

**PLEASE JOIN OUR CHOIR IN SINGING  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT THE END OF THE  
DIVINE LITURGY, AFTER THE SERMON.**

**The First Noel**

The first noel the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields  
as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their  
sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so  
deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued by day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still  
we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the  
everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fear of all the years are  
met in Thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and  
gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together proclaim the  
holy birth!

And praises sing to God the King, and  
peace to men on earth.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to  
us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born  
in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great  
glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide in us, Our Lord  
Emmanuel.

**Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright;  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night  
Shepherds quake, at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia  
Christ the Savior is Born!  
Christ the Savior is Born!

Silent Night, Holy Night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace;  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.



**St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**



**December 24-25, 2024**

**The Nativity of Christ**

**Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)**

**Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)**

**Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)**

**Second Antiphon:**

Save us o Son of God, Who of a Virgin was born, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.

**Apolytikion:**

I Gen-ni-sis Sou Chri-ste o The-os i-mon, a-ne-ti-le to kos-mo, to fos to tis gno-se-os; en af-ti gar i tis as-tris la-trev-on-des, i-po a-ste-ros e-di-da-skon-do, Se pro-ski-nin, ton I-li-on tis di-ke-o-si-nis, ke Se gi-no-skin ex i-psus a-na-to-lin, Ky-ri-e do-xa Si

**Entrance Hymn:**

From before the morning star I have begotten You. The Lord has sworn a promise which He will not retract: You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek. Save us o Son of God, Who of a Virgin was born, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.

**Apolytikion:**

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were, by a star, instructed to worship You, the very Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

**Kontakion:**

I Par-the-nos si-me-ron, ton i-pe-ru-si-on tik-ti, ke i gi to spi-le-on to a-pro-si-to pro-sa-gi. An-ge-li me-ta pi-me-non Do-xo-lo-gou Si; Ma-gi de, me-ta a-ste-ros o-di-po-rou-si di i-mas gar e-ge-ni-thi, Pe-di-on ne-on, o pro e-o-non The-os.

The Virgin gives birth today to Him Who is above all-being and the earth offers a cave to Him Whom no man can approach. Angels, with the shepherds, Glorify Him. Magi, with a star make their journey. For unto us is born today as a newborn Child, the Pre-Eternal God.

**Trisagion Hymn:**

O-si is Chris-ton e-vap-tis-thi-te Chris-ton e-ne-thi-sa-sthe. Allilulia. (Three times)

All those who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (Three times)

**Epistle Lesson:**

Verse: Let all the earth worship You and sing to You; let them sing to Your name. Shout to God, all the earth.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians. (4: 4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir of God through Christ.

**Gospel Lesson:**

**(Luke 2:1-20)** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch

over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this Child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**(Matthew 2:1-11)** Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief Priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

*'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'*"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**Megalinarion:**

My soul, magnify her who is greater in honor and glory than the armies of heaven. Behold I see here a strange mystery, for behold, the cave is heaven; a Cherubic throne the Virgin; the manger, a grand space in which Christ our God, the Uncontainable, reclined as a Babe, Whom in extolling, do we magnify.

**Communion Hymn: (Psalm 111:9)**

Li-tro-sin a-pes-ti-le Ky-ri-os to la-o af-tou. Allilulia.

The Lord has sent redemption to His people. Alleluia.