



Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

A parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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DECEMBER 24, 2023 / SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY (TONE 4)

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE FOUR

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

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

Mary was of David's seed, / so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem. / She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man. / The time for the birth was at hand. / Since there was no room at the inn, / the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen. // Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

- *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 SIX

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 Fathers will rejoice, beholding Him, // and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

- *Both 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 was 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 HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the upright. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

TODAY’S SAINTS

Saints commemorated on December 24th: **Holy Ancestors of Christ**. Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome; St. Antiochus of Palestine; Hieromartyr Gregory of Spoleto; St. Delphinus, Bishop of Bordeaux; St. Trasilla (aunt of St. Gregory the Dialogist, Pope of Rome); Ss. Adela, Abbess of Pfalzel, & Irmina, Abbess of Oeren (daughters of St. Dagobert II, King of the Franks); St. Nicholas the Monk, of Bulgaria.

TODAY’S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Altar Vigils offered by John and Helen Wanko in memory of June Bianchini (anniversary of birth). **Sanctuary Lamp** and **St. John’s Cross** offered by the Zuber Family in memory of Tatiana and Stephen Korbela.

UPCOMING SERVICES

4:30 PM (Today) – Vigil w. Lity [*Christmas Eve*]
9:30 AM (Monday) – Divine Liturgy [*Christmas: Nativity of Jesus Christ*]
9:30 AM (Tuesday) – Divine Liturgy [*Synaxis of the Virgin Mary*]
9:30 AM (Wednesday) – Divine Liturgy [*Protomartyr Stephen*]
5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers
9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

PARISH & LOCAL EVENTS

- (1) The Carpathian Club invites all our parishioners and visitors to a Christmas Social in their club hall (directly behind the church) after tomorrow’s Divine Liturgy.
- (2) Archbishop Michael’s annual visitation to our church will be on Wednesday, December 27, 2023, the 3rd Day of Christmas and feast of Protomartyr Stephen. There will be a brunch in the church hall after Divine Liturgy— all in attendance are welcome! If you plan to attend, please sign the sign-up sheet in the church vestibule.
- (3) 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, 2024 to February 11, 2024. Please make sure that items donated are not past the expiration date, and thank you for co-operating in this project!
- (4) We are having a “pot luck” Christmas Social in the church hall on “Old Calendar” Christmas, Sunday, January 7, 2024 after Divine Liturgy. In order to properly plan for this event, there will be a sign-up sheet in the church vestibule for indicating what you plan to bring. Cash donations for buying items such as beverages, condiments, etc. will also be welcome.

