

Welcome



*Your Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek
of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania
Many Years Master!*



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



DECEMBER BULLETIN SPONSOR

In memory of Sveda family and for the good health of Sveda Family

Given by George & Barbara Kolasar

Christos Razadajetsja!

Slavite Jeho!

Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!



Happy New Year

TWO WEEK Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, December 31

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Hierarchical Divine Liturgy / His Eminence AB Melchizedek / Honoring AP Joseph & Matushka Wasko on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary to the Holy Priesthood

Monday January 1

9:00 AM: Liturgy Of St Basil's Liturgy For Feast of St Basil & Circumcision of our Lord

Wednesday, January 3

7:30 PM: City Public Meeting

Friday, January 5

1:00 PM: Vespers Liturgy of St Basil
6:00 PM: Virgil of of Holy Theophany

Saturday, January 6

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy w/ Great Blessing of Water

Sunday, January 7

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Molebien / Social

Monday, January 8

Home Blessings

Tuesday, January 9

Day Home blessings

6:00 PM: Orthodoxy 101 Class

Wednesday, January 10

Home Blessings

6:00 PM: Public Town Hall at Park

Thursday, January 11

11:00 AM: Book Club

Saturday, January 13

4:00 PM: Bible Study

6:00 PM: Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, January 14

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social / Council Meeting / Home Blessings

Monthly Charity Support to begin January 2024

Beginning January 2024, following the sermon, a special collection for a particular charity will be taken. Some charities maybe local, national or Diocesan. Whatever is collected each month will have \$250 added to the total.

January's sponsored charity is:

OCMC- Support a mission priest.

Office: 330-755-4931 / Cell: 570-212-8747

<https://www.stjohnthebaptist-campbell.org/>

padrebartek@gmail.com

PLEASE KEEP OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Send a "Thinking of You" card or remember their Birthday with a card. If anyone needs to be added, please contact Fr. Andrew.

FATHER ANDREW CLEMENT'S (OUR DEAN) RETIREMENT PARTY

Come & celebrate & help us honor Father Andrew Clement's of 40 years of service & 37 years at St. Nicholas in Mentor.

WHERE:

Pine Ridge Country Club, 30601 Ridge Rd
Wickliffe, OH

WHEN: Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 5:30-10:00 PM

COST: \$30 per person & Cash Bar / \$15 Children (4-10)

Vegan & Gluten-free options available

RSVP by January 14 to Evelyn Wick @ bobobskid@yahoo.com or 440-221-8265
9372 Euclid-Chardon Rd, Kirtland, OH 44094
All reservations must be paid by January 14th.
Checks payable to St. Nicholas.

Monthly Commemoration of Birthdays and Anniversaries

Beginning January 2024, I would like to institute the last Sunday of the month as "Celebration Sunday," have a cake or something special in order to commemorate those whose birthday & anniversary fall in that month.
Fr. Andrew Bartek

SIGN-UP / VOLUNTEERS FOR SOCIALS

It has been customary that the "O" Club, Sisterhood, & council sponsor the coffee socials.

We are asking for individuals or families to please sponsor a social on a rotating basis. With enough volunteers, the rotation of sponsors could be once a quarter. Even though the above groups take a particular Sunday, getting a break would be nice.

Bagels, donuts and coffee is perfectly fine.
A simple meal is perfectly fine.

Please see Fr. Andrew so he can put you on a schedule.

As of right now on any given month:

First Sunday	"O" Club
Second Sunday	Council
Third Sunday	Sisterhood
Fourth Sunday	Open
Fifth Sunday	Open (when applicable)

DECEMBER SOCIALS

Dec 31 – Fr. Wargo's 50th Anniversary w/
Archbishop Melchizedek

PRAYER LIST– Updated 12-28-23

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Donna Chiarelli / George Horodnic / Irene Horodnic / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Paula Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Mary Jane Puskas / Kenny Ruff / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Marion Zwinski / Martha Centofanti

HIERARCHS & CLERGY: Archbishop Benjamin / Archbishop Alexander / Archbishop Melchizedek / Bishop Matthias / Fr. James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Moses Berry / Fr. Michael Rustic (Fr) / Fr. Mirolyub Ruzik / Sub-deacon Wylie Meath (Fr)

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Chrissy (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Donna Chiarelli / Dominic (Centofanti) / Ellen (Clark) / Trudy Ellmore (Fr.) / Bruce Harris (Sabol) / Katie (Garrity) / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Ellen (Kessler) / Eleanor Marie / Paul (Kolesar) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Kim (Vansuch) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Debbie Kollar (Fr) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Mea (Mahan) / Mary (Mahan) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Michelle Nicoloff / Matushka Raissa (Nicoloff) / Eugene (Pallai) / Ksenia and her unborn child (Petrochko) / Matushka Helen (Psinka) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Kristianna & infant Mary Louise (Robinson) / William Romanchak (Fr.) / Roxanne (Yannito) / Julia Shirilla / Katherine (Steffaro) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Richard (Tusinac) / Brian (Shirilla) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Paula (Voytilla) / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Drew (Willison) / Emilia Yannitto / Charlette Zenko / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Zoland Zile (Fr.)

MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS: Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky)

MISCELLANEOUS: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Diocese of Aleppo) & Archbishop John (Archdiocese of Aleppo) still being held captive / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

Galatians 1:11-19 (Epistle, Sunday After Christmas)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.

DECEMBER FINANCIALS

Expenses..... \$14,593.58
 Income..... \$18,526.90
TOTAL..... \$13,505.16

Weekly Tithe \$10,429
 Weekly Candles \$326
 Christmas Offering..... \$390
 Christmas Flowers..... \$395
 Reimbursement of Calendars \$572.90
 Christmas Card..... \$215
 Pre-Advent Social \$9,000
 Rubrics Book..... \$100
 Monthly Flowers \$75
 Religious items..... \$285

Other Income
 Alaska Outreach \$265

IMPORTANT: 2023 Donations

All 2023 donations must be received by next Sunday, December 31 to qualify for the 2023 tax year. Anything received after that date will be credited to your 2024 donation report.

Matthew 2:13-23 (Gospel, Sunday After Christmas)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

40 Day Remembrance

January 7—Paul Graban & MaryJane Dean
January 21— Bret

Ryerson Family Thank You!

This was the family at St. Tikhon's to whom we sent Christmas presents.

"Thanks to your wonderful gifts, our Christmas here at St. Tikhon's has been so sweet. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts"

Will, Grace, Max Ryerson & Aunt Molly

January Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

Bulletin: In Memory of my father George on the occasion of his 41st year of repose – Given by AP Andrew Bartek

Wine: Memory of my wife Laurissa– Given by Subdeacon Vladimir

Incense: Memory of my brother George—Given by Subdeacon Vladimir

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: For all my family and friends – Given by AP Andrew Bartek / In memory of Mary & George Rusnak – Given by Subdeacon Vladimir

Altar Candles: In memory of my husband Robert Kennedy on his heavenly birthday on January 3 – Given by Sue Kennedy

Tetrapod Candles: In memory of my mother Jennie Rudiak on her anniversary January 3 – Given by Sue Kennedy

St. Herman Candles: TAKEN

St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: For the Health of the AP Andrew Bartek – Given by Dc. David & Mat. Pauline

Protection Icon Candles: For the Health of Dc. James & Family—Given by Dc. David & Mat. Pauline / In memory of Ken's parents Frank & Norma & Carol's parents Hank & Dorothy Karr– Given by Ken & Carol Ruff

St. John the Baptist Candles: For the Health of Dr. Nickoloff & Family & Choir– Given by Dc. David & Mat. Pauline

Flowers: In memory of my God-mother Helen – Given by AP Andrew Bartek

<u>\$50 per month</u>	<u>\$30 per month</u>	<u>\$25 per month</u>
*Wine	*St. Herman candles	Incense
*Bulletin		
*Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light	*St. Panteleimon Icon candles	<u>Flowers</u> - \$75
*Altar Candles	*Protection Icon candles	
*Tetrapod Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	

REPOSED LIST FOR JANUARY

Margaret Graban (1978) ©	17- Vera Kawalik (2001) ©
Judith Banas (2019)	17- Anna Talaban (1949) ©
1- Katherine Kristian (1994) ©	18- Andrew Kovach (1994) ©
1- Anna Harvischak (2013) ©	18- Margaret Domowchik (1996) ©
2- Nicholas Libertin (2021) ©	20- Joshua Zdinak (2016)
2- Nicholas Bohac (1921) ©	20- Marie Borsic (1984) ©
2- Elia Dudin (1949) ©	20- Catherine Cochran (2011) ©
3- Mitred Archriest Stavros Rousos	20- Diamada Patellis (1929) ©
3- Anna Roman (1978) ©	21- George Evans (1984) ©
3- Elizabeth Kuzma (1925) ©	21- Fr. Michael Shuster (2020)
4- George Bartek (1983)	21- Ann Shirilla (2012) ©
4- Archpriest Michael Slovesko	21- Charles Patellis (1928) ©
4- Peter Fatholitis (1937) ©	21- Catherine Vojtilla (1942) ©
5- Ann Marie Petroff (2006) ©	22- Fr. John Stefanik (2000)
6- Helen Pender (2016)	22- Andrew Pacak (1973) ©
6- John Timkovich (1951) ©	22- Michael Pasloskey (1985) ©
6- Infant Klimis (still born) (1964)	22- Steve Dmetruk (2002) ©
7- Mary Vansuch, Sr. (1971) ©	22- Nicholas Bobosh (2008) ©
7- Mike Felt (1920) ©	22- Lubica Krestich (1926) ©
8- Bishop Mark of Boston (2018)	23- Fr. Michael Sopoliga (2009)
8- Sub-deacon John Zeling (2012) ©	23- Helen Midlick (2004) ©
8- John Voytilla (1945) ©	23- Eugene Kennedy (2004) ©
8- Mary Graban (1995) ©	23- Rudolph Zelina (2007) ©
9- Katherine Trovers (1980) ©	23- Kosovka Raslta (1923) ©
9- Carolyn Weil (1998) ©	24- Madeline Puskarcik (2006) ©
9- Vasil Kovach (1925) ©	25- Steve Sirihla (1977) ©
9- George Ontko (1943) ©	25- Helen Graban (1992) ©
9- William Boldish (1968) ©	25- George Magriplis (1931) ©
11- Alan James Cole (2017) ©	25- Veronica Shirilla (1995) ©
14- George O'Shanic (1981) ©	26- Nate DiPero (1985) ©
14- John Graban (1990) ©	26- Baby Brown (1939) ©
14- Helen Papach (1929) ©	26- Vasil Maximor (1957) ©
14- Michael Harvey (1958) ©	27- Joe Vansuch (1998) ©
14- John Genaros (1960) ©	27- Michael Guorgiadis (1952) ©
15- Augustine Shima (1928) ©	28- John Anos (1936) ©
15- Fedor Chulik (1943) ©	28- Vasil Vasilagas (1959) ©
16- Elizabeth Mariniak (1927) ©	29- George O'Shenic, Jr. (1986) ©

Christ is Born! Archbishop Celebrates Nativity of the Lord

On Monday, December 25, the great feast of the Church, the Nativity of the Lord, was celebrated at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest lead the festal services at the Cathedral.

Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, Archpriest Tarasiy Maxim, Priest John York, Protodeacon Thomas Keith, and Deacon Paul Garklavs joined the joyful celebration at the Lord's altar. The choir was directed by Olga Garklavs.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, the Archbishop reflected on the joy of the feast, while also bringing to the minds of the faithful of the suffering in the world. The Archbishop talked about this feast being a light for a world that has gone dark and the need for us to celebrate this feast and lift up in prayer for those who are not able due to the suffering in the world.

Following Prayers of Thanksgiving those gathered were invited to a festive meal in the Dean's apartment.

January Celebrations

Birthdays

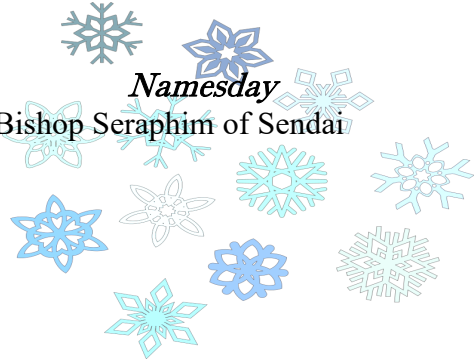
1	Beth Hull
2	Stella Jane Zelinsky
3	Terri Konik
4	John Starcher
5	Andrew James (Tusinac)
6	Karen Smiko
7	Lueleta Dardovski, Luke Rusnak
9	Brian Bishoff
10	Elizabeth Willison
15	James Bufalini
19	Balaci Kristian, Nicola Nicoloff
23	Susan Beskid
25	Frank Batura
30	Bob Whitham Jr.
31	Julie Dardovski

Anniversaries

24-2015	AB Daniel of Chicago & the Diocese of the Mid-west
25-2020	His Grace Bishop Alexis Bishop of Alaska
January 6	Fr. James Gleason (Fr. Andrew's spiritual Father) Anniversary to the Holy Priesthood

Namesday

2	Retired Bishop Seraphim of Sendai
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PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES

Before the Priest arrives at your home, here are a few reminders on how to prepare:

- * In the main room of the home, usually the kitchen or dining room, have placed on the table a white cloth, a candle and /or an Icon or cross. You may place a small container of Holy Water on the table. (Note: Father will be bringing his own.)
- * Make a list of those living in the house including pets and all deceased you want prayed for.
- * Turn off all TV's, radios, computers, etc. so as to keep focused on the blessing service.
- * Make sure that pets are heeled or restrained so as not to get underfoot while Father goes through the home.
- * In some customs, someone (usually a child) takes a candle and leads Father through the house while the rest follow.
- * If you have any items to be blessed (Icon, Cross, etc.) put them on the table where the blessing will take place.
- * When the priest arrives, have everyone in the home gather around the table and join in the blessing. **PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT.**
- * Invite friends or neighbors to participate and witness the beauty of this tradition.

NOTE: Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of the Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in the home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy and love for mankind.

HOME BLESSING SCHEDULE

Theophany is but a month away. Please contact Fr. Andrew if you have a certain day and time you would like reserved to have your home blessed. The schedule fills up quickly!

Home Blessings will begin January 8th, 2024.

Archpastoral Message of the Most Reverend DANIEL Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest on the Feast of the Nativity of Christ 2023

Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Venerable Monastics, and Beloved Faithful,

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2)

As we gather in the spirit of joy to celebrate the Nativity of Christ, these words of the holy Prophet Isaiah resound once again in our ears and in our hearts. Year after year, this ancient yet ever-new prophecy takes on renewed significance as we contemplate the mystery of Our Savior’s birth. In the Gospel of Saint Luke, we recall how the watchful shepherds, tending to their flocks in the

dark of night in the hills of Bethlehem, suddenly experienced “the glory of the Lord shining on them” (Luke 2:9). The prevailing darkness of this world was pieced by a heavenly brightness: Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, who even now continues to enlighten the darkness of our earthly existence.

How do we today come to experience this Light, which dispels darkness and destroys it? We encounter it primarily as Divine Love: that Love which has altered the course of history, freed us from evil, filled our hearts with peace and joy, and brought life to the world. In the darkness of our night, the Love of God has been revealed to us: it is Jesus, the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary. He is “God’s love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (Romans 5:5).

Yes, “the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all people” (Titus 2:11): in our jubilant celebration of the Lord’s birth, we take to heart that Christ our Lord irrupted into human lives and affairs as we went about our usual business, and radically changed all things. The grace of God, this unmerited and transformative gift, continues to be given to us in the Person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. The Feast of the Nativity poignantly reminds us that God’s love is unceasing, and that it outlasts the most harrowing circumstances and the worst instances of human sin. It is this love for mankind that we find encapsulated in the well-known words of the Gospel of St John: “God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

The love of God, revealed in his Son by the Holy Spirit, is neither conditional nor temporary, and does

not it depend on us or our “worthiness.” Even when we fall into sin, God continues to love us—but how often do we wrongly perceive God’s goodness as a response to our virtue, or divine punishment in our misfortunes! Yet despite our weakness and sinfulness, God’s love remains steadfast: it does not change nor is it fickle; it is faithful and ever patient. This is this incomparable gift that we encounter as we celebrate the Nativity of Christ. Each year, we remember and celebrate that the Lord has revealed himself to us as absolute, tender, and unfailing Love. His glory does not overwhelm us; rather, he is born in complete and utter poverty to bring all of his creation into the abundant wealth of his love.

Beloved Flock, “the grace of God has appeared” to shine forth in your life, in your hearts, and in the world we inhabit. Receive this grace as the unmerited gift of God’s love, and the light of Christ, born on this sacred night, will shine forth in you and through you, piercing the darkness that envelops this world.

Be assured of my fervent prayers and best wishes for you and all your loved ones during this holy season. May your celebration of the Lord’s birth may be adorned with radiance and joy, and may the coming New Year be enriched with abundant blessings, through the unceasing prayers and intercessions of our Most Holy and Most Pure Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary.

With love in the Newborn Savior,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

DECEMBER Liturgical Attendance			
Day	Vespers	Divine Liturgy	Communicants
Sat. Dec. 2	7		
Sun. Dec. 3		52	35
Tuesday Dec. 5 Vesperal Liturgy		23	
Sat. Dec. 9	15		
Sun. Dec. 10		67	37
Sat. Dec. 16	16		
Sun Dec. 17		60	46
Sat. Dec. 23	31		
Sun. Dec. 24		95	53
Mon. Dec. 25		79	52

Archbishop of Chicago presides over Christmas Eve Services

On Sunday, December 24, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest celebrated the divine services for Nativity Eve at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL.

The Archbishop presided over the Divine Liturgy and was joined by Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, Protodeacon Thomas Keith, and Deacon Paul Garklavs. Offering a homily at the end of the liturgy the Archbishop encouraged the faithful to remain steadfast in their preparation for the coming of the Lord.

In the afternoon, Fr. Alexander celebrated the service of Great Vespers for Nativity and lead the procession of the festive icon to the center of the Cathedral.

That evening, Great Compline and Matins were held. The Archbishop presided over the service and was joined by Fr. Alexander, Archpriest Tarasiy Maxim, and the newly ordained Priest John York, along with the Cathedral deacons. The Choir was directed by Olga Garklavs.

At the conclusion of Matins, the Archbishop greeted everyone with “Christ is Born” emphasizing the joy and honor it was to be celebrating the feast.

There will always be Sunday Divine Liturgy except during Level 3 Emergency

During the winter months there will always be Sunday Liturgy unless there is a Level 3 Emergency. Any other service or event may be canceled. Notification will be by email. For those in Orthodoxy 101 class, Book Club or Bible Study please give Fr. Andrew an email address so in the event things are canceled you will be aware.

Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord Commemorated on December 31

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and

later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.

Saint Joseph had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah, Joses, and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian.

Holy Righteous Joseph the Betrothed Commemorated on December 31

Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. He had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah, Joses, and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian. After he became a widower, Saint Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity.

An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. Saint Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God and the Infant Jesus, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child, working as a carpenter. Saint Joseph reputedly died at the age of one hundred.

Saint Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, his Feast is moved to December 26. The Righteous Joseph is also commemorated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers.

CONGRATULATIONS

May God grant many blessing to His servant the AP Joseph Wargo & Mat. Jane On the occasion of his 50th Anniversary to the Holy Priesthood. AXIOS! MANY YEARS TO BOTH OF YOU!

From your friends here @ St. John's!

Office: 330-755-4931 / Cell: 570-212-8747

<https://www.stjohnthebaptist-campbell.org/>

padrebartek@gmail.com

Holy Righteous David the King Commemorated on December 31

The Holy Prophet-King David was a forefather of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh. The youngest son of Jesse, David shepherded a flock of sheep belonging to his father. He was distinguished by his deep faith, and he zealously fulfilled the will of God.

During a battle with the Philistines, he vanquished the giant Goliath in single combat, which decided the outcome of the war in favor of the Israelites. He endured many things from King Saul, who saw him as a favorite of the people and his rival. David, however, showed his own decency and magnanimity. Twice, when he had the possibility of killing Saul, he did not do so.

After Saul and his son perished, David was proclaimed king of the southern part of Israel, and after Saul's second son was killed, he became king of all Israel. He built a new capital, Jerusalem ("the City of Peace"), and a new tabernacle. His great wish to build a Temple was not realized. It was foretold to him that his son would build the Temple.

The life of the Prophet David was darkened by a grievous falling: he took Uriah's wife for himself, and sent Uriah to his death in battle. He was also an example of great repentance, humbly and with faith bearing the sorrows sent in punishment for his sins. Saint David gave a model for repentance in Psalm 50/51. King David died in great old age with steadfast faith in the coming of the promised Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. His divinely-inspired Psalter is widely used in the divine services and in personal prayers. (See the Books of Kings and Chronicles).

The holy Prophet-King David is invoked by those facing a difficult situation, such as an interview, etc.

Righteous James the Brother of the Lord Commemorated on December 31

The Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, was the eldest son of Joseph the Betrothed from his first marriage with Solomonia. The Apostle James is remembered after the Feast of the Nativity of Christ together with his father Joseph and the Prophet-King David, since he accompanied his family on the Flight into Egypt and lived there with the Infant Jesus, the Mother of God and Joseph. Later, he returned to Israel with them.

After the Ascension of the Lord, Saint James was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, gaining the great esteem not only of Christians, but also of Jews. He was thrown from the roof of the Jerusalem Temple because he had publicly preached to the people about the God-Manhood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Apostle James is also commemorated on October 23.

Venerable Sabiana, Abbess of the Samtskhe Monastery / Commemorated on December 31

The nuns of Georgian monasteries have historically been outstanding in their diligence. God entrusted them with the special duties of ceaseless prayer, fasting, needlework, and the raising of orphans. Nuns have been regarded as vessels of sanctity and wisdom, and even royalty would kneel before them.

Many Georgian noblemen would send their children to nuns to be brought up in the Christian Faith. According to the great church figure George the Lesser, when the parents of Saint George of the Holy Mountain decided to have their first-born daughter, Thekla, raised by nuns, they sent her to the "worthy and holy" Sabiana, who at that time was abbess of the Samtskhe Tadzrisi Monastery in southern Georgia.

Saint Sabiana welcomed Thekla and raised her as though she were her own natural daughter.

Before long Thekla's brother, the seven-year-old George, was also brought to the monastery, and Saint Sabiana spent three years educating and instructing him in the spiritual life.

Further information on the life and labors of Saint Sabiana has sadly not been preserved. But as the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew attests, the tree is known by his fruit (Matt. 12:33). The high level of monastic life during Saint Sabiana's abbacy and the pious lives of her spiritual children attest to the great spiritual heights she attained.

Leavetaking of the Nativity of our Lord / Commemorated on December 31

Materials for the Leavetaking of the Nativity are taken from the service of the Feast day itself in the Menaion. The Scripture readings at Liturgy, however, are of the day, not of the Feast. The Prokeimenon, Alleluia verses, and Communion hymn are all of the Feast.