

# Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

December 18, 2016

## *Sunday before Nativity*

### SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading	Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40	Page 118
Gospel Reading	Matthew 1:1-25	Page 119
Creed		Pamphlet
The Lord's Prayer		Page 26
Communion Prayers (Before receiving)		Pages 29-30
Thanksgiving Prayers (After receiving)		Pages 33-34
Memorial Service		Page 164

**Note: All are welcome to receive the Blessed Bread (Antidoron), but only practicing Orthodox Christians can receive Holy Communion.**

### Today's Calendar

- **Sunday School Christmas Pageant**
- **The Sunday School is hosting today's Coffee Hour.**
- **Last day to purchase Christmas Raffle tickets during Coffee Hour.**
- **Parish Council Members on duty: Gregory Curtis, Lewis Demetroulakos, Charles Hondros, Paris Karahalios**

### This Week

**Tuesday, December 20 – Pre-K 3 & Pre-K 4 Christmas Show – 10:00 am – Hellenic Cultural Center**

**Tuesday, December 20 – Hellenic American Academy Christmas Program – Grades K through 6 - 6:00 pm – Hellenic Cultural Center**

**Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Vespers Divine Liturgy – 6:00 pm**

**Sunday, December 25 – Nativity of our Lord – 9:00 am Orthros – 10:00 am Divine Liturgy**

### For Our Edification

#### **Nativity Story**

Our Sunday School children will present the Nativity Story immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please stay and participate in the joy of the children.

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#### **Coffee Hours Available**

Please consider hosting a Coffee Hour on January 22 or January 29 or any of the Sundays in February. You can call the office at (978) 458-8092 to schedule.

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#### **Christmas**

Christ is born! Glorify Him! Christ comes from Heaven: Meet Him.

Christ is on earth: Exalt Him. O you earth, sing to the Lord. O you nations.

Praise Him in joy for He has been glorified.

Katavasia of the Nativity

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#### **The Magi**

The Magi were scholars of the ancient world. Being astrologers, they knew well the science of the stars and were able to read in them the destiny of men. Originating in the East (Persia, Syria, Mesopotamia), they were the representatives of a highly developed civilization whose knowledge of science was among the most advanced of that era.

A star revealed to them the birth of the King of the Jews. The sudden appearance of the star indicated that the child would have an exceptional future.

The Magi believed this prophecy and set off to pay homage to this illustrious coming from afar to bow before a small, poor, and naked child. At its feet, they place not only their gifts, but also all their knowledge, in order to worship Him whom they recognize as the true God.

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