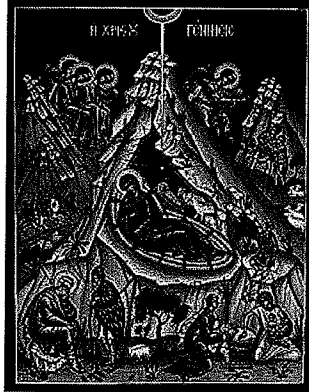


The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
December 21, 2014
✦ The Nativity of Christ ✦
(Feast Day on December 25, 2014)



“Today Salvation has come to the world!”~ Matins (Orthos)

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 24, 2014- Royal Hours for the Nativity at **10:00 AM**, Christmas Eve Supper at **3:00 PM** (Church hall), Christmas Eve Vigil at **6:30 PM**

Thursday, December 25, 2014- Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ at **10:00 AM**



Christ is born! Glorify Him!



Visit us at our website- www.theoliveshoots.webstarts.com!



Troparion - Tone 4

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

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 a star!
Since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a Little
Child!

Today's Bible verse is:

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

~Matthew 2: 2

The Nativity of Christ

The birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas, is one of the twelve great feasts of the Orthodox Church. Jesus was born of the most holy Virgin Mary, Theotokos, who was told by the Angel Gabriel that she would have the Messiah.

A law was passed by a ruler named Caesar, saying that every man had to go back to the land he was born in and pay taxes. Joseph, Mary's betrothed, was born in the City of Bethlehem, so the two had to travel a long way from Galilee to Bethlehem. When they got there, there was no room for them in any house, so they had to spend the night in a stable full of animals. Jesus was born in a manger in that stable.

Three Wiseman from the east had seen a bright star shining in the sky, and they knew this showed that the savior was born. They followed the star to Bethlehem, where they worshipped Jesus and brought him gifts of myrrh, frankincense, and gold.

Shepherds watching their sheep in the fields were visited by a choir of angels singing "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, good will to men!" At first they were afraid, but then they went to see the messiah and praise him.

The Church celebrates the Birth of Our Lord on December 25.



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