

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Pan-Orthodox Mission Parish of the
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

1812 Watt St., Little Rock, AR 72227 +224-3330
Rev. Fr. Joseph Bittle, Priest



December 26, 2010

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

**Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed,
David the Prophet and King, and James the Brother of the Lord.**

Preparing to Worship the Thrice-Holy God

Upon Entering the Church

I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy;
and in thy fear I will worship toward thy holy temple.

(Ps. 5:7)

A Prayer before Holy Communion

I am not worthy, O Lord and Master, that Thou shouldst enter under the roof of my soul; but since Thou in Thy love for men dost will to dwell in me, I take courage and approach. Thou commandest, thus I will open wide the doors which Thou alone didst create, that Thou mayest enter with love as is Thy nature. Enter and enlighten my darkened thought. I believe that Thou wilt do this, for Thou didst not banish the Harlot who approached Thee with tears, nor didst Thou reject the Publican who repented, nor didst Thou drive away the Thief who acknowledged Thy Kingdom, nor didst Thou leave the repentant persecutor (Paul) to himself; but all who had been brought to Thee by repentance Thou didst set in the company of Thy friends,

O Thou Who alone art blessed always,
now and to endless ages. Amen.

(St. John Chrysostom)

A Word to Our Guests

A warm welcome to all those worshipping with us at Holy Trinity! If you are from a non-Orthodox background you may see many new and unfamiliar things. Rest assured that everything has a solid biblical foundation and a long history among Christian people. Please join us for coffee after the service. And feel free to ask Fr. Joseph or one of our parishioners any questions that you may have.

The Orthodox Church understands the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper, to be – among other things – the paramount expression of Christian unity. Since participation in the Eucharist expresses a formal unity with all the dogma and practice and discipline of the Orthodox Church, non-Orthodox guests do not receive Holy Communion.

**DIVINE LITURGY of
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**
Variable Hymns and Readings



FIRST ANTIPHON

(Verses for Sunday after Nativity)

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse: I will confess to thee with my whole heart; I will tell of all thy wonders.

Verse: In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

Verse: They are sought out in all the things that he hath willed.

Verse: Confession and majesty are his work, and his righteousness abideth unto ages of ages.

Glory to the . . . Now and Ever . . .

SECOND ANTIPHON

(Verses for Sunday after Nativity)

Refrain: O Son of God, **born of a Virgin**, save us who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

*Verse: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in his commandments
shall he greatly delight.*

*Verse: His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generations of the upright
shall be blessed.*

*Verse: Glory and riches shall be in his house, and his righteousness abideth
unto ages of ages.*

*Verse: There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful
and compassionate and righteous.*

Glory to the . . . Now and ever . . . Only begotten Son ...

THIRD ANTIPHON

(Verses for Sunday after Nativity)

Refrain (Troparion of Nativity): Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world. For they who did worship the stars did learn from them to worship thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that thou didst come from the East of the Highest. Glory to thee, O Lord.

*Verse: The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit thou at my right hand, until I make
thine enemies my footstool.*

Verse: A scepter of power shall the Lord send unto thee out of Zion.

Verse: With thee is dominion in the day of thy power, in the splendor of thy saints.

Entrance Hymn

*Before the morning star I begot thee from the womb. The Lord hath sworn and will not
repent: Thou art a priest forever after the Order of Melchizedek. (Ps. 109:4)*

O Son of God, **born of a Virgin**, save us who sing unto thee, Alleluia.

AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for Resurrection (Tone 6)

When Mary stood at thy grave looking for thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion for Sunday after Nativity (Tone 2)

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to have our souls.

Troparion for Nativity (Tone 4)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world. For they who did worship the stars did learn from them to worship thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that thou didst come from the East of the Highest. Glory to thee, O Lord.

Patronal Troparion for Holy Trinity (Tone 8)

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fisherman as most wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

Kontakion of the Nativity (Tone 3)

The Virgin brings forth today the omnipotent One, and the earth offers a cave to the unapproachable One. Angels give glory with shepherds and the Magi journey with the star when for our sakes was born as a newborn babe, he who is from eternity God.

Time of the Trisagion

As many as have been baptized into Christ ...

EPISTLE: Galatians 1:11-19 (*Sunday after Nativity*)

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my own people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

GOSPEL: St. Matthew 2:13-23 (*Sunday after Nativity*)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled,

because they were no more.” But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archela’us reigned of Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. and he went and dwelt in the city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

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New Titles Available on Book Table

Several new books are available on the Book Table in the Narthex. Hopefully you will find something for your growth and Orthodox Christian education. Please remember that the Book Table functions on the [honor system](#).

2011 Parish Calendars

Orthodox Calendars with our parish name and information are available on the Book Table. There are four icon themes to choose from. The calendars are free, but please initially limit yourselves to 1 per home and 1 per office.

A Thank You from the Bittles

A humble ‘Thank you’ from Fr. Joseph and Kh. Johanna for the kind Christmas gift from the parish. Please keep us all – Fr. Joseph, Kh. Johanna, Michael, Justin, Catherine, and Aidan – in your daily prayers throughout the coming year. It is our delight to serve you.

Theophany House Blessings

The Feast of Our Lord’s Theophany is fast approaching with the Blessing of the Waters. It is customary for the homes of the faithful to be blessed during the two or three weeks following the feast. Please begin contacting Fr. Joseph now to schedule your house blessings. You may call the church office during the week (224-3330) or contact Fr. Joseph by e-mail (trinityorthodox@sbcglobal.net). As an outreach to your friends and neighbors, consider inviting them for the House Blessing and then serving refreshments afterward.

Orthodox Wisdom

“Someone who bears a grudge while he prays is like a person who sows in the sea and expects to reap a harvest.”

~St. Isaac The Syrian

“He has come upon earth, He Who in the beginning created us from earth and breathed His Divine breath into us; He has come Who "giveth to all life, and breath, and all things"; He has come, He Who by a single word called all things visible and invisible from non-existence into existence, Who by a word called into being under His almighty providence and care; He has come, He whom the innumerable hosts of Angels continually serve with fear and joy. And in what humility has He come! He is born of a poor Virgin, in a cave, wrapped in poor swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. Riches, honors, glory of the world! Fall down, fall down in humility, tearful devotion, and deep gratitude before the Savior of men, and share your riches with the poor and needy. Do not pride yourselves on your visionary, fleeting distinctions, for true distinction can only be found in virtue. Glory of this world! Learn here, before the manger, your vanity. Thus, let us all humble ourselves; let us all fall down in the dust before the boundless humility and exhaustion of the Sovereign of all, of God, Who has come to heal our infirmities, to save us from pride, vanity, corruption, and every sinful impurity.”

~St. John of Kronstadt

THIS WEEK

Fast Free Week in Celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord

Monday, Dec. 27	Stephen, Archdeacon and First Martyr
Tuesday, Dec. 28	20,000 Martyrs burned in Nicomedia
Wednesday, Dec. 29	14,000 Holy Innocents slain by Herod in Bethlehem
6:00 pm	Vespers
6:45 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday, Dec. 30	Anysia the Virgin-martyr of Thessaloniki
Friday, Dec. 31	Leavetaking of the Nativity of Our Lord
Saturday, Jan. 1	Circumcision of Our Lord, St. Basil the Great
9:00 am	Divine Liturgy
6:00 pm	Great Vespers
6:45 pm	Confessions
Sunday, Jan. 2	Lord's Day, Synaxis of the Theotokos
8:50 am	Church School
9:00 am	Orthros
10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
	Coffee Hour
	Inquirers and Catechumens Class

Cover Icon of St. Joseph from the hand of Matthew D. Garrett and available from www.holy-icons.com