



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

Κυριακή 24η Δεκεμβρίου 2017

ΠΑΡΑΜΟΝΗ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ

Αποστ: Εβρ. 11:9-10, 32-40

Ευαγγ: Ματθ. 1:1-25

Sunday Before the Nativity of our Lord

Today's Readings

Epistle: Heb. 11:9-10, 32-40

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25



Christ is Born ... Glorify Him!

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΓΕΝΝΑΤΑΙ...ΔΟΞΑΣΑΤΕ!



CHRISTMAS – THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST

The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus is one of the most joyful days of the Orthodox Church. The Feast of the Birth of Jesus is also known as the "Incarnation of Christ." This means that Jesus became a man and came into the world to save us.

The story of the Nativity of Christ is beautifully told in the Holy Scriptures in Matthew 1:18-25 and in Luke 2:1-20. As the story is told by the Apostles, the Roman Emperor Augustus ordered that a census be taken in all his lands. He needed to know how many people lived in the empire so he could tax them. Everyone had to go to the town of their family's origin to register for the census. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. They were descendants of King David and Bethlehem was the City of David.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and it was a great distance from Bethlehem. It was about 100 miles over very rugged roads. Moreover, Mary was expecting the baby and it was almost time for her to give birth. Bethlehem was a small town and there were many descendants of David who had come to register for the census. By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. There was no room at the inn. Finally, Joseph found a cave-like place where they could rest. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger.

Now, that night the shepherds were out in the fields guarding their sheep. Suddenly, there was a bright light which startled them. Soon an angel appeared and calmed them. The angel said: "Fear not for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour; which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12).

Then a larger group of angels appeared. They praised and glorified God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). The shepherds decided that they wanted to see for themselves what the angels had told them. When they got to Bethlehem, they found Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. They fell to their knees and adored Jesus.

Some Wise Men came from the East for they knew of the coming of Jesus. They had seen a star that told them that a new king had been born. When King Herod learned the Wise Men were looking for the child, he asked them to find Him so that he, too, could worship Him, but this was an act of deception. When the Wise Men found Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshipped Him, giving gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Wise Men returned to their land, not returning to Herod, as they had a dream that warned them that Herod wanted to harm Jesus.

And every year, we too make the pious journey in our souls to receive the best Gift ever offered in our lives, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He is truly the best gift because He is many gifts in one. Through Him we receive the gift of being members of God's family, the gift of a loving heavenly Father, the gift of God who knows us by name and cares about each of us, the gift of the Holy Spirit abiding within us, and the gift of a place in God's heaven. May we all have a Blessed Christmas and receive the Greatest Gift of All!



ΤΟ ΝΟΗΜΑ ΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ

Σήμερα είναι η Άγια Ημέρα των Χριστουγέννων η μεγάλη εορτή της Γέννησης του Θεανθρώπου. Οι ετοιμασίες μας όμως στρέφονται κυρίως γύρω από το γιορταστικό τραπέζι, τα πλούσια φαγητά, το στολισμό του δέντρου, το φωτισμό των μπαλκονιών. Όλα αυτά είναι ασφαλώς ευχάριστα και μας βοηθούν να νιώσουμε διαφορετικά, να ξεφύγουμε από την ανιαρή καθημερινότητα και να βρεθούμε πιο κοντά στους δικούς μας ανθρώπους.

Το πραγματικό όμως νόημα των Χριστουγέννων δεν βρίσκεται εδώ, αλλά είναι πολύ πιο βαθύ, πολύ πιο δυνατό, πολύ πιο μεγαλειώδες. Ο Χριστός παίρνει την ανθρώπινη φύση, γίνεται τέλειος άνθρωπος, έρχεται να γεννηθεί στο ταπεινό σπήλαιο της Βηθλεέμ, να διδάξει και αργότερα να σταυρωθεί μόνο και μόνο από αγάπη για τον άνθρωπο και με αποκλειστικό σκοπό τη σωτηρία του. Στη φτωχική φάτνη, μέσα από την απέριτη εικόνα του Βρέφους, της Παρθένου, των ποιμένων και των μάγων, αναβλύζει το μήνυμα της αγάπης και της προσφοράς. Πράγματι, τα Χριστούγεννα συμβολίζουν το θρίαμβο της έμπρακτης και ανιδιοτελούς αλληλεγγύης, τη νίκη της παλλόμενης καρδιάς πάνω στον ψυχρό, ορθολογιστικό νου.

Σήμερα, πάνω από δύο χιλιάδες χρόνια μετά, το λαμπρό αστέρι της Άγιας Νύχτας μάς οδηγεί στον ίδιο πάντοτε δρόμο, μας καλεί να ακολουθήσουμε την ίδια πορεία: να ανοίξουμε την καρδιά μας στο συνάνθρωπο, στον οποιοδήποτε συνάνθρωπο, ανεξάρτητα από καταγωγή, εθνικότητα, κοινωνική θέση ή οικονομική κατάσταση, να σταθούμε ο ένας δίπλα στον άλλο, να νιώσουμε και να πραγματώσουμε την « έν άνθρωποις εὐδοκία ». Μόνον έτσι τα Χριστούγεννα θα βρουν το πραγματικό τους νόημα. Κι αυτό το νόημα το έχουμε τόσο ανάγκη σε μια εποχή άκρατου ατομισμού, ηθικής και οικονομικής κρίσης, σύγχυσης και αδιαφορίας για τον πλησίον.

Πηγή: <http://www.new.marist-leonteios.gr>



Απόψε 24η Δεκεμβρίου - Παραμονή Χριστουγέννων

Τό εσπέρας "Ωρα 7:00 μ.μ. - Μέγας Έσπερινός και έν συνεχεια τά ΚΑΛΑΝΤΑ
θά τά ψάλλουν τά μέλη τής παιδικής μας χορωδίας

Δευτέρα 25η Δεκεμβρίου - Η ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ

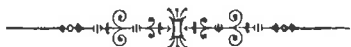
"Ωρα 8:00 π.μ - 11:00 π.μ. - "Ορθος και Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακή 31η Δεκεμβρίου - Κυριακή Μετά τής ΓΕΝΝΗΣΕΩΣ

"Ωρα 8:00 π.μ - 11:15 π.μ. - "Ορθος και Θεία Λειτουργία

Δευτέρα 1η Ιανουαρίου - ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΜΝΗΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΩΤΟΧΡΟΝΙΑ

"Ωρα 9:30 π.μ. - 11:15 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία / Κοπή τής Βασιλόπιτας



Ο π. Αθανάσιος, ό Πρόεδρος και τά μέλη του Διοικητηκού Συμβουλίου,
τό προσωπικό τής έκκλησίας και του σχολείου
εύχονται στά μέλη και σε όλους τούς πιστούς

Κ Α Λ Α Χ Ρ Ι Σ Τ Ο Υ Γ Ε Ν Ν Α

IMPORTANT DATES

Tonight, December 24th: Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Great Vespers – Our Youth Choir will chant responses and Christmas Carols will follow

Monday, December 25th:

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST CHRISTMAS DAY

8 – 11 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy

Koraes School and GOYA will resume
On January 8th

The Church Office will be closed

On Monday, December 25th

The office will be open

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 26 – Friday, December 29

Sunday, December 31:

Sunday After the Nativity

8 – 11:15 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy

Monday, January 1:

FEASTDAY OF THE NAMING OF CHRIST and ST. BASIL THE GREAT

9:30 – 11:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy / Cutting of
the Vasilopita

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2018 Offering Envelopes are available in the Church Office for those who are interested.

See you...



...Next **SUNDAY!**

SACRAMENTS

NO BAPTISMS ARE PERMITTED FROM

December 26th to January 6th in
Anticipation of the celebration
Of Christ's Baptism

FASTING NOT REQUIRED

Those who strive and struggle are rewarded, therefore, fasting is not required beginning December 25th through January 4th, however, Friday, January 5th is a STRICT FAST DAY.

CALENDARS

The 2018 Church Calendars were mailed this past week.

Fr. Tom, together with
Mr. Mark Dinos, President,
Mr. Steven Argires, Chairman of the Board,
all the members of the Parish Council and
the Church and
School personnel,
wish to extend to each and everyone
a very Blessed and
Merry Christmas



“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel, which means, God is with us.”

-Matthew 1:23