



The Messenger

Sunday, December 25, 2023
Δευτέρα, 25 Δεκέμβριος

The Nativity of Our Lord and
Savior, Jesus Christ
Ἡ Γέννησις τοῦ Σωτήρος ἡμῶν
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

Weekly Worship Guide

The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation • Atlanta, GA

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, & Balthasar
The Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord

Merry Christmas! - Καλά Χριστούγεννα!

On the Night of Nativity By St. Ephraim of Syrian



Pure is the present night, in which the Pure One appeared, Who came to purify us! Let our hearing be pure, and the sight of our eyes chaste, and the feeling of the heart holy, and the speech of the mouth sincere!
The present night is the night of reconciliation; therefore, let no one be wrath against his brother and offend him!

This night gave peace to the whole world, and so, let no one threaten. This is the night of the Most Meek One; let no one be cruel! This is the night of the Humble One; let no one be proud!

Now is the day of joy; let us not take revenge for offences! Now is the day of good will; let us not be harsh. On this day of tranquility, let us not become agitated by anger!

Today God came unto sinners; let not the righteous exalt himself over sinners!

Today the Most Rich One became poor for our sake; let the rich man invite the poor to his table!

Today we received a gift which we did not ask for; let us bestow alms to those who cry out to us and beg!

The present day has opened the door of heaven to our prayers; let us also open our door to those who ask of us forgiveness!

Today the Godhead placed upon Himself the seal of humanity, and humanity has been adorned with the seal of the Godhead! reach forth her hand to the Child and to carry Him. Forthwith, Salome's hand was restored and she was filled with joy.

Father Paul, Father Christos, the Parish Council, and the Cathedral staff would like to wish everyone a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Order of Hymns Following The Small Entrance

Ἀπολυτίκιον Τῆς ἑορτῆς Ἦχος δ'.

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἀστροῖς λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο· σέ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σέ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολῆν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

I Gennisis sou Hriste o Theos imon, anetile to kosmo, to fos to tis gnoseos; en afti gar I tis astris latrevodes, ipo asteros edidaskonto, se proskinin, to Ilion tis dikeosinis, ke se ginoskin ex ipsous Anatolin. Kivrie doxa si.

Apolytikion of the Feast Mode 4.

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.



Κοντάκιον Τῆς ἑορτῆς Ἦχος γ'.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερουσίον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἀστέρος ὁδοιποροῦσι δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεός.

I Parthenvnos sivmeron to IperouvSION tivkti, ke I gi to Spivleon, to aprosivto prosavgi. Avngeli, metav Pimevnon doxologouvsi, Mavgi de, metav astevros odiporouvsi; di imavs gar egennivthi pedivon nevon, o pro eovnon Theovs

Kontakion of the Feast Mode 3.

On this day the Virgin gives birth unto the Super-essential. To the Unapproachable, earth is providing the grotto. Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. He was born for our salvation,* a newborn Child,* the pre-eternal God.



Readings

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ
Ἡ Γέννησις τοῦ Σωτήρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ
Χριστοῦ

Epistle (St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:4-7)

Reader: John Mars

PROKEIMENON: Let all the earth worship you, and sing praise to you.

VERSE: Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir of God through Christ.

Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12)

When 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 assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 51 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK

Reminders for Receiving Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered in the Orthodox Church only to those individuals baptized and/or chrismated (confirmed) in the Orthodox Faith. To participate in Holy Communion one must be in good standing with the Church spiritually (for example, married people must have had their marriage blessed in the Church; and, all must be without grave sin on their hearts). For all Orthodox Christians, the proper preparation for Holy Communion must be observed: that is, examination of conscience, confession, reading the prayers for Holy Communion, and the proper fasting. If you have any further questions about this, please speak with the clergy. Women should remove all lipstick when approaching for Holy Communion.

Thank you.

Support our Cathedral

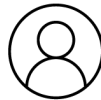
Welcome, everyone!

We extend a warm welcome to our visitors worshipping with us today in our Cathedral. You are invited to join us for our fellowship following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy in Carlos Hall next to the Church. Thank you for your visit! Please stop by our hospitality table and sign the register in the Narthex.

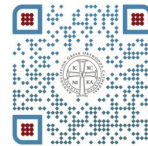
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Thank you to our volunteers

Acolytes

Group 3	Group 4
December 24 Evening	December 25
Ian Alexander	Alex Simitse
George Adams	Constantine Dallis
William Adams	Yanni Kitas
Grayden Fotopoulos	Demetre Lignos
JW Godwin	Matthew Simitse
George Laszlo	Luke Simitse
John Pribas	Peter Soulimiotis
Benjamin Terry	Lucas Tiliakos
	Niko Tiliakos

Handmaidens

Group 3	Group 4
December 24 Evening	December 25
Alexia Spetseris	Gabriella Mayes
Nora Fotopoulos	Marina Dallis
Phoebe Franklin	Stavroula Dallis
Remy Hughes	Anna Koulouris
Anna Sophia Laszlo	Kat Leitourgis
Helen Laszlo	Saiah Murray
Mina Papadopoulos	Maria Nikolov
Eleni Starks	Zoe Tiliakos

Parish Council

St. Basil the Great
Michael Hoon
Chris Adams
Ted Kipreos
Stacie Nefos
Athanasios Tiliakos

Contact us

2500 Clairmont Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

office@atlgoc.org
(404) 633-5870
Fax (404) 633-6018

Rev. Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis, Dean
Rev. Fr. Christos P. Mars, Protosphyter
Elizabeth Thomas, Pastoral Assistant

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