

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd Lansing NY

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr James Worthington, Rector 315-706-6185

Rdr Bob West, Sr Warden SrWarden@HolyApostlesLansing.org

DECEMBER 21, 2014

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity. Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia, and with her 50 men and 130 women (304). Repose of St. Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow and Wonderworker of All Russia (1326). St. Juliana, Princess of Vyaz'ma (1406). Repose of Bl. Procopii (Procopius) of Vyatka, Fool-for-Christ (1628). Martyr Themístocles of Myra in Lycia (251).

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40: By faith, our forefathers prepared us for the coming in the flesh of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1.1-25: The lineage of Christ, and the prophesy to Joseph.

COFFEE HOUR HOST: Eileen and Bernice. **NEXT WEEK:** Available.

VESPERS NEXT WEEK: Rdr Bob.

HOURS: Available/Eileen. **NEXT WEEK:** Available/Eileen.

EPISTLE READER: Rdr Bob. **NEXT WEEK:** Rdr Bob.

OCF CONFERENCE: The annual college conferences will be held concurrently at Antiochian Village, Bolivar, PA and Saint Nicholas Ranch, Dunlap, CA from December 27 through 30, 2014. For more info, go to OCF.net.

NATIVITY HOLY SUPPER: The Holy Supper, a tradition of Slavic Orthodox Christians, and having been introduced from Italy, will be held on the Eve of the Nativity. A sign-up sheet is available for those who will bring a dish.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next class will be this Tuesday at Unwind Coffee Shop in the Ithaca Mall. We will be reading and discussing chapter 9 of the Gospel of St John, The Sabbath Healing of a Man Born Blind near the Pool of Siloam. Invite your friends to join us. The complete syllabus is available on the information table and online.

DDB: In grateful thanksgiving for the support of the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Program, each year we have given a little bit back. Please consider a donation to this fund to add on to the amount that will be donated from the Parish as a whole.

7 QUESTIONS, 7 ANSWERS: Two seasonal videos featuring Bishop Michael are available on the diocesan website for viewing. The videos are "Saint Nicholas: 7 Questions & 7 Answers" and "The Nativity of Christ: 7 Questions & 7 Answers." They are part of the very popular LESSONS IN OUR FAITH series. The video on Saint Nicholas is especially tailored for children and parents. NYNJOCA.org.

INTERIOR DESIGN: You will notice that the social area and nave have been redesigned a fair bit. In order to make room for coffee hour, the panels have been moved forward a few feet. Consequently, several pews were removed. As we grow, you are encouraged to move from the pews and into the open spaces created, in imitation of classical Orthodox tradition. Additionally, there is a folding chair that is a sample that we may use to replace the remainder of the pews. Have a look and provide any comments to Fr James after the Divine Liturgy.

ST. ANDREW'S CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS: His Grace, Bishop Michael, is appealing to individuals across our Diocese, who realize that they have been blessed by God and are in a position to share in those blessings, to provide a Christmas "gift of Camp for a week" for our young people to attend St. Andrew's Camp, in Jewell, NY, this coming summer. Your gift would bless a camper who otherwise could not attend St. Andrew's because of financial constraints. The cost of Camp is \$300 per week per individual – that includes room and board, meals, and all activities, including at least one special excursion each week. Checks may be made payable to St. Andrew's Camp Scholarship, and mailed to: Diocesan Chancery, 33 Hewitt Ave., Bronxville, NY 10708. Visit www.saintandrewscamp.org for more information on the Camp.

PRAYER SCROLL: LIVING: Archpriest Timothy Holowatch, Archpriest Herman Shick, Archpriest John Chupeck, Archpriest Thomas Edwards, Archpriest Michael Thier, Archpriest Stephen Mack, Dn Symeon, Abbess Silouana, Mother Raphaela, Mother Christophora, Mat Cecelia, Mat Katya, Mat Catherine, Mat Dorothy, Joshua, Brittany & Isaac, Gretchen, Toni, Peter, Marriane, Terrence, Helen, Judy, Gretchen, Mary & Susan, John & Carmine, Nathan, Leah, Helen, Lindsey, Christopher E, Susanne H, Olga S, Elizabeth, Mary, Joe A, Daniel, Andrew and family, Harold, Wilhemina, Children Anthony, Mia and Isabel, Gordon, Elizabeth, David, Madeline, Shirley, Larry, Christina, Caleb, Jim & Kim, Rachel, Constantine & Maria, Gaetan. **BIRTHDAYS:** None. **ANNIVERSARIES:** None. **NAMESDAYS:** None.

REPOSED: Priest John, Archpriest Alexander, Rdr Gregory, Daniel, Ada, Walter, Lillian, Joseph, Marie, Joseph, Laura, Martha, Stanley, Helen, Charles, Arthur, Taissia, Steluta, Theophan, Lynda. **NEWLY DEPARTED:** Florence (11-29), Lynda (11-23), James (11-20), James (11-15). **ANNIVERSARIES:** None.

FB Check-in



SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21: 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Nativity Pageant and Social Hour (No RC SS)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23: 8:30 Morning Prayers

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24: 9 AM Royal Hours

4 PM Holy Supper

6 PM Vigil for the Nativity of Christ

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25: 9 AM Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26: 8:30 Morning Prayers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27: 6 PM Great Vespers

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28: 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour (No RC SS)

January 5-6: Theophany Services. January 10: Lake Blessing

THINGS TO DO AS A FAMILY IN THE NATIVITY SEASON

- ❖ Place an Icon of the Nativity of Christ in a special place in your home. Use it with your children to talk about the Nativity Story and each individual or important item in the icon.
- ❖ Set up a Nativity scene with your children to keep in their room or the family room. Have a family member tell the Nativity story as the Scene is assembled.
- ❖ Use the *Troparion* and *Kontakion* as part of your family's mealtime and bedtime prayers on (Christmas Day, and for the eight days following the feast (the Afterfeast).
- ❖ Read the Nativity Gospel: Luke 2:1-20. Very young children may enjoy a children's version of the Nativity story from a Bible storybook. With younger children, it is best to read the story several times during the week. Consider using the Nativity scene figures to retell the story.
- ❖ Attend the Vesper-Liturgy on Christmas Eve or the Liturgy on Christmas Day. This will keep the focus of this holy day on Christ's birth and its importance in our life and salvation. Be proactive when making choices.
- ❖ Visit a shut-in parishioner or friend. Plan ahead so you can bring *Antidoron*, the Blessed Bread from the Christmas liturgy and a church bulletin, plus a homemade gift to share along with your Christmas greeting: **Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Lansing, New York



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014
28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST/VIRGIN MARTYR JULIANA

Troparion Tone 3 (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

Troparion Tone 2 (Fathers)

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 of the Forefeast Tone 4

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!

Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the
Virgin in the cave!

Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;

if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.//

Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

Kontakion Tone 1 (Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, 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 (Forefeast)

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 (Song of the Fathers)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name
forever! (Song of the three Holy Youths, v. 2)

v: For You are just in all that You have done to us. (v. 3)

Alleluia Verse Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps 43/44:1)

v: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that
hate us. (Ps 43/44:7)

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord (December 18-24) is known as the Sunday of the Holy Fathers. On this day the Church commemorates all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to St Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered today, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (December 17).

The Troparion to the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths ("Great are the accomplishments of faith...") is quite similar to the Troparion for St Theodore the Recruit (February 17, and the first Saturday of Great Lent). The Kontakion to St Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE, METROPOLITAN TIKHON FOR THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

To the honorable Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord,



His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon

I greet all of you with the joy of the most glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ! As Saint Leo the Great reminds us in his sermon on the Nativity, “in adoring the birth of our Savior, we find that we are celebrating the commencement of our own lives, for the birth of Christ is the source of life for the Christian people, and the birthday of the Head is the birthday of the Body.”

Indeed, we rejoice and celebrate on this great day. Yet we must never fail to recall those for whom the earthly sojourn seems to be anything but joyful—the lost and searching and seeking, the lonely and forgotten, the sick and imprisoned and persecuted, the hungry and thirsty, and those who, like the Christ Child, “have nowhere to lay their heads.” If the birth of Christ is the commencement and source of our lives, then it is not only our duty, but our blessed honor, to share the light of the newborn Christ with those who sit “in the

valley of the shadow of death,” thereby revealing the love God so richly and unconditionally pours out on all who would accept it.

Our Lord proclaimed good news to the poor, gave sight to the blind, and healed every manner of infirmity. How well we know the spiritual poverty and blindness and infirmity that fills our world today. And how crucial it is to be continuously reminded

that “with God, all things are possible,” (Mt 19:26) precisely because “God is with us” (Mt 1:23) and calls us to become “partakers in His divine nature.” (2 Peter 1:4) Even our most seemingly insignificant expressions of love and compassion for “the least of the brethren” (Mt 25:40) make the impossible, possible and the mundane as miraculous as the divine birth we celebrate today.

The angelic hosts called out to the simple shepherds: “Tarry not in the field, O ye that shepherd the nurslings of the flocks! Cry aloud and sing praises, that Christ the Lord hath been born in Bethlehem!” Let us not tarry in singing praises to our incarnate Lord, not only with our voices, but also with our unconditional acts of love and kindness and compassion. Such is the fruit of the good news proclaimed over two thousand years ago. And such is the very heart of our common ministry to incarnate Him in our hearts and our lives, and in the hearts and lives of those whom He continually prepares to encounter Him.

Please be assured of my prayers for all of you, that Our Lord will not only equip us in our common ministry as His Body, but bring our efforts to fruition. May the divine blessing that He so freely brings into the world remain with all of us now and throughout the new year to come!

With love in the New-Born Christ,

+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

