

Leave-Taking of the Nativity of Christ
Sunday before Theophany of Christ
December 31, 2023

Venerable Melania the Younger of Rome; Hieromartyr Zotikos of Rome, the friend of orphans; Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid

1st Antiphon – Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will speak of all Thy marvelous works. In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation, the works of the Lord are great. *(Refrain)*

They are sought out according to all His purposes. His work is honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endureth forever. *(Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. (Refrain)

2nd Antiphon – Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who was born of a Virgin, who sing unto Thee. Alleluia.

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; that delighteth greatly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed. *(Refrain)*

Glory and riches shall be in His house, and His righteousness endureth forever. *(Refrain)*

Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: He is gracious, full of compassion and righteous. *(Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and Word of God...

3rd Antiphon:

The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints. *(Immediately sing the Troparion of the Nativity below.)*

The Entrance Hymn

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing unto Thee. Alleluia.

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of the Nativity of Christ (Tone 4)

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 there from 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.

Troparion for the Sunday after the Nativity (Tone 2)

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

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 Nativity (Tone 3)

The Virgin brings forth today the Omnipotent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels give glory with shepherds, and the magi journey with the star; when for our sakes was born as a new babe, He who is from eternity God.

The Prokeimenon

All those on earth worship The and sing unto Thee:
Alleluia to God, O all the earth.

Epistle

2 Timothy 4:5-8

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, who shall prepare Thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Holy Bread: Kh Meleah Palke

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:

All donations to the church will be included in 2023 contribution statements if the check date is on or before 12/31/23. God bless your generous contributions to the ministry of St. Raphael.

Next Sunday will mark the Feast of Theophany and the Great Blessing of Waters. Holy water will be distributed to every family in attendance.

Please let Father Tom know if you'd like for him to come and bless your home in January or February.

Enrollment for summer camp at Antiochian Village has begun. For more information, go to <https://avcamp.org/summer-camp>.



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**

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