

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS



Icon of the Holy Ancestors

The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us.

Human being have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned – this God continues to work through the same melange. If it

was a challenge to recognize in the last part of Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.



Українська Греко-Католицька Церква Парафія Святих Йоакима та Анни
SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Mission Parish of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. All are welcome!
 1396 Linden Street, Front Royal, Virginia 22630 • www.ssjoachimandanna.org
 ssjoachimandannauc@gmail.com • (540) 551-3591 • In case of emergency: (202) 262-5040
 Connect with us on Facebook and watch our live streams: fb.me/ssjoachimandanna

Fr Robert Hitchens, Administrator Fr Mykola Dziurakh, Parochial Vicar
 Subdeacon Kyle Hayes Subdeacon David Wallace

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Христос Рождається! Славимо Його!

Reader Great Vespers: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 5:00pm
Divine Liturgy in English, Sundays 10:30am
Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession): Sundays, 9:45am

**DECEMBER 21, 2025 – SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST –
 SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS; VIRGIN-MARTYR JULIANA OF NICOMEDIA**

We are reminded that the final day of the Nativity fast, December 24, is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat (dairy products are permitted).

GIVING REPORT - The in-pew collection for Sunday, Dec 14 was \$607.15.

2026 giving **envelopes** and liturgical **calendars** are now available in the narthex.

SAINT PHILIP'S FAST PARISH PROJECT - To benefit HARTS (Hope and Rest Temporary Shelter) of Front Royal. Donations collected until December 24: Paper towels, toilet paper, spray disinfectant, Maxwell House coffee, powdered creamer, powdered iced tea and lemonade, fruit punch, canned soup, Chef Boyardee, canned meats, Cup of Noodles, Little Debbie snacks, cereal boxes/bags (individual not necessary), instant oatmeal packets. Donations can be left in the large basket in the church hall.



CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS – Monday, Dec 22, 5:30 – 7:30pm



CHRISTMAS & THEOPHANY SCHEDULE 2025/2026

Wed, Dec 24 – Eve of the Nativity, Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St Basil, 4:30pm

Thurs, Dec 25 – Nativity of the Lord, Divine Liturgy, 10:30am

Fri, Dec 26 – Post-Feast of the Nativity; Synaxis of the Mother of God, Divine Liturgy, 6:00pm (Caroling 4:30-5:45pm)

Sat, Dec 27 – Reader Great Vespers, 5:00pm

Sun, Dec 28 – Sunday after the Nativity, Divine Liturgy, 10:30am

Wed, Dec 31 – Circumcision of St Basil, Divine Liturgy & New Year's Eve Potluck, 6:00pm

Sun, Jan 4 – Sunday before the Theophany, 10:30am

Tues, Jan 6 – Theophany of the Lord, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Waters, 6:00pm

Sun, Jan 11 – Sunday after the Theophany, Divine Liturgy & Parish Christmas Dinner, 10:30am

We wish all of you a Joyous and Blessed Christmas.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Христос Рождається! Славимо Його!

Fr. Robert and Fr. Mykola

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Nancy & Jon Anderson, Julie, Lisa Behnke, Alison Bernhoft, Yevhenia Borys, Robert Matthew, Carrie Chuff, Elizabeth Deegan, Clara Anne Duda, Fr Michael Duesterhaus, Robert Dulaine, Pat Fagan, Danylo (Neyko) Fedoryka, Emma Flournoy, Katie Flynn, Lilian Garland, Jerry Gawron, CR Gaush, Samuel Gaush, Josie Hacker, Brigid and Marlena Hess, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyj, Sarah Kelt, Dixie Lane, Catherine Luckey, Destiny Makins, Michael Marshner & Family, Bridget McDonald, Laura McMahan, Vince McLaughlin, Thomas Pavick, Phillip Rexrode, Robert Rice, Chris Saboe, Betsy Sayre, Truman L Sayre, Jr, CJ & Theresa Sidrow, Amy Smith, Karena Tapsak, and Fr George Worschak.
Teresa Fedoryka is our prayer coordinator; please email bulletin prayer requests to ssjoachimandannauc@gmail.com.

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, Of the Holy Fathers

Troparion, Tone 3 (p. 337). Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,* for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm.* He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead;* He saved us from the abyss of Hades* and granted great mercy to the world.

Troparion, Tone 2 (p. 744). Great are the achievements of faith!* In the fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest,* and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep.* Through their intercession, O Christ God,* save our souls.

Troparion, Tone 4 (“When the disciples...”). Bethlehem, make ready, for Eden has been opened for all.* Ephrathah, be alert, for the Tree of life has blossomed forth from the Virgin in the cave.* Her womb has become a spiritual paradise* wherein the divine Fruit was planted,* and if we eat of it we shall live and not die like Adam.* Christ is coming forth to bring back to life* the likeness that had been lost in the beginning.

(p. 350) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Kontakion, Tone 6 (“Undaunted patroness of Christians...”). Armed by the Being that defies description* You defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth.* In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God:* “In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,”* for You can do whatever You will.

(p. 338) Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 3 (“Today the Virgins stands...”). Today, the Virgin is on her way to the cave* where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding* to the Word who is in all eternity.* Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when you hear it heralded.* With the angels and the shepherds, glorify Him who chose to be seen as a new born babe* while remaining God in all eternity.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4 (p. 745). Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever. *verse:* For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us. (Daniel 3:26,27)

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40. Brothers and Sisters, by faith Abraham stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, “It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you.” He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying,

blessed each of the sons of Joseph, “bowing in worship over the top of his staff.” By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial. By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. And what more should 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, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women

received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They

wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Alleluia, Tone 4 (p. 344).

verse: O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days.

verse: You saved us from our oppressors and put to shame those who hate us. (Psalm 43:2,8)

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25. An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, 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 Aminadab, and Aminadab 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 King David. 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 Asaph, and Asaph 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 Amos, and Amos 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 Salathiel, and Salathiel 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 the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Communion Verses. Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest (Psalm 148:1).* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous (Psalm 32:1).* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

JOIN US ON
DECEMBER 26TH FOR

Christmas Caroling

4:30-5:45pm

Divine Liturgy for Synaxis of the Mother of God

6:00 pm

Bring your
voices and joy
to share
as we follow
the Christmas
star and carol
through the
neighborhood



Pizza and
cookies after
Divine Liturgy!
Please bring
cookies and
beverages to
share