

Christmas at Holy Trinity Parish

ON JANUARY 7 (Dec. 25 on the Church Calendar), the Holy Trinity parish, in Oxnard, California, celebrated the Orthodox Feast of the Nativity. The Very Reverend James Thornton, Rector of the Church, served on both the Forefeast (Sunday, January 6, New Style) and on Nativity itself.



At the Sunday Forefeast Liturgy, there were some fifty worshippers, and on the Nativity Feast some thirty-five were in attendance. After entering into the Holy Synod in Resistance, after the union of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, its former jurisdiction, with the Moscow Patriarchate (which the parish would not accept), the Holy Trinity Church has been involved in an unfortunate dispute over the ownership of its property. The Church Abroad has brought a suit against it and personally against several of its parish council members and one of our own Bishops. The case is now pending resolution, which will depend partly on a decision about ownership of Church properties in general now before the Supreme Court of the State of California.

Despite the unfortunate actions taken against the parish by its former jurisdiction, it is steadily growing in number and the parish has a renewed sense of purpose. During the Western Christmas holidays, for example, with Father James' active participation and leadership, the parish provided food and gift certificates to a number of the poor Mexican families living in the Oxnard area.

The photograph above depicts Father James and a small group of parishioners, following the Nativity Liturgy.

