

conclusion of the Liturgy! If you have any questions about this parish, the service, or the Orthodox Church in general, please feel free to ask a parishioner, look at the pamphlets in the Narthex (the entrance to the church), or ask Fr. Paul after the service. Finally, if this is your first visit to our parish, in order that we may treat you as our honored guest, we ask that you **not** participate in the offering after the service. Again, thank you for joining us, and let us know if we can do anything for you today or in the future!

A Note on Holy Communion

The Orthodox Church invites all to come and participate in the Divine Services. As true communion occurs only when we are wholly united in faith and worship, the Mystery of Holy Communion is reserved for Baptized and/or Chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared through prayer, fasting, and Holy Confession and who have arrived prior to the Gospel for the day; this is to protect ourselves against receiving Communion to our condemnation, as St. Paul explains (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). If you have not properly prepared or are not an Orthodox Christian, we would like to extend an invitation, if you so desire, to approach Holy Communion with the other parishioners and recite the words, "The blessing of the Chalice," for a blessing from the priest. Further, ALL are welcome to receive the blessed bread given out by the Priest after the conclusion of the Liturgy.

For those receiving Holy Communion, please give the priest your Baptismal name and hold the red Communion cloth with both hands against the bottom of your chin. We also ask that women please remove any lipstick before approaching the Chalice. Finally, to avoid any possibility of hitting the Chalice, we ask that you not venerate the Chalice after receiving.

This Week at Holy Apostles...

Monday, 12/22 – NO Bible Study
Tuesday, 12/23 – 7:00pm Orthodoxy 101, Session 9 (final session)
Wednesday, 12/24 – 8:15am Orthros, 9:00 Imperial Hours, 9:45 Liturgy –
Eve of the Nativity
10:15pm Orthros, 11:00pm Liturgy – Nativity
Friday, 12/26 – 8:15 Orthros, 9:30 Liturgy – Synaxis of the Theotokos
6:00pm – Annual Christmas Party
Saturday, 12/27 – 9:30 Liturgy – St Stephen (at SCH)

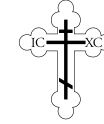
Holy Apostles Orthodox Christian Church
9505 Hynds Blvd, Cheyenne, WY 82009
www.holyapostlescheyenne.com

Presiding Priest: Fr. Paul Truebenbach

Phone: 307-331-5197

The Sunday Witness

The Weekly Bulletin of Holy Apostles
Orthodox Christian Church of Cheyenne
December 21, 2014 – Sunday before the Nativity



Commemorated Today

Forefeast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Juliana of Nicomedia & her 630 Companion Martyrs

Themistocles the Martyr of Myra

Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow

Today's Hymns

(to be chanted for pages 16 & 17 of the Liturgy Book)

Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Appendix 3): Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy.

Apolytikion for the Forefeast: O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up the formerly fallen image.

Apolytikion for the Fathers: Magnificent are Faith's accomplishments! The three holy Youths exultingly stood in the fountain of fire as if beside the still waters of rest. And Daniel the Prophet was shown to be a shepherd of lions. At their entreaty, O Christ God, save our souls.

Apolytikion for the Church: O Holy Apostles, intercede with the merciful God, that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offenses.

Kontakion: On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the

inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

Today's Epistle Reading

Cantor: *Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.*

For you are just in all you have done.

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter 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 foundation, 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, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, 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 tempted, 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.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from the Gospel of 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 Ram, and Ram 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 Amos, and Amos 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 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 commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Welcome Visitors!

Holy Apostles Orthodox Christian Church would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our guests and visitors who are with us today. Thank you for worshiping with us, and please stay for Coffee Hour at the