

## 28th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday before Christmas - December 21st, 2025

“Come, then, let us observe the Feast....For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons flee, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.

Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle...He was God. Wherefore He became

flesh, so that He Whom heaven did not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infant's food from His Virgin Mother. ... this day the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star.

To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Spirit, we offer all praise, now and forever. Amen.”



Nativity of Christ in a  
Cave in Bethlehem

## Venerated Saints;

Forefeast of the Nativity of our Lord; Forefathers of Christ

Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia, and 500 men and 130 women with her (4th century)

Repose of Saint Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow, Wonderworker of All Russia (14th century)

Right-believing Princess Juliana of Vyazma (15th century)

Blessed Procopius of Vyatka the Fool-For-Christ (17th c.)

Martyr Themistocles of Myra in Lycia (3rd century)

Venerable Macarius the Faster of Tao-Klarjeti, Abbot of the Khakhuli Monastery (11th century)

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## Scripture Readings

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23,  
32-40

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; **10** for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. **17** By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, **18** of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," **19** concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. **20** By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. **21** By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. **22** By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. **23** By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. **32** And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: **33** who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, **34** quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. **35** Women

received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. **36** Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. **37** They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – **38** of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. **39** And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, **40** God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: **2** Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. **3** Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. **4** Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. **5** Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, **6** and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. **7** Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa...

## Troparia

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn thyself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of It, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up again what fell in former times, His image.

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

He Who holds the earth in the hollow of His hand now is beheld in Bethlehem wrapped in swaddling bands. We offer prefestal hymns to his Mother, who maternally rejoices having held to her bosom the Son of God.

## Regular Schedule

**Saturdays:** Vespers at 5pm, Confession afterward.

**Sundays:** Divine Liturgy at 9:30am with Hours beginning at 9:10am.

Coffee Hour follows Liturgy each Sunday.

**Wednesdays:** Bible Study is at 8:00pm in-person and by Zoom. The Church is open Wednesdays from 9am-5pm.

**First Saturdays:** On the first Saturday of each month there are teen and children's classes at 3:30pm

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who provided for today's potluck Coffee Hour.

## Prayer List

Edward Barry

Alexandra and Jaime, sisters of Jeff and Tatiana Hoff

Maggie

Aidan W.'s grandmother, Arlene

Newly departed Sammy

Ero

Jake's grandmother, Phyllis

Aidan H.'s newly departed grandmother, Barbara

Mary Mullally

Leo, Noah, Heily, Jake, Nory, Gabriel, Daryle, Matt, Tamar, Julie, Kelly, Caroline, Allen, and Nathan (catechumens)

Victims of war in Ukraine

Victims in the Middle East

Saints  
**Peter & Paul**  
Orthodox Cathedral

## Special Announcements

**Archbishop's Visit this Sunday:** On Dec. 20th-21st, Archbishop Michael will be visiting. **Coffee Hour on the 21st will be a potluck**, so please consider contributing. We also anticipate the tonsuring to minor clerical orders of our own **Ero Ogbevire** during the Divine Liturgy.

**Monday's Christmas Gala:** Archbishop Michael will also be with us for the **Christmas Gala on Dec. 22**. Scan the poster or **QR code below to get tickets**. Parishioners can use the Promo Code **SSPPN150** for a 50% discount.



**Christmas Services:** Services for Christmas will be Great Compline at **6:30pm on the 24th** and Divine Liturgy at **9:30am on the 25th**.

**Children's Choir:** Children 2+ are welcome to take part in the Nativity Season Children's Choir.

**Christmas Party:** Friday, January 2nd, at 5pm, there will be a Christmastide party at the rectory. RSVP by email to Fr. Solomon.

**CrossRoad:** Early Application is open for the Summer CrossRoad trips for **11th and 12 graders**. Info in Hall.

**Calendars:** Liturgical Calendars for 2026 have been ordered.

### Nativity Fast: November 15th-December 25th

With the caveat that we should not exempt ourselves from beloved family Christmas traditions and gatherings, the following guidance is given to us for Nativity Fast:

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday:** consume no meat, dairy, fish, wine, or oil.

**Tuesdays and Thursdays:** no meat, dairy, or fish. wine and oil allowed

**Weekends:** no meat or dairy, but fish, wine, and oil are allowed

## How to connect:

Fill out this page, tear it off, and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Fr. Solomon. Let us know, in the notes, if you would like us to add you to the midweek email. Fr. Solomon is available for meetings over coffee, or by phone, throughout the week; make a note if you would like to set up a meeting.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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“Today the Virgin gives birth to him who is above all  
being,  
and the Earth offers a cave to him whom no one can  
approach.

Angels with shepherds give glory  
and magi journey with a star,  
for to us there has been born  
a little Child, God before the ages.

Bethlehem has opened Eden, come, let us see;  
We have found delight in secret, come, let us receive  
the joys of Paradise within the cave.”