

VARIABLES – DECEMBER 22, 2019

# SS. PETER & PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JOSEPH, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

REVEREND FATHER NATHAN THOMPSON, PASTOR

REVEREND FATHER GEORGE WASHBURN, REVEREND FATHER THOMAS LINDSAY

*“My deepest desire is that we can support one another in our ministries, and see our cooperation become a model for the clergy and laity of our respective communities.”*

*His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH*

**Welcome to all our visitors worshipping with us this morning!** Please sign our Guest Register as you enter the church and be our guest in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and refreshments this morning after the service is over. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to Ss. Peter and Paul.

## Forefeast of & Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

GREAT-MARTYR ANASTASIA THE DELIVERER FROM POTIONS & HER TEACHER THE MARTYR CHRYSOGONOS

### Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom—Hymns & Scriptures

Variable Hymns – see music in packet

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tn. 2, Bulgarian

When Thou descended to death, O Life Immortal, Thou slew Hades with the splendor of Thy Divinity, 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.

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tn. 2, Byzantine

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly pow'r, and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the pow'rs of heaven did cry aloud unto thee: O Christ, Thou Giver of life, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ, Tn. 4, Byzantine

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

Troparion for the Sunday Before Nativity, Tn. 2, Bulgarian

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the flames, as though in refreshing water, and the prophet Daniel stood in the midst of the lions like a shepherd among his sheep. Through their intercessions, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Troparion of Ss. Peter & Paul, Tn. 4, Russian

O first enthroned of the Apostles, teachers of the universe, entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Kontakion Preparatory to Nativity, Tn. 3, Byzantine

The virgin comes today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth at the message, with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him, Who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He who is from eternity God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (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. Mathew (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 Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah 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.

***Receiving Holy Communion:*** Only Orthodox Christians prepared through prayer, fasting, and a recent sacramental confession should approach the chalice for the Eucharist. The Orthodox Church does not practice “open communion” and has no intercommunion with non-Orthodox churches.

***After taking Communion:*** Please return to your place and continue standing until the announcements.

## ***Today's Commemorations and Prayer Requests***

*Take this list of prayer requests home with you and keep these people in your prayers this week. Some names are not Orthodox Christians and thus are not remembered in the Great Entrance but are remembered in the other litanies during the services throughout the week.*

***For the living:*** Newly illumined Veronica, Benjamin, Patrick, Helen, & Felicity; Prs. George, Tom & Kh. Maria; Prs. Patrick & Simeon; Dn. Marc, Dn. Mark & Sh. Jeanne; Sh. Camille-Anna; Stuart, Matthew & Amy, John, Fiona, Joshua, Amy, Hugh, Roger, Nathan, Jeremiah, Simon, Alexander, Katie, Kurt, Martha, Caitlin Charity, Gabriel Dane, Judith, Ryan & Beth, James & Cheryl & Dane, Jared, Ekaterina & Joshua, Sarah & Jason, Cherice & Fallyn & Jameson, Mark, Eli, Sarah & Stan, Caleb & Jamie & Ellena, Seth, Caris, Mike, Cate & family, Jan, Jesse, Christina, Kelly & Clara, Betty Jean, Brandon, Braylin, Don & Marie, Peter & Georgie & Family, Braden, Kerrie, Carmen, James, Branden, Rosanna, Ruth, Diana, Jack & Ezra.

***For the reposed:*** Newly-departed Archimandrite Ephraim & Rick; Met. PHILIP; Archps. Gordon & Jack; Prs. Basil, Terry & David; Hmks. Athanasios & John; Mnk. Simeon; Dns. Nathaniel, David, Joseph, Mark, Michael & John; Presb. Terry Elizabeth; James, Edrian, Isabel, Michael, Randle, Helen, Daniel, Glenn, Erma Jean, Virgil, Ruth, Eleanor, Richard, Ray.

***For those who are pregnant and their unborn children:*** Laura, Jessica, Rachelle.

***For those serving in the Armed Forces:*** Shane Jeremiah, David, Jacob, Gregory, Daniel, Preston, Saba, Aaron, Don, Nick, James, Scott, Michelle.