



ST. MARY'S HOLY DORMITION

Scripture Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Brethren, by faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. (FLIP OVER)

December 24th, 2023 EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

DEC Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1st - Robert Boyd
- 2nd - Pete Pyatt
- 2nd - Marah Robinson
- 2nd - Meagan Gardner
- 6th - Jeanie Mikita
- 11th - Anya (Boyd) Gazii
- 12th - Mayzie Ann Jackson
- 17th - Tatiana Boyd
- 20th - Lexi Ann Guy
- 27th - Larry Don & Lori Meier
- 29th - Sabrina Lee
- 31st - Natalie Hlatki

SCHEDULE

- Dec 25th - Christmas Divine Liturgy (9:00 AM)
- Dec 30th - Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
- Dec 31st - Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"Come, let us wonder at the virgin most pure, wondrous in herself, unique in creation, she gave birth, yet knew no man; her pure soul with wonder was filled, daily her mind gave praise in joy at the twofold wonder: her virginity preserved, her child most dear. Blessed is He who shone forth from her!"

- St. Ephraim the Syrian

"When God became known to us in the flesh, He neither received the passions of human nature, nor did the Virgin Mary suffer pain, nor was the Holy Spirit diminished in any way, nor was the power of the Most High set aside in any manner, and all this was because all was accomplished by the Holy Spirit. Thus the power of the Most High was not abased, and the child was born with no damage whatsoever to the mother's virginity."

- St. Gregory of Nyssa

WEEKLY JOKES

Why did the Little Drummer Boy put his drum to bed? It was beat.

How did Scrooge win the hockey game? The Ghost of Christmas passed.

Why shouldn't you lend money to elves? They're always short.

WELCOME! IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE!

Gospel Cont: Matthew 1:1-25

Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Coffee Hour: 12/24 - No Coffee Hour | 12/31 - No One

Church Cleanup: 12/24 - Leithead | 12/31 - Hendrix

Sign up Lists for January to June 2024 are posted in the hall.

House Blessing Sign Up List

House Blessing list is in the Narthex. Scheduling will begin now but be for after January 6th.

Christmas Donations for the Poor (Today)

We didn't do the Reverse Advent Calendar this year as most just donate a series of cans and other goods. However, that doesn't mean we aren't going to do anything. If you are able, please bring some canned goods, boxes, and new clothes that we can drop off at the Eastern Plains pantry for Christmas. You may leave them in the Narthex or come by the Rectory.

New Years Eve Dance (December 31st - 9 PM - 1 AM)

We are bringing back an old St. Mary's Tradition: Community Hall Dances! This next Sunday will be our first with the plan to have one every 2-3 months. That said, it will be at our hall next Sunday starting at 9 PM and going until 1 AM. We are charging \$5 per person because...we will have hot dogs, chips, and soda for everyone to enjoy!! There will be no alcohol provided but you can bring your own. Kids under 12 are free. Eventually we would like to get a live band for these but for this first one, we will just play music on a speaker. There are flyers in the Narthex to take and share with your friends and family. Please spread the word.

Adult Class Will Resume January 6th

Eve of the Nativity of Christ

On the Sunday before Christmas, we commemorate the ancestors of Jesus Christ, tracing his lineage back to the very beginning of humanity. We start with Adam and Eve, the first humans, and follow a long line of righteous figures, including Abel, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the twelve tribes of Israel. This journey highlights the tribe of Judah, from which Jesus descended, and culminates with Joseph, his earthly father. Through this list, we are reminded that Christ's coming was part of God's grand plan throughout history. Not only does it showcase his human lineage, but it also recognizes the many prophets, rulers, and faithful individuals who paved the way for his birth. From Melchizedek and Job to Moses and David, these figures laid the spiritual and historical groundwork for the arrival of the Messiah. This commemoration serves as a beautiful reminder of the rich tapestry of faith and lineage that led to the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Come and See Challenge:

Have you brought someone NEW this month or brought someone back?

Have you gone to Great Vespers at least once this month?

When was the last time you went to Confession?

Prayer List

Living:

Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Alexander, Met. Isaiah, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Dennis, Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Steve Sr, Litsa, Leilani, child Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Jeremy, Alicia, Iryland, Patricia, Danny, Christina, Jerry, Roberta, Leonard, Wendy, Judy, Michael, Beverly, Venette, Lily with child, Abigail with child, Infant Dominic, Jill, Donna, Kalee with child, Joseph, Alisha with child, Jackie, Azrah, Amber with child, Anna with child, Joan, Earnie, Alex, Trisha, Troy, Stella, Carol, Ethan, DaeLynn with child, infant AdaLynn, Lloyd, Navvlet, Lee, Leila, Austin

Please keep Jeb Billmire's father, Lee in your prayers as he recovers from surgery.

Those who are confined: Casey, Basil, Mark, Johnny, Hannah

Departed:

Fr. Michael, Richard, Ronald, Monoyara

Youth:

TBA

St. Ambrose Donations

Bin in the hall. Please donate.