

Holy Apostles Orthodox Christian Church of Cheyenne

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Reverend Presbyter Christopher Xanthos, Presiding Priest

Email: frchristopher@holyapostlescheyenne.com

Services Schedule: Sunday Services - Morning Matins- 8:30 am - Divine Liturgy - 9:30 am

Bulletin for Sunday, December 24, 2017 - Sunday Before Nativity - - EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST—CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Fast Day | Oil and wine are allowed. Refrain from fish, meat, dairy and eggs.

Saints and Feasts of the Day

Eugenia the righteous nun-martyr of Rome; Eve of Nativity of Christ;

Hymns of the Day – All are encouraged to sing the hymns and responses of the Divine Liturgy

Resurrectional Apolytikion (page 22 in the Service Book)

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been de-spooled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

For the Forefeast

As she carried in her womb * what she conceived without seed, * Mary went to Bethlehem * with elder Joseph to enroll, * for they were of the house and lineage of David. *The time arrived for her * to give birth to her Child; * but then there was no place * in the inn for them. * Therefore the grotto served as a luxurious * royal palace for the Queen. *And Christ the Lord is born, to raise the image * which was formerly fallen.

Holy Apostles Apolytikion (page 24 in the Service Book)

O Holy Apostles, intercede with the Merciful God, that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offenses.

Kontakion (page 24 in Service Book)

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.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Matins Gospel Reading John 20:1-10

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple,

Holy Apostles Calendar

Sunday, December 24

Nativity Fast

Eve of Nativity

8:30am Morning Matins Service

9:30am Divine Liturgy

6:00pm Great Vespers

Monday, December 25

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Nativity of our Lord and Saviour

Jesus Christ

8:30am Morning Matins Service

9:30am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil

Tuesday, December 26

Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

7:00am Men's Group at Perkins

5:00pm Parish Christmas Potluck Party

Wednesday, December 27

Saint Stephen

8:45am Morning Matins Service

9:30am Divine Liturgy

11:30am Assist @ St. Joseph's Pantry

No Paraklesis This Evening

Saturday, December 30

6:00pm Great Vespers



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CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Welcome to the Holy Apostles Orthodox Christian Church of Cheyenne and thank you for visiting and worshiping with us this morning. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following Divine Services for refreshments. If you would like more information regarding becoming a part of the Orthodox Christian Faith and our community, contact Father Christopher at 307.514.5347 or frchristopher@holyapostlescheyenne.com. We look forward to seeing you and your family again soon!

"We are an Orthodox Christian Community for Southeast Wyoming Travelling Together Towards the Kingdom of God.—Journey with us!"

Worship - Charity - Wisdom -Community

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.

SMALL PARAKLESIS:

Join us each Wednesday at 6pm as we pray and chant the Supplications to the Most Holy Theotokos. Followed by fellowship and light refreshments. The Paraklesis service is a service asking the Panaghia to intercede for us all, as well as people individually. Prayer requests can be submitted in the narthex by writing the names of those living that you wish to pray for on the form, 'For the Health and Salvation...' and placing the prayer request in the basket.

ORTHODOX BIBLE STUDY:

Please join us for Bible Study every Monday at 6pm beginning Monday, January 8, 2018. We will start our studies with the Gospel of John. All are welcome to attend!

CLERGY VISITS:

If there is someone in a hospital, nursing home or homebound, please contact Father Christopher at frchristopher@holyapostlescheyenne.com or 307.514.5347 to schedule a pastoral visitation.

CONFESSIONS:

Please contact Father Christopher at frchristopher@holyapostlescheyenne.com or 307.514.5347 to schedule the Holy Mystery of Confession.

GREAT VESPERS:

Each Saturday at 6pm there will be a recurring Saturday Great Vespers service, followed by juice, coffee and fellowship. All are welcome to attend.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

by His Grace Bishop John Abdalah

As Orthodox Christians, we greet one another with this confident exclamation during the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. With this seasonal greeting we affirm that Jesus, who took on flesh and was born into our world, is indeed the Christ, and worthy of glorification.

This greeting is unlike other seasonal greetings about being merry (Christmas), glad (tidings), or happy (holidays). Not that I have any trouble with being merry, glad or even happy. I enjoy a spiked eggnog or a traditional Christmas shot of whiskey or arak as much as the next guy. But there is more to the preparation and celebration of Christmas than that. In this feast we celebrate our salvation through the good news of our Savior's advent. When we greet each other with the news of Christ's birth, we seize the opportunity to glorify the new born Savior. This greeting carries within it the promise of salvation, and the very meaning of life.

We will not escape the secularization of this feast. We will not change the marketing of goods, the office parties and the exchange of gifts. We will not avoid the need to spend money we may not have, eat too much or party ourselves silly. But with a little work to understand God's revealed truth, we can transcend and baptize the now secular images to bring us deeper meaning. I offer the following examples of what I mean:

Let every twinkling light on every bush and window remind us that Christ is the Light that brings us from darkness into light. Every light can bring us to him who is Light, just like the star that guided the Magi. Every light can remind us of the Christ child who enlightens us with Divine truth. This is the truth that sets us free. He is our light and our resurrection, the light of truth that will guide us from the manger to the empty tomb. This season of Christ's birth is ultimately the season of salvation.

Let every sale in every department store remind us of how God loves us more than the world can understand. The retailers draw us in with sales so that we will come and shop with them. How much more does Christ draw us close? Christ took on flesh to call us home to Him. He suffered at the hands of his own creation, humiliated and murdered. This is the epitome of love. Every retailer, every jingle, every commercial can remind us of God's own love for us.

Let every seasonal party remind us of the Joy of Salvation. To save us Jesus voluntarily came to take on flesh and suffer in his body. His sacrifice and his gift are reasons to celebrate. When we celebrate, we can remember all that God accomplished for us. We can remember His nature of love and mercy.

Let every Santa on the street collecting money, or posing for photos with children, remind us of the gifts God has given us and the opportunities God gives us to share with others. Think too of the example of St. Nicholas who taught us to fast, share our resources and love God with fervor.

Let every gift we present to one another remind us of the gift of life that Christ is for us. Christ gives us life as we are born anew into Him. Remember also that the Eucharist is life-giving and is given in his name.

Let every snowman, made of ice or styrofoam, remind us of how cold the world can be and how we need the warmth of our Savior. The world needs your example, your love and your witness in order for it to be warmed by God's love.



KING SOOPERS GIVES TO HOLY APOSTLES: King Soopers will donate 5% of your purchase to Holy Apostles. All you need to do is buy a RELOADABLE GIFT CARD AT CHURCH. Please see Jamie to get your card which costs \$10 but already has \$10 on it. It's easiest to reload your card at the customer service counter, then go shopping and pay for your groceries with the gift card. When the balance goes down, just refill it and REUSE IT. This is a very easy continuous fundraiser which supports our building and development fund. We have also set up a program with Albertsons, and Safeway to support Holy Apostles. See Jamie for more information.

Holy Apostles Updates

For updates to the Sunday bulletin, submit announcements to Father Christopher no later than **5pm on Wednesday**.

VISIT THE HOLY APOSTLES BOOKSTORE: If you haven't been to the bookstore lately, please stop by! New items are arriving daily. We just received a shipment this week with some visor clips, cross lapel pins, new icons, and jewelry. Instructions for how to make a purchase are posted in the bookstore, or if you have a question please ask Adrienne. I bet she will even make you a cup of coffee while you shop!

Coming SoonMark Your Calendar!



CHRISTMAS DINNER: Our Annual Community Christmas Potluck Dinner will be on Tuesday, December 26th. Mark your calendars for this fun event.

LAYETTE FOR JESUS COLLECTION FOR BABY ITEMS: In conjunction with our annual Christmas Potluck, we will be collecting: Diapers, Diaper Wipes, New clothing up thru size 2T, socks, shoes, small books. Unwrapped please.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (YAM): Attention all Young Adults between the ages of 21-38. We are kicking off the Holy Apostles Young Adult Ministry and we are hoping to plan one YAM event per month. For more information please contact Zoe Christopulos or Alexis Bellack. Spread the word and bring your friends!



WOMEN'S STUDY: The Women's Study Ministry will not meet for the remainder of December. Sessions will begin in January. All ladies are invited to a lunch gathering on Thursday, January 4, 2018. Details to come.

ORTHODOX BIBLE STUDY: Please join us for Bible Study every Monday at 6:00 beginning Monday, January 8, 2018. We will start our studies with the Gospel of John. All are welcome to attend!



the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Epistle Reading (page 28 in the Service Book)

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 (page 29 in the Service Book)

Eve of Nativity

The Reading is from 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 Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the

...Continued BISHOP JOHN,

Let every ribbon and bow on every package remind us how Christ has put Satan in bonds and freed us to love him and stay with Him. He who was born in a manger is He who could not die and defeated Satan in Hades.

Let every Christmas carol and seasonal song, remind us that we are called to praise God from the depths of our beings. Our soul wants to call out to Him who created us and who comes to us in this feast as a baby. Sing out, and let God hear your voice. Sing out and let others hear your testimony God has taken on flesh and dwelt with us as the prophets foretold. This is a time to sing out!

Christmas comes at the end of the secular calendar. It is for us more than the end of one year and the beginning of a new year. It is for us a call to rededicate ourselves as we make God our Lord, and call him our Savior. Rededicated to Christ, let us charge boldly into the next year. Let us not be ashamed to proclaim that Christ is Born! Glorify Him! He is our God and we are His people.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!