

Monday 25th of December 2023

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Epistle Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading: 2:1-12

Troparion – Tone 4

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shone to the world the Light of knowledge; / for by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore You, / the Sun of Righteousness,¹ / and to know You, the Dayspring² from on High. / O Lord, glory to You!

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protospesbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Matushka Svetlana, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Irene, Dorothy, Pauline and Irene. Amen!!!

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

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<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/weeklybulletins>

The WEEKLY BULLETIN **HOLY SPIRIT** **ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

December 25th, 2023

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST - Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian). Caesar Augustus decreed that a universal census be made throughout his Empire, which then also included Palestinian Israel. The Jews were accustomed to be counted in the city from where their family came. The Most Holy Virgin and the Righteous Joseph, since they were descended from the house and lineage of King David, had to go to Bethlehem to be counted and taxed. In Bethlehem they found no room at any of the city's inns. Thus, the God-Man, the Savior of the world, was born in a cave that was used as a stable. The humble shepherds were the first to offer worship to Him Who condescended to assume the form of a humble servant for the salvation of mankind. Besides the glad tidings to the Bethlehem shepherds, the Nativity of Christ was revealed to the Magi by a wondrous star. The present Feast, commemorating the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, was established by the Church. Its origin goes back to the time of the Apostles. The present order of services preserves the memory of the ancient joint celebration of the Feasts of the Nativity of Christ and Theophany. On the eve of both Feasts, there is a similar tradition that one should fast until the stars appear. The order of divine services on the eve of both feasts and the feasts themselves is the same. The Nativity of Christ has long been counted as one of the Twelve Great Feasts. It is one of the greatest, most joyful, and wondrous events in the history of the world. "The angel said to the shepherds, 'Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' Then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, glorifying God and saying: 'Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' Those who heard these things were astonished at what the shepherds told them concerning the Child. And the shepherds returned, glorifying, and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen" (Luke 2:10-20). Thus, the Nativity of Christ, a most profound and extraordinary event, was accompanied by the wondrous tidings proclaimed to the shepherds and to the Magi. This is a cause of universal rejoicing for all mankind, "for the Savior is Born!" Concurring with the witness of the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church, in their God-inspired writings, describe the Feast of the Nativity of Christ as most profound, and joyous, serving as the basis and foundation for all the other Feasts. **Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Sunday 24th of December

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Great Vespers – after Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Great Compline and Vigil for Nativity of our Lord at 6 pm

Monday 25th of December

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great at 10 am

Great Vespers at 6 pm

Tuesday 26th of December

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Saturday 30th of December

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 31st of December

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Great Vespers at 6 pm

Monday 1st of January

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

On behalf of myself and the Parish Council, we wish you the blessed Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We also extend to you our best wishes for a healthy and blessed New Year. As we celebrate the miracle of this special season, may your hearts be filled with love, joy and peace.

Fast Free Week

After celebrating the Most Holy Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our Holy Church prescribes the week of feast and as such we are not called to fast on Wednesday and Friday.

A Message from Father Michael

On behalf of myself and the Parish Council, thank you for your generosity and support during this past year. Again, we appeal to you and ask that you consider making a year-end contribution to our Church to offset some of the many major expenses incurred this past year. Gifts can be in any amount and made by cash, check or online by following this link: [Donate | Holy Spirit Orthodox Church](#).

Archpastoral Message for Nativity 2023

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon issues Nativity message for all the faithful. In order to view this message please follow the link: [Holy Synod - Encyclicals - Nativity of our Lord 2023 - Orthodox Church in America \(oca.org\)](#)

2024 Church Calendars

Church calendars have arrived and are in the narthex. You are welcome to take one for yourself and take another and give it to another family member or a friend. On behalf of the HSOC, thanks to Pinkel Funeral Home for again providing the calendars for our church.

Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate. Dan Taylor informed us that the current needs of the Sussex Help Center are the following: peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish cans, cereal boxes, and baby diapers (size newborn to 6-month-old).

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com