Joseph (son of Jacob) and Moses. These men represent two “types” or foreshadowings of Christ. For example, just as Joseph

was sold into slavery in Egypt, but later found refuge there and became a savior to his family and nation (Genesis 37:1ff), so also the Christ child finds refuge in Egypt and becomes a Savior to the world. And, just as Moses was rescued from the massacre of Hebrew boys by the hand of Pharaoh (Exodus 2:1ff), so also was Jesus rescued from the massacre of the young boys in Bethlehem by the hand of Herod, who in this regard is likened to Pharaoh. Matthew wants to prepare us to understand how Jesus will be an even greater Savior than these two great saviors of the children of Israel.

Another theme in this Gospel passage is the proclamation of the Good News to the pagan world. The Magi, who had been drawn by a star to worship Jesus, are now warned in a dream not to return to Herod, but rather to go home by another way (Matthew 2:12). They carry within themselves the profound experience God has revealed to them. They lay the foundation for the proclamation of the Gospel in Babylon and Persia — modern-day Iraq and Iran. At the same time Joseph the Betrothed takes Mary and the Child Jesus to Egypt, another sign of how Christianity will come to transform the faith of this ancient pagan civilization.



Finally, we see how Joseph himself has been changed by the events he experienced. The angel comes again, this time to warn of the danger to the Child. The angel comes not to Mary, but rather to Joseph. He says to him, “take the child and his mother” (v. 13) to Egypt. Notice, the angel doesn’t speak of “wife” or “son.” He knows that Joseph believes and no longer needs to be convinced of God’s hand in all that has happened. When Joseph sees the angel there is no doubt or questioning, just faith and action.

And, after Herod had died (a tortured death in prison), the same angel comes to Joseph again, telling him it was safe to go home. He took Mary and the Child Jesus to Nazareth, “calling him out from Egypt” (v. 22-23), and there He grows to manhood.

May each of us embrace the examples of the faith and perseverance of David and Moses, as well as the courage and faithfulness found in the young Virgin Mary and Joseph her betrothed. May each of us be like them, listening to God’s call for us and willing to follow it.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

Thanks to the Bakers!

Our baked goods have become a significant support for our Parish. It's a team effort and a lot of our parishioners and friends are involved. It's only fitting that we send out a "thank you" to the people who work very hard producing all of the baked goods we sell. Here they are. Offer each one a personal "thank you" when you see them.

Ken Anderson
Ted Belba
Lillian Chachi
Katina Cocavessis
Maria Dumitriu
Eileen Favata
Phil Favata
Mary Feeny
Michael George
Bessie Kyros
Margarite Landry
Lisa Mielnicki
Maria Mossaides
Sandra Nedelescu
Florence Rucho
Tim Rucho
Maclynn Saffron
Janice Samara
Deb Sedares
Eleanor Sedares
Carol Soter
Natasha Zhaka

*And especially our
baking superheros:*
Chris Toda
Betty Anderson



We've always suspected that our Pitas were the best, but it's good to hear it from some of our outside "taste testers" ...

One satisfied buyer wrote us to say ... Hello! Your spinach pie was the best I've ever had and I certainly want to buy some more.

Another said ... It was so delicious, and we've had many spinach pies, and it was great to find out that you are the same people who do the Park Ave festival in September.

And another, with an experienced "pita palate" said ... I just wanted you share with you how happy everyone was to eat it. One cousin made one also, so we had a taste off. St Nick's won. Of course! The comments were unanimous that St Nick's is just like Grammy's, old school and delicious.