

The Nativity of Our Lord

2022-12-25

St. Thomas Orthodox Church

A Parish of the [Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America](#)



To our visitors...

Welcome! We hope your time with us is healing and worshipful. Please note that, although we have much respect for other Christian traditions, Holy Communion is reserved for properly prepared members of the Orthodox faith. Everyone is invited to partake of the blessed bread after the conclusion of the Liturgy. May God's blessing be upon you!

Hymns in Today's Liturgy

Apolytikion of the Nativity of Christ (Tone 4)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ (Tone 3)

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed before the ages as God.

Epistle

Galatians 4:4–7

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a 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!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Gospel

Matthew 1:1–12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa 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 Judæa; for so

it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judæa, are by no means least among the rulers of Judæa; 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, until 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.

Synaxarion

On 25 December, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Child born is God, and the Mother, a Virgin;
what greater marvel hath appeared in creation?

On the twenty-fifth, Mary the Virgin gave birth to God.

On this day, we commemorate the Adoration of the Magi:

Worshipping Thee, O Word, this cohort, come from the nations,
Showeth the worship that Thou shalt receive from the nations.

On this day, we commemorate the Shepherds that behold the Lord:

Shepherds their own flock do now abandon,
and hasten to see Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Thus entered into the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the

time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when a foreigner named Herod, who sought to kill the infant Messiah, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind.

Unto Him be glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday	<i>Paraklesis</i>	18:00	Holy Trinity
Saturday	Great Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas

We will stream services live and post updates on [our Facebook page](#), on [our Twitter feed](#), and on [our YouTube channel](#).

2023

January 8	Annual Parish Meeting
January 13	Archdiocesan Special Convention
February 5	Sunday of the Pharisee & Publican
February 27	Clean Monday
March	Antiochian Women's Month
April 9	Palm Sunday
April 16	Pascha
May 25	Ascension
June 4	Pentecost
June 14–17	DOWAMA Parish Life Conference
July 23–30	Archdiocesan Convention

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