

**December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Sunday After the Nativity of Christ – Proto-Martyr Stephen**

*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 4**

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

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

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Apolytikion of Sunday After the 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 save our souls.

**Apolytikion of St. Stephen – Tone 4**

The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head \* because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; \* for when thou hadst censured the Jews' madness, thou sawest \* Christ thy Savior standing at the right hand of the Father. \* O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would 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 27 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the second day of the After-feast of the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the Venerable-confessor Theodore the Branded; and the holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen, one of the Seven Deacons.

Stephen was the first and archdeacon of the seven deacons whom the holy apostles ordained and appointed to the service of assisting the poor in Jerusalem. Among the Proto-martyr's persecutors was his kinsman Saul, who became the Apostle Paul. At that time, the Most-holy Theotokos, standing at a distance with John the Theologian, witnessed the martyrdom of this first martyr for the truth of her Son and God. Gamaliel, a prince of the Jews and a secret Christian, clandestinely took Stephen's body and buried it on his own estate.

On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of the Lord and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King. David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph when Herod sought to slay the newborn King. 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 virtually today, December 27<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm. 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 Week: 124

Operating Fund Offering Received: \$2,528.00

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

### Church Calendar

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

**December 29** 9:00 am Typika and Distribution of Holy Communion.

**December 31** 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy for the Circumcision and St. Basil the Great.

**January 2** 6:00 pm Vespers.

**January 3** 8:50 am Orthros. 10:00 am Divine Liturgy (live streamed). Virtual 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

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

Metropolitan PHILIP

Bishop Antoun

Priest Boniface Black

Leavitt "George" Keener

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