

**December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ – Sunday of Genealogy**

*As we enter the Church let us pray.....  
I will come into Thy House In the multitude of Thy mercy;  
And in Thy fear I will worship toward Thy Holy Temple.*

**Resurrectional Apolytikion – Tone 3**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

**Apolytikion of the Forefeast of the Nativity – Tone 4**

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

**Apolytikion of the Sunday before the Nativity – Tone 2**

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

**Apolytikion of St. John Chrysostom - Tone 8**

Grace shining forth from your lips like a beacon has enlightened the universe. It has shown to the world the riches of poverty. It has revealed to us the heights of humility. Teaching us by your words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede before the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls!

**Kontakion of Preparation for Christ's Nativity – Tone 3**

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child, Who before the ages is God.

**SYNAXARION**

On December 20 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the New-martyr John the tailor of Thasos; and Daniel II, archbishop of Serbia.

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths. It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been wellpleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

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**St John Chrysostom Antiochian Orthodox Church is a parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America**

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of North America, Primate

His Grace Bishop Thomas, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic

The V. Rev. Peter Pier, Pastor

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Come Visit St. John Chrysostom's Web Sites: [www.orthodoxyork.org](http://www.orthodoxyork.org)

**The Inquirer's Class** – will meet next today, December 20<sup>th</sup>, following the Divine Liturgy. These classes are for those studying the Orthodox Christian Faith, and those wishing to deepen their understanding of the Faith. All are welcome.

**Little Compline & Book Discussion - Wednesdays @ 6pm** Join Dn. David Hyatt on Wednesday evenings to pray Little Compline. Following Little Compline, Dn. David will lead a discussion of **Way of the Ascetics** by Tito Colliander. Copies are available in the church bookstore or online. We will be reading and discussing one chapter each week. Little Compline will be livestreamed on the church Youtube channel. If you are interested in participating in the book discussion portion via Zoom, please contact Dn. David to make arrangements at [jhyatt.duluth@gmail.com](mailto:jhyatt.duluth@gmail.com).

**Weis and Giant Grocery Gift Cards** – are available for purchase. You pay the face amount of the card and the church receives 5% of the value of the card. Please see Marjorie Barrett after any Divine Liturgy to purchase a card. Purchases benefit the general fund of St. John Chrysostom Church.

Attendance Last Sunday: 131

Operating Fund Offering Received: \$6,839.00

Amount Needed Each Week To Meet Operating Fund Budget: \$5,770.00

### Church Calendar

**December 20** 8:50 am Orthros. 10:00 am Divine Liturgy. (live streamed). Inquirer's Class.

**December 21** 6:00 pm Nativity Paraklesis.

**December 22** 9:00 am Typika and Distribution of Holy Communion. 6:30 pm Lancaster Vespers.

**December 24** 9:00 am Royal Hours for the Nativity. 5:00 pm Vespersal Divine Liturgy.

**December 25** 8:00 am Festal Orthros. 9:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy for the Nativity.

**December 26** 6:00 pm Vespers.

**December 27** 8:50 am Orthros. 10:00 am Divine Liturgy (live streamed). Inquirer's Class.

### Remember In Your Prayers

*Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear" (Is. 65:24)*

#### **The Living – for their health and healing**

Metropolitan Joseph

Bishop Thomas

Olena Bassarab

Matthew Miller

Officer Jamie Miller

Joyce "Kassiane" Williams

Rebecca Beck

Kathryn Velen

Wayne "Stephen" Coleson

Michael Acierno

Ray Jauncito

Ian Snyder

Nicolas El Atieh

Marjorie "Marion" Barrett

Jerry "David" Desautels

Mary Jane Glagola

Norm "Nourhan" Kailian

Eva "Marie" Kailian

Nicholas Raptapolus

Walter and Mary Damm

Donnell Gregory Beck

Michael Bogosh

Christos Tsakiris

Grace Dorian

Marianne Rupp

Mary Bincarowsky

Gene "Paul" Strayer

Katherine Monsour

George and Darla Feeser

Cindi "Monica" Bennett

Mary Kopey

Martha Allen

Mary Lou Grove

Melinda "Magdalena" Stika

James Fetter

Andrew Himes

Patty May

#### **The Departed – Memory Eternal!**

Metropolitan PHILIP

Bishop Antoun

Priest Boniface Black

Leavitt "George" Keener

Julie Acierno  
Vincent Michael Terzano-Borovic  
Ryan Bender  
Steven Smith  
Edward Boner  
Cheryl "Alexandra" Bury  
Thomas Lehman  
Barry "John" Hart