

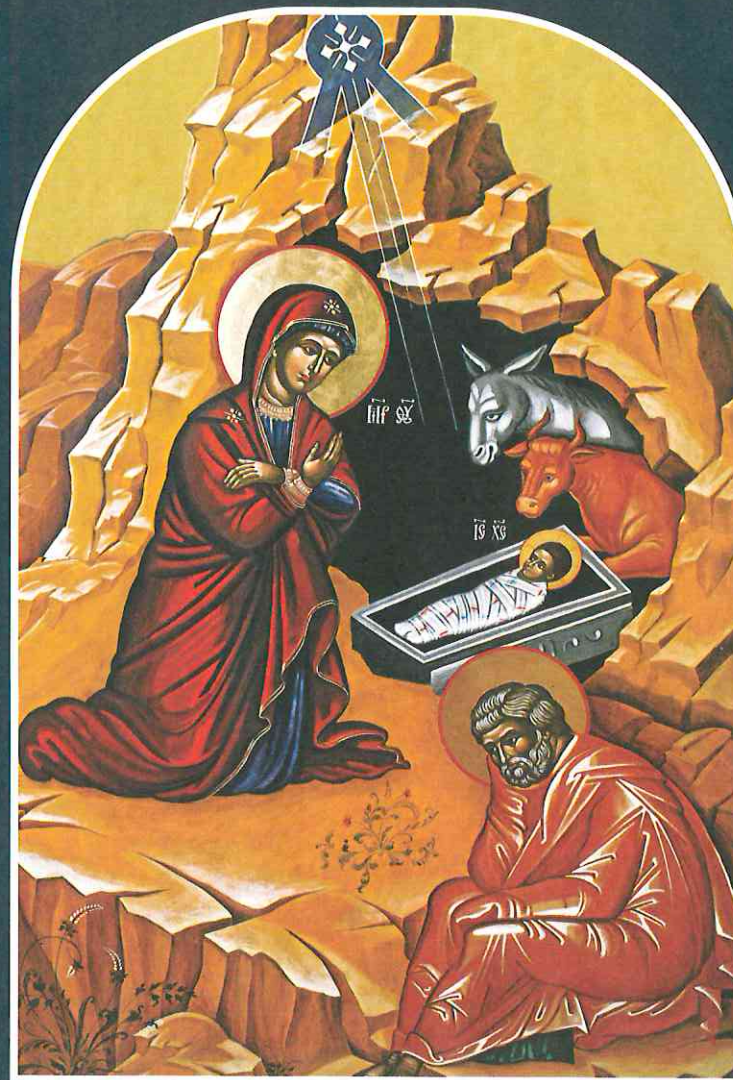
*"Your birth, O Christ, our God,
Shines forth on the world with the light
Of knowledge.*

*For those who adored the stars,
Were taught by a star to worship You,
The sun of justice,
And to know You,
The Orient from on high.
O Lord, glory to You."*

Troparion, Tone IV

*"Glory to God in the heights,
And on earth peace.
For today, Bethlehem receives Him
Who never leaves His Father's side.
Today, the angels offer hymns of praise
To the infant in the manger:
Glory to God on high,
On earth peace,
Good will to men."*

Troparion, Tone IV



Behold, a virgin shall be with child,
and shall bring forth a Son,
and they shall call His name Emmanuel

Matthew 1:23

THE TRINITARIAN

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HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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V. REV. ALEXANDER GARKLAVS, PASTOR

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 A.M.
Church School Every Sunday at 10:45 A.M.
(During the Months of September thru May)

Vespers - Every Saturday - 5:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsals Every Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
Michael N. Pilat, Choir Director

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BULLETIN 8 - VOLUME LVIII

TONE 3

DECEMBER 20, 2020

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, Bishop of Antioch

St. Philogonius, Bishop of Antioch; St. Daniel, Archbishop of Serbia;

Ven. Ignátii, Archimandrite of the Kiev Caves;

St. Anthony, Bishop of Vorónezh; Repose of St. John of Kronstadt;

The Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos "RESCUE OF THOSE DROWNING"

"O Bethlehem, make ready, O Eden, open wide to all. O Ephrata, prepare yourself, for, in a cave, a virgin's womb will soon bring forth the tree of life, and like paradise itself, she will bear the fruit divine. And if we eat of it, we shall never die like Adam, for, by His birth, Christ will raise that image that fell so long ago."

Troparion, Tone IV

"O inspiration of hierarchs and glory of martyrs, O God-bearing Ignatius, by emulating the Apostles you also inherited their fate. You endured fire, sword, and beast for the sake of the Faith, dispensing the word of truth even to the shedding of your blood. O wise and holy hierarch, beg Christ, our God, to save our souls."

Troparion, Tone IV

TODAY'S EPISTLE: HEBREWS 11:9-10,17-23,32-40

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:1-25

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Thursday, December 24	6:30 p.m. Vigil - Eve of the Nativity of Christ
Friday, December 25	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Saturday, December 26	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, December 21	Hebrews 3:5-11,17-19	Mark 9:42-10:1
Tuesday, December 22	Hebrews 4:1-13	Mark 10:2-12
Wednesday, December 23	Hebrews 5:11-6:8	Mark 10:11-16
Thursday, December 24	Hebrews 1:1-12	Luke 2:1-20
Friday, December 25	Galatians 4:4-7	Matthew 2:1-12
Saturday, December 26	Hebrews 2:11-18	Matthew 2:13-23
	I Timothy 6:11-16	Matthew 12:15-21

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY:

10, Sunday

Second Sunday Food Sale

<p><u>DONATION ENVELOPES:</u> The boxes of envelopes for 2021 weekly offerings are available in the vestibule.</p> <p><u>YEAR-END UPDATE:</u> The pandemic continues to affect all of us, and while the news of the vaccine is positive, it appears that it will be some time before most of us will be able to receive it. So, attendance and participation at the church will continue to be abnormal. We will continue to hold liturgical services, more or less as we have been doing, with attendance limited, wearing masks and keeping social distance. Coffee hours will not be held until further notice. But we hope to continue the monthly food sales for the time being.</p> <p><u>THANKS TO ALL DONORS!</u> As attendance has diminished, regular weekly donations have also fallen off. But expenses continue. With winter upon us, heating costs will rise, and expenses for utilities and maintenance are always occurring and do not decrease. We are very grateful to all donors. Special thanks to those who have continued to support the parish by mailing or dropping off donations! We are confident that, through God’s mercies and His inspiring doctors and scientists, we will be able to return to normal parish life during the coming year.</p>	<p><u>OCF:</u> Many thanks to those who donated to the Orthodox Christian Fellowship over the past few weeks. The OCF is a Pan-Orthodox ministry that keeps Orthodox college students connected with their faith with fellowship, friendship and comfort. We will be sending a collaborative donation to the OCF from Holy Trinity.</p> <p><u>TRINITARIAN COVERS:</u> The covers today are offered by the Bellack Family. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule for those who would like to offer covers in 2021. Your donation goes toward the printing costs of our weekly Trinitarian. Cost is \$8, or \$20 for Pascha and Christmas. You can also call the office on Monday or Thursday mornings, or call anytime and leave a message with the date you would like to reserve for your offering.</p> <p><u>FOOD SALE:</u> Keep in mind the date of January 10—it is our next Food Sale. Please plan to cook or bake a favorite item and donate it to the sale!</p> <p><u>CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:</u> Thank you to those who have made offerings for the lovely flowers now in our church. If you haven’t yet had the chance to donate, please do so—there is a special envelope in your box.</p>
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THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, 12/6/20, 12/13/20	\$ 5857.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	50.00
BUILDING FUND	1175.00
CANDLES	79.00
LOCAL CHARITIES	3.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND	45.00
ST. HERMAN’S HOUSE	120.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	95.00
KITCHEN SURPLUS SALE	55.00
ANONYMOUS DONATION	1000.00

THE TRUE STORY OF THE THREE WISE MEN
(continuation)

This is the recollection by one of the servants who travelled together with the Wise Men to Bethlehem. It comes from a recently-found manuscript (see last week's Trinitarian).

Melchior finished his speech about the values and pleasures of gold, and both Balthazar and Caspar began to laugh. Then Balthazar stood up and looked at Melchior and began to mock him. He spoke excitedly: “You would not sing the praises of gold if you were alone and without us and our cohort to protect you; and most of these men are my devoted servants and soldiers. They are loyal to me because they know that I am in charge! After all, I am the prince and, like my father before me, I have the power and authority to command them. So, you may think gold and riches are everything, but they are only the means of obtaining and keeping power and authority.”

Indignant, Melchior responded: “I can buy power and authority at any time!” But Balthazar quickly interrupted him, “No, you can't do it ‘at any time’! Don't you remember how those neighboring Jinghis who were poor overthrew their rich overlords. Wealth and riches are only as good as they are protected by unquestionable power; so I've always been mindful of the fact that money buys pleasure, but it cannot always buy power and authority. That's why I'm bringing myrrh to that king-to-be.”

“That you have to explain,” said Caspar, and Balthazar replied, “That's easy. You see, this is a fragrant oil, the oil that anoints kings into kingship; it also represents the oil that is better than gold because it is useful – you can't eat or burn gold! I'm going to present myrrh so as to acknowledge that the young boy will be anointed true King of Israel and will have power to overcome all enemies, beginning with the Romans. And as his kingdom expands, he will remember my gift as a respectful token to his power. Perhaps in the future we will join kingdoms together into one large empire!”

Everyone was moved by this vocal declaration and sat in silence for a bit. Then Caspar spoke quietly: “You are both wrong. Riches and power have value, but there is one thing that is more important. Knowledge.”

Both Melchior and Balthazar looked at Caspar in the most incredulous manner. “What are you talking about?” they said in unison. “Listen,” Caspar said, “just think about it. It's not gold nor power that matter, because neither of those will protect you from disease, misfortune, bad luck or bad people. Sure, they are good to have, and I would not want to be poor or helpless, and I'm lucky to have both of you as friends who are willing to share their riches and protection. But there is nothing as important and valuable as knowledge. This is what gives us advantage over animals, knowing how they breed and survive; knowledge makes travel possible, knowing how the wheels, roads and bridges are made; knowing about saddles and stirrups makes riding the camels easier; knowledge is about which plants can be eaten, which are poisonous, and so much more.”

Everyone became curiously attentive, looking at Caspar. Then he said, “Knowledge is power and more precious than gold. It was because of our learned astronomers who studied how the stars move and came to notice that one star became brighter than the others – this led us here! It is through knowledge that we learn about nature and utilize it for our benefit. This frankincense that I'm bringing will burn with the fire that Prometheus discovered; it produces the fragrance of knowledge. I can't wait to meet that wise boy-king who will already have some secret knowledge that he will share with me!”

(To be continued)