

Bulletin for December 25, 2022-January 7, 2023



**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 2023!

*Rev. David M. Mastroberte
Very Rev. Thomas Blaschak
Rev. Deacon John Anderson*

*President Steven Lukac
and Our Church Board Members*



Words of Thanks for the Christmas Season

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

- We offer special thanks to Courteney and Scott Riddle for donating the new Christmas Decorations for the church, and for the Riddle and Lukac families for decorating the church this year.
- We thank Kathy Piston for the outdoor wreaths and seasonal arrangements.
- We thank all who donated towards the Christmas Flowers that beautify our church for this festive time. We thank Francine Fabian, Ed Fabian, and Denny Burprich for decorating the church with these flowers before Christmas.
- We thank Paula Kudelko, Dan Hromyak and Choir Members for leading the responses at the divine services throughout the Nativity Fast and Christmas feast.
- We thank Deacon John Anderson, Reader Gregory Cross and our altar servers Kevin Yasnowky, Brent Hynes, Elias Mastroberte and Blaise Mastroberte for their assistance at the Holy Altar.
- We thank Board President Steve Lukac for all his help with live-streaming our services.
- We thank Renee Maceyko, Mary Ann Lavin, Judy Ference, and all who helped with and supported the 2022 Christmas Market on December 10th.

- We thank “St. Nicholas” for visiting after Liturgy on Sunday, December 11th; Pani Vikkie Mastroberte for coordinating the gifts; Lorraine Amos for setting up before the meal (and for setting up many coffee hours) and to all who brought refreshments and helped with the event.
- We thank all board members, trustees, and others who have been working diligently “behind the scenes” to keep things operating smoothly.
- We thank Sue Preston for printing and mailing our bulletin to our homebound members.
- We thank Paula Kudelko, Dawn Burns and Mark Burns for cleaning the church.
- And we thank ALL of our parishioners and friends who gave offerings and donations in honor of Christmas, and throughout the entirety of 2022.

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

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

By Dan Hromyak

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." - John 1:14

God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus - the best gift we could ever receive.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|---|
| MON | 12/26/2022 9:00 AM | 2ND DAY OF THE NATIVITY—COMMEMORATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD Divine Liturgy <i>Perpetual Commemoration:</i> +Mary Jane Repasky |
| TUES | 12/27/2022 9:00 AM | THIRD DAY OF THE NATIVITY—ST. STEPHEN THE PROTOMARTYR Divine Liturgy <i>Perpetual Commemoration:</i> +Latcheran Family |
| SAT | 12/31/2022 4:00 PM | Vespers for the Holyday |
| SUN | 1/1/2023 <u>10:00 AM</u> | CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; SAINT BASIL THE GREAT Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great <i>Cutting of the New Year's "St. Basil Bread" – Vasilópita</i> |
| THURS | 1/5/2023 6:00 PM | EVE OF THEOPHANY—THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST <i>STRICT FAST DAY—NO MEAT OR DAIRY</i> Vespers-Liturgy of St. Basil the Great Great Blessing of Water |
| *SUN | 1/8/2023 9:00 AM | SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY Pro-Liturgy Service with Distribution of Pre-Consecrated Communion <i>Offered by Deacon John Anderson</i> <i>Perpetual Commemorations:</i> ++Walko Family ++Sekerak Family +Peter & +Helen Gula |

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





ANNOUNCEMENTS



Feasting and Fasting

Please remember that 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.

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!**”

Theophany 2023: Vesperal-Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water

We will mark the holyday of the Baptism of Christ (*Theophany; Epiphany*) with a Vesperal-Liturgy on the evening of Thursday, January 5th at 6:00 PM. This Liturgy will be followed by the Great Blessing of Water. Those receiving Communion are to keep a fast before Liturgy (*for a minimum of three hours, but more if you are able to*).

Public Service Announcement – Don’t Hoard Old Holy Water! As we celebrate the Blessing of Water, remember: while holy water doesn’t have an “expiration date”, replenish your supply yearly. Holy Water from the previous year should be poured outside (preferably onto the ground on a place where people don’t ordinarily walk, along the foundation of your house, etc.).

House Blessings

Fr. David will be available to bless homes starting on January 9th. As usual, house blessings will be *by request only*. An online form is available on our website, and hard-copy forms are available in the hall. Fr. David will communicate with you directly to set up a day and time – he will not simply show up!

Fr. David will be away from January 6th through January 8th for a family function. In case of any pastoral emergencies, please call any of the local Orthodox priests.

Offering Envelopes for 2023 are available. Please make sure that you get your envelopes and use them throughout the year.

2023 Wall Calendars, donated by Tomon’s Funeral Home, are still available. Please help yourself!

Don’t Forget: Divine Liturgy on New Year’s Day, January 1, 2023 will be at 10:00 AM!

Updates to Perpetual Commemorations of the Departed

Decades ago, our parish established a “*Perpetual Liturgy Fund*” to ensure that prayers would be offered for the departed loved ones of our parishioners. Today, this has grown to **125** separate intentions. While a daily Liturgy was something common in our Diocese in the early years, today it is no longer the norm.

Over the years, there have been two trends with these Perpetual Services in our parish: fewer and fewer families connected to these names are left, and more and more of our parishioners prefer to have them remembered on Sundays. During my pastorate, I have mostly satisfied both of these situations by offering one Panachida after the veneration of the Cross/Festal Anointing for any Perpetual Services that were not scheduled during the week. Starting during the 2020 shutdown and the period when we did not have coffee hour, I have served the Panachida before everyone was dismissed. However, the unintended consequence of all this is that many think that Panachidas are automatically scheduled every Sunday, or that a Panachida is a normal ending to a Sunday Liturgy!

Starting on **Sunday, January 15th, 2023** I will return to the “previous” order: Divine Liturgy, Announcements, Veneration of the Cross/Festal Anointing. I will generally *not* be offering a Panachida *before* the Veneration of the Cross/Festal Anointing on Sundays, excepting special occasions like Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, etc.

To streamline how **Perpetual Commemorations** are made, after some consideration, I will be applying the following practices starting

on **Sunday, January 15, 2023**. (*These apply only to the Perpetual Liturgy Fund intentions.*)

1. All Perpetual Commemorations for the Departed for a given week (Sunday through Saturday) will be mentioned in the context of the Sunday Divine Liturgy*. While we do not offer the “Litany for the Departed” on Sundays as on weekdays, I will find appropriate ways to publicly pray for these individuals on Sundays. I will also pray for them privately in the *proskomedia* (preparation of the bread and wine before Liturgy). *I will not be offering a Panachida on Sundays for Perpetual Commemorations.*

2. In order to continue to pray for the departed during the week, I will also include the Perpetual Commemorations for the week at a weekday service (*excepting Holy Week and Bright Week*).

3. If anyone would still like to have a separate weekday (i.e. Monday-Friday) service for a perpetual commemoration, I am open to scheduling this, provided someone will be in attendance in person. (Live-stream doesn’t count.)

Regarding “non-perpetual” memorial services, I will be outlining some things in a subsequent bulletin write-up!

May their memories be eternal!

Fr. David

**Except on Palm Sunday, Pascha/Easter Sunday, and on other major holydays that may fall on a Sunday. In those instances, Perpetual Commemorations will be included on a different Sunday.*

A Nativity Word Search!

D T S I R H C A K B T P L C I J O Y O U A C J N
O Z U T S U T S U G U A R A S E A C L W N W T A
R Y V H K L X Z F O V L F X I N N K E E P E R N
E M Z D I V A D F O Y T I C V C X E G D C W X P
H C T R S S H D N F Y S Q Z M X H R O U J C W Z
G W J X Z M G B Q H P H J I I M V N V B Q I M Y
N Y J C B A V N M X O E O E B W K Y U H P B U X
I J B Q X L P P G E U E S E A E R M Y Q O C B P
K V M X Y L M M D C N P E H Y A T E N U C S C I
U S T A R O N S F Y F A P W M E O S E H L K X U
C L V X N N T J A E M S H J X R K S T X A E F T
M P R H X E A H R A S B A A Z G J I Z L V O S J
I G O D D V O N N J I G W M D D B A X I V I B L
W W K R B P R V G F W S N N T M Q H A T G E I I
R Q Y O Y S W I D E D Z X I V S H M B N T M Z U
E V L I V N I R O E L J Z J D E I H I H O S O S
T C G V S W S G K H X S P Y W I E R L A L H P F
A C Q A Q Y E I Z R G A F R U V T E H V L E F N
L E W S C J M N Y K J A T O X S H D K C A P I I
J W S Y B Y E H D S W R U L J E K F O C P H J E
G V D R O L N I M W U U V G M R G V E O P E L N
L I V Q S I N R P T Y S E N X D Q W F C G R E H
O N Z Y Q N A A E D U J E N B O F O X O R D G P
Y H X O M L L I H J F Z J J F K Z F D Z D S D X

Small One

Sheep

Donkey

Peace

Glory

Christ

Good Tidings

City of David

Hay

Lord

Taxed

Judea

Inn Keeper

Inn

God

Messiah

Savior

Joy

Angels

Bethlehem

King Herod

Caesar Augustus

Wise Men

Shepherds

Joseph

Virgin

Mary

Star

Jesus

Christmas

The beautiful Christmas
Flowers were donated by
all the parishioners of
St. John's



BULLETIN SPONSOR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

In loving memory of
Mary Jane Repasky

Sponsored by: Katie Hartley & Family

ETERNAL LAMP SPONSOR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

In loving memory of
Debra Doyle

Sponsored by: Debra's Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

In loving memory of
Mary Jane Repasky

Sponsored by: Katie Hartley & Family

Altar Flowers

In loving memory of
**Fr. Michael and
Pani Eleanor Polanichka**

By: Valerie, Justine & Michael David
and their Families

Candelabrum Sponsor

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

In loving memory of
Joseph Chupak

Sponsored by: Jerry, Patti & Ryan
Chupak

Happy Birthday!

December 25 Stephen Bartko
December 28 Emil Maurer
January 3 Taylor Moon
January 7 Gary Yonchak

Happy Wedding Anniversary

Marilyn & George Radu
December 27



**Men to Hold
Candles**

Sunday, January 1

Donald Yasnowsky
Kevin Yasnowsky
Gary Yonchak
Bob Amos
Jason Baker

Sunday, January 8

Dave Beight
Dennis Burprich
Jerry Chupak
Tom Doyle
Ed Fabian

