

Quotes from the Holy Fathers on the Nativity

“For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit; and so He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life.”

~St. John Chrysostom, The Nativity Sermon

“The Nativity of Christ.—He has come upon earth, He Who in the beginning created us from earth and breathed His Divine breath into us; He has come Who “gives to all life, and breath, and all things” (Acts xvii. 25.); He has come, He Who by a single word called all things visible and invisible from non-existence into existence, Who by a word called into being birds, fishes, quadrupeds, insects, and all creatures, existing under His almighty providence and care; He has come, He Whom the innumerable hosts of Angels continually and joy. And in what humility has He come! He is born of a poor Virgin, in a cave, wrapped in poor swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. Riches, honors, glory of this world! fall down, fall down in humility, tearful devotion, and deep gratitude before the Savior of men, and share your riches with the poor and needy. Do not pride yourselves on your visionary, fleeting distinctions, for true distinction can only be found in virtue. Glory of this world! learn here, before the manger, your vanity. Thus, let us all humble ourselves; let us all fall down in the dust before the boundless humility and exhaustion of the Sovereign of all, of God, Who has come to heal our infirmities, to save us from pride, vanity, corruption, and every sinful impurity.”

~St. John of Kronstadt

“Come, let us wonder at the virgin most pure, wondrous in herself, unique in creation, she gave birth, yet knew no man; her pure soul with wonder was filled, daily her mind gave praise in joy at the twofold wonder: her virginity preserved, her child most dear. Blessed is He who shone forth from her!”

~St. Ephraim the Syrian



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



December 25, 2016

Nativity of Christ

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December 25, 2016

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

Commemoration of: The Adoration of the Magi; Melchior, Gaspar & Balthasar;
The Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem

APOLYTIKIA - ENTRANCE HYMNS

I genisis su (Nativity Hymn) Tone 4

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

KONTAKION

I Parthenos simeron Tone 3

*On this day the Virgin gives * birth to the Super-essential. * To the Unapproachable, * earth is providing the grotto. * Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. * Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. * He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.*

Megalynarion

Epi si heri

In you, O Lady full of grace, rejoices all creation, the orders of Angels and the human race together. O hallowed temple and rational Garden of Paradise, the pride of virgins, from you did God become incarnate, and our God who existed before the ages became a child. For He made your womb a throne for himself, and your body He made wider than the heavens. In you, O Lady full of grace, rejoices all creation. Glory to you.

Communion Hymn

Litrosin

The Lord sent redemption to His people. Alleluia.

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 4:4-7

BRETHREN, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir of God through Christ.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told

him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

SUN, 12/25– Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

This Week

TUE, 12/27– St. Stephen, Archdeacon & First Martyr: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. (pending availability of chanter)

WED, 12/28– Funeral Services for Ted (Anargyros) Anastasopoulos 11 a.m.

SAT, 12/31– Great Vespers 5 p.m. (pending availability of chanters)

SUN, 1/1– Circumcision of our Lord/St. Basil the Great; Vasilopita Celebration

- ✘ **Friendly Reminder-** 2017 Stewardship Pledge Forms are now available in the Narthex and Social Hall. Thank you everyone for your commitment & support!
- ✘ **Funeral Services for Ted Anastasopoulos**– Wednesday, December 28th, 11 a.m.; Private Visitation (Family) 9:30 to 10 a.m.; General Visitation 10 to 11 a.m.; Burial at Oahu Cemetery 1 p.m.
- ✘ **Vasilopita Celebration**– Sunday, January 1, 2017.
- ✘ **Dance Fundraiser Workshop**– Tuesday, January 3rd, 7-9 p.m. with Bessie Grosso from Chicago– free for Dance Groups/\$10 per hour for all others
- ✘ **Parish Council Oath of Office and Election of Officers**– Sunday, January 8, 2017 (Ratification from the Metropolis received on 12/20/16)
- ✘ **Epiphany Celebration & Cross Throwing** - Sunday, January 8, 2017: Brunch at Church followed by excursion to Magic Island for Cross Throwing
- ✘ **FDG Fundraiser Glendi for Dance Group**– Saturday, January 28, 2017, 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Dinner and Entertainment in Church Hall. For tickets, contact Dianna Graves or any dancer.



Merry Christmas to All!

