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***We are each of us angels with only one wing...
And we can fly embracing each other...***

Luciano DeCrenzcenzo

December 21, 2025 – Sunday before the Nativity of Christ: Sunday of the Holy Fathers; Octoechos Tone 3; Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia.

Intentions this Sunday

Saturday at 4:15pm: +Bishop Stephen; Sunday at 9:30am: Parishioners; Sunday at 11am: Parishioners.

First Antiphon

Shout to the Lord, all the earth,* sing now to His name, give glory to His praise.* *Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Saviour, save us.*

Say unto God, "How awesome are Your works!" Because of the greatness of Your strength Your enemies will flatter You".* *Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Saviour, save us.*

Let all the earth worship You and sing to You,* let it sing to Your name, O Most High!* *Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Saviour, save us.*

Glory. Now. Only-begotten Son.

Third Antiphon

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord,* let us acclaim God, our Saviour. *Son of God, risen from the dead,* save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Let us come before His face with praise,* and acclaim Him in psalms.* *Son of God, risen from the dead,* save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

For God is the great Lord,* and the great king over all the earth.* *Son of God, risen from the dead,* save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Entrance

Come, let us worship* and fall down before Christ.* *Son of God, risen from the dead,* save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Troparia and Kontakia

Troparion, Tone 3: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,* for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm.* He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead;* He saved us from the abyss of Hades* and granted great mercy to the world.

Troparion, Tone 2: Great are the achievements of faith!* In the

Перший антифон

Воскликніте Господеві, вся зємле,* співайте ж імені Його, віддайте славу в хвалі Йому! *Молитвами Богородиці,* Спасе, спаси нас.*

Скажіте Бóгові: як страшні діла Твої!* У мно́жестві сили Твоїї лєстїтимуть Тобі ворогї Твої. *Молитвами Богородиці,* Спасе, спаси нас.*

Вся землѧ нехай поклóниться Тобі і співає Тобі,* нехай же співає імені Твоєму, Всевїшній!* *Молитвами Богородиці,* Спасе, спаси нас.*

Слава. І нині. Єдинорóдний Сїну.

Третій антифон

Прийдіте, возра́дуємся Господеві, воскликнім Богу, Спасітелеві на́шому. *Спасі нас, Сїну Бóжий,* що воскрес із мєртвих, співаємо Тобі: Аلیلїа.*

Ідім перєд лицєм Його з ісповіданням, і псалма́ми воскликнім Йому́. *Спасі нас, Сїну Бóжий,* що воскрес із мєртвих, співаємо Тобі: Аلیلїа.*

Бо Бог – великий Госпóдь і цар великий по всїй землі. *Спасі нас, Сїну Бóжий,* що воскрес із мєртвих, співаємо Тобі: Аلیلїа.*

Вхідне

Прийдіте поклóнімся* і припадїм до Христá.* *Спасі нас, Сїну Бóжий,* що воскрес із мєртвих, співаємо Тобі: Аلیلїа.*

Тропарі й кондаки

Тропар воскресний (г. 3): Хай веселяться небєсні, хай радуються земні,* бо явив могúтність руки Своєї Госпóдь,* подолáв смєртю смєрть, пєрвенцем мєртвих став,* з безóдні áду вїзволив нас* і подáв свїтові велику мїлість.

Тропар Праотцїв (г. 2): Великі пóдвиги вїри,* в джерелі полум'я, як на спокійній воді, святі три óтроки радувалися;*

fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest,* and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep.* Through their intercession, O Christ God,* save our souls.

Troparion, Tone 4: Bethlehem, make ready,* for Eden has been opened for all.* Ephrathah, be alert*, for the Tree of life has blossomed forth from the Virgin in the cave.* Her womb has become a spiritual paradise* wherein the divine Fruit was planted,* and if we eat of it we shall live and not die like Adam.* Christ is coming forth to bring back to life* the likeness that had been lost in the beginning.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion, Tone 6: Armed by the Being that defies description,* you defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth.* In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God:* "In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,"* for You can do whatever You will.

Now and forever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 3: Today, the Virgin is on her way to the cave* where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding* to the Word who is in all eternity.* Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when you hear it heralded.* With the angels and the shepherds, glorify Him who chose to be seen as anew born babe* while remaining God in all eternity.

Prokeimenon

Tone 4: Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

Repeat: Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

verse: For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us.

Repeat: Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever..

Epistle Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40

Alleluia, Tone 4

verse: O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days.

verse: You saved us from our oppressors and put to shame those who hate us.

Gospel Matthew 1:1-25

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens,* praise Him in the highest.* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just,* praise befits the righteous.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

і пророк Даниїл пастирем левів, наче овець, являвся.* Їх молитвами, Христе Божє, спасі душі наші.

Тропар передсвяття (г. 4): Готуйся, Вифлеєме, розкрийся всім, Єдеме,* красуйся, Євфрате,* бо дєрево життя в вертепі розквітнуло від Дїви.* Її лоно раєм мисленним явилось, в якому – божєственный сад.* З нього ївши будемо жити – і не, як Адам, помремо.* Христос раждається, щоб оновити упалий колїсь образ.

Слава Отцю, і Сїну, і Святому Духові.

Кондак Праотців (г. 6): Рукописаному образу не поклонївшись,* але неописанним єством захистївшись, триблаженні,* в подвизі вогню ви прославилися* і, посеред нестерпного полум'я стоячі, Бога ви призивали:* Поспішісь, о, Щєдрий, і скоро прийді, як милостивий, нам на поміч,* бо Ти можеш, якщо воля Твоя.

І нїні, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.

Кондак передсвяття (г. 3): Дїва днесь грядє, щоб невимовно родити у вертепі предвїчне Слово.* Радїй, вселєнно, почувши це,* прослав з ангєлами й пастирями* Того, що хоче явитися дїтям малїм – предвїчного Бога.

Прокімен

(г. 4): Благословєн єсї, Господи, Божє отців наших, і хвальне, і прославленє ім'я Твоє на віки.

Всі: Благословєн єсї, Господи, Божє отців наших, і хвальне, і прославленє ім'я Твоє на віки.

Стих: Бо праведний єсї в усьому, що створїв Ти нам.

Всі: Благословєн єсї, Господи, Божє отців наших, і хвальне, і прославленє ім'я Твоє на віки.

Апостол Євр. 11, 9-10; 17-23; 32-40.

Алилуя (г. 4)

Стих: Божє, ушіма нашіми ми почули і отці наші сповістили нам

Стих: Ти спас нас від тих, що напастують нас, і тих, що ненавидять нас, засоромив Ти.

Євангелїє Мт. 1, 1-25.

Причасний

Хвалїте Господа з небєс,* хвалїте Його во вішніх.* Радуйтеся, праведні, у Господі,* правим належить похвала.* Алилуя, алилуя,* алилуя.

After the Christmas Day Liturgy (at around 11:15am), there will be a performance of a Vertep. This is a traditional theatrical production which tells the Christmas story and combines it with scenes from every day life using Ukrainian folk song and dance. This was forbidden in the Soviet Union but has seen a revival since Ukraine gained independence in 1991. Even if you come to the Christmas Eve Liturgy, come back in the morning to see this little piece of Ukrainian culture!

Liturgical Schedule

Monday, Dec 22 Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Great-Martyr Anastasia.	Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19 Luke 20:27-44			
Tuesday, Dec 23 Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete.	Hebrews 4:1-13 Luke 21:12-19			
Wednesday Dec 24 Eve of the Nativity of Christ		7pm	Divine Liturgy (English)	<i>Strict Fast. Abstention from meat and eggs (and, traditionally, dairy) and foods that contain these ingredients.</i>
Thursday, Dec 25 The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ.	Galatians 4:4-7 Matthew 2:1-12	10am	Divine Liturgy (Ukr/Eng)	
Friday, Dec 26 Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God	Hebrews 2:11-18 Matthew 2:13-23			
Saturday, Dec 27 Saturday after the Nativity of Christ.	1 Timothy 6:11-16 Matthew 12:15-21	4:15pm 5:30pm	Divine Liturgy (English) Great Vespers	Intention: Parishioners
Sunday, Dec 28 Sunday after the Nativity of Christ	Galatians 1:11-19 Matthew 2:13-23	9:30am 11am	Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) Divine Liturgy (English)	Intention: Parishioners Intention: Parishioners

Other Events This Week

December 25 – Performance of Traditional Ukrainian Vertep after the Liturgy (approx. 11:15am)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We welcome our guests and visitors. Thank you for worshipping with us!
2. THANK YOU! To all who volunteered with the brunch last week.
3. NATIVITY FAST CONTINUES. The Church gives us this 40-day season to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ in the flesh. As a minimum, the Church requires the faithful (ages 14-59) to abstain from meat and all foods containing meat on Wednesdays in addition to Fridays during this time.
4. CHRISTMAS BREADS: Traditional Ukrainian Christmas 'Kolach' bread is now available. We thank the ladies who prepared it!
5. JORDAN MEAL: Our annual parish Jordan meal will take place on Sunday, January 11th after the Divine Liturgy. If you plan to attend, please let the office know so we can prepare the appropriate amount of food.
6. THANK YOU! To our volunteers who come week after week who help with the food production that provides most of our parish's income. See you back in the new year! First day back: January 15th.

Outreach to Homebound Parishioners: Know of someone who might like a priest's visit? Contact the office or Fr. Michael to arrange.

PRAYER LIST OF SICK, SHUT-INS, AND DEAR ONES FAR AND NEAR: Lorraine Wilson, Msgr. Anton Szymychalski, Fr. Jaroslaw Lazoryk, Wanda Duczmal, Debbie Bromeley, Antoinette Blunt, Katherine Pasternak, Walter Borowicz, Pat Stratchuk, Betty Pauliuk, Doris Lebel, Jo-Anne Stone, Denise Jacques, Phil Marinelli, Theresa Barsanti, Patty-Ann Bellerive, Jim Parniak, Connie Sampson, Fr. Oleh Yuryk, Fr. John Barszczyk, Dorothy McIntyre, Andrea Stone Pietramale, Lynn Dunne, Fr. Andrew Kormanik, Ray Robinson, Hunter Stone, Gavin Stone, Gerard Dosko, Anderson Knight, Jann, Ron Barsanti, Peter Harlow, Larisa Pochmursky,

Elizabeth Cepecawer, MaryAnn & Art Spadoni, Paul Taillefer, Erin, Dave Kowalyk, Mary Romanchuk, McGill Perry, Tammy Zalewski, Fernando Mannarino, Dave Redfern, Ora, Irene O, Paul M, June, Bob, Dustin Wenmany, Tracey Burmaster, Mel Stanghetta, Norna Martynuck, Sylvie B, Bill McConnell, Anastasiia Pavliuk, Wanda Featherston, Roger McMillan, Clark Hutton, Gerry, Moira O'Pallie, Chris Applejohn, Barb and Gerry, Olena Hankivsky, David Bell.

Lord, Jesus Christ, You Who travelled throughout Galilee healing the sick, enabling the blind to see and the lame to walk, bring healing to Your people who need it this day. Grant relief to the ones who suffer pain and physical torment. Give peace to those whose minds are tortured by mental illness and anxiety. Comfort those who are alone in their suffering; may Your people reach out to them and to all the needy this day. Send Your grace to the caregivers that they may be gentle and effective agents of Your loving mercy. May our sufferings be joined with Yours to bring healing throughout the world. Amen

DONATIONS – December 14, 2025

Collection: \$805; Building Fund: \$1170

In memory of Stella Sassos: \$100; Wolodymyr Radomskyj: \$30.

Contribution towards Christmas Bread Ingredients: \$25

THANK YOU!!

“On Call Priest”

A priest is available in the city for emergencies 24/7 at 705-256-6675.

Important Notice:

As of January 1, with the blessing of Bishop Bryan, Fr. Michael's status within the parish will change from full-time to part-time. This will significantly reduce his salary and the burden it places on the parish in these challenging times. It will also mean changes to his availability around the parish, especially during the week, as he will be working outside the parish to support himself and his family. A letter is now available explaining the reasons for the change and some of the consequences of it.

A Meditation on Today's Gospel, by Fr. David Petras

The Gospel this Sunday presents us with an abundance of names, all those who were the ancestors of Christ. By this we see that on this feast, the Son and Word of God becomes a part of the human family and a part of human history. In this Gospel Jesus is also given a name, the final verse tells us that the child will be known as Jesus – Savior. In verse 22, though, he is given the name “Immanuel,” “God with us.” This gives us the theological meaning of the feast, the incarnation signifies our deification.

We all have names, but for the ancients, names had meanings, they did not simply give us an identification tag, but told us something of who we were. In that sense, we do not name ourselves, but we are given a name, we are all “called by name” by God, and so we enter into the ancestry of Jesus. The names are the forefathers of Jesus, but also the foremothers are mentioned: Tamar, who bore a son by trickery of Judah; Ruth, the grandmother of David, who left her people to follow Naomi; the unnamed wife of David, Bathsheba, who David married by arranging for the death of Uriah. We see, then, that even through questionable and evil actions, as well as by faithfulness,

Jesus becomes “the son given to us.” The greatest of the woman in his genealogy is, of course, Mary, his mother, who by her obedience cancelled the curse of Eve, and united God with humanity in her womb.

Today, we celebrate the Son of Abraham, according to the Law, and the Son of David, the everlasting King, to whom even David bowed, and even the Son of exile, for we are all citizens of the spiritual, not the earthly, Jerusalem. Today we must be named as a follower of Christ.

A CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION

In the tight-knit town of Harmony, two brothers, Michael and Thomas, had not spoken to each other for years. A misunderstanding had spiraled into a deep rift, dividing not only their relationship but also their families.

As Christmas approached, their mother grew increasingly sorrowful over the discord. On her deathbed, she expressed her final wish was to see her sons reunited. “Promise me you’ll find it in your hearts to forgive each other,” she whispered.

After her passing, both brothers were consumed by grief and guilt. Invitations to the Christmas Eve service at their childhood church arrived, and independently, they decided to attend in honour of their mother.

That night, the church was filled with warm light and the scent of evergreen. The pastor spoke about the true meaning of Christmas: love, forgiveness, and reconciliation, exemplified by God’s gift of Jesus to humanity.

Moved by the message, Michael glanced across the aisle and saw Thomas watching him. The weight of the years of silence pressed upon them. As the congregation stood to sing “Silent Night”, the brothers found themselves side by side.

Michael turned to Thomas, “I miss you,” he admitted softly. Thomas’s eyes welled up. “I’ve missed you too. I’m sorry for everything.”

They embraced, the barrier between them dissolving. Their families, witnessing the reunion, joined in the embrace, tears of joy streaming down their faces.

After the service, they gathered at their mother’s home, sharing memories and stories late into the night. The once-divided family was whole again.

From that Christmas forward, the brothers honoured their mother’s legacy by keeping their family united, recognizing that life’s too short for bitterness.

Moral of the Story: Forgiveness heals wounds and restores relationships, embodying the true spirit of Christmas.

Christmas is great because you can shout, ‘DON’T COME IN HERE!’ and people think you are wrapping presents. When you just want to drink your coffee in peace and not share your chocolates with anyone.

Have a very blessed week!