

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Mon. Dec. 4	10 am	Entrance of Theotokos Festal Liturgy
Sat. Dec. 9	5 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. Dec. 10	8 am	Divine Liturgy
Sat. Dec. 16	5 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. Dec. 17	8 am	Divine Liturgy
Sat. Dec. 23	5 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. Dec. 24	8 am	Divine Liturgy



DON'T FORGET  
TODAY IS THE  
DEADLINE FOR  
GIVING TREE  
GIVING!

Remember, pray for peace,  
And pray for each other!

**PRAYER HAS POWER.**



### ASONA TEXT ALERTS

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

And get on our parish text alerts list, and stay up to date via email or text alerts. Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. There is no charge for this service, but carrier message and data rates may apply.



### Prokeimenon in Tone 1 (Ps 33)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!

### In the 7th Tone

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints!

### EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 5:8-19: HEBREWS 7:26-8:2

**B**RETHREN, for once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

**B**RETHREN, for it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.+

### Alleluia in Tone 1 (Ps 95)

God gives vengeance to me and subdues people under me!  
He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever!

### And in the 6th Tone (Ps 36)

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments!

### GOSPEL: LUKE 12:16-21; JOHN 10:9-16

**T**HE LORD SAID THIS PARABLE, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."+

**T**HE LORD SAID TO THE JEWS WHO CAME TO HIM, "I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd."+



“LET US ATTEND!”

# Deadline for Giving Tree gifts is today!



## THE ASONA CHRISTMAS PAGE IS UP

[arizonaorthodox.com/Christmas](http://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!***

### **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.

### **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.

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

# New Testament Challenge

## 25 DAYS

- 1. Matthew 1-9
- 2. Matthew 10-18
- 3. Matthew 19-28
- 4. Mark 1-8
- 5. Mark 9-16
- 6. Luke 1-8
- 7. Luke 9-16
- 8. Luke 17-24
- 9. John 1-7
- 10. John 8-13
- 11. John 14-21
- 12. Acts 1-9
- 13. Acts 10-19
- 14. Acts 20-28
- 15. Romans 1-8
- 16. Romans 9-16
- 17. 1 Corinthians 1-9
- 18. 1 Corinthians 10-16
- 19. 2 Corinthians 1-13
- 20. Galatians - Colossians
- 21. 1 Thessalonians - 2 Timothy
- 22. Titus - Hebrews
- 23. James - 2 Peter
- 24. 1,2,3 John - Jude
- 25. Revelation 1- 22

## 40 DAYS

- 1. Matthew 1-7
- 2. Matthew 8-12
- 3. Matthew 13-18
- 4. Matthew 19-24
- 5. Matthew 25-28
- 6. Mark 1-4
- 7. Mark 5-8
- 8. Mark 9-12
- 9. Mark 13-16
- 10. Luke 1-3
- 11. Luke 4-7
- 12. Luke 8-11
- 13. Luke 12-16
- 14. Luke 17-21
- 15. Luke 22-24
- 16. John 1-5
- 17. John 6-10
- 18. John 11-16
- 19. John 17-21
- 20. Acts 1-6
- 21. Acts 7-10
- 22. Acts 11-16
- 23. Acts 17-22
- 24. Acts 23-28
- 25. Romans 1-8
- 26. Romans 9-16
- 27. 1 Corinthians 1-9
- 28. 1 Corinthians 10-16
- 29. 2 Corinthians 1-13
- 30. Galatians - Ephesians
- 31. Philippians - Colossians
- 32. 1-2 Thessalonians
- 33. 1 -2 Timothy
- 34. Titus - Philemon
- 35. Hebrews 1-10
- 36. Hebrews 11-13 & James
- 37. 1- 2 Peter
- 38. 1 John - Jude
- 39. Revelation 1-11
- 40. Revelation 12-22