

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Fri. Jan. 6	8:30 am 6 pm	Royal Hours for Nativity Festal Vigil Eve of Nativity
Sat. Jan 7	10 am	Festal Nativity Liturgy
Sun. Jan 8	11 am	Divine Liturgy
Sat. Jan 14	5 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. Jan 15	11 am	Divine Liturgy
Wed. Jan 18	8:30 am 6 pm	Royal Hours for Theophany Festal Vigil Eve Theophany
Thurs. Jan. 19	10 am	Festal Liturgy Theophany w/ Great Blessing of Waters

Be sure to pick up your 2023 ASONA Parish Calendar today!

**Remember ASONA in your year-end giving.** ASONA can receive post dated checks until Jan. 7th, as well as gifts of funds, securities, vehicles, real estate, and more. Also, remember us in your estate planning, and contact us if you need more information, and God bless you richly this season.

**FLOCKNOTE.** Did you know - you must personally sign up for the Flocknote texts and emails (see below). If you do not add your name to Flocknote, you will be removed after a month. Please add your name and phone number! Go to [ASONA.flocknote.com](https://asona.flocknote.com) and sign up online!

*Sign up easily! Text ASONA to 84576*

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

## ALL SAINTS OF ORTHODOX NORTH AMERICA CHURCH

SUN. JAN. 1, 2023

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

TONE 4



### Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone (Song of the Fathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

### EPISTLE: HEBREWS 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

**B**RETHREN, by faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.+

### Alleluia in Tone 4 (Ps 44)

We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.

For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us.

### GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:1-25

**T**he book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot 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, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.+

# NATIVITY SERVICES



**Nativity services will take place this Friday and Saturday.**

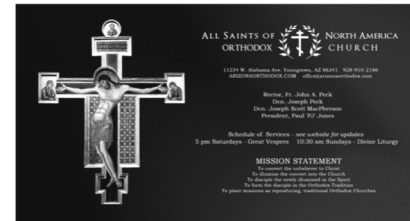
Eve of Nativity	Fri. Jan. 6	6:30 pm	Vesperal Liturgy
Nativity	Sat. Jan. 7	10 am	Festal Liturgy

***Make note of it on your calendars!***

***See you there!***



# 2023 ASONA Calendars are here



This year's ASONA Church calendars are in, and are sporting an image of Cimabue's crucifix on a red/blue background.

***Be sure to pick one up today!***

All of the Daily Scripture readings, fasting instructions, daily saints, and all feasts and fasts are included on this useful liturgical guide!

***Get them before they're gone!***



BENEFITTING THOSE IN THE ARIZONA FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

## THANK YOU!

*Thank you to EVERYONE who helped out with this year's Giving Tree, and especially thanks to our Giving Tree coordinator, Shae Slaughter!*

*Thanks to you, we were able to give some holiday cheer to those who would otherwise have been forgotten by the world.*

# SAINTS ALIVE

*The lives and deeds of the heroes of our faith*

## ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

The Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer, was a disciple of the holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, as was also Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (February 23). Saint Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch, after Euodius, Apostle of the 70 (Sept 7) and St. Peter the Apostle.

Tradition suggests that when Saint Ignatius was a little boy, the Savior hugged him and said: "Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt. 18:3). The saint was called "God-Bearer" (Theophoros), because he bore God in his heart and prayed unceasingly to Him.

Saint Ignatius was a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, together with Saint Polycarp of Smyrna. As Bishop of Antioch, Saint Ignatius was zealous and spared no effort to build up the church of Christ. To him is attributed the practice of antiphonal singing (by two choirs) during church services. He had seen a vision of the angels in heaven alternately singing praises to God, and divided his church choir to follow this example.

In the year 106 the emperor Trajan (98-117) ordered everyone to give thanks to the pagan gods, and to put to death any Christians who refused to worship the idols. In Antioch, they told him that Bishop Ignatius openly confessed Christ, and taught people to scorn riches, to lead a virtuous life, and preserve their virginity.

Saint Ignatius came voluntarily before the emperor, so as to avert persecution of the Christians in Antioch. The emperor then decided to send him to Rome to be thrown to the wild beasts. Saint Ignatius joyfully accepted the sentence imposed upon him. His readiness for martyrdom was attest-



ed to by eyewitnesses, who accompanied Saint Ignatius from Antioch to Rome.

On the way to Rome, the ship sailed from Seleucia stopped at Smyrna, where Saint Ignatius met with his friend Bishop Polycarp. Clergy and believers from other cities and towns thronged to see Saint Ignatius. He exhorted everyone not to fear death and not to grieve for him. From Smyrna, Saint Ignatius went to Troas. Here he heard the happy news of the end of the persecution against Christians in Antioch. From Troas, Saint Ignatius sailed to Neapolis (in Macedonia) and then to Philippi.

On the way to Rome Saint Ignatius wrote seven epistles: to the churches of Ephesus, Magnesia, Tralles, Rome, Philadelphia, and Smyrna. He also addressed a letter to Saint Polycarp, who mentions a collection of the letters of Saint Ignatius in his letter to the Philippians (Ch. 13). All these letters have survived to the present day.

The Roman Christians met Saint Ignatius with great joy and profound sorrow. Some of them hoped to prevent his execution, but Saint Ignatius implored them not to do this. Kneeling down, he prayed together with the believers for the Church, for love between the brethren, and for an end to the persecution against Christians.

On December 20, the day of a pagan festival, they led Saint Ignatius into the arena. After this the lions were released and tore him to pieces, leaving only his heart and a few bones.

Tradition says that on his way to execution, Saint Ignatius unceasingly repeated the name of Jesus Christ. When they asked him why he was doing this, Saint Ignatius answered that this Name was written in his heart, and that he confessed with his lips Him Whom he always carried within. When the saint was devoured by the lions, his heart was not touched. When they cut open the heart, the pagans saw an inscription in gold letters: "Jesus Christ."

After his execution Saint Ignatius appeared to many of the faithful in their sleep to comfort them, and some saw him at prayer for the city of Rome. Hearing of the saint's great courage, Trajan thought well of him and stopped the persecution against the Christians. The relics of Saint Ignatius were transferred to Antioch (January 29), and on February 1, 637 were returned to Rome and placed in the church of San Clemente.

*Holy Father Ignatius, pray unto God for us!*

## Glory to God for All Things!