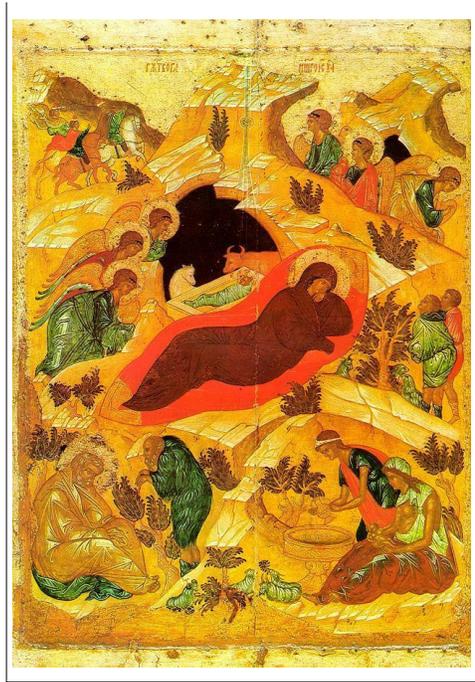


# Holy Trinity Cathedral

*A parish of the Orthodox Church In America  
124 years of Orthodox Witness in Chicago*

*Go home to your people and report to  
them what great things the Lord has  
done for you, and how He had mercy  
on you!*

*Mark 5:19*



His Grace, the Right Reverend  
**PAUL**

*Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest  
Rector*

Archpriest John S. Adamcio  
*Dean*

Deacon Thomas Keith

Dennis Pelak  
*Parish Council President*

Reader Yury Orlov  
*Director of Music Ministries*

*Welcome to Holy Trinity Cathedral*

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

Our parish was founded in 1892 as St. Vladimir's Russian Orthodox Church. Under the direction of *St. John (Kochurov) of Chicago*, and the noted architect Louis Sullivan, the present structure was built in 1903, renamed Holy Trinity, and designated cathedral in 1922 when His Grace, THEOPHILUS was consecrated as Bishop of Chicago.

A landmark in the City of Chicago, and listed on the National Register of Historic places, Holy Trinity continues her witness of Orthodox Christianity.

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# Schedule of Services

*Christ is Born!  
Glorify Him!*

*Христос Раждається  
Славите Его!*

**Sunday, December 25, 2016** *The Feast of the Nativity of Christ*

9:30a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

<i>Epistle:</i>	Galatians	4:4-7
<i>Gospel:</i>	Matthew	2:1-12

**Monday, December 26**

*Synaxis of the Theotokos*

9:10a Hours

9:30a Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

<i>Epistle:</i>	1 Timothy	6:11-16
<i>Gospel:</i>	Matthew	12:15-21

**Saturday, December 31**

4:30p *Resurrection Gospel VI*

**Sunday, January 1, 2017**

*Feast of the Circumcision  
of Christ*

*St. Basil the Great*

*Sunday Before Theophany*

9:10a Hours

9:30a Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

<i>Epistle:</i>	Colossians	2:8-12
	2 Timothy	4:5-8
<i>Gospel:</i>	Luke	2:20-21,40-52
	Mark	1:1-8

**Thursday, January 5**

8:00a Vespertal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

7:00p Vigil

**Friday, January 6**

*Feast of the Theophany The Bap-*

*tism of Jesus Christ*

9:10a Hours

9:30a Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom,  
followed by the Great Blessing of Water

**Saturday, January 7**

4:30p Vigil *Resurrection Gospel VII*

**Sunday, January 8** *Thirty-first Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 6*

*Sunday before Theophany*

Holy Prophet Malachi; Martyr Gordius at  
Cæsarea in Cappadocia; Ven. Genevieve  
of Paris

9:10a Hours

9:30a Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

*Epistle:* 2 Timothy 4:5-8

*Gospel:* Mark 1:1-8

**Saturday, January 14**

4:30p Vigil *Resurrection Gospel VIII*

**Sunday, January 15**

*Thirtieth Sunday after Pentecost—Tone .*

Paul of Thebes and John Calabytes (“the  
Hut-dweller”); Ven. Pansophius of Alex-  
andria

9:10a Hours

9:30a Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

*Epistle:* Colossians 3:12-16

*Gospel:* Luke 18:18-27

## *Parish Council Meeting*

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on: Monday evening, January 23, 2017, 6:30p.

*All Parish Council members are urged to attend this meeting.*

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## *Thank You!*

Sts. Martha and Mary Sisterhood thanks all who supported the Cookie Walk.

A profit of \$2,083.50 was realized.

Thank you, again, to all who baked, bought, helped, and supported the Walk!

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### *On the Nativity of Christ*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian). Caesar Augustus decreed that a universal census be made throughout his Empire, which then also included Palestinian Israel. The Jews were accustomed to be counted in the city from where their family came. The Most Holy Virgin and the Righteous Joseph, since they were descended from the house and lineage of King David, had to go to Bethlehem to be counted and taxed.

In Bethlehem they found no room at any of the city's inns. Thus, the God-Man, the Savior of the world, was born in a cave that was used as a stable.

"I behold a strange and most glorious mystery," the Church sings with awe, "Heaven, a Cave; the Virgin the Throne of the Cherubim; the Manger a room, in which Christ, the

God Whom nothing can contain is laid.” (Irmos of the 9th Ode of the Nativity Canon).

Having given birth to the divine Infant without travail, the Most Holy Virgin “wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger” (Luke 2:7). In the stillness of midnight (Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15), the proclamation of the birth of the Savior of the world was heard by three shepherds watching their flocks by night.

An angel of the Lord (Saint Cyprian says this was Gabriel) came before them and said: “Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). The humble shepherds were the first to offer worship to Him Who condescended to assume the form of a humble servant for the salvation of mankind. Besides the glad tidings to the Bethlehem shepherds, the Nativity of Christ was revealed to the Magi by a wondrous star. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Theophylactus, commenting on Saint

Matthew’s Gospel, say that this was no ordinary star. Rather, it was “a divine and angelic power that appeared in the form of a star.” Saint Demetrius of Rostov says it was a “manifestation of divine energy” (Narrative of the Adoration of the Magi). Entering the house where the Infant lay, the Magi “fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh” (Mt. 2:11).

The present Feast, commemorating the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, was established by the Church. Its origin goes back to the time of the Apostles. In the Apostolic Constitutions (Section 3, 13) it says, “Brethren, observe the feastdays; and first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month.” In another place it also says, “Celebrate the day of the Nativity of Christ, on which unseen grace is given man by the birth of the Word of God from the Virgin Mary for the salvation of the world.” In the second century Saint Clement of Alexandria also indicate

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## *Nativity Donations*

We take this time to thank the following for their donations for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ:

Icons of the Feast:	<i>Matushka Vera Mironiowicz, Lidia, Jonathan</i>
Icon of Christ:	<i>Michael and Deborah Liotta</i>
Icon of the Theotokos:	<i>Robert and Nancy Yurschak</i>
Nativity Bulletins:	<i>William and Larisa Fetterly</i>
Wine:	<i>William and Larisa Fetterly</i>
Incense:	<i>William and Larisa Fetterly</i>

Thank you to all who donated these items. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless and grant you Many Years!

## *Nativity Message of His Grace. Bishop PAUL*

*In this night of reconciliation let no man be wroth or gloomy; in this night that stills all, none that threatens or disturbs! This night belongs to the sweet One; bitter or harsh be in it none! In this night that is the meek One's, high or haughty be in it none! In this day of pardoning let us not exact trespasses! In this day of gladnesses let us not spread sadnesses! In this day so sweet, let us not be harsh! In this day of peaceful rest, let us not be wrathful in it! In this day when God came to sinners, let not the righteous be in his mind uplifted over sinner! In this day in which there came the Lord of all unto the servants, let masters too condescend to their servants lovingly! In this day in which the Rich became poor for our sakes, let the rich man make the poor man share with him at his table. On this day to us came forth the Gift, although we asked it not! Let us therefore bestow alms on them that cry and beg of us. This is the day that opened for us a gate on high to our prayers. Let us open also gates to supplicants that have transgressed, and of us have asked forgiveness. Today the Lord of nature was against His nature changed; let it not to us be irksome to turn our evil wills. This is the day that gladdened them, the Prophets, Kings, and Priests, for in it were their words fulfilled, and thus were the whole of them indeed performed! Today Godhead sealed itself upon Manhood, that so with the Godhead's stamp, Manhood might be adorned. The voice that of old Isaiah spoke, today became reality. For the Virgin this day brought forth Immanuel in Bethlehem. (Excerpt from 100 Stanzas on the Nativity by St. Ephrem the Syrian)*

Beloved Clergy, Monastics and Laity of the Diocese of the Midwest,  
*Christ is Born – Glorify Him!*

As I ponder the above words from Saint Ephrem, it causes me to think that for many people the holiday season is not a happy time. Some people get depressed at this time of the year, and may even resent the “happy façade” in their mind that is presented by others. For some, there may be strife and conflict in family life, abuses of various kinds, marital divorce, or loss of loved ones around this time.

What I love in these words from Saint Ephrem is that he is saying much more than “gray skies are going to clear up, put on a happy face!” The Nativity of our Lord offers us the opportunity not of just being happy, but more so to be transformed. We can come to Our Lord Jesus Christ whether happy, sad, angry, depressed, full of strife of various types, or powerless over some addiction that plagues us and begin this process of transformation one day at a time. Saint Ephrem says, “Today the Lord of nature was against His nature changed, let it not to us be irksome to turn our evil wills.” So this feast day offers us the opportunity to not just hide from what is wrong in our lives and act as if we are happy, but to face what is not right in our lives, with the hope that what is impossible with man is possible with God.

Saint Ephrem's words also show that when our Lord meets us where we are, it will change the way we interact with those around us. Many of us might be unhappy about our circumstances, wishing that someone else or something else (apart from us) needs to change. The words above tell us we have a greater chance of changing others or our circumstances by first changing ourselves.

*Bethlehem has opened Eden: come let us see! We have found joy in a secret place: come let us seize Paradise hidden in the cave!*

*(Ikos from Nativity Canon)*

Let us embark on this journey of seizing Paradise in this cave of joy where we find God become man. How can we ever become truly human in our life without knowing the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us?

So if anyone is depressed or in turmoil of some kind, enter into the cave where the Word has become flesh and surrender your will to His will; embrace Him as Lord and Savior; allow Him to lead you to His Holy Church where the process of healing can begin and continue. Through the prayers of our Holy Father Ephrem the Syrian, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!

With Love in Christ, the unworthy

+Paul

Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest

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