



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610 (609) 393-1234

Rev. Volodymyr Chaikivskyi V. Rev. Paul Shafran, Pastor Emeritus

[saintvladimir.org](http://saintvladimir.org)

[facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666](https://facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666)

### COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY RIGHTEOUS DAVID THE KING, JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD December 31, 2023

#### TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

##### **Troparion – Tone 5**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

##### **Troparion – Tone 4**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.// O Lord, glory to Thee!

##### **Troparion – Tone 2**

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God; thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; and thou didst give glory with the shepherds; thou didst worship with the Magi, and didst receive the news from the Angel.// Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

##### **Kontakion – Tone 3**

Today godly David is filled with joy; Joseph and James offer praise. The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth,// and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

##### **Kontakion – Tone 3**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels with shepherds glorify Him! The Wise Men journey with the star,// since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

##### **Prokeimenon – Tone 8**

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; / let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

*V. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise!*

##### **Prokeimenon – Tone 4**

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

#### LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

##### **Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord**

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

---

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James. Saint Joseph had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah, Joses, and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian.

### **Holy Righteous David the King**

The Holy Prophet-King David was a forefather of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh. The youngest son of Jesse, David shepherded a flock of sheep belonging to his father. He was distinguished by his deep faith, and he zealously fulfilled the will of God.

During a battle with the Philistines, he vanquished the giant Goliath in single combat, which decided the outcome of the war in favor of the Israelites. He endured many things from King Saul, who saw him as a favorite of the people and his rival. David, however, showed his own decency and magnanimity. Twice, when he had the possibility of killing Saul, he did not do so. After Saul and his son perished, David was proclaimed king of the southern part of Israel, and after Saul's second son was killed, he became king of all Israel. He built a new capital, Jerusalem ("the City of Peace"), and a new tabernacle. His great wish to build a Temple was not realized. It was foretold to him that his son would build the Temple.

The life of the Prophet David was darkened by a grievous falling: he took Uriah's wife for himself, and sent Uriah to his death in battle. He was also an example of great repentance, humbly and with faith bearing the sorrows sent in punishment for his sins. Saint David gave a model for repentance in Psalm 50/51. King David died in great old age with steadfast faith in the coming of the promised Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. His divinely-inspired Psalter is widely used in the divine services and in personal prayers. (See the Books of Kings and Chronicles).

The holy Prophet-King David is invoked by those facing a difficult situation, such as an interview, etc.

### **Holy Righteous Joseph the Betrothed**

Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. He had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah, Joses, and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian. After he became a widower, Saint Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity.

An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. Saint Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God and the Infant Jesus, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child, working as a carpenter. Saint Joseph reputedly died at the age of one hundred.

Saint Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, his Feast is moved to December 26. The Righteous Joseph is also commemorated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers.

### **Righteous James the Brother of the Lord**

The Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, was the eldest son of Joseph the Betrothed from his first marriage with Solomon. The Apostle James is remembered after the Feast of the Nativity of Christ together with his father Joseph and the Prophet-King David, since he accompanied his family on the Flight into Egypt and lived there with the Infant Jesus, the Mother of God and Joseph. Later, he returned to Israel with them. After the Ascension of the Lord, Saint James was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, gaining the great esteem not only of Christians, but also of Jews. He was thrown from the roof of the Jerusalem Temple because he had publicly preached to the people about the God-Manhood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Apostle James is also commemorated on October 23.

## EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

### **Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19**

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

### **Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23**

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

## 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**

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)

Father Paul (12/31)

Matushka Mary (12/31)

Alexandra (12/31)

### **For the Deceased**

Demian (12/10)

Eva (12/10)

Anna (12/10)

John (12/10)

## SERVICES

### **Service Schedule for the week of December 31**

**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

**Monday January 1 – FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION** 9:30 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 24 – 47 adults, 12 youth, \$2,977

December 25 – 69 adults, 24 youth, \$2,611

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Father Paul, who celebrated his 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood on Dec. 28!

**Your donations are needed to sustain Coffee Hour. Very little is being donated every Sunday, so please remember to put some money in the basket on the food table so we can continue to have Coffee Hour. 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.

A sign-up sheet for House Blessing is on the table in the back of the church. Please sign up and Father Volodymyr will contact you to set up a time.

**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.**

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

Awet Tesfa – January 5

Nebiat Tesfa – January 6

Walter Tribbey – January 6

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. 31 Nebiat Tesfa, Luwam Tesfa  
Jan. 7 Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana (Father's birthday celebration)  
Jan. 14 James & Monia Pitra, Anne Cheslock  
Jan. 21 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey  
Jan. 28 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING / Chili Cook-Off** - 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!**