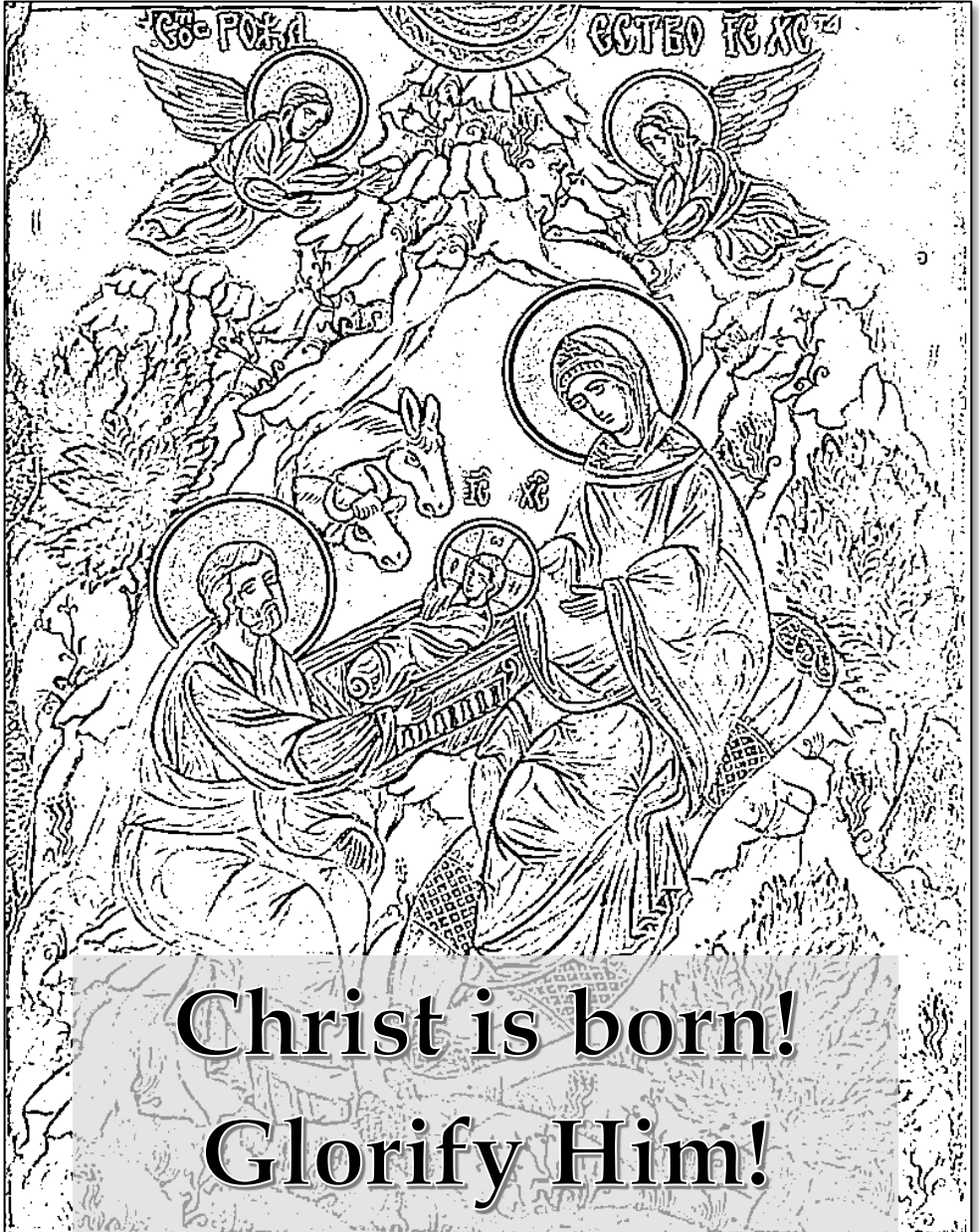




SAINT NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org December 25, 2019



Nativity of Christ 2019

Hymns and Readings for Today

First Antiphon (Psalm 112)

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will make all Thy wonders known.

R. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord! *R*

They are studied by all who have pleasure in them. *R*

His work is glory and beauty, and His righteousness endures forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. *R*

Second Antiphon (Psalm 112)

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments!

R O Son of God born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

His descendants will be mighty in the land. The generation of the upright will be blessed! *R*

Glory and wealth are in His house, and His righteousness endures forever! *R*

Light rises in the dark for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous. *R*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. *R*

Third Antiphon (Psalm 110)

The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool!"

R Troparion of the Feast

The Lord sends forth from Zion Thy mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of Thy foes. *R*

Authority shall be with Thee on the day of Thy power, among the splendor of Thy holy ones! *R*

Troparion of the Feast Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!

For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore Thee,

the Sun of righteousness,
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.

O Lord, glory to Thee!

Kontakion of the Feast *Tone 3*

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!
Angels with shepherds glorify Him!
The wise men journey with the star,
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

In Place of 'Holy God' (Galatians 3:27)

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Prokeimenon of the Feast (Psalm 65:4) *Tone 8*

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; let it praise Thy name, O Most High!

Epistle of the Feast (Galatians 4:4-7)

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Gospel of the Feast (Matthew 2:1-12)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Hymn to the Theotokos

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure virgin Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly hosts!

I behold a strange most glorious mystery:

Heaven – the cave!

The cherubic throne – the Virgin!

The manger – the place where Christ lay!

The uncontainable God whom we magnify in song!

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:9)

The Lord hath sent redemption to His people. Alleluia!

Continuing the Celebration!

Tuesday, December 26 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (*Synaxis of the Mother of God*)
December 25 to January 4 are all fast free days!

“This is our present Festival; it is this which we are celebrating today - the Coming of God to Man, that we might go forth, or rather (for this is the more proper expression) that we might go back to God – that putting off of the old man, we might put on the new; and that as we died in Adam, so we might live in Christ, being born with Christ and crucified with Him and buried with Him and rising with Him. For I must undergo the beautiful conversion, and as the painful succeeded the more blissful, so must the more blissful come out of the painful. For where sin abounded grace did much more abound; and if a taste condemned us, how much more does the passion of Christ justify us? Therefore let us keep the Feast, not after the manner of a heathen festival, but after a godly sort; not after the way of the world, but in a fashion above the world; not as our own, but as belonging to Him who is ours, or rather as our Master’s; not as of weakness, but as of healing; not as of creation, but of re-creation.”
– **St. Gregory of Nazianzus**

To our Visitors: Welcome! Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service. We wish you a blessed feast!