

His voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (6:8-7:5, 47-60)

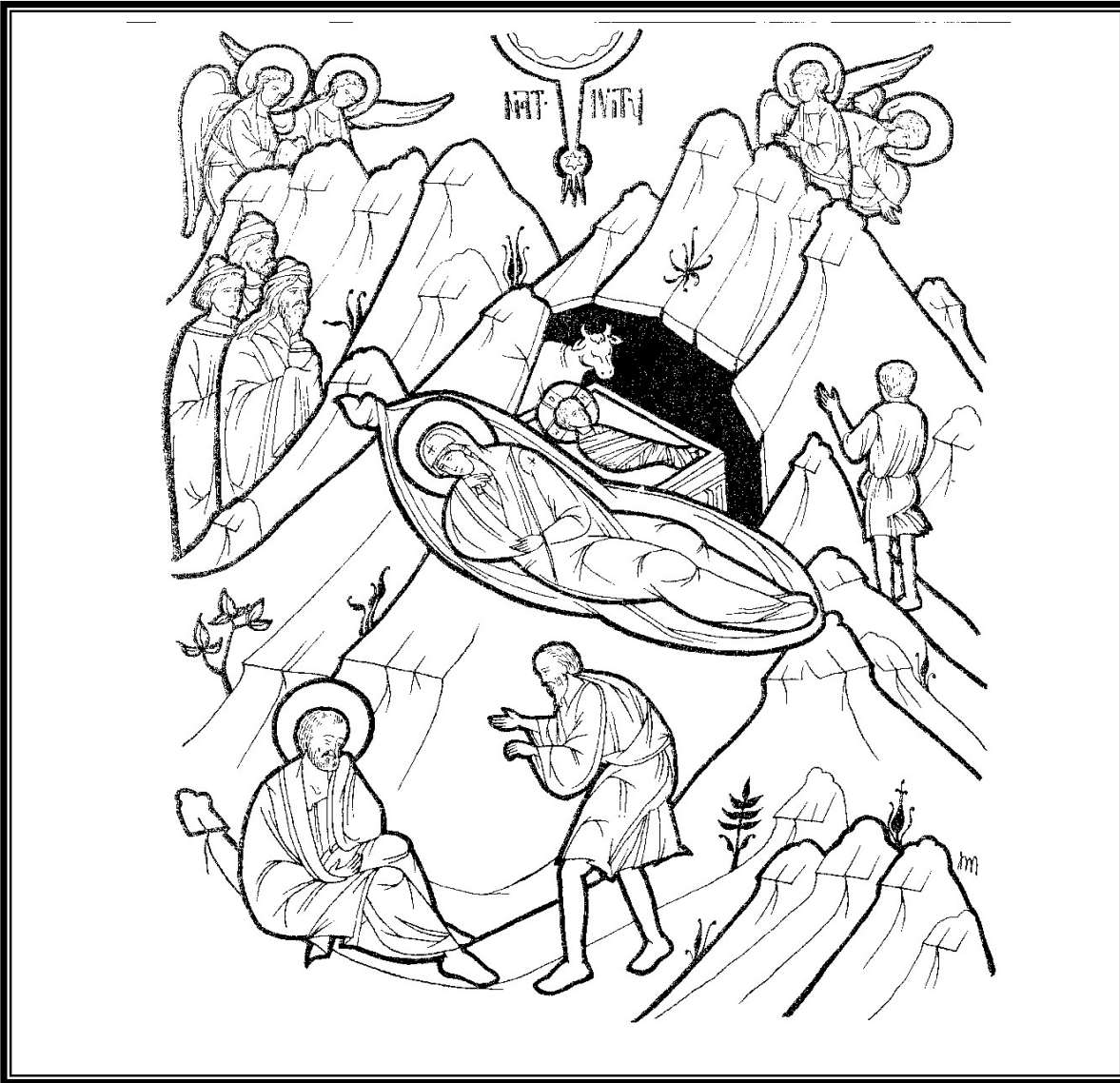
In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. The high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is My throne, and earth My footstool. What house will you build for Me', says the Lord, 'or what is the place of My rest? Did not My hand make all these things?' You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, Whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."



Sunday, December 27, 2020

Proto-martyr Stephen the archdeacon &

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Christ is Born, Glorify Him !

*Proto-martyr Stephen the archdeacon &
Sunday after the Nativity of Christ*

Tone: 4 Eothinon: 7

RESURRECTION APOLYTIKION: Tone 4

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST: Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY: Tone 2

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. STEPHEN: Tone 4

*(**Be quick to anticipate**)*

The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head * because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; * for when thou hadst censured the Jews' madness, thou sawest * Christ thy Savior standing at the right hand of the Father. * O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would 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 THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST : Tone 3

*(**The original melody**)*

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He Who existed * before the ages as God.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On December 27 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the second day of the After-feast of the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the Venerable-confessor Theodore the Branded; and the holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen, one of the Seven Deacons.

Verses

With crowns of words, as it were with stones most precious,
I now crown Stephen, whom the stones crowned before time.
On the twenty-seventh a stony destiny took Stephen away.

Stephen was the first and archdeacon of the seven deacons whom the holy apostles ordained and appointed to the service of assisting the poor in Jerusalem. Among the Proto-martyr's persecutors was his kinsman Saul, who became the Apostle Paul. At that time, the Most-holy Theotokos, standing at a distance with John the Theologian, witnessed the martyrdom of this first martyr for the truth of her Son and God. Gamaliel, a prince of the Jews and a secret Christian, clandestinely took Stephen's body and buried it on his own estate.

On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of the Lord and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King.

Verses

I honor Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin, who to be her protector was alone chosen.
Thou art a carpenter's son, but also the brother of the Lord that built all with a word,
O blest James.
What shall I say, seeing that the Lord testifieth, as a man after Mine own heart,
I have found David.

David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph when Herod sought to slay the newborn King.

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

**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
Philip & Bette Ayoub
Offered by: Elie, Julia & Najj Karam

Andrea Swistak
Stephanie Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Agaty

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

Ed & Lisa Ayoub
Philip, Bette & Phillip G. Ayoub
Stephanie & Andrea Swistak
Allison, Trad & Maher Jordan Haddadin
Offered by: Geoff Ayoub

Fr. Elie & Kh. Rouba Estephan & Family
Walid & Mirna Nakhoul
Viki Hallal
Ed Ayoub
Philip & Bette Ayoub
Jacob, Maria, Sofia, Emelia Khoury
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Joe & Marlene Samra
Joseph & Rebecca Samra & Family
Keith & Marlene Marshall & Family
Lorice Hallal & Family
Vicki Hallal
Ed & Lisa Ayoub
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Dimitriy, Julia, Larisa, Irina, Roman
Offered by: Dimitriy & Julia Medeiros

Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
The Hallal Family
The Kandalaft Family
Ed Ayoub & Lisa
Ron Hallal & Family
Offered by: Phil & Flo Spenard
Dr. Alan Matook



Ed Ayoub & Family
Offered by: Will Small

Ed Ayoub & Family
Offered by: Barbara & Ken Nashawaty

Ed & Lisa Ayoub
Philip, Bette & Phil G. Ayoub
Geoffrey Ayoub
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Ed & Lisa Ayoub
The Ayoub Family
Offered by: Leila, Ray, Tom & David Trabulsi

Ed & Lisa Ayoub
Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Vicki Hallal & Family
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub
Philip G. Ayoub

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

Donnie, Lauren and the newborn child Allison Mary
Hayes
Offered by: Cindy Hayes

Mary Massiwer & Family
John & Patricia Massiwer
Ed & Lisa Ayoub
Offered by: Cindy Hayes & Family

Edward & Lisa Ayoub
Vicki Hallal, Her Children & Grandchildren
Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier & Family

Philip, Bette & Philip G. Ayoub
Andrea & Stephanie Swistak
Ed & Lisa Ayoub
Linda Dvelis
Offered by: Susan Warzycha & Family

Fr. Elie, Kh. Rouba Estephan & Family
Mother Xenia Minihan
Ed Ayoub
Bette & Philip Ayoub & Family
Geoffrey Ayoub
Victoria Hallal
Andrea Swistak
Stephanie Swistak
James & Paula Hallal & Family
All St. Mary's Parishioners
Offered by: Michael, Nancy, Jacob & Victoria Muller

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Janice Hallal
Offered by: Her Loving Husband Ron

Al Hallal
Offered by: Ron Hallal

Georges Karam
Elaine Swistak
Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Elie, Julia & Najj Karam

Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Agaty

Fred Hashway Jr.
Al Hallal
Elaine Swistak
Suzanne Ayoub
Eli Kandalaft
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Sue Ayoub
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Geoff Ayoub

Elaine Swistak
Al Hallal
Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

Elaine Swistak
Sue Ayoub
Eli Kandalaft
Janice Hallal
Scott Bleasdale
Christopher Spenard
Offered by: Phil & Flo Spenard
Dr. Alan Matook

Anatoliy, Vladimir, Vera, Alexandr, Tamara, Galina,
Pat Irinei, Met. Amfilohiy
Offered by: Dimitriy & Julia Medeiros

Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Audrey & Wayne Kilsey

Suzanne Ayoub
Matilda Josephs
Louis Josephs
Offered by: Bill & Mary Lou Catelli

Al Hallal
Elaine Swistak
Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Douglas & Darlene Elkas



Sue Ayoub
Al Hallal
Offered by: Charles & Angela Abosamra

Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Will Small

Susan Ayoub
Offered by: Barbara & Ken Nashawaty

Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Samy & Helen Morcos

Susan Ayoub
Offered by: Leila, Ray, Tom & David Trabulsi

Suzanne Ayoub
Elaine Swistak
Al Hallal
Offered by: Philip & Bette Ayoub
Philip G. Ayoub

Sue Ayoub
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Tawfik & Olga Hawwa

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

Sue Ayoub
Albert Hallal
Elaine Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier & Family

Elaine Swistak
Suzanne Ayoub
Offered by: Susan Warzycha & Family

Sue Ayoub
Albert Hallal
Elaine Swistak
Eli Kandalaft
Offered by: Michael, Nancy, Jacob & Victoria Muller

Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Lorice Hallal

Elaine Swistak
Sue Ayoub
Offered by: Sahira & Milad Maloof

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

Edward & Lisa Parent
Philip & Bette Ayoub
Offered by: Lorice Hallal



Vickie Hallal and family
Ed Ayoub and Lisa Parent and family
Andrea and Stephanie Swistak and family
Kandalaft and Hallal families
Sheryl Kogut
Donald and Lauren and baby Allison Mary Hayes
Cindy, Sarah and Daniel Hayes
Mary Massiwer and family
Haig Kazarian and family
Offered by: Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurghigian

Alisar & Joe Mitri
Offered by: Walid & Mirna Nakhoul

Alisar & Joe Mitri
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Elaine Swistak
Albert Hallal
Sue Ayoub
Eli Kandalaft
John Massiwer
Tom Andrew
Don Hayes
Offered by: Paul, Maureen & Mary Gurghigian

Miladi Nakhoul
Yolla Ateek
Offered by: Walid & Mirna Nakhoul

Miladi Nakhoul
Yolla Ateek
Offered by: Nabil & Salwa Khoury



Christ is Born, Glorify Him !



Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Liturgical Schedule 2020

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****



Generous appreciation & thanks

I would like to thank Fr. Elie, my family, friends & parishioners for the calls, cards & prayers during my recent illness.

With all my love,
Elaine Wilbur



ONLINE BULLETIN

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

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 25th: Christmas Day

Sunday, December 27th: Sunday after the Nativity

Thursday, December 31st: 6:00P.M.– Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Keep Christ in Christmas

