

Activities & Announcements

Today

SUN, 12/27– Sunday after the Nativity of Christ; Memorial for Pero and Branka, beloved parents of Dianna Graves; Adult Religious Education “Biblical Basis for Tradition” with Dr. Robert Arakaki; Baptism 2 p.m.

This Coming Week and Beyond

THU, 12/31– Great Vespers cancelled!

FRI, 1/1- Circumcision of our Lord / St. Basil the Great: Orthros 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

SUN 1/3– Sunday before Epiphany; Cross Ceremony and Epiphany Celebration at Hale Koa

TUE, 1/5– Vesper/Liturgy of St. Basil 9 am, followed by the Blessing of the Waters;

WED, 1/6– Epiphany: Orthros 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 9:30 am, followed by Blessing of the Waters

THU, 1/7– Synaxis of St. John the Baptist: Orthros 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Wisdom of the Holy Fathers

“A continuously happy life produces extremely unhappy consequences. In nature we see that there are not always pleasant springs and fruitful summers, and sometimes autumn is rainy and winter cold and snowy, and there is flooding and wind and storms, and moreover the crops fail and there are famine, troubles, sicknesses and many other misfortunes. All of this is beneficial so that man might learn through prudence, patience and humility. For the most part, in times of plenty he forgets himself, but in times of various sorrows he becomes more attentive to his salvation.”

+ **St. Ambrose of Optina**

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.*

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN
GREEK ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL OF THE PACIFIC

50TH
Anniversary
1965-2015

December 27, 2015

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ/St. Stephen the 1st Mar.

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December 27, 2015

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Commemoration of: Stephen, Archdeacon & First Martyr; Theodore the Confessor

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

I Genisis Su Hriste (Nativity) Tone 4
Your birth, O Christ our God, dawned the light of knowledge upon the earth. For by Your birth those who adored stars, were taught by a star, to worship You, the Sun of Justice and to know You, Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You.

Ton sinanarhon Logon (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 5

I Genisis Su Hriste (Nativity) Tone 4

Evangelizou Iosif (Hymn of St. Joseph) Tone 2
O Joseph, proclaim to David, the ancestor of God, the good news of the miracles you witnessed; you saw a virgin give birth; you worshipped with the Magi; you gave glory with the shepherds; you conferred with an angel. Beseech our God to save our souls.

Vasilion thiathima (St. Stephen) Tone 4
*O Stephen, a crown of royalty was laid on your head * for contests you courageously endured for Christ our God, * as first among Martyr saints. * You stood in accusation of the raging Judeans; * and you saw your Savior at the right hand of the Father. * We pray that you will ever entreat Him to save our souls.*

Tou Stavru Su (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 forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion
I Parthenos simeron Tone 3
Today the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds, glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.

Epistle Reading Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5; 47-60
IN THOSE DAYS, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes,

and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. And the high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child.

"But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?'

"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Gospel Reading Matthew 2:13-23

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."