

The Feast of the Nativity of Christ

December 25

Services:

At St Philip Church

Sunday, December 22

Sunday School Christmas Program, 12:30 pm

Tuesday, December 24

Royal Hours 9 am, Vespers 10 am

Festal Orthros 9:30 pm, Divine Liturgy 11 pm
(Communion Fast from 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 25

Vespers for Synaxis of the Theotokos 12 pm

Wednesday, December 26

Orthros for Synaxis 9 am, Liturgy for Synaxis 10 am

Circumcision & St. Basil - New Year's

Tuesday, December 31

Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm, Orthros, 7 pm

Talent Show 7 pm

New Year's Prayers 9 pm

Wednesday, January 1

Divine Liturgy 10 am, New Year's Prayers 11:30 am



Scripture readings:

Genesis 1:1-13; Numbers 24:1-18;
Micah 4:6-7, 5:2-4; Isaiah 11:1-10;
Baruch 3:36-4:4; Daniel 2:31-36, 44-
45; Isaiah 9:6-7, 7:10-16, 8:1-4, 9-
10; Hebrews 1:1-12; Galatians 4:4-7;
St. Matthew 2:1-12

The Synaxarion:

On December 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Verses:

The Child born is God, and the Mother, a Virgin; what greater marvel hath appeared in creation?

On the twenty-fifth Mary the Virgin gave birth to God.

On this day we commemorate the Adoration of the Magi:
Worshipping Thee, O Word, this cohort, come from the nations,
Showeth the worship that Thou shalt receive from the nations.

On this day we commemorate the Shepherds that behold the Lord:
Shepherds their own flock do now abandon, and hasten to see Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Thus entered into the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when a foreigner named Herod, who sought to kill the infant Messiah, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and

heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind. Unto Him be glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion (Tone Four)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; For they who did worship the stars did learn from them to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that Thou didst come from the East of the Highest, Glory to Thee, O Lord.

Kontakion (Tone Three)

The Virgin brings forth today the Omnipotent, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable; angels give glory with shepherds, and the magi journey with the stars, when for our sakes was born as a new babe, He who is from eternity God.

More Resources:

<http://ww1.antiochian.org/nativity/great-feast>

<https://www.goarch.org/en/nativity>

How to Celebrate the Feast:

No fasting from December 25 until January 5, the eve of Theophany, for which a Strict Fast is to be observed. (For those desiring to commune at the evening Liturgy, a Eucharistic fast should be observed from Noon.)

Make it a priority to attend Festal services. Invite a friend to church.

Pray, read about, & discuss the Gospel narratives of Christ's Nativity.

Give Alms. Help someone. Be bold in generosity!

Visit relatives, friends and neighbors (especially those in assisted living, who are homebound, or in the hospital).

Listen to our parish podcast and/or an AncientFaith.com podcast on the Nativity of Christ.

Come to Confession in preparation, and reconcile with anyone whom you have offended.

Questions for reflection: What does the reality of the Incarnation—the Son of God's assumption of humanity for our sake—tell us about God? What does the Incarnation tell us about our calling as Christians in the world?