

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship
at the University of Mount Union, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
December, 29, 2013**

27th Sunday after Pentecost/Sunday after the Nativity of Christ / Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, the Brother of the Lord/The 14,000 Holy Innocents slain by Herod



CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!



Tone 2 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 4 Troparion of the Feast

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore You,
the Sun of righteousness, and to know You, the Orient from on high.// O Lord, glory to You!

Tone 2 Troparion *(of the Righteous Ones)*

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God; you saw a Virgin great with child; you gave
glory with the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi; you received the news from the Angel. Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Tone 4 Troparion *(St. Nikolai)*

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence;
your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God that our
souls may be saved!

Tone 3 Kontakion (of the Righteous Ones)

Today godly David is filled with joy; Joseph and James offer praise.

The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.

They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!”

Tone 3 Kontakion of the Feast

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds glorify Him; the Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 (*Sunday after the Nativity*)

Tone 2 Prokeimenon

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

Tone 2 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

v: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

Tone 4

v: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness!

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23 (*Sunday after the Nativity*)

(Instead of “It is truly meet,” we sing:)

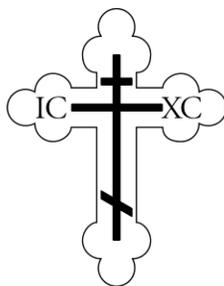
Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts. I behold a strange, most glorious mystery: heaven—the cave; the cherubic throne—the Virgin; the manger—the place where Christ lay—the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

The Lord has sent redemption to His people.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

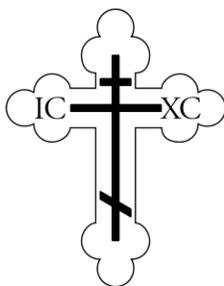


Next Sunday, January 5, The eve of **Theophany**, is a strict Fast day. At the end of Divine Liturgy we will have the Blessing of Water. Please give thought to when you wish to have Father come and bless your home and advise him so that an appointment can be made.

Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. In his first marriage, he had four sons and two daughters. After he became a widower, St Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity.

An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. St Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God and the Infant Jesus, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child, working as a carpenter. St Joseph reputedly died at the age of one hundred. St Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity.

The Importance of understanding the Ever-virginity of Mary: In Gospel of Matthew 1:25) it says that “Joseph did not know her (Mary) until she had brought forth her firstborn Son.” The verse itself does not confirm that Joseph did know Mary after the birth of Jesus, and all the Greek speaking Fathers who read Matthew in the original Greek understood that the intention of Matthew for writing this verse was to exclude any notion that Joseph had relations with Mary before the birth of Jesus, not to positively teach the reverse. The prevailing protestant thinking goes: If Joseph did not "know" Mary until she gave birth to Jesus, then clearly he "knew" her afterwards. It is important, first of all, to keep in mind again, that the Bible was not written in English, and that not all Greek idioms convey the same meaning in English as they were originally intended. This is one that does not. In English, the word "until" (or "till" or "unto") indicates a particular status up to a point in time, while implying a different status after that point. In the original language, "until" (Greek: eos) does not necessarily imply a change of status.



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