

## Our Lady of Wisdom Italo Greek Byzantine Catholic Church

2120 Lindell Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146  
Parish Office: 702-873-5101

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Website: <https://OurLadyOfWisdom.net>

Usual Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 11:00am – 4:30pm  
or call Fr. Nathan for an appointment

**WHO WE ARE:** Our Lady of Wisdom, Italo Greek Byzantine Catholic Church, is centered on the Risen Christ as revealed through the Sacred Scriptures, Liturgy and Holy Traditions of the East. The parish community is open to anyone who is interested in seeking the Lord through His Sacred Word and Holy Mysteries.

+ Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Francis M. Vivona, S.T.M., J.C.L., 1943 – 2017 – Founding Pastor +  
Parish established on January 29, 1993 – Church Consecrated on December 10, 2019

### *The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names*

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us. Human being have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned – this God continues to work through the same melange. If it was a challenge to recognize in the last part of

Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

*Father Raymond E. Brown, S.S.*

## SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS



*Icon of the Holy Ancestors*



**SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS**  
*December 18, 2022*

**Saturday, December 17th**

5:00pm Vespertal Liturgy **SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS**

*Intention: +Eddie Hein*

**Sunday, December 18th SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS**

9:30am Adult Education: St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*

10:10am Third Hour

10:30am Divine Liturgy

*Intention: +Fr. Francis Vivona with Panachida*

Pot Luck following Liturgy

**Monday, December 19th**

6:00am Jesus Prayer

**Tuesday, December 20th**

6:00am Jesus Prayer

**Wednesday, December 21st**

12:00n St. Nicholas Homeless Ministry

6:00am Jesus Prayer

**Thursday, December 22nd**

No service

**Friday, December 23rd**

10:00am Royal Hours

**Saturday, December 24th**

5:00pm Vespertal Liturgy **CHRISTMAS BIRTH OF OUR LORD**  
*Intention: Parishioners of Our Lady of Wisdom*

**Sunday, December 25th CHRISTMAS BIRTH OF OUR LORD**

10:10am Third Hour

10:30am Divine Liturgy

*Intention: Parishioners of Our Lady of Wisdom*

17th – St. Daniel, and SS. Three Youth, SS Hannaniah, Azariah and Mishael. Daniel is the Fourth of the Four Great Prophets. He died a centenarian in Persia in the 5th century B.C. The Three Youths were cast into the fiery furnace by the order of King Nabuchodnosor of Babylon, but miraculously came out unscathed.

18th – SS. Sebastian and Companions were put to death A.D. 202, during the reign of Diocletian, Emperor.

19th – St. Boniface, Martyr, put to death A.D. 290, in the reign of Diocletian, Emperor.

20th – St. Ignatius, “God Bearer,” Priest-Martyr Bishop at Antioch.

21st – St. Juliana, Virgin-Martyr from Nicomedia, was beheaded A.D. 36, in the reign of Maximian, Emperor.

22nd – St. Anastasia, Great Martyr, was a famous Roman matron of noble birth, a spiritual pupil of St. Chrysogonus. She was imprisoned, tortured, and burned alive for the Faith A.D. 304, in the reign of the Emperor Diocletian.

23rd – SS. Ten Martyrs at Crete, suffered martyrdom under the Emperor Diocletian.

24th – SS. Eugenia, Venerable Martyr, and her two slaves, Protus and Hyacinth, by whom she was converted to Christianity. She was put to death in prison at Rome on Christmas Day A.D. 257, in the reign of Valerian, Emperor.

25th – The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, or “Christmas Day.” The Eastern Church accepted this great Feast Day from the Western Church in the 4th century.

**THANK YOU** to the volunteers and everyone who helped with this year’s St. Nicholas Celebration and Festival!

**MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS** may be brought to the Parish for the Holy Place. Please tape a card with your loved one’s name under the plant and place before the Icon Screen.

**ADULT EDUCATION** is held each Sunday morning from 9:30am until 10:10am, we will study the work of St. Ignatius, which teaches us the orthodox approach to theology, Bible Study, and the spiritual life.
















**BIBLE STUDY** for women will resume Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 5:00pm in the Parish Hall. **BIBLE STUDY** for men will resume Friday, January 6, 2023 at 6:00pm.

**FR. NATHAN** has a new phone number: 702-321-5820.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to our parishioners who celebrate birthdays this week: Gregory Doyle, December 22. *God Grant You Many Happy Blessed Years!*

**ROYAL HOURS** are simply the Little Hours of the Divine Office: Prime, Terce, Sext and None plus Typica, celebrated consecutively as one service. Each hour has special hymns (idomelia) and readings added to the normal structure. The designation “Royal” comes from the fact that, in the great Cathedral of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, not only the choirs, monks, clergy and faithful attended, but the Emperor himself came together to recite these prayers and to hear special readings appointed for the particular Feast. This served as a reminder to the Emperor and to the ordinary people, that in the eyes of Christ, there is “no rich or poor, no Jew or Greek, no free man nor slave” as the Apostle says. Although the Royal Hours are splendid, they are also penitential. On days when the Royal Hours are celebrated, it is not permitted to celebrate the Divine Liturgy.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION:** Tithe: \$2,124.63; Building Maintenance: \$0.00; Poor Box: \$12.00; Candles: \$29.00

<p><b>In Loving Memory of</b> <b>Fr. Francis Vivona</b> Founding Pastor of Our Lady of Wisdom Italo-Greek BCC</p>  <p><i>Memoria Eterna</i> <i>Servant of God</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> <b>Fr. Stephen Casmus</b> <b>Karen Casmus</b> <b>Alicia Casmus</b></p>  <p><i>Eternal Memory</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> <i>First Matriarch</i> <b>Vita Vivona</b></p> <p><b>George &amp; Margie Mauro</b></p>  <p><i>Eternal Memory</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> <i>His Grace, Bishop</i> <i>Gerald Dino</i></p>  <p><i>Memoria Eterna</i></p>
<p><b>Robert Handcox</b></p>  <p><i>Eternal Memory</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> <i>Mary Marlene</i></p>  <p><i>Eternal Memory</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> <i>Ben and Helen Zientek</i></p>  <p><i>Memoria Eterna</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> <i>Lorraine Plank</i></p>  <p><i>Eternal Memory</i></p>
<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> <i>Dolores, Howard,</i> <i>Michael, Jamie and</i> <i>Joseph St. George</i></p> 	<p><i>In Loving Memory</i> <b>Rebecca</b> <b>Ellen</b> <b>Glantz</b></p>  <p><i>Eternal Memory</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> <i>Cecilia Eliades</i></p> <p><b>Harry &amp; Anna Eliades</b> <b>Michael &amp; Marie</b> <b>Della Iacono</b></p>  <p><i>Memoria Eterna</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i></p>  <p><i>John and Margaret Lynott</i> <i>and</i> <i>Jacquelne Purches</i></p>
<p>***** <b>In Loving Memory of</b> <b>WILLIAM GENE STONE</b> <b>M.D.</b></p>  <p>*****</p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory</i> <b>Carol Bistrek,</b> <b>RN/OCN</b></p>  <p><i>Eternal Memory</i></p>	<p><i>Las Vegas</i> <i>Athletic Clubs</i></p> <p><i>Belong!</i></p> <p>Present this ad for a free week Trial membership</p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of</i> <i>Robert Mouch</i></p>  <p><i>Eternal Memory</i></p>

**December 26th** — Synaxis (Coming Together) of the Theotokos Our tradition for this day includes the procession of the Icon of St. Joseph outside the Church, which is incensed while the faithful follow behind it. The procession enters the Church and the Icon Carrier is held in front of the Angelic Doors so the faithful may venerate the Icon. During the veneration, the faithful are anointed with the Oil of Gladness. Then, Divine Liturgy is celebrated.

**December 27th** — The Celebration of Aghios Stephen It is believed that Aghios Stephen was the first Christian Martyr who died around the year of 34 A.D. The story of his calling, life, and death is outlined in detail in Acts, chapters 6 - 8. He was put to death by Saul (also known as Paul) before Paul's conversion, the details of which are also outlined in Acts, chapter 9. For centuries, his life has been celebrated by many countries and many traditions have developed over time. Our tradition to honor and respect his accomplishments begins with a procession outside the Church of the faithful following the Icon of St. Stephen, which then continues as the Icon is brought into the Church. When the Icon carrier is in front of the Angelic Doors, it is venerated by the faithful, who are anointed with the Oil of Gladness. After Divine Liturgy, icon cards are distributed to the faithful.