



St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church
Rev. Paul Abernathy, Pastor
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Sunday, December 22, 2019

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ (The Genealogy)

Great-martyr Anastasia the deliverer from potions and her teacher the Martyr Chrysogonos

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE (Spiral Book page 112) - *When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.*

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE FOUR - *Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. * Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life * hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. * Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, * wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, * and as we eat thereof we shall all live, * and shall not die as did Adam. * For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.*

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO - *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 prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.*

APOLYTIKION TO ST. MOSES THE BLACK - *Dweller of the desert and angel in the body, you were shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father Moses. You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. Glory to Him who gave you strength! Glory to Him who granted you a crown! Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!*

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE - *On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.*

THE EPISTLE

Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.

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

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 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob

the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. 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.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 - 9:00 AM - Royal Hours and Typical

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Divine Liturgy for Christmas - Meal Following at the Church

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 - Christ is Born! Glorify Him - No weekday vespers

Saturday, December 28, 2019 - No Great Vespers - Fr. Paul is speaking at College Conference at the Antiochian Village

Sunday, December 29, 2019 - 9:30 AM - Matins and Typika (Fr. Dn. Martin will be serving in Fr. Paul's absence)

Tuesday, December 31, 2019 - 6:00 PM - Vespersal Divine Liturgy for the New Year

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 - No Weekday Vespers

Bishop THOMAS will be visiting our parish the weekend of January 25-26, 2020. On Saturday January 25, 2020, Bishop THOMAS will bless the building for the Neighborhood Resilience Project at a morning Liturgy.

We are looking for parishioners to participate in evening programs for mission trips during the first two weeks of July 2020.

SAVE THE DATE - St. Moses the Black Brotherhood Conference in Pittsburgh hosted by our parish - October 8 - 11, 2020

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, The Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black, The Parishioners of St. George, Deacon John, Shimashee Brenda, Deacon Abraham, Shimashee Laurie, Thomas, The Seminarian Paul, Sister Janice, Sister Janice, Pearl, Brandon, Isabella, Marcella, Peter, Juliitta, David, Jerrel, Moses, Thekla, Tracy, Joshua, Dustin, Amera, Adam, Moses, Ramey, The Khalil Family, Michael, Maria, Ana, Mary, Macrina, Tobiah Basil, Victoria, Tyra, Lamar, Gabriel, Maurice, Nicole, Gladys, Jasmine, Nayla, Royal, Raymond, Emma, Deborah, Marianne, James, Haleigh, Mikayla, Cathy, Kathleen, Daniel, Rocco, The students of the Pitt/CMU/Duquesne/Waynesburg OCF, Nadine, Elise, Katherine, Anthony, Steven, Tommy, Joanna, David, Esther, Juliana, Mary, Frank, Alexis, Juliana, Judah, Fidelia, Katherine, Kammy, Leroy, Andrea, Xenia, Solomon, Paulous, Mark, Sophie, Abbie, Katie, Elizabeth, John, Tanya, Brad, Owen, Arthur, Samuel, Karen & Family, Gabby, Joel, Ashley, Dave, Elise, Austin, Justin, Susan, Chris, Robin

DEPARTED – Dolores, Alexandra, William, Tarsha, Mary Ellen, Katilin

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

DONATIONS - Please make your offerings as follows: **Checks made payable to St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church.** Donations can be given to Pres. Kristina or Parish Treasurer Amera.

A Note from Bishop Thomas -

THE NATIVITY FAST is divided into two periods: (1) November 15th through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil) is observed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with katalysis for wine and olive oil (some also permit fish) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine, and olive oil on Saturdays and Sundays, and (2) the period of the Forefeast, December 20th through 24th, when the traditional fasting discipline is observed Monday through Friday, with katalysis for wine and olive oil on Saturday and Sunday. The eve of the feast is a strict fast day; December 25th thru January 4th is fast-free.