



Church Bulletin

Holy Trinity Cathedral



Sunday, December 23rd, 2018 - Sunday before Nativity

This Morning's Readings

St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Gospel according to Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

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Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

This Morning's Hymns

When the tidings of the resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has risen from the dead and granted to the world His great mercy.

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριάι, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up the formerly fallen image.

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ἠνοικταὶ πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ. Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδὰμ τεθνηξόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμὴν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Most blessed are You, O Christ our God, Who by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them, made the fishermen wise and through them, illumined the world and to You the Universe was ever drawn. O Lord, glory to you.

Εὐλογητός εἶ Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν ὁ
πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας
καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον καὶ
δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας
φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα Σοι.

Today the Virgin cometh unto the cave to give birth to the Word who was born before all ages; begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice, therefore, O universe if thou should hear and glorify with the angels and the shepherds. Glorify Him who by his own will shall become a newborn babe and who is our God before all ages.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν Προαιώνιον
Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν
ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη
ἀκουισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ
τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι,
παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Announcements

DECEMBER EPISTLE READERS

12/23 - Andrew DeLord, 12/30 - Matt Dye.

FEED THOSE IN NEED

UMOM New Day centers prevents and ends homelessness with housing solutions that meet the unique needs of each family and individual. Feed Those in Need, a ministry of Holy Trinity is actively seeking volunteers to come help serve lunch every third Tuesday of the month starting in January through May 2019. More details to come in the following weeks. Please contact Christine or Andy Stamatis at cstamatis@cox.net or by calling 480-991-7644.


VISIT ST. NECTARIOS BOOKSTORE

We will be open Sunday, December 23rd, for in-stock items only. Our normal store hours are every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy or by appointment only during the work week. Contact Patsy Harris at 480-239-5270 or patsy@stnectariosphx.org for an appointment.

DESERT DIAMONDS

Greeting to All our Desert Diamonds & Friends Ministry. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, December 27th, 2018 for a delicious Buffet luncheon and Fellowship at the Talking Stick Casino Resort in Scottsdale. Some may even wish to try their luck with the gaming. There is much going on there that we can enjoy. Please respond if you will be attending, and if in need of a ride, we can try to carpool. Contact Julie via email at juliekaroutas@gmail.com or by phone at 623-313-8720, you can also call Judith at 703-819-9957, and if you see Doree, please let her know you're coming. As always, feel free to invite a friend, they are always welcome! Wishing All a Blessed and Merry Christmas & a Happy & Healthy New Year 2019.

This Week at Holy Trinity Cathedral

Today Sunday 12/23 NATIVITY FAST SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY	8:00am - Matins 9:30am - Liturgy No Sunday School	11:45am - Youth Choir Rehearsal (Ed. Bldg.) 12:15pm - Dance Practice (CC)
Monday 12/24	8:00m - Royal Hours of Christmas 9:00am - Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil OFFICE CLOSED HTA Winter Break	9:00pm - Matins Service of Christmas 10:30pm - Divine Liturgy of Christmas Day
Tuesday 12/25 HOLY NATIVITY 	HTA Winter Break OFFICE CLOSED	
Thursday 12/27 STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR	HTA Winter Break 10:00am - Desert Diamonds Lunch at Talking Stick Resort & Casino	
Saturday 12/29		4:00pm - Choir Christmas Party (Speros Center Large Hall)
Sunday 12/30 SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY	8:00am - Matins 9:30am - Liturgy No Sunday School	

WELCOME!

Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church is reserved for those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Gifts by having arrived at a respectful time in the service, and having recently confessed and kept the appointed fasts. If you are not prepared to receive the Holy Gifts we invite you to instead receive the blessed bread from Fr. Apostolos at the conclusion of the liturgy.

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Ορεκτικό *An appetizer before the main course*

Schedule of Services for Christmas Eve

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, please bear in mind the following worship opportunities which are being offered here at Holy Trinity Cathedral. *(All services will be celebrated on Christmas Eve.)*

The Royal Hours of Christmas (8:00 AM)

This compilation service contains the Royal Hours services of the First through the Ninth Hour. These contemplative services are quiet, reflective, and contain prophetic readings from Holy Scripture from the Psalms, the Prophets, an Epistle and Gospel reading, all of which pertain to the coming of the long-awaited Messiah into the world.

The Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (9:30 AM)

As we experience during Holy Week and Pascha, the timing of the services of Christmas are advanced by 12 hours so that Great Vespers are celebrated in the morning hours. This service begins with the Great Vespers of Christmas up to the Entrance of the Gospel, after which the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil commences with the beautiful Eucharistic Canon of this great Father of the Church. This is the perfect service for families with young children who wish to receive Holy Communion for Christmas.

The Matins Service of Christmas (9:00 PM)

Our Christmas Vigil begins with the Matins Service at 9:00 PM as our chanters sing the beautiful Byzantine hymns in honor of the Incarnate Word of God born in Bethlehem. You will be uplifted and inspired by the festal hymns of Christmas sung so beautifully by our Cathedral young people!

The Divine Liturgy of Christmas Day (10:30 PM)

Finally, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in the evening as the world holds its breath in anticipation of the dawning of The Light into the world on Christmas morning! The readings and hymns of the service reflect the festal joy of this celebration with Holy Communion occurring near the midnight hour.

I pray that your family's Holyday celebrations will be filled with the Grace and Peace of God!

In Christ,

Fr. Apostolos

THE BEATITUDES

In Thy kingdom remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.

O blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

O blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.

O blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

O blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be satisfied.

O blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.

O blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

O blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

O blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

O blessed when men shall revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven.



POINSETTIAS IN MEMORY OF...

Georgia & Mary Alvantides

Barse Family

Berrier Family

Victor & Esther Boisvert

Tiffani Noelle Bichekas

Evangelia & Peter Carras

Vassiliki & Pete Chotras

Dan Choukalas

Danny Choukalas

Nick Choukalas

Chris & Marion Contes

Linda Eleni Contes

Barbara Cope

Paul Glitsos

Ruth Hotis

Stacy J. Hotis

Alice & Joseph Johann

George T. Jouflas

Bobby Konesky

Jim Konesky

George S. Kosta

Nick Mackos

John D. Maniatis

Peter D. Maniatis

Mary Ellen Maniatis

Nicholas & Panagiota Leventis Maydanis

Mary, Andrew, Vickie and Epaminondas Maydanis

Nick Meris

Evanthia Panagapoulos
Parge Family
Reverend & Presvytera Poulakidas
Athanasio & Eleni Poulos
Salve Family
Shelke Family
Georgia & John Savaklis
Constantine (Takie) Tavlarides
Fr. James & Presvytera Catherine Tavlarides
Alexandra & Theodore Theodoropoulos
Christo & Georgia Theodoropoulos
Panagioti & Agelicki Theodoropoulos
Steve & Chrese Tsoukalas

...MEMORY ETERNAL!

