



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

December 24, 2023

#### TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

##### Troparion – Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,// granting the world great mercy!”

##### Troparion – Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.// So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

##### Troparion – Tone 4

Mary was of David’s seed, so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem. She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man. The time for the birth was at hand. Since there was no room at the inn, the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen.// Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

##### Kontakion – Tone 1

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,// and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

##### Kontakion – Tone 3

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! Glorify with the angels and the shepherds the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

##### Prokeimenon – Tone 4

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

*V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!*

#### LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

##### Sunday Before the Nativity

The Sunday before the Nativity of Christ we commemorate Adam and Eve (the first-created), the righteous Abel, son of Adam, the righteous Seth, son of Adam, the righteous Enos, son of Seth, the righteous Kenan, son of Enos, the righteous Mehaliel (Maleleim), son of Kenan, the righteous Jared, son of Mehaliel, the righteous Enoch, son of Jared, the righteous Methuselah, son of Enoch, the righteous Lamech, son of Methuselah, the righteous Noah, son of Lamech, the righteous Shem, son of Noah, the righteous Japheth, son of Noah, the righteous Arphachshad, son of Shem, the righteous Canaan, son of Arphachshad (in some versions of the OT, Canaan is called the son of Ham), the righteous Shelah, son of Canaan (some versions of the OT call Shelah the son of Arphachshad), the righteous Eber (from whom the Hebrews take their name), son of Shelah, the righteous Peleg, son of Eber, the righteous Ragab (Reu), son of Peleg, the righteous Serug, son of Ragab, the righteous Nahor, son of Serug, the righteous Terah, son of Serug.

The holy Patriarchs: the righteous Patriarch Abraham, son of Terah, the righteous Patriarch Isaac, son of Abraham, the righteous Patriarch Jacob, son of Isaac, the righteous Patriarch Reuben, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Simeon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Levi, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Judah (Christ was of this tribe), the righteous Patriarch Zebulon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Issachar, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Dan, son of Jacob and Bilhah (Rachel's maid), the righteous Patriarch Gad, son of Jacob and Zilpah (Leah's maid), the righteous Patriarch Asher, son of Jacob and Zilpah, the righteous Patriarch Naphtali, son of Jacob and Bilhah, the righteous Patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel, the righteous Patriarch Benjamin, son of Jacob and Rachel.

The righteous Pharez and Zerah, twin sons of Judah, the righteous Hezron, son of Pharez, the righteous Aram, son of Hezron, the righteous Aminadab, son of Aram, the righteous Nahshon, son of Aminadab, the righteous Salmon, son of Nahshon, the righteous Boaz, son of Salmon, the righteous Obed, son of Boaz and Ruth, the righteous Jesse, son of Obed. The holy Prophet-King David, son of Jesse, King Solomon, son of David, King Rehoboam, son of Solomon, King Abijah, son of Rehoboam, King Asa, son of Abijah, King Jehosaphat, son of Asa, King Joram (Jehoram, an evil king), son of Jehosaphat, King Ochoziah (Ahaziah), son of Joram, King Jotham, son of Uzziah (Oziah), King Ahaz (a faithless king), son of Jotham, King Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, King Manesseh, son of Hezekiah, King Amos (Ammon), son of Manesseh, King Josiah, son of Amos, King Jechoniah, son of Josiah.

Shealtiel, son of Jechoniah, Zerubbabel (who led captives back to Jerusalem, and laid the foundations of the new Temple), son of Shealtiel, Abiud, son of Zerubbabel, Eliachem, son of Abiud, Azor, son of Eliachem, Zadok, son of Azor, Achim, son of Zadok, Eliud, son of Achim, Eleazar, son of Eliud, Matthan, son of Eleazar, Jacob, son of Matthan, St Joseph the Betrothed, son of Jacob.

The righteous Melchizedek, King of Salem, the righteous Job, the holy Prophet Moses, the priests Hur and Aaron, Joshua, son of Nun. The holy prophet Samuel, the holy prophet Nathan, the holy prophet Daniel, the three holy youths Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

The righteous Sarah, wife of Abraham, the righteous Rebecca, wife of Isaac, the righteous Leah, first wife of Jacob, the righteous Rachel, second wife of Jacob, the righteous Asineth, wife of Patriarch Joseph the all-comely, the righteous Miriam, sister of Moses, the righteous Deborah, Judge of Israel and prophetess, the righteous Ruth, wife of Boaz, the righteous woman of Zarephath, to whom Elias was sent (3 Kings 17), the righteous woman of Shunem, who was hospitable to Elisha (4 Kings 4), the righteous Judith, slayer of Holofernes, the righteous Esther, who delivered Israel from death, the righteous Hannah, mother of the prophet Samuel, the righteous Susanna.

## **EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS**

### **Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40**

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

## Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

Dates are when the name was added to the bulletin; names will remain in four bulletins and then removed. To add the name again, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

### For the Sick / Caregiver

Vera (12/3)

Nancy (12/3)

Archpriest Paul (12/3)

Matushka Mary (12/3)

Alexandra (12/3)

Vera (12/3)

Nancy (12/3)

Carmine (12/10)

Marianne (12/10)

Lynne (12/10)

Bill (12/10)

Bill (12/17)

Margaret (12/17)

Subdeacon Serge (12/17)

Melody (12/17)

Michael (12/17)

Charlotte (12/17)

Natasha (12/17)

Michael (12/17)

Christina (12/24)

### For the Deceased

Gloria (12/3)

Demian (12/10)

Eva (12/10)

Anna (12/10)

John (12/10)

## SERVICES

### Service Schedule for the week of December 24

**Sunday December 24** – 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall.

5:30 PM Christmas Eve Supper (potluck Lenten) in Daria Hall followed by Great Compline with Litya at 7:00 PM.

**Monday December 25 – NATIVITY** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

**Tuesday December 26 – SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS** 9:30 Divine Liturgy

**Saturday December 30** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday December 31 – FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION** 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall; 5:00 PM Vespers with Litya followed by Confession

## Upcoming Service Schedule for 2024

**Monday January 1 – FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION** 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

**Friday January 5 – FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY** 7:00 PM Great Compline with Litya

**Saturday January 6 – FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Great Blessing of Water;  
5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday January 7 – SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST** 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

## **DONATIONS**

### Weekly Giving

December 17 – 130 adults, 17 youth, \$4,277

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Christmas items are for sale in Daria Hall to support the Sunday School. Please stop and shop!

**Your donations are needed to sustain Coffee Hour.** Donations are used to purchase kitchen cleaning supplies, paper products including paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates and bowls, coffee cups, juice cups, coffee, tea, coffee pot filters, plastic storage bags, trash bags, plastic wrap, plastic cutlery, sugar, juice, peanut butter, jelly, coffee creamers, water bottles, water for coffee and tea, etc. As you know, everything has gone up in cost but unfortunately our donations are severely down. The Coffee Hour hosts donate the refreshments, but money is needed to offset the cost of all the supplies. Please remember to put your donation in the basket on the food table every week. Thank you!

Due to the high cost of paper products, please consider bringing your own coffee mug to use at Coffee Hour. You may either leave the mug at the Hall after you clean it, or bring it with you every Sunday.

**Coffee Hour Support Persons are needed.** If you would like to volunteer to assist once or twice a month, please see Alla Strauss, Melody Stavisky, or Father Volodymyr. We encourage everyone to get involved in this weekly parish event.

New items for sale – soon - at the bookstore in Daria Hall, including incense, charcoal, votive candles, wicks & floaters, and additional books.

The FOCA Club will have a Chili Cook-off Fundraiser before the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday January 28. There will be two categories – Mild and Hot. Sample cups will be sold for \$1 each; cups will be numbered so the chili can be voted on for Best Mild Chili and Best Hot Chili! The winners will receive a gift card. **If you would like to volunteer to make a pot of chili, please see Nina Laushell or Herman Meyer by January 14 to register your name.**

There will be five openings for the Parish Council in 2024. Voting will take place at our Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held on Sunday January 28, 2024. If you are interested in running for Parish Council, please speak with Father Volodymyr before the end of the year.

A Parish "Directory" with photos and identifying names of all parishioners is in the works. This will help us all with "putting a face to the name"! When you are at Daria Hall for Coffee Hour, please see Awet Tesfa to get your picture taken. ***It is important to get your picture taken soon!***

The Ladies Altar Society is creating and publishing the first Parish Cookbook – with your help! We are interested in your favorite recipes, ethnic recipes, recipes from your grandparents, parents, children, relatives and friends, and Lenten recipes. They can include Appetizers, Main Meals, Side Dishes, Soup, Salad, Dessert, and Beverages. In addition to recipes, the Cookbook will include a Helpful Hints section. In order for the Cookbook to be a success, we will need many recipes! Each recipe should include your name, who you may have received the recipe from, and your phone number (phone number is only if we have questions and will not be published in the Cookbook). Please give your recipes to Alla Strauss, Melody Stavisky, or Nancy Mitsos. Thank you!

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Father Volodymyr – December 24

Genevieve Brasowski – December 30

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

## COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

### SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads  
Donuts / Pastries  
Fruit  
Salads  
Tortilla chips & Salsa  
Hummus  
Sugar-free dessert  
Oreos (non-dairy)

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

Dec. 24 **FAST** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Darice Keyes  
Dec. 31 Nebiat Tesfa, Luwam Tesfa  
Jan. 7 Father Volodymyr (birthday celebration)  
Jan. 14 James & Monia Pitra, Anne Cheslock  
Jan. 21 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey  
Jan. 28 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** - Bill & Margie DiCicco, Chris Kasmer  
Feb. 4 Aftan Chowansky, Matthew & Nana Barrett  
Feb. 11 Eleni & Tom Sowanick, Sami Bachir  
Feb. 18 Nour Ragab, Tyler Burger  
Feb. 25 Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav, Matthew & Kris Bohush  
Mar. 3 Karina Kotelnicki, Gabriela Plesa  
Mar. 10 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alex & Rebeca Medina  
Mar. 17 **NO MEAT** Fiyori Habtesilasse, Gebrekvistas Amleset  
Mar. 24 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla & Perry Strauss  
Mar. 31 **FAST** Svetlana Sosedov, Guy Radcliffe  
Apr. 7 **FAST** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Vera Pschenyczny  
Apr. 14 **FAST** Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Viktoryia Baranava  
Apr. 21 **FAST** Alan & Mimi Berck, Paul & Patti Denko  
Apr. 28 **FAST** Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Anna & Leon Brasowski  
May 5 **PASCHA – NO COFFEE HOUR**  
May 12 Nina Schmidt, Alla & Perry Strauss  
May 19 Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Valeria & Timothy Srock

**CHRIST IS BORN!  
GLORIFY HIM!**