

VARIABLES – DECEMBER 22, 2024

# SS. PETER & PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

HIS GRACE BISHOP ANTHONY, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELS AND THE WEST

REVEREND FATHER CHRISTOPHER DILLON, PASTOR

REVEREND FATHER GEORGE WASHBURN, REVEREND FATHER JOHN CHRISTIANSON

*“Christ was the beloved Son, John was the beloved disciple. Christ was in the bosom of the Father, John leant on Jesus’ breast. Christ was a virgin, and by His grace, so was John. Christ was the Son of the Virgin, and so was John. The Lord thundered from the heavens’ (Ps. 18:13), and John was thunder, for he, more than the others, was called thunder and the son of thunder (c.f. Mark 3:17), a most theological thunder which resounds to the ends of the earth declaring the divine truth that in the beginning was the Word from the Father, and the Word was with God, and was God, and in Him was life and the true light, which lights every man coming into the world, by Whom in the beginning all things were made.” ~ St. Gregory Palamas*

**Welcome to all our visitors worshipping with us this morning!** Please sign our Guest Register as you enter the church and be our guest for coffee and refreshments this morning after the service is over. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to Ss. Peter and Paul.

## Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ (Genealogy)

GREAT-MARTYR ANASTASIA THE DELIVERER FROM POTIONS & HER TEACHER THE MARTYR CHRYSOGONOS

### Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom—Hymns & Scriptures

Variable Hymns – see music in packet

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tn. 1, Byzantine

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 pow’rs cried a loud 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.

Apolytikion of the Forefeast of the Nativity, Tn. 4, Byzantine

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 aforetime.

Apolytikion of Sunday Before the Nativity, Tn. 2, Byzantine

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.

Troparion of Ss Peter & Paul, Tn. 4, Byzantine

O Foremost of the Apostles, and teachers of the world, intercede with the Master of all to grant peace to the world and to our souls the Great Mercy.

Clergy only – Kontakion of Preparation of Christ’s Nativity, Tn. 3, Byzantine

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.

**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, Jephtha, 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 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.

**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 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.

***Receiving Holy Communion:*** Only Orthodox Christians prepared through prayer, fasting, and a recent sacramental confession should approach the chalice for the Eucharist. The Orthodox Church does not practice “open communion” and has no intercommunion with non-Orthodox churches.

***After taking Communion:*** Please return to your place and continue standing until the announcements.

## ***Today's Commemorations and Prayer Requests***

*Take this list of prayer requests home with you and keep these people in your prayers this week.*

***For the living:*** Newly illumined Chrissy; Bp. Anthony; Prs. John, Thomas; Khs. Barbara, Carla; Sylvia, Lynne & Roger, Patty, Marilyn, Magdalena, Betty, Ron, Sally, Kay, Noah, Timothy, Alexander, Jeremiah, Alex, Hector, Saoirse, Persephone, Samuel, Verity, Christine, Atticus, Evelyynn, Enrica, Jon & Serenity, Ada, Grayson, Emmett, Sage, Rosanna, Beverly.

***For those who are pregnant and their unborn children:*** Monica.

***For the reposed:*** Met. Philip; Aps. Gordon, Jack; Prs. Tom, Stephen, Basil, David, Terry; Hmks. Ephraim, John, Athanasios; Mnk. Simeon; Dns. Mark, John, Mark, Nathaniel, David, Joseph, Michael, Daniel; Khs. Judy, Jedonne, Terry Elizabeth, Doris; Presbs. Zinnia, Barbara; Boris, Glaphyra; Edward, Judy, Barbara; Stella, Dewitt, James, Karen, Larry, Isabel, Sandy, Russ.

***For those serving in the Armed Forces:*** Brycen, Jonathan, David, Jacob, Gregory, Daniel, Don, Scott, Michelle, Noah.