

Announcements

Christmas Donations: We are asking all Assumption families to give a Christmas donation this year. This year we need everyone's help. Thank you for your generosity!

2016 Stewardship: Please make your 2016 Stewardship commitment by the end of December. Assumption currently has 375 pledged families; however, we need to have at least 400 by the end of this year. It is vital that all families make a stewardship donation and return it to the Church as soon as possible. Thank you for supporting Assumption Church.

Gift Cards Needed: Fr. Joseph needs gift cards Walmart to give to those in need for the holidays. Please bring cards to the church office. Any denomination greatly appreciated.

Taramasalata: Philoptochos is selling Taramasalata for \$5 per jar. Please contact Georgia Antonopoulos at 314-638-2835 or the Church office at 314-966-2255.

New Air Conditioner: The air conditioning unit for the Philoptochos Room was recently replaced with a new unit. The Men's Kafenio made a generous donation to help cover the cost, but more help is needed to cover the total amount. If you would like to help, please make donations payable to Assumption, and write "Air Conditioner" in the memo line.

The Holy Monastery of the Annunciation of the Theotokos in Ormylia, Greece has a Philanthropic center called "Panagia Philanthopini - Our Lady who Loves Mankind," whose mission is to comfort and alleviate the suffering of the poor and working class public without preference to race, religion, gender, or creed. The director of this center is Charles Anthony, a former parishioner of the Assumption Church. During this holy season, we will have a collection to help the children's programs at this center. Please make checks payable to "The Assumption Church" and mark it for "the Ormylia Foundation". Thank you for your support.



In Our Prayers:

Ollie (Alexander) Aslan, Nora Bangert, Constantine Bellos, Tom Dubis, Seraphima Henderson, Achilles Kirkou, Jean Kotakis, Michael Labis, George and Janice Paradissis, Elaine Scott, Chris & Despina Zeris.



December 25:

Hypakoë. Plagal of the Fourth Tone

In calling the Magi by a star, Heaven brought the first-fruits of the nations unto Thee, a Babe lying in a manger; and they were astonished that there was neither scepter nor throne, but only the uttermost poverty. For what is meaner than a cave? And what is lowlier than swaddling clothes? Yet in them the riches of Thy Divinity shone forth. O lord, glory be to Thee.

Excerpted from: The Great Horologion or Book of Hours, Trans. Holy Transfiguration Monastery. Holy Transfiguration Monastery Press, Brookline, MA, 1997.

Sunday Bulletin

December 25, 2016

Ο Χριστός γεννιέται! Δοξάσει Αυτόν!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



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Fr. Joseph Strzelecki

Fr. Anastasios Theodoropoulos

**Απολυτίκιον Τῆς Ἑορτῆς.
Ἦχος δ΄.**

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν,
ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως·
ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες,
ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο· σὲ προσκυνεῖν,
τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ
γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν, Κύριε δόξα
σοι.

**Apolytikion for the Nativity
Mode 4**

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

Welcome to all our visitors.

Welcome to the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. It is our hope that your visit here will bring you many blessings from God and that you will visit with us again soon. Please join us for coffee hour in the Church Hall.

The Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Reading for the Nativity:

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).

Calendar of Events

Sunday, Dec 25:	<u>Holy Nativity</u> 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Divine Liturgy
Monday, Dec 26:	Synaxis of the Theotokos
Tuesday, Dec 27:	<u>First Martyr Stephen</u> 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Kyklos Christmas Party No Greek School No Bible Study
Wednesday, Dec 28:	20,000 Martyrs in Nicomedia; Martyr Glykerios 8:30 am Orthros No Kafenio
Thursday, Dec 29:	14,000 Holy Innocents 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Friday, Dec 30:	St. Anysia of Thessaloniki 8:30 am Orthros No Friday Luncheon 6:00 pm College YAL Christmas Party at the Murphy home 6:00 pm GOYA Christmas Party at the Erickson home
Saturday, Dec 31:	Apodosis of the Nativity; St. Melania, Nun of Rome 7:00 pm Great Vespers 8:00 pm New Year's Eve Party
Sunday, Jan 1:	<u>Circumcision of Christ - St. Basil the Great</u> 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Divine Liturgy



Christmas means that God has visited His people. But the word visit is inadequate if it means that He came to spend a few years with us and then leave us again. He came not just to visit but to stay: "Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world." With us in our joys, with us in our sorrows, with us in our living, with us in our dying. He came to Bethlehem. He comes now. And He will come again.

- Fr. Anthony Coniaris