

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Ian	Stefan
Archpriest Eugene	John
Archpriest Seraphim	Vivian
Reader Aleksei	Jung Sook
Monk Philaret	Thomas
Matushka Mary	Cheyenne
Matushka Mary Sara	Nancy
Andrea	Randall
Virginia • Thomas	Rose
John • Jacqueline	Don
Euphrosynos	Norma
John • Samuel	
Catechumen Rebecca	

The repose and salvation of –

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

Tomorrow, December 26, 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

for the Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

Friday, January 6, 7:00 am – Divine Liturgy

for the Holy Theophany of the Lord

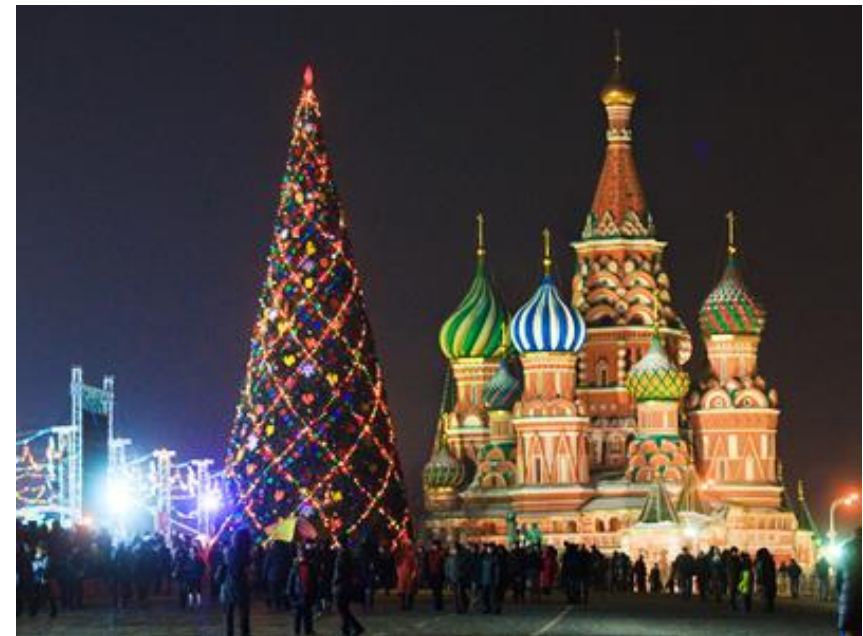
Be sure to complete 2017 pledge cards!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



***The Nativity of Our Lord, God
and Savior Jesus Christ***



Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Other services as announced

Rev. Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

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The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son (Galatians 4:4) to save the human race. And when nine months were fulfilled from the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel had appeared to the Most-holy Virgin in Nazareth, saying, *Rejoice, thou that art highly favored ... behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son* (Luke 1:28, 31), at that time there went forth a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the people of the Roman Empire should be taxed. In accordance with this decree, everyone had to go to his own town and be registered. That is why the righteous Joseph came with the Most-holy Virgin to Bethlehem, the city of David, for they were both of the royal lineage of David. Since many people descended on this small town for the census, Joseph and Mary were unable to find lodging in any house, and they sought shelter in a cave which shepherds used as a sheepfold. In this cave, on the night between Saturday and Sunday, on the 25th of December, the Most-holy Virgin gave birth to the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. Giving birth to Him without pain just as He was conceived without sin by the Holy Spirit and not by man, she herself wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, worshiped Him as God, and laid Him in a manger. Then the righteous Joseph drew near and worshiped Him as the Divine Fruit of the Virgin's womb. Then the shepherds came in from the fields, directed by an angel of God, and worshiped Him as the Messiah and Savior. The shepherds heard a multitude of God's angels singing: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men* (Luke 2:14). At that time three wise men arrived from the east, led by a wondrous star, bearing their gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. They worshiped Him as the King of kings, and offered Him their gifts (Matthew 2:1-2). Thus entered the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when Herod, a foreigner, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind, which could not be performed by His servants. To Him be eternal glory and praise! Amen.

The Prologue from Ochrid

Also this week: SYNAXIS OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS; *Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, Brother of the Lord* (December 26); *Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen* (December 27); *20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia* (December 28); *The 14,000 Infants (the Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem* (December 29); *Virgin Martyr Anysia at Thessalonica* (December 30); *Leavetaking of the Nativity; Ven. Melania the Younger of Rome* (December 31).

*** FAST-FREE THROUGH JANUARY 4 ***

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Troparion – Tone 4 (Feast)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, /
Has shone to the world the light of wisdom! /
For by it, those who worshipped the stars, /
Were taught by a star to adore Thee, /
The Sun of righteousness, /
And to know Thee, the Orient from on high. ///
O Lord, glory to thee!

Kontakion – Tone 3 (Feast)

Today the Virgin gives birth to *the* Transcendent One, /
And the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! /
Angels with shepherds glorify Him; /
The Wise Men journey with the star, ///
Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Christ is born!

Glorify Him!