

Troparion & Kontakion – Sunday before the Nativity

Troparion - Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the flames as though at 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!

Kontakion - Tone 1

(For when the Sunday before the Nativity falls on December 20-24) Rejoice, 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.

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord (December 18-24) is known as the Sunday of the Holy Fathers. On this day the Church commemorates all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to St Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the geneology of Luke 3:23-38. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered today, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (December 17).

The Troparion to the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths ("Great are the accomplishments of faith...") is quite similar to the Troparion for St Theodore the Recruit (February 17, and the first Saturday of Great Lent). The Kontakion to St Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).

Holy Spirit Orthodox Church - Wantage, NJ **Archpriest Samuel Kedala, Rector**

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HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

Wantage, New Jersey

December 23, 2007



Sunday Before the Nativity of our Lord

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Sunday, December 23, 2007

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Today **Church School Nativity Program**
Monday, Dec. 24 **Vespertal Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m., Holy Supper 6:00 p.m. everyone invited,**
7:30 p.m. Compline of Nativity
Tuesday, December 25,..... **NATIVITY OF OUR LORD –9:35 Hours-10:00 am–Divine Liturgy**
Wednesday, December 26 ... 8:35 Hours-9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos
Saturday, Dec 29, 6:00 p.m. Vespers/Private Confessions
Sunday, Dec. 30 **9:15 a.m. Church School, 9:35 a.m. Hours, 10 AM Divine Liturgy**

Today's commemorated feasts and saints... 30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (14th of Luke) —
Tone 5. SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete: Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, Zoticus, Pompeius, Agathopus, Basilides, and Evaristus (3rd c.). Repose of St. Theoctist (Theoctistus), Archbishop of Novgorod (1310). St. Niphon, Bishop of Cyprus (4th c.). St. Paul, Bishop of Neo-Cæsarea (4th c.).
Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40 (Epistle, Sunday Before) - Matthew 1:1-25 (Gospel, Sunday Before)

BULLETIN

Thank you to the Church Schools Teachers and families who brought their children and prepared for the Annual Church School Nativity presentation and decorated the Christmas Tree. A good time was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to those of you who had taken **Gift tags for Nativity gifts** for needy children and families. They were distributed yesterday. May God Repay

Thank you to the **Engelsman family** who hosted the Coffee Social last week. **No one** signed up to host the Social today. **No one** is signed up to host next week.

Please sign-up to host a future social.

Thank you to John Clauson for clearing the snow in front of the door on the ramp. May our Lord repay

It is only one day away from the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. Very few parishioners have come to the Sacrament of Confession. Father Samuel will be available before and after Great Vespers and by appointment if necessary. Sunday mornings are **not** a good time to go to confession as Father Samuel is preparing for the Divine Liturgy. **We must come to Confession to receive Holy Communion.**

Please place a small donation in the basket at Coffee Social to help pay for the

paper products.

Supermarket Gift Cards will be sold at today's Coffee Hour. Please help support the General fund with your purchases of these supermarket Gift Cards. Five percent of all sales go to the parish General Fund.

A reminder to all who are worshipping at Holy Spirit Church, please turn off your cell phones or leave it in your cars until after Divine Liturgy

PLEASE PURCHASE gift cards for shopping at ShopRite and A & P stores. They are working out wonderfully. Very convenient for shopping. No cash, no checks, just a little card. They are great, and our church benefits by your using them.

WE HAVE SHOP RITE AND A&P GIFT CARDS-STOCK UP ON GIFT CARDS FOR YOUR REGULAR SHOPPING & AS GIFTS TO OTHERS

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Catherine Schwed, Thelma Macheska, Alyssa Karakos, Mary Kwak, Matushka Evelyn Kreta, Christopher, the infant Ella Jane, Corinne Matthews, infant Nicholai, Dan Taylor, Doug Taylor, Stephen Kachur, Pighi Mardaloescu, Valentina Bobrowsky, Archimandrite Joachim (Parr), Frank Higginbotham, Matushka Marie Kreta, Joanne Patrick, Feodora Apanasow, Archpriest Joseph Chupeck, the infant Logan Eugene, Evanthia, Loren Chwan, Jennifer and Matushka Vera Yuschak

SEVEN DAY VIGIL CANDLES

By the **Olsen Family** for the health, and Salvation of **Loren Chwan**

By the **Monica Brenner** for the health, and Salvation of **Mina-Maria, Christopher-Anthony**
By **Maria Tsitsiragos** in Blessed memory of her parents **Nicoletta & George** (Tsitsiragos) grand parents **John & Christina** (Tsitsiragos), **Constantine & Chrysoula** (Constantopoulos)

Seven day vigil candles are available for the faithful to sponsor in memory of their departed, the sick, or for the general intentions (anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, baptisms, etc.). They will remain lit on the altar and table of oblation. The suggested donation is \$10.00 each and will burn for seven days. The intentions and those who offered them will be announced in the weekly bulletins. You may purchase your offering at the Parish Council office.

If you would like to have something published in the weekly bulletin, e-mail or bring typed copy to Father Samuel by Wednesday of the week prior to the Sunday you would like it published.

We welcome our guests who are worshipping with us today. Please join us downstairs for refreshments and fellowship. Please sign our guest book before you leave.