



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 22nd, 2024

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ (The Genealogy)

Great-martyr Anastasia the deliverer from potions and her teacher the Martyr Chrysogonos

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!

هَلْمْ لِنَسْجِدْ وَنَرْكَعْ لِلْمَسِيحِ مَلَكْنَا وَالْهَنَا، خَلَصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِنَرْتَلْ لَكَ هَلْلُويَا!

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone One)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ لَمَّا حُتِمَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، وَجَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ حَفِظَ مِنَ الْجُنْدِ، قُمْتَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ أَيُّهَا الْمُخَلِّصُ، مَانِحاً الْعَالَمَ الْحَيَاةَ. لِذَلِكَ قَوَّاتُ السَّمَاوَاتِ، هَتَفُوا إِلَيْكَ يَا وَاهِبَ الْحَيَاةِ: الْمَجْدُ لِقِيَامَتِكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ، الْمَجْدُ لِمُلْكِكَ، الْمَجْدُ لِنَدْبِيرِكَ، يَا مُحِبَّ الْبَشَرِ وَحَدَّكَ.

Troparion of the Forefeast of the Nativity (Tone Four)

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 aforesaid.

إِسْتَعِدِّي يَا بَيْتَ لَحْمٍ، فَقَدْ فُتِحَتْ عَدْنُ الْجَمِيعِ، تَهَيَّأِي يَا أَفْرَاثَا، لِأَنَّ عَوْدَ الْحَيَاةِ قَدْ أَزْهَرَ فِي الْمَغَارَةِ مِنَ الْبَتُولِ. لِأَنَّ بَطْنَهَا قَدْ ظَهَرَ فِرْدَوْساً عَقْلِيّاً، فِيهِ الْغَرْسُ الْإِلَهِيُّ، الَّذِي إِذْ تَأْكُلُ مِنْهُ نَحْيَا وَلَا نَمُوتُ مِثْلَ آدَمَ. الْمَسِيحُ يُوَلِّدُ مِنْهُضاً الصُّورَةَ الَّتِي سَقَطَتْ مِنْذُ الْقَدِيمِ.

Troparion of Sunday before the Nativity (Tone Two)

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.

عَظِيمَةٌ هِيَ أَفْعَالُ الْإِيمَانِ، لِأَنَّ الْغَنِيَّةَ الثَّلَاثَةَ الْقَدِيسِينَ قَدْ ابْتَهَجُوا فِي يَنْبُوعِ اللَّهْيَبِ كَأَنَّهُمْ عَلَى مَاءِ الرَّاحَةِ، وَالنَّبِيُّ دَانِيَالُ ظَهَرَ رَاعِياً لِلسَّبَاعِ كَأَنَّهُمْ غَنَمٌ، فَبِتَضَرُّعِهِمْ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ خَلِّصْ نَفُوسَنَا.

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 ميلادِكِ حَفِظْتِ البتوليةَ وصنيتها وفي رقادِكِ ما أهملتِ العالمَ وتركتِه يا والدةَ الإله. لأنكِ انتقلتِ إلى الحياة بما أنك أم الحياة. فبشفاعتِكِ أنقذي من الموتِ نفوسنا.

Kontakion of Preparation of Christ's Nativity (Tone Three)

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God. .

اليومَ العذراءُ تأتي إلى المغارة لتلد الكلمة الذي قبل الدهور، ولادة لا تفسر ولا ينطق بها، فأفرجى أيتها المسكونة إذا سمعت، ومجدي مع الملائكة والرعاة، الذي سيظهر بمشيئته طفلاً جديداً وهو إلهنا الذي قبل الدهور.

The Epistle for the Sunday before the Nativity

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

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

مُباركٌ أنت يا ربُّ إله آبائنا.

لأنك عدلٌ في كلِّ ما صنعت بنا.

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى العبرانيين.

يا إخوة، بالإيمان نزل إبراهيم في أرض الميعاد نُزولَهُ في أرضٍ غريبة، وسكن في خيامٍ مع اسحق ويعقوب الوارثين معه للموعِدِ بعينه. لأنه انتظر المدينة ذات الأسس التي الله صانعها وبارئها. وماذا أقول أيضاً؟ إنهُ يضيق بي الوقت إن أخبرت عن جَدعون، وباراق، وشمشون، ويفتاح، وداود، وصموئيل، والأنبياء، الذين بالإيمان قهرُوا الممالك، وعمَلُوا البر، ونالوا المواعِدَ، وسَدُّوا أفواه الأسود. وأطفأوا حدة النار، ونَجَّوا من حدِّ السيف، وتَقَوَّوا من ضَعْفٍ، وصاروا أشداءً في الحرب، وكَسَرُوا مَعَسَكَراتِ الأجانِبِ،

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.

وَأَخَذَتْ نِسَاءً أُمُوتَهُنَّ بَقِيَامَةً. وَعُذِّبَ آخِرُونَ بِتَوْتِيرِ
الْأَعْضَاءِ وَالضَّرْبِ، وَلَمْ يَقْبَلُوا بِالنَّجَاةِ لِيُخْصَلُوا عَلَى
قِيَامَةٍ أَفْضَلِ. وَآخِرُونَ ذَاقُوا الْهَزْءَ، وَالْجَلْدَ، وَالْقَيْوَدَ
أَيْضاً وَالسَّجْنَ. وَرُجِمُوا، وَنُشِرُوا، وَامْتَحِنُوا، وَمَاتُوا بِحَدِّ
السَّيْفِ، وَسَاحُوا فِي جُلُودِ غَنَمٍ وَمَعِزٍ، وَهُمْ مُعَوِّزُونَ
مُضَائِقُونَ مَجْهُودُونَ — وَلَمْ يَكُنِ الْعَالَمُ مُسْتَحِقًّا لَهُمْ
— وَكَانُوا تَائِهِينَ فِي الْبَرَارِيِّ، وَالْجِبَالِ، وَالْمَغَاوِرِ،
وَكُهُوفِ الْأَرْضِ. فَهَؤُلَاءِ كُلُّهُمْ مَشْهُوداً لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ،
لَمْ يَنَالُوا الْمَوَاعِدَ، لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ سَبَقَ فَنظَرَ لَنَا شَيْئاً أَفْضَلَ،
أَنْ لَا يَكْمَلُوا بِدُونِنَا.

The Gospel for the Sunday before the Nativity: “The Genealogy”

The Reading from 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 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

فَصَلُّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِي
الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

كِتَابُ مِيلَادِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ ابْنِ دَاوُدَ ابْنِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ.
فَإِبْرَاهِيمُ وَوَلَدَ إِسْحَاقَ، وَإِسْحَاقُ وَوَلَدَ يَعْقُوبَ، وَيَعْقُوبُ وَوَلَدَ
يَهُوذَا وَإِخْوَتَهُ. وَيَهُوذَا وَوَلَدَ فَارِصَ، وَزَارِحَ مِنْ تَامَارَ،
وَفَارِصُ وَوَلَدَ حَضْرُونَ، وَحَضْرُونَ وَوَلَدَ أَرَامَ. وَأَرَامُ وَوَلَدَ
عَمِينَادَابَ، وَعَمِينَادَابُ وَوَلَدَ نَحْشُونَ، وَنَحْشُونَ وَوَلَدَ
سَلْمُونَ. وَسَلْمُونَ وَوَلَدَ بُوعَزَ مِنْ رَا حَابَ، وَبُوعَزُ وَوَلَدَ
عُوبِيدَ مِنْ رَاعُوثَ، وَعُوبِيدُ وَوَلَدَ يَسَى، وَيَسَى وَوَلَدَ دَاوُدَ
الْمَلِكِ. وَدَاوُدُ الْمَلِكِ وَوَلَدَ سُلَيْمَانَ مِنَ التِّي كَانَتْ
لَأُورِيَا. وَسُلَيْمَانُ وَوَلَدَ رَحْبَعَامَ، وَرَحْبَعَامُ وَوَلَدَ أَبِييَا، وَأَبِييَا
وَوَلَدَ آسَا. وَآسَا وَوَلَدَ يَوْشَافَاطَ، وَيَوْشَافَاطُ وَوَلَدَ يُورَامَ،
وَيُورَامُ وَوَلَدَ عَزِّيَا. وَعَزِّيَا وَوَلَدَ يُوْتَامَ، وَيُوْتَامُ وَوَلَدَ آحَازَ،
وَآحَازُ وَوَلَدَ حَزَقِيَا. وَحَزَقِيَا وَوَلَدَ مَنَسَى، وَمَنَسَى وَوَلَدَ

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.

أمون، وأمونٌ وُلِدَ يوشياً. ويوشياً وُلِدَ يَكُنْيَا وإخوته في جلاء بابل. ومن بعد جلاء بابل، يَكُنْيَا وُلِدَ شَالْتَيْل، وشَالْتَيْلٌ وُلِدَ زَرْبَابِل. وزَرْبَابِلٌ وُلِدَ أَبِيهودَ، وأبيهودُ وُلِدَ أَلْيَاقِيمَ، وأَلْيَاقِيمُ وُلِدَ عازورَ. وعازورُ وُلِدَ صادقَ، وسادوقُ وُلِدَ أخيمَ، وأخيمُ وُلِدَ أَلْيَهودَ. وألْيَهودُ وُلِدَ أَلْعَازارَ، وألْعَازارُ وُلِدَ مَتَّانَ، ومَتَّانُ وُلِدَ يَعْقوبَ، ويعقوبُ وُلِدَ يوسُفَ رَجُلَ مَرِيَمَ التي وُلِدَ مِنْهَا يسوعُ، الذي يُدعى المَسِيحَ. فَكُلُّ الأَجْيَالِ مِنْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِلَى داوُدَ أَرْبَعَةَ عَشَرَ جِيلاً، وَمِنْ داوُدَ إِلَى جَلَاءِ بَابِلَ أَرْبَعَةَ عَشَرَ جِيلاً، وَمِنْ جَلَاءِ بَابِلَ إِلَى المَسِيحِ أَرْبَعَةَ عَشَرَ جِيلاً. أَمَّا مَوْلُدُ يسوعَ المَسِيحِ فَكانَ هَكَذَا. لَمَّا خُطِبَتِ مَرِيَمُ أُمُّهُ لِيوسُفَ، وَجِدَّتْ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يَجْتَمِعَا حُبلى مِنَ الرُّوحِ القُدسِ. وَإِذْ كانَ يوسُفُ رَجُلُها صَدِيقاً، وَلَمْ يُرِدْ أَنْ يُشْهَرِها، هَمَّ بِتَخْلِيبِها سِرّاً. وَفِيما هُوَ مُتَفَكِّرٌ فِي ذَلِكَ، إِذا بِمَلَكِ الرَّبِّ ظَهَرَ لَهُ فِي الحُلُمِ، قَائِلاً: يا يوسُفُ ابْنَ داوُدَ، لا تَخَفْ أَنْ تَأْخُذَ امْرَأَتَكَ مَرِيَمَ. فَإِنَّ المولودَ فِيها إِنَّمَا هُوَ مِنَ الرُّوحِ القُدسِ. وَسَتَلِدُ ابناً فَتُسَمِّيهِ يسوعَ، فَإِنَّهُ هُوَ يُخَلِّصُ شَعْبَهُ مِنْ خَطَايَاهُمْ. وَكانَ هَذَا كُلُّهُ لِيَتِمَّ ما قِيلَ مِنَ الرَّبِّ بِالنَّبِيِّ القَائِلِ: ها إِنَّ العَذراءَ تَحْبِلُ، وتَلِدُ ابناً، وَيُدعى عِمَّانُوئِيلَ (الذي تفسيرُهُ اللهُ مَعنا). فَلَمَّا نَهَضَ يوسُفُ مِنَ النُّومِ، صَنَعَ كما أَمَرَهُ مَلَكُ الرَّبِّ. فَأَخَذَ امْرَأَتَهُ. وَلَمْ يَعْرِفْها حَتَّى وَلَدَتِ ابْنَهَا البِكْرَ، وَسَمَّاهُ يسوعَ.



6 Month Memorial
Rasmieh Suleiman Swais
Memory Eternal!



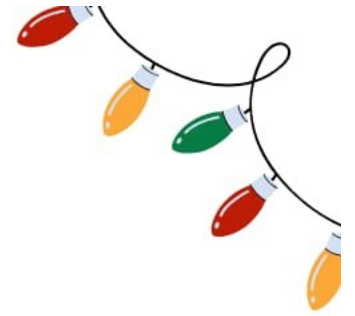
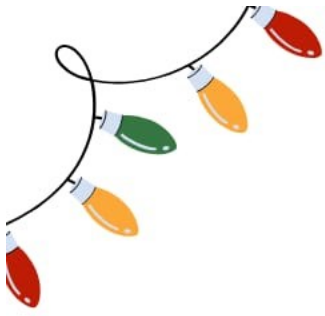
3 Year Memorial
Raedah Tadros
Memory Eternal!



18 Year Memorial
Tawfiq Sweis
Memory Eternal!

Upcoming Services & Events

Date	Time	Event
12/20/2024	8:30am	Prayers before Holy Communion
	9:00am	Divine Liturgy for St Ignatius
	6:00pm	Sunday School Nativity Program
12/21/2024	10:00am	Arabic School
	3:30pm	Catechism Class
	5:00pm	Great Vespers
	6:00pm	Compline with Canon for Holy Communion
12/22/2024	8:15am	Prayers before Holy Communion
	8:45am	Orthros
	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	10:00am	Sunday School
	12:00pm	YAM Coffee Hour
	12:00pm	Ghribeh Sale
12/24/2024	9:00am	Royal Hours and Typika for the Nativity
	5:30pm	Prayers before Holy Communion
	6:00pm	Compline with Canon for Holy Communion
	6:30pm	Great Vespers & Artoklasia
	8:00pm	Orthros for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ
	9:30pm	Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Join us for our annual Christmas Program hosted by
St. Mary's Sunday School!

Date: December 20th

Time: 6pm with refreshments to follow

Location: The Nadi

All are welcome to the Sunday School

Nativity Program! Each class will
showcase their own performance
relating to the Nativity of our Lord!



For any further questions please contact:
sundayschool@stmaryoc.org



Catechism Class

All are welcome! Class will be at 3:30pm

December 21

January 11

January 25

February 8

February 22

March 8

March 22

April 5

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Archimandrite Jeremy (Davis)



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

Archiepiscopal Vicar for
Toledo and the Midwest

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

The Nativity of Christ, 2024

The Magi offered to Him from what was His: myrrh and frankincense that He had brought into existence and created. . . . From the great treasury of all creation, Mary gave to Him everything she gave. She gave Him milk from what He made to exist. She gave Him food from what He had created. . . .

He, who is Lord of all, gives to us all, and He Who is Enricher of all, borrows from all. He is Giver of all, as one without needs. Yet He borrows back again like one deprived. He gave cattle and sheep as Creator, but, on the other hand, He sought sacrifices like one deprived. . . . From what is His, Martha [the sister of Lazarus] gave Him food to eat; she placed before Him the foods created by Him. All who gave to Him have vowed from what is His; from His treasury they have placed gifts on His table.

St. Ephraim the Syrian, *Hymns on the Nativity* 4

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Midwest,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was born in a manger for our salvation!

As St. Ephraim reminds us in the hymn above, everything we can offer Christ has come to us from His hand, yet He humbles Himself to receive from us what He doesn't need, so that we can thereby show our love to Him and connect with Him. This reminds me of when I was a child and my parents would give me a little money for our school's Holiday Shoppe. I would buy things like a snow globe or a mug, wrap them, and give them to my parents on Christmas. They certainly didn't need these trinkets, and if they had, they could have bought them themselves. However, that wasn't the point—they were giving me the chance to do something for them, to express my love for them.

This Christmas, let us each find some special way to demonstrate our love for Christ. Let us go into the Holiday Shoppe of this world, which He has made for us, and pick out something to give Him from our hearts, something that is dear to His heart. First and foremost, let us give Him ourselves in faith, obedience, and devotion.

Wishing you all a joyous feast, I remain,

Yours in the Service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jeremy Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Archimandrite Jeremy
Archiepiscopal Vicar

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)



St Mary Orthodox Church of Palos Heights

Antiochian Women

Ghribeh Sale

Sunday, December 22, 2024

The Antiochian Women made fresh homemade Ghribeh. Help support them by purchasing a box or two online.



\$15 per box

\$35 Round Gift Tray

If you have any questions please call Ibtisam Sousan 708-334-4924 or Rita Sweis 773-510-4303 or see to any of the Antiochian Women.

Click on flyer to order

St. Mary
Orthodox Church
**YOUNG
ADULT
MINISTRY**

**COFFEE
HOUR**

**THIS SUNDAY
IN THE NADI**

Join us on Tuesday, December 24th for Christmas Services

- 9:00am Royal Hours and Typika for the Nativity
- 5:30pm Prayers before Holy Communion
- 6:00pm Compline with Canon for Holy Communion
- 6:30pm Great Vespers & Artoklasia
- 8:00pm Orthros for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ
- 9:30pm Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ

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.



October 13 -
January 5

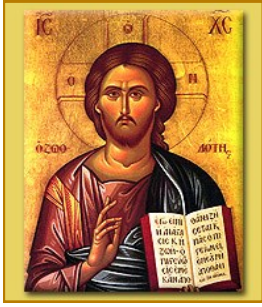
Drop Off Times

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 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Great-martyr Anastasia the deliverer from potions, and her teacher, the Martyr Chrysogonos.

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths.

It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.