

Bulletin for December 24, 2023-January 6, 2024



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 2024!

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

*President Steven Lukac
and Our Church Board Members*

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



—Words of Thanks for the Christmas Season—

As we remember Our Lord's Birth and celebrate this festive season, we thank MANY people within our parish who help throughout Christmastime:

- **Special thanks to outgoing Bulletin Secretary Sue Preston for her dedicated efforts at printing our bulletin and mailing it to our homebound members!**
- We thank all who donated towards the **Christmas Flowers** that beautify our church for this festive time and to those who helped decorate the church with these flowers on Friday, December 22nd.
- We thank Paula Kudelko, Dan Hromyak and our dedicated Choir Members for leading the responses at the divine services throughout the Nativity Fast and Christmas feast.
- We thank Kathy Piston for the outdoor wreaths and seasonal arrangements and the honey blessed on December 17th, as well as Henry and Sue Van Zanten for the "Christmas Straw" that we distributed on the same day.
- We thank Board President Steve Lukac for all his help with live-streaming our services and Courteney Riddle for working on our website.
- We thank "St. Nicholas" for visiting after Liturgy on Sunday, December 10th; Pani Vikkie Mastroberte for coordinating the gifts; and 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 Paula Kudelko, Dawn Burns and Mark Burns for cleaning the church.
- 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.
- And we thank ALL of our parishioners and friends who gave offerings and donations in honor of Christmas.
- We would run out of space if we listed every person who helped during Christmastime—there are too many to count! THANK YOU ALL!

May Our Lord, born in a manger for our salvation, bless and keep you at Christmas and in 2024 and grant you many, blessed years!



Thank You for Your Financial Stewardship!

Without the support of our parishioners and friends, we would not be able to continue our ministry here at Saint John's. We are grateful for all of your contributions throughout 2023. If you haven't filled out and returned your 2024 Pledge Card, please do so as soon as possible! May God bless your generosity!

Our deepest condolences are expressed at the passing of **+STEPHEN BARTKO** who fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, December 21, 2023. May God grant him blessed repose in His heavenly kingdom. Eternal Memory!



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

- *SUN 12/24/2023** **CHRISTMAS EVE – STRICT FAST DAY: NO MEAT OR DAIRY**
9:00 AM **SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS – SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY**
Divine Liturgy
- Perpetual Commemorations for December 17-23, 2023*
REPASKY, Mary Jane
LATCHERAN, Michael, Julia, Charles, Anna, John
- 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Vigil Service and Singing of Carols
- MON 12/25/2023** **CHRISTMAS DAY – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (HOLYDAY)**
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Refreshments and Fellowship to Follow – Bring Something to Share!
- TUES 12/26/2023** **2ND DAY OF THE NATIVITY – COMMEMORATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- WED 12/27/2023** **THIRD DAY OF THE NATIVITY – ST. STEPHEN THE PROTOMARTYR**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations
- *SUN 12/31/2023** **SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**
9:00 AM *Saints of the Day: St. Melanie and St. Peter Mohyla*
Divine Liturgy
- Perpetual Commemorations for December 31, 2023-January 6, 2024:*
WALKO, John Sr., Mary, John Jr., Ann, Patricia, George, Joseph, Ruth
SEKERAK, John
- MON 1/1/2024** **CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; SAINT BASIL THE GREAT**
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy of St. Basil *with Prayers for the New Year*

WED	1/3/2024	9:00 AM	Parastas for Weekly Perpetual Commemorations (<i>Chapel</i>)
FRI	1/5/2024	6:00 PM	EVE OF THEOPHANY – <i>STRICT FAST DAY: NO MEAT OR DAIRY</i> Vespers Service for Theophany <i>Followed by “Holy Supper” in the Church Hall</i>
SAT	1/6/2024	9:00 AM	THEOPHANY – THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST (HOLYDAY) Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water
*SUN	1/7/2023	9:00 AM	SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY COMMEMORATION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for January 7-13, 2024:

CHUPAK, Julie

GULA, Peter & Helen

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. No meat or dairy is to be eaten on January 5th.

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!**”

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 8th. 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!

The "Christmas Season" Doesn't End on December 26th!

THEOPHANY 2024

January 6th is Theophany or Epiphany—the Baptism of Christ. Many do not realize that this is the third most important holyday after Easter and Pentecost! This year, our schedule of Theophany services and events is as follows:



- **Friday, January 5th—Theophany Eve:** We will have our evening **Vespers Service** at 6:00 PM. Following the service, we will gather for a community **"Holy Supper"** with many of the traditional foods and customs. *Please sign up if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly! All are welcome!*
- **Saturday, January 6th: Divine Liturgy** will be at 9:00 AM. The **Great Sanctification of Water** will take place at the end of Liturgy. Make *EVERY EFFORT* to attend Liturgy on this great feast, especially because it is a Saturday! The Blessing of Water is an incredibly beautiful and spiritually-enriching rite of our Orthodox Church.

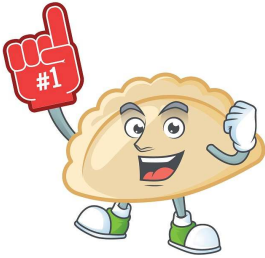
Christmas and Theophany are like two "bookends" of the same feast. The Church wants us to continue to celebrate what Christ has done for us and our salvation. Please plan on participating in these services and events!

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

By Dan Hromyak

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" - Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.



FALL PIROHI REPORT



July 5K Run	193 Dozen	\$ 1433.00
October	245 Dozen	\$ 2068.12
November	262 Dozen	\$ 2051.41
TOTALS	700 Dozen	\$ 5552.53 Profit

We want to express our sincerest gratitude to all St. John's Members who gave of their time and talents to participate in our Fall pirohi sales. We had an awesome turnout in November with 35 workers. We also want to give a HUGE SHOUT-OUT to Tommy Ristvey of Vey's Pub and Grill who generously donates the cheese and potato used in the sales. We also want to thank Jerry Chupak who supplies the morning donuts and to all the ladies who provide the foods for our lunch afterwards. Our next pirohi sale will be MARCH 8. Please join us in preserving this ETHNIC Church Fundraiser. We begin at 8am and are usually finished by 11am. COME, LAUGH and have FUN with us!!

Our thanks to Lorraine Amos for organizing the Pirohi Sales!

2023 Christmas Market Report

<u>Revenue Category</u>	<u>2023 Revenue</u>
Cookie Sales and Holiday Gifts & Decorator Items	\$7,995.03
Religious Showcase	\$305.55
Donations	\$875.00
Total Christmas Market Revenue	<u>\$9,175.58</u>
Revenue Available for Distribution prior to any expenses	\$8,870.03

What a successful event to help people in our community! We thank Renee Maceyko and Mary Ann Lavin for organizing the 2023 Christmas Market and everyone who helped in various ways.