



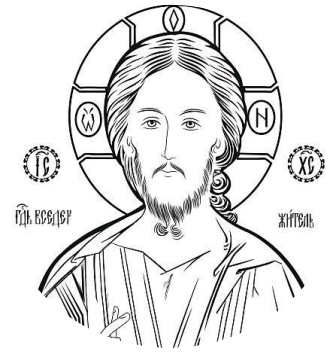
The Forerunner

Weekly Parish Bulletin

Sunday, December 19, 2021

SUNDAY BEFORE THE HOLY NATIVITY

Sunday of the Genealogy of Christ



RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION

(Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; While the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body; You rose on the third day, O Saviour, creating life to the world. The powers of Heaven cried to You, O giver of life; Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom! Glory to your dispensation, O You who love mankind!

APOLYTIKION OF THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE HOLY NATIVITY

(Tone 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY NATIVITY OF CHRIST

(Tone 4)

Your 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 You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know you the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to You.



KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF THE HOLY NATIVITY OF CHRIST

(Tone 3)

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, * the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, * the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, * into the House of the Lord * on this day is brought forward * and bringeth with herself the grace * of the Most Divine Spirit; * her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, * for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

PROKEIMENON

“Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For You are just in all that You had done to us”

(Dt. 3:26-27)

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE HEBREWS

(Heb. 11:9-10, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**THE READING FROM THE HOLY
GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
ST. MATTHEW**

(Mt. 1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the

father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin

shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

COMMUNION HYMN

O Pure Virgin

O pure and virgin Lady,
O spotless Theotokos:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O Virgin Queen and Mother,
O dewy Fleece most sacred:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O height transcending heaven above,
O beam of light most radiant:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O joy of chaste and virgin maids,
surpassing all the angels:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O brilliant light of heaven above,
most clear and most radiant:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

Commanding Chief of heavenly hosts,
O holiest of holies:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O ever virgin Mary,
O Mistress of creation:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O Bride all pure and spotless,
O Lady all holy:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O holy Mary, Bride and Queen,
O cause of our rejoicing:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O Maiden Queen honorable,
O Mother most holy:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

More precious than the Cherubim,
and more glorious than the Seraphim:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

Surpassing Principalities,
Dominions, Thrones, and Powers:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

Rejoice, song of the Cherubim;
Rejoice, hymn of the Angels:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

Rejoice, ode of the Seraphim,
and joy of the Archangels:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

Rejoice, O peace, Rejoice, O joy,
and haven of salvation:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O bridal chamber of the Word,
unfading, fragrant blossom:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

Rejoice, delight of paradise,
Rejoice, life everlasting:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

Rejoice, O holy Tree of Life,
and Fount of immortality:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

I supplicate thee, Lady,
I humbly call upon thee!

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O Queen of all, I beg thee,
to grant me thy favour:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O spotless and most honoured Maid,
O Lady all holy:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

I call upon thee fervently,

thou temple most holy:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

O thou my help, deliver me
from harm and all adversity:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

And by thy prayers show me to be
an heir of immortality:

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to announce something on The Forerunner,
please e-mail Elias Neto at neto.elias@aol.com by Thursday

- Tomorrow, December 20, as we enter the five-day Forefestal period of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, we observe the traditional fasting discipline: no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil. Katalysis (allowance) for wine and oil is made only on Saturday and Sunday.

- Please put your name on the **Sunday** and **Christmas** services you plan to attend. This week we will have Matins at 7:am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Vespers 7 pm on Wednesday and 6 pm on Saturday. Vesperal Liturgy on Friday at 6 pm. Matins and Divine Liturgy at 9 and 10 am respectively on Saturday and Sunday.
- We ask everyone who is able to wear a mask to do so while inside the Church and to use the on-line signup sheet to sign up for Sunday and Feast Day services. We will only be allowed 50% capacity (45 people). **We will not be asking for proof of vaccination.**

For pastoral care, please contact:

The Very Rev. Fr. (Abouna) Michael Gillis

Ph: (604) 512-1013

E-mail: frmichaelg@gmail.com

This Bulletin is a publication of:

HOLY NATIVITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

4828 216A Street, Langley, BC V3A 2N5

Thank you for your presence today!

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING

<p>Readings for the Week: Mon. Heb. 10:32-38. Mk. 9:33-41; Tue. 1Tim. 5:11-21. Mk. 10:2-12; Wed. 1Tim. 5:22-25; 6:1-11. Mk. 10:11-16; Thu. 1Tim. 6:17-21. Mk. 10:17-27; Fri. Heb. 1:1-12. Luk. 2:1-20; Sat. Gal. 4:4-7. Mt. 2:1-12.</p>
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