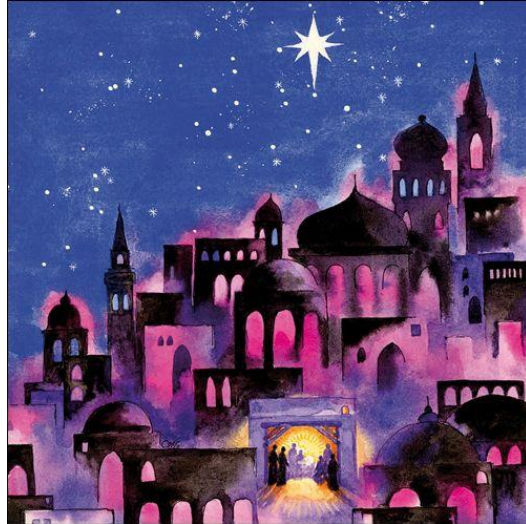


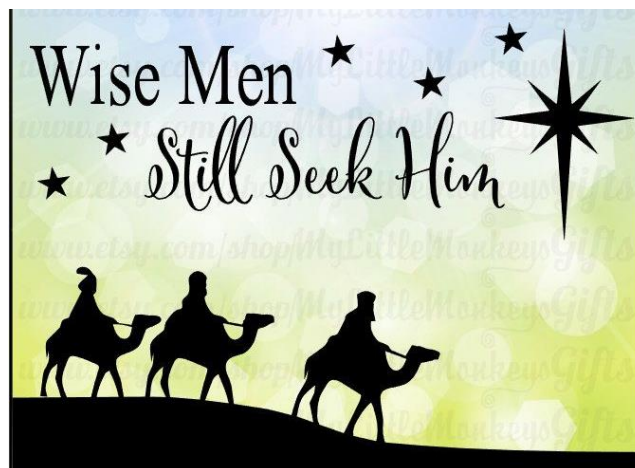


Guide to: CHRISTMAS 2015



"DON'T LET THE EXCITEMENT OF YOUTH CAUSE YOU TO FORGET YOUR CREATOR.
HONOR HIM IN YOUR YOUTH BEFORE YOU GROW OLD AND SAY,
'LIFE IS NOT PLEASANT ANYMORE.'
REMEMBER HIM BEFORE THE LIGHT OF THE
SUN, MOON, AND STARS IS DIM TO YOUR OLD EYES, AND RAIN CLOUDS
CONTINUALLY DARKEN YOUR SKY.
REMEMBER HIM BEFORE YOUR LEGS, THE GUARDS OF YOUR HOUSE,
START TO TREMBLE; AND BEFORE YOUR SHOULDERS, THE STRONG MEN, STOOP.
REMEMBER HIM BEFORE YOUR TEETH, YOUR FEW REMAINING SERVANTS,
STOP GRINDING; AND BEFORE YOUR EYES,
THE WOMEN LOOKING THROUGH THE WINDOWS, SEE DIMLY."

ECCLESIASTES 12:1 -3



MY DEAR PARENTS, I cannot stress enough how tremendously important and decisive your role is in the Christian formation of your children. You cannot expect them to grow up and be faithful to their Church and Traditions, without, YOU, installing that in their hearts! No one else can do that; not the priest, not the Sunday school teacher, nor anyone else, but only YOU. The others can help you and build upon the foundation that you create but you are the only ones who can build that foundation.

Christmas, the feast of the Birth of our Lord, is very much obscured by the commercial spirit and consumerism that characterizes our times; still, it is a great opportunity for everyone to feel the tenderness of the feast and to create in the young hearts moving and devotional experiences.

I look forward to celebrating with you and your beloved families, these most heartfelt Feasts.

In Christ Born,

Fr. Nick

Let your children participate in caroling: an unforgettable and joyful tradition of our heritage.

Christmas Carols: Wednesday, Dec. 23, meet at 5:00 p.m.; depart at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

4-5:30 PM – Christmas Eve Liturgy; an opportunity to receive Christ and celebrate His Birthday for people who are *heading out for Christmas Eve parties* and may not come to Church on Christmas morning.

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

7:00 AM – Christmas Orthros & at 8:00 Christmas Liturgy (We will finish around 9:30 a.m.)

This is the Birth-Day of our Lord. By tradition the service starts very early in the morning and finishes at dawn. It is an amazing experience, to wake up early on Christmas day and from the wintriness and coldness of the day arrive to the sweet warmth of the Christmas Church! Our service is adjusted to our mode of life (not very early, not very late).

New Year Carols: Saturday, Dec. 30, meet at 5:00 p.m.; depart at 6:00 p.m.

New Year, Friday, January 1

11:00 AM – We cut the *Vasilopita!*

Theophany, Wednesday, January 6

The Great Feast of Lights

8:00 AM – *Divine Liturgy* • 10:30 AM – *Great Blessing of the Waters*

