

## Quotes on the Nativity of Christ

*“Today is made known the mystery that existed before the foundation of the world. The Son of God becomes the Son of Man, so that he may share in what is worse in order to enable me to share in what is better. Adam once was deceived: He longed without success to become God. Now God becomes human to make Adam god. Let creation rejoice, Let nature exult: In awe the archangel approaches the Virgin, conveys her the greeting, our sorrow’s consoling. Glory to you, O God, Who in merciful compassion became a human being.”*

**~from Vespers of the 5th Saturday of Lent**

*“The purpose of the incarnation is to establish full communion between God and humanity so that in Christ humanity may find adoption and immortality, often called ‘deification’ by the Fathers: not by emptying human nature but by fulfilling it in the divine life, since only in God is human nature truly itself.”*

**~Olivier Clement, THE ROOTS OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM**

*“I behold a new and wondrous mystery. My ears resound to the Shepherd’s song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing. The archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt His glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He Who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised. Bethlehem this day resembles heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of Justice. And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed, He had the power, He descended, He redeemed; all things move in obedience to God. This day He Who is, is Born; and He Who is, becomes what He was not. For when He was God, He became man; yet not departing from the Godhead that is His. Nor yet by any loss of divinity became He man, nor through increase became He God from man; but being the Word He became flesh, His nature, become of impassibility, remaining unchanged.”*

**~St. John Chrysostom**

## Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



December 15, 2013

11th Sunday of Luke

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December 15, 2013

11th Sunday of Luke

Commemoration of: Eleftherios the Holy Martyr, Bishop of Illyria and his mother, Anthia; The Martyr Susannah the Deaconess

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Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*Ex ipsus katilthes* (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 8

*En pisti tous Propatorias*

*By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.*

*Ierean pothiri katakosmoumenos* (St. Eleftherios) Tone 5

*You were fully adorned with the sacred priestly robes. \* You were dripping with streams of your own martyric blood. \* In this state, you ran to Christ your Master, O blessed Saint \* Eleftherios, destroyer of Satan; you are wise. \* Therefore cease not interceding \* for us who loyally honor \* your blessed contest of martyrdom.*

*Tou Stavrou Sou* (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

*Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.*

Kontakion

*I Parthenos simeron* Tone 3

*Today the Virgin goes forth, making her way to a cave where from her, ineffably, God the eternal Word will be born. Let the world be filled with joy, hearing these tidings. Joining the angels and shepherds let us give glory to Him who is God from all ages, yet wills to be seen as a little child.*

Epistle Reading

2 Timothy 1:8-18

TIMOTHY, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and

love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

#### Activities & Announcements

- ✘ **Official Results for Parish Council Elections**– Parish Council Elections took place last Sunday, December 8th. Your newly elected officers are: **Tina Dimitrion, Julie Licina, Shota Mcheidze, and Maria Naval.** Congratulations to them and thank you to all those who ran for Parish Council!
- ✘ **Choir News**– Our senior and youth choirs are participating in caroling at several Senior Care Facilities in Honolulu in the month of December, before Christmas. The remaining schedule is as follows: **Sunday December 15, 1 p.m.**, at Hale Ho Aloha ICF/SNF, 2670 Pacific Heights Road; **Sunday, December 22, 1:45 p.m.** at Hale Nani Rehab. & Nursing, 1677 Pensacola Street.
- ✘ **Christmas Pageant**– Today our Sunday School will present us with a Christmas Pageant in honor of our Lord's Blessed Nativity!
- ✘ **Christmas Concert**– On Sunday, December 22, our adult and youth choirs will have a Christmas Concert immediately following services to bring in the "cheer" of our Lord's Nativity.

#### To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*