

News from St. Nick's

Sunday, December 26, 2021

The Sunday after the Nativity

***The Prophet-King David • Joseph the Betrothed • James the Lord's Brother
The Flight Into Egypt***

***Apostolic Reading: Galatians 1:11-19
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23***

Tone 2 • Resurrection Gospel 5

➡ **For Live Streaming Link, [click here](#)**

[\(Click here for a PDF version of this week's news\)](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY FEAST THIS WEEKEND ARE:

- Friday, December 24th. Royal Hours, 9:30 am
- Friday, December 24th. Great Vespers, 6:00 pm
- Saturday, December 25th. Nativity of our Lord: Matins 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
- Sunday, December 26th. Synaxis of the Theotokos: Matins 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

THE FULL CHRISTMAS/THEOPHANY SCHEDULE MAY BE [DOWNLOADED BY CLICKING HERE.](#)

METROPOLITAN NICOLAE'S PASTORAL LETTER on the Feast of our Lord's Nativity may be downloaded here: in [ENGLISH](#) and in [ROMANIAN](#). ***Please take a few minute to read his inspiring words.***

THE 2022 CHURCH CALENDARS are here, in both English and Romanian. Pick them up at the candles. Please consider a small donation to cover the costs.

WE'VE RESCHEDULE THE TWO EVENTS FROM LAST SUNDAY:

- ***THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT*** will be held after the end of the Divine Liturgy ***NEXT SUNDAY***, January 2nd. The children have been working and rehearsing this for weeks. We're all looking forward to it.
- ***WE WILL BE TAKING A PARISH PHOTOGRAPH*** also ***NEXT SUNDAY***, January 2nd right at the end of Pageant.

FOOD PANTRY THIS NEXT SATURDAY. Help is needed to staff our monthly responsibility at the Orthodox Food Center, ***next Saturday, January 1st from 9 am - noon.*** It is a great blessing to help those who could use the help. So, if you're open to sharing a small part of your Saturday morning, please e-mail Nicole Apostola at nicole.apostola@gmail.com. She can give you more details. You'll see what a difference it makes.

The Town of Shrewsbury has issued a MASKING ORDER. Masks are required in all indoor spaces, including Churches. We are now asking that all persons attending the Divine Services wear masks until the order is lifted.

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	Florence Rucho
Ron Anderson	Tim Rucho
Katina Cocavessis	Deb Sedares
Maria Dumitriu	Evan Stamoulis
Eileen Favata	Valarie Stamoulis
Phil Favata	Anna Stefania Seith
Lisa Mielnicki	Chris Seith
Maria Mossaides	Chris Toda
Arthur Peterson	Dianne Tonna
Padraic Peterson	Karen Wilder

And we'd like to especially thank Betty Anderson
who headed-up the whole production!

COMMUNITY NEWS

ALL THINGS ORTHODOX is a weekly show hosted by Fr. Christopher Stamas of St. Spyridon Cathedral. Fr. Chris interviews people active in the life of the Church on questions of faith and action. It is aired on the **Worcester Cable channel 194** on **Mondays** at 7 pm, **Saturdays** at 8 pm and **Sundays** at 9 pm. Also look for it on the Cable website: wccatv.com, or the Worcester TV Roku app.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

HOLY TRINITY

- Has been awarded a 4-star ranking by CMS
- Specializes in short-term rehabilitation with the goal of getting residents back to the community as quickly as possible.
- Is committed to providing exceptional care in a patient-centered environment. Whether residents are there for a short or long-term stay, all aspects of care are focused on meeting the individual's recovery goals.

LONG TERM CARE. Holy Trinity offers long-term care and end-of-life services. Knowledgeable and compassionate care is provided for long-term residents with chronic illnesses, dementia and other conditions. Residents are assisted to achieve as much independence as possible while enjoying the highest quality of life. Compassionate and dignified end-of-life services are also provided in a comforting, supportive environment.

SUB-ACUTE TRANSITIONAL CARE. Holy Trinity provides caring, compassionate, and skilled care in a nurturing environment to patients needing additional recovery time after a hospitalization, with staff experienced in caring for even the most serious health conditions and diagnoses. Interdisciplinary care plans play a vital role in ensuring that residents' physical, emotional and spiritual needs are met and that rehabilitation goals are attained.

We specialize in caring for patients with cardiovascular disease, neurological conditions, such as stroke, and post-surgical needs.

STAY CONNECTED. Be sure to like our [Facebook page](#) for frequent updates and photos.

You can now find us at www.holytrinityrehab.org!

Orthodox Links

[Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas](#)
[Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America](#) (Assembly of Bishops)
[International Orthodox Christian Charities](#) (IOCC)
[Orthodox Christian Mission Center](#) (OCMC)
[Orthodox Christian Radio Network](#) (OCN)
[Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches of Central Mass.](#) (CEOC)

A Prayer of Fr. Laurence

Let us pray to the Lord

Glory to you in the heights, O God, and on earth, peace to all your people! This evening, as we celebrate the birth in the flesh of your only Son - your eternal, radiant light - be pleased to surround us with his brilliance. Since he is both our brother and friend, as well as the light that liberates us from the power of darkness, in his name we beseech you: Bless the church all over the world, that she may always light the lamps of hope and peace in our hearts and in the hearts of all people everywhere.

For you are holy, O our God, and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy 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 conclusion (2:13-23) 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.

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 coming 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, Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, but later found refuge there and became a savior to his family and nation (Genesis 37:1ff). The Christ child finds refuge in Egypt and becomes a Savior to the world. Moses was rescued from the massacre of Hebrew boys by the hand of Pharaoh (Exodus 2:1ff). Jesus was 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, as 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 to him 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 Joseph 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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri, Dec 24 Royal Hours, 9:30 am
Great Vespers, 6:00 pm
Sat, Dec 25 Nativity Liturgy: Matins 9am / Lit. 10am
Sun, Dec 26 Sunday Liturgy Regular time
Sat, Jan 1 New Years/St. Basil: Matins 9am / Lit. 10am
Staff Orthodox Food Pantry
Sun, Jan 2 Children's Christmas Program

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
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Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am