

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES

Tues. Nov. 1	6:30 pm	ASONA Bible Study
Sat. Nov. 5	5 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. Nov. 6	11 am	Divine Liturgy
Tues. Nov. 8	6:30 pm	ASONA Bible Study
Sat. Nov. 12	5 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. Nov. 13	11 am	Divine Liturgy

MEDIA TEAM. ASONA is looking for individuals who can join an outreach Media team. If you are interested, please see Fr. John.

ARIZONA BISHOP'S ITEMS

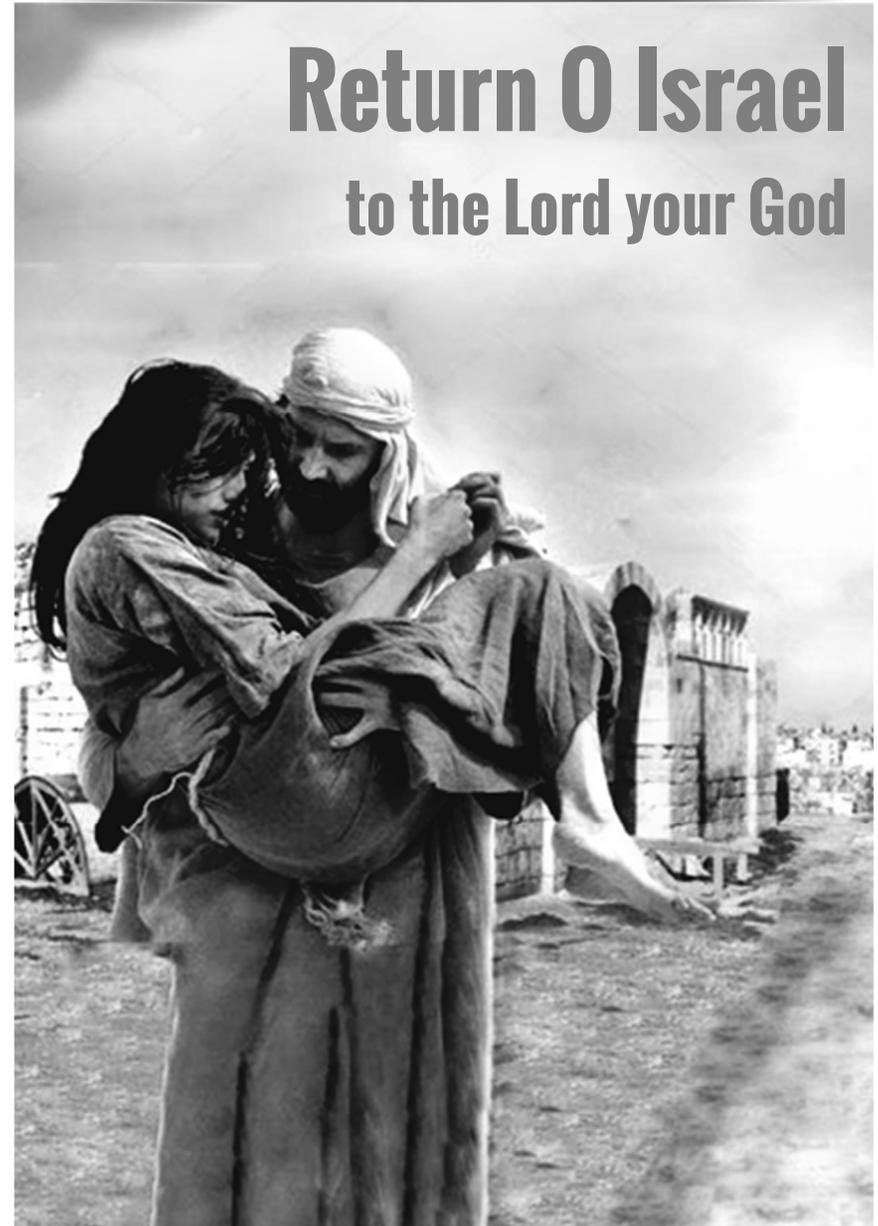
Can you help us by sponsoring any Episcopal visitation items? The local ROCOR Arizona churches must raise around \$6000 to obtain the items needed for regular pastoral visits from our bishops.

All donations are helpful!

PARISH TEXT ALERTS

Sign up easily! **Text ASONA to 84576**

stay up to date via email or text alerts - Remember to add your name



Return O Israel
to the Lord your God



Prokeimenon in Tone 3 (Ps 47)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

EPISTLES: GALATIANS 1:11-19

BRETHREN, I make known to you that the Gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.+

Alleluia in Tone 3 (Ps 31)

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!
Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!

GOSPELS: LUKE 8:5-15

THE LORD SPOKE THIS PARABLE, "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold. When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."



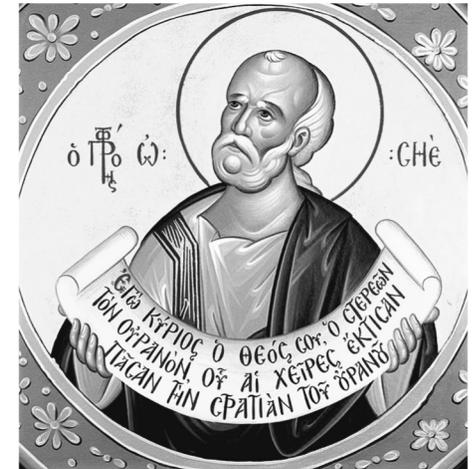


SAINTS ALIVE

The lives and deeds of the heroes of our faith

PROPHET HOSEA

The Holy Prophet Hosea the first of the minor prophets, belonged to the tribe of Issachar. He lived during the ninth Century before Christ, in the kingdom of Israel. He was a contemporary of the holy Prophets Isaiah, Micah and Amos. During this time, many of his fellow Israelites had forgotten the true God, and worshipped idols. The holy Prophet attempted to turn them again to the faith of their Fathers by his wise counsels.



Denouncing the iniquities of the people of Israel (i.e. the northern kingdom Israel), the prophet proclaimed to them great misfortunes from a foreign people and their removal into captivity by Assyria.

Almost a thousand years before the coming of the Savior, and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the prophet foretold the end of sacrificial offerings and of the priesthood of Aaron (Hos. 3:4-5), and that the knowledge of the True God would spread through all the earth (Hos. 2:20-23). Hosea spoke also about Christ, how He would return from out of Egypt (Hos. 11:1; compare Mt. 2:15), that He would be resurrected on the third day (Hos. 6 and especially Hos.6:2; compare with 1 Cor.15:4), and that He would conquer death (Hos.13-14. Compare 1 Cor.15:54-55).

The prophesies of Saint Hosea are included in the book that bears his name. The prophetic service of Saint Hosea continued for more than sixty years. The God-inspired prophet died in deep old age, having devoted all his life to fulfilling the Will of God.+



THE ASDNA CHRISTMAS PAGE IS UP

arizonaorthodox.com/Christmas

*Time to study up on what we really believe, and we have done the work for you! We often hear it said that Jesus was not “really” born December 25th; that this date is a mere fiction, appropriated by church authorities in an attempt to Christianize the pagan solstice, or festival of the sun. However, such charges are actually recent. **Learn the truth. Defend the faith!***

How We Can Know When Christ Was Born

Why do we celebrate the Nativity of Christ on December 25th? Christians should be aware that the Church is a reliable and authentic bearer of truth, and a faithful witness of God’s interactions with man in history. You’ve probably seen many of the strange claims about it. They are all completely false, and even a cursory examination into these claims reveals their falsehood.

The Biblical Case for the Dec. 25th

We often hear it said that Jesus was not “really” born December 25th; the 25th was received as the actual date of Christ’s birth, handed down from earliest times. In fact, the evidence from scripture and sacred history supporting the December 25th birth of Christ is actually very substantial.

The Origins of Christmas and the Date of Christ’s Birth

Chronological evidence strongly favors December 25th being the actual date of the nativity, such that the assumption Christmas is unconnected with the date of Christ’s birth is no longer academically defensible or sound. Although many Reformers took no exception to Christmas, various Calvinist sects, including Puritans and Scottish Presbyterians, saw it as a piece of fiction, and went so far as to prohibit its observance in England, Scotland, and the American Colonies.

Calculating Christmas

William Tighe explodes the notion we were all taught in public school about the ‘Christianization’ of a pagan festival for the date of Christmas. December 25th had nothing to do with pagan festivals. The “pagan origins of Christmas” is a myth without historical substance.

Census Considerations

On the Dateline NBC’s “The Birth of Jesus” episode, Dr. John Dominic Crossan, co-founder of the wildly popular Jesus Seminar, called into question the historical veracity of Holy Scripture. Said Crossan: “Luke tells us the story that at the time Jesus was born Augustus had decreed a census of the whole earth. Now, every scholar will tell you there was no such census ever.” Is Crossan correct? Is the Canon corrupt?

A Pagan Records the Slaughter of the Holy Innocents by Herod

Matthew says that when Herod realized the magi were not going to return, he ordered the slaughter of all male children two years old and under in Bethlehem and the neighboring towns (Matt. 2:16-18). The witness of Matthew and John is corroborated by a pagan writer named Macrobius.

Six Men Who FAILED to Paganize the Origins of Christmas

Every Christmas season, the usual myths are hauled out and distributed for popular consumption. You know them. We’ve all heard or read them. That Christmas celebrations were stolen from the Romans, the Christmas tree is pagan, etc. All of them were invented in the 18th- and 19th-centuries by specific writers, who were looking for ways to finally destroy traditional Christianity. Six writers of such legends have had the most long-reaching influence, despite peddling in ahistorical and groundless suppositions.

Christmas Trees: Pagan or Biblical? In Defense of the Christmas Tree

The Christmas Tree? Pagan? The Christmas tree does not date from early Germanic times. Its origins are to be found in a tradition that has virtually disappeared from Christianity, the Liturgical Drama.

How to Avoid Holiday Depression

Much of the post-holiday blues and Christmas depression that occur in the United States may have to do with the way Christmas is celebrated in the U.S. People often feel deprived and lonely, in stark contrast to all of the pre-Christmas cheer. Changing the way the holiday is celebrated can yield completely different results. If you, or someone you know, suffers from Holiday depression, maybe its time to take it seriously, and take action to extinguish its causes.

*Our Christmas page includes the hilarious
“Horus Ruins Christmas” videos.*