



THE NATIVITY  
OF OUR LORD

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**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost - After The Nativity - Synaxis Of Theotokos**

(The Sunday After The Nativity Of Our Lord: Remembering Joseph the Betrothed,  
David the King, and James Brother of the Lord)

**Today's Epistle Reading:**

Galatians 1: 11-19

**Today's Gospel Reading:**

Matthew 2: 13-23

**Nativity Troparion:** "Thy Nativity, O Christ our God; has shown to the world the Light of Wisdom!  
For by it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a Star; to adore Thee,  
the Son of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high! O Lord,  
Glory to Thee!"

(The Nativity Kontakion and Synaxis Troparion Will Also Be Sung!)

**Spiritual Thoughts:**



*The day after Christmas the Church offers praise to the Most Holy Mother of God, who is true Mother of Jesus and also Mother of God, since it was the Holy Spirit who created in her womb the human nature of Jesus and united it substantially with the divine nature of the Word. This was established by the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in 431 which echoed the words of Lk. 1:43, "And how have I deserved that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?"*

*The Flight into Egypt to escape the wicked Herod is also commemorated on this day. In old Cairo today there is the cave where the Holy Family lived. When Herod had died, the angel of the Lord summoned the Holy Family back to Nazareth.*

*Euthymius was Archbishop of Sardica who argued against the Iconoclasts at the Second Ecumenical Council in 787. He was martyred on Dec. 26, 824.*

## Today's Special Announcements and Upcoming Activities For You:

- (1) **TODAY:** on this 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Christmas, we again greet everyone with, "Christ is Born!"
- (2) **Please pray for the health and well-being of the following loved ones:**  
Ellis Cannon    Melva Lugares    Dawn Hamm    Nick Trbovich    Milkie Trtica  
Mara Gasparovic-H    Smilja Blagovich-NH    Mimi Pavlovich-NH    George Rocknage  
George/Alona Evanovich-NH    Boya Kecman-NH    Dan Ikach    Mika Rocknage
- (3) **Also pray for the souls of those fallen asleep in the Lord:**  
+Betty Vojnovich    +Betty Milkovich    +Delores Craven    +Bertha Cervo    +Milan Vranesevich  
+Mildred Miljus    +Amy Pacura    +Arlene Crnkovich    +Peter Miljus    +Mildred Dokmanovich  
+Sally Vranes    +Priscilla Torbic    +Ann Siebert    +Arch-Priest Michael Lewis
- (4) **SPECIAL ITEMS TO TAKE NOTE OF:**  
- **THIS WEEK: 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of Christmas, St. Stephen's Day, tomorrow - Services at 9:30 AM!**  
- **Saturday:** Feast of Circumcision of our Lord/St. Basil The Great - 9:30 AM Services!
- (5) **REMEMBER THAT:** the sole purpose of the Holy Liturgy is for our participation in the Holy Mysteries of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - don't let the devil deceive you into staying away from the BEST medicine your soul will ever see
- (6) **As we enter the New Civil Year 2012** - we must offer up our THANKS to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all the Blessings we have received as His laborers in His Vineyard, NOT by Our words, but by our actions! (TRANSLATION: ALL of us must see what we can do to give a little more of our TIME, our TALENTS, and our TREASURES to His Church!)
- (7) **UPCOMING: CAROLING:** the youth group and Choir will be caroling on January 14<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 PM - (See Fr. Stevo for details)
- (8) **SPECIAL NOTE:** our "Christmas Outreach Project" of taking hams and turkeys down to the Orthodox Pantry on the South Side last December 22<sup>nd</sup> was a WONDERFULLY successful event! Thanks to our donations and our Kolo's help, we were able to take down over 60 items, in addition to having 10 volunteers work the pantry from 5:45 to 7 PM that evening. **To the few of you who were critical of our "being disorganized", I suggest that you get involved with this wonderful ORTHODOX Ministry and see the "fruits of God's Laborers" manifested in the eyes of those helped!**  
- As a result of the above experience, **we will have a regular container set up downstairs to collect food supplies (dry goods, etc.), that will be taken down monthly to the Pantry....in addition, our Outreach Committee will determine which Thursday of the month to serve as volunteers at the Pantry! JOIN US!**

## IF THEY ONLY HAD KNOWN!

**I**n 1798, a man went to the front desk of the finest hotel in Baltimore and asked if he could have a room for the evening. He was dirty and disheveled; he looked like a farmer who had just come in from working in his fields. The manager instantly decided that this was not the type of person that should be staying in his elegant establishment. He lied to the man, telling him there were no rooms available. Imagine the manager's shock when a co-worker told him that "peasant" was Thomas Jefferson, the Vice President of the United States at the time — a man whose first love was farming. It is said that the hotel manager never quite got over his great blunder, and that he would constantly lament: "If only I had known it was the Vice President. I would have given him our finest room."

As we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ, one of the intriguing aspects of the Christmas Story is that somehow,

no one had room for Joseph and Mary as the time for her delivery drew near. After the fact, the innkeepers who rejected them probably echoed the words of the Baltimore hotel manager: "If we only knew that the Baby about to be born was the Messiah. We would have found room for Him."

As Christ went about doing His chosen work, many others joined the ranks of the Bethlehem innkeepers and failed to find room for Him in their lives and failed to recognize Who He was. Christ's ministry wasn't terribly successful. The world had no use for Him until it was crystal-clear that He was the Son of God.

We certainly should know Him, and we certainly should find room for Him in our lives. Our lives must be centered on Him, for He came into the world for our sake, and for the sake of our salvation. This is His gift to us. Our gift to Him must be our unending love.