

## Forefeast and Sunday before the Nativity of Christ December 24, 2023

Venerable Martyr Eugenia of Rome and those with her

### Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4)

Ison Hav - ing learned the joy - ful mes - sage of the res - ur -  
rec - tion from thē an - gel, the wom - en dis - ci - ples of the  
Lord cast from them their pa - ren - tal con - dem - na - tion,  
and proud - ly broke the news to the dis - ci - ples, say - ing,  
death hath been spoiled. Christ God is ris - en,  
grant - ing the world great mer - - cy.

### Troparion for the Sunday Before the Feast of the Nativity (Tone 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.

### Troparion for the Eve of the Nativity (Tone 4)

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. Behold, the time was come that she should bear her Child, but no place was found within the inn for them; yet the cave proved a delightful palace for the pure Lady and Queen of all. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

### Troparion for St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Tone 3)

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the holy Church! Thou art Champion of the True Faith, Seeker of the lost, Consolation of the oppressed, Father to orphans and Friend of the poor, Peacemaker and good Shepherd, Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee.

### Kontakion of the Preparation for the Nativity of Christ (Tone 3)

The Vir - gin com - eth to - day to the  
cave to give birth, in - ef - fa - bly to bring forth  
the Word e - ter - nal. There - fore, re -  
joice, O earth at the mes - sage  
with thē an - gels and shep - herds give glo - ry to him  
who shall ap - pear by his own will as a young child,  
he who is from e - ter - ni - ty God.

### Prokeimenon

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.  
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.*

### Epistle

### 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 foundations, 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, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so 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 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.

### **Holy Gospel**

### **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 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 were 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 had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.



## **St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church**

**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese**

**Metropolitan Saba, Primate  
Bishop Thomas, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic**

**Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM**

**Meeting at Compton Village  
14401 Compton Village Dr.  
Centreville, Virginia 20121  
Fr. Thomas L. Palke, Pastor  
3041 Donnington Court  
Jeffersonton, VA 22724  
(703)303-3047/(540)937-2609  
email: [pastortlp@aol.com](mailto:pastortlp@aol.com)  
website: [www.straphaelva.org](http://www.straphaelva.org)**

**Commemorations(Living):** Fr Michael, Pr Vicki, John, Corgie, Karen, Maher, Fabiola, Christopher, Steven, Jonathan, Jaime, Justin, George, Joan, Fr Tom, Kh Meleah, Stephen, Carol, Jim, Laura, Michael, Joel, Lisa, Danny, Asa, Cody, Max, Levi, Courtney, Nina, Kenneth, Alex, Christina, Beth, Janni, Dominick, Yina, Lauren, Rashid, Hala, Irina, Alex, Lauren, Aaron, Adam, Atticus, Fr Vladimir Paul, all Orthodox missionaries, the suffering believers everywhere.

**Departed:**

**This evening at 7:00 PM we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord.**

**Know your faith.** According to tradition, the names of the Wise Men were \_\_\_\_\_. Where did the holy family move after the visit of the Wise Men? \_\_\_\_\_. Who told Joseph “a virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”? \_\_\_\_\_. He was quoting the prophecy of which OT prophet? \_\_\_\_\_. Which OT prophet proclaimed that Christ would be born in Bethlehem? \_\_\_\_\_. St. Matthew begins his Gospel with the genealogy of \_\_\_\_\_. His genealogy begins with what person in the OT. \_\_\_\_\_. Another genealogy is given in the Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_. Who prophesied “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand.” \_\_\_\_\_. Who leaped in his mother’s womb when Mary came to visit his family? \_\_\_\_\_. Who said to Mary “blessed are you among women”? \_\_\_\_\_. What hymn includes the words “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to men”? \_\_\_\_\_. The day after Christmas, the Church celebrates the Synaxis of \_\_\_\_\_. On December 27, the church honors the Protomartyr \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Synaxarion.** On December 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Martyr Eugenia of Rome and those with her.

On this day, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths. It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ’s lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ’s human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

**Commemorations(Living):** Fr Michael, Pr Vicki, John, Corgie, Karen, Maher, Fabiola, Christopher, Steven, Jonathan, Jaime, Justin, George, Joan, Fr Tom, Kh Meleah, Stephen, Carol, Jim, Laura, Michael, Joel, Lisa, Danny, Asa, Cody, Max, Levi, Courtney, Nina, Kenneth, Alex, Christina, Beth, Janni, Dominick, Yina, Lauren, Rashid, Hala, Irina, Alex, Lauren, Aaron, Adam, Atticus, Fr Vladimir Paul, all Orthodox missionaries, the suffering believers everywhere.

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