



ST. MARY'S HOLY DORMITION

SS DAVID, JOSEPH, AND JAMES LEAVETAKING OF THE NATIVITY

December 31st, 2023

Scripture Readings

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

Brethren I make known to you, 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

- 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

Jan 6th - Theophany Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

Jan 7th - Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this."
- CS Lewis

"O Word of the Father from before the ages, Who, being in the form of God, brought creation into being out of nothing; You Who has put the times and seasons in Your own power: Bless the crown of the year with Your goodness; give peace unto Your churches, victory unto Your faithful hierarchs, fruitfulness unto the earth, and Great Mercy unto us."
- Matins of the Ecclesiastical New Year, Tone 3

WEEKLY JOKES

I try to say "mucho" when I'm around my Hispanic friends. It means a lot to them.

Does every sentence need to include a vegetable? Not neccescelery.

Yesterday, I was washing the car with my daughter. She said: "Dad can't you just use a sponge?"

WELCOME! IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE!

Coffee Hour: 12/31 – Georgianna Glover | 1/7 – No One

Church Cleanup: 12/31 – Hendrix | 1/7 – No One

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

House Blessing Sign Up List

House Blessing list is in the Narthex. Blessings began after next Saturday.

New Years Eve Dance (Tonight – 9 PM – 1 AM)

We are bringing back an old St. Mary's Tradition: Community Hall Dances! Tonight will be our first one starting at 9 PM and going until 1 AM, with the plan to have one every 2-3 months. 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 still a few flyers in the Narthex to take and share with your friends and family. Please spread the word.

Adult Class Will Resume January 13th (*Note the Date Change*)

Vasilopita – What is it and why do we serve it?

The tradition of baking and cutting a special “pita” (which can mean a loaf of bread, a cake, or even a pie) each year on January 1st is observed in honor of our holy father Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappodocia-- hence its name “Vasilopita” meaning “St. Basil’s Bread.” This tradition is observed in both parish churches and in the homes of the faithful. What is the meaning of this tradition and how did it begin?

For centuries upon centuries, parents, grandparents and godparents have related the following to Orthodox children about St. Basil and the Vasilopita. One year, during a time of terrible famine, the emperor levied a sinfully excessive tax upon the people of Caesarea. The tax was such a heavy burden upon the already impoverished people that to avoid debtors’ prison each family had to relinquish its few remaining coins and pieces of jewelry, including precious family heirlooms. Learning of this injustice upon his flock, St. Basil the Great, the archbishop of Caesarea, took up his bishop’s staff and the book of the holy Gospels and came to his people’s defense by fearlessly calling the emperor to repentance. By God’s grace, the emperor did repent! He canceled the tax and instructed his tax collectors to turn over to St. Basil all of the chests containing the coins and jewelry which had been paid as taxes by the people of Caesarea. But now St. Basil was faced with the daunting and impossible task of returning these thousands of coins and pieces of jewelry to their rightful owners. After praying for a long time before the icons of our Master Christ and His All-Holy Mother, St. Basil had all the treasures baked into one huge pita. He then called all the townspeople to prayer at the cathedral, and, after Divine Liturgy, he blessed and cut the pita, giving a piece to each person. Miraculously, each owner received in his piece of Vasilopita his own valuables. They all joyfully returned home, giving thanks to God who had delivered them from abject poverty and to their good and holy bishop St. Basil the Great! In remembrance of that miracle wrought by God as a result of St. Basil’s love and defense of his people, Orthodox Christians have observed the tradition of the Vasilopita each year on January 1st-- the date on which St. Basil reposed in the Lord in the year 379.

In some places the Vasilopita is prepared as a loaf of rich bread (like that used for Artoklasia), while in other places it takes the form of a spicy sheet cake (without frosting). But no matter what form a Vasilopita may take, they all have one thing in common-- each contains a single coin. After placing the bread dough or cake batter in the proper baking pan, the baker makes with the foil-wrapped coin the sign of the Cross over it, closes his/her eyes, and then secretly places it into the unbaked Vasilopita. After the Vasilopita is baked and cooled, it is blessed and cut following Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Basil on January 1st.

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, Nauvlet, Lee, Leilah, Austin, Brian, Rod

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, Lloyd, Richard

Youth:

TBA

St. Ambrose Donations

Bin in the hall. Please donate.

RECTOR: Fr. Stephen Osburn | CELL: 702-521-6988 | E-MAIL: frsteve@holydormition.net
HolyDormition.net | SlavicFest.net | WATCH LIVE: Facebook.com/ColoradoOrthodoxChurch