

Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

### This Week

- Mon - Eve of the Nativity - *Royal Hours* - 9:00 am
- Tues - Nativity of Our Lord  
*Orthros/Liturgy* - 9:00/10:00 am
- Thurs - St Stephen, Martyr - *Divine Liturgy* - 9:00 am

## On the Divine Liturgy

### Who are Joachim and Anna?

At the end of the service you will hear the names Joachim and Anna mentioned. They are the parents of the Virgin Mary. This makes them the grandparents of Jesus. They were very devout people who longed to have a child but after fifty years of marriage were unable to do so. When they were in Jerusalem to offer sacrifice to God, the High Priest, Issachar, made fun of Joachim, “You are not worthy to offer sacrifice with those childless hands.” Others who had children castigated Joachim. Joachim checked the genealogical records of the tribes of Israel and discovered every righteous man in the nation had been blessed with children, except him. This caused him great grief, and he and his wife left with heavy hearts. Then the two of them prayed to God that He would work in them the wonder that He had worked in Abraham and Sarah, and give them a child to comfort them in their old age. St. Joachim took his flocks and went to a high mountain, refusing to return home in shame. Meanwhile, St. Anna prayed in her garden. One day, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to each of them and told Anna she would be giving birth to “a daughter most blessed, by whom all the nations of the earth will be blessed, and through whom will come the salvation of the world.” St. Anna conceived shortly thereafter, and in the ninth month gave birth to the Virgin Mary. This Conception of the Most Holy Mother of God is celebrated by the Church on December 9 and the Nativity of the Theotokos is celebrated on September 8

from Guide to the Divine Liturgy, by Robert Krantz

Please remember in your prayers:

*Marianna, Barbara, Matina, and all those serving in our Armed Forces*

## Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



*Forefathers of the Lord*

December 23, 2012

Sunday before the Nativity

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December 23, 2012

## Sunday before the Nativity

Commemoration of: Ten Martyrs of Crete,  
Commemoration of the Founding of the Holy and Great  
Church of Christ, Hagia Sophia in Constantinople

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### Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*To Faidron tis Anastasios* (Hymn of the Day) Tone 4

*Etimazou Vithleem* (Hymn of the Feast) Tone 3

*Prepare O Bethlehem, Eden is open to all. Adorn yourself, O Efratha; for, in the cave, the Tree of Life has blossomed forth from the Virgin. Her womb has been revealed as a noetic Paradise, wherein lies the divine seedling (the Christ-Child). If we partake of it we shall live; if not, then we shall die as Adam. Christ is born, restoring the once fallen image.*

*Megalata tis Pisteos* (Hymn of the Feast) Tone 2

*Great are the accomplishments of faith. In the fountain of flame, the three Holy Youths rejoiced as though they were resting by the waters. And the Prophet Daniel showed himself to be a shepherd to the lions, as though they were sheep. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.*

*Tou Stavrou Sou* (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

*Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.*

### Kontakion

*I Parthenos Simeron* Tone 3

*Today the Virgin is coming to the cave to give birth to the eternal Word. Rejoice at the message, O earth; with the Angels and Shepherds give glory to Him Who was willing to be seen as a Child while remaining God throughout all ages.*

### Epistle Reading

Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength

out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy