

Sunday after Nativity

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*Galatians 1:11-19*

*Matthew 2:13-23*  
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Homily by
Fr. Marc Dunaway

Epistle Reader:
Bradley Forbes

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Kies / Davisson

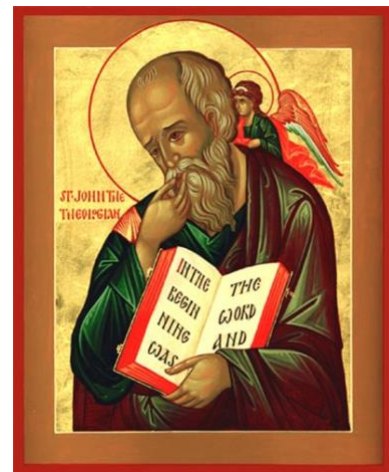
St. John Orthodox Cathedral

Weekly Bulletin



Sunday, December 28, 2025

And the Days Following
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*O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.*

## *Feast Days and Services*

*Next Week...*



### *Great Feast of Epiphany* *the Baptism of Our Lord - January 6*

**Services:**

**Monday, January 5 – Strict Fast Day**

Royal Hours 1<sup>st</sup> 6:15am; 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:15am; 6<sup>th</sup> 12:15pm; 9<sup>th</sup> 3:15pm

**Monday Evening, January 5**

Great Vespers with Special Hymns and Readings - 7:15pm

**Tuesday Evening, January 6**

Blessing of Water and Divine Liturgy of Saint John –6:15pm

This Great Feast is important for all Orthodox Christians to celebrate. It is equal to Christmas and one of the oldest Feasts of the Church.

While Christmas celebrates our Lord's birth "in the secrecy of a cave," Epiphany celebrates, for the Orthodox, the public *appearance* of our Lord at His baptism and the *appearance* of God as Trinity: The Father speaking from heaven, the Son standing in the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descending as a dove. The word "epiphany" means *appearance*, and sometimes the Feast is also called "Theophany," meaning the appearance of God.

In the Great Blessing of Water, we pray for God to be present in the water and through it to give us healing and purification as we drink from it and with it bless our homes.

**It is important for all Orthodox Christians to celebrate this Feast Day.**

## *Parish Events and News*



### *Coffee Hour This Sunday - December 28, 2025 Group D - Fourth Sunday of the Month*

**Hosts Families: Kies / Davisson**

**Snacks & Clean-up:** Alexander, Arvidson, Clodfelter, Dougherty, Fr. M & Kh. Betsy Dunaway, Dyal, Fletes, Haines, Goetz, Hightower, M Johnson, Jones, Kies, Lamb, Mee, Moses, Palmer, Parker, Ray, Snider, Stogsdill, I. Temple, Terrell, Van Dyke, Webster

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Next Sunday - Group A - January 4, 2026 - Hosts: Patras / Labrecque / Mason

Snacks & Clean-up: Abel, Bower, Cook, Cooley, Dozier, Gillquist Families, Haley, Jenkins, Justus, Lindblom, Macalino, Mellor, Northey, Patras, Sorensen, Stallman, Templeton, Tysver, VanDewater, Weaver, Wells

Folk Dancing Nights

Join us Sunday Evenings through February 1 for a Joyful Season of Folk Dancing! We'll Gather from 5:00-7:00 PM in the Church Basement.

Enjoy live music performed by our local folk band, The Rock Badgers, along with guided dance instruction—perfect for beginners and seasoned dancers alike! These evenings are family-friendly and open to everyone.

Feel free to bring a snack to share; punch and water will be provided.

We hope this series will be a wonderful opportunity to build fellowship among members of all the local Orthodox Churches. Inquirers and visitors are warmly encouraged to attend—it's a great chance to learn something new or refresh your folk dancing skills ahead of upcoming celebrations.

We look forward to dancing with you! For questions, please contact Emilia Lam at 360-202-5049

Visitors to St. John's – Tuesday, December 23



News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese



[Nativity Message from Patriarch John X, 2025](#)

[Nativity Message from Metropolitan Saba, 2025](#)

[Monthly Newsletter from Archdiocese](#)

By the mercy of God Almighty

John X

the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East

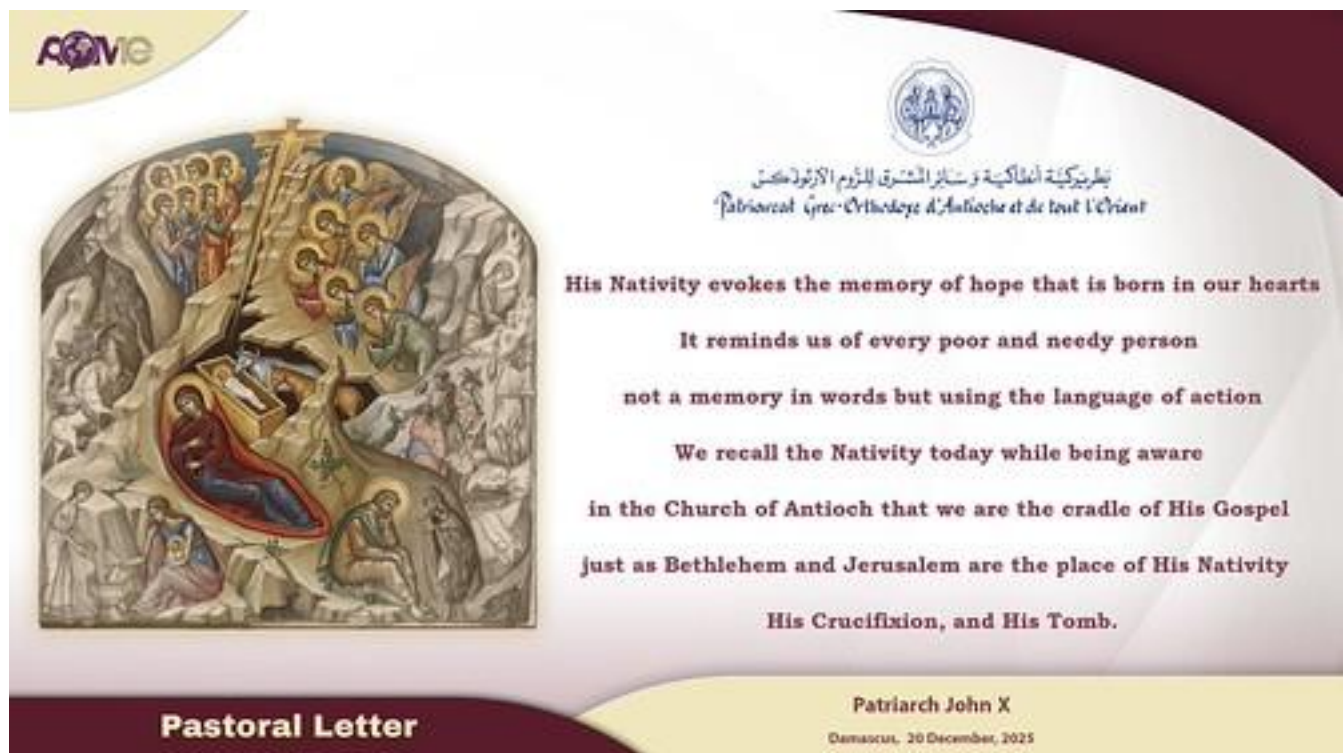
To

My brethren, the pastors of the Holy Church of Antioch

And my sons and daughters, wherever they are across this Apostolic See:

"O heavens, rejoice and be glad, O mountains, at the birth of Christ."

By these words, borrowing from the hymnographer, the Church touches each of our hearts and invites us to contemplate the birth of that Child Who chose a cave, although the whole world is His. By these words, the hymnographer addresses not only human beings but even lifeless creation, asking it to break its silence, to rejoice with the angels, to exult with the shepherds, and to bow before the manger of Bethlehem. As if the joy of humanity alone is not enough to describe the encounter of mankind with Christ, the hymnographer calls upon creation itself to cast off its stillness and to be clothed with the joy of the Nativity—the joy of meeting that Child whose eyes ignite all our hope and whose serenity inspires ours.



Pastoral Letter

Patriarch John X
Damascus, 30 December, 2025

بطريركية أنطاكية وسائر المشرق للروم الأرثوذكس
Patriarcat Grec-Orthodoxe d'Antioche et de tout l'Orient

His Nativity evokes the memory of hope that is born in our hearts

It reminds us of every poor and needy person

not a memory in words but using the language of action

We recall the Nativity today while being aware

in the Church of Antioch that we are the cradle of His Gospel

just as Bethlehem and Jerusalem are the place of His Nativity

His Crucifixion, and His Tomb.

Here is a call for each of us to cast off the burdens of the world and lay them before the manger of Bethlehem. Here is a call for each of us to rejoice despite the trials that surround us. Here is a call for man to rejoice even in the depths of distress. A call not to surrender to despair despite everything. The Nativity of Christ is a call to wipe away the dust that has gathered over the spark of our hope, so that His hope may shine within us as hope, and His light as light.

Each year, humanity awakens from the slumber of its pride to behold this Child, humble and radiant in the darkness of His cave. He came silently, yet His silence spoke more eloquently than orators. He came in weakness, yet within Him was a strength that strips weakness off the weak. He came resting in the womb of the Virgin, though He rides upon the shoulders of the cherubim. He came as a Child lying upon the straw of a manger, though He is the eternal God resting upon the glory of His heights. He went into a cave to dig into the cave of the human heart and place within it something of the sweetness of His Gospel and the fragrance of His humility, while it suffers from the bitterness of its pride.

His Nativity evokes the memory of hope that is born in our hearts. It reminds us of every poor and needy person—not a memory in words but using the language of action. We recall the Nativity today while being aware, in the Church of Antioch, that we are the cradle of His Gospel, just as Bethlehem and Jerusalem are the place of His Nativity, His Crucifixion, and His Tomb. We contemplate the light of His countenance within the cave and pray that this light may be incarnate in our lives, in the life of His Church, and all over His world.

During these days, we remember our departed brothers, who have preceded us and met with the bright countenance of that Child. We ask Him, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, to embrace them and cover them with His mercy.

May God grant many happy returns of these blessed days to all of you—our children in the homeland and overseas, and to all peoples. May He fill you with goodness, prosperity, and blessings from the Father of lights and the Source of gifts, the Child of the cave, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the Lord of mercies and the God of all consolation. Amen.

Damascus, December 20, 2025

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 630/2025

Nativity 2025

My esteemed brothers, the right reverend bishops of the Archdiocese,

My beloved sons, the priests and deacons of the Archdiocese,

My children in Christ, the dearly loved in the Lord, the sons and daughters of the Archdiocese,

In these blessed days, the Holy Church reminds us of the great event accomplished by God for our salvation: the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Church calls this feast “the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh.” The emphasis is not so much on birth as it is on the Incarnation. The One who is born is Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” By the birth of Christ, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Let us therefore not be satisfied with the outward expressions of the feast, but enter into its depth and its reflection in our lives and growth, so that we may come to know the “abundant life” which He came to give us.

I greet you on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh, and I pray that your days may be blessed and your lives made holy by His abiding presence within you and among you. I place before you some sayings of the French Orthodox theologian Olivier Clément (+2009), hoping they may help you reflect on some of the essential meanings of the Feast of the Nativity, so that you may live it more deeply.

Olivier sees the Nativity as a call to allow the incarnate Word to dwell within us, so that we in turn may become words of consolation and hope. Thus, the feast becomes more than a season or beautiful rituals; it becomes a daily journey of discipleship, through which the world is renewed from within, the logic of domination is replaced by the logic of giving, and the night of humanity is illumined by a light that never fades.

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

"Checking In" with Each Other

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email cathedral@stjohnalaska.org

Rides Needed for Oksana Atrz to Get to Church

Please consider if you could drive Oksana to church. Please let Dn. Kevin know which dates you can cover at doughertykb@yahoo.com or 907-947-5345.

The following are the dates Oksana will need a ride: December 28

Dates to Remember



Anniversaries This Week

Michael & Rebecca Griffith - December 31, 2010

Daniel & Amy Jenkins - January 2, 1994

Andrew & Natasha Haines - January 3, 2010

Sean & Martha Fisher - January 3, 2014

Birthdays This Week

December 29 - Kyle Lourie

December 30 - Steve Sparks

January 1 - Natalie Doss

January 1 - Willard Dunaway

January 2 - Jacob Goetz

January 2 - Derick Hanna

January 2 - Jenny Stogsdill

January 4 - Emma Drennan

January 4 - Phebe Dyal

M A N Y Y E A R S !



Remembering in Prayer...

Mary Greene

Zoie (Oksana's Mom)

Arlo Northey

Gwyn Jones

Jay Keener

Krya & Skylynn Lineer

Jan Northey

*We continue to pray for all those suffering in Ukraine
and for all those suffering in Israel and Gaza, for a quick end to
war and for peace*

Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



- * Paul Frederick Schanzenbach - December 25, 2016
- * Archpriest Harold Dunaway - January 3, 2012
- * Kh. Barbara Ann Dunaway - January 25, 2011
- * Infant Mark David McIlrath - January 25, 1986

M E M O R Y E T E R N A L !

Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **January** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:
Saturday, Jan. 24. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



Bulletin Announcement Guidelines

Send announcements to church email address: cathedral@stjohnalaska.org Have announcements submitted by Thursday or at very latest Friday 9am. If you have any questions regarding announcements – contact Maris Kelly at the church office. 907-696-2002.

THE SYNAXARION

Sunday after Nativity – December 28

David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord

On December 28, in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the twenty thousand martyrs burned in Nicomedia; and Venerable Simon the myrrh-streaming, founder of Simonopetra monastery on Athos.



On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and righteous Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin and Lady Theotokos; James the Brother of the Lord and First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King.

Verses

We honor Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin, who alone was chosen to be her protector.

And, the blessed James, who was a carpenter's son, but was also the brother of the Lord Who built all with a word.

How can we express the honor given to David, seeing that the Lord Himself testifies him as a man after His own heart.

David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David's seed.

God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110.

The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

Saint John Orthodox Cathedral

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway • Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson