



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



Father Dave Urban, Pastor
Very Reverend Father John Brancho, Pastor Emeritus
Timothy Martin, Reader
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, Cantors
Matthew Peifer, Church Council President
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January 6, 2019

Volume IV

32nd Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of the Holy Fathers

9:10am – Canon & Carols (*Koljady*); 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 7 Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40; Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

about 11:45am Vigil Service (*Povečerije*) for the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Monday, January 7 – 9:30a Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Tuesday, January 8 – Afterfeast of the Nativity / 2nd Day of Christmas / 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos

Wednesday, January 9 – No Fasting / Afterfeast of the Nativity / 3rd Day of Christmas / 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Saint Stephen, First-martyr and Archdeacon

The opportunity for the Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.



Monday	Commemoration of the Shepherds	1 Peter 2:21-3:9	Mark 10:46-52
Tuesday	Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos	1 Peter 3:10-22	Mark 11:11-23
Wednesday	Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34)	1 Peter 4:1-11	Mark 11:23-26
Thursday	20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia (302)	1 Peter 4:12-5:5	Mark 11:27-33
Friday	14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem	2 Peter 1:1-10	Mark 12:1-12
Saturday	Apostle Timon the Deacon (1st c.)	2 Timothy 2:11-19	Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

Lets imitate Christ & the Saints & Feast as they did! (NO FASTING until Theophany Eve)

Sunday, January 13 – 33rd Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday after Nativity / Leave-taking (*Otdaniye*) / Sunday before Theophany / St. Peter Mogila, metropolitan of Kiev (1646)

9:10am – Canon & Carols (*Koljady*); 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 8 Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19; Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Additional collection for our Capital Improvement Fund / Undecorating following our coffee social

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Christ Is Born! (*Glorify Him!*) Christos Raždajetsja! (*Slavite Jeho!*)

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NATIVITY COMMEMORATIONS (to be remembered at Proskomedie all week)

Vesperal Loaves Are Offered Anonymously (*Bezmena*) For The Health And Life Our Of Parish

Sacramental Wine Is Offered By Kathy Schrmack In Memory Of Parents, +Peter & +Katherine Silon

Nativity Bulletin Is Offered By Lawrence Martin For The Health Of Our Parishioners

3 Candles On Altar Are Offered By Theresa Sharpless In Memory Of +Nick & +Anna Buhonick

1 Decorated Candle On Altar Is Offered By Robert & Gina Fall In Memory Of Our Mothers

1 Decorated Candle On Altar Is Offered By Rich & Renee Mirilovich For Health Of Family And Friends

1 Decorated Candle On Altar Is Offered By The Kirish Family For Health And Blessings Received

3 Decorated Candles On Altar Are Offered By Eleanor Sanger In Memory Of Family

2 Decorated Candles On Preparation Table Are Offered By The Anton Family
In Memory Of Loved Ones And Health Of Family

2 Decorated Candles On Tetrapod Are Offered By Melanie & Michael Shuster
For Health Of Horbal & Shuster Families

Festive Oil Is Offered By Cindy Pavilonis For Health Of Pavilonis Families

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Dear Family of St. John's,

Christ Is Born! (*Glorify Him!*) Christos Raždajetsja! (*Slavite Jeho!*)

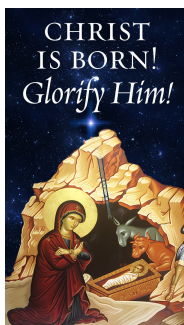
As we greet each other this week with the Nativity greeting, Christ is born, may we have room in our "inn" for our Lord, His Church, and the love that is Christ.

Thank you for your many kind thoughts, your prayers, and your cards!

May you have a blessed Nativity Season and a joyous year ahead! Many Years!

With Love, María, Sophía, Pańi Alexandra, and Father Dave

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Christ Is Born! (Glorify Him!)
Christos Raždajetsja! (Slavite Jeho!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! Please join us downstairs for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon!

If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Father Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



Sunday, January 13 – 7th Day of Christmas / Additional collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

Monday, January 14 – 9:30 Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord and for the Feast of St Basil the Great

Friday, January 18 – A Day of Strict Fasting / 9:30 Royal Hours of the Feast of Theophany

Saturday, January 19 – 9:30 Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water on the Feast of Theophany / Annual House Blessings Begin

Sunday, January 20 – Youth Sunday / Feast of the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

Tuesday, January 22 – Parastas for all aborted babies

Sunday, January 27 – Additional Collection for our Community Outreach / 40th Day Panachida

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



(Please have submissions for this section to Father by Wednesday.)

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Barbara Kirish; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Joanne Nelson; Patty Watson; Rich Mirilovich; Cindy Pavilonis.

***"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* - John 8:12**

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Thank You! To everyone who donated in December for the FOCUS Christmas Dinner! Your efforts were Greatly Appreciated!

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New Directory – Our newly revised St. John the Baptist Community Directory is available! Please pick up your family copy in the church hall.

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Envelopes – Interested in 2019 envelopes for the church? Additional boxes are available. When one uses an envelope to make their offering to the church, you will receive an end of year summary for tax purposes. Please see Father Dave to get yours today.

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ACRY News – New members are always welcome! Come join us!

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Pill Bottle Collection – Our ACRY is starting a new outreach. "Matthew 25: Ministries" accepts donations of clean empty plastic medicine pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies and for shredding and recycling. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment. *More information is on the bulletin board in the church hall.*

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Undecorating It has been a blessing to enjoy the Christmas decorations since the beginning of December, but next Sunday (**January 13th**) following the Coffee Social, we will undecorated the church and hall. Please plan to stay and assist! Your stewardship of your time will make everything go faster!

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Third Hour – After we finish having the Nativity or Theophany Canon sung prior to the Divine Liturgy, we will return to having the Third Hour. *This can be read or chanted. Please contact Fr Dave if you are interested in participating in this wonderful stewardship prayer opportunity!*

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Cards – Please consider repurposing your greeting cards and prior church calendar icon tops after the season concludes. The collection box is in the vestibule for the *Holy Transfiguration Monastery*. Thank you for giving back!

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House Blessings – will begin 1/19. Fr Dave is interested in visiting and catching up with EVERYONE this coming Theophany season.

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Snowed In? Physically unable to make it to church? – Our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to watch our Cathedral's Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9am. Of course, the best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist. When limitations occur, please consider taking the time Sunday morning to pray with our brothers and sisters via the web. Go to www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/ to watch the *live broadcast*.

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Relocation Updates – *Reminder, we will **NOT** be moving to the rental space in Wexford. As our relocation committee continues to work with our realtor, it is important that all of our community continues to pray for God’s guidance (and patience as this takes time). God has a better plan and it will work in His time.*

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Please continue to talk with the Relocation Committee or Father with any thoughts or concerns about our next steps in our journey together. (Committee includes: Sharon P, Larry M, Carol L, John K, John Righetti, Lynn M, Matt P, Peggy Rusnak, Rich M, Sharon D, Tim M, & Todd Tusick)

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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Lk. 6:31)

- Bring in a bag of CALCIUM CHLORIDE
 - Pray for our parish and it’s future
 - Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Offer your time to help with possible snow

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Snow Removal Team – Snow is on it’s way (at some point). Just a reminder that we will be looking for folks, as in the past, to offer some of their time prior to people getting to church on Sundays to help with snow removal. *Please let Father know if you will be able to come earlier to Church to assist with keeping the sidewalks clear.* Ideally we will have a rotation of people so that the same person is not doing it each snowfall.

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Sign Up Sheets – The much-anticipated 2019 sign up sheets for our Coffee Social Ministry and Sponsoring Bulletins are available in the church hall and vestibule. IF every family takes the coffee social for one week – the year will be filled! Please consider being a part of this stewardship ministry of our church.

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

January 13: *Available to you*
January 20: *Available to you*
January 27: *Available to you*

The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

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Shopping on-line – The on-line shopping store, Amazon.com, will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our diocese! Simply go to the home page of our Diocesan website, www.acrod.org, and click on the AmazonSmiles button in the far left column and then shop as usual (Same products; same prices; same service).

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Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 1003
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 164
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 444
Community Outreach:	\$ 78
Total Collections:	\$ 1689
Relocation Fund:	\$ 250

Give Generously: “For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own free will.” 2 Cor 8:3

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December Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 7024.05

***Expenses = \$ 4912.90**

Net Income = \$ 2111.15

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 39

THANK YOU! for your continued generous stewardship support of our parish!

2018 Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 79,182.80

***Expenses = \$ 78,337.89**

Net Income = \$ 844.91

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 42

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Presanctified Liturgies – this year will be at the **Hampton Inn** off of the Wexford exit of 79 (2622 Wexford Bayne Road, Sewickley, PA 15143).

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Looking FURTHER Ahead

Some 2019 dates of interest:

- Feb. 15 – Feast of the Meeting of our Lord
- Mar. 1 – 1st All Soul’s Saturday (**tentative**)
- Mar. 3 - Pre-Lenten Breakfast following Liturgy
- Mar. 11 – The Great Fast Begins
- Mar. 23 – 2nd All Soul’s Saturday
- Mar. 30 – 3rd All Soul’s Saturday
- Apr. 6 – 4th All Soul’s Sat. / Pgh. Lenten Retreat
- Apr. 7 – Feast of the Annunciation
- Apr. 13 – Church Spring Cleaning
- Apr. 20 - Lazarus Saturday / beginning of Holy Week
- Apr. 28 – Pascha, the Feast of Feasts
- May 13-16 – Senior Retreat at Camp Nazareth
- May 22 – Feast of Mid-Pentecost
- Jun. 6 – Feast of Ascension
- May 24-26 - ACRY Bowling Tournament (in Potomac, MD)
- May 31-Jun. 2 – Family Camp at CN
- Jun. 2 – Family Day at Camp Nazareth
- Jun. 15 – 5th All Souls Saturday
- Jun. 16 – Feast of Pentecost
- Jul. 7 – Feast of the Nativity of St John AND our Church Picnic at “The Cabin” in North Park
- Jul. 14-20 – Pittsburgh Deanery Week at CN
- Aug. 4-10 – Science and Nature Week at CN

Please, Save the Dates!

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Visit Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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ST JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Orthodox Christian Network**. (This is the site that Father uses to get each week's "Children's Word".) The Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) is an official agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. **MyOCN is YourOCN!** Visit www.myocn.net to see the variety of materials they provide online! *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE



The International Soup Sampling to benefit IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) will be on Saturday, **February 9th** from 11am-2pm at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt. Lebanon across from the Galleria Mall (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15228). *Sample five homemade soups for \$10 and then take a quart home for a \$10 donation.* Youth Groups & Children's Ministries from all jurisdictions will be assembling health kits. All area youth are invited! Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies. To sponsor kits, call Nick Terezis at 724-282-5198. You can register to purchase soup at: ioccc.org/Pittsburgh

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Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series Launches - Our Diocese is pleased to announce a series of Parenting Workshops designed to help parents raise their children in the Faith. The title of the series is "Raising Believing Children" and will focus on the ways parents can help their children stay faithful to Christ and His Church in a world that is filled with doubt and most often works against their Faith. This series will be hosted by different Churches and Deaneries around our Diocese beginning with Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Rockaway, NJ on **March 2nd**. The first will feature His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa and Very Rev. Stephen Loposky as presenters and workshop facilitators. Each workshop will be broadcast live online and will be archived for later viewing as well, and will include both presentations and small group moderated discussions to allow participants to help each other in their lives as parents. This is an exciting and important endeavor. For more information and to register for the first Workshop, or if you would like to host a Parenting Workshop, visit our Diocesan Website: acrod.org and look for the Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series logo.

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How's Your 'Eyesight'? – The 2nd annual Senior Retreat which will take place at Camp Nazareth Retreat and Conference Center in Mercer, PA from **May 13-16**. The Retreat will feature keynote addresses by His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory who is inviting all our Diocesan Seniors, **ages 55 and over**, to join him for 3 days of fellowship, prayer, and rejuvenation. *"How's Your 'Eyesight'?: Keeping your Focus on God as a Senior"* is the theme of the Retreat. The Retreat will help our Seniors navigate the many challenges they face including retirement, transition, health and family all while remaining focused on and committed to our Lord. It will include worship, fellowship, learning, fun, time for reflection and relaxation, and time spent with our Diocesan Hierarchy! Online Registration will begin on February 1. Visit acrod.org for more information and to register for the Retreat. Participants will also be able to register by mail. You may also call (724-662-4840) or email (campnazareth@acrod.org) the Camp for more information.

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Family Camp "Being a Believing Family" - The 7th annual Family Camp at Camp Nazareth this year in conjunction with Family Day will be **May 31 – June 2**. The event is exactly what it sounds like. Families "camping" together in the Camp cabins and participating in a weekend of services, games, discussions, activities and challenges that are all designed to help families deepen their relationship with God and with one another. Come join His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory in the beautiful environment of Camp Nazareth. Come and learn what it means to be a believing family. "...Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household...and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God." (*Acts 16:31-34*). Believing in God as a Family is more and more difficult these days. Don't miss out on this opportunity for you and your family. Space is limited to the first 10 families, so register soon. Visit campnazareth.org for more information and to register

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

The Monk Nicholas the Monastic

Commemorated on January 6 / December 24

The Monk Nicholas the Monastic was a military commander under the Byzantine emperor Nicephorus I (802-811). He was sent off into a war with the Bulgars. On the eve of battle he was subjected to temptation from a certain woman, but manfully he resisted it. In the blood-spilling of the battle all his comrades perished, but Nicholas

remained alive. It was revealed to him in a vision, that his life was spared because he had overcome temptation. After this Blessed Nicholas left the world, settled into a cave, became a schema-monk and prayed unceasingly for soldiers, the fallen and killed. By his great ascetic efforts he so pleased the Lord, that he was granted the gift of perspicacity.

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

“Of all the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures.” +Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

⁹ By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

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Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25:

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ and Ram the father of Ammin’adab, and Ammin’adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Bo’az by Rahab, and Bo’az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri’ah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehobo’am, and Rehobo’am the father of Abi’jah, and Abi’jah

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the father of Asa, ⁸ and Asa the father of Jehosh’aphat, and Jehosh’aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi’ah, ⁹ and Uzzi’ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki’ah, ¹⁰ and Hezeki’ah the father of Manas’sseh, and Manas’sseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi’ah, ¹¹ and Josi’ah the father of Jechoni’ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni’ah was the father of She-al’ti-el, and She-al’ti-el the father of Zerub’babel, ¹³ and Zerub’babel the father of Abi’ud, and Abi’ud the father of Eli’akim, and Eli’akim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli’ud, ¹⁵ and Eli’ud the father of Elea’zar, and Elea’zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; ¹⁹ and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; ²¹ she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman’u-el” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

5 Ways to Focus on Christ this Christmas

Christmas Day can be magical and filled with family and fun. It can also be chaotic and stressful, filled with dishes to make and people to visit. Whichever end of the spectrum you land on (or perhaps in the middle), it is important to make sure that your family remembers to focus on the reason for the holiday. After all, Christmas is a holy day—one of the holiest of the year.



1. Go to Church

One simple yet profound way to keep the focus on the Nativity this year is to attend church together as a family. There is something simultaneously solemn and joyful about the Orthodox Nativity liturgy – if you haven’t ever attended an Orthodox church before, know that you are welcome!

2. Read the Christmas Story

Reading the Christmas story from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke is another simple way to remember the reason for the holy day. Our

family reads the story from both the gospels and from a children's Bible. We sit around the fireplace and revel in this moment of quiet, pondering the deep mystery of our faith: God himself became man and dwelt among us.

3. Sing Christmas Hymns

I grew up in a musical family, so one of my favorite childhood memories of Christmas is of our entire family singing Christmas hymns together. I can still hear my grandfather's tenor singing out "O beautiful Star of Bethlehem." If you are Protestant, Catholic, or Western rite Orthodox, you probably know most of the classics already. Have a family sing-a-long where you all join in "Joy to the World," "Silent Night," and "O Come, All Ye Faithful." If you are Eastern Orthodox but aren't familiar with all of the tones or troparian for the feast, you can look at some great YouTube videos [Search **CARPATHIAN CHRISTMAS CAROLS**] to hear examples.

4. Pray Together as a Family

Taking the time to pray together as a family in your icon corner sends a powerful message to your children. You could pause and say the Morning Prayers before or after you open presents. Or, you can come together for Evening Prayers before you have pie and coffee and play

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father can meet M-F 9:30a-4p or by appointment.
Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.
Phone Tree – Please call Fr. Dave to be added.
Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure so he can pray with you and you may receive the Anointing to be fully prepared.
Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.
Holy Communion/Eucharist – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged by all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive a blessing from the chalice.
Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.
Baptisms – Please consult Father for details.
Adult Chrismation – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.
Marriages – Are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Father ASAP for details (before arrangements are made for the hall).
Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations; otherwise burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

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games at night. Each child can hold an icon (making sure that one holds the Nativity icon) for the adults to venerate. Whatever you do, be sure to lead your family in praying to the God who became flesh for us.

5. Greet Each Other with "Christ is Born!"

In the Orthodox Church we have responsive greetings for most feast days. You may have heard the Pascha (Easter) greeting before: One person says, "Christ is risen!" and the other responds, "Indeed He is risen!" There is a similar greeting for Nativity. **One person will say, "Christ is born!" and the other will respond, "Glorify Him!"** Take time to learn/teach the Rusyn: "Christos Razdajetsja!" / "Slavite Jeho!" We taught our children this response at a very early age, and they love saying it over and over on Christmas. We can be opening presents, eating dinner, or playing with toys and someone will cry, "Christ is born!" Everyone else joyfully calls, "Glorify Him!" What a beautiful, and enthusiastic, way to remember the birth of Christ on Christmas.


May your Christmas be filled with the Light of Christ. A blessed Nativity to you all!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Source: <http://www.orthodoxmotherhood.com/focus-on-christ-this-christmas/>

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2019 Theophany Home Blessings



Home blessings will take place from
January 19 thru March 9.

It would be ideal if I were able to come between 9:30am and 4pm on a weekday. If this is not possible, some Saturday and Sunday times will be available. I will call or email you a couple days before I will be in your area.

How to prepare for your house blessing?

- ✓ Have a white cloth placed on the table,
- ✓ with an icon and/or a cross,
- ✓ and a candle to be lit.
- ✓ please have a list of names of all those who live in the home (including your pets)
- ✓ and a list of the departed members of your family and friends you would wish to have remembered during the service.
- ✓ (I will provide the Holy Water.)

During the service, please have all televisions and radios turned off with cell phones placed on vibrate. I look forward to spending this time with your family! - Fr Dave

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"The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning." - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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SPIRITUAL VITAMIN FOR THE WEEK

“This Christmas night bestowed peace on the whole world – So let no one threaten; This is the night of the Most Gentle One – Let no one be cruel; This is the night of the Humble One – Let no one be proud. Now is the day of joy – Let us not revenge; Now is the day of Good Will – Let us not be mean. In this Day of Peace – Let us not be conquered by anger. Today the Bountiful impoverished Himself for our sake – So, rich one, invite the poor to your table. Today we receive a Gift for which we did not ask – So let us give alms to those who implore and beg us. This present Day cast open the heavenly doors to our prayers – Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness. Today the Divine Being took upon Himself the seal of our humanity, In order for humanity to be decorated by the Seal of Divinity.”
– St. Isaac the Syrian (d. 700 AD), Nativity Sermon

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PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and Other Needs *

A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant **name**. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver **him/her** from sickness and bitter pain. Heal **him/her** so that **he/she** may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Jane, Roberta, Gary, Lino, David, Louis, June, Helen, Steven, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N., Luca, Barbara, Francis, Carol, Mark ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; & St. Panteleimon, the Healer.

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For the Special Intentions of... Metropolitan Gregory, Marianne, Steve, Christopher, Nicholas, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles our seminarians: Michael and Daniel, and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee: Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Donald, Jane, Eleanor, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Margaret, Todd and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

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Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day): Stephen Branchio - Holy Protomartyr & Archdeacon Stephen (1/9).

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Birthday Prayers for... Steven Buhonick (1/7) & Jason Shelpman (1/9) ...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Dustin and Stephen ...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.

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For Expectant Mothers... Lauren, Pañi Marianna, Faith, Pañi Eleni, Hayley, Carley ...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St Irene Chrysovalantou.

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky, Devin Meegan, and Trevor Meegan ...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

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For the souls of the newly departed... +John Smoley, +Julia Potoski, +Beatrice Stagon, +Charles Maresh, +Mildred Gavulich, +Carl Magidc, His Grace, +Bishop Athanasios ...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal Memory!

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you would wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another**. Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to Orthodox Christians.*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Prayer of Thanksgiving at the Christmas Eve Supper

Let us pray to the Lord! Lord have mercy!

O Heavenly Father, we have gathered together this holy evening to honor You and to commemorate Your glorious Nativity in Bethlehem. O Son of God, forgive our sins, as we forgive one another, for we are related to one another. Increase our love for all people. You, O Blessed Lord, were with us this evening as we had partaken of the Holy Supper, which is reminiscent of many past such suppers. We thank You, Dear Lord, for the many blessings we have received during the past year, and we are humbly grateful for Your love, care, protection, and concern for us, as one happy family. We pray for continued peace and health during the coming year. O Divine Father, we are now called by the heavenly hosts, whose voices ring and cry out with great tidings of joy, to hasten to the stable, Your holy temple, to worship and adore Your Most Holy Name, with all our heart, soul, and body. Blessed are You, O God, who are merciful, and who nourishes us from Your bountiful gifts, by Your grace and compassion, now and ever and forever. Amen.