

# Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

December 21, 2008

## Saintly Notes

### Virgin-Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (December 21, 2008)

**S**aint Juliana, who was from Nicomedia, lived during the years of Maximian and was the daughter of wealthy parents. They were pagans, but she was secretly a Christian.

Without consulting her, her parents betrothed her to an idolater named Eleusius, who was a member of the Senate. She, not wishing to marry him, told him that unless he became eparch, she would not marry him. When he had obtained this position, she told him that unless he renounced the religion of the idols and became a Christian, she would have nothing to do with him. Eleusius then told Juliana's father of this. He attempted to turn her from the Faith of Christ, but when he saw that she could not change her constancy, he gave her up to the Eparch, Eleusius her betrothed, to be tried according to the law.

When Eleusius could not persuade her to do his will, he subjected her to the most inhuman tortures and after imprisoning her, cast her into a furnace. But by the grace of God, the furnace was marvelously quenched. Seeing this, some five hundred men and one hundred and fifty women believed in Christ and were beheaded for His sake. After further torments, she was beheaded, in the year 299.



St. Juliana of Nicomedia

# Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC  
(www.allsaintsnc.org)  
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest  
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest  
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

December 21, 2008

## The Saints Whom We Remember

Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia; Martyr Themistokles of Myra in Lycia;  
Peter, metropolitan of Moscow and all Russia

## This Week's Schedule

**Today:** 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy  
**Monday:** Church Office Closed  
**Wednesday:** 9:00a Royal Hours for the Nativity; 10:00a Vesp. Divine Liturgy  
**Thursday:** 8:00a Nativity Orthros; 9:00a Div. Lit. for the Nativity of Christ  
**Saturday:** 5:30p Great Vespers  
**Sunday:** 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

## Third Antiphon

### Resurrection Troparion—Tone 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death,  
O Thou deathless and immortal One, then  
Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly  
power. And when Thou didst raise the dead  
from beneath the earth, all the powers of  
heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ,  
Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

## Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and fall down before  
Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art  
risen from the dead; who sing to Thee.  
Alleluia.

## Troparion

### of the Resurrection—Tone 2

See above.

## Troparion

### of Forefeast of the Nativity—Tone 4

Be thou ready, O Bethlehem; for Eden hath  
been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha;  
for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in  
the cave from the Virgin; for her belly did  
appear as a noetic paradise in which is  
planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we  
shall live and not die as Adam. Verily,  
Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that  
fell of old.

## Troparion

### for Sunday before the Nativity Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for  
the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain  
of flames as though at waters of rest. And  
the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to  
the lions as though they were sheep.  
Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ  
God, have mercy upon us.

## Troparion

### for All Saints—Tone 4

As with fine porphyry and royal purple Thy  
Church has been adorned with Thy martyr's  
blood shed throughout all the world. She  
cries to Thee, O Christ God, send down Thy  
bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy  
habitation and great mercy to our souls.

## Kontakion

### for Preparation of Christ's Nativity—Tone 3

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where  
she will give birth in an ineffable manner to  
the Word Who is before all the ages.  
Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou  
hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the  
angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be  
seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is  
before all the ages.

## The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal . . .

## Epistle and Gospel

### Today and Next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

*Epistle:* Gal. 1:11–19

*Gospel:* Matt. 2:13–23

## Alegalynarion

### Tone 8

It is truly meet and right to bless thee . . .

## Communion Hymn

### Tone 8

Praise ye the Lord from the heavens; praise  
Him in the highest. Alleluia.

## After Communion

We have seen the true light . . .

## Parish Notes

### Altar Servers Today

Alexander Sieck, Alexander Haynes, Ethan  
Haynes, Rim Gibrealfa, John Pridgen, Jonah  
Sieck, Michael Fogg, Justin Fogg.

### Special Attention

- **Vote on the New Building Project.** The parish vote last Sunday was almost unanimous (98 For; 3 Against) to build the new church addition. The Parish Council and Fr. Nicholas will now form a building committee to begin the process which should see ground breaking late Fall of 2009.
- **Estimated Giving Forms.** Please complete your **Estimated Giving Form.** *The completed form can be given to Ron Evancho (All Saints Financial Secretary), or to Ray Azrak, or may be left in the weekly offering in an envelope labeled "Estimated Giving Form."*
- **Poinsettias for Christmas.** Poinsettias are needed to decorate the Nave for Christmas. Red preferred. Contact Andrea Haynes if you prefer to donate \$\$ instead (656-0835). Thanks.
- **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services.** Please note the times of services for Dec. 24 and Dec. 25.
- **Baklawa Results.** Good News!! St Thekla Ladies are pleased to announce the results of our Baklawa baking project. The total profit was \$5,867.47 and we would like to again extend our deep appreciation to all who helped make this possible. Complete results, and winners of the contest will be presented after Liturgy today.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our wonderful church family. In XC,

*Mary Elizabeth*

## Epistle and Gospel Readings

### Prokeimenion:

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

*For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.*

### †Epistle: Heb. 11:9–10; 32–40 (RSV)

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 foundations, 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, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so 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 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.

### †Gospel: Matt. 1:1–25 (RSV)

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 Aram, and Aram 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 Amon, and Amon 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

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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 were 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 had 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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**A Word  
from Our Fathers**

“Although pleasant feelings and tears are sometimes experienced, one should not grant them much attention, considering them to be something great. Instead, you should humble yourself, considering yourself to be unworthy of such gifts. The more lofty the lives of the Holy Fathers, the more they belittled and humbled themselves, and humility attracted to them even more so the gifts and grace of God.”

*(St. Marcarius of Optina)*

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Imagine how odd all our Christmas carols  
would sound if the Angels had appeared to  
**GOAT**herds that first Christmas Eve!

DON'T BE A **GOAT**!!

*MORE INFORMATION ON BACK.*

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*“[[Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My  
brethren, you did it to Me.”*

*--Matt. 25:40*

## A Parable

“When the SON OF MAN comes in HIS glory, and all the holy angels with HIM, then HE will sit on the throne of HIS glory. All the nations will be gathered before HIM, and HE will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And HE will set the **SHEEP** on HIS right hand, but the **GOATS** on the left.

“Then the KING will say to those on HIS right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of MY FATHER, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave ME food; I was thirsty and you gave ME drink...’

“Then the righteous will answer HIM, saying, ‘LORD, when did we see YOU hungry and feed YOU, or thirsty and give YOU drink?’

“And the KING will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these MY brethren, you did it to ME.’

“Then HE will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from ME, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave ME no food; I was thirsty and you gave ME no drink...’

“Then they also will answer HIM, saying, ‘LORD, when did we see YOU hungry or thirsty ... and did not minister to YOU?’

“Then HE will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to ME.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

--Matthew 25:31-40