

Tim Ryan, and Fr. Lee Gross. Please pray for these friends and relatives of parishioners: Shirley Anne Markham, Jeffrey Mikulak, Francine O'Leary, Russell Plasha, Patricia Delfine, Rev. Joseph Jugan, Steven Goula, Eileen Gray, James Seman, Mike Shuster, Greg Starr, Florence Kunder, Kelly Kunder, Jim Bacigalupi, Katherine Sikoryak, Margaret Hospodar, John Ryaby III, Guillermina Donalson, and Steve Smith.

**Prayers for our Parishioners.** The particular law of the Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church directs that the pastor is to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish entrusted to him on Sundays and days of precept [holydays of obligation]" (canon 294). This liturgy intention for all parishioners is "For the Intention of Parishioners." The faithful who attend the Divine Liturgy for the parishioners who participate, according to their state, in praying for that intention. We can continue this prayer for one another during the week by remembering several parishioners' families each week. Please pray for these parishioners; David and Stephanie Andrejcek & family, Julie and Eddie Ankers, III & family, John and Mary Ann Anthon, Victoria and Alex Augustine, Becky and Daniel Bacher & family, George Bagay, William Baranowski, and from the Mission, Amanda Nickerson. If a second Sunday Liturgy is offered, an intention can be accepted. Since we have had only one Sunday Divine Liturgy for fourteen Sundays, the Liturgy was for the Intention of our Parishioners. As a result, the intentions requested for the second Liturgy on Sundays have not been offered. The celebrant can pray for additional intentions during the Liturgy, for example, the priest is required to pray for the bishop who ordained him at every Liturgy he offers. The celebrant will pray for the intention parishioners have offered. Please note that this does not persolve the Liturgy intention requested. The intention requested for December 20<sup>th</sup>, is +Helen Uhrin by Monica Koshuta & family. Any Sunday liturgy intention previously scheduled will be rescheduled when a priest is

assigned which would make two liturgies a possibility again.

**Public Liturgies.** The Commonwealth of Virginia began Phase Three July 1<sup>st</sup>. In his episcopal letter of May 13<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Kurt Burnette announced that churches may reopen for public worship according to the directives of the public health authorities and with the bishop's permission. For churches, Phase Three requirements are the same as Phase One requirements. This means that the Parish Strategic Plan and the Eparchial Checklist is still applicable. This means churches may open at 50% of capacity provided health department requirements are met. It is important for public health not to slacken in observing the Strategic Plan. Bishop Kurt continues to dispense so those who are at risk or feel unsafe may remain at home. Please keep in mind that Divine Law still requires us to keep the Lord's Day holy by prayer and by refraining from unnecessary work. The bishop cannot dispense Divine Law. Further, the Bishop had encouraged all to make a good confession later in the year when it is safe.

**Live Streaming.** In response to the spiritual needs the Faithful of Epiphany, the Divine Liturgy of the Sunday after Christmas - Memory of David, Joseph & James today will be live streamed.

**Praying at Home Together.** If you are remaining safe at home, you may consider praying the Divine Liturgy in your homes so that we can be united in praying the same prayers. These are available on the web site of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, <https://mci.archpitt.org>. The entire People's Molitvennik is available under Publications tab to use when participating in the live streaming Liturgy.

**Messages from the Pastor.** Father John has been sending email messages to the parishioners whose email addresses we have on our roster. If you have not been receiving these email messages, it might be because we do not have your email address, or you have changed it and we do not

have it. We would like to have your email address to keep contact with you during this time when some parishioners are remaining safe at home. Simply email the parish.

**Fast-free Week.** There is no fasting from Christmas to January 4<sup>th</sup> including Fridays, December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Intentions to be Rescheduled.** If you have offered a Divine Liturgy for an intention to be celebrated during the suspension, you will be contacted to reschedule. Jamie has begun rescheduling weekday liturgy requests according to the date of the request. If you have scheduled a weekday liturgy, that liturgy will remain on the date requested. However, if you scheduled a liturgy on a Sunday, the intention will not be rescheduled until after the pandemic or until Bishop Kurt is able to assign a second priest to be able to celebrate two Sunday liturgies.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**Parish Office Schedule.** The Parish Office will close at 2:00 PM December 31<sup>st</sup>. Regular office hours will resume Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Happy New Year.** May God grant us His grace, blessings and protection in the New Year.

**Mitel Phones.** Several of the stations in the rectory are experiencing problems. If you cannot connect with the rectory, please use this church number 703-573-1584.

**Offering Envelopes.** It has come to our attention that several parishioners have not yet received their envelopes for this quarter. Cathedral Corporation, the envelope company, reported the envelopes were sent out December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The rectory office just received a set.

**EMC Awards Club Winners.** The winner of the tenth and final drawing and \$1000, is Clarence Thomason, #055. Thank you to all of you who contributed so generously to the Fall EMC Awards Club, which began October 18<sup>th</sup>. The winners for the ten week drawings are as follow: 1. Dottie Smith, 253; 2. Glen Warden, #175; 3. Terry Abell, #100; 4. Olga Osterberg, #025; 5. Mary McDonnell, #099; 6. Emil Koval,

#075; 7. Nancy Hencken, #151; 8. Annie Koval, #XXx; 9. Rand Bass, #169; 10. Clarence Thomason, #055. Congratulations!

**On-line Giving Now Set Up.** Bishop Kurt directed that all parishes have online giving service in place with [www.tithe.ly.com](http://www.tithe.ly.com) by August 31, 2020. Both the parish and the mission now have online accounts with tithe.ly and these can be accessed at the church or mission web sites. To make an online contribution, go to the church web site. On the home page is a link that says Epiphany of our Lord online donation. Click on that and you will be directed to Epiphany's tithe.ly account. Please note that where you see Offertory, that is a drop-down menu that allows the donor to specify what the donation is for: Sunday offertory, Building Fund, St. Nicholas Fund, or eparchial collections. Please show care in the category Recurring Giving. If it is not a donation to be given each week or month, please make that adjustment that this is a one-time donation.

**EMC Bingo.** Due to the Pandemic, Bingo has been suspended indefinitely. Observance of local, state, Catholic Mutual, and eparchial requirements for safe distancing and sanitizing does not make reopening Bingo economically feasible. We will continue to monitor health and scientific information as it becomes available to guide the determination of opening safely for our parishioners and Bingo patrons.

**Parish Bulletin.** The parish bulletin will continue to be posted weekly on the Epiphany website: [www.eolbcc.org](http://www.eolbcc.org). It will also be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and photograph of the bulletin can be taken.

**Parish Office Schedule and Safety Protocols.** In accordance with Bishop Kurt Burnette's and Governor Northam's most recent Orders, the office hours for Epiphany of our Lord continue to be amended to the following: Monday through Friday - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Jamie, the administrative assistant, will cover the office during those hours from home two days of the week. She will be teleworking Tuesday afternoon and all day Thursday. She will be physically in the parish office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday only. Lucie, the financial assistant, is working in the office only three days a week. She will be in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Given that response to this crisis is so fluid and schedules can change so quickly, please call the office phone number before venturing out. Parish staff has established safety and health protocols at the parish office, as well. If you have

business at the office, please use the new doorbell. We will respond through the intercom after verifying your presence at the door. Jamie is able to respond to the door from home as well. Please wear a mask and use the hand sanitizer station when you come into the office and observe social distancing. We are only able to accommodate three adults in the office including two staff members observing safe distancing.

**Mission Update.** According to Jack McLaurin Montgomery County has informed him 11/10/20 that we could not use the "Right of Entry" agreement to inspect the dry wells due to change of use and are asking for easements for the dry wells. If this is the case, there will be a fee of \$2,000 for VIKa to prepare the easements and will have to be reviewed by eparchial counsel. That would mean the Forest Management Exemption would have to be amended to show the dry wells and the fee for VIKa would be \$2,500.

**Book Store.** The Bookstore is open by appointment only. Please contact a Bookstore manager and be prepared to wear a mask and not to use the rest rooms in the Social Hall.

**Restroom Availability FYI.** There are no campus restrooms open to the public, including our vendors. We have only two buildings being cleaned weekly, the church for our parishioners and the parish office for our office staff. The day care bathrooms are for the exclusive use of the day care children and staff and restricted for their safety.

## EPARCHIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bishop's Appeal.** The Bishop's Appeal 2020 began October 1st. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 1, 2021. Any contributions received after December 31, 2020, must be attributed to the 2021 tax year. The goal for this year's campaign is the same as last year, \$19,800 for the church and \$6,000 for the mission. The parishioners at the church have pledged or given \$11,550. The parishioners at the mission have pledged or given \$3,225. This is an incredible response in this difficult time. May God bless you for your sacrificial offerings to our eparchy and for our eparchy's donations to European eparchies. If we

reach our goal, we will receive a 40% refund of the total received.

**Friary Closing.** Father Jerome Wolbert, OFM, has made the following announcement. "Due mainly to the lack of available friars, the friary [Holy Dormition Friary, Sybertsville, PA] will be closing. If you are on the friary mailing list, details will be in our Christmas letter to be mailed later this week. We will send the same letter to anyone who asks (570-788-1212 ext 407 or [holydormition@gmail.com](mailto:holydormition@gmail.com)). On January 31, at 2pm, we will have a final prayer service to close the chapel, with a reception if conditions permit. Our chapel has been a prayerful blessing for many people and we want to make sure you have a chance to make a final visit before it closes. The friars are still able to honor all intentions and memorials; we will continue to pray for all our benefactors, and we appreciate your prayers for us at this difficult time." No mention was made about the friars who administrate two of our parishes in the eparchy. Also, this does not apply to the women's Carmelite monastery.

### Sunday after the Nativity

## COMING EVENTS

- Byzantine Spirituality
- Parish Office Safety Protocols
- Phones
- Friary Closing
- Mission details
- EMC Bingo – Suspended Indefinitely
- On Line Contributions
- Bishop's Appeal

**EMC BINGO**  
 Bingo will be suspended for the foreseeable future.  
  
<http://EMCBINGO.com>

## TITHING & GIVING

Adults	\$7,680.00
Building Fund	\$2,222.00
Holy Days	\$380.00
Christmas	\$925.00
Easter	\$50.00
Retired Religious	\$255.00
Christmas Flowers	\$40.00
Candles	\$105.00
Christmas Candles	\$135.00
School of Religion	\$1.00
<u>St. Nicholas Fund</u>	<u>\$65.00</u>
	\$12,056.00

**Tithing & Giving.** Above accounting represents weeks 12/06 and 12/13. The next report will cover weeks 12/20, 12/25, and 12/27. "Online Donation" represents donations for Epiphany contributed by parishioners online and sent to Epiphany from our online giving account. Our online giving is operational and can be accessed through the parish or mission web sites. Thank you for continuing to use your giving envelopes.

*"Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth." (Dt. 8:18)*

## LITURGY AND LIFE

**Prayer Intentions.** Please remember in prayer: Msgr. George Dobes, Michael Mikulak, David Sayen, Mary McDonnell, Justine Ferrari, Louis Shanks, Caroline Zurun, Mary Beth Vieira, Irene Markovich, Mary Gaydos, Betty Markovchick, John Vernoski, Marge Rusnak, Paul Vrabel, Richard Wytko, and



# EPIPHANY OF OUR

# LORD

**Byzantine Catholic Church**  
**3410 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003**  
**Phone: 703-573-3986 --- Fax: 703-573-0344**  
**Very Rev. John G. Basarab - Pastor**

<b>Christ is born!</b>	<b>December 27, 2020</b>	<b>Christos Raždajetsja!</b>
<b>Glorify Him!</b>		<b>Slavite Jeho!</b>

## ***DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE***

***SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS***  
***COMMEMORATION OF SS. JOSEPH, KING DAVID, AND JAMES***  
***ARCHDEACON AND FIRST MARTYR STEPHEN***

Sun. Dec. 27 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

### ***Thirty-first Week after Pentecost***

Tue. Dec. 29 10:00 AM +John Basarab by Elizabeth Basarab

***CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD***  
***AND FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT- ARCHBISHOP***

Fri. Jan. 01 10:00 AM Intention of Parishioners for the New Year

Sat. Jan. 02 10:00 AM

### ***SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY***

Sun. Jan. 03 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

### ***ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – January 3, 2020***

Sun. Jan. 03 One server will be assigned under Phase Three Reopening Plan.

### ***USHER SCHEDULE – January 3, 2020***

Sun. Jan. 03 Ushers check with Bob Wargo for assignments next Sunday.

**All public services in church in Phase Three in Virginia can have 50% of capacity. People in attendance must wear masks and maintain social distancing.**

## **The Sacraments – Our Life in Christ**

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation** - (Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist). We follow the command of the Lord to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Chrismation (Confirmation) and Holy Eucharist (First Holy Communion) is imparted at the same time immediately following baptism

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Infants** – is scheduled at the Divine Liturgy on Saturdays or Sundays during the year except certain fast periods. Sponsors must be Catholics in good standing and supply a sponsor card attesting to that from their parish. While two Catholics in good standing is usual, one baptized non-Catholic can function as a Christian Witness with the Catholic sponsor. Both must be at least sixteen years of age. Details are available at the parish office.

**Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Adults** – follows a period of catechumenate. This is a period of spiritual formation. Please see the priest or deacon.

**Mystery (Sacrament) of Crowning in Marriage** – According to the Pastoral Policy and Guidelines for Marriage Preparation for the Catholic Church in New Jersey, couples wishing to marry must inform the pastor one year before the date of the wedding and be free to marry in the Catholic Church. Couples will meet with the priest and deacon in four sessions – to begin the pre-nuptial investigation, to take FOCCUS, a communications, values and religious inventory approved for use in the Catholic dioceses/eparchies, to complete the pre-nuptial investigation and for a session on the theology of the mystery (sacrament). They are also required to attend Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter.

**Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance** – The Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance is regularly available each Saturday 11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon. In addition, confessions are heard during the Christmas Fast (Advent) and the Great Fast (Lent) at other scheduled times. Visiting confessors are also scheduled at special times during the Great Fast. Confessions are also heard on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Great and Holy Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life endangering medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves Week to prepare for the observance of the Lord's Resurrection.

**Anointing of the Sick** – Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life-threatening medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves of the sacrament of penance and anointing of the sick. If surgery is scheduled, please consider confession and anointing at the church before entering the hospital since there is more privacy for confession and less chance of interruption for confession and anointing. If you are unable to come to church, please call the rectory. Families of parishioners who have a medical emergency should contact the rectory office so one of the priests can go the hospital.

**Holy Communion and Visitation of the Sick** – Holy Communion is brought to our parishioners who are ill at the hospital or at home by the deacon on Sundays and at other times by arrangement. Please contact the deacon or the rectory office by Friday prior to the Sunday communion visitation.

**Funeral Services** – The Office of Christian Burial is offered in ways to accommodate the needs of the family. The Epiphany Ladies Guild as part of their charity offers a Mercy Meal for families at the Parish Center following the interment. Epiphany of our Lord cemetery is a portion of Fairfax Memorial Park. Parishioners who are interested in purchasing cemetery plots should see the deacon.

**Byzantine Catholic Mission of Montgomery County** - Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM; Religious Education & Social Hour 11:15-12:15: 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, MD; (301) 482-0282.

## **Parish Administration**

*"The Church is not an organization with sacraments but a sacrament with organization."*

### **Parish Clergy**

Very Rev. John G. Basarab, Pastor  
 Deacon Elmer Pekarik, Deacon Peter Turko

### **Parish Office Staff**

Jamie Bacigalupi, Administrative Assistant  
 Lucie Cantsilieris, Financial Assistant

### **Parish Council of Administration**

Emil Koval, Greg Puhak, Sally Green

### **Parish Office Hours:** 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Monday- Friday

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Sunday

**School of Religion** - School of Religion classes meet on Sundays between Liturgies (9:20 AM - 10:20 AM) throughout the school year (September - June). Classes are offered for children grades Preschool & Kindergarten - High School

Announcements may be dropped off in the Parish Office, faxed to the office (703-573-1088) or email to [epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net](mailto:epiphanyofourlord@verizon.net).

**Registration** - Individuals who wish to register in the Parish should stop by the Parish Office and complete a census form.

<p align="center"><b>Epiphany of our Lord Church, Annandale, VA</b>  <b><a href="http://www.eolbcc.org">http://www.eolbcc.org</a></b>  <b>Epiphany of our Lord does not conduct business on the website email.</b></p>
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The Order for the Divine Liturgy  
Sunday after Christmas  
Memory of David, Joseph, & James  
Stephen - Protomartyr

**PLACE RIBBONS AT:**

BLUE p. 11 Mark and Follow Ordinary Parts of the Divine Liturgy  
GREEN p. 146 Resurrection Tone 5  
RED p. 302 Sunday after the Nativity  
YELLOW p. 298 Archdeacon and First-martyr Stephen

**ALL MELODIES FOR THIS SUNDAY ARE: A**

**EXCEPT:**

Cherubic Hymn Christmas p. 222  
We Praise You p. 293

1. The Divine Liturgy begins on p. 11 BLUE
2. Antiphons 1 & 2 of the feast of Christmas p. 302 RED
3. At the Troparia:
  - Troparion of the Resurrection Tone 5 p. 146 GREEN
  - Troparion of Christmas Tone 4 p. 290 RED
  - Troparion of Sunday after Nativity Tone 2 p. 303 RED
  - Troparion of St. Stephen p. 298-299 YELLOW
  - Kontakion of Sunday after Nativity Tone 3 p. 303 RED
4. Scripture readings:
  - Prokeimenon of the Resurrection Tone 5 p.148 GREEN
  - Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19
  - Alleluia of the Saints Tone 4 p. 304 RED
  - Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23
5. *Instead of* "It is truly proper..." Magnification and Irmos p. 304 RED

Slava Otcu i Synu i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyñi i 4n a4i, 4n a v'iki v'ikov. Amiñ. Jedinorodnyj Syne, i 4n a4 Božij, bezsmerten syj, i izvolivyj spasenija našeho radi voplotitisja ot svjatyja Bohorodicy i 4n a4i-d'ivy Mariji, nepreložno vočelov'ičivysja, raspnysja že, Christe Bože, smertiju smert' popravyj, jedin syj Svjatyja Trojcy, sproslavl'ajemyj Otcu i Svjatomu Duchu, spasi nas.

**SVJATYJ BOŽE – HOLY GOD**

Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas. (3)  
Slava Otcu, i Synu, i Svjatomu Duchu, i nyñi i prisno, i vo v'iki v'ikov. Amin.  
Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.  
Svjatyj Bože, Svjatyj kr'ipkij, Svjatyj bezsmertnyj, pomiluj nas.

**IŽE CHERUVIMY – LET US WHO MYSTICALLY**

Iže Cheruvimy tajno obrazujušče, i životvorjasšče Trojc'i trisvjatuju p'isñ prinosjasšče, vsjakuju nyñi zitejskoje otveržim pečal'.

Amiñ. Jako da Carja vs'ich podimem, anhel'skimi nevidimo dorinosima činmi. Allilua. Allilua. Allilua.

**SVJAT, SVJAT, SVJAT – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Svjat, svjat, svjat, Hospod' savaoth, ispolñ nebo i zeml'a slavy Tvojeja: osanna vo vyšnich, blahosloven hrjadaj vo imja Hospodne, osanna vo vyšnich.

**TEBE POJEM – WE PRAISE YOU**

Tebe pojem, Tebe blahoslovim, Teb'i blahodarim, Hospodi, i molimtisja Bože naš.

**DOSTOJNO JEST' – IT IS TRULY PROPER**

Dostojno jest' jako voistinnu blažiti t'a bohorodicu, prisnoblaženuju i preneporočuju i Mater' Boha našeho. Česñijšuju Cheruvim i slavñišuju bez sravnenija Serafim, bez istl'inija Boha Slova roždšuju, suščuju Bohorodicu, t'a veličajem.

**OTČE NAŠ – OUR FATHER**

Otče naš, iže jesi na nebes'ich, da svjatitsja imja Tvoje. Da prijedet carstvije Tvoje, da budet vol'a Tvoja, jako na nebesi, i na zemli. Chl'ib naš nasuščnyj dažd nam dnes'. I ostavi nam dolhi naša, jakože i my ostavl'ajem dolžnikom našim. I ne vvedi nas vo iskušeniye, no izbavi nas ot lukavaho.

**VID'ICHOM SVIT ISTINNYJ – WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT**

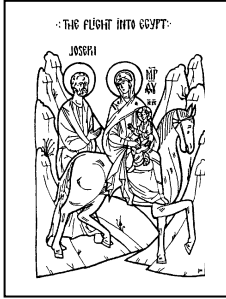
Vid'ichom svit istinnyj, i prijachom Ducha nebesnaho, obr'itochom v'iru istinnuju, nerazd'ilnij Svjat'ij Trojc'i poklanjajemsja, T'a bo nas spasla jest'.

**DA ISPOLŃATSJA – MAY OUR MOUTH BE FILLED**

Da ispolñatsja usta naša chvalenija tvojego Hospodi, jako da pojem slavu tvoju, jako spodobil jesi nas pričastitsja svjatym tvojim, božestvennym, bezsmertnym, i životvor'ascim Tajnam; utverdi nas Bože vo Tvojej svjatyni vsja dni poučatisja pravd'i Tvojeje. Alliluja.

**ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON – JEDINORODNYJ SYNE**

**Meditation on Today's Readings**



## ***Sunday After Christmas – David, Joseph & James***

*Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt.  
Matthew 2:13-23*

The Sunday after Christmas the holy fathers have appointed the gospel accounts of the Flight to Egypt, the Massacre of the Infants and the Return to Israel from the gospel according to Matthew. The purpose of this is two-fold. Historically these passages explain what happened to the Holy Family after the birth of the Lord Jesus in Bethlehem, the angelic announcement to the shepherds and their subsequent visit, and the visit of the magi from the east. In addition, the passages are appointed for this Sunday because Saint Joseph is a central personage in the accounts, and he is commemorated on this Sunday along with his ancestor, King David, and his relative, Saint James the “brother” of the Lord and first bishop of Jerusalem.

The visit of the Magi to Jerusalem and to King Herod precipitated the situation. They asked King Herod where the new-born King of the Jews was. The new-born King was not a son of Herod so Herod acted with duplicity to catch this challenger to the throne. Herod, whose name means “sprung from heroes”, was not of the line of King David and feared any challenge to his claim. In fact, at this time, he had two of his sons killed because he felt they were trying to seize his crown. So, when the magi secretly depart, he has the boys in Bethlehem and the area two years old and younger killed. The quotation about Rachel, wife of Jacob whose name became Israel, weeping is from the prophet Jeremiah. Rachel’s tomb is nearby and as the Jews were being taken in captivity to Babylon, they were paraded past their ancestor Rachel’s tomb who, Jeremiah writes, “weeps across centuries.” Here Matthew writes that Rachel weeps again because her descendants, the mothers, weep for their children. There are no words of comfort according to the prophet because words are only words when a mother’s child is gone. Comfort, the evangelist Matthew infers, will come when Jesus will rise from the dead and promise life to those who believe in Him. Then, the mothers will be comforted.

Saint Joseph is shown to be a true descendant of King David. He listens to the messages from God that he receives and acts on them. He is not tempted to respond to the angel, “You said I was ‘to name him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins’ and yet He cannot even save Himself and God the Father will not even do a mighty act to save His Son.” Instead, Joseph does what he is asked to do. When the angel tells him to return to Israel, he does not tell Joseph where to go. When Joseph hears that the most violent of Herod’s sons, Archelaus, is the successor to his father Herod in Judea, he goes instead to Nazareth in Galilee. God allows Saint Joseph to make his own decisions within God’s instruction and because Joseph is such a godly man his will is so closely in harmony with God’s divine will he fulfills a scripture prediction by choosing Nazareth.

One further part of the gospel shows that Jesus is not Joseph’s son, since the angel always says, “Get up, take the child and His mother.”

*...I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the brother of the Lord.* Galatians 1:11-19

The epistle appointed for the Sunday after Christmas is from the epistle of Saint Paul to the Galatians because the holy fathers want us to hear the reference to Saint James, the “brother” of the Lord, since he is commemorated on the Sunday after Christmas with King David and Saint Joseph, the human relatives of Jesus. The Mother of God is honored separately on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Saint Paul writes to the Galatians to reassure them that he did not invent the gospel, nor did he hear it from someone who invented it. The gospel he preaches is the same gospel that the other apostles have preached from the same source, God, who revealed the gospel to them and to him. He then tells them that he could not have invented the message of Christ since he had tried to destroy Christ’s Church. Only really seeing and hearing the risen Lord Jesus Christ converted him to be a disciple of Christ and His apostle. He then writes that he did not hear about the gospel from any of the other apostles because he had not met or spoken with them. This is Paul’s testimony that the way he learned the gospel was from Christ. This is why he can be an apostle. The complete content of the gospel as it has been transmitted to our time is either from God or from humans, supernatural or man-made, true or false. A person either believes Saint Paul is truthful or not. We believe he is telling the truth. Having him speak to us strengthens our faith and recommit us to putting all of it into practice.

From *Ignatius Study Bible: Luke*, *The Navarre Bible: Luke*, John S. Custer, *The Holy Gospel: A Byzantine Perspective* and *The Navarre Bible*.

### **Children’s Corner**



Check the 1 correct statement, which has the sum of 28.



- 5 + 9 + 8 = \_\_\_ He consulted with other Jews.
- 16 + 9 + 6 = \_\_\_ He sought out other apostles.
- 17 + 4 + 8 = \_\_\_ He visited churches in Judea.
- 7 + 9 + 12 = \_\_\_ He went alone into Arabia.
- 5 + 16 + 6 = \_\_\_ He kept persecuting Christians.
- 4 + 24 + 2 = \_\_\_ He studied Jewish traditions.
- 3 + 8 + 11 = \_\_\_ He went to Jerusalem.
- 9 + 18 + 0 = \_\_\_ He studied under Peter.