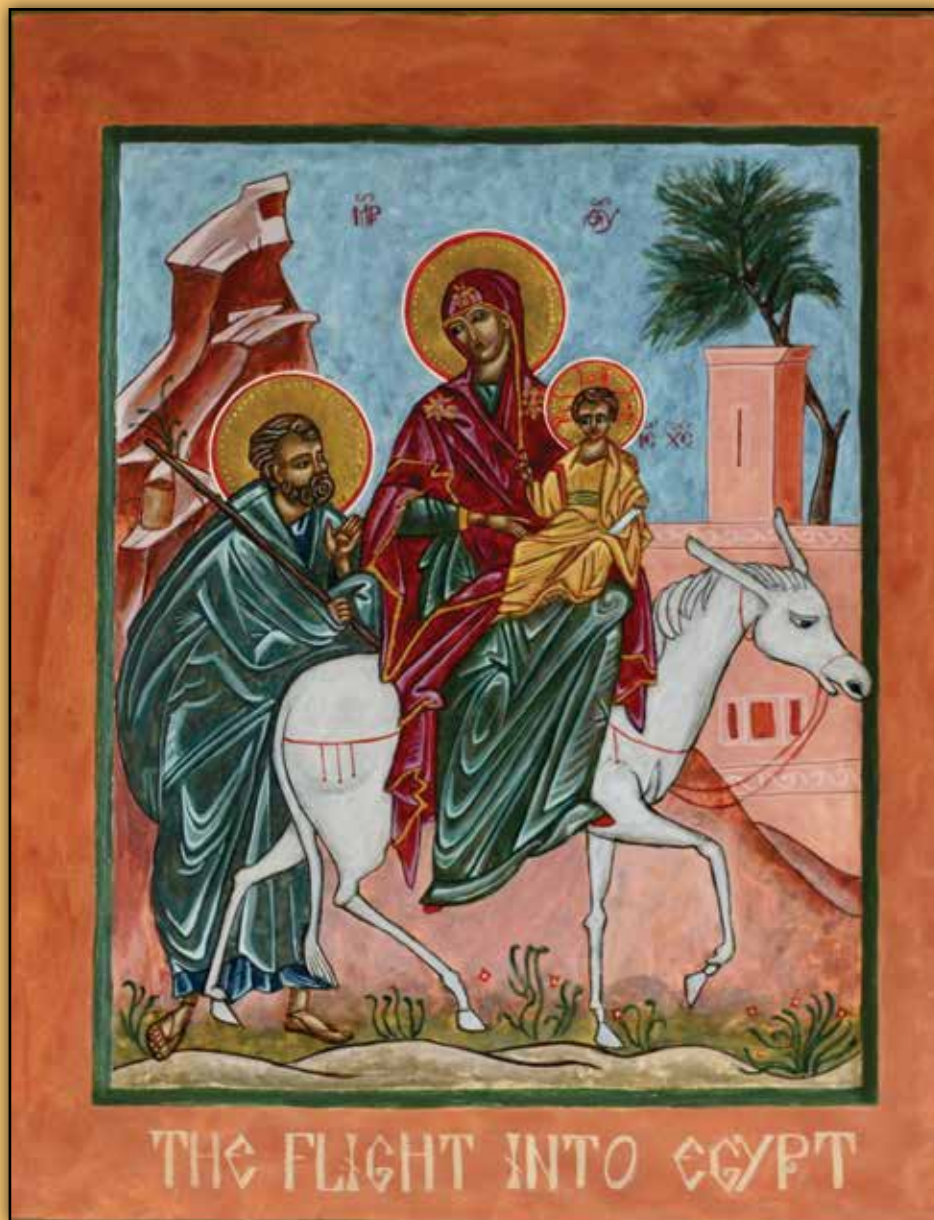


## SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



*Icon of the Flight into Egypt -- Matthew 2:13-23*

<b>December 27, 2020: Sunday After Christmas</b>		
Epistle: Gal. 1: 11-19		Gospel: Mt. 2: 13-23
<b>Mon., Dec. 28</b>	9:00	+ Jacob & Ann Jablonski (Gloria Jablonski)
<b>Tues., Dec. 29</b>	9:00	+ John Sereditch (John Sedlak, Jr.)
<b>Wed., Dec. 30</b>	9:00	+ Diann Yuhnick (Harry Yuhnick)
<b>Thurs. Dec. 31</b>	9:00	+ Evelyn Trently (Eugene Zinsky)
<b>Fri., Jan. 1</b>	<b>Circumcision of Our Lord</b>	
	10:00	+ Nancy Tehensky (Family)
<b>Sat., Jan. 2</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b>	
	2:00 pm Confessions.	
	4:00 pm + John & Olga Yuhnick; + Jimmy Maslar (Family)	
<b>Sun., Jan. 3</b>	10:00	For Our Parishioners

### **Antiphon 1**

I will confess You, Lord, with all my heart,\*

I will declare all Your wondrous deeds.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God,\* O Savior, save us.*

In the council of the just and the congregation,\* great are the works of the Lord,  
conforming to His will in every way.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God,\* O Savior, save us.*

His work is filled with praise and majesty,\*

and His righteousness endures forever.

*Through the prayers of the Mother of God,\* O Savior, save us.*



### **Antiphon 3**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Savior.

*Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.

*Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

For God is the great Lord, and the great king over all the earth.

*Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

## Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

*Son of God, born of a Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.*

## Hymn to the Mother of God

O my soul, magnify Christ the King born in a manger. A strange and glorious mystery do I behold:\* the cave is heaven;\* the Virgin, the throne of the cherubim;\* the manger, a dwelling place\* in which is laid Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain.\* Singing His praises, we magnify Him.

## Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest.

Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;\* praise befits the righteous.

Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.

# NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we stand today on the threshold of a brand New Year, I offered this



us like a gift not yet unwrapped - we wonder what's inside, what will come our way with this New Year. No matter what: happy, sad, easy, difficult, challenging - we can handle it all by holding fast to our faith in God and in His love for us.

So, to all of our parishioners, your families, and your friends: Happy New Year! God bless you all in this New Year 2021, most especially with the best of health! Stay safe! And please pray for me too!

## *Father Nestor*

## KEEP GREETING ONE ANOTHER

A reminder to all: just as we prepared for Christmas with a 40-day preparation and fasting period, so now we celebrate the bright days of Christmas, New Year's, and Theophany for 40 days. Please continue to sing our beautiful Christmas carols, and to greet one another with our traditional "Christos Razhdayetsia! Slavite Yeho!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!" During the darkness of the Winter months, do all you can to keep the bright light of Christ burning brightly! Let Christ shine through you!

**Note:** according to tradition, we continue to sing Christmas carols up until the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The following was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS Sunday Morning Commentary. The article is quite long but certainly is worth reading.

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled tress, Christmas trees... I don't feel threatened... I don't feel discriminated against... That's what they are, Christmas trees.

It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think that they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there

is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu... If people want a crèche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away. I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But

there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her: "How could God let something like this happen?" (regarding Hurricane Katrina). Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said: "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

In light of recent events... terrorist attacks, school shootings, etc... I think that it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK.

Then some of you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal,

and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem. (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves. Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW."

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Are you laughing yet? Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

But, if you discard this thought process, don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in. My Best Regards, Honestly and respectfully.

## **SOME WORDS OF APPRECIATION**

Thank you to all volunteers and participants in our 2020 “COVID” Fund Raising events. You made our Food Truck Festivals, flower and bake sales a huge success. We were able to raise a significant amount of money for our parish with little effort, no outlay of cash, and staying safe during this pandemic. (And, we had fun in the process.) This is a summary of our earnings:

## **WHY GO TO CHURCH?**

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. “I’ve gone for 30 years now,” he wrote, “and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can’t remember a single one of them. So I think I’m wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.” This started a real controversy in the “Letters to the Editor” column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

“I’ve been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked

some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!”

When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and spiritual nourishment!

*Author Unknown*

## **SOME CHRISTMAS HUMOR...**

### **AN ANSWERED PRAYER**

It was the day after Christmas at a Church in San Francisco. The Pastor of the Church was looking over the creche when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures. He hurried outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the infant Jesus. So he walked up to the boy and said, "Well, where did you get your

passenger, my fine friend?"

The little boy replied, "I got Him at Church.

"And why did you take Him?"

The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and I told Him if He would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give Him a ride around the block in it."

## **2021 CHURCH CALENDARS**

The 2021 Church Calendars are available in the back of the Church.

The Calendars are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

## **2020 PARISH DUES**

With the end of 2020 quickly approaching, we offer this gentle reminder to make sure that your 2020 Parish Dues are paid. Also, we remind our Parish Family Members that at

a Parish Meeting in February 2020, it was decided that beginning 2021 Parish Dues will increase to \$50.00 per adult per year. This is less than \$1 per week.

## **COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...**

We ask ALL our Collection Processing Teams to assist in processing our Christmas and Holy Day Collections. on Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00

am. Thank you to all the teams for all the work that you've done throughout the year.

**Sunday Collection for Dec. 19 & 20, 2020: \$**



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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***The Flight into Egypt of the Holy Family***

Egypt is situated to the southwest of Judea, and is distant from Bethlehem perhaps about 60 miles. It was at this time a Roman province. There were many Jews there, who had a temple and synagogues (see the notes at Isaiah 19:18), and Joseph, therefore, would be among his own countrymen, and yet beyond the reach of Herod.

The jurisdiction of Herod extended only to the River Sihon, or "river of Egypt," and, of course, beyond that Joseph was safe from his designs. For a description

of Egypt, see the notes at Isaiah 19. It is remarkable that this is the only time in which our Saviour was out of Palestine, and that this was in the land where the children of Israel had suffered so much and so long under the oppression of the Egyptian kings. The very land which was the land of bondage and groaning for the Jews, became now the land of refuge and safety for the new-born King of Judea.

God can overturn nations and kingdoms, so that those whom he loves shall be safe anywhere.