

The Sunday before the Nativity  
The Sunday of the Holy Fathers  
Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren; And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram; And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon; And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias; And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa; And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias; And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias; And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias; And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon: And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel; And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor; And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud; And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob; And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.(KJV)

## The Sunday before the Feast of the Nativity

The Lord Jesus Christ said: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (Jn 14:6) Serious believers are interested in the truth about the Lord God.

When the Church celebrates Pascha, believers hear from the Gospel: “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”(Jn.1:14)

Today God’s Holy Church is moving into the final days leading to the Feast of Jesus Christ’s Nativity. Interest in truth about God is paramount and centered in this world-wide Church celebration.

God’s Holy Church documents in the Divine services leading to the Feast of the Nativity specific names and prophecies associated with Jesus Christ’s Virgin Birth.

Serious believers have an opportunity to conduct research within the context of the Church to verify known facts and the historical record of Christ’s birth. The Word becoming flesh is embraced, celebrated and proclaimed in the Church.

Immeasurable changes in the world inaugurated due to Jesus Christ’s birth bear witness to and verify the authenticity. Believers immersed in preparing for the Feast come to know personally in the Church the truth of the Virgin Birth.

The Church moves as a whole through the centuries and throughout the world to prepare and to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity. Lives change, are enriched and become new in Christ.

Truth and verifiable evidence are synonymous. Serious believers come to know Christ in the Church and to experience Christ’s Virgin Birth. The heart, mind and soul embrace and know the certainty of the authentic truth of the evidence.

God does not disappoint serious believers. The Lord Jesus Christ said: “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (Jn.8:32) The light, joy and peace associated with Jesus Christ’s birth continue to prevail through the centuries.

The days leading to the Feast of the Nativity and Feast itself offer the interested and the attentive believers complete and verifiable truths to embrace, celebrate, share and proclaim.

God is due everlasting gratitude. Life exists, is enriched and becomes new in the Feast of the Nativity. Life is inseparable from the New Born Christ Child and the Ever-Existing Christ.

God’s Holy Church welcomes and encourages believers to become immersed in the joy, the peace and the truth of the Feast of the Nativity. God’s everlasting love is manifested in the Word taking on human flesh and dwelling among us.(Jn.1:14)

---

The Sunday before the Nativity-Sunday of the Holy Fathers. St. Ignatius the God-bearer. St. Daniel II of Serbia. Serbian Fathers’ Day, December 20, 2021/January 2, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic