



## ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA

905 SOUTH MAIN ST. S WILKES-BARRE PA 18702

PARISH OFFICE (570) 824-5016 \*\* PARISH HALL (570) 824-1674

RECTORY 570-287-2049 \*\* PARISH EMAIL - stmarywilkesbarre@gmail.com

ARCHDIOCESE WEB PAGE \*\* www.antiochian.org

PARISH WEB PAGE \*\* www.stmaryorthodox.com

### CLERGY

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop THOMAS, Auxiliary Bishop of Charleston, Oakland & the Mid-Atlantic

Very Rev. Fr. George Alberts, Pastor

Very Rev. Fr. Dr. David Hester, Pastor Emeritus

Subdeacon William Obeid + Subdeacon N.D. Namey + Subdeacon John Moses Jr.

Sub-deacon David Rayahin + Seminarian Mark Makarios + Seminarian Christopher (Cody) Vest

### THE SYNAXARION

On December 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

*The Child born is God, and the Mother, a Virgin; what greater marvel hath appeared in creation?*

*On the twenty-fifth Mary the Virgin gave birth to God.*

*On this day we commemorate the Adoration of the Magi:*

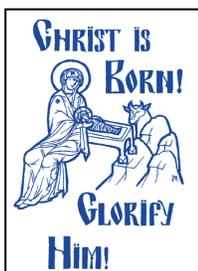
*Worshipping Thee, O Word, this cohort, come from the nations, Showeth the worship that Thou shalt receive from the nations.*

*On this day we commemorate the Shepherds that behold the Lord:*

*Shepherds their own flock do now abandon, and hasten to see Christ, the Good Shepherd.*

Thus entered into the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when a foreigner named Herod, who sought to kill the infant Messiah, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind.

*Unto Him be glory unto ages of ages. Amen*



Brothers and Sisters In Christ .....

We Greet Each Other After The Nativity By Exclaiming "Christ Is Born" and Responding "Glorify Him!" When Meeting Each Other And Also During The Liturgy When Offering Each Other The Sign Of Peace ...  
Greet each other by exclaiming ...

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

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### APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

### KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; \* to the Unapproachable, \* the earth doth offer a small cave; \* Angels join in choir with shepherds \* in giving glory; \* with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; \* for our sakes is born a young Child, \* He Who existed \* before the ages as God.

### THE EPISTLE

*Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Shout with joy to God, all the earth.*

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE GALATIANS. (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

### THE GOSPEL

THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW. (2:1-12)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

