

Word for the Day

Homily of St. Gregory Palamas on the Genealogy of Christ

Impossible to recount is Christ's descent according to His divinity, but His ancestry according to His human nature can be traced, since He who deigned to become Son of man in order to save mankind was the offspring of men. And it is this genealogy of His that two of the evangelists, Matthew and Luke, recorded. But although Matthew, in the passage from his Gospel read today, begins with those born first, he makes no mention of anyone before Abraham. He traces the line down from Abraham until he reaches Joseph to whom, by divine dispensation, the Virgin Mother of God was betrothed (Matt. 1:1-16), being of the same tribe and homeland as him, that her own stock might be shown from this to be in no way inferior.



Luke, by contrast, begins not with the earliest forebears but the most recent, and working his way back from Joseph the Betrothed, does not stop at Abraham, nor, having included Abraham's predecessors, does he end with Adam, but lists God among Christ's human forebears (Luke 3:23-28); wishing to show, in my opinion, that from the beginning man was not just a creation of God, but also a son in the Spirit, which was given to him at the same time as his soul, through God's quickening breath (Gen. 2:7). It was granted to him as a pledge that, if, waiting patiently for it, he kept the commandment, he would be able to share through the same Spirit in a more perfect union with God, by which he would live for ever with Him and obtain immortality.

The Homilies of St. Gregory Palamas, pp. 468-469

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Of The New England Diocese ✙ Orthodox Church In America

December 24, 2017

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Eve of the Nativity of Christ . Sunday before the Nativity. Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her Martyrs Philip, her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia (ca. 262). Ven. Nicholas the Monk, of Bulgaria (9th c.)



Upcoming Divine Services

Tonight	Holy Supper.....	4:00 p.m.
	followed by Vigil	6:30 p.m.
Mon. December 25.....	Nativity of our Lord	
	Divine Liturgy.....	9:30 a.m.
	Daily Vespers.....	5:30 p.m.
Tue. December 26.....	Divine Liturgy (Synaxis of Theotokos)	9:30 a.m.
	Daily Vespers	5:30 p.m.
Wed. December 27.....	Divine Liturgy (Protomartyr Stephen).....	9:30 a.m.
	Daily Vespers	5:30 p.m.
Thu. December 28.....	Daily Vespers	5:30 p.m.
Fri. December 29.....	Daily Vespers	5:30 p.m.
Sat. December 30.....	Great Vespers.....	5:00 p.m.
Sun. December 31.....	Divine Liturgy.....	9:30 a.m.
	Great Vespers.....	5:00 p.m.
Mon. January 1.....	Divine Liturgy (Circumcision of Christ).....	9:30 a.m.
	Daily Vespers	5:30 p.m.

Today's Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-4
 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Next Week's Readings

Galatians 1:11-19
 Matthew 2:13-23

For Next Week, Dec. 31

Hours and Thanksgiving PrayersSteven Nikitas
 Epistle:.....Tanya Bogaevskaya
 Coffee Hour:Marina Bobrovsky

In Memory of: Ann Dahulich (Dec. 6), mother of Archbishop Michael Dahulich of New York

For the health and well-being of: Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Julia, Abdullah, David, Tony, Stanislav, Leonard, Timothy, Helen, Fenaeda, Raya, Dennis, Svetlana, Konstantin, Vladislav, Nancy, Maria, Al, Michael, Ludmila, Nick, Koren, Katya, Alexandra, Irina, Gregory, Theodore, Helen, Edie, Ismene, Sandra, Mat. Brenda, and Lou (son-in-law of Pat).

Announcements

Do You Know Someone Whom Fr John Should Visit?

If you know of a shut-in, hospitalized person, or other parishioner that Fr John should visit, please let him know by filling out the appropriate form (at the back of the church) and giving it to him.

The Giving Tree! Our beautiful Nativity Tree is also the "Giving Tree". All items in the basket under the tree will be given to the residents at Barton's Crossing. Thank you to everyone who brought gifts!

Reminder: No Food in Rectory Refrigerator

As a reminder, the rectory refrigerator is for the personal use of the priest's family. Please do not leave food in there at any time. After coffee hour and other parish meals, food should be taken home by those who brought it or given to other willing parishioners. It should not be stored in the rectory refrigerator or anywhere in the rectory or parish hall.

Stewardship Envelopes: Stewardship letters with pledge cards went out this week. If you didn't get those materials please let Irene know. There are extra pledge cards/envelopes also on the back table.

New Coffee Hour Schedule: The schedule for Jan-June 2018 is posted in the coffee room and those hosting will get printed copies.

December Charity is Hospice Care in the Berkshires: This organization has operated in the Berkshire for 35 years and provides support and care for those living with live-limiting illnesses, quality medical care and family caretakers.

Tonight Dec. 24: Holy Supper at 4:00 p.m. We will celebrate the Holy Supper at 4:00 followed by the Nativity Vigil at 6:30 p.m. Other services this week are listed above.

Collections

Last Week's Collection.....	\$2,262
2017 Budget	\$96,142
Progress Towards Budget...	\$82,015