

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**



*Joyous Christmas Greetings to One and All*

Prayers and Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy and Healthy New Year of 2025!

*Rev. David M. Mastroberte*

*President Steven Lukac  
and Our Church Board Members*

**— CHRISTMAS BULLETIN —**  
**DECEMBER 25, 2024-JANUARY 4, 2025**



*— A Word of Thanks for the Christmas Season —*

As we celebrate Our Lord's Nativity and the festive season which follows, we take this opportunity to thank **YOU** for what you have done and continue to do within our parish, both during Christmastime and throughout 2024.

We thank you for...

Your presence in worship

and your voice raised in song to praise the Lord...

Your kindness towards one another

and your welcoming attitude to guests and newcomers...

Your gifts of time and talent...

Your 2024 Stewardship contributions and other donations...

Your hard work indoors and outdoors,

whether in the church, the office, the hall, the kitchen, and the cemetery...

Your baking and cooking...

Your cleaning of our facility and grounds...

Your odd-jobs that go unnoticed by most of us...

Your service on our Church Board, on committees, and in other capacities...

Your chairing of events and fundraisers...

Your volunteering at our fundraisers and events...

Your gifts of adornments for this holiday...

**May Our Lord, born in a manger for our salvation, bless and keep you  
at Christmas and in 2025 and grant you many, blessed years!**

*Christ is Born! Glorify Him!  
Christos Raždajetsja! Slavite Jeho!  
Christos gennatai! Doxasate!  
Christos se rodi! Vaistinu se rodi!*



*— Christmas Sponsors —*

### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

*Donated Through the Generosity of ALL Parishioners*

### **CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS**

*In Memory of +Protopresbyter Michael & +Pani Eleanor Polanichka  
With Love From Valerie, Justine, Michael David and Their Families*

## ***Thank You for Your Financial Stewardship!***

*The generous support of our parishioners and friends allows us to effectively continue our ministry here at Saint John's. We are grateful for your contributions throughout 2024.*

*To date, we have received 33 pledges for 2025, totaling \$57,580. Thank you for your support! If you haven't filled out and returned your 2025 Pledge Card, please do so as soon as possible. God bless you!*



## — SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS —

WED	12/25/2024 10:00 AM	THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST — CHRISTMAS DAY Divine Liturgy <i>Fellowship to Follow</i>
THURS	12/26/2024 9:00 AM	2ND DAY OF THE NATIVITY: COMMEMORATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD Divine Liturgy
*SUN	12/29/2024 9:00 AM	SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST Divine Liturgy
TUES	12/31/2024 4:00 PM	Vespers for the Holyday
WED	1/1/2025 9:00 AM	CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD SAINT BASIL THE GREAT Divine Liturgy of St. Basil <i>With Prayers for the New Year and Sharing of St. Basil's Bread (Vasilopita)</i>
SUN	1/5/2025 9:00 AM	EVE OF THEOPHANY — STRICT FAST DAY: NO MEAT OR DAIRY SPECIAL SCHEDULE: Divine Liturgy Great Blessing of Water <i>Refreshments and Fellowship in the Hall</i> Vespers for the Holyday to Follow
MON	1/6/2025 9:00 AM	THEOPHANY — THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

# — ANNOUNCEMENTS —

## ■ Seasonal Christian Greeting

The greeting used in church for the period from the Nativity until Theophany is “**Christ is born!**” with the response “**Glorify Him!**”

## ■ Feasting and Fasting

The “12 Days of Christmas” are days of celebration! There is no fasting from Christmas Day through January 4th (*even on Wednesdays and Fridays*). January 5th—the eve of Theophany—is a strict fast day when no meat or dairy is eaten.

## ■ No Liturgy at Our Church on December 27

We will not have Divine Liturgy on the December 27 this year. Those who wish to attend services for the Third Day of the Nativity and St. Stephen the Protomartyr are invited to attend Divine Liturgy at Camp Nazareth on December 27, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

## ■ Theophany Services on January 5 & 6

This year, Theophany or Epiphany—the celebration of the Baptism of Christ—falls on a Monday. In order to maximize participation in the services for this great feast, we will observe the following schedule. On **Sunday, January 5, 2025**, Divine Liturgy will be at 9:00 AM. At the conclusion of Liturgy, the Great Blessing of Water will take place. After this, “strict fast” refreshments will be provided by Fr. David and Pani Vikkie—all are welcome! After Coffee Hour, Vespers for Theophany will be served. On **Monday, January 6, 2025**, Divine Liturgy for the holyday will take place at 9:00 AM. *Theophany is the third most important feast on the Church’s calendar – don’t miss it!*

## ■ House Blessings Begin January 6, 2025

Starting on the holyday of Theophany, Fr. David will be available to bless homes with the newly-sanctified water. As usual, house blessings will be *by request only*. An online form is available on our website [stjohnacroc.org](http://stjohnacroc.org), and hard-copy forms are available in the hall for those who don’t use computers. Fr. David will communicate with you directly to set up a day and time—he will not simply show up. *This is a wonderful tradition and a great way to begin the year with faith in Christ!*

## ■ 2025 Traveling Icon Sign-Up Now Available

Each week, we ask one household in our parish to take this special icon home and offer daily prayers for our parish and community. Stop by the Information Table in the Hall to add your name to the list!

# CHRISTMAS MARKET 2024 REPORT

*Glory to God for such a successful event! We thank Renee Maceyko and Mary Ann Lavin for their hard work in organizing the Market. We thank all of you who assisted through volunteering and through donations! (We also thank Steve Saluga for preparing this report!)*

<u>Revenue Category</u>	<u>2024 Revenue</u>	<u>2023 Revenue</u>	<b>2024 Higher (2024 Lower)</b>
Cookies, Holiday Gifts & Decorator Items	\$8,829.74	\$7,995.03	\$834.71
Religious Showcase	\$32.25	\$305.55	(\$273.30)
Donations	\$850.00	\$875.00	(\$25.00)
Total Revenue	<u>\$9,711.99</u>	<u>\$9,175.58</u>	<u>\$536.41</u>
Revenue for Distribution	\$9,679.74	\$8,870.03	\$809.71

---

## STEWARDSHIP

*From Dan Hromyak*

*"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." - 1 John 1:1*

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received - being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

*"...They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." - Matthew 2:11*

What gifts do you give to the Lord? Gold - we should reflect Christ's wisdom in all our relationships. Frankincense - represents our daily prayer and adoration of God. Myrrh - is a symbol of our daily sacrifices that we unite with Jesus for the sake of others.

# SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

3180 Morefield Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

Office: 724-981-0571  
Rectory: 724-346-4457  
E-mail: [father.david@stjohnacroc.org](mailto:father.david@stjohnacroc.org)  
Website: [www.stjohnacroc.org](http://www.stjohnacroc.org)

*Rev. Father David Mastroberte, Pastor*

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

## Sacramental and Membership Information

**Sick Calls** can be made at any time. Please phone the rectory (724-346-4457) when a family member is admitted to the hospital, or to request a home visit to receive Confession and Communion. Hospitals do *not* call to alert the parish when someone is admitted.

**Marriages** are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. Circumstances may require a dispensation from the diocesan bishop. Consult the pastor at least six months in advance and before any plans have been made for the wedding reception. Marriages cannot be celebrated during the fasting seasons of the church, or on Fridays.

**Baptisms** are usually scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays. Consult the pastor. Two godparents (godfather and godmother) are required, at least one of whom must be a practicing Orthodox Christian in good standing at an Orthodox parish, and the other (at least) a practicing, baptized Christian.

**Church Funerals** are, under ordinary circumstances, provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and material obligations to the parish; otherwise, the funeral service is conducted at the funeral home. **The Church does *not* permit cremation.**

**Parishioners in “good standing”** are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John’s Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular church attendance, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these sacraments no less than once a year); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and financially support the parish (especially through an annual “pledge”).

**Prospective members and returning members** are asked to fill out an application form, copies of which are available in the church office.

---

**Our Church’s Website:** [stjohnacroc.org](http://stjohnacroc.org)  
**Our YouTube Live Stream:** [youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon](http://youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon)  
**Our Facebook Page:** [facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA](http://facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA)  
**Our Diocesan Website:** [acrod.org](http://acrod.org)

**For Online Giving Options, please visit our website: [stjohnacroc.org](http://stjohnacroc.org)**

## ***Happy Birthday!***

Emil Maurer  
Taylor Moon

December 28  
January 3

*God Grant You  
Many, Blessed  
Years!*

## ***Happy Anniversary!***

George & Marilyn Radu    December 27

## ■ Our Sponsors ■

**DECEMBER 29, 2024**

### ***Bulletin Sponsor***

*In Loving Memory of Father/Grandfather John Andras, Jr.  
by +Dorothy Pacinda, Bob and Michael Andras*

### ***Candelabrum***

*In Loving Memory of All Family Members  
of +William Trefun & +Magdalena Chupak  
by Jerry, Patti & Ryan Chupak*

### ***Eternal Lamp***

*In Memory of +Debra Doyle,  
by the Family*

### ***Schedule of Men to Hold Candles During the Gospel***

**December 29**  
Steven Lukac  
Steve Lukac  
John Lenhart  
Ken Maceyko  
Emil Maurer

**January 5**  
Randy Martin  
Paul McMahan  
Robert Miller  
John Moon  
Dan Ristvey

