



Sunday, December 20, 2020

**Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
(The Genealogy)**

THE EPISTLE

*Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:9-10, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

(The Genealogy)

Tone: 3 Eothinon: 6

RESURRECTION APOLYTIKION: Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY: Tone 4

*(**Joseph was amazed**)*

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. * Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life * hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. * Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, * wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, * and as we eat thereof we shall all live, * and shall not die as did Adam. * For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY: Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

TROPARION OF THE DORMITION: Tone 1

In giving birth, Thou didst keep Thy virginity and in thy repose, Thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos, for Thou art the mother of life, and Thou didst pass over into life; and through thy intercession from death Thou dost redeem our souls.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY : Tone 3

*(**The original melody**)*

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On December 20 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the New-martyr John the tailor of Thasos; and Daniel II, archbishop of Serbia.

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths.

It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature.

**By their holy intercessions, O God,
have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.**



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Janice Hallal
Offered by: Her Loving Husband Ron

Al Hallal
Offered by: Ron Hallal

Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: St. Mary's Choir

Al Hallal
Eli Kandalaft
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Nora Abdelahad
Elaine Agaty
Sandra Matook

Albert Hallal
Eli Kandalaft
Elaine Swistak
Hilda Juczykk
Offered by: Lily Massiwer

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Andrea & Stephanie Swistak

Al Hallal
Eli Kandalft
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Audrey & Wayne Kilsey

Rose Ganim
Al Hallal
Elie Kandalaft
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Dianna Hashway

Elie, Mary, Joyce & Leon Kandalaft
Albert Hallal
Mary Hallal
James Hallal
Janice Hallal
Deceased Hallal Family Members
Offered by: Georgette Hallal

Don Hayes
John Massiwer
Tom Andrew
Offered by: Cindy Hayes & Family

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Barbara Aubin & Family



Al Hallal
Elaine Swistak
Eli Kandalaft
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Al Hallal
Elaine Swistak
Elie Kandalaft
Offered by: Walid & Mirna Nakhoul

Elaine Swistak
Albert Hallal
Eli Kandalft
Deacon George Yany & daughter Angela
Offered by: Patricia & Melissa Kilsey

Albert Hallal
Offered by: Celia- Marie Khouri & Family
Maureen Farah & Family
Louise & Steve Hamwey & Family
Elia & Leandra Khouri & Family
Michael & Valerie Khouri & Family

Albert Hallal
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Charles & Angela Abosamra

Albert Hallal (beloved uncle)
Elias Kandalaft
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: George & Barbara Moussalli & Family

Elaine Swistak
Louis Josephs
Offered by: George, Lois, Mary & Christopher Kilsey

Louis Josephs
Offered by: Leon & Judith Josephs

Albert Hallal (uncle)
Elaine Swistak
Elias Kandalaft
Offered by: Bill & Susan Salhany & Family

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Michael, Nancy, Jacob & Victoria Muller



**PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR
GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:**

Kevin Hashway
Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Victoria Hallal
Offered by: Ron Hallal

Josephine Karam
Mother Xenia Minihan
Ed Betor
Bette & Philip Ayoub
Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Elie, Julia & Naji Karam

Ron Hallal
Offered by: Rhonda Hallal, Bob Lienert, Hanna &
Emma, Sharyn Hallal, Keith & Maria Hallal, Isabel &
Matthew

Renda, John, Natalia & Julia Ferrari
Fareed Hawwa
Offered by: Tawfik & Olga Hawwa

Vicki Hallal & Family
Russell & John Kandalaft & Families
Andrea Swistak
Stephanie Swistak
Cindy Hayes
Mary Massiwer
Donald & Lauren Hayes
Newborn child of God Allison Mary
Offered by: Nora Abdelahad
Elaine Agaty
Sandra Matook

Vicki Hallal & Family
Family of Eli Kandalaft
Family of Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Lily Massiwer

Russell Kandalaft & Johnny & their Family
Vicki Hallal & Family
All Hallal Family Members
Offered by: Georgette Hallal

Donnie, Lauren & the newborn child Allison Mary
Hayes
Sarah, Dan & Liz
Offered by: Cindy Hayes

Mary Massiwer & Family
John & Patricia Massiwer
Ed & Sue Ayoub
Victoria Hallal
Offered by: Cindy Hayes



Sue & Ed Ayoub
Vicki Hallal
Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Offered by: Walid & Mirna Nakhoul

Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Vicki Hallal
Sue & Ed Ayoub
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

All of St. Mary's Parishioners- God be with us all
Offered by: Patricia & Melissa Kilsey

Victoria Hallal & Family
Stephanie & Andrea Swistak
Offered by: Charles & Angela Abosamra

Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Ed & Lisa Ayoub

Victoria Hallal
Karen & Linus Vachon & Family
James & Paula Hallal & Family
David Terry Halal & Family
The Kandalaft Family
The Swistak Family
Offered by: George & Barbara Moussalli & Family

Victoria Hallal
Karen & Linus Vachon & Family
James & Paula Hallal & Family
David & Terrie Hallal & Family
Offered by: Offered by: Bill & Susan Salhany & Family

Sue & Ed Ayoub
Offered by: A Friend

Fr. Elie, Kh. Rouba Estephan & Family
Mother Xenia Minihan
Sue & Ed Ayoub
Bette & Philip Ayoub
Elaine Gauthier
Matt & Meghan Duncan & Family
Holly, Alex & Jordan Lazieh & Bob Dessaint
Cheryl Nassaney & Family
Nancy Sterpis & Family
William Haddad
Gloria Haddad
All St. Mary's Parishioners
Offered by: Michael, Nancy, Jacob & Victoria Muller

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Liturgical Schedule 2020

Thursday, December 24th: 10:00 A.M.-Royal Hours
5:00 P.M.– Matins
6:00 P.M.– Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Thursday, December 31st: 6:00P.M.– Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

****Note: From Christmas Day until January 6th inclusive, there is a general dispensation from all fasting****



To our family and friends of Saint Mary:

It has been such a comfort to know you were thinking of us and praying for us as we were saying goodbye to our wonderful mother. Thank you for helping us through this difficult journey. May her memory be eternal.

-Andrea and Stephanie Swistak



Happy 4th Birthday to
Natalia Rose Ferrari

May God Bless you Always,
Tayta, Jiddo, and Uncle Fareed

ONLINE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is available online on our website at:
<http://stmarypawtucket.org>

Orthodox Vocabulary

Four Liturgies

There are four different liturgies in the Orthodox church:

- 1.) **The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom** which is the most common liturgy celebrated on Sundays and weekdays.
- 2.) **The Liturgy of St. Basil the Great** which is celebrated only ten times a year, mainly during the Sundays of Lent. St. Basil's liturgy is very much like that of St. John Chrysostom with the exception of the prayers offered privately by the priest. These are much longer.
- 3.) **The Liturgy of St. James, the Brother of the Lord**, which is celebrated only once a year on the Feast Day of St. James, October 23, and only in certain places such as Jerusalem..
- 4.) **The Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts** which is used only on Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent and on the first three days of Holy Week.. It is called pre-sanctified because no consecration takes place. The communion elements distributed are reserved from the Eucharist of the previous Sunday. Thus, the Pre-Sanctified is not a Eucharistic liturgy but rather an evening Vesper Service that includes the distribution of pre-consecrated elements of Holy Communion. Its purpose is to offer its more frequent opportunity during Lent to receive Holy Communion. It is used during Lent because the normal liturgy is an extremely joyful expression of the Resurrection and is considered to be inappropriate to the deeply penitential season of Lent.



Arabic Liturgy

Arabic Liturgy is being offered the first Saturday of each month at 6:00 P.M. All are welcome. and encouraged to attend.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 20th: Sunday before the Nativity (Genealogy)
Thursday, December 24th: 10:00 A.M.-Royal Hours
5:00 P.M.– Matins
6:00 P.M.– Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Sunday, December 25th: Christmas Day
Sunday, December 27th: Sunday after the Nativity
Thursday, December 31st: 6:00P.M.– Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

