

December 24th, 2023
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 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 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 for the Paramon (Eve) of the Nativity – Tone 4

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. Behold, the time was come that she should bear her Child, but no place was found within the inn for them; yet the cave proved a delightful palace for the pure Lady and Queen of all. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

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 of 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 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Martyr Eugenia of Rome and those with her.

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 well-pleasing 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 SABA, Metropolitan of New York and North America
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

The Inquirer's Class – will meet today, Sunday, December 24th 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.

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 173

Operating Fund Offering Received: \$5,437.00

Amount Needed Each Week To Meet Operating Fund Budget: \$7,443.00

Church Calendar

- Dec. 24** 8:50 am Orthros. 10:00 am Divine Liturgy. Inquirer's Class. **10:00 pm Festal Orthros. 11:00 pm Festal Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of our Lord.**
- Dec. 28** 6:30 pm Lancaster Fellowship.
- Dec. 29** 8:00 pm – 8:00 am Teen Soyo Lock In Sleep Over.
- Dec. 30** 6:00 pm Great Vespers
- Dec. 31** 8:50 am Orthros. 10:00 am Divine Liturgy. Inquirer's Class. **6:00 pm Vespers for the Circumcision of our Lord and St. Basil the Great.**

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 & wellbeing

Metropolitan SABA
Bishop Thomas
Denise Zakula
Olena Bassarab
Jayme Miller
Matthew Miller
Officer Jamie Miller
Joyce "Kassiane" Williams
Michael Acierno
Jerry "David" Desautels
Christopher Reese
Beverly Kushner
Michelle Prince
Richard "Stephen" Vangel
Joshua "John" Ranck
Ronna "Sophia" Castle

Nicholas Raptapolus
Walter and Mary Damm
Donnell Gregory and Mary "Rebecca" Beck
Michael Bogosh
Christos Tsakiris
Harry and Grace Dorion
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

The Departed – Memory Eternal!

Metropolitan PHILIP
Bishop Antoun
Priest Boniface Black
Helen Diamond
Angela Burke
Wayne "Stephen" Coleson
Georgette Habib Soliman
Joseph Danyo
Leavitt "George" Keener
Mary Jane Glagola
Norm "Nourhan" and Eva "Marie" Kailian

Patty May
Julie Acierno
Vincent Michael Terzano-Borovic
Steven Smith
Edward Boner
Cheryl "Alexandra" Bury
Thomas Lehman
Barry "John" Hart
Angela Pandelidis
Kathryn Velen
Karl and Nancy Usner