



# ST. 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*  
 Subdeacon Ryan Ferko  
 Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*  
 Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*  
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*NEW \*\*\* Twitter: @SJB\_OrthodoxPGH*

January 7, 2021

Volume VI

## The Feast of the Nativity according to the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

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

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**NATIVITY COMMEMORATIONS** (remembered at Proskomedija [Preparation prayers])

**Incense For Censer (Kadilo)** For The Health Of Our Parish  
**Charcoal For Censer (Kadilo)** In Memory Of The Departed Family & Friends Of St. John The Baptist  
**Vespereal Loaves** In Memory Of +Stephan & +Anastasia Gaydos  
**Sacramental Wine** In Memory Of +John & +Helen Kailyar  
**Prosphoran (Eucharistic Bread)** In Memory Of +Lawrence & +Anastasia Martin  
**6 Candles In Candelabras** In Memory Of +Nicholas & +Anna Buhonick  
**3 Decorated Candles On Altar** In Memory Of The Sanger Family & Friends  
**3 Decorated Candles On Altar** For Good Health Of The Sanger Family & Friends  
**2 Decorated Candles On Tetrapod** In Memory Of +Olga Radick  
**Festive Oil** For The Health Of Our Doctors, Nurses, And Medical Staff Of Our Parish Community

### SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

#### \*\*\*THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

*FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD*  
 The Adoration of the Magi:  
 Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar  
 9:15 – Nativity Canon & Carols (*Kol'ady*)  
 9:30 – Divine Liturgy  
 Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40  
 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

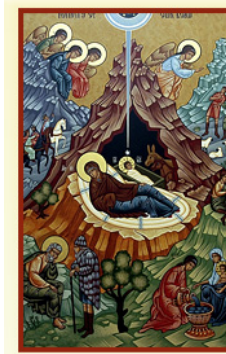
#### \*\*\*FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 – 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ  
 Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos  
 9:30am Divine Liturgy:

#### \*\*\*SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 – 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ  
 Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen  
 9:30am Divine Liturgy

\*\*\* = **FAST FREE (Sviatki) until  
the eve of Theophany**



## The Great Feast of the Nativity of Christ

**“A mystery I behold which is strange and wondrous: the cave  
is Heaven and Virgin is the throne of the Cherubim; in the  
confines of the manger is laid the Infinite, Christ our God...”**

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!**

**Christ Is Born!**

(responded with: *Glorify Him!*)

**Christos Raždajetsja! (Slavite Jeho!)**

**We are happy** that you have joined us today! 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 again soon! **If you have any questions** in regards  
 to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave.

**BULLETIN IS OFFERED:**

If you wish to sponsor a bulletin *In  
Honor of* (anniversary, birthday,  
 etc.) or *In Memory of* someone,  
 please do so by signing up on the  
 sheet in the church hall or by  
 contacting Fr. Dave (*email, text, or  
 call*). An additional stewardship  
 offering to the Church is requested.

**Dear Family of St. John's,**

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

As we respond with “*Glorify Him!*”, we are glorifying the Nativity of our Lord. This has occurred in our hearts. I pray that this Nativity Season is peaceful for you wherever you are at this time. Find the hidden blessings every day! Life truly is a gift from God. As the Incarnate Christ-Child entered the world, allow His peace to enter into your heart and soul.

This year has been challenging for everyone, but keep the Light of Christ burning inside you. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us all in safety! May you, your family, and your friends have a most blessed Nativity Season!

*With Love,*

*Maria, Sophia, Paŋi Alexandra, and Father Dave*

#### \*\*\*SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 - 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ  
 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
 The Holy Ancestors: Righteous Joseph the  
 Betrothed, Holy Righteous David the King,  
 and James the Brother of the Lord  
 (movable holiday on the Sunday after Nativity)  
 9:15 – Nativity Canon & Carols (*Kol'ady*)  
 9:30 – Divine Liturgy  
 Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19  
 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23  
 Tone 6; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

#### \*\*\*TUESDAY, JANUARY 12 – 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ  
 9-10:30am Church open for personal prayer  
 (enter from the side door)

#### \*\*\*WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Leavetaking (*Apodosi*s) of the Nativity of Christ

#### \*\*\*THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

The Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
 9:30am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wed.)

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**Did you know...** On the two days following Christmas, the special Antiphons and Nativity Tropar continue to be sung. Also, on January 8<sup>th</sup> (the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Christmas) the Entrance Hymn is repeated. If you are unable (or uncomfortable) to come to church on January 7<sup>th</sup>, please consider coming on the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>.

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**On-Line Giving** is now available from our parish website! The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple. Now you can also donate from your home and set up a recurring donation. (There was a glitch so only donations to the General Stewardship Fund are available at this time. This will hopefully be figured out within the week.)

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**Live-Broadcast** – We are blessed with the opportunity to watch our Diocesan Cathedral's services online (9:00 am Sunday Divine Liturgy). The best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist, but in the current scenario, please take the time Sunday morning and throughout the week to pray via the live broadcast on the web at:

[www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/)

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**Additional Church Curators Needed** – A synonym for curator is steward. Our curator list needs expanded! If anyone is interested in being a steward of their time and be "on-the-door", please see Theresa Sharpless.

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**Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh** – A generous anonymous donation was recently made: an icon of the Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh for the households of the parish! These beautiful icons are blessed and ready to be taken home. May God bless the donor of these icons and may He bless all of the homes where the icons are going!

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**Twitter** - Our parish now has a Twitter account: @SJB\_OrthodoxPGH. Any changes to our service schedule or information about a feast day will be shared through this platform.

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**Greeting Cards** – Please repurpose 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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**Prayer requests** – During the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, prayers are said for the sick and those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin. If silent prayers are requested, they will be offered quietly at the altar at all services. All those listed in the "Prayer Corner" are prayed for during the Proskomedia (Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our parish prayer list.

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**Parish Precautions** – If you were curious, here are a few of the precautions that the parish has been taking and will continue to take as we err on the side of caution with Covid:

- the open pews, door handles, and light switches are sanitized weekly,
- pans on top of the radiators are being filled with water to increase the humidity in the air (denser air falls to the ground faster taking germs with it)
- the ceiling fans run on low pushing the heat down (and preventing the air to be stagnant)
- 4 windows are cracked in the nave of the church (bringing in fresh air)
- we also continue to wear our masks and keep safe-distancing

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Father or a member of the Parish Council. And as always, if you are feeling ill or have a fever, please stay home and let Father know so that we can pray for you!

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## ACRY NEWS

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**Pill Bottle Collection** – Our ACRY continues it's outreach to "Matthew 25: Ministries" who accept donations of **CLEAN AND EMPTY** plastic medicine pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies to countries in need. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THE LABEL IS REMOVED AND IT IS NOT STICKY.** 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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**Calcium ice melt (salt) for sidewalks** – This year, the church does not need any ice melt for the sidewalks. (We still have last year's.)

### OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 30
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 305
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 459
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 794</b>
<b>Relocation:</b>	<b>\$ 70</b>

*We must give in trust that God will use it to produce fruit: "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your sowing (resources) and increase the harvest of your righteousness (benevolence)." - 2 Cor. 9:10*

### December Financial Report:

**General Offerings = \$ 18,572.57**

**\*Expenses = \$ 5,817.23**

**Net Income = \$ 12,755.34**

*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

**Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 21**

### 2020 Financial Report:

**Donation Income = \$ 92,560**

**\*Expenses = \$ 75,576**

**Net Deficit = \$ 16,984**

*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

**Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 25**

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Nelson Family; Shuster Family; Peggy Rusnak; Lawrence Martin; Mirilovich Family; Mary Jane Hudak; Eleanor Sanger; Patty Watson.

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**"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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**Weekly Offerings to God** – During this time, if you are not coming to the church, we request that all weekly donations be mailed to Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143) For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

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**THANK YOU!** for your continued generous stewardship support to our parish!

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**Stewardship Envelopes** – The 2021 Stewardship Envelopes are in the church hall to be picked up. If you would like your envelopes mailed to you, please contact Father Dave or Theresa Sharpless.

*Remember: it is only by your offerings that we are able to keep the doors to the church open and the ministry of our parish alive!*

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**Bulletin Sponsor opportunities** – The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule to sponsor a bulletin in 2021. If you are not back in church yet, but would still like to sponsor, please notify Fr. Dave. If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please do so by signing up on the sheet in the church hall or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested. *Remember, sponsoring a bulletin in memory of someone does not replace having a Panachida (a short Memorial Service) for them.*

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## LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✦ **Monday, January 18** – A Day of Strict Fasting Vigil Service for the Feast of Theophany: HOMESTEAD: 8pm / AMBRIDGE: 8pm / RANKIN: 7pm / EAST PITTSBURGH: 7pm
- ✦ **Tuesday, January 19** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water on the Feast of the Theophany of our Lord
- ✦ **Wednesday, January 20** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Synaxis of St. John
- ✦ **Thursday, January 21** – 9:30am Parastas for all aborted babies

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## Looking FURTHER Ahead...

### Some 2021 dates of interest:

- Feb. 12 – Feast of Three Holy Hierarchs
- Feb. 15 – Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord
- Mar. 6 – 1<sup>st</sup> All Soul's Saturday
- Mar. 9 – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Findings of the Head of St. John the Baptist
- Mar. 15 – The Great Fast Begins
- Mar. 17 – Apr. 21 – Wednesday Night Presanctified Liturgies
- Mar. 21 – Sunday of Orthodoxy
- Mar. 27 – 2<sup>nd</sup> All Soul's Saturday
- Apr. 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> All Soul's Saturday
- Apr. 7 – Feast of the Annunciation
- Apr. 10 – 4<sup>th</sup> All Soul's Saturday
- Apr. 17 – Church Spring Cleaning
- Apr. 24 – Lazarus Saturday /  
The beginning of Holy Week
- Apr. 25 – Feast of Palm Sunday
- May 2 – Pascha, the Feast of Feasts
- May 9 – Cemetery Grave Blessings
- May 26 – Feast of Mid-Pentecost
- Jun. 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Finding of the Head of St. John
- Jun. 10 – Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord
- Jun. 19 – 5<sup>th</sup> All Souls Saturday
- Jun. 20 – Feast of Pentecost
- Jun. 28 – Apostles Fast begins
- Jul. 7 – Feast of the Nativity of St John
- Jul. 12 – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
- Jul. 18 – Church Picnic at "The Cabin" in North Park

Please, Save the Dates!

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**New Sticharion (dalmatic / robe)** – We have been blessed to acquire gently used vestments for our Reader, Tim. We also have on order new Gold, Purple, and Burgundy Altar Boy Sticharion. The total for everything mentioned is \$3,600. Thanks to an anonymous donor, the balance has been covered. Glory to God and Thank You for your kind generosity!

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### 2021 Home Blessings Special Announcement

– They will begin on the Feast of Theophany, **January 19<sup>th</sup>**, but at this time, Home Blessings will be done by request only. Per guidance from Metropolitan Gregory, Father Dave will say the prayers with you from your porch and then sprinkle the Holy Water in the doorway of your home. (*He will not walk throughout the inside of the house.*) Please catch Father when he has his calendar (*a.k.a. phone*), email him, or fill out the form in the bulletin to schedule your Home Blessing this coming Theophany season. Fr. Dave will not contact anyone to schedule blessings at this time, please reach out to him.

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*I will miss the opportunity to sit and talk with you in your homes this year! We hope and pray that we will be able to resume this beautiful tradition of our Church soon! On August 14 we have the annual Lesser Blessing of Water and I will instead come and visit everyone this August or September for your Home Blessing. (Blessing homes in the fall is an existing practice in other parishes in the area. For practical reasons, it avoids concerns and rescheduling due to snow or ice this time of year.) Thank you for your understanding and assistance in keeping us all safe, healthy, and blessed! - Fr. Dave*



## ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

# SPF50

SCRIPTURE • PRAYER • FAMILY



**SPF50 (Scripture, Prayer, Family): A Diocese Family Ministry** - The 5<sup>th</sup> Issue of SPF50 is available! (*If you are already participating, please contact Fr. Dave.*) If you did not start with us on March 1, consider joining now. Make a commitment to reading Scripture and Praying together with your family. (*Please contact Fr Dave to fill out the Commitment Card.*) Visit the Diocesan SPF50 web page at [www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50](http://www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50) to find out more about SPF50 and how to help your family read Scripture and Pray together at home.

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### VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddiocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](https://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

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## 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 the "Children's Word" that is distributed each week.*) 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](http://www.myocn.net) to see the variety of materials they provide online! *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

"Such splendor of heavenly glory was revealed to the simple shepherds of Bethlehem. Up until then, such glory could only be seen by chosen individuals, and this is the first instance that we find in Holy Scripture of a whole group of mortal men clearly seeing and hearing the immortal, angelic host. This is a sign that, with Christ's coming to earth, heaven is wide open to all who seek it in purity of heart."  
+St. Nikolai Velimirovic

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

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### Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12:

#### The Visit of the Wise Men

**2** 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, <sup>2</sup> "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." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; <sup>8</sup> and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word,

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***Sunday's Epistle:*** Galatians 1:11-19

**Paul's Vindication of His Apostleship**

<sup>11</sup>For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's<sup>[a]</sup> gospel. <sup>12</sup>For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup>For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; <sup>14</sup>and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. <sup>15</sup>But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, <sup>16</sup>was pleased to reveal his Son to<sup>[b]</sup> me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, <sup>17</sup>nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. <sup>18</sup>Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

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***Sunday's Gospel:*** Matthew 2:13-23

**The Escape to Egypt**

<sup>13</sup>Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to

destroy him.”<sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt,<sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.”

**The Massacre of the Infants**

<sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men.<sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled,  
because they were no more.”

**The Return from Egypt**

<sup>19</sup> But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying,<sup>20</sup> “Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.”<sup>21</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.<sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.<sup>23</sup> And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

**LIVES OF THE SAINTS**

**Commemoration of the shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord**

*Commemorated on December 25*

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them. And they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:8- 14)

**LIVING ORTHODOXY**

**Why is the Virgin Mary such an important part of Our Liturgical Services?**

Worship is the manifestation of the faith and life of the Church. The Theotokos is an extremely important part of the faith and life of the Church. Therefore, it would be impossible for the Church to worship without including her prominently in the Services. The Theotokos is important in the Christian Faith, first and above all, because she is the "Birth-giver of our Saviour Jesus Christ." It was she who gave the human nature to Christ, as His mother. In this she contributed to the incarnation of Christ, and therefore to one of the most important aspects of His work of salvation. Further, she is the first and Chief Saint of the Church. It was her purity and goodness that drew the grace of God to choose her to become the Mother of the Lord. Further, just as she did at the wedding at Cana, the Theotokos always points to Christ, saying, "Do what He says," that is, she is a perpetual witness to the need for Christians to follow Christ. Further, she always prays for us, so in worship we ask her intercessions before the Throne of the Lord. As you can see, the Theotokos is included in the worship of the Church so prominently precisely because she is so prominent in the drama of salvation. She herself prophesied her place in the Church when she said, following the Annunciation, "...behold henceforth all generations will call me blessed." (Luke 1:48)

## 2021 Theophany Home Blessing (from your porch) Request Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Times Available (*check all that apply*):

\_\_\_\_ Weekday Daytime

M    Tu    W    Th    F

\_\_\_\_ Weekday Evening

M    Tu    W    Th    F

Weekend Daytime

Sa Su

\_\_\_\_ Weekend Evening

Sa Su

*A full schedule of Home Blessings  
will occur later in 2021 after  
the Lesser Blessing of Water in August*



## SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

*Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday between 9:30am and 4:00pm or by appointment.*  
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**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 for 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** – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Father for more 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 only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Father ASAP for more 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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*“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*

## 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(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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**For the Health of...** Robert, Suzanne, Thomas, Jerry, Andrew, Brian, Kristina, Fr. Patrick C., Fr. George L., Brian, Douglas, Dacia, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, Alexandra D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Lino, June, for all those battling viruses *...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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**For the Special Intentions of...** Metropolitan Gregory, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Elizabeth, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Daniel, Dylan, Thomas, and Nicholas *and our Church Council,*

*Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Anthony, Mary Jane, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Margaret, John, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...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 Brancho - Holy Protomartyr & Archdeacon Stephen (1/9), Melanie Shuster - Venerable Melania the Younger (1/13) *(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

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**Birthday Prayers for...** Steven Buhonick (1/7), Jason Shelplan (1/9), Paňi Kathy Fester (1/13), Brenda Labas (1/15), Fred G. Anton (1/16), Paňi Fedornock (1/16) *...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!*

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**For our Catechumens & Inquirers...**

Dustin, Stephen, Susan, Marilynn, John *...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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

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**For those preparing for Marriage...**

Lexi & Patrick, Lauren & Corey, Ashley & Derek *...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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**Anniversary Prayers for...**

*...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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**For Pregnant Mothers...**

Marilynn *(due in April)* Paňi Dutko *(June)* *...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

**For the souls of the newly departed...**

+Fr. John Baranik (12/20) and those who have passed from the coronavirus *...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May their Memory in God be Eternal*

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\* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you 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 only Orthodox Christians.*

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“When God became known to us in the flesh, He neither received the passions of human nature, nor did the Virgin Mary suffer pain, nor was the Holy Spirit diminished in any way, nor was the power of the Most High set aside in any manner, and all this was because all was accomplished by the Holy Spirit. Thus, the power of the Most High was not abased, and the child was born with no damage whatsoever to the mother’s virginity.”

+ St. Gregory of Nyssa

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## DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK

**Kondak for the Nativity of our Lord**

The Virgin today gives birth to the highest Being: and the earth provides the Inaccessible One with a cave.

The angels with the shepherds glorify Him; the Wise Men journey with the star, because for our sake is born a little Child, the Pre-Eternal God.