

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 Nativity  
The Sunday of the Holy Fathers

St. Matthew's Gospel describes the miraculous Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is certainly needed in the present world. Jesus Christ is needed in the world in every century until His glorious Second Coming.

The Virgin Birth is proof of Christ's Divinity and witnesses to the action of the Holy Spirit. The uniting of Divine and human occurs in the Virgin Birth. Jesus Christ is Perfect God and Perfect Man.

The Lord Jesus Christ is associated with and is the personification of peace. Today's world is filled with violence and has much to learn from Jesus Christ. Too often aggression, anger and violence manifest themselves.

Violence is not new to society. Violence occurred following Jesus' birth (Mt.2:16) Jesus, Himself, was eventually crucified.. Each person determines whether to participate in and how to respond to violence.

The way individuals live can add to the climate of violence or to a climate of peace. The Lord Jesus Christ teaches the path to peace and the Heavenly Kingdom. The Lord Jesus Christ offers eternal life.

Each person chooses what to think about. Careers and goals in life are personal choices. Whether to live in Christ and follow Christ are personal choices. God's Holy Church welcomes each person freely choosing to enter and follow Christ.

The Birth of Jesus Christ changed the world. Jesus Christ's birth was long expected. Evidence exists in the Holy Prophets about Christ's birth. The liturgical services of the Church draw from the Prophets in preparing for the Feast.

The liturgical celebrations of the Feast are rooted in history. The present Gospel identifies specific names associated with the birth of Jesus Christ. The present Gospel contains the known words of the Prophet Isaiah. (Is.7:14)

Believers are given one life to live. The time of life comes only once. Each person chooses whether to live in ways pleasing to the Lord. Each person decides whether to promote peace or pursue it.

Violence begets violence. Expressed anger often leads to bad results. Choices made in life have results and consequences. Jesus Christ' birth offers the way to peace. Jesus Christ offers the path to lasting peace.

God's Church is where to find and promote peace. Jesus Christ exists in the Church and in the Holy Mysteries of the Church. Jesus Christ is alive and emanates from the Holy Gospel. Now is the time to seek and promote the peace of Christ.

---

The Forefeast of the Nativity. The Sunday of the Holy Fathers.

Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete. Venerable Naum of Ochrid. Serbian Fathers' Day.

December 23, 2024/January 5, 2025. Father Rodney Torbic