



Saint Mary Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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Church Office Hours : Monday - Friday 10:00am-3:00pm

Sunday, December 27th, 2020

PROTO-MARTYR STEPHEN THE ARCHDEACON &

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

COMMEMORATION OF JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE PROPHET AND KING, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF GOD

First Antiphon

I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

أَعْتَرِفُ لَكَ يَا رَبُّ مِنْ كُلِّ قَلْبِي، وَأُحَدِّثُ بِجَمِيعِ عَجَائِبِكَ. فِي مَجْلِسِ الْمُسْتَقِيمِينَ وَفِي مَجْمَعِهِمْ، عَظِيمَةٌ هِيَ أَعْمَالُ الرَّبِّ.

بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ يَا مَخْلُصَ خَلصَنَا.

مُدَبَّرَةٌ طَبَقًا لِكُلِّ مُرَادِهِ بِهَا. صُنْعُهُ الْإِعْتِرَافُ وَعِظْمُ الْجَلَالِ، وَعَدْلُهُ يُدْوِمُ إِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ.

بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ يَا مَخْلُصَ خَلصَنَا.

المجد للآب والابن والروح القدس، الآن وكل أوان وإلى دهر الداهرين. آمين.

بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ يَا مَخْلُصَ خَلصَنَا.

Second Antiphon

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Glory and riches shall be in His house, and His righteousness endureth forever.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

O only-begotten son and word of God...

طُوبَى لِلرَّجُلِ الَّذِي يَتَّقِي الرَّبَّ وَيَهْوَى وَصَايَاهُ جَدًّا. تَكُونُ ذُرِّيَّتُهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُقْتَدِرَةً.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من ولد من البتول، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!

يكون المجد والغنى في بيته. وبره يدوم الى دهر الداهرين.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من ولد من البتول، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!

أَشْرَقَ النُّورُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ لِلْمُسْتَقِيمِينَ، النُّورُ يُشْرِقُ فِي الظُّلَامِ لِلْأَبْرَارِ، لِأَنَّهُ الرَّؤُوفُ وَالرَّحِيمُ وَالصِّدِّيقُ.

خلصنا يا ابن الله، يا من ولد من البتول، لنرتل لك، هلولويا!

المجد للآبِ وَالْإِبْنِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، الْآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ وَإِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ، آمِينَ.

يا كلمة الله الابن الوحيد...

Third Antiphon

The Lord said unto my Lord: "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The Lord shall send thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With thee is dominion in the day of thy power, in the beauties of thy saints.

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come, O Lord, glory to thee!

قال الرب لربي اجلس عن يميني حتى اجعل اعداءك موطناً لقدميك. عصا قوتك يرسل لك الرب من صهيون. معك الرئاسة في يوم قوتك في بهاء قديسيك.

ميلادك أيها المسيح إلهنا قد اشرق نور المعرفة في العالم. لأن الساجدين للكواكب به تعلموا من الكوكب السجود لك يا شمس العدل. وأن يعرفوا أنك من مشارق العلو أتيت. يارب المجدلك!

Entrance Hymn

O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia !

هلم لنسجد ونركع للمسيح ملكنا والهنا، خالصنا يا ابن الله يا من قام من بين الاموات، لنرتل لك هلولويا!

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone Four)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

إِنَّ تَلْمِيزَاتِ الرَّبِّ تَعَلَّمْنَ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الْكَرَّرَ بِالْقِيَامَةِ الْبَهْجِ، وَطَرَحْنَ الْقَضَاءَ الْجَدِّيَّ، وَخَاطَبْنَ الرُّسُلَ مُفْتَخِرَاتٍ وَقَائِلَاتٍ: سُبِّحِ الْمَوْتُ وَقَامَ الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، وَمَنَحَ الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعُظْمَى.

Troparion of the Nativity (Tone Four)

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come, O Lord, glory to thee!

ميلادك أيها المسيح إلهنا قد اشرق نور المعرفة في العالم. لأن الساجدين للكواكب به تعلموا من الكوكب السجود لك يا شمس العدل. وأن يعرفوا أنك من مشارق العلو أتيت. يارب المجدلك!

Troparion for the Sunday after the Nativity (Tone Two)

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child. 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 save our souls.

يا يوسف بشر داود جدّ الإله بالعجائب الباهرة لأنك قد رأيت بتولا حاملا. فمع الرعاة مجدت ومع المجوس سجدت وبالملاك أوحى إليك. فابتهل إلى المسيح الإله أن يخلص نفوسنا.

Troparion of St. Steven (Tone Four)

The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; for when thou hadst censured the Jews' madness, thou sawest Christ thy Savior standing at the right hand of the Father. O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would save our souls.

لَقَدْ تَوَجَّهْتَ هَامَتَكَ بِأَكْلِيلِ مُلُوكِيٍّ، ضَفِرَ بِمَا كَابَدْتَهُ مِنْ جِهَادٍ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ، يَا أَوَّلَ الشُّهَدَاءِ الْمُجَاهِدِينَ، لِأَنَّكَ وَبَّخْتَ الْيَهُودَ عَلَى حِمَاقَتِهِمْ، فَأَبْصَرْتَ يَسُوعَ مُخَلِّصَكَ عَنْ يَمِينِ الْآبِ، فَدَاوِمِ الْإِبْتِهَالَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْلِ نَفُوسِنَا.

Troparion of the Dormition (Tone One)

In thy birth giving O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

في ميلادك حفظت البتولية وصننتها وفي رقادك ما أهملت العالم وتركته يا والدة الإله. لأنك انتقلت إلى الحياة بما أنك أم الحياة. فبشفاعاتك أنقذي من الموت نفوسنا.

Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ (Tone Three)

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed before the ages as God.

اليوم البتول تلدُ الفائق الجواهر، والأرض تقرّب المغارة، لمن هو غير مقترّب إليه. الملائكة مع الرعاة يمجدون، والمجوس مع الكوكب في الطريق يسرون. لأنه قد ولد لنا صبيّ جديد، وهو الإله الذي قبل الدهور.

Epistle for St. Stephen

His voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (6:8-7:5, 47-60)

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. 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

إلى كل الأرض خرَجَ صَوْتُهُ.

السماوات تُذيعُ مجدَ الله.

فصلٌ من أعمالِ الرُّسُلِ القديسينَ الأطهارِ.

في تلكَ الأيامِ إذ كانَ استقائسَ مملؤًا إيمانًا وقوَّةً كانَ يصنعُ عجائبَ وآياتٍ عظيمةً في الشعبِ * فنهضَ قومٌ من المجمعِ المُلقَّبِ بمجمعِ الليرتبيينَ والقيروانيينَ والاسكندريينَ والذين من كيليكيةَ وآسيةَ يُباحثونَ استقائسَ * فلمَ يستطيعوا أن يُقاوموا الحكمةَ والروحَ الذي كانَ ينطقُ بهِ * حينئذٍ دسُّوا رجالاً يقولونَ إننا سمعناه ينطقُ بكلماتٍ تجديفٍ على موسى وعلى اللهِ * وهيجوا الشعبَ والشيوخَ والكتبةَ معاً. فنهضوا واخطفوه وأتوا بهِ إلى المحفلِ * وأقاموا شهودَ زورٍ يقولونَ إنَّ هذا الانسانَ لا يفتُرُ عن أن ينطقَ بكلماتٍ تجديفٍ على هذا المكانِ المُقدَّسِ والناموسِ * فإننا سمعناه يقولُ إنَّ يسوعَ الناصري هذا سينقضُ هذا المكانَ ويبدِّلُ السَّننَ التي سلَّمها إلينا موسى * فتنفَّرسَ فيه جميعُ الجالسينَ في المحفلِ وجههُ كأنه وجهُ ملاكٍ * فقالَ رئيسُ الكهنةِ أترى هذهَ الأمورُ هكذا * فقالَ أيُّها الرجالُ الإخوةُ والآباءُ اسمعوا. إنَّ إلهَ المجدِ تراءى لإبينا إبراهيمَ وهو في ما بينَ النهرينَ من قَبْلِ أن سَكَنَ في حارانَ * وقالَ لهُ أخرجُ من أرضِكَ ومنَ عشيرتِكَ وهلمَّ إلى الأرضِ التي أريكُ * حينئذٍ خرَجَ من أرضِ الكلدانيينَ وسكنَ في حارانَ. ومنَ هُناكَ نقلهُ بعدَ وفاةِ أبيه إلى هذهِ الأرضِ التي انتم الآنَ ساكنونَ فيها * ولمَ يُعطِه فيها ميراثاً ولا موطئاً قدمٍ *

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 grinded their teeth against him. But Stephen, 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.

ثُمَّ إِنَّ سَلِيمَانَ بَنَى لَهُ بَيْتًا * لَكِنَّ الْعَلِيِّ لَا يَسْكُنُ فِي هَيْكَلٍ * مَصْنُوعَاتِ الْأَيْدِي كَمَا يَقُولُ النَّبِيُّ * السَّمَاءُ عَرْشٌ لِي وَالْأَرْضُ مَوْطِئٌ قَدَمَيَّ. فَأَيُّ بَيْتٍ تَبْنُونَ لِي يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ أَمْ أَيُّ مَوْضِعٍ يَكُونُ لِرَاحَتِي * أَلَيْسَتْ يَدَيَّ هِيَ صَنَعَتْ هَذِهِ الْأَشْيَاءَ كُلَّهَا * يَا قُوسَاةَ الرِّقَابِ وَغَيْرِ الْمُخْتُونِينَ بِالْقُلُوبِ وَالْآذَانِ. إِنَّكُمْ تُقَاوِمُونَ الرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ دَائِمًا. كَمَا كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ كَذَلِكَ أَنْتُمْ * أَيُّ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ لَمْ يَضْطَهُدْهُ آبَاؤُكُمْ. وَقَدْ قَتَلُوا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُوا فَأَنْبَأُوا بِمَجِيءِ الصِّدِّيقِ الَّذِي صِرْتُمْ أَنْتُمْ الْآنَ مُسَلِّمِيهِ وَقَاتِلِيهِ * أَنْتُمْ الَّذِينَ أَنْتُمْ الَّذِينَ أَخَذْتُمْ النَّامُوسَ بِتَرْتِيبِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَلَمْ تَحْفَظُوهُ * فَلَمَّا سَمِعُوا ذَلِكَ تَمَزَّقُوا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ وَصَرَفُوا عَلَيْهِ بِأَسْنَانِهِمْ * وَهُوَ إِذْ كَانَ مُمْتَلِنًا مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ تَفَرَسَ فِي السَّمَاءِ فَرَأَى مَجْدَ اللَّهِ وَيَسُوعَ قَائِمًا عَنْ يَمِينِ اللَّهِ. فَقَالَ هَاءَ نَذَا أَرَى السَّمَاوَاتِ مَفْتُوحَةً وَابْنَ الْبَشَرِ قَائِمًا عَنْ يَمِينِ اللَّهِ * فَصَرَخُوا بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ وَسَدُّوا آذَانَهُمْ وَهَجَمُوا عَلَيْهِ بِعِزْمٍ وَاحِدٍ * وَأَخْرَجُوهُ خَارِجَ الْمَدِينَةِ وَجَعَلُوا يَرْجُمُونَهُ. وَوَضَعَ الشَّهُودُ ثِيَابَهُمْ لَدَى قَدَمَيَّ شَابٍ اسْمُهُ سَاوُلُ * وَجَعَلُوا يَرْجُمُونَ اسْتِفَانُوسَ وَهُوَ يَدْعُو وَيَقُولُ أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ أَقْبَلْ رُوحِي * ثُمَّ جَثَا عَلَى رُكْبَتَيْهِ وَصَرَخَ بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ يَا رَبُّ لَا تُقِمَ عَلَيْهِمْ هَذِهِ الْخَطِيئَةَ. وَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا رَقَدَ.

Gospel for the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)

When the wise men had 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 until 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 Archelaus 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."

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي
البشير، التلميذ الطاهر.

لما انصرف المجوس إذا بملاك الرب ظهر ليوسف في الحلم قائلاً قم فخذ الصبي وأمه واهرب إلى مصر وكُن هناك حتى أقول لك * فإن هيرودس مُزمع أن يطلب الصبي ليُهلكه * فقام وأخذ الصبي وأمه ليلاً وانصرف إلى مصر * وكان هناك إلى وفاة هيرودس ليتيم المقول من الرب بالنبى القائل: من مصر دعوت ابني * حينئذ لما رأى هيرودس أن المجوس سخرُوا به غضب جداً وأرسل فقتل كل صبيان بيت لحم وجميع ثخومها من ابن سنتين فما دون على حسب الزمان الذي تحقَّقه من المجوس * حينئذ تم ما قاله إرميا النبي القائل: صوت سُمع في الرامة نوح وبكاء وعويل كثير، راحيل تبكي على أولادها وقد أبت أن تتعزى لأنهم ليسوا بموجودين * فلما مات هيرودس إذا بملاك الرب ظهر ليوسف في الحلم في مصر قائلاً: قم فخذ الصبي وأمه واهرب إلى أرض إسرائيل فقد مات طالبو نفس الصبي * فقام وأخذ الصبي وأمه وجاء إلى أرض إسرائيل * ولما سمع أن ارشيلوس قد ملك على اليهودية مكان هيرودس أبيه خاف أن يذهب إلى هناك وأوحى إليه في الحلم فانصرف إلى نواحي الجليل * وأتى وسكن في مدينة تدعى ناصرة ليتيم المقول بالأنبياء إنه يدعى ناصرياً.



Wedding
 Alex Damarjian
 and
 Waad Nader
Congratulations!



Baptism
 Joseph
 Parents: Jeries & Krystyna Alkfoof
Congratulations!



Newborn
 Mary Muna
 Parents: Jiries & Mera Sweis
Congratulations!

Upcoming Services & Events

Date	Time	Event
12/24/2020	4:30pm	Orthros for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ
	6:00pm	Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ
12/26/2020	5:00pm	Great Vespers
12/27/2020	8:45am	Orthros (Church)
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy (Church/Gym)
12/30/2020	10:00am	Morning Prayers
	10:30am	Arabic Bible Study (Virtual)
12/31/2020	6:00pm	Liturgy for the New Year (Circumcision of our Lord and St Basil the Great)

 VIRTUAL

15th ANNUAL SOYO CHRISTMAS RETREAT

Wednesday, December 30th 2020

6:00pm - 10:00pm via zoom

Ages 12-18

Schedule

6:00pm - Akathist

6:30pm - Session I with
Bp. Anthony

7:00pm - Dinner

Pizza delivery by clergy!

7:30pm - Coolest Christmas
Sweater Contest & Bible
Look-up Competition

8:00pm - Session II with
Fr. Mousa - "Born to Die"

8:30pm - The Voice: SOYO Edition
Caroling & Chanting contest

9:00pm - Session III with
Fr. Jacob - Becoming god

9:30pm - Jeopardy with clergy

10:00pm - Closing prayer

Cost - \$25 per participant

*ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE
BEIRUT RELIEF FUND

Register by 12/28/2020

[Click here to register.](#)

Items Needed:

Bible

Icon/candle

Mask

Come prepared for the
contests... Amazon gift
cards are calling your name!

Questions? Contact Fr. Jacob
youthpastor@stmaryoc.org

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

FOOD DRIVE

**NON-PERISHABLE
FOOD ITEMS ONLY**

ITEMS ACCEPTED:

Beans, Chili, Cereal, Pasta,
Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter,
Jelly, Rice, Dry Milk, Soup,
Tuna, Canned Vegetables,
Canned Fruit, Mac & Cheese,
Juice.

**Nov. 3rd
to Jan. 31st**

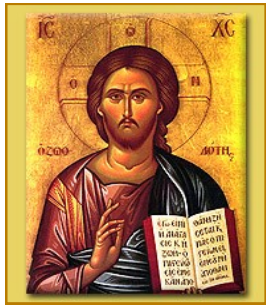
Drop Off Times

**Sunday Mornings &
Mon. - Fri. 10am - 3pm**

**HELP DONATE
TO THOSE IN
HUNGER!**

*Remembering
the words of
St. John
Chrysostom: "It
is a better thing
to feed the
hungry than to
raise the dead."*

6330 W. 127th St., Palos Heights, IL 60463 708-239-0004



Weekly Synaxarion



On December 27 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the second day of the After-feast of the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the Venerable-confessor Theodore the Branded; and the holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen, one of the Seven Deacons. Stephen was the first and archdeacon of the seven deacons whom the holy apostles ordained and appointed to the service of assisting the poor in Jerusalem. Among the Proto-martyr's persecutors was his kinsman Saul, who became the Apostle Paul. At that time, the Most-holy Theotokos, standing at a distance with John the Theologian, witnessed the martyrdom of this first martyr for the truth of her Son and God. Gamaliel, a prince of the Jews and a secret Christian, clandestinely took Stephen's body and buried it on his own estate. On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of the Lord and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King. David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph when Herod sought to slay the newborn King. By their intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.