

SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Clergy:

Rev. Father David Mastroberte
Very Rev. Protopresbyter Michael Polanichka
Rev. Deacon John Anderson

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

Bulletin for December 24, 2017-January 6, 2018 *– Christmas & New Year's Edition –*



Painting by Sr. Rita Keshock, OSBM in a Private Collection

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Joyous Christmas Greetings

Best wishes to all for a merry Christmas
and a happy and healthy New Year of 2018!

Rev. David M. Mastroberte

Very Rev. Protopresbyter Michael Polanichka

Rev. Deacon John Anderson

&

Pres. Steven Lukac and Our Church Board Officers and Trustees

As we remember Our Lord's Birth and celebrate this festive season, we express our thanks to many within our parish:

- We thank all who donated towards the **Christmas Flowers** that beautify our church for this festive time.
- We thank all those who gave of their time to help **decorate** the church on December 3rd and on December 22nd.
- We thank all those who gave of their time and talent to organize and work at our inaugural Christmas Festival. We especially thank **Mary Ann Lavin** and **Rene Maceyko** for organizing the event.
- We thank **Shannon Baker and our PTO** for organizing the St. Nicholas Luncheon, and to "St. Nicholas" for visiting.
- We thank Cantor Professor **Joseph Jaeger**, Choir Director **Paula Kudelko**, our **Choir Members**, and **Dan Hromyak** for their offering of their singing at the divine services throughout the Nativity Fast and Christmas feast.
- We thank our **altar servers** for their assistance at the Holy Altar.
- And we thank **ALL of our parishioners and friends** who gave offerings and donations in honor of Christmas.

**May Our Lord, born in a manger for our salvation,
bless and keep you now and in the coming new year!**

CALENDAR OF SERVICES & EVENTS

SUN	12/24/2017	CHRISTMAS EVE (FAST) <hr/>
	7:45 PM	Singing of Carols from the Western Christian Tradition
	8:00 PM	Vigil Service for Christmas Eve Followed by Singing of Carpatho-Rusyn Carols (Koljady)
MON	12/25/2017	CHRISTMAS – THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD <hr/>
	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Fellowship Reception in the Hall – All Welcome!</i>
TUES	12/26/2017	SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS (MOTHER OF GOD) <hr/>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
WED	12/27/2017	THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS (ST. STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR) <hr/>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
SUN	12/31/2017	SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS <hr/>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Cutting of the New Year's St. Basil Bread</i> <i>New Year's Eve Fellowship in the Hall</i>
MON	1/1/2018	8TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS; ST. BASIL THE GREAT; NEW YEAR'S DAY <hr/>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy of St. Basil <i>With Special Prayers for the New Year</i>
FRI	1/5/2018	EVE OF THEOPHANY (STRICT FAST) <hr/>
	6:00 PM	Great Compline Service with Blessing of Loaves <i>(No Holy Supper this year!)</i>
SAT	1/6/2018	THEOPHANY; BAPTISM OF OUR LORD <hr/>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water
SUN	1/7/2018	SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY; SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST <hr/>
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Panachida: ++Walko Family (Perpetual) & +John Sekerak (Perpetual)</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder: Bring in Cookies for Christmas Day Fellowship. As is customary in our parish, we will have a Fellowship Hour following Liturgy on Christmas. We are asking our parishioners to bring in a dozen cookies or another small “finger” snack (*i.e. nothing that needs a fork, spoon, or knife!*) to share together. **Don’t skip this! Share a cookie—and some time—with your fellow parishioners to celebrate Our Lord’s Birth!**

¶ **The “Christian Greeting”** for the 12 Days of Christmas is “Christ is born” and the response “Glorify Him”! *Be sure to know the response when you come forward for mirovanije after services.*

¶ **Christmas isn’t over on December 25th!** December 25th isn’t the last day of Christmas—it is the *first* day! The festive, fast-free period goes from December 25th through January 4th. January 5th, as the eve of Theophany, is a strict fast day. January 6th, Theophany, commemorates the Baptism of Christ and is the close of the 12-day season; it is fast-free. Aside from coming to services to mark these joyful days, find ways of celebrating at home as well. One simple way is to leave your decorations and lights up for the “12 Days of Christmas.” *Give glory to the newborn King!*

Sunday School “Christmas Break” on Sunday, December 24 and Sunday, December 31. Classes will resume on January 7.

Public Service Announcement: Don’t Hoard Old Holy Water! While holy water doesn’t have an “expiration date”, it is best to replenish your supply yearly. Holy Water from the previous Theophany should be poured outside (preferably onto the ground on a place where people don’t ordinarily walk).

2018 River Blessing

Mark your calendars! The local Orthodox parishes will gather on Sunday, January 14th at 1:00 PM in downtown Sharon for the Blessing of the Shenango River. More information will be forthcoming!

Coffee Hour Sponsors

**Monday, December 25th
Christmas Day Fellowship**
By All Parishioners

**Sunday, December 31st
New Year’s Eve “Party”**
*By Fr. David, Pani Vikkie & Family
With Gratitude to All Parishioners*

Making All Things New: Stewardship and New Year's Resolutions

January 2017 issue of the Parish Bulletin of International Catholic Stewardship Council

Stewardship is a commitment of mind and heart to the Lord; a way of life that needs constant renewal and transformation. This time of year has always been one of looking forward to a new year, reflecting on the changes we need to make in our lives and resolving to follow through on those changes. Perhaps those who seek to make resolutions to be better stewards might find inspiration in the following quick samples:

Stewardship of Prayer: Resolve to strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Notice how often you pray and what hinders you from praying. Commit to short, daily prayer times.

Stewardship of Family: Resolve to set aside more time to stay connected with your family. Eat dinner together, schedule regular dates with your spouse, plan family outings, and go to church together.

Stewardship of Health: Resolve to get those medical and dental checkups. Adopt healthier eating habits. Add exercise and other physical activity to your daily routine.

Stewardship of Possessions: Resolve to possess a little more “lightly” this year. Consider ways you can reduce the amount of all that stuff you own. Distinguish between those items that are necessary and those that are considered luxurious and unnecessary.

Stewardship of the Parish Family: Resolve to serve your faith community in some way

this year such as at liturgy, in the parish’s outreach or education and formation efforts.

Stewardship of Money: Resolve to render sacred your annual budget. Reprioritize your financial goals to ensure that the Lord comes first in your spending. Take positive steps to improve your financial health.

Stewardship of Work: Resolve to be faithful to your daily, work-related tasks and offer them up to the Lord. Cultivate your skills. Deepen your knowledge. Be mindful of how you are building the Kingdom of God.

Stewardship of Mind: Resolve to keep your mind active. Commit to being more informed on the issues of the day. Read your Bible. Familiarize yourself with the Church’s social teachings.

Stewardship of Neighbor: Resolve to be a person of hospitality; to make time and space for others who enter your life. Be more aware of those times when a neighbor, coworker, fellow parishioner or stranger, needs a moment of kindness, a little attention or an affirming gesture on your part.

Stewardship of the Poor: Resolve to live with more compassion and in solidarity with those less fortunate. Remember the poor in prayer, and commit to helping relieve in some way the plight of those who are impoverished or marginalized.

2018 STEWARDS OF SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH (To Date!)

Anderson, Dn. John & Deborah
Anderson, Emily
Andras, Robert
Bauer, John
Bich, Karen
Blasko, Helen
Blasko, Joseph & Mary
Bobanick, Robert & Janice
Burprich, Dennis
Chuba, Ed & Katie
Chupak, Jerry
Chupak, Julie
Cross, Debbie
Everett, Chester
Fabian, Ed & Francine
Fabian, Matthew & Dina
Fabian, Natasha
Giroski, Deborah
Hartley, Katie
Hellman, Kelly & Tom
Holmes, Margaret
Hromyak, Daniel
Hromyak, Margaret
Hynes, Brent
Hynes, Jim & Karen
Hynes, Katie
Jaeger, Joseph & Helen
Kapusta, Robert & Rebecca
Kee, Helen
Kolbrich, Nona
Koval, Pauline
Kraynak, John Jr.

Kroko, Melinda
Kudelko, Anne
Kupensky, Diane & Kyle
Long, Nancy
Lukac, Steven & Natalie
Lutz, Andy & Billie
Mastroberte, Fr. David & Pani Vikkie
Maykowski, Carol & Bob
Moon, Brandon
Moon, John & Deborah
Moon, Taylor
Pacinda, Dorothy
Parimuha, Alex
Patterson, Betty Jo
Polanichka, Fr. Michael & Pani Eleanor
Ristvey, Dan & Carol
Ristvey, Michael & Nancy
Ristvey, Thomas & Melinda
Saluga, David
Saluga, Michael
Saluga, Steve & Cynthia
Shumkaroff, Milan & Stephanie
Slovesko, Edward
Tatusko, Joseph & Germaine
Tatusko, Peter
Tulip, Geri
Waryanka, Michael & Deborah
Yasnowsky, Donald and Joann
Yasnowsky, Kevin
Yourema, Katherine

We take this opportunity to thank all those who have made a pledge for 2018 to support the work and ministry of Saint John's!

If you have yet to submit your pledge card for 2018, please return your pledge card as soon as possible. Additional cards are available in the vestibule.

House Blessings 2018

Notes from Fr. David

Since Theophany is a Saturday, House Blessings will begin on Monday, January 8th. Please note that, **rather than having individual forms to fill out, there is a "master schedule" in the hall, listing the days and times I will be in different areas**. Just add your name to the schedule in a given time-slot.

I am always happy to sit and visit, but one request: **no food or snacks!** I appreciate the show of hospitality, but food and beverages are not necessary.

Please call me (724-813-3172) if you have any questions about scheduling a house blessing.

How to prepare: Arrange a place for prayer at your dining room table or another location with an icon and/or cross, and a candle. Please make a list of any living and departed persons that you would like prayed for in the short service. (*Fr. David will bring a holy water sprinkler with holy water, so you do not need to place any holy water on the table.*)

SALE TOTALS FOR CHRISTMAS "WRAP UP" FEST	
Category	Revenue
Cookie Sales	\$3,382.50
Gifts & Decorator Items	\$1,028.00
Gift Wrapping	\$124.00
Basket Raffle	\$80.00
Pirohi	\$2,485.00
Halushki	\$459.50
Religious Showcase	\$238.50
TOTAL	\$7,797.50

RECAP OF RECENT PIROHI SALES

October	381	\$2436.00
November	356	\$2150.48
December	385	\$2813.96
Total	1122	\$7400.44

Pirohi profits go toward our Cemetery Perpetual Care loan repayment. We thank all parishioners and friends who helped work the pirohi sales. We are grateful!

Lorraine Amos
Pirohi Sale Coordinator

Eternal Lamp ~ Sunday, December 24th

In Loving Memory of Father/Grandfather, Joseph Chupak, by Jerry, Patti and Ryan Chupak



BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 24 Natalie Lukac
Dec. 25 Stephen Bartko
Dec. 28 Emil Maurer
Dec. 30 Debby Doyle
Jan. 3 Julie Chupak
Taylor Moon
Jan. 4 John Kolbrich
Jan 5 Andrew Waryanka

ANNIVERSARIES

December 27th

George & Marilyn Radu

MEN TO HOLD CANDLES

Sunday, December 31st

Ken Maceyko
Dr. Emil Maurer
Fred Meiss
Robert Miller
John Moon

Sunday, January 6th

John Parimuha
Tom Patrick
Dan Ristvey
Joel Ristvey
Matt Ristvey