



Sunday, December 22nd, 2019 - Sunday before Nativity

This Morning's Readings

St. Paul's Second Letter to 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.

(cont. on page 3)

This Morning's Hymns

When You descended from the realm of death, You as Life immortal rendered to hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant divinity and. And when You from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of Heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.

Ότε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ Ζωὴ ἢ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν Ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς Θεότητος, ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεώτας ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν δόξα σοι.

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

How great are the righteous deeds of faith! For in the furnace of fire as on the waters of restfulness, the Holy three children greatly rejoiced and the Prophet Daniel appeared as a shepherd of lions that were like sheep. By their supplications, O Christ our 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 ἰκεσίαις Χριστέ 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, all glory to You, O Lord.

Εὐλογητός εἶ Χριστέ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας φιλόανθρωπε, 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 ἀκουσθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

(cont. from front page)

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. 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.

Announcements

NARTHEX DUTY SCHEDULE - Group 1: John Siavelis, Coordinator

ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE - Group 2: St. John Chrysostom

EPISTLE READER - Matt Dye

THANK YOU

Philoptochos would like to thank our parish community for another SELL-OUT at our annual Christmas Bake Sale. We appreciate your support! And good news for those who still would like to purchase Tsoureki. Philoptochos will be offering a limited amount (approximately 50 loaves) for sale next Sunday, December 22, following Divine Liturgy in the Speros Center.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

Please join us for the Parish Council Elections next Sunday, Dec 29, following Liturgy. The polls will be open in the Large Hall from noon to 1:00pm.

iPads NEEDED

Holy Trinity is in need of two (2) iPads for Point-of-Sale usage in the office and Cathedral. If you have a gently-used iPad or would like to donate one, please contact Diana in the church office.

MEMORIALS UPDATE

Beginning in the New Year, we will aggregate memorials on the first Sunday of each month *for all memorials beyond the one year mark*. For those who have recently reposed and whose families wish to celebrate their memorial on the nearest Sunday, we will accommodate their requests as we are now, e.g., for 40-day, 6-months, and one year memorials. All those past the one year anniversary mark will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month *with the usual exceptions for Major Feasts, e.g., from Lazarus Sunday through Thomas Sunday, Pentecost, etc., and other Sundays as directed by Fr. Apostolos*.

Budget This Week at Holy Trinity Cathedral

Today Sunday 12/22 SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY NATIVITY FAST	8:00 am - Matins 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy 9:30 am - Rebecca Davis chrismation Sunday School Christmas Pageant	12:30 pm - Dance Practice 4:00 pm - Leach baptism
Monday 12/23 NATIVITY FAST	HTA on break through January 3 9:00 am - Royal Hours of Christmas	8:00 pm - Pickup Basketball (HTC Basketball Court)
Tuesday 12/24 EVE OF NATIVITY NATIVITY FAST	9:00 am - Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great Office closes at noon	7:00pm - Matins Service of Christmas 8:00pm - Divine Liturgy of Christmas Day
Wednesday 12/25 HOLY NATIVITY	Office Closed	
Friday 12/27 STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR	8:00 am - Matins 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy (Chapel)	11:00 am - Petros Economopoulos Funeral Service
Sunday 12/29 SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY	8:00 am - Matins 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy No Sunday School	12:30 pm - Dance practice

MEMORIAL TODAY:

John Zoukis - 6 months. Prosforo baked and Koliva prepared by Ann Zoukis, Sandy Vlahoulis and Family.

John Pangalos - 3 years. Offered by wife Margo Pangalos, as well as Helene, Kimberly & Blaise Pangalos.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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Diana Camacho - Office Manager adminassist@holytrinityphx.org



Ορεκτικό

An appetizer before the main course

By Faith

December 22nd, 2019

Today we read the famous Gospel passage at the beginning of Matthew with the long list of names. It's a sign that Christmas is here but for many this is where the importance ends as it seems like a pointless, endless list of names and you could be forgiven for tuning out somewhere around where Zerubbabel begets Abiud. However, in conjunction with the Epistle reading we can learn an important lesson. But, you say, the Epistle is just another long list of names too! Well, yes and no. We do hear more names in the Epistle but in reading the whole of Hebrews 11, our Gospel reading finds more meaning as well.

We find today's Epistle reading in Hebrews 11, beginning in verses 9 and 10 but skipping all the way to verse 32 after those two verses! This should alert us that the entirety of Hebrews 11 is important for us to fully understand the reading. Hebrews 11 begins with Paul telling us the importance of faith, "Now faith is the substance of things hope for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony." The rest of Chapter 11 is really a more fleshed-out version of the Gospel with a lesson for each figure from the Old Testament on how, *through faith*, they persevered as the holy ones in times of profound corruption and hopelessness before Christ came. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." (Heb. 11:13)

These predecessors and ancestors of the Lord saw that their life could be a witness and a forerunner to the Messiah, the Savior of the world, and so they saw this world as nothing, seeking only Him who was promised. Yet, we read at the end of the epistle today that they "did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us." Just after this, however, we get the true message of today's Epistle and Gospel, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Heb 12:1) The witness of the saints of the Old Testament is vital for our own salvific contest and we would do well to be encouraged by them by reading of their struggles and following their examples of a life lived *by faith*, especially as laid out in Hebrews 11 (which I recommend you go home and read!). So, around the time you hear of Azor begetting Zadok in the Gospel today, begin to think of their life before Christ came and their great faith in His future coming to save the world, and how *through faith* they found their salvation in the Incarnate God.

In Christ,

Alexander Eliades
Pastoral Assistant

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
Tom Annos
Sam Apostle
Barse Family
Tiffani Noelle Bichekas
Constantine & Vasiliki Bilitsis
Evangelia & Peter Carras
Vassiliki & Pete Chotras
Alice Collins
George Collins
Peter Collins
Christ & Marion Contes
Linda Contes
Barbara Cope
Susan Cornist
Dan Choukalas
Danny Choukalas
Nick Choukalas
Frances Daskalakis
Paul Glitsos
Fr. & Pres. George & Alexandra Habib
Thomas & Helena Habib
Wayne Harris
Stacy James Hotis
Ruth Hotis
George T. Jouflas
Charles Kakadeles
George Kantaros
Kyriacos & Mamie Kapnias

Tom & Fannie Katsenes
Very Rev. Archimandrite Ieronimos Koutroulis
Eleni Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. George Koutris
John D. Maniatis
Peter D. Maniatis
Mary Ellen Maniatis
Nicholas Meris
Katherine Katsenes Nicholas
Palande Family
Evanthia Pangopoulos
Konstantine Papadopoulos
Diane & Jim Pappas
James Papas
Parge Family
Bobby Pilafas
Nick & Mary Pilafas
Louis & Georgia Poulos
Salve Family
Georgia & John Savaitis
Shelke Family
George Spenzos
Katherine Spenzos
Kalliope Stavrou
Steve Stavrou
Father James & Presvytera Catherine Tavlarides
Taki Tavlarides
Theodore & Alexandra Theodoropoulos
Barnabas Taylor
Angelo Valonis
George Valonis
Danny Vamvakas
Kevin Francis Walsh

...MEMORY ETERNAL!

NOW ENROLLING FOR FALL 2020!



Let's learn and grow together!

As parents you want the best for your child – the best foods, the best care, to have the best pediatrician, the best baby sitters, and of course the best schools. At HTA our rich curriculum emphasizes a strong academic foundation that develops curiosity and an early love of learning through the use of songs, dance, play, and a variety of hands-on activities that we think is just the best! Don't miss the opportunity for your child to receive the best foundation at the only Orthodox early childhood learning center in Arizona!

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Let us come together as a Cathedral family and help those in need this Christmas by participating in *The Giving Tree!* You will find the tree located in the Narthex of the Cathedral. Simply bring in a gift card or cash and attach it to one of the clips on the tree. All of the gift cards and cash collected will be donated to UMOM so they can share the Christmas spirit with the homeless families they serve.

About UMOM

Founded in 1964, UMOM is located in Phoenix, Arizona and is an innovative provider of shelter, housing and services for people experiencing homelessness.



- Every night they provide safe shelter and supportive services for over 170 homeless families.
- They offer nearly 300 units of affordable housing across the Valley, each with special Program Centers for residents.
- They helped 269 parents find jobs through our employment services.
- They provide healthcare services, childcare, job training and services for veterans.

Holy Trinity Cathedral has been supporting UMOM for several years. We even have a group that goes to UMOM New Day Centers monthly to feed the homeless.

During this season of giving, let's give thanks for the blessings we have, and let's share from our abundance with those in need!

2020 STEWARDSHIP

Whatever you do, work at it with
all your heart
as working for the Lord, not for men

Colossians 3:23

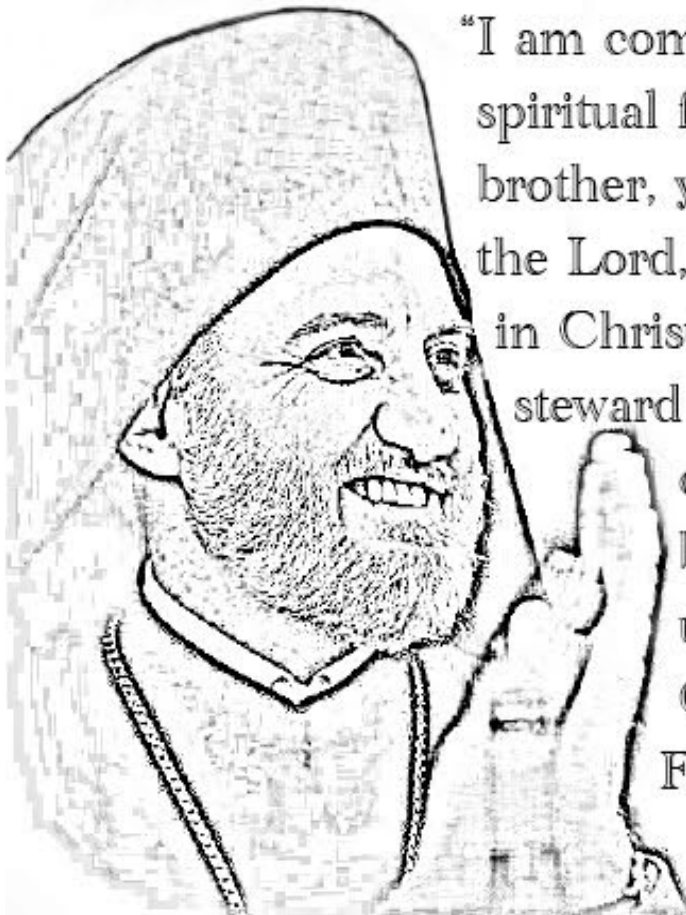


SAINT
PHOCAS
THE GARDENER

SAINT
EUPHROSYNOS
THE COOK



STEWARDSHIP
MINISTRY



“I am coming to be your spiritual friend and brother, your servant in the Lord, your co-worker in Christ, and fellow steward of all the gifts of God that have been bestowed upon the Greek Orthodox Faithful of America”

Archbishop Elpidophoros
of America

FELLOW STEWARD OF THE GIFTS OF GOD