



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Sunday, December 21, 2025  
Forefeast of & Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America  
His Grace, Bishop ANTHONY - Diocese of LA & the West  
V. Rev. Fr. Dr. Christopher Salamy, Pastor  
Rev. Fr. Peter Samore  
Rev. Dn. Raphael Abrahams • Rev. Dn. Serafim Grove  
Rev. Dn. Basil Ritchie • Rev. Dn. Michael Haddad  
Rev. Dn. Dr. Gregory Abdalah, Pastoral Assistant • Christian Farradj, Youth Pastor  
Harpreet Kaur, Executive Assistant to the Pastor  
Jane Romley, Parish Administrator • Matthew Peters, Ministry Lead  
Valerie Haddad, Director of Ministry, Growth & Development  
Erin Thobias, Director of Communications

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE THREE)**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY (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 (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 OF ST. GEORGE (TONE FOUR)**

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, victorious Great George intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

**KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY (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

(For the Sunday before the Nativity)

*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

(For the Sunday before the Nativity: “The Genealogy”)

### **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.

### ***THOSE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER...***

**Living:** Romy, Chase, Paul, Mary, Joshua, Peter, Richard, Anthony, Laila, Michael, Ray, Amal, Nejwa, Randa, Regan, Theresa, Kristine, Sherry, Samira, Robert, Daniel, Jane, Jillian, Sandy, Iyad, Victoria, Nicholas, Elizabeth, Mary, Alexandros, Theopisti, David, and Donald.

Alexandros "Morgan" Davison offers Holy Bread for his good health and salvation, and of his mother Mary Davison, on the occasion of her 73rd birthday. May God grant her many years. Prayers for the good health and salvation of Theopisti, David, Donald, Matthew, the Davison, Conlin, and Law families and our wonderful Saint George family. We ask the Lord to illuminate their hearts and minds and protect them. May God grant them many years. In loving memory of George, Edna, Wilma, Jackie, Leonore, Emory, Adelle, and Jimmy-George and all departed family and friends not listed. May their memory be eternal. O God, be gracious unto me, a sinner, and have mercy upon me. Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas.

Matthew Wellman offers Holy Bread in celebration of his birthday and for his good health. May God grant him many years.

Lina Karam offers Holy Bread for the good health of Fr. Chris, Kh. Allyson, Daria, Jad, Mounia, Rida, and Lina. May God grant them many years. In memory of Fida, Jamil, Nasra, Salim, Badwiyeh, Nicholas, and Anissa. May their memory be eternal.

Ken and Judy Salameh, and Laila Dahu offer Holy Bread in loving memory of Mr. Farah Dahu (Judy's father, who passed away on 12-17-2015) and in loving memory of all the departed members of the Dahu family. For the health and well-being of Laila, John, Jenan, Julianna, Jimmy, Suzie, Frankie, Sandy, Wael, Linda, Laila, Nicola, and Sami. May God grant them many years.

Ken, Judy, and Majeda Salameh family offer Holy Bread in loving memory of Nimer Sr., Georgette, Marwan, and Junior Salameh. Also, in loving memory of all the departed members of the Salameh family. May their memory be eternal! For the health and well-being of Ken, Judy, Michael, Anthony, Laila, Majeda, and George. May God grant them many years.

Fareese and Nadia Fakhouri offer Holy Bread for the health of Fareese, Nadia, Maysoun, Natalie, George, Julia, and Amelia. May God grant them many years. For those who departed this life in the hope of resurrection, George, Amal, Fakri, Feras, Abbas, Qoot, and Maysoon. May their memory be eternal.