

**Russian Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ**

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Weekday Services

Mon - Fri

Vespers Daily 6 PM

Matins Daily 8 AM

Schedule for the Week of December 28 – January 3, 2014

Sunday Dec 28	Holy Forefathers / Свв. Праотец
Saturday Jan 3	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Jan 4	Holy Fathers / Свв. Отец 8:15 AM Nocturns, Confessions 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия
Tuesday Jan 6	Forefeast of Nativity / Предпразднство Рождество Христова 8:00 AM Royal Hours with Liturgy of St. Basil (at the Skete) 6:30 PM Nativity Vigil at St. Marys’ Cathedral – See notice elsewhere

Спасителя мира – Христа, а апостольское послание раскрыло перед нами основу их богоугодной жизни – подвиг веры

Хлеб Небесный
Прп. Ефрем Сирий

Ты беседуешь в молитве с Богом, вкушая Тело Единородного Сына Его и пия Кровь Его, -- веселись же в радовании, что удостоился стать храмом Его... Будь простодушно верным, со всею верой причащайся Пречистого Тела Владыки и полном убеждении, что истинно вкушаешь Самого Агнца. Тайны Христовы – безсмертный огонь. Потому не будь пытливым, чтобы не опалиться тебе в причащении Тайн... Не знаю, что мне делать с моими грехами,. Не видит мой ум, чем мне омыть и очистить себя. Если бы я вздумал омыться водами, то малы для меня моря и реки, недостаточны, чтобы очистить меня. Но если омою себя Кровию и водою из ребр Сына Божия, то очищусь, и изольются на меня щедроты Его... Кто вкушает Хлеба Небесного, тот, без сомнения, делается небесным... Духовен Хлеб сей, как и Даятель его, духовных оживотворяет он духовно.

Nativity Reminder:

*The Feast of the Nativity of Christ is coming soon.
Dates are as follows:*

Tuesday, January 6, 2015
Nativity Vigil 6:30 PM

Wednesday, January 7, 2015
Divine Liturgy, 9:00 AM

These services will be celebrated in the space of
St. Mary's OCA Cathedral, 1701 5th St NE, Mpls
MN 55413

*Два последние предпраздничные воскресенья
Святая Церковь молитвенно вспоминает
святых пра-отцев и отцев-праведников Ветхого
Завета, кои, приняв обетование о грядущем
Искупителе, терпеливо, трудолюбно и
неустанно шли Ему навстречу, становясь
соучастниками в великом деле спасения мира. И
недаром сегодня в Святом Евангелии были
перечислены имена, составляющие родословную*

Christmas Flower Donation

***Please consider a donation to beautify the church
for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ.***

Thank You!

From: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

The Genealogy

Perhaps, there is no genealogy as impressive as that of our Lord, Jesus Christ, nor one as important, nor one which elicits so many questions. This later is caused by the giving of two genealogies in the Bible. On the Sunday before the Nativity, we hear one version read from St. Matthew 1:1-17. If we check Luke 3:23-38, we will read an entirely different one. Why do they differ?

In order for the early Christians to convincingly prove that Jesus was the Messiah for whom the Jews had waited for centuries, it had to be shown that He was the fulfillment of all the prophesies of the Old Testament that dealt with the matter.

St. Matthew and St. Luke follow His genealogy from the different tribes from which He descended. Although one was the tribe of Judah and the other that of Levi, they were united in a fusion of the line of descent.

St. Matthew assigns Jesus' family to the tribe of Judah. He traces Christ's lineage back to Abraham, the father of the Hebrew nation. It shows that Jesus is a descendent of King David and Solomon and other kings. The Savior would be looked upon as the new "King of Israel." St. Matthew's genealogy includes both men and women. Women are not usually named in Jewish genealogy, so the mention of Tamar, Rachab, Ruth and the wife of Urias must have been included for some reason. One of these is that they were all Gentiles, and their names in the lists foreshadow the inclusion of non-Jews in the people of God.

St. Luke, meanwhile, looks at the genealogy of Christ from a slightly different perspective. His genealogy includes only men. He traces Christ from the tribe of Levi, which shows that He came from a heritage of priests and was filled with holiness. He begins with Joseph and works upward through Adam, thereby also connecting Him with the beginning of the human race.

We should remember that the genealogies of Jesus did not appear out of nowhere. The Jews were very careful and particular in preserving their genealogies so that there is little doubt that both genealogies were taken from well-known records.

These readings taken together show His whole genealogy.

Who are the forefathers?

The two Sundays preceding Christmas are preparatory Sundays for Christ's Nativity. On the Sunday before Christmas we remember the ancestors of Christ, those who appear in the genealogy of Christ as reported in the Gospels. Two Sundays before Christmas we remember the Old Testament patriarchs, prophets and righteous men and women – the Forefathers of our Christian faith.

Both of these Sundays accent the theme of preparation: how God worked great signs and wonders

through special witnesses preparing for the sending of His Son into the world.

Who are the Forefathers? According to the hymns of the Feastday of the Forefathers, the following persons are mentioned:

** Persons of the earliest biblical period – Adam, Abel, Seth, Noah, Enoch and others

** The Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's twelve sons known as the Twelve Patriarchs.

** Women such as Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Miriam, Deborah, Esther, Ruth, Judith, and others;

** All the prophets such as Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, Malachi, and others, down to John the Baptist;

** Special figures in the Old Testament such as Melchizedek, Job, David;

** The three young men Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, rescued by God from Nebuchadnezzar's blazing furnace.

They refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's image and were cast into fire; however, the presence of the Angel of God, Whom the Church Fathers recognized as the eternal Christ working in the Old Testament, preserved them safe from the fire. In Orthodox tradition the three young men surrounded in the fire by divine light represent the mystery of the Holy Trinity and also prefigure the presence of Christ in the Virgin's womb because "the fire of divinity consumed not the Virgin's womb, when it had entered there." (from Christmas Matins).

«А что люди скажут?»

А что Бог скажет?

Это поважнее.

Мы ведь перед Ним одним будем отвечать за всю нашу жизнь. Все: и верующие, и неверующие, а сомневающиеся, ищущие, за что бы ухватиться, чтобы сохранить «свою постылую свободу», как признавался пушкинский Евгений Онегин.

Николай Васильевич Гоголь советовал: «Да погибнет у нас такая философия: соизмеряться с тем, что скажут люди, а не Бог. С ней и Богу не угодишь и людям не угодишь».

Богу угодишь – точно польза будет. А людям, как известно, угодить невозможно. Сам Господь очень многим не угодил. Потому что мы грешные. Но совершил дело нашего спасения.

Господь сказал всем, кто хочет быть с Ним: Не бойся, малое стадо, яко благоизволи Отец ваш дати вам Царство (Лк. 12,32).

Лучше быть в малом стаде Христовом, чем в большом, но без Христа, без Его Царства.