

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakia

Feast

-tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels with shepherds glorify Him! The wise men journey with a star! Since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a Little Child!

Trisagion (Thrice Holy)

In the place of “Holy God, Holy Mighty,...” We Sing: “As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ! Alleluia!” (*Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27*)

Prokeimenon

tone 8: Let all the earth worship Thee; / Let it praise Thy Name , O Most High!

Vs. Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth! Sing of His Name, give to Him glorious praise!

The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians 4:4-7

Epistle

Brethren: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoptions as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son in our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Alleluia

*The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!
v: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge!*

Matthew 2:1-12

Gospel

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: *‘But you, Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’*” Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.



Schedule

Saturday, December 31, 2022

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, January 1, 2023

Circumcision of our Lord & Feast

of St. Basil the Great

9:30 A.M. 3rd & 6th Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy (*of St.*

Basil the Great)

Thursday, January 5, 2023

STRICT FAST

8:30 A.M. Royal Hours

1:00 P.M. Vespersal Divine

Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

followed by the Great Blessing of

Waters

5:00 P.M. Vigil (Compline and
Matins)

Friday, January 6, 2023

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy of St.

John Chrysostom

1:15 P.M. Blessing of waters at
Wilmore Park

Saturday, January 7, 2023

3:00 P.M. Parish Council Meeting

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, January 8, 2023

9:30 A.M. 3rd & 6th Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 14, 2023

5:00 P.M. Vespers

Sunday, January 15, 2023

9:30 A.M. 3rd & 6th Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church

416 Ewing Ave, Madison, IL 62060

Sunday, December 25, 2022

*28th Sundays After Pentecost; THE NATIVITY
ACCORDING TO THE FLSH OF OUR LORD,
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST; The
adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar, and
Balthasar. Commemoration of the Shepherds in
Bethlehem who were watching their flocks, and
went to see the Lord.*

www.nativityofthevirgin.com

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE MOST REVEREND

DANIEL

ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST

On the Feast of the Nativity of Christ

December 25, 2022

*Very Reverend and Reverend Father, Venerable Monastics,
and Beloved Faithful,*

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

*In the second chapter of the Gospel of Saint Matthew,
we read the account of the Wisemen who came from the
east, “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in
the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men
from the east to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is he that is born
King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and
have come to worship him’” (Matthew 2:1-2). These wise
men had left the comfort and routine of their daily lives to
follow a star that would take them on what might have
seemed to be an impulsive adventure, but which would lead
them to the newborn King of the Jews and Savior of the
World.*

*The star of Bethlehem was a sign sent from heaven, a
part of God’s creation which played its unique role in the
story of our salvation. This is even acknowledged in our
liturgical hymns. As we sing in the Troparion of the
Nativity: “Thy Nativity, O Christ our God has shone to the*

Prayer Requests

Those in this earthly life

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Devon | Nancy | Joseph |
| Marissa | Craig | Andrew |
| Nathan | Michael | Magdalene |
| George | Macklynn | Victor |
| Kristina | Helen | Wilma |
| Reader Michael | Steven | Michael |
| Michelle | Michael | April |
| Mikaela | Candy | Joseph |
| Zachary | Priest George | Michael |
| Peter | Preoteassa Margarette | Barb |
| Rebecca | Brigid | Barbara |
| Subdeacon Paul | Bella | Mark |
| Judith | Keith | Angela |
| John | Ron | Elijah |
| Kathy | Beverly | Sophia |
| David | Margaret | Matushka Tanya |
| Mary | Carl | Mary |
| Ioan | Ann | Archpriest Moses |
| David | Dymphna & CTBB | Archpriest John |
| Adina | Justin | Matushka Margaret |
| Amy | Hope | Matthew |
| Eva | Nicholas | Priest Joseph |
| Helen | Theodora | Archpriest Michael |
| Diane | Presbyteria Irené | Matushka Virginia |
| Anthony | John | Paul |
| Marissa | Cyndi | Mary |
| James | Natalia | Nicholas |
| Mary | Peter (<i>Altan Wuliji</i>) | Andrew |
| Earl | Diana | Anthony |
| Reader Steven | Amy | Christopher |
| | Michael | Jackie |

Those in the life to come

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Christopher | Archpriest Vladimir |
| Lilliana | Archbishop PAUL |
| Vladimir | Adelia |
| Richard | Michael |
| <u>Cynthia</u> | Victor |
| Archpriest Thomas | Nicholas |
| Metropolitan THEODOSIUS | |

world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a Star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to Thee!"

Throughout the centuries, men and women have studied the stars, their placement in the skies and their movement, seeking in them something greater, something different, looking, at times, for some source of life's meaning. Even today, scientists look to the skies seeking answers to scientific questions and theories and hobbyists and amateur "stargazers" embrace astronomy as a valued pastime and relaxing diversion. If you have ever tried to use a telescope in a large metropolitan area, you are well aware of what is known as "light pollution," i.e. artificial light that is produced by streetlights, cars, etc. Light pollution brightens the sky so much that it also dims the brilliance of the stars and makes it more difficult to see and appreciate their intensity, sometime even to locate them. It is only with a high-powered telescope or by traveling out into the desert or to a high mountain or some remote, unpopulated area that the stars can be clearly seen. And so it is in our spiritual lives. We look beyond ourselves seeking the Light of Christ that "illumines all." However, even in our seeking, we permit our spiritual vision to be dimmed by our own egos, self-will, lusts and passions, pettiness, and any number of "things" that are not beneficial or helpful to us. Only by going "into the desert" or "to the mountaintop" where such tendencies and things can be left behind that we can see the Light that will never dim. Only by ridding our lives of the false and artificial lights that distract us can our vision be clearer and more focused. As we celebrate Christ's birth, it is my prayer that all of us can leave behind the "artificial light" that distracts us from the true Light of Christ.

In these difficult and seemingly dark days, of wars and rumors of war, as we strive to live lives of peace and harmony with all our brothers and sisters, and as we seek meaning in our daily lives and experiences, let us all keep our sights on the heavens, looking to Christ, whose Light illumines all. As we recall the Star that led the Wise Men to the Newborn King, let us acknowledge that our only true goal is life lived in the Light of Christ- in this world and in the life of the world to come.

As we celebrate the birth in the flesh of the Son of God, be assured of my prayerful best wishes for you, your families and friends, and all your dear ones. Let us pray for one another, for our God-protected Diocese, for our parishes, for this nation, and for all who seek peace on earth.

With love in Christ our Savior,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Troparia

Feast

TONE 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the Light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a Star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to Thee!