

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY
JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING,
JAMES THE BROTHER
December 26, 2021



Icon of the Visit of the Magi

The Lord Has Made His Salvation Known to the Whole World

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days He would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ. A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith.

In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judea only, but in the whole world. ... As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you. ...

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

St. Leo the Great

Contact Information

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Visit and 'Like' our Facebook Pages: St. John Chrysostom Church

St. Barbara Byzantine Catholic



Mission Statement of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

To give thanks to God continually, as Byzantine Catholics, through our spirituality, our service, and preaching the Risen Christ through our everyday life.

LITURGY SCHEDULE ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, COLUMBUS

Confession/Spiritual Counseling is offered one hour before any Liturgy

Sunday, December 26 *Tone 6 pg 152*

Synaxis of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; Pg. 294

10:00am Divine Liturgy
For the Faithful

Monday, December 27 *Pg. 298*

St. Stephen, Protomartyr
9:00am Divine Liturgy
For the health of Maria Mudrak by Myroslava Mudrak

December 28 - 31 No Liturgies

Saturday, January 1, 2022 *Pg. 305*

Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord;
St. Basil
12:00pm Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Sunday, January 2 *Tone 7, pg 156*

Sunday before Theophany pg. 309
10:00am Divine Liturgy
For the Faithful

Sunday, January 2 *Tone 7, pg 156*

Sunday before Theophany pg. 309

10:00am Divine Liturgy
For the Faithful

Wednesday, January 5

Vigil of Theophany
9:00am Royal Hours
7:00pm Vigil of Theophany,
Blessing of water

Thursday, January 6 *Pg. 312*

Theophany
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Friday, January

Synaxis of John the Baptist
7:00pm Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 9 *Tone 8, pg 161*

Sunday after Theophany pg. 316
10:00am Divine Liturgy
For the Faithful

ST. BARBARA, DAYTON

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Celebrating at: St. John Bosco Chapel
Wright State University

3650 Colonel Glenn Highway Fairborn, Ohio 45324



Confession/Spiritual Counseling is offered one hour before any Liturgy

Friday, December 31

6:00pm Vigil of the Circumcision

Thursday, January 6, 2022

6:00pm Liturgy of Theophany, Blessing of Water

Saturday, January 8, 2022

4:00pm Vespers followed by Liturgy



ST. BARBARA DEC/JAN ECF CLASS SCHEDULE

12/18 ECF Classes

01/01/22 New Year's No ECF

01/15/22 ECF Classes

12/25 Christmas No ECF

01/08/22 ECF Classes resume

01/22/22 ECF Classes

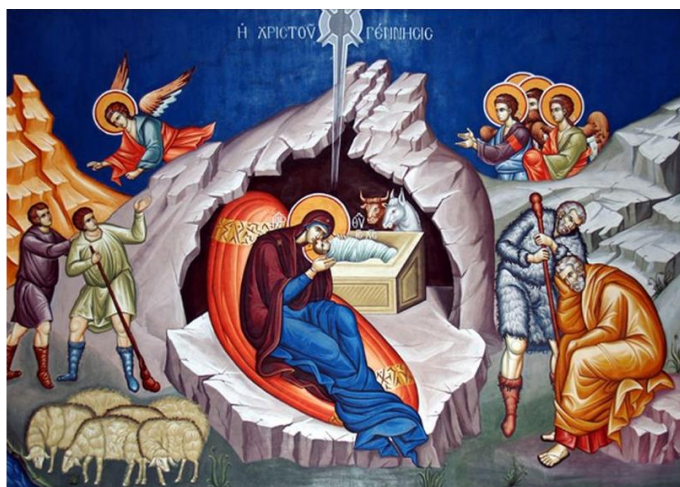
Please continue to pray for the youth and their families and for the catechists.

Parishioners willing to help prepare or provide a snack please contact Emma Ricketts via email - emma.ricketts1@icloud.com

Due to the various holidays and feasts coming up, the St. Barbara's Men's Group will meet up again at the beginning of January. If you wish to receive email updates, please contact Chris Wagner at cwagner22587@gmail.com

Readings for the Week of December 26th

Sunday	Epistle, Gal 1:11-19 & Heb 2:11-18	Gospel, Matthew 2:13-23
Monday	Epistle, Acts 6:8-7:5 & 47-60	Gospel, Matthew 21:33-42
Tuesday	Epistle, James 3:1-10;	Gospel, Mark 11:11-23
Wednesday	Epistle, James 3:11-4:6;	Gospel, Mark 11:23-26
Thursday	Epistle, James 4:7-5:9;	Gospel, Mark 11:27-33
Friday	Epistle, 1 Timothy 6:11-16;	Gospel, Matthew 12:15-21
Saturday	Epistle, Col 2:8-12; Heb 7:26-8:2;	Gospel, Luke 2:20-21; 40-52; 6:17-23
Sunday	Epistle, 2 Timothy 4:5-8	Gospel, Mark 1:1-8



important by the Church despite the fact that the Scriptures do not mention their presence. Yet they always appear in the center, representatives of the whole world of nature recreated by the coming of the Savior.

JOSEPH'S DOUBT: THAT OF ALL MANKIND Joseph is seen strangely dejected outside the central grouping. He is not the father, and this point is emphatically made by separating him from the group. He sits troubled, doubting, and worried against the blackness of the cave which reaches around him in his unbelief. He is struggling to accept the miracle that takes place before him and in that struggle represents not only himself but all mankind who with similar turmoil wrestles with the fact of the Incarnation which seems beyond words or reason. Wistfully he looks back over his shoulder to consider the holy scene. In many icons Satan, disguised as a shepherd, stands before Joseph and tempts him – as he has done to many since – to disbelieve the virgin birth. Angels representing the celestial world carry out their two-fold function of adoring and glorifying the Savior as well as announcing to the shepherds the good tidings of glad joy. The icon is usually completed by a most tender scene transmitted by the apocryphal gospels stressing the humanity of the Christ in His submission to the requirements of nature as He is carefully bathed by two midwives. The icon of the nativity of Christ is the visual rendition of the song of the Church at this feast:

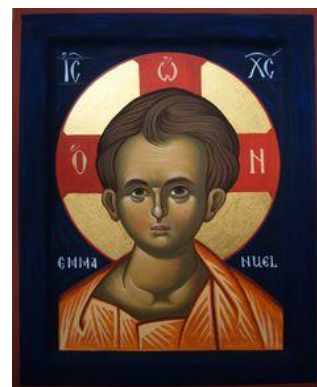
Today the Virgin gives birth to the One transcendent in essence; and the earth offers a cave to the Uncontainable One. Angels with the shepherds give glory and wise men journey onward following the star; for to us is born a newborn Child who is God from all eternity. (Kontakion of the Feast)

The Eastern Christian who venerates this icon proclaims the wondrous event of the birth “of the One transcendent in essence” and the attending recreation of the whole universe which has now been set in motion by the birth of this little Child “who is God from all eternity”. Christ is born: glorify Him!

ST. AUGUSTINE: NATIVITY (Sermon 189)

(1) The Eternal Day who made all days has sanctified this day for us, my brethren. Of Him the Psalmist writes: 'Sing ye to the Lord a new canticle: sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing ye to the Lord and bless his name: bless his salvation from day to day.'^[1] What does this phrase 'from day to day' mean unless it be that the Son was born of the Father, Light of Light? That Eternal Day called into being this Day, who was born of a virgin today. The Eternal Day, therefore, has no beginning and no end. I refer to God the Father. What is this Day if it be not Light? Not the light of carnal eyes, the light which we share with beasts, but the Light which shines upon the angels, by the brilliance of which hearts are cleansed. The night in which we live, and in which the lamps of the Scriptures are lighted for us, passes; then that Light will come which is foretold in the psalm: In the morning I will stand before thee, and I will contemplate thee.'^[2]

(2) That Day, then, the Word of God, the Day which shines upon the angels, the Day which brightens the homeland from whence we came, was born clothed in flesh of the Virgin Mary, was wondrously brought forth, for what is more wondrous than the child-bearing of a virgin? She conceives and is still a virgin; she brings forth her Child and remains a virgin. He was formed in her whom He Himself formed; He gave her fertility but He did not mar her integrity. Whence did Mary spring? From Adam. Whence did Adam come? From the earth. If Mary sprang from Adam, and if Adam came from the earth, then Mary, too, came from the earth. If this is so, let us acknowledge the truth of the words: 'Truth is sprung out of the earth.' What benefit has Truth bestowed upon us? 'Truth is sprung out of the earth and justice hath looked down from heaven.'^[3] For the Jews, as the Apostle says, 'ignorant of the justice of God and



seeking to establish their own, have not submitted to the justice of God.^[4] How can man become just? Of himself? What poor man gives bread to himself? What naked person clothes himself unless clothes have been given to him? Whence does justice come? What justice is there without faith? For 'he who is just lives by faith.'^[5] He lies who says that he is just without faith, for he lies in whom there is no faith. If anyone wishes to speak the truth, let him turn to the Truth. For Truth which 'is sprung out of the earth' was far removed from you. You were sleeping; Truth came to you. You were wrapped in heavy slumber; Truth aroused you and prepared a path for you lest you should be lost. Hence, 'Truth is sprung out of the earth,' since Christ was born of a virgin, and 'Justice hath looked down from heaven,' that, through justice men might learn to relish again what through injustice they had foolishly cast aside.

(3) We were mortal, overwhelmed by our sins; we bore the penalties of our sins. Every man, at birth, begins life in wretchedness. Do not seek for a prophetic utterance in this regard; ask the child who is born; see his tears. Since this wretchedness was the mark of God's anger on the earth, what sort of condescension came suddenly into His attitude? Truth is sprung out of the earth. 5 He created all things; He [as man] was created among all things. He made the day; He came into the day. He is the Lord Christ existing without a beginning eternally with His Father, yet He has a birthday. In the first place, if the Word had not had human generation, we would not have acquired divine regeneration; He was born so that we might be born again. Christ was born; let no one hesitate to be reborn. He was generated with no need of regeneration, for who has experienced the need of rebirth except the one whose birth was blameworthy? Let His compassion, then, be born in our hearts. His Mother carried Him in her womb; let us carry Him in our hearts. The Virgin was heavy with the incarnate Christ; may our hearts be heavily freighted with belief in Christ. The Virgin brought forth the Saviour; may our souls bring forth salvation; may we bring forth praise also. Let us not be sterile; let our souls be full of fruitfulness in the Lord.



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM DEC/JAN ECF CLASS SCHEDULE

12/19 ECF Classes	01/02/22 New Year's No ECF	01/16/22 ECF Classes
12/26 Christmas No ECF	01/09/22 ECF Classes resume	01/23/22 ECF Classes

Please continue to pray for the youth and their families and for the catechists.



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY FROM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23RD THROUGH SUNDAY JANUARY 2ND, 2022. THE OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON MONDAY, JANUARY 3RD.

2022 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES AND WALL CALENDARS

The collection envelopes (on table) and wall calendars (on bookshelf) for next year are in the church vestibule. The envelopes will have the family name on them. If you do not see your name and want a set of envelopes, please contact the office either via email or by phone. We ask that each family take just one calendar so that everyone may receive one.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

An online prayer group, facilitated by Fr. Robert, where members meet every week and obey the strict rule of confidentiality. During the meetings a mother may share her worries without the fear of anything being repeated outside of the meeting. The other mothers support her in her prayer and she will feel supported by thousands of mothers around the world who are also part of Mothers' Prayers. Mothers experience a great peace with the blessing of this wonderful prayer support.

If you are interested in joining, please contact the office to put your email on the contact list to get the link to join in the online meeting.



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