



LOOKING AHEAD

The following are services and parish events in addition to the usual weekend services (Sat 6pm & Sun 9:30am).

Sunday December 30—CANCELED

Loretta has been snowed in and will not be able to host us

Thursday January 3

7:30pm — Adult Ed: Faithful Handmaidens of the Lord in the OT

Friday January 4

7:00am — Royal Hours for Theophany

Saturday January 5—Eve of Theophany

11:00am — Serve Lunch at Tri-Cities Sunrise Village Shelter

Address: 588 Brown St, Fremont.

6:00pm — Vigil for Holy Theophany

Sunday January 6—Holy Theophany

9:30am — Hours, Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water

1:30pm — Blessing of Water at Lake Elizabeth

Tuesday January 8

10:00am — Father's Café

Thursday January 10

7:30pm — Adult Ed: Faithful Handmaidens of the Lord in the OT

Tuesday January 15

10:00am — Father's Café

Tuesday January 22

10:00am — Father's Café

For more dates please visit our website: www.stchristinaorthodox.org

Many Years!

Genevieve Kozachenko (on her birthday—1/1)

Caitlin (Juliana) Gannon & Julianne Prescop (on their name day—1/2)

Genevieve Angelides & Genevieve Kozachenko (on their name day—1/3)

Benjamin (Moses) Gerhart (on his birthday—1/4)

Nicholas Worth (on his birthday—1/5)

PARISH CONTACT INFO:

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Priest: V. Rev. Michael Anderson, Rector

FrMichael@stchristinaorthodox.org (510) 333-8814

Attached Clergy: V. Rev. George Masters & Dn. Dennis Milligan



THE LIVING WATER

(JOHN 4:10)

www.stchristinaorthodox.org

Publication of St. Christina of Tyre Orthodox Church in Fremont, CA

31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—TONE 6

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
HOLY RIGHTEOUS ONES: JOSEPH, DAVID,
AND JAMES



Welcome!

...to all who have gathered to follow Jesus Christ and manifest the Kingdom of God in the Liturgy of His Church. If this is your first time with us, give us a chance to get to know you. Please join us for our fellowship meal following the service.



A Word from the Holy Fathers

Bethlehem has opened Eden, come, let us see; we have found delight in secret, come, let us receive the joys of Paradise within the cave. There the unwatered root whose blossom is forgiveness has appeared. There has been found the undug well from which David once longed to drink. There a virgin has borne a babe and has quenched at once Adam's and David's thirst. For this, let us hasten to this place where there has been born a little Child, God before the ages.

—St Romanos the Melodist



Include Something in the Bulletin

Email it to

community@stchristinaorthodox.org



**PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY
CANCELED**

Due to a snow storm Loretta will not be back in CA in time to host our party this year.

We pray for her safe return!



FOR 2019—UPDATE ONLINE GIVING

As we prepare our parish finances for 2019, it would be helpful if everyone who uses Online Giving could **double-check that their pledge amounts have been entered correctly**, and distributed to the accounts as listed on their pledge forms.

Also if you use a credit card as your payment source, please check that the **expiration date** is correct.

If you don't yet use Online Giving but would like to, you can set up an account by clicking the green Online Giving button on the home page at stchristinaorthodox.org. You can use either a bank account or a credit card as a payment source.

Ask Maha or Fr Michael if you have any questions about how to get set up.

**ADULT ED : FAITHFUL HANDMAIDENS
OF THE LORD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

We have a few more sessions in our current Adult Ed series — you are welcome to join at any time even if you weren't able to come to the first classes.

This series is about the dynamic women of the Old Testament such as Abigail, Esther, Deborah, Miriam & Huldah. The class meets **Thursdays at 7:30pm** in the church offices.

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF MEETING

On **Sunday, January 13** we will have a meeting of the Church School staff to discuss the Nativity Play. Please plan to join us.

2019 CALENDARS

2019 church calendars from St. Tikhon's are here! Please feel free to take one calendar per household.

Also in January please bring in your calendars from 2018 so that Fr. Michael can recycle or dispose of them properly.

*“Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God; yea, even for the living God!”
(Psalm 41/42:1-2)*

This is not a cry by a poor and simple man, who had no way of refreshing his soul with human wisdom, worldly knowledge and skills, philosophy and art: the knowledge of the fine threads from which the lives of men and nature are woven. It is not; but it is the sad and heartfelt cry of a king, rich with earthly riches, genial in mind, noble in the motions of his heart, and powerful in the strength and acts of his will. Refreshing his soul with all of these, for which the unfree soul craves in this world, King David suddenly felt that his spiritual thirst was not only unquenched but had grown to such proportions that all this material universe was in no way able to quench it. He then felt himself to be, in this world, in a barren and dry land, where no water is (Psalm 62/63:2), and cried to God as the only Source of immortal drink, for which a rational, awakened soul yearns. “My soul is athirst for God; yea, even for the living God!”



A HOMILY ON THE REPENTANCE OF KING DAVID

—St. Nikolai Velimirovich

“And David said to Nathan: ‘I have sinned against the Lord’” (II Samuel 12:13).

“My tears have been my food day and night” (Psalm 42:3).

King David sinned against God and repented, and God forgave him. The king’s sin was great, but greater still was his repentance. He was guilty before God of two grave sins: adultery and murder. But when Nathan the prophet of God denounced him, he cried out in anguish: "I have sinned against the Lord!" Thus he confessed his sin and repented bitterly, most bitterly.

Grief-stricken, he prayed to God, weeping, fasting, lying on the ground, and enduring meekly the terrible blows that God sent upon him, his house and his people because of his sins. In his penitential Psalms he says: "I am a worm and not a man" (Psalm 22:6); "Because of the sound of my groaning, my bones cling to my flesh" (Psalm 102:5); "I lie awake ... for I have eaten ashes like bread and mingled my drink with weeping" (Psalm 102:7, 9); "My knees are grown weak through fasting" (Psalm 109:24).

Here is true repentance; here is a true penitent! He did not become hardened in sin nor did he fall into despair, but, hoping in the mercy of God, he repented unceasingly. And God, Who loves the penitent, showed mercy upon this model of penitence. God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel; He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers and to prophesy the coming into the world of the Holy Savior, Who would be of his seed.

Brethren, do you see how wonderful is God’s mercy toward penitents? So much mercy did God have on this repentant David that He was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David’s seed. Blessed are they who do not become hardened in sin and who do not fall into despair because of sin. Repentance saves both the one and the other from evil.

O Merciful Lord, soften our hearts with tears of repentance. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.



DECORATING FOR HOLY THEOPHANY

Next Saturday before Vigil we will be decorating the Temple for Theophany. All are welcome if you would like to help out. See Fr. Michael for details.



What, then, O, brethren, is required of us in order that we might avail ourselves of all the grace brought unto us from on high by the coming to earth of the Son of God?

What is necessary, first of all, is faith in the Son of God, in the Gospel as the salvation-bestowing heavenly teaching; a true repentance of sins and the correction of life and of heart; communion in prayer and in the mysteries [sacraments]; the knowledge and fulfillment of Christ’s commandments.

Also necessary are the virtues: Christian humility, alms-giving, continence, purity and chastity, simplicity and goodness of heart.

Let us, then, O brothers and sisters, bring these virtues as a gift to the One Who was born for the sake of our salvation – let us bring them in place of the gold, frankincense and myrrh which the Magi brought Him, as to One Who is King, God, and Man, come to die for us.

This, from us, shall be the most-pleasing form of sacrifice to God and to the Infant Jesus Christ.

—St John of Kronstadt

**SAVE THE DATE —
PARISH FINANCE MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019**

Each year on the 4th Sunday of January, our community meets to establish our budget for the year.

This year’s annual budget meeting will take place on *Sunday, January 27*, starting at approximately 12:30pm after the Divine Liturgy.

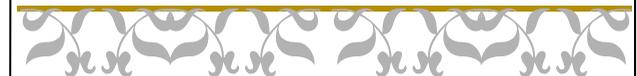


Q&A

Answers to common questions, to help the faithful talk with others about the Church.

Q: Theotokos is an odd-sounding name. What does it mean?

A: From the Greek *Theos* (meaning God) and *Tokos* (a form of *tikto*, meaning to bear or bring forth children). Hence it means “God Bearer” or “the Mother of God.”



Today's Worship — Hymns

TROPARIA

Resurrection—Tone 6

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You took captive hell,
not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Nativity—Tone 4

Your 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 You,
the Sun of righteousness,
and to know You, the Orient from on high.
O Lord, glory to You!

Righteous Ones—Tone 2

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancestor of God;
you saw a Virgin great with child;
you gave glory with the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi;
you received the news from the Angel.
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

KONTAKIA

Righteous Ones—Tone 3

Today godly David is filled with joy;
Joseph and James offer praise.
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ
fills them with great joy.
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on
earth,
and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save
those who honor You!"

Nativity—Tone 3

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!



PROKEIMENA

Tone 6 — *(Resurrection)* O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!
(Ps 27/28:9)

v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps 27/28:1)

Tone 4 — *(Righteous Ones)* God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.
(Ps 67/68:35)

Today's Worship — Scripture Readings

Epistle — Galatians 1:11-19

¹¹ But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³ For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

¹⁵ But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel — Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

¹⁹ Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

²¹ Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

²³ And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

