



St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church
Rev. Paul Abernathy, Pastor
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Sunday, December 31, 2017
Sunday before Theophany of Christ, Which Falls on the
Apodosi (Leave-taking) of the Nativity of Christ

Venerable Melania the Younger of Rome; Hieromartyr Zotikos of Rome, the friend of orphans; Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid

*** THE FIRST ANTIPHON** – *I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.*

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (Refrain)

Glory... Both now... (Refrain)

*** THE SECOND ANTIPHON** – *Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed.*

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Glory and riches shall be in his house, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (Refrain)

There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous. (Refrain)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

*** THE THIRD ANTIPHON** – *The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints.*

• During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Nativity of Christ. Then, the following:

*** EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE APODOSIS OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST** *From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.*

*** RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE** *Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.*

*** APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR** *Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.*

*** APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO** *Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.*

• **Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.**

*** KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE** *On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He Who existed * before the ages as God.*

THE EPISTLE

All those on earth worship thee and sing unto Thee: Alleluia to God, O all the earth.

The Reading is from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

* The Prokeimenon is for the Nativity, in recognition of the Apodosis of the Feast.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, who shall prepare Thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

*** MEGALYNARION OF THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE ONE** – *Magnify, O my soul, her who hath delivered us from the curse. Verily it is easier for us to endure silence since there is no dread danger therefrom for us. But because of our strong desire, O Virgin, and Mother of sameness, to indite well-balanced songs of praise, this becometh indeed onerous to us. Wherefore, grant us power to equal our natural inclination.*

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Jan. 6th – 9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy with Water Sanctification for the Feast of Theophany of Christ

Jan. 6th – 5:00 PM – Great Vespers

Jan. 7th – 9:30 AM – Matins and Divine Liturgy

Jan. 13th – 5:00 PM – Great Vespers

Jan. 14th – 9:30 AM – Matins and Divine Liturgy

Jan. 20th – 5:00 PM – Great Vespers

Jan. 21st – 9:30 PM – Matins and Divine Liturgy

PRAYER LIST - Please contact Pres. Kristina Abernathy via email at Kristina.nicole@me.com or via text or call at 724.493.7213 to add living or departed names to the prayer list.

LIVING– Metropolitan Boulous, Archbishop Johana, Archpriest Jason & Family, Archpriest Anthony & Family, Archpriest Elias, Archpriest James, Kh. Linda, Archpriest Patrick, Kh. Vanessa, Archpriest Joseph, Gregory, Priest Joseph, Kh. Arleen, Justin, Christopher, Hieromonk Michael, The Sisterhood of St. Nina Monastery, The Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black, The Seminarian Joseph, Rebecca, The Seminarian Paul, Joyce, Sister Janice, Sister Janice, The Painter Family, The Boozer Family, The Wells Family, The Horne Family, The Focus Family, Pearl, Brandon, Isabella, Ashley, Carmen, Timothy, Marcella, Cassie, George, Eva, The Elderkin Family, John, Emery, Jace and Family, Ericka, Ryder, Chris, Maria, Melanie, Holly, Joshua, Noah, Tara, Louise, Peter, Julita, Marika, Mary, John, Akxanna, Nicholas, David, Nathan, Brooklin, Dylan, Amera, Adam, Moses, Tiffany, Victoria, Tyra, Robert, James-Brian, Steven, George, Daniel, Subdeacon Nathaniel, Thom, Isiah, Jaquagh, Jay, Ryan, Sincere, Bleu, Angelo, April, The students of the Pitt/CMU OCF, Nadine, Elise, Katherine, Anthony, Marilyn, David, Tobiah Basil

DEPARTED – Bishop Antoun, Archpriest John, Kh. Stephanie, Kh. Joanne, Sylvia Jean, Bern, Gregory, Efthimios, Helen, Daniel, Rodger

CONFESSIONS and HOUSE BLESSINGS By Appointment - Please contact Rev. Paul Abernathy via calling at 412.254.6281 to schedule confession or a meeting.

Name Days – David Anderson (Dec. 31st) & Tobiah Basil Sider-Rose (Jan. 1st)

DONATIONS

Please make your offerings to St. Moses the Black as follows: Checks made payable to St. George Orthodox Church with St. Moses the Black in the memo line. Checks or cash can be either given to Pres. Kristina or mailed to the following address: **St. George Orthodox Church, Attn: St. Moses the Black, 3230 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017.**