

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY, OF THE ANCESTORS



Icon of the Nativity -- December 25th

We Think of Him as Human, We Adore Him as God

The care of the Creator for His creatures is well known to us, and it explains why the Redeemer became incarnate. It was consistent with His love not to leave the human race to go to perdition, from the moment He had constructed the universe and given existence to non-existent beings.

The Lord of the world did not consider it right to allow human beings, for love of whom everything had been made, to be besieged by sin and to be sold like slaves to death.

For this reason He assumed human form, hid His invisible nature under visible guise, and kept the visible nature free from the stain of sin.

Undoubtedly, it would have been easy for Him to save the human race without assuming the garment of the flesh. He could have overthrown the power of death by a simple act

of will. He could have made the father of that power, sin, disappear by exiling it from earth in such a way that no trace of it would remain on the earth.

Instead of that, He chose to demonstrate the holiness of His providential care.

To restore salvation to human beings He did not employ as His servants the angels and arch-angels, nor cause a piercing voice to resound from heaven. He preferred to build for Himself a chamber in the womb of the Virgin and from there to come among us.

For this reason we think of Him as man and adore Him as God. Begotten of the Father before the beginning of time, He took of the Virgin a visible body. He is the Being who is both new and pre-existent.

St. Theodoret of Cyrrhus

Rev. Dr. Ronald Popivchak
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"Christ is Born!"
"Khristos Razhdayetsia!"

Dec. 23, 2012
Christmas

ON THIS CHRISTMAS FEAST our hearts and souls lead us to the Manger in Bethlehem to bow down before the Newborn Christ-Child, the Son of God. Some of us go as Shepherds with awe and humble adoration. Some of us go as the Magi, the Wisemen, with royal gifts of love. And some of us go as angels with the purest songs of praise. But all of us must go if we want to be known as Christians, for then He is our Son too, our Messiah and Savior. To Bethlehem we all go!

COMPLETE SCHEDULES of all the events and services are available today in the vestibule. Be sure to take home a copy or two, so that all your family and friends can be with us this Christmastide.

2013 CALENDARS AND ENVELOPES have been prepared for every parishioner and can be found in the church basement today. Please take all these items home with you for your family and friends today!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT AND SOUND we all enjoyed last Sunday in our Parish Hall! Our students danced, acted, sang on stage and even greeted St. Nicholas and his elves. Our ladies and men prepared a delicious Holy Supper meal that was served by our Junior Sodalists. If your young ones do not attend our Sunday School, now you know what they are missing! We thank all our Faithful who worked so hard on this program. God bless all of you this Christmas season.

WE THANK ALL OF YOU for your generous gifts to our beautiful Church this Holy Season. We give to the LORD when we give to our neighbors and our Christian community, our Church. We thank God for all the great and generous faithful among us this Christmas. And Father Pastor is so very grateful to you for all the cards and gifts, prayers and good wishes. God bless and keep all of you!

MONDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE, is a day of strict fast for all the Faithful. We are to abstain from all meat and dairy on Monday, so that we can feast with our families on Christmas Day.

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm For all the Faithful
Sunday, 9 am +Jack Danko Sr. (The Paul and Consoli Family)
Monday, 9 pm For all the Faithful on Christmas Eve.
Tuesday, 10 am +Peter Martinick (Barbara and Daughters)
Wednesday, 8 am +George Dychdala, Pete Martinick (Maruszczak Family)
Saturday, 8 am +Walter Gutkowski (Timbario Family)
Saturday, 6 pm +Elizabeth Jablonski (Olga Orenak)
Sunday, 9 am For the Health of all the Faithful in 2013

CHRISTMAS TROPAR: O Christ Our God, Your Nativity has spread the Light of Wisdom throughout the world. The Magi learned through the Star to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as the Orient from on high, O Lord, glory be to You.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND...

CHRISTMAS KONTAK: Today the Virgin gives birth to the Inconceivable One Christ, as the earth presents a cave to the Inaccessible One. The angels and the shepherds praise Him. The Magi come to Him led by a Star. For it is for our sake that a little Infant, the Eternal God is born.

CHRISTMAS PROKIMEN: Let all the earth worship You and sing to Your Name, O Most High, Lord Jesus Christ.

Христос Рождество!
О. Фофанов