

# **SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY DECEMBER 21ST, 2014**



## **STS. RAPHAEL, NICHOLAS AND IRENE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**Rev. Fr. Barnabas Powell, Proistamenos**  
**Jimmy Smith, Psaltis**  
**3074 Bethelview Road † Cumming GA 30040**  
**(770) 781-5250      cell (770) 861-3544      [www.stsrni.org](http://www.stsrni.org)**

**We are an intentional Orthodox Christian Community for North Georgia!**

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# WORSHIP

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## *Sixth Eothinon/Tone Third*

*We are so very glad you have joined us today, and we pray you will be inspired and encouraged by your time with us.*

*The Orthodox worship service is an ancient and timeless expression of how people have loved, served and worshipped God for many centuries, but it may be a bit of a different experience for you. Please feel free to use a service book or not and simply allow the words of the service to wash over you.*

*The central act of our worship culminates in people receiving communion. This is a very special time for us all and we have some specific beliefs about our communion together. This is why we never impose this service on those who are not prepared or are not baptized Orthodox. This service may raise questions in your mind.*

*Please feel free to ask Fr. Barnabas or Fr. Paul anything you wish after the service.*

*At the end of the service EVERYONE is invited to come forward and receive a portion of the "blessed bread" from Fr. Barnabas. No one should leave church "hungry!"*

*Know you are welcome and we are glad you are here.*

*May God bless you and your family.*

### *Apolytikion for St. Raphael in the First Tone*

*To the offspring of Ithaca, the pride and joy of Lesvos, \* monastic martyrs' glory, let us offer to Raphael our songs of praise; \* for lately he appeared, and pours out cures and healings to us all. \* Inexplicably he appears to believers, both in dreams and awake, who cry: \* Glory to Christ who gave you His might. \* Glory to Him who gave you miracles. \* Glory to Him who through you fulfills our prayerful requests.*

### *Apolytikion for St. Raphael in the Fourth Tone*

*Because of the finding of your holy relics, wise one, \* the Island of Lesvos has been filled fully with the grace, \* which God richly gave to you. \* You, O devout martyr Raphael, paradoxically \* appeared to many people, and you grant cures and healings. \* And therefore we the faithful rejoice in all your miracles.*

### *Apolytikion in honor of Sts. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene*

*Having contended on Lesvos for the sake of Christ God, you have sanctified the island since the discovery of your sacred relics, O blessed ones; wherefore we honor you, O Godbearing Raphael, together with Nicholas and virgin Irene, as our divine protectors and intercessors with the Lord.*

## Service Schedule for the Week

Today, December 21st

8:45 a.m. Orthros/10 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, December 24th

8:30 a.m. The Great Hours of the Nativity

6:30 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil

Thursday, December 25th

8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Nativity Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 27th

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Parish Council On Duty Today - Kosta Bozzuto and Plutarch Vamvakias

Ushering Ministry - PC/Parishioners

Welcoming Ministry - Florence Lytle

Fellowship Ministry - Diane Walters

## **Sunday Before the Nativity**

**Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Tone** - Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades he delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy.

**Apolytikion for the Forefeast in the Fourth Tone** - O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. \* And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life \* has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. \* Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually \* a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. \* And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. \* Christ is born, so that He might raise up \* the formerly fallen image.

**Apolytikion for the Fathers in the Second Tone** - Magnificent are Faith's accomplishments! The three holy Youths exultingly stood in the fountain of fire as if beside the still waters of rest. And Daniel the Prophet was shown to be a shepherd of lions. At their entreaty, O Christ God, save our souls.

**Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Tone** - On this day the Virgin Maid \* goes to the grotto to give birth \* to the pre-eternal Word \* in an ineffable manner. \* Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. \* Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds \* Him who willed that He appear as \* a newborn child, \* the pre-eternal God.

### ***We Also Remember***

***Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ  
Juliana of Nicomedia & her 630 Companion Martyrs  
Themistodes the Martyr of Myra  
Saint Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow***

Please pray for those faithful who are currently in need of our most fervent intercessions:  
**Andrew, Angie, Bill, Bill, Brent, Carrie, Demetra, Diane, Dina, Donna, Ela, Elaine, Elizabeth, Christina, George, Gus, Harriet, Heidi, Igli, James, Jamie, Jerry, Joe, Maria, Mary Ann, Michael, Nicky, Oni, Patsy, Paul, Peter, Presvytera Connie, Taki, Tara, Violeta, John & Sheila Consos, Katherine & Sam Yalanzon**

Please keep Eric Smith, his wife Donna and children, Laramie & Jessie Mae, in your prayers as he continues his long road to recovery.

If you would like to help with meals, please contact Helen McCart (404-428-4336) or Sophia Bethune (508-494-3757)

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### **ATTENTION PARENTS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**The Children will be dismissed to go to their Sunday School Class following the Sacraments. Thank You.**

**There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 28th.**

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# EPISTLE READING

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## The Reading is St. Paul's Letter to The Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40



Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Daniel 3.26,27

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

**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, 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.

ΑΩ

Πίστει παρώκησεν εἰς γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἄλλοτρίαν, ἐν σκιναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς · ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοῦ θεμελίου εἶχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ θεός. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; ἐπιλείπει με γὰρ διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ, Σαμψών, Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραζαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβησαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφηνον στόματα μαχαίρης, ἐδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἄλλοτρίων · ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν · ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν · ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς · ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπίρστησαν, ἐν φόβῳ μαχαίρης ἀπέθανον, περιῆλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστεροῦμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐπὶ ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὁπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρεῖττόν τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν.

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# GOSPEL READING

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## The Reading is from The Gospel of 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 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.

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# LITURGICAL SCHEDULE & UPCOMING EVENTS

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Father Barnabas is available to hear confession every Wednesday either before or after Vespers and by appointment. Please call or email the church office to request a time to meet with Father and avail yourself to this healing divine mystery of the Church.

Father Paul is available on Sunday during Orthros to hear confession, but no later than 9:20 a.m. Please phone the church office to make an appointment.

Please call the Church office for more information (770) 781-5250.

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TODAY, December 21st

8:45 a.m. Orthros/10 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Presentation of Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 28th

8 p.m. Faith Encouraged Live Radio Program

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**Wednesday, December 24th, Nativity Eve Services**

**8:30 a.m. The Great Hours of the Nativity**

**6:30 p.m. Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil**

**Thursday, December 25th, Holy Nativity Service**

**8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Nativity Divine Liturgy**

**Thursday, January 1st, 2015 - New Year's Day**

**8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy of St. Basil**

**Cutting of Vasilopita**

**Sunday, January 4th, 2015**

**8:45 a.m. Orthros/10 a.m. Divine Liturgy**

**Cutting of Vasilopita**

**Sunday, January 11th - Vasilopita Auction sponsored by Philoptochos  
to benefit St. Basil's Academy**

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**Saturday, January 3rd, 2015 - Vasilopita (New Year's Bread) Baking  
10 a.m. at the Blue House**

**Come to help make the New Year's Bread. All are welcome.**

**R.S.V.P. to Helen McCart if you will be coming at 404-428-4336**

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Adult Scripture Study will resume on Wednesday, January 7th, 2015.

# 2015 Stewards

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**Jim & Angie Andropoulos  
Sarante & Julie Athenson  
Anthony & Mary Birozes  
Renee Birozes  
Deborah Bowen  
Kosta & Carolyn Bozzuto  
Athena Catapano  
David & Marie Chapman  
Giles & Emily Christie  
Rick & Jan Christy  
Quay & Trissie Farr  
Chris & Liz Foxhall  
William & Hayley Fulbright  
Bill & Margaret Gasper  
Rob & Carey Gilbert  
Robert & Jennifer Guano  
Harald & Stamatia Hagen  
Vasilios & Mary Kaloudis  
Jim Kanellos  
Tasso & Laura Kefalas  
David & Lynne Lucher  
Archie & Florence Lytle  
Harry & Tina Maheras  
Bill & Margaret Manos  
Al & Helen McCart  
Johnny & Becky Melts  
Bill & Mary Milam  
Matt & Athena Miller  
Nikolaos Moissiadis  
Nick & Teddie Panos  
Constantinos & Evelyn Pantazopoulos  
Gregory Pappas  
Gus Pappas  
John & Evon Patrick  
Michele Perry  
Mihai & Heidi Popa  
Fr. Barnabas & Pres. Connie Powell  
Pam Powers  
Marina Raymond  
James Smith  
Estelle Sofikitis  
Dennis & Laura Sparks  
Steven & Thalia Thompson  
Plutarch & Tina Vamvakias  
Len Vanerstrom**

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## 2014 Parish Council

**John Patrick, President; Harald Hagen, Vice President; Kosta Bozzuto, Secretary;  
Chris Foxhall, Treasurer; David Chapman, Marie Chapman, Bill Manos,  
Johnny Melts, Greg Pappas, Plutarch Vamvakias**

## Stewardship Commitment Cards for 2014.—97

- James & Angeline Andropoulos  
George & Maria Andros  
Sarante & Julie Athenson  
Stephen & Deane Barnard  
Matthew & Brittany Beckett  
Anthony & Mary Birozes  
Renee Birozes  
Jordan & Lisa Boston  
Deborah Bowen  
David & Michelle Boyd  
Kosta & Carolyn Bozzuto  
Lenny Brown  
David & Marie Chapman  
Russell & Chyrisse Chason  
Grace Chihlas  
Julie Chokos  
Giles & Emily Christie  
Eddie & Connie Clark  
Connie Condos  
John & Sheila Consos  
Keith & Mary Druffner  
Gregory & Mariya Dunkel  
Quay & Trissie Farr  
Chris & Elizabeth Foxhall  
Robert & Jennifer Guano  
Harald & Stamatia Hagen  
Allison Hammond  
Christine Hatcher  
Michael & Ann Costakis Hayes  
Harriet Howell  
Mark & Jennie Johnson  
Eleni Jordan  
Panagiotis & Melanie Jordanopoulos  
Vasilis & Mary Kaloudis  
Jim Kanellos  
Maria Kardomateas  
Aphrodite Levendakis-Kazazakis  
Tasso & Laura Kefalas  
Paul Kremer  
Alex & Melpo Levantis  
Melanie Loumakis  
David & Lynne Lucher  
Archie & Florence Lytle  
Tina Maheras  
Wade & Andrea Mancil  
Angelica Manolakis  
Kiki Manolakis  
William & Margaret Manos  
Bill & Audrey Marianes  
Riley & Ann Marvos  
George Matthews  
Al & Helen McCart  
Johnny Melts  
Bill & Mary Milam  
Matthew & Athena Miller  
Nikolaos Moissiadiis  
Patricia Morris  
Nicolas & Teddie Panos  
Constantinos & Evelyn Pantazopoulos  
Lazaros & Christina Papadopoulos  
Gregory Pappas  
Gus Pappas  
Tom & Lillian Pappas  
John & Evon Patrick  
Michele Perry  
Sts. RNI Philoptochos  
Mihai & Heidi Popa  
Fr. Barnabas & Presvytera Connie Powell  
Pam Powers  
Vic & Suzi Pryles  
Marina Raymond  
Aftan & Cheri Romanczak  
Jimmy & Pat Roney  
Donna Sagnelli  
Mary Samaltanos  
Dina Sarandis  
Taka & Kathy Shoji  
Jimmy Smith  
Estelle Sofikitis  
George & Anna Sofikitis  
James Stockdill  
Koko & Carol Tadros  
Steven & Thalia Thompson  
Ed & Anne Trainor  
Michael Trainor  
Nick & Eva Thrasivoulou  
Brian & Jennifer Tubbs  
Greg Tzevelekos/Evie Atkinson  
Rusty & Christine Waldron  
Diane Walters  
Steven & Smara Wolff  
Plutarch & Tina Vamvakias  
Len Vanerstrom  
Jacob & Katherine Wilson  
Sam & Katherine Yalanzon  
George & Thalia Zazanis  
John & Mildred Zourzoukis