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## Week of December 24, 2023

Sunday, December 24

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Sunday before the Nativity. The Holy Forefathers of Christ. Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her Martyrs Philip, her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia (ca. 262). Tone 4.

9:00am Matins

10:00 The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-mouth

11:45 Sunday school--canceled

12:00pm Fellowship

### This Sunday's Hymns & Readings

#### *Tone 4. Troparion of the resurrection*

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

#### *Tone 2. Troparion of the forefathers*

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by their

prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

*Tone 4. Troparion of the Forefeast*

Mary was of David's seed, so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem. She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man. The time for the birth was at hand. Since there was no room at the inn, the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen. Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

*Tone 4. Kontakion of the resurrection*

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

*Tone 1. Kontakion of the forefathers*

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

*Tone 3. Kontakion of the forefeast*

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! Glorify with the angels and the shepherds the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

*Tone 4. Prokeimenon*

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

For You are just in all that You have done for us!

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

*Tone 4. Alliluias*

We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.

For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that 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 righteous; praise befits the just!

Alliluiia, Alliluiia, Alliluiia!

## This week's schedule

*Monday, December 25. The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

**9:30-10:00** Third and Sixth Hours

**10:00-12:00** The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

**1:00-3:00pm** Fr. Silviu office hours--canceled

*Tuesday, December 26. Second day of Nativity. Ieromartyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis (ca. 840).*

*Wednesday, December 27. Third Day of Nativity. Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34).*

**3:00-5:00pm** Fr. Silviu office hours

**6:00-7:00pm** Ninth Hour and Daily Vespers

*Thursday, December 28. Fourth Day of Nativity. The 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia (302).*

*Friday, December 29. Fifth Day of Nativity. The 14,000 holy and innocent infants slain by Herod at Bethlehem.*

*Saturday, December 30. Virgin Martyr Anysia at Thessalonica (285-305).*

**5:00-5:50pm** Adult education class with Fr. Kyril--cancelled

**6:00-7:00pm** Ninth Hour and Great Vespers

**7:00-7:30pm** Choir practice

## Announcements

*Divine Liturgy this Monday, December 25, for the great feast*

We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the great feast of Nativity on Monday, Dec 25, at 10:00. Because the feast falls on a Monday, the Liturgy will be the one of St. Basil the Great. Join us for this proper way of celebrating the Lord's nativity!

*Our annual parish meeting is on January 14, at 1:00pm*

Our yearly parish meeting will be on January 14, at the end of our fellowship. Please plan to attend. We have many important matters to attend to, including the election of the parish council, clergy reports, financial reports, needs of and plans for our parish, etc. Participation is strongly encouraged!

*Divine Liturgy and Great Sanctification of the water on Saturday January 6*

We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the great feast of Epiphany on Saturday, January 6, at 10:00am. It will be immediately followed by the Great Sanctification of the water. Join us and come take holy water for your healing and for the blessing of your houses.

*Schedule your house blessings with Fr. Silviu between January 8-18*

Please schedule the blessing of your house here: <https://calendly.com/father-silviu/house-blessings>. If you are not a member of the parish or a regular visitor, please know that Fr. Silviu would like to see you in church before he will bless your house. He will not bless the houses of people whom he does not know and he cannot confirm to be Orthodox.

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### Quote of the Week

We need to be careful not to harbor any resentment against those who harm us, but rather to pray for them with love. Whatever any of our fellow men does, we should never think evil of him. We need always to have thoughts of love and always to think good of others. Look at Saint Stephen the first martyr. He prayed, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." We need to do the same.

(St. Porphyrios Kavsokalivitis, *Wounded By Love*)