

**SAINT JAMES ORTHODOX CHURCH, MODESTO, CALIFORNIA**  
**VARIABLE READINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 22, 2024**

- Today, after Liturgy—**Nativity Pageant, followed by Bake Sale.** Please support the bake sale being held in the Teen SOYO Sunday School room, which will raise money for the St. James Ice Skating event.
- Today, 1:00 to 2:00 PM—**“Our Faith” class for inquirers and catechumens** in the Old Fellowship Hall **AND Kid’s Club.**
- Monday, December 23, 6:30 PM—**St. Theophan Men’s Group meeting.**
- Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 AM—**First and Third Royal Hours of Nativity.**
- Tuesday, December 24, noon—**Sixth and Ninth Royal Hours of Nativity, with Typica.**
- Tuesday, December 24, 10:00 PM—**Festal Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Christmas, followed by a Christmas festal potluck** to break the fast.
- Saturday, December 28, 6:00 PM—**Great Vespers.**

**ST. JAMES ICE SKATING EVENT—DECEMBER 29TH**

All St. James youth are invited for ice skating and pizza at Modesto On Ice (at the corner of K and 11th). Adults are welcome to participate as well! Additional adult skating tickets are \$16, and extra pizza is \$20 each. Please RSVP to Shannon Rocha TODAY (text to 209-380-8276).

**ORDER OF SAINT IGNATIUS**

December is dedicated to The Order of St. Ignatius, in honor of our patron saint whose feast day is on December 20. If you are interested in learning more about or joining this philanthropic arm of our Archdiocese, see Roberta Sardell.

**OLD CALENDAR CHRISTMAS WITH ST. SAVA SERBIAN CHURCH**

St. Sava Serbian Church in Jackson has invited the members of St. James to join them in celebrating their annual Božić (Christmas) Celebration on Tuesday, January 7th at 10:00 AM. Please let Ryan Collins know if you are interested in going.

**SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER**

St. Thekla Antiochian Women are promoting a national Act of Mercy to support CASA CUNA BABY ORPHANAGE, the new baby addition to Project Mexico and the St. Innocent Orphanage. Help by making direct donations online—<https://projectmexico.org/AW> for basic care and necessities—or by sending a check to Project Mexico, PO Box 8210, Pasadena, CA 91109-8210 and noting “Antiochian Woman Fundraiser.” Or try the Orphanage’s Amazon wish list to donate specific items needed: <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/1KUXBC1SJZGVZ>

**WALK FOR LIFE**

On Saturday, **January 25**, the St James OCLife chapter will be travelling to San Francisco to attend the Walk for Life as well as venerate the relics of St. John Maximovitch. It is a blessed day surrounded by thousands of fellow Christians, praying and singing for those who are never given a voice. We will be joined by many fellow Orthodox from throughout California, including Fr. Josiah and his parishioners from Riverside, for a liturgy and prayer service for the unborn. If you are interested in attending or have questions, please reach out to Reader Joel.

**WINTER SACRED MUSIC INSTITUTE**

Those who are choir members or chanters, please consider attending the 2025 winter session of the Sacred Music Institute, being held in Van Nuys, California this year from January 30 through February 2.

## PLANNING FOR THE 2025 PROJECT MEXICO HOME BUILDING TRIP

Saint James Church is beginning to organize for the 2025 Project Mexico Mission Trip! Please see the information and utilize the links below to learn how you can be part of this extraordinary project! Apply now for Week 5 at <https://www.projectmexico.org/summer-homebuilding>. **Registration DEADLINE for ALL participants is January 15, 2025!** OR pay a \$100 deposit by December 15 and get an Early Bird Discount!

## CROSSROADS SUMMER APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

Embark on a summer experience that will deepen your faith, broaden your perspective, and help you uncover your unique calling. So. Cal. sessions available! Our SOYO Secretary, Andrew Swehla, was blessed to be able to join the 2023 Institute last summer, and will give a few words at Fellowship this Sunday about his experience! <https://crossroadinstitute.org/>

## BIRTHDAYS, FEAST DAYS, AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday before Christmas (this year, December 22)—Claire Luis and Melissah Perez (St. Esther and St. Ruth)  
December 22—Katie Matich’s feast day (St. Anastasia)  
December 23—Clarence Paterson, David Johne, and Joseph Guererro’s birthdays  
December 24—Markus Hick’s birthday  
December 26—Sarah Quilici and Heather Reed’s birthdays  
December 27—Garrett Walker, Steve Rocha, and Steven Steelman’s feast day (St. Stephen)  
December 27—Matthew Patterson’s birthday  
December 30—Genesis Vasquez’s birthday

## PROSPHORA & FELLOWSHIP LUNCH SPONSORSHIP

*Please be in touch with Stephanie Collins if you would like to change scheduled dates, or have questions about the schedule. Note: Fellowship lunch sponsors are responsible for clean-up unless otherwise noted.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Prospora</b>	<b>Fellowship lunch sponsor</b>
Sunday, December 22	Sh. Yolanda Diaz	Larisa Harms & friends
Sunday, December 29	Lauren Forquer	Ryan Swehla, Robert Machado & others —Shwarma party

## CANDLE MAKING TEAM *(See Sh. Salwa for details)*

Sunday, December 22	Candle threading
Sunday, December 29	Candle dipping

## SENIOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADJACENT TO ST. JAMES

If you are 55+ years old, live on a fixed income, and would like to live closer to your church community, the senior housing behind St. James (Sherwood Manor) will periodically have units available for rent. These units are rent-restricted affordable housing for seniors who qualify (income needs to be below certain levels). If you are interested in exploring renting there, please contact the church office ([office@saintjamesmodesto.org](mailto:office@saintjamesmodesto.org)) and we can connect you with the property manager.

## PILGRIMAGE THROUGH THE PSALMS:

Use the readings for week 8 on the master schedule (see pages 6 and 7).

**SYNAXARION FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024**  
**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)**  
**GREAT-MARTYR ANASTASIA THE DELIVERER FROM POTIONS**  
**AND HER TEACHER THE MARTYR CHRYSOGONOS**

On December 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Great-martyr Anastasia the deliverer from potions, and her teacher, the Martyr Chrysogonos.

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths.

It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

**TODAY'S VARIABLE HYMNS:**

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 1)**

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY (TONE 4)**

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforesime.

**APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY (TONE 2)**

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

**TROPARION OF SAINT JAMES (TONE 4)**

As a disciple of the Lord, righteous James, thou didst receive the Gospel; and as a martyr thou art never turned away; as the brother of God thou hast boldness; and as a hierarch thou dost always intercede. Entreat Christ God, that He save our souls.

## **KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY (TONE 3)**

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth at the message. With the angels and shepherds give glory to Him Who shall appear by His own will as a young Child, He who is from eternity God.

## **THE EPISTLE**

*Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.*

*For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.*

## **THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE HEBREWS**

**(11:9-10, 32-40)**

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

## **THE GOSPEL**

## **THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW**

**(1:1-25)**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that

which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

Notes about the **Pilgrimage through the Psalms Project.**

- Sunday, November 3 through Saturday, November 9, use the readings for Week One.
- Sunday, November 10 through Saturday, November 16, use the readings for Week Two.
- Sunday, November 17 through Saturday, November 23, use the readings for Week Three.
- Sunday, November 24 through Saturday, November 30, use the readings for Week Four.
- Sunday, December 1 through Saturday, December 7, use the readings for Week Five.
- Sunday, December 8 through Saturday, December 14, use the readings for Week Six.
- Sunday, December 15 through Saturday, December 21 use the readings for Week Seven.
- Sunday, December 22 through Saturday, December 28, use the readings for Week Eight.
- Sunday, December 29 through Saturday, January 4, use the readings for Week Nine.

If you are reading from an Eastern Orthodox or Greek translation of the Psalms, such as *The Orthodox Study Bible*, *The Psalter According to the Seventy* (published by Holy Transfiguration Monastery) or *The Ancient Faith Psalter* (published by Ancient Faith Publishing), use the following Septuagint numbering.



**Pilgrimage Through  
The Psalms**


LXX/ Septuagint	Week 1*	Week 2*	Week 3*	Week 4*	Week 5*	Week 6*	Week 7**	Week 8**	Unit 9**
	Stasis 1	Stasis 2	Stasis 3	Stasis 1	Stasis 2	Stasis 3	Stasis 1	Stasis 2	Stasis 3
<b>Sunday</b>	9-10 Kathisma 2	11-13 Kathisma 2	14-16 Kathisma 2	17 Kathisma 3	18-20 Kathisma 3	21-23 Kathisma 3			
<b>Monday</b>	24-26 Kathisma 4	27-29 Kathisma 4	30-31 Kathisma 4	32-33 Kathisma 5	34-35 Kathisma 5	36 Kathisma 5	37-39 Kathisma 6	40-42 Kathisma 6	43-45 Kathisma 6
<b>Tuesday</b>	46-48 Kathisma 7	49-50 Kathisma 7	51-54 Kathisma 7	55-57 Kathisma 8	58-60 Kathisma 8	61-63 Kathisma 8	64-66 Kathisma 9	67 Kathisma 9	68-69 Kathisma 9
<b>Wednesday</b>	70-71 Kathisma 10	72-73 Kathisma 10	74-76 Kathisma 10	77 Kathisma 11	78-80 Kathisma 11	81-84 Kathisma 11	85-87 Kathisma 12	88 Kathisma 12	89-90 Kathisma 12
<b>Thursday</b>	91-93 Kathisma 13	94-96 Kathisma 13	97-100 Kathisma 13	101-102 Kathisma 14	103 Kathisma 14	104 Kathisma 14	105 Kathisma 15	106 Kathisma 15	107-108 Kathisma 15
<b>Friday</b>	134-136 Kathisma 19	137-139 Kathisma 19	140-142 Kathisma 19	143-144 Kathisma 20	145-147 Kathisma 20	148-150 Kathisma 20	119-123 Kathisma 18	125-128 Kathisma 18	129-133 Kathisma 18
<b>Saturday</b>	109-11 Kathisma 16	112-114 Kathisma 16	115-117 Kathisma 16	118:1-72 Kathisma 17	118:73-131 Kathisma 17	118:132- 176 Kathisma 17	1-3 Kathisma 1	4-6 Kathisma 1	7-8 Kathisma 1

\*Liturgically at Matins/Orthros.

\*\*Liturgically at Vespers.

Note: If you wish to pray the full cycle of the Psalms as done in monasteries then read all of the “weeks” (1-6 for Morning, 7-9 for evening) for the given day.

If you are reading from the Masoretic or Hebrew translation of the Psalms, such as the King James Version (KJV), the New International Version (NIV), or the Revised Standard Version (RSV), use the Masoretic / Western numbering.



## Pilgrimage Through The Psalms

Hebrew/ Masoretic	Week 1*	Week 2*	Week 3*	Week 4*	Week 5*	Week 6*	Week 7**	Week 8**	Unit 9**
	Stasis 1	Stasis 2	Stasis 3	Stasis 1	Stasis 2	Stasis 3	Stasis 1	Stasis 2	Stasis 3
<b>Sunday</b>	9-11	12-14	15-17	18	19-21	22-24			
<b>Monday</b>	25-27	28-30	31-32	33-34	35-36	37	38-40	41-43	44-46
<b>Tuesday</b>	47-49	50-51	52-55	56-58	59-61	62-64	65-67	68	69-70
<b>Wednesday</b>	71-72	73-74	75-77	78	79-81	82-85	86-88	89	90-91
<b>Thursday</b>	92-94	95-97	98-101	102-103	104	105	106	107	108-109
<b>Friday</b>	135-137	138-140	141-143	144-145	146-147	148-150	120-124	125-129	130-134
<b>Saturday</b>	110-112	113-116:9	116:10-118	119:1-72	119:73-131	119:132-176	1-3	4-6	7-8

\*Liturgically at Matins/Orthros.

\*\*Liturgically at Vespers.

Note: If you wish to pray the full cycle of the Psalms as done in monasteries then read all of the "weeks" (1-6 for Morning, 7-9 for evening) for the given day.