

St. Ignatios of Antioch Melkite Church

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Sunday of the Genealogy Dec. 19, 2010

Tone: 5

Eothinon: 8

Hymns of the Forefeast

Adam exults, for the gate of Eden is opening: our God, the Creator, is permitting Himself to be created.

In order to draw out the venom of sin and restore the ancient image in me, You took flesh and were nourished by milk. You make creation turn with only a sign from You, yet You allow Yourself to be wrapped in swaddling clothes. I sing to You, O Word, Angel of the great Counsel of Your Father, by which I am restored to my former condition of immortality.

The Word of God, carried upon the cherubim, has united Himself to the flesh in His own person, taking up His dwelling in the womb of the virgin. He has become man and comes to be born in the land of Judah. O holy cave, prepare yourself as a grand palace for the King of all! And you, O manger, prepare yourself as a fiery throne in which Christ will be put to sleep as an Infant by the virgin Mary, in order to awaken His creatures, as He Himself has willed.

The King of the ages, who existed from before all time, enters the world as an infant! Behold the Son who has been given to us!...Receive Him and submit to Him, for with us now is the One who will sift and winnow out any kingdom or power which will not submit to His rule.

The living and radiant Cloud bearing the dew from Heaven is approaching now to rain it down so that the face of the earth be completely refreshed.

The Virgin sustains You who sustain the whole creation, incarnate in a flesh subject to death and accepting the narrow cave as your dwelling. At Your birth, the angelic choirs sing to You from high Heaven with the shepherds, full of wonder at Your awesome majesty.

Pruned in our hearts, bodies and souls purified by communion in the mystery of divine salvation, let us go to the city of Bethlehem, to contemplate the Nativity of the Lord.

The Feast of the Holy Hieromartyr

St. Ignatios the God-bearer,

Bishop of Antioch

Patron of this holy temple

Great Vespers, 5:30 PM tonight!

Followed by a covered-dish meal in the parish hall.

The Nativity of our Lord

Divine Liturgy, 6:30 PM on Fri. evening, Dec. 24

Followed by finger-food celebration

Theophany

Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water

6:30 PM Wednesday, January 5

Followed by covered dish dinner and celebration

Thurs., Dec. 23 Ladies Lunch, 11:30 AM, French Market Grill
at Surrey Center

*Publicans' Prayers on 2nd and 4th Fridays at 11:00 AM
And on 1st Saturdays at 5:00 PM*

Sunday

*Orthros 9:15 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM*

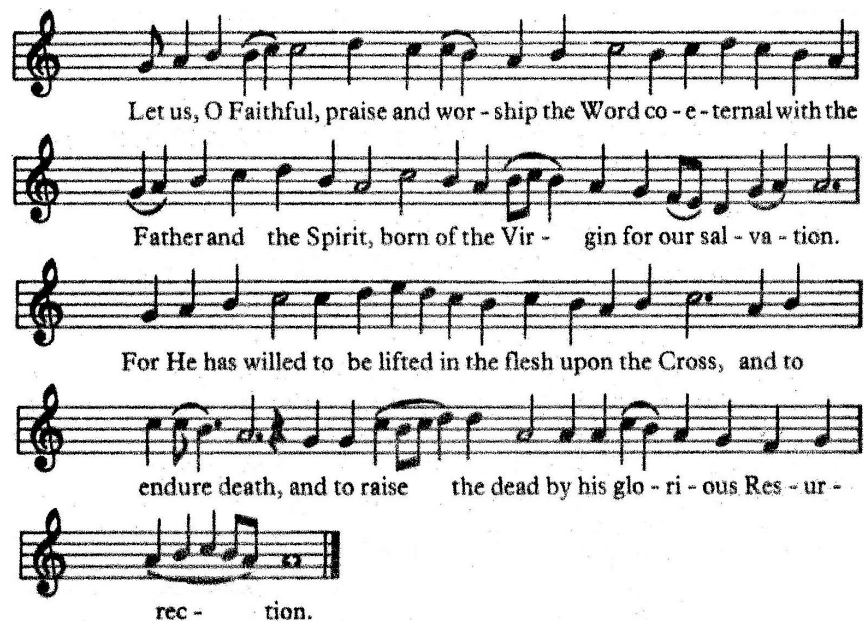
Daily

Vespers 5:30 PM

This Sunday's Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Hymns:

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 5



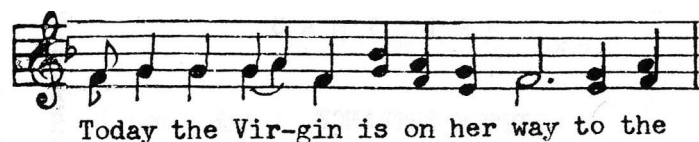
Let us, O Faithful, praise and wor - ship the Word co - e - ternal with the
Father and the Spirit, born of the Vir - gin for our sal - va - tion.
For He has willed to be lifted in the flesh upon the Cross, and to
endure death, and to raise the dead by his glo - ri - ous Res - ur -
rec - tion.

Troparion of the Ancestors of Christ, Tone 2, BDW p. 550

Faith can accomplish great things. Through it, the Three Holy Children rejoice in the flames as if they had been in refreshing water, and Daniel in the midst of lions is like a shepherd among his sheep. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls.

Troparion of our patron, St. Ignatios of Antioch

Kontakion of the Preparation of the Nativity of our Lord, Tone 3



Today the Vir-gin is on her way to the

I exhort you to study to do all things with a divine harmony, while your bishop presides in the place of God, and your presbyters in the place of the assembly of the apostles, along with your deacons, who are most dear to me, and are entrusted with the ministry of Jesus Christ. He, being begotten by the Father before the beginning of time, was God the Word, the only-begotten Son, and remains the same for ever; for "of His kingdom there shall be no end," says Daniel the prophet. Let us all therefore love one another in harmony, and let no one look upon his neighbor according to the flesh, but in Christ Jesus. Let nothing exist among you which may divide you; but be united with your bishop, being through him subject to God in Christ.

As therefore the Lord does nothing without the Father, for says He, "I can of mine own self do nothing," so do you, neither presbyter, nor deacon, nor layman, do anything without the bishop. Nor let anything appear commendable to you which is destitute of his approval. For every such thing is sinful, and opposed [to the will of] God. Come together into the same place for prayer. Let there be one common supplication, one mind, one hope, with faith unblameable in Christ Jesus, than which nothing is more excellent. Do you all, as one man, run together into the temple of God, as unto one altar, to one Jesus Christ, the High Priest of the unbegotten God.

Letter to the Magnesians, 6-7

Pray that strength may be given me within and without, so that I may not only say, but will; may not be called, but be found a Christian. The name will follow in due course. My faithfulness will then be manifest, when I am no more seen by the world. Nothing visible is of any worth. Our God Jesus Christ Himself is the more clearly seen, since he has returned to the Father. The work of the Gospel is not a matter of persuasive rhetoric: Christianity is a thing of energy and power...

Letter to the Romans III

At present I am learning from my bonds to crush all my desires.

Letter to the Romans IV

December 20: St. Ignatios of Antioch

This holy man is called "the God-bearer" because he constantly bore the name of the Living God in his heart and on his lips. According to tradition, he was thus named because he was held in the arms of God Incarnate, Jesus Christ. On a day when the Lord was teaching His disciples humility, He took a child and placed him among them, saying: *Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven* (Matthew 18:4). This child was Ignatius. Later, Ignatius was a disciple of St. John the Theologian, together with Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. As Bishop of Antioch, Ignatius governed the Church of God as a good shepherd and was the first to introduce antiphonal chanting in the Church, in which two choirs alternate the chanting. This manner of chanting was revealed to St. Ignatius by the angels in heaven. When Emperor Trajan was passing through Antioch on his way to do battle with the Persians, he heard of Ignatius, summoned him and counseled him to offer sacrifice to the idols. If Ignatius would do so, Trajan would bestow upon him the rank of senator. As the counsels and threats of the emperor were in vain, St. Ignatius was shackled in irons and sent to Rome in the company of ten merciless soldiers, to be thrown to the wild beasts. Ignatius rejoiced in suffering for his Lord, only praying to God that the wild beasts would become the tomb for his body and that no one would prevent him from this death. After a long and difficult journey from Asia through Thrace, Macedonia and Epirus, Ignatius arrived in Rome, where he was thrown to the lions in the circus. The lions tore him to pieces and devoured him, leaving only several of the larger bones and his heart. This glorious lover of the Lord Christ suffered in the year 106 in Rome at the time of the Christ-hating Emperor Trajan. Ignatius has appeared many times from the other world and worked miracles, even to this day helping all who call upon him for help.

Bp. Nikolai Velimirovic, Prologue of Ohrid

"Give me to the wild beasts. that so I may be given to God. I am the wheat of God, and am ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, that I may be found to be the pure bread of God."



cave where she will give birth to the
E-ter-nal Word of God in an inef-fable
man - ner. Re-joice therefore, O U- ni-
verse when you hear this news, and glori-
fy with the an-gels and the Shep-
herds, Him who shall appear as new Child
being God from all e-ter-ni-ty -----

Epistle: Sunday before the Nativity
Hebrews 11: 9-10 & 32- 40, p. 447

PROKIMENON

Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and Your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

Stichon: For You are just in all You have done to us, and all Your works are true and Your ways right.

READING from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews

Brethren, by faith, Abraham lived in the Land of the Promise as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the co-heirs of the same promise, for he was looking for the city with fixed foundations, of which city the architect and builder is God. And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barac, Samson, Jephthe, David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained the fulfillment of promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, routed foreign armies.

Women had their dead restored to them though resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to yield for their release. In order to obtain a better resurrection. Others again suffered mockery and blows, even chains and jailings. They were stoned, cut in pieces, put to the question, killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, distressed, afflicted (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts, mountains, caves and holes in the ground.

And none of these, despite the positive witnessing of faith, received what was promised, for God has some thing better in store for us so that they were not to reach their final perfection without us.

ALLELUIA (*Tone 4*)

O God, our ears have heard, our fathers have declared to us the deeds you did in their days, in the days of old.

Stichon: The just cried out, and the Lord heard them, and he delivered them from all their trials.

Gospel: Sunday before the Nativity, Matthew 1: 1-25

(*Genealogy of Christ*)

The book of the origin of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Judah and his brethren. Judah begot Perez and Zarah whose mother was Tamar. Perez begot Hezron, Hezron begot Ram. And Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon,

Nahshon begot Salma. Salma begot Boaz of Rahab. Boaz begot Obed of Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, Jesse begot David the King. And David the King begot Solomon of the former wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, Abijah begot Asa. And Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, Joram begot Azariah. And Azariah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, Ahaz begot Ezechiah. And Ezechiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, Amon begot Josiah. And Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brethren at the time of deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. And Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, Eliakim begot Azor. And Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, Achim begot Eliud. And Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations. And from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to Christ, fourteen generations. Now the origin of Christ was like this. When Mary his mother had been betrothed to Joseph, she was found, before they came together, to be with child by the Holy Spirit. But Joseph her husband, being a just man and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was thinking of putting her away privately. But while he was considering these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins." Now all this came to pass that that was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, "*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son; and they shall call his name Emmanuel;*" which is interpreted, "God with us." So Joseph, arising from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took Mary to be his wife. And he did not know her till she brought forth her firstborn son. And he called his name Jesus.