

**MAY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY  
FILL YOUR HEARTS WITH PEACE, HOPE,  
AND JOY. WISHING YOU AND YOUR  
LOVED ONES A BLESSED CHRISTMAS  
SEASON!**





# S A I N T C H R I S T O P H E R H E L L E N I C O R T H O D O X C H U R C H

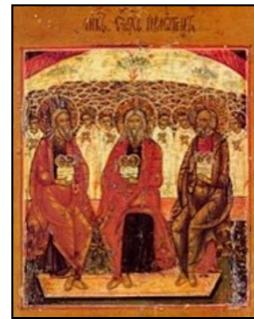
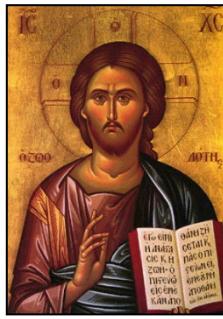
*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople:* [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website:* [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

*Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website:* [www.atlmetropolis.org](http://www.atlmetropolis.org)

*St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website:* [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://www.saintchristopherhoc.org)

## St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210  
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

**Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor***

## Liturgical Guide for Sunday, December 14, 2025

**ON THIS DAY, THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE THE CHURCH  
COMMEMORATES** the Holy Forefathers/Ancestors of Christ  
(*see inside Bulletin*) and the Holy Martyrs Thrysus, Leucius, and  
Callinicus of Asia Minor, and Philemon, Apollonius, and Arian of  
Alexandria. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have  
mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

## **Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Parish!**

We invite you to enter your name, mail/email addresses, in our Guest Register (near the entrance) if you are interested in joining and assisting with our mission's development. We want to keep you informed of our schedule and location of services. *You and your family are welcome; we look forward to knowing you. We invite you and your family to join and assist us often!*

*Please consider that only baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians in canonical good standing may approach for Holy Communion. All are invited to partake of the Antidoron ("instead of the gifts") distributed at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy.*

## **SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE**

### **1/2. Resurrectional Hymn (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):**

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

### **3. Hymn for Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ – (not in Hymnal):**

It is sung after the Small Entrance: By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

### **4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see handout):**

It is sung after the Small Entrance. Made comely with garments woven from your venerable blood, you stand before the Lord, the King of Heaven and earth, O famed Martyr Christopher. With the choirs of Angels and the Martyrs you chant, singing the thrice-holy hymn and most awesome praises. Thus, by your intercessions with God, save us, your servants.

## **5. Kontakion – Preparation for the Nativity (11/26-12/24) – (Hymnal-pp.240-243):**

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Today the Virgin goes forth, making her way to a cave where from her, ineffably, God the eternal Word will be born. Let the world be filled with joy, hearing these tidings. Joining the angels and shepherds, let us give glory to Him who is God from all ages, yet wills to be seen as a little child.

## **SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY**

The Scriptures were not given us for this only, that we might have them in books, but that we might engrave them on our hearts.

– St. John Chrysostom

## **Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Luke 24:12-35)**

*At that time, [Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home wondering at what had happened. That very day] two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" and they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered Him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and*

*besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find His body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see." And He said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was not it necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into this glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So He went in to stay with them. When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Colossians 3:4-11)**

*Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:*

*fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 14:16-24)**

*Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"*

## **THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE):**

Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; *but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.*" (Joshua 24:15)

## **PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

(In preparation for the Holy Nativity of our Lord,  
the Divine Liturgy is being offered daily, except  
Sundays, at 9:00 a.m. at Archangel Michael Chapel  
in Atlanta. Join us with your families.)

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS  
BORN,

UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN;  
AND THE GOVERNMENT  
WILL BE UPON HIS  
SHOULDER.

AND HIS NAME WILL BE  
CALLED

WONDERFUL, COUNSELOR,  
MIGHTY GOD,

EVERLASTING FATHER,  
PRINCE OF PEACE. (ISAIAH 9:6)

## Today's Special Commemoration:

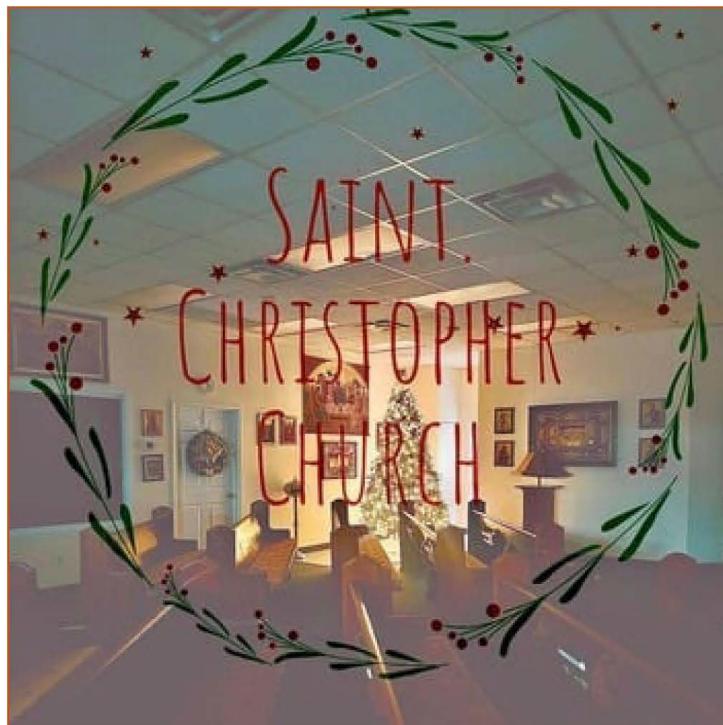
### ***The Holy Forefathers/Ancestors of Christ***

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month (which is today), we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came *before* the Law, and those that lived *after* the giving of the Law.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, “I will give this land to thy seed” (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the “Promised Land,” which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.

*On this the 1,032<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women, and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia, area for the glory of God! **On behalf of our parish, we thank you. Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***

We wish "Chronia Polla" and "Happy Name Day" to all  
celebrating on the Feast of St. Nicholas.



## Santa's Questions & Answers During His Surprise Visit



1. Do you know why Santa is visiting you today?

Answer: Because we're celebrating St. Nicholas, the real-life saint who inspired Santa Claus!

2. Who was St. Nicholas in real life?

Answer: He was a bishop who loved Jesus and helped people in need.

3. Where did St. Nicholas live?

Answer: In a place called Myra, in what is now Turkey.

4. What made St. Nicholas famous?

Answer: His kindness and secret gifts to help poor families.

5. What did St. Nicholas give instead of toys?

Answer: Bags of gold coins to help people in need.

6. Why did St. Nicholas give gifts in secret?

Answer: Because he wanted to honor God, not get attention.

7. What does the word 'wonderworker' mean?

Answer: Someone who does amazing things through faith in God.

8. How is St. Nicholas different from Santa Claus?

Answer: Santa comes once a year; St. Nicholas helped people every day.

9. What holiday do we celebrate St. Nicholas on?

Answer: December 6th.

10. What was St. Nicholas' job in the Church?

Answer: He was a bishop.

11. What did St. Nicholas do at the Council of Nicaea?

Answer: He defended the truth about Jesus Christ.

12. Why do we decorate a Christmas tree?

Answer: To celebrate the joy and light of Christ coming into the world.

13. What's one way you can be generous like St. Nicholas?

Answer: Share toys, help a friend, or say something kind.

14. If you had a bag of gold, what would you do with it?

Answer: Help people who need food or clothes.

15. What's more important than gifts?

Answer: Love and kindness.

16. Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer: To remember God's greatest gift—Jesus Christ.

17. What's one secret act of kindness you can do this week?

Answer: Leave a nice note for someone or help without telling anyone.

18. What color are bishops' robes usually?

Answer: Gold or white for special feasts.

19. What does Santa's red suit remind us of?

Answer: The bishop's robes of St. Nicholas.

20. What does St. Nicholas teach us about faith?

Answer: To trust God and help others even when it's hard.

21. What's one thing about St. Nicholas that surprised you today?

Answer: He didn't have reindeer—he had prayer and a big heart!

22. Why do we call him a saint?

Answer: Because he lived a holy life and followed Jesus.

23. What's one thing you can do to make someone smile today?

Answer: Say "thank you" or give a hug.

24. What's the best gift you can give someone?

Answer: Your love and kindness.

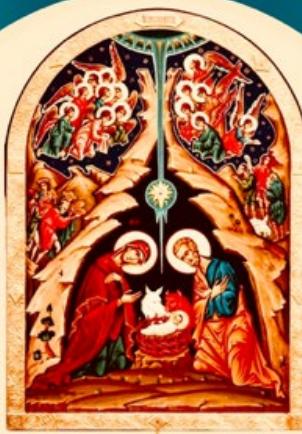
25. Who is the greatest gift of all?

Answer: Jesus Christ!

*Before leaving, Santa shared:*

"You've all done great! Remember, St. Nicholas teaches us to give, love, and help others—especially in secret. So, this week, try one secret act of kindness. And keep Christ at the center of Christmas. Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas!"

Save the Date



# *The Night That Changed Everything*

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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Today, journey to Bethlehem through  
the eyes of Aaron, a young shepherd  
who witnesses the miraculous birth of Jesus.

St. Christopher Church

Peachtree City, GA

Sunday, December 21, 2025 10:30, a.m.

*Youth and Adults – join us for Religious  
Education combined session THIS SUNDAY for  
us to rehearse our lines and dress rehearsal.*

*Parents, please join us also to know how to rehearse  
with your children at home and learn their lines.*



## Prayer Shawl Blessing December 14th

To bring comfort and joy to the  
women at Promise Place

## Christmas Luncheon

Please a Bring  
Lenten Dish  
to Share

December 21

After Christmas Pageant



# PAN-ORTHODOX CANDELIGHT SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

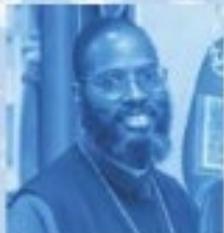
presented by the

Atlanta Inter-Orthodox Parish Association (AIOPA)

**Sunday, December 21**

**5:00 pm**

**Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, Georgia**



**Homily Offered by Fr. Elias Dorham**

*Melkite Catholic Church*

*"O Bethlehem Prepare: Welcoming Christ into Our Hearts"*

*Featuring Choirs from*

*Annunciation Cathedral Men's Choir*

*Annunciation Cathedral Mixed Choir*

*Holy Transfiguration Mixed Choir*

*St. Elias Mixed Choir*

*Sts. Constantine and Helen Mixed Choir*

*St. John the Wonderworker Mixed Choir*

*St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church Mixed Choir*

*Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, & Irene Mixed Choir*



**Refreshments to Follow in Carlos Hall**

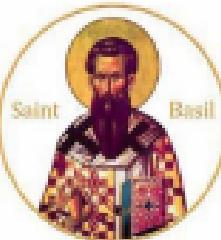
St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church's

# YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE KICKOFF

Parishioners and friends ages 18-35(ish) are invited to join us on Saturday, December 20 at 3-7 pm for our first YAL social at Angelique's house. RSVP for the address. Bring a drink or snack to share if you'd like!

Email Angelique ([asoulakos77@gmail.com](mailto:asoulakos77@gmail.com)) to RSVP.

Join our GroupMe to stay connected!



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL

## VASILOPITA !

LIVE AUCTION & DINNER!

**SATURDAY JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> : 5-8PM**

**FREE ENTRY FEE!**

**PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH FOR 8**

**(MEATS, BEVERAGES, and DESSERT PROVIDED)**

All proceeds will benefit:

**ST. BASIL'S ACADEMY, BLOOM OUR YOUTH & PARADISE 4 KIDS**

**ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH- 149 EBENEZER ROAD**

## Parish Storage Puzzle Solved with Teamwork

Our Storage Facilities Chair, Kirk Panayis, has been busy organizing parishioner volunteers to streamline and improve our offsite parish storage needs. For the past few weeks, Kirk oversaw the relocation of St. George Church items, along with older storage contents, to our new storage facility. We now have ample space to accommodate many more items as needed.

The existing church kitchen storage room has been de-cluttered, creating additional room for the Golf Committee's items and even chairs and furniture in a climate-controlled environment.

**I ask you to join me in thanking Kirk and everyone who assisted in this effort.** Your generous help made this possible.

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### Our Storage Journey

The items from St. George Church in Port Arthur, Texas were originally stored in a facility generously donated by the Peter Poolos family. On October 26th, we were informed that we needed to vacate that space, which began our search for a new storage solution. At the same time, the church was using three additional storage locations. These included many pews donated by the Marietta Church, all our Greek Festival items, and other materials accumulated over the past 20+ years—all of which needed to be relocated.

Kirk accepted the responsibility of leading the Storage Committee and finding a new facility. By God's grace, he located a suitable space in Fayetteville. His family has donated the cost of renting these new facilities for the next two years as a gift to our church. We thank Kirk and Dedee for this generous gift, along with covering the cost of the paid workers who assisted our dedicated group of volunteers who worked tirelessly to sort, clean, and move these items. For the heavier St. George items, he hired Better Way Ministries to assist with the move. **Together, they did it!** With their hands, vehicles, and trailers, they completed this enormous task.

Our parish now has **three new storage units** that house all donated items, our Greek Festival supplies, and still provide plenty of room for future needs.

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### Special Thanks

- **Dedee Panayis and Julie Skouteris** for cleaning and organizing 15 years' worth of Greek Festival storage.
- **Steve Sarantis, Nick Cochran, Jim Sliwinski, Perry Panos, and Jeff Longino** for their help and use of their trucks and trailers.

Kirk shared that *"When we come together as a community—putting our minds and hearts into a common goal—there is nothing we cannot accomplish. Truly, God is with us. Finally, I want to thank Fr. George for his blessings, prayers, encouragement, and guidance throughout this project."*

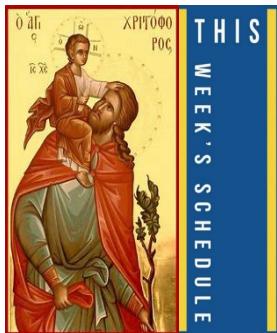
**The storage project is complete. Glory be to God!**

**Thanks, Kirk Panayis & parishioner volunteers!**



*Nativity Fast – Continues through December 24*

## Join Us Often with Your Family



### **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke**

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Prayer Shawls

10:45 – 12:45 Parish Council Elections

11:00 Religious Education (all ages) – youth and adults will rehearse Christmas Pageant

11:45 Philoptochos General Meeting

12:00 Parish Council Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 Orthros & 9:00 Divine Liturgy at Archangel Michael Chapel at Metropolis Office

### **Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – St. Lucia the Virgin Martyr**

3:00 Young Adult League Kickoff

### **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday Before Holy Nativity**

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Annual Christmas Pageant, & Community Luncheon

5:00 Candlelight Service & Christmas Concert (Pan-Orthodox) at Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta

**On this the 1081<sup>st</sup> Sunday** of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women, and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia, area for the glory of God! On behalf of our parish, we thank you. ***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***

# Four Reflective, Family-Friendly Questions

rooted in today's Scripture readings (**2 Tim. 1:8–18; Luke 14:16–24**) and the **Holy Forefathers** theme are designed for discussion throughout the week in your homes.

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## 1) Courage Without Shame (**2 Tim. 1:8–18**)

**Reflect:** Where do I feel tempted to be **ashamed** or silent about my faith—at work, school, among friends, or online? What would **holy courage** look like in that situation this week?

**Act:** Choose one simple, visible witness (e.g., making the sign of the cross before meals, inviting someone to church, sharing a word of encouragement grounded in Scripture).

**Pray:** "Lord Jesus Christ, give us **courage** to confess You in love and humility."

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## 2) Answering the Invitation (**Luke 14:16–24**)

**Reflect:** What are my most common **excuses** that keep me from God's invitation—busyness, screens, work, worry? What small change would help us say '**yes**' to Christ more promptly?

**Act:** Set a **family 'banquet' moment** this week—attend a weekday service, read the Gospel at dinner, or spend 10 minutes in quiet prayer together.

**Pray:** "Master of the Banquet, teach us to **come without delay** when You call."

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## 3) Simplicity and Mercy (**Living Readiness**)

**Reflect:** Which possessions, habits, or priorities most **compete** with our prayer and service? How can we **simplify** to create room for mercy?

**Act:** Choose one **work of mercy** as a family (visit/call someone lonely, prepare a meal for a neighbor, donate generously, write a note of encouragement).

**Pray:** "Lord, free our hearts from **distraction**, and make our home a light of **mercy**."

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## 4) Hope with the Forefathers (**Nativity Preparation**)

**Reflect:** The **Forefathers** waited in faith. Where do we need to practice **trusting God's timing**—in health, finances, relationships, or decisions? How can we **wait with hope**?

**Act:** Create a simple **Nativity prayer corner**: light a candle each evening, read a verse (e.g., Luke 2:1–20; Matthew 1:18–25), and sing or recite "Glory to God in the highest."

**Pray:** "O God of our Fathers, **strengthen our hope** as we prepare for Your holy Nativity."