

# Holy Cross

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Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, December 25, 2016



## The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

The incomprehensible and inexplicable Nativity of Christ came to pass when Herod the Great was reigning in Judea; the latter was an Ascalonite on his father's side and an Idumean on his mother's. He was in every way foreign to the royal line of David; rather, he had received his authority from the Roman emperors, and had ruled tyrannically over the Jewish people for some thirty-three years. The tribe of Judah, which had reigned of old, was deprived of its rights and stripped of all rule and authority. Such was the condition of the Jews when the awaited Messiah was born, and truly thus was fulfilled the prophecy which the Patriarch Jacob had spoken 1,807 years before: "A ruler shall not fail from Judah, nor a prince from his loins, until there come the things stored up for him; and he is the expectation of the nations" (Gen.49:10).

Thus, our Saviour was born in Bethlehem, a city of Judea, whither Joseph had come from Nazareth of Galilee, taking Mary his betrothed, who was great with child, that, according to the decree issued in those days by the Emperor Augustus, they might be registered in the census of those subject to Rome. Therefore, when the time came for the Virgin to give birth, and since because of the great multitude there was no place in the inn, the

Virgin's circumstance constrained them to enter a cave which was near Bethlehem. Having as shelter a stable of irrational beasts, she gave birth there, and swaddled the Infant and laid Him in the manger (Luke 2:1-7). From this, the tradition has come down to us that when Christ was born He lay between two animals, an ox and an ass, that the words of the Prophets might be fulfilled: "Between two living creatures shalt Thou be known" (Abbacum 3:2), and "The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib" (Esaias 1: 3). But while the earth gave the new-born Saviour such a humble reception, Heaven on high celebrated majestically His world-saving coming. A wondrous star, shining with uncommon brightness and following a strange course, led Magi from the East to Bethlehem to worship the new-born King. Certain shepherds who were in the area of Bethlehem, who kept watch while tending their sheep, were suddenly surrounded by an extraordinary light, and they saw before them an Angel who proclaimed to them the good tidings of the Lord's joyous Nativity. And straightway, together with this Angel, they beheld and heard a whole host of the Heavenly Powers praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men" (Luke 2:8-14). (bulletinbuilder.org)

## **Hymns of the Day**

### **Apolytikion for Holy Nativity in the Fourth Mode**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

### **Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode**

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 that existed \* before the ages as God.

## **This Week at Holy Cross**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Eve**

8:30 am Matins

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

5 pm Great Vespers for the Nativity of Christ

**Sunday 25th**

**Christmas - Christ is Born! Glorify Him**

8:15 am Matins

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

**Tuesday**

**St. Stephen the Protomartyr**

8:30 Matins

9:30 Divine Liturgy

**Saturday 31st**

**New Year's Eve**

3:30 pm Vespers

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Feast of St. Basil**

8:15 Matins

9:30 Divine Liturgy

## **Epistle Reading .**

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:4-7.

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.



December 18, 2016 Deposit	
Account Name	Deposit
Pledges from 2015	\$500
Pledges from 2016	\$19,895
Pledges for 2017	\$2,050
<b>Bulletin</b>	
Candles	\$373
Donations – Unspecified	
Flowers/Communion Wine	\$120
Loose Offerings	\$485
<b>Greek School</b>	
Sunday Church School	\$30
Vacation Church School	
Special Envelopes	\$225
Holy Week Envelopes	
Christmas Cards	
Baptismal Candles	
Socials/Special Projects	
Hall Deposits – Current Year	
Hall Deposits – Next Year	
Hall Rental Income - 2016	
Christmas Card	\$20
Misc.	\$75
Misc. Check	\$100
<b>Total Deposit</b>	<b>\$23,658</b>

Financial Snapshot based on \$2,075.33 per day operating cost				
Date	Weekly Collections	Weekly Collections Total	Estimated operational needs to following Sunday	Difference
<b>Total through Nov.</b>	\$498,595.07	\$498,595.07	\$705,613.20	-\$207,018.13
<b>12/4</b>	\$15,555	\$514,150.07	\$713,913.52	-\$199,763.45
<b>12/11</b>	\$19,966	\$534,116.07	\$728,440.83	-\$194,324.76
<b>12/18</b>	\$23,658	\$557,774.07	\$742,968.14	-\$185,194.04