



Greek Orthodox Mission Parish of Utah

3015 E. Creek Road, Cottonwood Heights, UT 84093 | 385-313-9358

Sunday, December 20, 2015
Sunday Before Nativity

and

Sunday December 27, 2015
Sunday After Nativity

Orthros: 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy: 10:15 a.m.

Reverend Father Anthony Savas

Reverend Deacon Anatoli Kireiev

Mission Statement: The Greek Orthodox Mission Parish of Utah is a Christ-centered Greek Orthodox Christian parish that welcomes and embraces all Orthodox Christian faithful and all of God's children, regardless of ethnicity and is focused above all else on the faithful worship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in adherence to the canons, teachings and traditions of the Orthodox Christian faith as part of One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

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Epistle Reading for December 20, 2015 **St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40**

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Daniel 3.26,27

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.



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 foundation, 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, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, 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 tempted, 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.

Gospel Reading for December 20, 2015 **The Gospel of 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 Ram, and Ram 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 Amos, and Amos 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 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

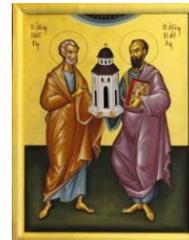
commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Epistle Reading for December 27, 2015
Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 18.4,1

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.



IN THOSE DAYS, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

And the high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child.

"But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me,

says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?'

"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Gospel Reading for December 27, 2015
The Gospel according to Matthew 2:13-23



When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.

This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no

more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Hymns at Small Entrance

Resurrectional Apolytikions

December 20: When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and had rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

December 27: Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection.

Entrance Hymn

December 20 and 27: Come let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who arose from the dead.

Hymn for the Church

December 20 and 27: Adorned in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church, through them, doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassions upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy commonwealth, and great mercy to our souls.

Hymn for the Forefeast

December 20: O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up the formerly fallen image.

Hymn for the Forefathers

December 20: Magnificent are Faith's accomplishments! The three holy Youths exultingly stood in the fountain of fire as if beside the still waters of rest. And Daniel the Prophet was shown to be a shepherd of lions. At their entreaty, O Christ God, save our souls.

Hymn for the Feast

December 27: Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Son of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

For the Ancestors of God

December 27: Annunciate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

For the Proto-martyr

December 27: O Stephen, a crown of royalty was laid on your head for contests you courageously endured for Christ our God, as first among Martyr saints. You stood in accusation of the raging Judeans; and you saw your Savior at the right hand of the Father. We pray that you will ever entreat Him to save our souls.

Kontakion

December 20 and 27: On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

Communion Hymn

December 20 and 27: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia.

Dismissal Hymn

December 20 and 27: Preserve him who blesses and sanctifies us, O Lord; preserve him for many years.

Orthodox Saints Commemorated December 20: Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer & Bishop of Antioch; John of Kronstadt the Wonderworker; New-Martyr John of Thassos; Philogonius the Confessor & Bishop of Antioch; Archbishop Daniel II of Serbia; and Dominic of Brescia.

Orthodox Saints Commemorated December 27: Protomartyr Stephen the Archdeacon; Theodore Graptus the Confessor; Luke the Ascetic of Triglia; Theodore the Patriarch of Constantinople; Fabiola the Merciful of Rome; Martyrs Maurice with his son, Photinus & 70 soldiers at Apamea; and Maximus the Pope of Alexandria.

Altar Servers: The scheduled altar servers for Sunday, December 20, 2015, are Mitchell Mallas, Dennis Apostole, Matthew Mallas and Zachary Sasich. The scheduled altar servers for Sunday, December 27, 2015, are Zachary Petrogeorge and Jonathan Petrogeorge.

Fellowship Hour: Thank you to Evan and Kim Mallas, Jim and Mary Mylonakis, and Elias and Rose Pylidis for hosting our breakfast with Santa fellowship hour on Sunday, December 20, 2015. Please join us!

Due to the Christmas holiday, we will not have a hosted fellowship hour on Sunday, December 27, 2015. Parishioners are invited to bring leftover holiday treats to share that day!

Memorial Services: To schedule a memorial service, please contact Fr. Anthony at 801-824-3987 (mobile), 385-313-9358 (office) or franthy@gomissionparishut.org.

Altar/Benevolence Fund: The parish has established the "GOMPU Altar and Benevolence Fund." This fund will be administered in the discretion of Father Anthony, to provide assistance to those in need and procure altar supplies. Unless otherwise designated, all memorial/funeral donations will be deposited into this fund. Direct donations are also appreciated.

One-Year Anniversary Commemorative Photobook: Orders for the one-year anniversary commemorative photobook will be taken during fellowship hour Sunday, December 20, 2015. A sample of this beautiful, hardbound photobook will be available for review. The cost is \$60 per photobook, and payment is due at the time of ordering.

Welcome Back Father Ambrose Omayas: We are blessed to welcome back Father Ambrose Omayas to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on

January 1, 2016, while Father Anthony is in Sacramento, California, celebrating a New Year's Eve wedding. Father Ambrose will also serve the Divine Liturgy with Father Anthony and Deacon Anatoli Kireiev on Sunday, January 3, 2016. It will be great to see Father's smiling face and experience his warmth once again! Amen. Amen! AMEN!

HOLIDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24, 2015:

9th Imperial Hour of the Nativity, Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ.

Divine Liturgy: 7:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24, 2015:

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Nativity of Christ
Orthros: 6:00 p.m. / Divine Liturgy: 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 5, 2016:

9th Imperial Hour of Theophany, Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the Forefeast of Holy Theophany with the Lesser Blessing of the Waters.

Divine Liturgy: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 6, 2016:

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for Holy Theophany with the Great Blessing of the Waters

Orthros: 9:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy: 10:30 a.m.

OTHER UPCOMING SERVICES

Friday, January 1, 2016:

The Circumcision of Christ and Feast Day of St. Basil the Great

Orthros: 9:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy: 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 7, 2016:

Synaxis or Feast of St. John the Forerunner

Orthros: 9:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy: 10:30 a.m.

Monday, January 18, 2016:

Sts. Athanasios of Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria

Orthros: 9:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy: 10:30 a.m.

Monday, January 25, 2016:

St. Gregory the Theologian

Orthros: 9:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy: 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 30, 2016:

The Three Hierarchs

Orthros: 9:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy: 10:30 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP 2016

The Parish Council and Stewardship Ministry Team thank everyone who has completed and turned in their 2016 Stewardship cards. **To date, we have received 92 completed cards, with commitments totaling \$188,184, putting us at 78.4% of our budgeted goal of \$240,000!** In order for our parish to accurately plan and manage our approved budget, it is important that we move into 2016 with a strong understanding of our financial wherewithal. If you have not yet completed your 2016 stewardship card, please bring it with you to church on Sunday and give it to a member of the Parish Council. You can also send it via mail using the pre-printed envelope included in your packet. Please contact Father Anthony at franthony@gomissionparishut.org if you need a stewardship packet. You can also complete your 2016 stewardship card online, at www.gomissionparishut.org/?page_id=21.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Program: Our Christmas Program will be held Sunday, December 20, 2015, after Divine Liturgy and will be followed by breakfast with Santa!!

YOUTH MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOY Meetings: Please make every effort to have your children attend our monthly JOY meetings the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. **Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 22, 2015,** and the first meeting of the New Year will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

GOYA Outing - The WAIRhouse: Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at The WAIRhouse, 3653 South 500 West, Salt Lake City. Bring \$10 for admission and pizza. Visit www.thewairhouse.com to fill out and print the waiver form in advance.

Save the Date - GOYA Lenten Retreat: Save the date for the Greek Orthodox Mission Parish of Utah's GOYA Lenten Retreat April 15-17, 2016, in Heber, Utah. Details to come!

ADULT AND FAMILY MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evening Bible Study: Bible Study will take a holiday break from Wednesday, December 23, 2015, through Wednesday, January 6, 2016. Our next Bible Study meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in Classrooms 8 and 9.

Orthodox Married Life (OML): Friday, January 8, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in our fellowship hall. Begin in the Church for prayer and continue in the fellowship hall for discussion and light refreshments.

Since there does not seem to be a need for child care at our OML meetings, we will not be offering the service. In the future, if anyone needs child care in order to attend the meetings, please contact Father Anthony in the Church Office and arrangements will be made. Thanks!

Parish Family Night: Friday, January 22, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in our fellowship hall. Details to come!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mingle & Jingle: Over fifty women enjoyed an evening of eating, drinking and Orthodox fellowship this past Tuesday. We were blessed to also have Father Anthony in attendance. Thank you to the Kireiev family for hosting an extremely nice Mingle & Jingle event at their beautiful home, and to all of the attendees who brought food! Congratulations to our cash prize raffle winners: Sophie Kouris, Presvytera Andrea Savas and Sylvia Zekas. Half of the money generated by the raffle went towards the cash prizes, and the remaining half was donated to the church. Merry Christmas to all!

Sub for Santa Thank You: Through the generosity of our parish, over 50 children and adults will have a brighter Christmas. Once again we were able to fulfill and exceed the wishes of these children and their families. Thank you for your kindness to those in need!

Community Cookbooks: If you would like to purchase a newly edited reprint of the community cookbook, please contact Mary Simos at 801-641-2722 or Connie Pantke at 801-890-1080, and we will get one to you ASAP! The cost is \$25 (same as last year).

Food Drive: Please continue to bring your donations on the third week of the month (December 20, 2015, and January 17, 2016), and know your kindness may be benefiting members of our parish. As noted, we will

be donating our food to St. Thomas More's food pantry. If anyone in our parish is in need, please contact Father Anthony who will then guide you to the pantry during their hours of service. Thank you, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pat Daskalas at 801-883-9494.

COMMUNICATION MINISTRY TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Directory: The Parish Directory will be distributed shortly after the first of the year. A draft of the directory will be posted on the whiteboard in the fellowship hall on Sunday, December 20, 2015, after Divine Liturgy. Please check your listing and note any corrections that need to be made. Please also identify whether your listed phone numbers are home or cellphone numbers. If cell numbers are listed, please specify the person to whom each cellphone number belongs. If you are unable to attend church and wish to confirm your listing, please contact Michael Petrogeorge at secretary@gomissionparishut.org or 801-243-8684. **All revisions must be received by Sunday, December 20, 2015, in order to be included in the first publication.**

Bulletin Announcements: Our next published bulletin will be for Sunday, January 3, 2016. Please send any announcements to Michael Petrogeorge at secretary@gomissionparishut.org by **Wednesday, December 30, 2015, at 5:00 p.m.**

New Post Office Box: The parish's new mailing address is P.O. Box 171224, Holladay, Utah 84117. The old P.O. Box will remain open through this month, but will then be closed. Please alert any bill pay services of this change to ensure that any stewardship contributions or other donations are properly received and accounted.

PRAYER LIST

Alec, Ange, Anna Maria, Barbara, Bill, Charissa, Christopher, Dan, Dick, Drew, Elizabeth, Emilee, Fred, George, Gregory, Helen, Jacqui, Jamie, Jim, Joe, John, Julie Ann, Juliet, Justin, Katherine, Konstantina, Kristina, Linda, Lucas, Luke, Madeline, Margaret, Margie, Marie, Melissa, Michael, Mike, Mila, Nick, Olivia, Preston, Rebecca, Sandy, Shirley, Stacie, Steve, Tami, Tom, Tony, Toula, Victor.

To add additional names, contact Michael Petrogeorge at secretary@gomissionparishut.org.