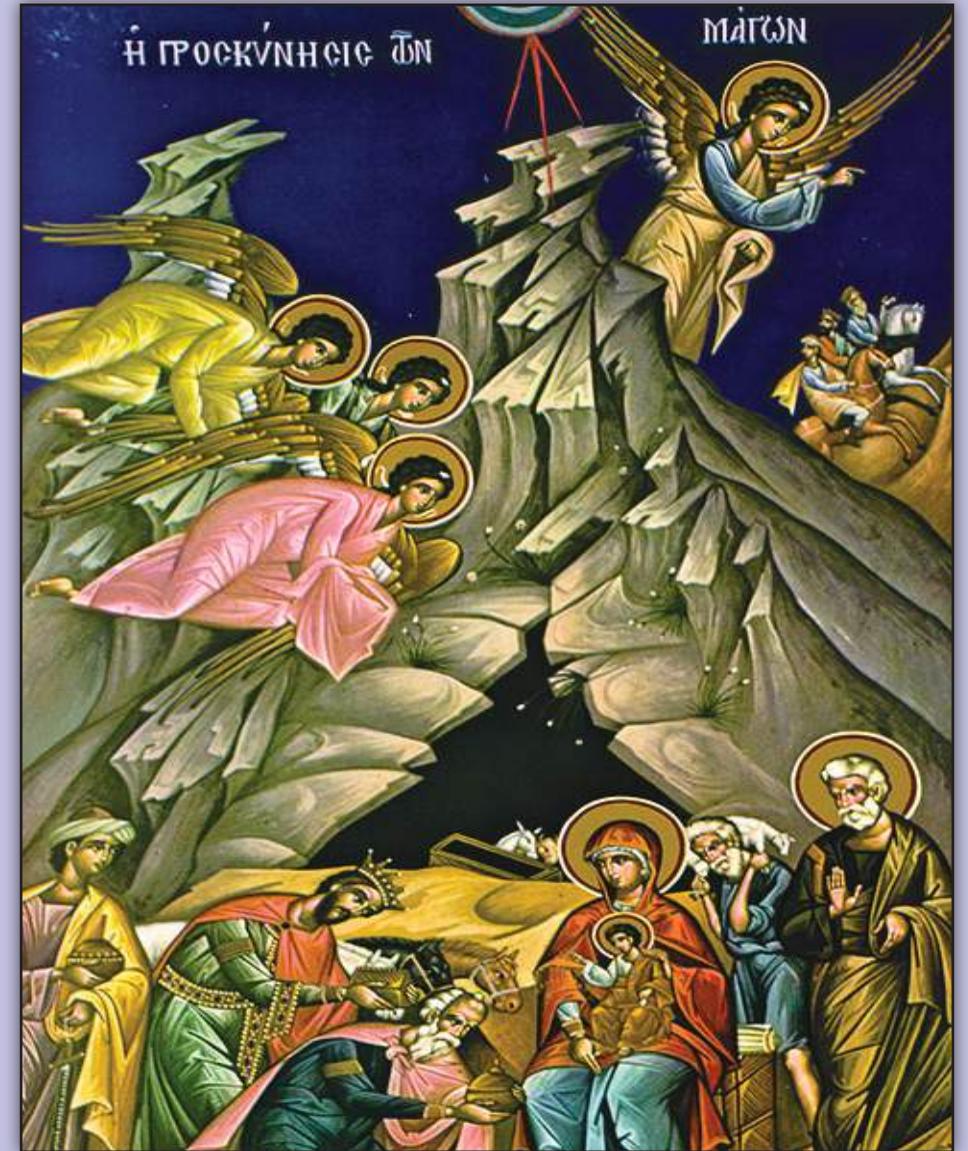


SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY
JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING,
JAMES THE BROTHER



Icon of the Visit of the Magi

The Lord Has Made His Salvation Known to the Whole World

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days He would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ. A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith.

In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judea only, but in the whole world. ... As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke

you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you. ...

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.



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!

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

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Христос Рождеться! 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 28, 2025 – SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST – HOLY JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, HOLY DAVID THE KING, & HOLY APOSTLE JAMES, BROTHER OF THE LORD; 20,000 MARTYRS OF NICOMEDIA

GIVING REPORT - The in-pew collection for Sunday, Dec 21 was \$1,235. The Christmas collection was \$2,813.90.

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

Upcoming Feasts & Events

Wednesday, December 31 - Eve of the *Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ & Holy Father Basil the Great*, Divine Liturgy of St Basil, Followed by our parish family New Year's Eve Potluck, 6:00pm

Sunday, January 4 - *Sunday before the Theophany*, Divine Liturgy & Sunday Fellowship, 10:30am

Tuesday January 6 - *Great Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ*, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Waters, 6:00pm

Sun, Jan 11 - *Sunday after the Theophany*, Divine Liturgy & Parish Christmas Dinner, 10:30am. Check your email the week prior for potluck sign up.



*** Mothers with young nursing children are invited to use the **new mother-baby room** - with comfortable chairs and a changing table - in the back classroom. ***

192. At the birth of Jesus, “the spring of grace...overcomes the winter of unbelief.” The Nativity is a harbinger of Pascha. The manger is understood to be a sign of the Lord’s tomb, and the placing of the Child in the manger is a prefiguration of the placing of Christ in the tomb. The myrrh, brought by the magi, is already an anointing for the future burial.

195. Creation joyfully welcomes God in the flesh, bearing gifts for the newborn Child: angels—their song; the heavens—a star; the magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh; the shepherds—their wonder; the earth—a cave; the deserted place—a manger; humankind—the Virgin Mother. The mystery of the Nativity, namely God’s entry into human history, continues to this day: “Today has God come upon earth, and the human race gone up to heaven.” (*Christ Our Pascha Catechism*)

Fr Robert and Fr Mykola wish all of you a joyous Christmas Season and a Happy New Year 2026! *Christ is born! Glorify Him! Христос Рождеться! Славимо Його!*

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, Fr Mark Fesniak, 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 ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com.*

**Sunday after the Nativity of Christ; Holy Joseph the Betrothed, Holy David the King,
& Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord; 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia**

Antiphon 1

-I will confess You, Lord, with all my heart,* I will declare all Your wondrous deeds. *Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Saviour, save us.*

-In the council of the just and the congregation,* great are the works of the Lord, conforming to His will in every way. *Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Saviour, save us.*

-His work is filled with praise and majesty,* and His righteousness endures forever. *Through the prayers of the Mother of God,* O Saviour, save us.*

Antiphon 3

-Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Saviour. *Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

-Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms. *Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

-For God is the great Lord, and the great king over all the earth. *Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Entrance. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. *Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Troparion, Tone 4 (p. 341). When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel* the glorious news of the resurrection* and cast off the ancestral condemnation,* they proudly told the apostles:* “Death has been plundered!* Christ our God is risen,* granting to the world great mercy.”

Troparion, Tone 4 (p. 756). Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* made the light of knowledge dawn on the world:* through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star* to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,* and to know that You, the Dawn from on the high.* Glory to You, O Lord.

Troparion, Tone 2 (“When You went down to death...”): O Joseph, announce to David, the ancestor of God, the news of the miracle:* You saw a virgin giving birth.* With the shepherds, you gave praise and with the Magi you worshipped;* they too were warned by an angel.* Pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Glory be to the father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion, Tone 3. Today the divine David is filled with gladness;* Joseph along with James offers praises* for having received a crown through their kinship with Christ they rejoice* and sing of the One who inexpressibly was born on earth,* crying out, “O Gracious One, save those who worship You.”

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 3 (p. 757). The Virgin today gives birth to Him who is above all being;* the earth offers the cave to Him whom no one can approach;* Angel with shepherds give Him glory,* while Magi make their way with a star,* for to us is born a little Child – the pre-eternal God.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4 (p. 767). God is wonderful in His saints,* the God of Israel. *verse:* In the churches bless God, the Lord from the fountains of Israel. (*Psalm 67:36,27*)

Epistle: Galatians 1:11–19. *Brothers and Sisters,* for I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother.

Alleluia, p. 125. Christmas melody of “Vo vyfleyemi.” *Verse 1:* Lord, remember David and all his meekness. *Verse 2:* How he swore an oath to the Lord, and vowed to the God of Jacob.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13–23. *When the wise men had left,* an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, 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.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through 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 are no more.” When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

Hymn to the Mother of God (p. 760). O my soul, magnify Christ the King born in a manger. *and the Irmos:* A strange and glorious mystery do I behold:* the cave is heaven;* the Virgin, the throne of the cherubim;* the manger, a dwelling place* in which is laid Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain.* Singing His praises, we magnify Him.

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. (*Psalm 18:5*)

Instead of “Blessed is He who comes...” and “We have seen the true light...” we sing: All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is born of a Virgin. (*once*)

Instead of “May our mouths...” and “Blessed be the Name...” we sing: All creation is filled with rejoicing today, for Christ is born of a Virgin. (*thrice*)