



December 27th, 2020
St. Stephen the Protomartyr
3rd Day of the Nativity Feast

ST. MARY'S **HOLY DORMITION**

Scripture Readings

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

At that time, when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him. When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

DEC Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec 1 - Robert Boyd
Dec 1 - Sheila and Johnny Tart
Dec 2 - Pete Pyatt
Dec 2 - Marah Robinson
Dec 6 - Jeanie Mikita
Dec 11 - Anya (Boyd) Gazii
Dec 12 - Mayzie Ann Jackson
Dec 17 - Tetiana Boyd
Dec 20 - Lexi Ann Guy
Dec 27 - Larry Don and Lori Meier
Dec 31 - Natalie Hlatki

SERVICES

Prayers for Rain - 7:00 AM (30th)
Great Vespers - 5:00 PM (2nd)
Adult Education - 9:00 AM (3rd)
Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM (3rd)

WISDOM

"He lay in a manger, a child newly born: tiny in body, abject in poverty. But in this Child something great lay hidden, of which these, the first-fruits of the Gentiles, had learned, not from earthly rumor, but from heavenly revelation. Hence we have: We have seen His Star in the East. They announce, yet they ask; they believe, and yet they seek to know: as though prefiguring those who walk by faith, yet still desire to see."

-St Augustine

Confessions Every Saturday After Vespers or By Appointment

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Photo Directory (Tentative Release – Early January 2021)

The photos have been edited and Fr. Stephen has begun creating the directory. We also need to make sure everyone's information is up to date for the directory, prior to printing so please check the sheet in the Narthax and update accordingly. The directory should be ready to go by early January. If you'd like to donate above and beyond your normal tithing to the printing of the directory, please see Lori or Fr. Stephen.

2021 Annual Meeting (January 24th)

For obvious reasons, our annual meeting this year will be a little different. The format will be a brief live meeting in church following liturgy, with masks and distancing. The annual packet will be provided a week prior (hopefully two) in both the Narthex and on our website. To expedite matters this year, no reports will be read. There are three matters which require a vote before the parish body, and all voting members (and potential voting members) have received the information:

The Proposed 2021 Operating Budget

The Election of the 2021 Parish Council

The Nomination for the 2021 Diocesan Assembly Rep & Alt. (We have no idea yet where this will be)

Parish Council 2021

We are now seeking nominations for the Parish Council. Pastoral Council members are key coworkers with the priest in ensuring the spiritual wellbeing of the parish. While normally nominated at the annual meeting, we will be doing nominations prior due to Covid. If you or someone you know is interested in joining this essential ministry, please let Fr. Stephen know as soon as possible. The following positions are open: (It is a three year term)

Secretary

2 Council Members

1 Auditor

Pledge Forms for 2021

2020 was not the year we expected it to be; however, we have almost made it through it. Glory to God. We are again asking everyone to prayerfully consider their pledges, including making up the difference of income we lost due to not being able to have Slavic Fest this year, sign and return the forms in the Narthax if you are changing your pledge from last year. If your pledge from 2020 is remaining the same, please let Lori know. Either way, please let Fr. Stephen or Lori know by December 31st, 2021.

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