



+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

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DECEMBER 25

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

**** DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT ****



**May the Nativity of Christ be a blessing to
all of us.**

Merry Christmas!

The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Christ

On December 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

On this day we commemorate the Shepherds that behold the Lord:

Shepherds their own flock do now abandon, and hasten to see Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Thus entered into the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when a foreigner named Herod, who sought to kill the infant Messiah, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind.

THE EPISTLE

Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

الرسالة

لِيَسْجُدَ لَكَ كُلُّ أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ وَيُرْتَلُوا لَكَ.

هَلِّلُوا لِلَّهِ يَا جَمِيعَ أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَةَ.

يَا إِخْوَةَ، لَمَّا حَانَ مِلْءُ الزَّمَانِ، أَرْسَلَ اللَّهُ ابْنَهُ مَوْلُودًا مِنْ امْرَأَةٍ، مَوْلُودًا تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ، لِيَفْتَدِيَ الَّذِينَ تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ، لِنَنَالَ النَّبِيِّ. وَبِمَا أَنْتُمْ أَبْنَاءٌ، أَرْسَلَ اللَّهُ رُوحَ ابْنِهِ إِلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ صَارِحًا: «يَا أَبَا الْأَبِّ». فَلَسْتَ بَعْدُ عَبْدًا بَلِ ابْنٍ، وَإِنْ كُنْتَ ابْنًا فَأَنْتَ وَارِثٌ لِلَّهِ بِالْمَسِيحِ.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:1-12)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ متى الإنجيليِّ البشيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهرِ.

لَمَّا وُلِدَ يَسُوعُ فِي بَيْتِ لَحْمِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ فِي أَيَّامِ هِيرُودُسَ الْمَلِكِ، إِذَا مَجُوسٌ قَدَّ أَقْبَلُوا مِنَ الْمَشْرِقِ إِلَى أُورَشَلِيمَ قَائِلِينَ: أَيْنَ الْمَوْلُودُ مَلِكُ الْيَهُودِ؟ فَإِنَّا رَأَيْنَا نَجْمَهُ فِي الْمَشْرِقِ، فَوَافِينَا لِنَسْجُدَ لَهُ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ هِيرُودُسُ الْمَلِكُ اضْطَرَبَ هُوَ وَكُلُّ أُورَشَلِيمَ مَعَهُ. وَجَمَعَ كُلَّ رُؤَسَاءِ الْكَهَنَةِ وَكُتَّابَةِ الشَّعْبِ، وَاسْتَخْبَرَهُمْ أَيْنَ يُوَلَّدُ الْمَسِيحُ. فَقَالُوا لَهُ "فِي بَيْتِ لَحْمِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ، لِأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا قَدْ كُتِبَ بِالنَّبِيِّ: وَأَنْتِ يَا بَيْتَ لَحْمِ أَرْضِ يَهُوذَا، لَسْتِ بِصُغْرَى فِي رُؤَسَاءِ يَهُوذَا، لِأَنَّهُ مِنْكَ يَخْرُجُ الْمُدَبِّرُ الَّذِي يَزْعَى شَعْبِي إِسْرَائِيلَ." حِينَئِذٍ دَعَا هِيرُودُسُ الْمَجُوسَ سِرًّا وَتَحَقَّقَ مِنْهُمْ زَمَانَ النَّجْمِ الَّذِي ظَهَرَ. ثُمَّ أَرْسَلَهُمْ إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْمِ، قَائِلًا: انْطَلِقُوا وَابْحَثُوا عَنِ الصَّبِيِّ بِتَدْقِيقٍ، وَمَتَى وَجَدْتُمُوهُ، فَأَخْبِرُونِي لِكَيْ آتِي أَنَا أَيْضًا وَأَسْجُدَ لَهُ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعُوا مِنَ الْمَلِكِ، ذَهَبُوا، فَإِذَا النَّجْمُ الَّذِي كَانُوا رَأَوْهُ فِي الْمَشْرِقِ يَتَقَدَّمُهُمْ، حَتَّى جَاءَ وَوَقَّفَ فَوْقَ الْمَوْضِعِ الَّذِي كَانَ فِيهِ الصَّبِيُّ. فَلَمَّا رَأَوْا النَّجْمَ فَرِحُوا فَرَحًا عَظِيمًا جِدًّا، وَأَتَوْا إِلَى الْبَيْتِ، فَوَجَدُوا الصَّبِيَّ مَعَ مَرِيَمَ أُمِّهِ، فَخَرُّوا سَاجِدِينَ لَهُ، وَفَتَحُوا كُنُوزَهُمْ وَقَدَّمُوا لَهُ هَدَايَا مِنْ ذَهَبٍ وَلُبَانٍ وَمُرٍّ. ثُمَّ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْهِمْ فِي الْحُلْمِ أَنْ لَا يَرْجِعُوا إِلَى هِيرُودُسَ، فَانْصَرَفُوا فِي طَرِيقٍ أُخْرَى إِلَى بِلَادِهِمْ.

"Love your Neighbor"- A Ministry of St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

As we participate in Advent and come to the end of our first calendar year of the Love your Neighbor Campaign, we would like to thank everyone for their support of our local, Archdiocesan and international charities over this past year. This month, we will again be looking locally, and are asking your support for the families in need in our church county, especially during this wonderful holiday season.

December – Contra Costa Food Bank

Support St. John's Church through Amazon Smile

Just in time for your Christmas shopping!! Simply click on the link below and start shopping - Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of all eligible purchases to the church. Please share with family and friends. Thank you for your support!!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7045466>



FAMILY FUN NIGHT - Saturday, 1/14/23 5:00 pm

Let's get together for a casual evening of good food, games and fellowship. All are welcome!! Please bring a dish to share and a fun game you would like to play. We'll eat together in the church hall then gather for games - younger kids in the classrooms, Teens in the teen room, etc.

Please see Rula Adranly to sign up or email at rulaadranly@comcast.net so we can have an idea of how many to expect. We hope this will be the start of a new tradition at St. John's.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 24th	Nativity of Christ (Christmas) services: 4:00pm: Royal hour, Orthros/Matins 5:30pm: Divine Liturgy
Saturday, January 14th	5:00pm Family Fun Night for adults, teens and kids to share a potluck meal, play games and more.
Sunday, February 12th	One year memorial service for the servant of God Fred Gedeon. May his memory be eternal!

Coffee Hours

December 25th	Christmas
January 1st	New Year's Day 2023

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Khalid Haddad** (Fairouz Freij's nephew), **Nick Nicola, Nadia Frangieh, Souhila Swies, Noha Schulze, George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † Mariam Munayer and family in memory of **Khalil Munayer** (12 yr.). May his memory be eternal!
- † Victor and Angel Husary and family for the good health of **Chris Husary**. Many years!

Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

- † Ibrahim Fasheh in memory of Hanada Fasheh for one full year. May her memory be eternal!



-
- † Altar Servers: Nathan Swiess, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin



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- † Poinsettias to adorn the Royal Doors in loving memory of **Nick Sr. and Helen Nicola** by Raymond and Georgianna Rishwain, Nick Jr. and Najat Nicola and Ronald and Nancy Nicola and families

St. John Orthodox Church
501 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563

You could use this QR code for your donation





SAVE THE DATE

MOM'S RETREAT WITH THE SPEIER'S

Hosted by Antiochian Women DLAW

- **WHEN:** Saturday, February 11th
- **WHERE:** St Timothy - Fairfield, CA
- **WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Mom's of all ages & even mom's to be!

Registration Information Out In Early January