



Monday, December 25, 2017

Gospel: St. Matthew 2:1-12

The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ / The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar / Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks, and went to see the Lord.

Tone 3

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

Hristos Yennate!

NATIVITY OF OUR

Christos Se Rodi!

Thoxasete!

LORD JESUS CHRIST

Vaistinu Se Rodi!



CHRIST IS BORN!

Christos Razdajetsja!

GLORIFY HIM!

Slavite Jeho!



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND REMEMBRANCES

Christmas Flowers, In Memory of or For The Health Of a family member, loved one or friend are being offered at \$25 per flower. All names will be remembered during the Christmas Liturgy. Please contact Father Andrew if you are interested. **23 Flowers Purchased as of 12-17.**

Fr. Andrew: (5 Flowers):

- For the Health of all Holy Assumption parishioners & their families
- For the health of all my family and friends
- For the health of the Marblehead Police Department, Danbury Fire Department, Summit IL Fire Department and all first responders
- In Memory of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, my ordaining Bishop
- In memory of my family, especially my parents George and Dorothy Bartek

Basil Glovinsky: (5 Flowers)

- Health of Fr. Andrew & Holy Assumption Church Family
- Memory of Glovinsky Family
- Memory of Monak Family
- Memory of Yuhas Family
- Memory of Kaperak Family

Hiser Family: (1 Flower)

- In memory of her grandfather, George Simko

Rose Family: (2 Flowers)

- In Memory of both of their Mom & Dad

Royhab & Libb Families (2 Flowers)

- For the Health of the Royhab & Libb Families
- In loving memory of Halim, Elizabeth, Emerson, Thalia, David, Randall, & William

Guzy Family: (2 Flowers)

- For the Health of Mother Julia & the all the parish family
- In Loving Memory of Felenchak & Guzy Family members

Twarek Family: (2 Flowers)

- For the health of family & friends
- In Loving Memory of Family & friends

Bird Family: (1 Flower)

- In memory of the Elchisco & Bird Families

110 E Main Street, Marblehead, OH 43440
www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org

Tryon Family: (2 Flowers)

- In loving Memory of Mom & Dad & Rick
- In Loving Memory of my aunts, uncles, & cousins

Kovach Family: (1 Flower)

- In memory of departed Mazur & Kovach family members

Martin Family: (2 flowers)

- For the health of family & friends
- In Loving memory of our family & friends

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR. ANDREW CHRIST IS BORN!

On this day over 2,000 years ago the world woke up to a new beginning and new direction, one that contained hope and joy. That was something Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Magi felt in their hearts. Even Herod knew there was something special and different about this babe. Yet, his response was so different than the others. The next 33 years proved to all the world how special and different this new born babe was.

The purpose of this birth was to give all of humankind a chance, once again, to gain eternal life. For eternal life was cut off from us since the disobedience of Adam and Eve. But this birth, our God, to become human and walk with us and experience us and teach us while remaining God can never be topped by anything that will ever happen. For the rest of our lives we must work to keep this feeling of joy and hope in our hearts.

This is my first Christmas here in Marblehead. I can't explain the joy and hope I have in my heart on this day. Your love for our God, and the joy that comes with it, is so very evident because of how welcomed you have made me feel from before day one, even before I was officially assigned here.

Many blessings have taken place in these five short months since my arrival. The future looks very exciting. The future is always hopeful when we keep in sight, and hold close, the feeling of what today means.

Already there have been many accomplishments: A new women's ministry, a full year outreach plan for our community and beyond, new parishioners joining the parish, and a great turn out for our bible study classes to name a few. This is such joyful news! What does god have in store for us in 2018? Together we enter joyfully into it with Hope.

May the newborn babe Jesus, our God, be in all our hearts today and remain for ever.

Rectory 419-798-4591 / Cell 570-212-8747
padrebartek@gmail.com

Prayer List (Updated December 17)

Priests: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius; His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman; John Duranko (*Father's home pastor*); Joseph Gibson; James Gleason (*Father's Spiritual Father*); Emilian Hutnyan; Paul Lazor; Myron Manzuk; John Matusiak; Peter Tutko, Demetri Vincent / Protodeacon Theodore Rose

Matushkii: Laryssa Hutnyan; Carol Janecek; Barbara Kopka; Virginia Lecko; Paula Manzuk; Sonya Tutko; Pani Patricia Duranko; Mother Victoria

Parishioners / & their Family: Debbie Garnek (*sister of Roddie*); Michael Glovinsky (*Nephew to Basil*); Julia Guzy; Joseph Habegger (*Laura Kovach's brother-in-law*); Charles Hagmaier (*Brother-in-law to Roberta Royhab*); James Heffernan (*Father-in-law of Jennifer Heffernan*); Baby Jaxson (*grandson of the Cassell's*); Rich Kokinda (*Cousin of Greg Twarek*); Michael Kouznetsov (*Son of Mary Hiser*); Victoria Kousnetsov (*Daughter of Mary Hiser*); Anne Kovalik; Helen Lis; Stanley Lis; Walter Litzie (*Fr.'s Cousin*); Judy Mazurik (*sister-in-law of Paul Mazurik*); Darlene Mazurik; Tony Monastra; Tony Palac (*Brother-in-law of Jean Hileman*); Nancy Pipenur (*sister-in-law of Jean Hileman*); William Rentz (*Father of Tamara Rentz Blackford*); Nancy Sitzler (*Mother of Amber Twarek*); Diane Tryon; Greg Tryon; Rachel & her unborn baby; Jessica Issler & her unborn baby (*Jean Hileman's daughter*)

Other Requests: Victor Abrahamowicz (*Friend of Mary Hiser*); Brad Biecheler; David Bobb (*friend of Nikki Twarek*); John Cox (*husband of Pastor Kay Mooney-Cox*); Dominic (*friend of the Cassell's*); Theodore Geletka (*St. Michael Orthodox Church, Broadview Heights choir director*); Mike Jacobson (*Fr.'s friend*); Baby Lucas Goodman (*friend of Christi Soski*); Jake Lipstraw (*friend of Natalie Twarek*); Dana Mahler (*Friend of Christi*); Violet Mattingly (*neighbor of Greg Mazur*); Pauline Meath (*Friend of Fr. Andrew's*); Beth Reinhard (*friend of Diane Tryon*); Cheryl Schell (*Co-worker of Jennifer Heffernan*); Nick Shortridge (*Friend of Christi*); Lavone Silverwood (*Student of Jen*); Karen Simonsen (*friend of David Mazurik*); Janice Timko; Brian Turner (*Fr.'s friend*); Mat. Carly Koranda & her unborn baby (*Chicago Deanery*); Nicole & her unborn Baby (*Friends of Fr. Andrew*)

Military: Craig Cassell; Justin Issler; James Jerome

Captivzs: Metropolitan Paul (*Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo*); Archbishop John (*Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo*); for the UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria; those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world; those held captive throughout the world.

Additions or removals from the list? Please notify Fr. Andrew

Away in a manger,
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head

The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes

Away In The Manger

I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side,
'Til morning is nigh.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY		ANNIVERSARY
1-Ileana Bruner 4- Steven Calzone 5- Mat. Laryissa Bremer 8- Joe Rose 9- Pauline Meath 9- Angie Dardovsky	11- Tina Rindfleisch 11- Emmelyn Monschein 13- Gabe Mazurik 23- Teri Cassell 28- Carol Mazurik	5- Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia (13 th) 21- Ed & Irene Vangeloff 27- Bishop Paul (3 rd) 31- Fred & Christi Soski

If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox.

2017 NATIVITY MESSAGE OF BISHOP PAUL

Beloved Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest,

I am not particularly happy to admit it, but, I love watching TV shows on my computer, usually the three major networks. I recently watched the Christmas episode of the TV show *Bull*, which had the corny plotline of a daughter who wanted to “divorce” her father because he was too busy with his job, and was neglectful. The father had a nanny take care of her, and he would come home at early hours in the morning because of his work. The mother had died several years before. This is why the father immersed himself in his job even more—as way of coping with her death. Well, by the end of the show, the dad became more human, and repented of his poor behavior towards his daughter. They reconciled in a way that was touching, and left me crying. What? A bishop who cries over a corny plotline? What gives? Well, this corny plotline reminded me of some words of St. Gregory the Theologian on the Incarnation:

“On the other hand, for us He (the Son of God) later comes into being, that the One Who has given us being might also grant us well-being; or rather that, as we fell from well-being through evil, He might bring us back again to Himself through incarnation.”

The story that plays out in the above plotline of *Bull* is the story of many of us. We find ourselves alienated from our Maker, from our loved ones, our friends, our spouses and children and people in general. In our pursuit of the self-centered idols of this world—financial security, wealth, the good life, and worldly knowledge—we have lost sight of what it means to be a human being made in God’s image and called to grow into His likeness. The Incarnation of the Lord, in which God becomes man, is the answer to this alienation and estrangement.

Come to the Cave where Christ is born, and see what it means to be a human being! As we ponder who we are, in coming to know this newborn child, it will teach us something about what we mean to each other. God becomes man to show us the way of self-emptying love that will

take Him to a Cross. It is this Cross that will take a heart of stone and make it into heart of flesh. This is what happened to the girl and her father in the corny plotline. May we embrace that corny plotline and see it fulfilled in us as we enter the Cave to ponder this great mystery that is set before us.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

With Love in Christ, the unworthy

+PAUL

Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest

TWAS’ 11 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS (In Memory of the Children lost in CT 5 yrs ago)

Twass' 11 days before Christmas, around 9:38
when 20 beautiful children stormed through heaven's gate.

Their smiles were contagious, their laughter filled the air.
They could hardly believe all the beauty they saw there.

They were filled with such joy; they didn't know what to say.

They remembered nothing of what had happened earlier that day.

“where are we?” asked a little girl, as quiet as a mouse.

“This is heaven” declared a small boy. “We’re spending Christmas at God's house”.

When what to their wondering eyes did appear, but Jesus, their savior, the children gathered near.

He looked at them and smiled, and they smiled just the same.

Then He opened His arms and He called them by name.

And in that moment was joy, that only heaven can bring those children all flew into the arms of their King and as they lingered in the warmth of His embrace, one small girl turned and looked at Jesus' face.

And as if He could read all the questions she had He gently whispered to her,

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Reposed List - December

1-Helen Elchisco (90)	20- Julia Brosojah Millie (53)	26- Fr. Robert Sally (2002)
7- Ann Dahulich	21- Mary Sennich (85)	28- Mary Sennich (85)
12- Anna Bretz (2002)	22- Antonima Vecsey (72)	29- Alexandra Dotsenko (80)
13- Joseph Mazurik (86)	23- Steven Danchisen (82)	30- Bishop Boris (2000)
13- Archimandrite Seraphim Oblivant-seff (54) Former Pastor	23- Fr. David Sedor (2008)	31- Jevgeny Cernonok (80)
15- Michael W. Belenky (71)	24- Alexandra Turkul (80)	
18- Archbishop Job (2009)		

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon Nativity of Christ 2017

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

My beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord,

As we come to the end of the civil year, we reflect back on a period in which tragedy, acts of terrorism, shootings in public spaces, political confusion, and sexual misconduct allegations dominate the news. The darkness which enshrouds the world adds to the burden of our personal and family struggles: addictions, estrangement, divorce and all manner of conflict wrought by human passions. We might be tempted to wonder how love could have so definitively fled from the hearts of human beings.

The feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ is a reminder to all of us that “heaven and earth today make glad prophetically” and angels and men “keep spiritual feast for God, born of a woman, has appeared in the flesh to those that sit in darkness and shadow.” The light that we receive today is not merely a physical light that pierces the gloom which surrounds us, but rather a transfiguring light that both reveals God’s love for us and inspires us to grow in our love for God.

There is no philosophy or ideology that can overcome the irrationality of the world. It is only the transfiguring light of Christ – His divine and sacrificial love – that can accomplish this. It is only through love that we can, with the animals and the manger, “accept Him who by His Word has loosed us dwellers on earth from acts that are against reason.” When we despair at the tragedies in the world and in our lives, let us remember that it is precisely in the midst of such darkness that the Word of God chose to be incarnate.

Archimandrite Zacharias suggests that “when we are confronted by the ruins of human love and find ourselves completely broken, then two solutions can be given: either we turn to God with our pain, so that God enters our life and renews us, or we continue to be deceived by our human plans and slide from one tragedy and barrenness of soul to another, hoping that one day we will find perfection.”

The world longs for authentic love but seems to remain mired in the global tragedies that we witness every day. In our horizontal and human relations with one another, what is missing is God Himself, a third and divine-human Person to purify and heal our imperfect and broken relationships. Whether it be husband and wife, brother and sister, or larger communities, true love and abiding peace can only be found through our communion with

God.

In our Orthodox context, this takes place through the Divine Liturgy and through our efforts to nurture the sacrificial love of God in our own hearts. “Paradise begins on earth through love for God and love for our fellows. In this lies the entire wealth of eternal life, for man has been created to give eternal glory to God. His delight is to return this glory to His image, man, who then returns greater glory to his Creator.”

Today’s feast is a reminder that it is through this cycle of glorification and love between God and man that we find our true fulfillment. May the new-born Christ grant us the courage to keep His love in our hearts, to connect with our fellows through prayer, sacrifice, and humility, and to remember that, no matter the degree of our own brokenness or the brokenness of the world, Christ has come to give us hope for renewal, “for what He was, He has remained, true God: and what He was not, He has taken upon Himself, becoming man through love for mankind.”

With love in the New-Born Christ,
+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God

Commemorated on [December 26](#)

The Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos: On the second day of the feast, the Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos is celebrated. Combining the hymns of the Nativity with those celebrating the Mother of God, the Church points to Mary as the one through whom the Incarnation was made possible. His humanity—concretely and historically—is the humanity He received from Mary. His body is, first of all, her body. His life is her life. This feast, the assembly in honor of the Theotokos, is probably the most ancient feast of Mary in the Christian tradition, the very beginning of her veneration by the Church.

Six days of post-feast bring the Christmas season to a close on December 31. At the services of all these days, the Church repeats the hymns and songs glorifying Christ’s Incarnation, reminding us that the source and foundation of our salvation is only to be found in the One who, as God before the ages, came into this world and for our sake was “born as a little Child.”

Father Alexander Schmemmann, *The Services of Christmas* (1981)

Children lost in Ct Con't

"I'll take care of mom and dad.
"then He looked down on earth, the world far below
He saw all of the hurt, the sorrow, and woe,
then He closed His eyes and He outstretched His hand,
"Let My power and presence re-enter this land!
"May this country be delivered from the hands of fools"
"I'm taking back my nation. I'm taking back my schools!
"Then He and the children stood up without a sound.
"Come now my children let me show you around.
"Excitement filled the space, some skipped and some ran.
All displaying enthusiasm that only a small child can.
And I heard Him proclaim as He walked out of sight,
"in the midst of this darkness,"

I AM STILL THE LIGHT

The Christmas Story

by Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was His mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing.
To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth.
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
Is our Saviour here on earth!



PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES

Before the Priest arrives at your home, here are a few reminders on how to prepare:

- In the main room of the home, usually the kitchen or dining room, have placed on the table a white cloth, a candle and /or an Icon or cross. You may place a small container of Holy water on the table. (Note: Father will be bringing his own.)
- Make a list of those living in the house including pets and all deceased you want prayed for.
- Turn off all TV's, radios, computers, etc. So as to keep focused on the blessing service.
- Make sure that pets are heeled or restrained so as not to get underfoot while Father goes through the home.
- In some customs, someone (usually a child) takes a candle and leads Father through the house while the rest follow.
- If you have any items to be blessed (Icon, Cross, etc.). Put them on the table where the blessing will take place.
- When the priest arrives, have everyone in the home gather around the table and join in the blessing. PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT.
- Invite friends or neighbors to participate and witness the beauty of this tradition.

NOTE: Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of the Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in the home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy and love for mankind.