

St Michael's Orthodox Church

Small Update – See last week's Christmas Bulletin for Prayers and Thank-Yous.

December 29, 2024 – Sunday After the Nativity

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

Schedule of Services

Tuesday, Dec 31, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Litya for the Feast of the Circumcision / St Basil.

Wednesday, Jan 1, 9:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Circumcision / St Basil, w/ prayers for the New Year

Saturday, Jan 4, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Jan 5, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Monday, January 6 is the Feast of the Theophany (Epiphany) of Our Lord.

Sunday, Jan 5, 4:00 p.m. – Small Festal Vigil

Monday, Jan 6, 9:00 a.m. – Festal Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of Water

Tuesday, Jan 7, 4:00 p.m. – Monthly Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, Jan 11, 4:00 p.m. – Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Jan 12, 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

Coffee Hour is offered by:

Dec. 29: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

Jan. 5: Ruthie Lasichak & Roxanne Neutts

Jan. 12: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff

Jan 19: Susan Schlasta & Deborah Bernosky

Jan 26: Millie Telep & Mat. Alexandra

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren: I make known to you that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

When the Wise Men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*"¹

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

*"A voice was heard in Ramah,
lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more."*²

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "*He shall be called a Nazarene.*"

¹ Hosea 11:1 ² Jeremiah 31:15

Hymns of the Day

Resurrection (Tone 2)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Nativity (Tone 4)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shone to the world the light of wisdom! / For by it, those who worshipped the stars, / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of Righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

Righteous Ones (Tone 2)

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, / to David, the ancestor of God; / thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; / and thou didst give glory with the shepherds; / thou didst worship with the Magi, / and didst receive the news from the Angel. // Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Righteous Ones (Tone 3)

Today godly David is filled with joy; / Joseph and James offer praise. / The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. / They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, // and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

Nativity (Tone 3, special melody)

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! / Angels with shepherds glorify Him! / The Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Instead of “It is truly meet”

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, // more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery: / heaven—the cave; / the cherubic throne—the Virgin; / the manger—the place where Christ lay: /the uncontainable God // Whom we magnify in song.

The Liturgy: Common Worship. The Liturgy is much more than spiritual medicine for individual church members. The very name *liturgy* – borrowed from the Greek – means *public service*. In the Liturgy the Church fulfills itself; only then is it the ecclesia **gathered in one place for common action and service**. The reason for this coming together and its purpose may be deduced from the following words of the Apostle:

And like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ ... But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Pet 2:5; 9-10)

These words of the Apostle indicate that terms formerly applied to Israel now belong to **the new Israel, to the Christians, the ecclesia, the Church**. Whereas previously only Aaron's family had been chosen to serve as priests, now the new Israel as a whole, **all the members of the Church**, are a chosen, **holy family**, a royal priesthood and God's own people. As a holy priesthood they are **all** called to “offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

This bringing of spiritual offerings is just what takes place in the Holy Liturgy, which the whole people of God performs as a common service. All **the prayers** of the Holy Liturgy, with a very few exceptions, **are in the plural**, and thus intended **to be read or sung in the name of the whole people of God**.

– Abp Paul of Finland, *The Faith We Hold* (SVS Press, 1980), 47-48.

Attendance

Sunday 11/17 30
Sunday 11/24 26
Sunday 12/1 31
Sunday 12/8 29
Sunday 12/15 27
Sunday 12/22 26
Christmas Vigil: 8
(4 parishioners, 4 visitors)
Christmas Liturgy: 48
(est. 20 parishioners, 18 visitors)

Additional Christmas Offerings

***In memory of:* Kuzma & Irene Leschak; Kuzma & Anna Leschak; and Michael & Anna Keklock; by Melanie Ringa.**

***Other Offerings:* John & Michael Krisa. Victor Gazella. Kathryn Kunis.**

***THANK YOU* to all who continue to support the work of St. Michael's!**

Offering Envelopes are available downstairs. **Thank you** to Eva Demchak & Gloria Shaw who sorted them for distribution, and assisted in updating our master list of names and addresses.

Please note, the mailing address for St Michael's is **305 Walnut Street**. Please do not use “308” as a mailing address; that is a different residence.

**“The Church is not a cruise ship. You are not passengers.
The Church is a battleship. You are all crew.”**