

St. Thomas Orthodox Church

*A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America*

1100 Jones Street Sioux City, IA 51105
(712) 258-7166 www.stthomassiouxcity.org

Fr. Lucas Rice, Pastor

Sunday:	Matins	9:00 am
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Wednesday:	Daily Vespers	6:30 pm
Saturday:	Great Vespers	5:00 pm

*Confessions are heard before and after Great Vespers and during Matins.
Counseling and consultation are available by appointment.*

THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011

To Our Visitor's Praying with us Today

Welcome! We hope your time with us is healing and worshipful. For those guests who are not Orthodox, please note that although we have much respect for other Christian traditions, Holy Communion is reserved for properly prepared members of the Orthodox faith. Everyone is invited to partake of the blessed bread at the end of the Liturgy

Announcements

- ❖ **Ice Fishing Outing** - Catechumen Jim Vaughn has offered to host a local icefishing trip for our youth. Details to come.
- ❖ **No Office Hours** - Fr. Lucas will not keep office hours Dec 26-31 (the week after Christmas) as his family will be visiting. Wed Vespers (no study) and Sat Great Vespers will be celebrated at their usual times. In the event of an emergency, please call Fr. Lucas on his cell phone at 712-635-7519.
- ❖ **Resources** - A handy guide to the Sacrament of Confession is hot off the presses. Also, our 2012 liturgical calendars have arrived. Both are available at Gerry's candle table.
- ❖ **From the Parish Council** - (1) *Willing to Serve?* Effective January 1st, there will be an opening on the Parish Council. (2) *Bookkeeping Experience* - The board is looking for anyone with a background in bookkeeping or financial software (eg., Quickbooks). Anyone interested helping in either capacity may express to a board member their willingness to serve.
- ❖ **New Email for Fr. Lucas** - Fr. Lucas has a new email for all church related matters: frlucas@stthomassiouxcity.org
- ❖ **Ladies Club** - For their yearly project, The Ladies club is adopting Shesler Hall. The collection box will be located in the parish hall. More information to follow.
- ❖ **Youth and Family Event** - In January, all of the youth and parents are invited to a meeting for an evening of fellowship and discussion. Details to come.

A WORD FROM THE SAINTS - ST. LEO THE GREAT

"David's Lord was made David's Son, and from the fruit of the promised branch sprang One without fault, the two-fold nature coming together in one Person, that by one and the same conception and birth might spring our Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom was present both true Godhead for the performance of mighty works and true Manhood for the endurance of sufferings."

Epistle

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



Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Now 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 Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; 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, until 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 worshiped 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.



Today

- ❖ **Altar Bread** - Today's altar bread is offered by Sue and Dick Stevens.
- ❖ **Liturgy of St. Basil** - Tonight we offer the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great rather than the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. St. Basil's liturgy is only celebrated 10 times a year including Christmas and the upcoming feasts of St. Basil (next Sunday, Jan 1) and the feast of Theophany (celebrated Thur, Jan 5 at 6:30pm).

Upcoming Services and Events

- ❖ **Installation of Parish Council** - We will install the 2012 Parish Council at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on January 1st.
- ❖ **Liturgy for St. Ignatius** - We will celebrate a morning Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Seraphim of Sarov on Mon, Jan 2 at 7:00am.
- ❖ **Feast of Theophany** - We will celebrate an evening Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Theophany with the Great Blessing of Waters on Thur, Jan 5 at 6:30 pm.
- ❖ **Liturgy for St. Anthony** - We will celebrate an evening Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Anthony on Mon, Jan 16 at 6:30pm.
- ❖ **Liturgy for St. Gregory the Theologian** - We will celebrate an evening Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Gregory on Tue, Jan 24 at 6:30pm.
- ❖ **Liturgy for the Three Hierarchs** - We will celebrate a morning Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Three Hierarchs on Mon, Jan 30 at 7:00am.

Festal Hymns of the Divine Liturgy

Entrance Hymn of the Nativity of Christ

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Troparion of the Nativity of Christ - Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ - Tone 3

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

Anti-Trisagion (Sung in place of "Holy God, Holy Mighty . . .")

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

Megalynarion (Sung in place of "It is Truly Meet")

In thee rejoiceth all creation, O thou who art full of grace: the hierarchy of the angels, and all mankind, O consecrated temple and paradise endowed with speech; glory of virginity, of whom God, Who is our God before the ages, was incarnate and became a little child. For He made thy womb a throne, and thy belly did He make more spacious than the heavens. In thee doth all creation rejoice, O thou who art full of grace, and it glorifieth thee.