

Epistle Reading

St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrew 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, and 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 Gospel of Matthew 1:1-25



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.



Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Salt Lake

www.gocslc.org; Orthodoxy3@gmail.com

Sunday, December 20th, 2015

Sunday before Nativity



To contact our clergy, please call the numbers listed below:

Reverend Father Matthew Gilbert: 801-556-1139

Reverend Father Elias Koucos: 801-556-4640

Reverend Father George Politis (retired)

Holy Trinity Cathedral: 279 S. 300 W. SLC, UT 84101, (801) 328-9681

Prophet Elias Church: 5335 Highland Dr. Holladay, UT 84117, (801) 277-2693

Sunday Services

December 20th, 2015

Holy Trinity:

Prophet Elias

Sunday before Nativity
Orthros 9:00am/Divine Liturgy 10:00am Fr. Matthew
Orthros 9:00am/Divine Liturgy 10:00am Fr. Elias

December 27th, 2015

Holy Trinity:

Prophet Elias

Sunday after Nativity
Orthros 9:00am/Divine Liturgy 10:00am Fr. Luke
Orthros 9:00am/Divine Liturgy 10:00am Fr. Elias

Weekday Service

December 23rd, 2015

Holy Trinity: 10:00am

Advent Paracletis with Anointing

Fr. Matthew/Fr Elias

**** SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES ****

CHRISTMAS EVE *MORNING*, DECEMBER 24th:

Royal Hours and Vespers Liturgy of Saint Basil, **9:00am** at **Holy Trinity only** (Father Matthew Officiating, Father Elias Assisting);

CHRISTMAS EVE *EVENING*, DECEMBER 24th:

ORTHROS, **6:00pm**, DIVINE LITURGY, **7:00pm**, THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, at **PROPHET ELIAS ONLY** (Father Matthew Officiating);

CHRISTMAS MORNING, DECEMBER 25th:

ORTHROS, **9:00am**, DIVINE LITURGY, **10:00am**, THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, at **HOLY TRINITY ONLY** (Father Elias Officiating)

NEW YEAR'S MORNING, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1st:

9am (Orthros) / 10:00am (Divine Liturgy) – THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD and SAINT BASIL THE GREAT at **PROPHET ELIAS ONLY** (Father Elias Officiating)

Memorials

December 20th, 2015

Tony Kalivas	18 Years	Prophet Elias
Helen Kalivas	6 Years	Prophet Elias
Katherine Papanikolas	40 Years	Prophet Elias

When Scheduling Memorials... Memorials must be scheduled through Fr. Matthew. For inquiries regarding memorials or to schedule one, please contact Fr. Matthew at 801-556-1139 or matthewthepriest@gmail.com.

Prayer List

Joan, Jim, Toula, Peter, Sara, Christine, Agnes, Irene, Alexia, Isaac, Mike, Sammy, Tami, Stephanie, Stella, Karri, Steve, Holly, Christian, Jamie, Cindy, Terry

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list you can do so by calling the main office at Holy Trinity at 801-328-9681.

Accounting/Bookkeeping Position Available

Immediate opening available for a part time 25-29 hour Accounting Assistant position. Located at the Holy Trinity Cathedral office. Requirements are as follows; highly knowledgeable with all facets of QuickBooks, QuickBooks class coding, bank reconciliation, payroll processing, accounts payable, accounts receivable, invoicing, report processing, and other minor duties. If you meet these qualifications, please send a Resume to Connie Yengich at conniegoc@gmail.com. Please contact Connie at 801-328-9681 or cell phone 801-793-9393 for all inquiries. We look forward to hearing from you.

Office Administrator Position Available

There is a full time position available for an Office Administrator at the Holy Trinity Cathedral. Qualified candidates must demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills, be well organized and able to handle multiple tasks. Duties include; weekly/monthly bulletins, assisting Clergy, website maintenance, excellent computer skills, self-starter, with minimal supervision. Candidate must be familiar with Microsoft Word, Publisher and Excel programs. Please send a cover letter and resume to conniegoc@gmail.com or contact Connie Yengich at 801-328-9681.

IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM FATHER MATTHEW

WORDS FOR OUR SALVATION

Holy Tradition informs us that Saint Ignatius the God-Bearer – whose memory we commemorate today – constantly had the name of Jesus Christ on his lips. While taking him to his martyrdom to be devoured by wild beasts, the pagans noticed this and asked why he unceasingly uttered the name of Jesus Christ. The saint replied that this was because he had it written in his heart, and that he confessed with his mouth Him Whom he always carried within. By the will of God, the martyr's heart was preserved when he was eaten by lions, and the heathen found it among his bones. Remembering what Saint Ignatius had said and wishing to know if it was true, they cut the heart in half. Inside, on both pieces, they found an inscription in golden letters: JESUS CHRIST. Thus Saint Ignatius was both in name and actuality a God-bearer, always carrying Christ God in his heart, since the Lord's name was written therein by the meditation of his mind as though with a pen.

Many of us do not realize that we read about Saint Ignatius in the Holy Scripture! While Christ the Lord was living on earth among men and teaching the people about the Kingdom of God, the parents of the divine Ignatius happened to be present with their child, listening to His heavenly discourse. The Lord noticed them and told them to bring Him their son. After picking him up and embracing him, the Savior took the boy by the hand and showed him to the crowd, saying, "*Whoever fails to humble himself as this little child, shall not enter the kingdom of heaven*", and "*Whoever shall receive this little child in My name receives Me*". Thus, having been held in the arms of God Incarnate, Saint Ignatius came to be called the God-borne; similarly, he was referred to as the God-bearer because he always bore God in his heart and confessed the Lord with his tongue, becoming a chosen vessel like Paul, Who was deemed worthy to proclaim Christ's name before nations and kings.

IN JUST A FEW DAYS OUR HOLY ORTHODOX CHURCH WILL CELEBRATE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. Christ comes to us with the mercy and the good will of His Father in Heaven, and from us He demands mercy toward our neighbors; He is the righteous King, and He demands of us all righteousness; for He, too, as a man, fulfilled all righteousness, showing us an example and providing us with grace and the strength to carry it out. He Himself did suffer for us, having borne the Cross; and He taught us to deny ourselves, our sins and our passions, and to follow after Him, doing what is holy out of reverence for God. He came to heal our souls, ailing from sin, and commanded all to repent; let us ever, then, be earnestly contrite, correcting ourselves and striving toward holiness and perfection. The Holy Angels, at the Nativity of the God-man, did declare peace unto the world. Let us, then, ourselves, have within us a peaceful conscience, and let us be at peace with everyone.

A BLESSED NATIVITY TO ALL OUR PARISH FAITHFUL!

May SAINT CHRISTOPHER, SAINT NICHOLAS, ARCHANGEL RAPHAEL and SAINTS MELCHIOR, GASPARD and BALTHASAR (all who are intercessors for travelers) intercede and keep safe all our holiday travelers!

PRE-CHRISTMAS CONFESSION

For those wishing to come to the Sacrament of HOLY CONFESSION before the celebration of the Holy Nativity of our Lord, I will be available immediately following services TODAY, **December 20th, at Holy Trinity**. Please see me immediately after services!

TUESDAY MORNINGS WITH THE LORD

Our TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY-- during which we continue to study the awesome Book of Revelation -- will be held this Tuesday, **December 22nd at 10:30am** at the Little America Coffee Shop -- weather permitting! After this Tuesday, we will not meet again until Tuesday, **January 12th at 10:30am** at Little America. Why not make a resolution to join us in the coming New Year! We'd love to have you!

FINAL ADVENT PARACLESIS THIS WEEK

The final ADVENT PARACLESIS SERVICE will be offered for the healing of our souls and bodies this Wednesday, **December 23rd at 10am at Holy Trinity**. If you would like your loved ones remembered at these supplication services, I invite you to please submit to me the names of your loved ones prior to these services.

PLEASE NOTE: **In the event of WINTER WEATHER conditions, please verify in advance whether or not some of the designated weekday services (paraclesis, akathists, etc.) will still be held. You may call me at 801-556-1139** Please refer to the listing of services section in this bulletin for all other liturgical services.

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24th:

9:00am - Royal Hours and Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil at Holy Trinity Only (Since this service includes a Vesperal Liturgy, there is Holy Communion during this morning service.)

CHRISTMAS EVE EVENING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24th:

6:00pm (Orthros) / 7:00pm (Divine Liturgy) – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST at Prophet Elias Only

CHRISTMAS MORNING, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25th:

9:00am (Orthros) / 10:00am (Divine Liturgy) – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST at Holy Trinity Only

NEW YEAR'S MORNING, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1st:

9am (Orthros) / 10:00am (Divine Liturgy) – THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD and SAINT BASIL THE GREAT at Prophet Elias Only

FAST-FREE SEASON

For our faithful families who keep the fasts of our Holy Church, please know that, in honor of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, there is **NO FASTING from Christmas Day, December 25th thru January 4th**. Please remember, however, that **January 5th is a STRICT FAST DAY** in preparation for Theophany on **January 6th**.

HOUSE BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

Yes, a new year is nearly upon us and it is my hope and desire to BLESS YOUR HOMES AND BUSINESSES during the month of **JANUARY!** Following the Greater Blessing of the Waters which takes place on **January 6th** for the Feast of Theophany, the waters from this blessing are brought into the dwelling of the parishioners and are sprinkled in all rooms by the priest. The blessing of homes by these holy waters maintains the spiritual association between the family church and the parish. I ask that you please contact me at your earliest convenience to let me know if you would like your home and/or business blessed in the New Year! You can reach me on my cell phone at 801-556-1139.

*Humbly in Christ,
Father Matthew*

Youth Weekly Devotional
The Joy of Christmas – Focus on Jesus Christ

Matthew 1:23, 2:10

*“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” [a]
(which means “God with us”). “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.”*

My Dear Beloved Children we are continuing our journey to our Holy Lord’s Nativity and we may have started the countdown with only days left before our Lord comes to be with us. The gift that God gives us is His Son. Let us give thanks for the gift of love, hope, and peace He brings. Let these last days before our Lord’s Nativity be a chance for us to rededicate our focus on Jesus Christ. We are given the prophecy of our Lord’s coming to us and told of the star that brought the Wise Men to Christ. Don’t let these last few days of the Christmas season overwhelm you. Don’t feel you have to be caught up in the hassles of shopping and other busyness but be like the Wise Men be exceedingly glad they had come to the Lord. They travelled for months to make the arduous journey and brought their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the new child. The joy they felt was made by the difference of their focus being totally on Christ. Let us focus on our Lord and continue the journey with love and faith. Take time to read the prophecies of His coming and the wonderful story of His birth. Make the time with your parents to come to our services. Let the stars in Heaven remind us to come to our Lord. Make this journey to Christmas be one of exceedingly great joy. Keep your focus on our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Let Christ be born in your hearts and be filled with great joy.

All my love and prayers,
+fr elias

December 2015 Youth Events

Metropolis Basketball Meeting

Denver Metropolis Basketball Participants and Parents Meeting – Tuesday,

December. 22nd, 7:00pm at Prophet Elias

Plan to attend to coordinate plan for trip to Dallas

DECEMBER YOUTH MINISTRY SPEAKERS AND READERS
DECEMBER 20, 2015

Prophet Elias:

Speaker: Sophie Robertson Epistle Reader: Apostolos Maritsas

Holy Trinity:

Speaker: Anna Hatzipolakis Epistle Reader: Maria Sarkisyan

SR. GOYA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sr GOYA (9-12th grades) Tonight **Sunday, December 20th**

At the Home of: Bill, Joanne and Mihali Sergakis

2963 E Anne Marie Dr. **6:30pm \$10** White Elephant Gift Exchange

Bring gloves, sox and underwear for Road Home.

GOYA BASKETBALL SCHEDULE FOR SAT., January 9, 2016

No games until January 9, 2016

6th Grade Boys at Prophet Elias 10:00am

7th Grade Boys at St. Thomas Moore 11:00am

7th Grade Girls at Prophet Elias 11:00am

8th Grade Boys at Prophet Elias 2:00pm

9th – 10th Grade Boys at St. Vincent 2:00pm

11th – 12th Grade Boys at St. Vincent 1:00pm

**Before you decide what to do with your life...
Decide what to do with your summer!
Apply Today for CrossRoad 2016!**

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- Explore your vocation
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Step outside your comfort zone to encounter Christ in the face of your neighbor

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- June Session: **June 18th - June 28th, 2016**
- July Session: **July 5th - July 15th, 2016**

Application priority deadline is **February 1st, 2016**.

Apply online or download an application at www.crossroadinstitute.org



A very special Thank You to all who attended "Breakfast with Santa" at Prophet Elias on December 12th. The room was filled with the happy sounds of children as they enjoyed making Christmas crafts, listening to Mrs. Santa read them stories and eating a tasty breakfast with their families. The morning was highlighted by sitting on Santa's knee and having their photo taken. This wonderful event was made possible by the generosity of our fantastic kitchen crew, photographer, craft leaders, Mr. & Mrs. Santa, Prophet Elias staff and most importantly our precious children, parents, grandparents, families and friends. Philotochos looks forward to seeing you next year at this joyous family event!

Saint Sophia School

Enrollment for Toddler Tuesday is now open for 2016. Please call the school office today to enroll.

When: **January 5th - May 10th 2016**

Time: **9:00 AM-11:00 AM Tuesdays**

Why: To experience a creative, hands-on, child centered program for parents and toddlers ages 18 months to 2 1/2 years. (Parent or responsible adult must attend).

Please call or stop by with any questions or to request a Toddler Tuesday packet sent to your home.

Thank you,
Ms. Mary
Toddler Tuesday Teacher
801-424-1297

Prophet Elias Renovations

We would like to give you a brief update on the current renovations at Prophet Elias. At this time, the interior cleaning of the brick is complete with sealing in progress. The exterior of the dome has been repaired. The interior of the dome is in the sheetrock stage at this time, with scaffolding onsite. The outside wood doors are being restored at this time. The work that will commence after the completion of the dome is; the painting of the ceiling, installation of the new carpeting, re-installing the pews.

Beginning this Sunday the interior of the Church will be open for 15 minutes after services and during coffee hour. Please come and look at the progress and ask any questions you may have. We only ask that you stay in the space directly inside the church for safety reasons. We appreciate your continued support and patience as we restore the interior of our church.



With deep gratitude and appreciation we would like to thank the entire community for coming out and supporting our children in the Sunday School and Greek School Christmas Program. We had a wonderful evening celebrating the Nativity of our Lord. The outpouring of love and enthusiasm was truly felt with over 300 people in attendance!

A special thank you to our Sunday School and Greek School students, their parents and teachers as well as our committee for their help in preparing the program. Last, but not least, big thank you to our Clergy, Parish Council, Philoptochos, The Tom Harris Band, Zelko and Nikola. Without their hard work and dedication, programs like this would not be possible.

Merry Christmas and God's Blessings to you all. Kai tou Xronou!
Denise Nikols, Mary Nikols, Elenie Sefandonakis & Paul Karahalios





Christmas



C	N	L	E	F	W	T	C	Q	H	P	K	O	D	P	B	U	G
F	A	P	I	D	J	G	N	U	P	P	T	L	U	N	K	I	U
R	W	N	V	G	A	P	W	N	C	S	H	A	L	I	S	I	D
W	E	M	D	W	H	A	W	R	S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	A
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R	U	U	I	D	V	W	B	M	G	S	D	R	M	B	O	A	T
J	P	E	N	M	F	Z	P	E	R	C	H	M	Y	C	A	F	E

BELLS	DECEMBER	PRESENTS	SILENTNIGHT
CANDY CANES	ELVES	REINDEER	SNOWMAN
CAROLS	FAMILY	RUDOLF	TREE
CHRISTMAS	LIGHTS	SANTA CLAUS	