

## Activities & Announcements

Today

SUN, 12/21– Sunday before the Nativity of Christ; 10 Year Memorial for Metropolitan Anthony; Special Short General Assembly to approve the 2015 Budget; Caroling of Choir and Sunday School at Hale Ho Aloha ICF/SNF 2670 Pacific Heights Road at 1:15 p.m.

- ✦ **10 Year Memorial for Metropolitan Anthony**– All parishes within the Metropolis have been asked to have a Memorial for Metropolitan Anthony, of Blessed Memory. May his memory be eternal!
- ✦ **Eve of the Nativity of Christ**– Wednesday, December 24: Vesper/Liturgy of St. Basil 9 a.m.
- ✦ **Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**– Thursday, December 25: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
- ✦ **St. Stephen the First Martyr**– Saturday, December 27: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
- ✦ **Parish Council Oath of Office and Election of Officers**– Sunday, January 11, 2015.

SUN, 12/28– Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

### Quote on the Nativity of Christ

*“The mystery of the Incarnation was a mystery of the love divine, of the divine identification with lost man. And the climax of the Incarnation was the cross. It is the turning point of human destiny. But the awful mystery of the cross is comprehensible only in the wider perspective of an integral Christology; that is, only if we believe that the Crucified was in very truth the Son of the Living God. ‘ ... Yet it is precisely this doctrine... that can change the whole spiritual outlook of modern man. ... Man is not alone in the world, and God is taking personal interest in the events of human history. This is an immediate implication of the integral conception of the Incarnation. Modern man ... does not take the Incarnation in earnest. He does not dare to believe that Christ is a divine person. He wants to have a human redeemer, only assisted by God. He is more interested in the human psychology of the Redeemer than in the mystery of the divine love. Because, in the last resort, he believes optimistically in the dignity of man.”*

~Georges Florovsky, BIBLE, CHURCH, TRADITION

### To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*

## Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



December 21, 2014

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

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December 21, 2014

## Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

Commemoration of: Juliana of Nicomedia & her 630 Companion Martyrs; The-  
mistocles the Martyr of Myra

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Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*Effrenestho ta urania* (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 3

*Etimazu Vithleem* Tone 4

*Make ready, Bethlehem; O Eden, open to all, O Ephratha, prepare, for soon the Tree of Life will be brought forth from the Virgin in a cave. Like paradise itself, she will bear the fruit divine, and if we eat of it, we shall never die like Adam. For Christ is born, and by His birth, He will raise that image that fell so long ago.*

*Megala ta tis pisteos katorthomata* Tone 2

*How great is the power of faith. By faith three young men rejoice in flames as if in refreshing water, and Daniel in the lions' den is like a shepherd with his sheep. Through their prayers, 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 goes forth, making her way to a cave where from her, ineffably, God the eternal Word will be born. Let the world be filled with joy, hearing these tidings. Joining the angels and shepherds let us give glory to Him who is God from all ages, yet wills to be seen as a little child.*

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 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.



Merry Christmas to All!

