

**ST. ELIJAH ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**THE SPIRITUAL CENTER OF THE DIOCESE OF WICHITA AND MID-AMERICA**  
15000 N. May, Oklahoma City, OK 73134

**CHRISTMAS EVE, 2009**

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**The Nativity according to the flesh of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**

**DIRECTORY**

**V. Rev. Fr. Constantine Nasr**  
Senior Priest 749-8491

**Rev. Fr. Jeremy Davis**  
Assistant Priest 625-0675

**Rev. Dn. Ezra Ham**  
Administrator 602-9914

**Erin Learned**  
Youth Director 410-9456

**Al Mamary**  
Choir Director 364-8904

**Mom's Day Out** 639-2679  
Leigh Baker - Director

**Church Office** 755-7804

**Church Website**  
[www.stelijahokc.com](http://www.stelijahokc.com)

**Church Email**  
[stelijah@stelijahokc.com](mailto:stelijah@stelijahokc.com)

**St. James Stillwater Mission**  
Fr. Basil McMurry 282-1515

**St. Andrew OKC Mission**  
Fr. Mark Wallace 410-3196

**DYNAMIS: Daily Bible Readings  
for Orthodox Christians at**  
[www.dynamispublications.org](http://www.dynamispublications.org)

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**WORSHIPPING THE ALL-HOLY GOD**

**Isaiah 57:15**

For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

**PRAYER ON ENTERING THE CHURCH**

I WILL COME INTO THY HOUSE IN THE MULTITUDE OF THY MERCY: AND IN THY FEAR I WILL WORSHIP TOWARD THY HOLY TEMPLE. Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before me, that with a clear mind I may glorify thee forever, One Divine Power worshipped in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**PRAYER ON LEAVING THE CHURCH**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

**CHURCH ETIQUETTE**

**O Lord, sanctify those who love the beauty of your house.**

When you enter the church, please remember that the church is a place of worship. Please do not disturb others as they worship God.

## WE WELCOME OUR VISITORS

We welcome all our visitors. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us. You may find the worship of the Ancient Church very different. We welcome your questions. Please join us for our Reception held in the Church Hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

We understand **Holy Communion** to be an act of our unity in faith. While we work toward the unity of all Christians, it regrettably does not now exist. Therefore, only baptized Orthodox Christians (who have properly prepared) are permitted to participate in Holy Communion. However, everyone is welcome to partake of the blessed bread that is distributed at the end of the service. We look forward to meeting you during the Reception that follows the service.

## THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST VARIATIONS IN TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY USING THE WHITE LITURGICAL BOOKS

### **A** The 1<sup>st</sup> Antiphon:

I will give thanks unto the Lord with my whole heart, in the council of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord.

**Refrain:** Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Sought out in all the things that he hath willed; confession and majesty are his work, and his righteousness abideth unto ages of ages.

**Refrain:** Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Glory...Both now....

**Refrain:** Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

### **B** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Antiphon:

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in his commandments shall he greatly delight. his seed shall be mighty upon the earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

**Refrain:** Save us, O Son of God, who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to thee, Alleluia.

Glory and riches shall be in his house, and his righteousness abideth unto ages of ages.

**Refrain:** Save us, O Son of God, who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to thee, Alleluia.

There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous.

**Refrain:** Save us, O Son of God, who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to thee, Alleluia.

Glory...Both now....

**O Only-begotten Son....**

### **C** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Antiphon:

The Troparion of the Nativity – Tone 4

**Verses:** The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, until I make thine enemies the footstool of thy feet; the Lord shall send to thee a scepter of power from Zion; with thee is dominion in the day of thy power, in the splendor of thy saints.

**Troparion:** Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world. For they who did worship the stars did learn from them to worship thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that thou didst come from the East of the Highest. Glory to thee, O Lord.

**D****The Entrance:**

Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten thee: The Lord hath sworn and will not repent: Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek. O Son of God, who wast born of a Virgin, save us who sing unto thee, Alleluia.

**E****Troparion of the Nativity – Tone 4**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom. For by it those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know thee, the Orient from on high: O Lord, Glory to thee.

**F****The Kontakion of the Nativity–Tone 3**

The Virgin brings forth today the Omnipotent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable, angels give glory with shepherds and the magi journey with the stars when for our sakes was born as a new babe, he who is from eternity God.

**G****The Anti-Trisagion**

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

**H****THE READINGS****THE EPISTLE**

**Let all the earth worship you, and sing to you.  
Shout with joy to God, all the earth.**

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba!

Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir of God through Christ.

**THE GOSPEL**

From the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
(2:1-12)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**I****The Megalynarion**

O my soul, magnify, her who is more honorable and who is more glorious than the heavenly hosts. A mystery I behold which is strange and wondrous: the cave is heaven, and

the Virgin is the throne of the cherubim, in the confines of the manger is laid the infinite Christ our God, whom we praise and magnify.

**J** **The Communion Hymn**  
The Lord hath sent a redemption to his people. Alleluia.

**K** **Troparian of the Nativity – Tone 4**  
Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world. For they who did worship the stars did learn from them to worship thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that thou didst come from the East of the Highest. Glory to thee, O Lord.

## OFFERINGS

**HOLY BREAD** is offered by Bill and Nancy Massad for their good health and for the good health of their nephews Jeffrie Ward Morris, Christopher Morris and Daniel Patrick Ward Morris. It is especially offered in loving memory of their grand-neice Victoria Elizabeth Heil (1 year). May her memory be eternal.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME.** We welcome all visitors. We are delighted you are worshipping with us and look forward to meeting you personally.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** to all the faithful of St Elijah Church! May you know the joy of the Magi and the wonder of the shepherds at the birth of the Son of God.

**HAPPY FEAST!** From now through January 4 is a fast-free period of celebration: all types of food and drink may be consumed with thanksgiving.

**OFFICE CLOSED** tomorrow for the holiday.

**20/40 ICE SKATING.** All young adults are invited to join us at the Devon Outdoor Ice Rink at 7pm on Tuesday, December 29. The rink is located in front of the Civic Center (201 N Walker), in downtown Oklahoma City. If you want to grab dinner beforehand, meet at Irma's Burger Shack (1120 Classen Dr) at 6pm.

**EVENING DIVINE LITURGY** for the Feast of Theophany will be celebrated at 6:30pm on Tuesday, January 5. Come celebrated the Lord's baptism, and bring a potluck dish to share after the service.

**BLESSING OF HOMES.** The traditional season for home blessings begins January 6. If you would like one of our priests to bless your home, please call the church office or the priest to schedule a time.

**ALTAR SERVER TRAINING.** Save the date: Tuesday, January 19, 5:30-8pm. Every boy who attends will earn 3 attendance points for his team. The team with the most points in June gets a party at Incredible Pizza!

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** will be held on January 24. There will be a complimentary luncheon. Please plan to attend.

**ATTN: YOUNG ADULTS!** Join us for 20/40 Fellowship: 7pm on Monday, January 11, at the home of Margaret Burgess (6717 Briarcreek Drive, OKC). We will be electing leadership for the coming year. Main dish will be provided; please bring a salad, side, dessert or beverage to share. Please call Margaret (722-1617) for more info.

**COLLEGE MISSION TRIP.** May 24–June 10. Our diocese is organizing a mission trip for college-age students to our sister diocese in Syria. It will include workdays and pilgrimages to holy sites. For more information, check with Fr. Constantine or Fr. Jeremy.

### **Worship and Spiritual Life**

Every Sunday – Sunday School after Communion – Adult Class at 9:30 am. **No classes during the summer.**  
Matins at 9:20 am – Divine Liturgy at 10:30 am Bible Study – Thursdays at 10:30 am; nursery provided  
Every Saturday – Vespers at 5 pm followed by Confession Every Wednesday – Confession by appointment

### **Study**

#### **ST. ANDREW FAMILY NIGHT!**

Wednesday Nights 7-9 pm. Runs in 8-week blocks. A full Program of Seminars and Classes for Adults, Children and Youth for both Orthodox and Non-Orthodox.

### **Fellowship & Parish Development**

Coffee Hour – Sundays following the Divine Liturgy 20/40 Fellowship – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 7 pm  
Ladies Aid – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 1 pm Teen Chats – Wednesday Nights during Family Night  
Adult Fellowship – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday following Vespers Ladies Guild – as scheduled and announced  
Parish Council – every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7 pm Choir – see Al Mamary  
St. Barnabas Ministries – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 9:30 am

### **Membership**

To become a member you need to pray with us at our worship services, complete the Inquirer's Classes, pledge your financial support, and meet with our priests. We welcome you on your journey of faith and invite you to learn of the ancient and unchanging Holy Orthodox Church.

### **DECEMBER 24, 2009**

**USHERS:** Kane Hammersley, John Wilson,  
Michael Deeba, Sam Kamas, Marco Morrow,  
Tamer Shawareb, Waleed Moujaes, Bradley  
Naifeh

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Taylor Homsey, Brandon  
Cohlma, Nick Farha, George Ghata, Jamin  
Ghata, Eric Massad, Trae Rahill, Nathan Shadid,  
Paul Shadid, Peter Shadid, Brent Wilson

**EPISTLE READER:** Dr. Jeff Shadid

**ELDERS:** James Farha, Phillip Haddad,  
Michael Chumo, Dr. Paul Massad, Charles  
Shadid, Dr. Dick Homsey

**KANDELIFT:** Andrew Farha

**PARISH COUNCIL:** Harvey Homsey

### **CALENDAR**

#### *Friday*

Dec. 25 **CHRISTMAS – OFFICE CLOSED**

#### *Saturday*

Dec. 26 Vespers 5:00 pm

### ***THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP FAITHFULNESS***

“Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38