

The Diocese of Los Angeles and the West [www.antiochianladiocese.org](http://www.antiochianladiocese.org)

**ST. PETER THE APOSTLE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

[www.saintpeterantiochian.org](http://www.saintpeterantiochian.org)

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Rev. Fr. Patrick B. O'Grady, pastor

Rev. John (Dr. Dan) Eichinger and Rev. Paul (Rico) Monge, deacons

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009  
FIRST DAY OF THE FORE-FEAST OF &  
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE  
GENEALOGY)**

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN 3<sup>rd</sup> Mode

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN 4<sup>th</sup> Mode

Be thou ready, O Bethlehem; for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha; for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; for her belly did appear as a noetic paradise in which is planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we shall live and not die as Adam. Verily, Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that fell of old.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY IN 2<sup>nd</sup> Mode

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. PETER (IN CHAINS)

Thou hast come to us without leaving Rome, thou who doest preside over the Apostles by the power of the venerable chains that thou didst bear. While honoring them in faith, we beseech thee that by thine intercessions, God may grant us great mercy.

**THE EPISTLE** - For the Sunday before the Nativity

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the 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 foundations, 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, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so 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 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.

**THE GOSPEL** - For the Sunday before the Nativity: “The Genealogy”

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah... and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ... 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 had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

**\*\*\* *Announcements for the Week of December 20th* \*\*\***

- **The Nativity fast continues. We keep a Lenten fast from today until midnight Thursday.**
- **Nativity Services** – Please consult your calendar for services and times this week.
- **COH** – has need of gift cards for Christmas. See bulletin board for more information. .
- **Please contact Father Patrick to make your pre-Christmas confession ASAP!**
- Beginning on Saturday, January 2, 2010, **ALL "Vespers" services, weekday and Saturday, will begin at 5:30 PM.** The old time of beginning Vespers at 5 PM applies to Vespers up through Thursday December 31st, 2009. NOTE: this change does not apply to "Vigil" service which continues to have 6:00 PM as its beginning.

**Schedule of Divine Services--**

*Ordinary Schedule:*

*Special Schedule:*

Daily Matins at 6:00 AM,  
**Wednesday and Friday**

Daily Matins at 6:00 AM,  
**Monday -- Friday, except Thursday**

Saturday Matins at 7:00 AM

Saturday Matins at 7:00 AM

Vespers at 5:00 PM, **Tuesday & Friday.**

[**Every evening** at certain times]

**For the Lord's Day (Sunday)**

**Great Vespers** at 5:00 PM, Saturday (preceded by the 9<sup>th</sup> Hour, at 4:45 PM)

**Sunday Matins** at 8:00 AM, Sunday

**Divine Liturgy** immediately follows Matins; thus, at about 9:15 AM.

*Special Services are scheduled; see Announcements*