



**Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church**  
*A parish of the Orthodox Church in America*  
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Rector: V. Rev. W. Sophrony Royer

Choir Director: Mr. Yuriy Galkin

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## **DECEMBER 22, 2024 / SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY (TONE 1)**

### RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE ONE

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

### TROPARION OF HOLY ANCESTORS IN TONE TWO

Great are the accomplishments of faith, / for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; / and the Prophet Daniel appeared / a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

### TROPARION OF FOREFEAST IN TONE FOUR

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! / Adorn thyself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! / Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; / if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. // Christ is born to raise up again what fell in former times, His image.

- *Choir sings troparion of Apostles Peter & Paul*
- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

### KONTAKION OF HOLY ANCESTORS IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! / The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. / The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, // and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

- *Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### KONTAKION OF FOREFEAST IN TONE THREE

Today the Virgin comes to the cave / to give birth to the Eternal Word. / Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! / Glorify with the angels and the shepherds // the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

### PROKEIMENON IN TONE FOUR

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!  
*v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!*

## THE EPISTLE

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40).**

Brethren, by faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God as able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

## ALLELUIA IN TONE FOUR

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*v. We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.*

*v. For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us.*

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (1:1-25).**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken

by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’” Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

### COMMUNION HYMNS

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### SAINTS COMMEMORATED TODAY

**Commemorated on December 22nd:** *Holy Ancestors of Christ*; Great-martyr Anastasia & Companions; St. Hunger, Bishop of Utrecht.

### TODAY’S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

**Altar Vigils** offered by Helen Wanko in memory of June Bianchini (anniversary of birth). **Sanctuary Lamp** offered by offered by Russell and Andrea Wyskanycz in memory of Juliana Bacsik.

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

A donation in the amount of \$60 was received in memory of the Ciacatti family from wife and mother Theresa at Christmas, and in memory of Stephan and Tatiana Korbelak from the Korbelak family at Christmas.

### UPCOMING SERVICES

- 4:30 PM (Tuesday) – Vigil w. Lity [*Nativity of Christ*]
- 9:30 AM (Wednesday) – Divine Liturgy [*Nativity of Christ*]
- 9:30 AM (Thursday) – Divine Liturgy [*Synaxis of the Virgin Mary*]
- 9:00 AM (Friday) – Greeting of Archbishop, Third & Sixth Hours, and Divine Liturgy [*Protomartyr Stephen*]
- 5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers
- 9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

### PARISH & LOCAL NEWS

- (1) Looking for a Christmas gift for your cleaning person, hair dresser, handyman, tutor, etc.? The ShopRite, Stop & Shop, and Acme gift cards, available for purchase in the church, might be just what you’re looking for.
- (2) The Carpathian Club invites all our parishioners and visitors to its annual Christmas Social, which shall be held after Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day in the club hall behind the church building.
- (3) Archbishop Michael’s annual visitation to our church will be on Friday, December 27, 2024, the 3rd Day of Christmas and feast of Protomartyr Stephen. There will be a lunch in the church hall after Divine Liturgy—all in attendance are welcome! If you plan to attend the brunch, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule. We expect to greet the archbishop at the doors of the church at 9:00 AM.
- (4) Our parish is collecting cans of soup and other non-perishable foods for donation to a local food pantry. A bin for placing donated food items will be in the church hall from January 1, 2025 to February 9, 2025. Please make sure that items donated are not past the expiration date, and thank you for co-operating in this project!

