

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

“... the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch!” Acts 11:26

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DECEMBER 27, 2009

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST, COMMEMORATION OF JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE PROPHET AND KING, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD

Proto-martyr Stephen the Archdeacon; Venerable-confessor Theodore the Branded

HYMNS AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord, learned from the angel the glad tidings of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and proudly told the Apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!

Troparion for Sunday after the Nativity of Christ – Tone 2

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to have our souls.

Troparion for St. Stephen – Tone 4

O First of strivers among the Martyrs, thy head was crowned with a kingly crown, through the struggles that thou didst endure for the sake of Christ God; for thou didst reproach the folly of the Jews, and therefore, didst see thy Savior on the right hand of the Father. Wherefore, to him continuously plead for our souls.

Titular Feast of the Church (Kontakion for Pascha) – Tone 8

You descended into the tomb O immortal; You destroyed the power of death. In victory you arose O Christ God, proclaiming ‘Rejoice’ to the myrrh-bearing women. Granting peace to Your apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

Kontakion for the Nativity of Christ – Tone 3

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ The Myrrhbearers of are having a potluck dinner on at HROC Saturday, January 9th at 4:00pm to raise funds for a charity not yet determined. Please plan on attending and let us know if have a particular charity you’d like us to consider.
- ❖ We are planning an **OCMC trip to the Yukon River area of Alaska** August 17th - 28th. We will be teaching the basic tenets of the Faith to the Athapaskan people. Please **read the posting downstairs** for more information and see Denise Lynch if you are interested. Your application should be sent in soon. We will be having fundraisers to offset the costs involved.
- ❖ The **2010 Church Cleaning Schedule** is posted downstairs. Please volunteer to serve the church in this way if you can. Thank you.

CALENDAR

(☒ Denotes Fast Day)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Dec 27</i>	<i>Dec 28</i>	<i>Dec 29</i>	<i>Dec 30</i>	<i>Dec 31</i>	<i>Jan 1</i>	<i>Jan 2</i>
Orthros - 8:45am Liturgy - 9:30am	Matthew Drennan		No Vespers			Vespers - 6:00pm
<i>Jan 3</i>	<i>Jan 4</i>	<i>Jan 5</i>	<i>Jan 6</i>	<i>Jan 7</i>	<i>Jan 8</i>	<i>Jan 9</i>
Orthros - 8:45am Liturgy - 9:30am		Divine Liturgy for Theophany - 7:00pm	Vespers - 7:00pm			Vespers - 6:00pm

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO CALENDAR OR PRAYER LIST MAY BE SENT TO 'MRB@BRIGHTSITES.COM' OR CALL 840-0120

PRAYER REMINDER

Fr. Paisius (The Academy)
 Jim Vail (St. Seraphim Brotherhood)
 Chaplain Terry Harman
 Chaplain David Rogers
 St. Moses Community
 Gertrude Parrish
 Resa Ellison
 Ellison & LaRocco Families

George
 Frank
 Allison
 Ann
 Sharon
 Cathy
 Shane
 Anthony Gonzalez

Thomas
 Kay
 Alex Mellinger
 Chris Tucker
 Joe O'Dea
 Jeff
 Trevor Butler

Orthodox Departed

Patriarch Paul
 The Priest Daniel
 Archbishop Job

THE EPISTLE READING

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60

Prokeimenon: *God is wonderful among his saints.*

Bless God in the Congregations

The reading is from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

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.

THE 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."

WORDS OF WISDOM

“If a person earnestly seeks salvation with his whole heart, God will lead him to a true instructor. Do not worry, each will find the one who is just right for him.”

St. Leo of Optina