

This Week

Sun. Dec 23: 10:00 am Divine Liturgy followed by fellowship meal, Nativity flowers and decorating.

6:00 pm Royal Hours for the Nativity of Christ.
Parking available Sunday at St. Brigid's.

Mon. Dec 24: 10:00 am Christmas Eve Vespers Divine Liturgy.
6:00 pm Festal Vigil.
Parking available Monday at St. Brigid's.

Tue. Dec 25: THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, AND GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.
10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy.
Parking available Tuesday at St. Brigid's.

Wed. Dec 26: 6:00 pm Vespers.

Thu. Dec 27: Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen.
9:30 am Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church, San Anselmo.

Sat. Dec 29: 6:00 pm Vigil & Confessions.

Sun. Dec 30: 10:00 am Divine Liturgy followed by fellowship meal.

See the monthly calendar at holy-trinity.org for the full schedule.

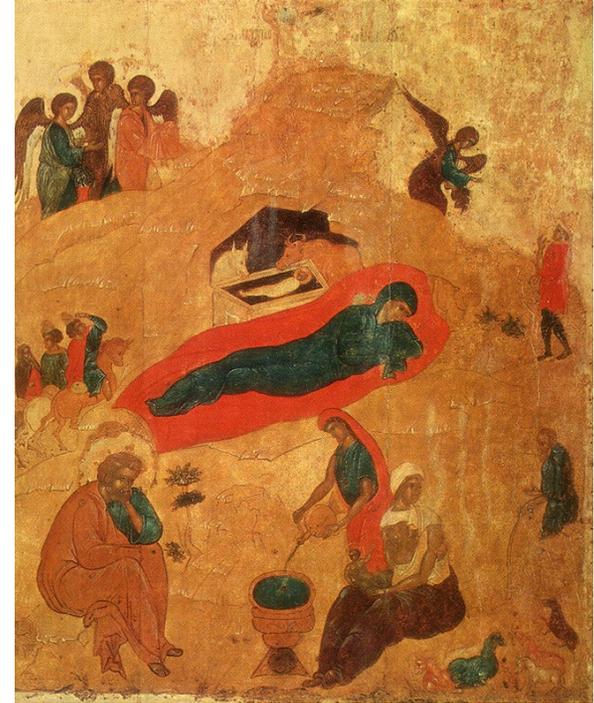
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Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of the West

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



Nativity of Our Lord 2018

*His Eminence, The Most Reverend Benjamin
Archbishop of San Francisco and the West,*

The Very Rev. Dr. Kirill Sokolov, Dean,

and the Clergy & Faithful of Holy Trinity Cathedral

Wish you every joy in the newly-born Savior!

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2018

To the Reverend Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of the West

Dearly beloved:

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:30-33)

These words of the Archangel Gabriel, while belonging to our knowledge and celebration of the Annunciation, speak eternal truths about our celebration of the Incarnation of the Son of Mary. The first truth is that the pre-eternal Son of God, existing from before time with the Father and the Spirit, takes His flesh from the Virgin Mary. He took **our** flesh.

(continued on inside back cover)



The Divine Infant, fresco. Moscow Sretensky Monastery.

The second eternal truth is that the One who took that flesh from the Virgin Mary is in very fact the Son of God, uniting in Himself the divine nature which He had from the beginning with the human nature in which He humbly clothes Himself. He assumes the fallen human nature completely, so that we can be clothed by Grace with the Divine. “Flesh” seems to be the painful source of so much sin from the beginning, so much corruption. Gluttony, drunkenness, promiscuity, even a disgust for the flesh that God clothed me in — seeking to alter it surgically or hormonally. St. Paul uses the term “flesh” to generally describe the fallenness of our world, and each of us individually. But it is, ironically, precisely “Flesh” that saves us, if we but clothe ourselves in that flesh transfigured by Him.

Our celebration of the Nativity of our Lord is more than a mere remembrance of something that happened more than 2,000 years ago, something for which all of human history had been waiting. It is more than the reduction of this Day to carols, Christmas trees, gross consumerism and even “family.” The celebration is rather the Mystery of God made man, making man a partaker of the Divine. The brokenness, sin and death that consumed the world almost from the beginning in the Fall is made whole again by the Son of God healing creation itself by filling it with Himself. In Christ, there is no death — only Life.

So we have the daily choice — with which flesh do we clothe ourselves? The fallen, corrupt flesh of the “world,” consuming creation and ourselves through a life lived without the vigilance and awareness that Christ has come and offered us a different life? Or the heartfelt and sincere acceptance of the Gift of a flesh made divine through our participation in Him and His Church? Put a little more simply, do we choose Life or Death?

We spend a lot of effort (and money) around “gifts” at this time of the year. May each and every one of us discern, accept and wrap ourselves in the only Gift that matters — the eternal Son of God made Man.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

In the new-born Child,

†**Benjamin**

Archbishop of San Francisco and the West

Go out to meet Him!

Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him. Christ on earth; be exalted. Sing unto the Lord all the whole earth; and that I may join both in one word, Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for Him Who is of heaven and then of earth. Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy; with trembling because of your sins, with joy because of your hope. Christ of a Virgin; O you Matrons live as Virgins, that you may be Mothers of Christ. Who does not worship Him That is from the beginning? Who does not glorify Him That is the Last?

Again the darkness is past; again Light is made; again Egypt is punished with darkness; again Israel is enlightened by a pillar. The people that sat in the darkness of ignorance, let it see the Great Light of full knowledge. Old things are passed away, behold all things have become new. The letter gives way, the Spirit comes to the front. The shadows flee away, the Truth comes in upon them. Melchisedec is concluded. He that was without Mother becomes without Father (without Mother of His former state, without Father of His second). The laws of nature are upset; the world above must be filled. Christ commands it, let us not set ourselves against Him. O clap your hands together all you people, because unto us a Child is born, and a Son given unto us, Whose Government is upon His shoulder (for with the Cross it is raised up), and His Name is called The Angel of the Great Counsel of the Father. Let John cry, Prepare the way of the Lord: I too will cry the power of this Day. He Who is not carnal is Incarnate; the Son of God becomes the Son of Man, Jesus Christ the Same yesterday, and today, and forever.

This is our present Festival; it is this which we are celebrating today, the Coming of God to Man, that we might go forth, or rather (for this is the more proper expression) that we might go back to God.

(Excerpts from St. Gregory of Nyssa, Oration 38)

Contact Fr. Kirill

Have a question or would like to chat?

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Today's Epistle

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Today's Gospel

Matthew 1:1-25

30th Sunday after Pentecost.

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ.

Sunday before the Nativity.

Tone 5.

Today's Epistle Reading

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Brethren: By faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to a city with firm foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith Abraham, when he was put to the test, offered up Isaac. And he who had received the promises was about to offer up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall thy descendants be named." He considered that God was able to raise up even from the dead, whence also he received him back, in a sense.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was about to die, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel and gave orders concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon and of Barak, of Samson and of Jephthah, of David and of Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became valiant in battle, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead raised back to life. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and scourging, yes, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn

asunder, they were tempted, they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated – of whom the world was not worthy – they wandered over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though they had been approved by the testimony of faith, did not receive what was promised, for God had something better in view for us, that without us they should not be made perfect.

Today's Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen

generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.



Many Years!

Anniversary of Baptism

Elliot Sylvan Dunham (Dec 29)

Nameday

Robert (Reader Stephen) Parent
(Dec 27)

Birthdays

Margot (Marina) Davis (Dec 23)
Robert (Reader Stephen) Parent
(Dec 26)
Ian Hughes (Dec 28)

Thank You

Please join us downstairs for our fellowship meal! We look forward to meeting our guests and visitors. Thanks to April and Taylor for preparing today's lunch.