



# 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 Kenneth Ruff- Given by Carol Ruff**

## Liturgical & Events Schedule

### Sunday, December 22

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social

### Tuesday, December 24- Strict Fast Day

9:00 AM: Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St Basil

1:00—1:45 PM: Confessions

3:00 PM: Christmas Eve Vigil

### Wednesday, December 25

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy

## HOME BLESSING

Please consider having your homes blessed in January. Contact Father Andrew to set up a time. Home blessings will take place from January 6th through February 1st. (Bring Christ into your home for a good & real relationship with Him.)

## DECEMBER CHARITY

Zoe House in Cleveland for unwed women

## 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

January, 12- Eugene Pallai / Dennis Graban

## Matthew 1:1-25 (Gospel, Sunday Before)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon

begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

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## PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & 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.

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### OCA to Take Third Annual Collection for the Diocese of Alaska

On December 15, 2024, the Sunday closest to the feast day of Saint Herman of Alaska, the Orthodox Church in America will hold its third annual collection for the Diocese of Alaska.

At the 20th All-American Council in Baltimore, MD, His Grace Bishop Alexei of Sitka and Alaska spoke about the challenges faced by Alaskan clergy, prompting the council to pass a resolution establishing an annual collection:

“Whereas Alaska is the cradle of Orthodoxy in America: Be it resolved that the 20th AAC asks the Holy Synod of Bishops to designate annually the Sunday closest to the December feast of Saint Herman, for a free-will collection from each parish in the Orthodox Church in America to support the Diocese of Alaska Clergy Endowment.”

Thanks to the generosity of the faithful around the OCA, the Clergy Endowment Stipend Fund successfully reached its \$1 million goal earlier this year. In recognition, His Grace released a video expressing gratitude to His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, the Holy Synod of Bishops, and the many parishes and individuals who contributed.

The endowment, named the Blessed Matushka Olga

Endowment for Clergy Stipends, provides critical financial support for the Alaskan clergy. A governance policy is now in place, and the first disbursement was made in October 2024. This year’s collection will add to the existing endowment, ensuring that clergy in the Diocese of Alaska continue to receive the support.

Since the arrival of St. Herman and the first missionaries in 1794, Alaskan Orthodox Christians have been an important witness of the gospel to all of North America and the upcoming glorification of Blessed Matushka Olga Michael is a testament to God’s continual presence there.

In gratitude and love for our brothers and sisters in Alaska, all parishes of the Orthodox Church in America are encouraged to give generously on December 15, 2024.



## PRAYER LIST

**PARISHIONERS:** Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Matushka Christine Hryb / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Matushka Helen Psinka / Sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Marion Zwinski

**HIERARCHS & CLERGY:** AP James Gleason (Fr.) / Fr. Michael Rustic / Fr. Edward / Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family & parish

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Karen Debiec / Trudy Ellmore / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Bruce Harris (Sabol) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / James Malchisky (Fr.) / Mea Mahan / Mary Mahan / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Teri Petroff (Fr.) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Diane Ruff / Julia Shirilla / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Brian (Shirilla) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Ellen (Clark) / Ellen (Kessler) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Karen (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Katie (Garrity) / Paul (Kolesar) / Paula (Voytilla) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Richard (Tusinac) / Steven (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 & Metropolitan Arseny imprisoned / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

### Called to Discern: What ‘Seems Good to the Holy Spirit and to us By Father William Rettig

Church, ever since its reception of the Holy Spirit at the day of Pentecost, has at various times sought the unambiguous voice and specific guidance of that Spirit in a more concentrated way, in order to more fully live into its vocation as the Spirit-anointed ‘Body of Christ’ in this world.

This is, no doubt, part of that of which our Lord speaks, when he says to his disciples: “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...” (Jn 16.13). The apostolic Church was eager to seek this divine guidance when making decisions (cf. Acts 1.24-26, 6.3-4, 9.31, etc), and such divine-human cooperation is epitomized by the words “For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” which prefaced the decision concerning what burdens to lay (or not) upon new Gentile converts to the faith, in Acts 16. This attitude of what ‘seems good to the Holy Spirit and us’ continued to characterize Church decision-making right on into the patristic era and the era of the great councils, with trust that when Christ’s disciples - anointed by the same Spirit (1 Cor 12.4-6), empowered and equipped to fulfill the same ministry (Lk 9.1-2) - prayerfully seek the will of God for their present moment, the Holy Spirit speaks through them.

Trusting that that same Spirit of truth is operative in the Church today, and understanding that you and I have been called to this present moment just as the apostles were called to theirs, we as a Church seek - once again - to listen closely. To discern what ‘seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us.’ **Con’t next Pg**

### DECEMBER FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$10,692.94
Income	<u>\$13,480.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+\$2,787.06</b>

Weekly Tithe	\$9,355
Weekly Candles	\$306
Weekly Flowers	\$50
Christmas Flowers	\$195
Altar Candles	\$100
St. Herman Candles	\$180
Christmas Offering	\$155
Christmas Card	\$280
Rubric Book Reimbursement	\$120
Reimbursement Check for IOCC	\$1,265
Cookie Walk	\$926
Cemetery Reimbursement	\$25

Monthly Charity Collection: (Zoe for Life– Cleveland)	\$510
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## JANUARY Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

*NOTE: If anything is missing from the Sponsorships please contact Fr. Andrew ASAP*

**Bulletin: OPEN**

**Wine: OPEN**

**Incense: OPEN**

**Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: OPEN**

**Altar Candles: OPEN**

**Tetrapod Candles: OPEN**

**St. Herman Candles:** Commemorating all who participate in maintenance of the church, the teachers, singers & those who participate in social events. Praying for everyone to love one another.

**St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: OPEN**

**Protection Icon Candles: OPEN**

**St. John the Baptist Candles:** In memory of my brother William Karr– Given by Carol Ruff

**Flowers: OPEN**

<u>\$50 per month</u>	<u>\$30 per month</u>	<u>\$25 per month</u>
*Wine	*St. Herman candles	Incense
*Bulletin	*St. Panteleimon Icon candles	
*Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light	*Protection Icon candles	<b>Flowers</b> - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time– <i>Updated</i>
*Altar Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	
*Tetrapod Candles		

### *Fr. William con't from previous Pg*

Today, there seems to be a general recognition that ‘something is going on.’ Changes are occurring at the levels of culture and community, and with them, accompanying spiritual ‘shifts’ that present fresh challenges. Converts are flooding our parishes and missions (even as other Christian faith communities dwindle and interest in organized religion wanes!), presenting problems for how to effectively catechize and disciple them all. Orthodox Christianity has found its voice amplified in the online marketplace, and yet now numerous ‘catechisms’ - many of them of dubious provenance - compete with our bishops and parish priests for attention. On all manner of ‘culture-war’ issues, attempts are made to co-opt Orthodoxy to serve agendas other than that of the Gospel.

And yet, in the Orthodox Church in America, we are also enjoying a period of unprecedented stability. Our dioceses and parishes are healthy, and active! Our administrative structures and finances are sound. By the grace of God, we have enjoyed a half-century of autocephaly, and we are functioning as a church should - preaching the Gospel and baptizing/catechizing, yes, but also canonizing saints, producing iconography & architecture, ordaining bishops, priests, & deacons, and interacting with the other Orthodox churches for the good of the Church, as a whole. We seem better poised - at least materially - to fulfill the command to ‘make disciples of all nations’ (Mt. 28.19) than at any other point in our short history.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, has said that this constitutes “a firm foundation upon which we can not only weather external storms but, more importantly, build further.” But before ‘building further,’ ***Con't next pg***

<b>ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - DECEMBER</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>1st Week</b>		
Vespers	7	No Vespers
Liturgy	52 / 35	52 Liturgy / 38
St Nicholas	23	Weather NO S.
<b>2nd Week</b>		
Vespers	15	13
Liturgy	67 / 37	65 / 50
<b>3rd Week</b>		
Vespers	16	10
Liturgy	60 / 46	55 / 35
<b>4th Week</b>		
Vespers	31	
Christmas Eve	95 / 53	
Christmas	79 / 52	
<b>5th week</b>		
Vespers	15	
Liturgy (NYE)	101 / 74	



## DECEMBER Reposed List

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Dan Ivanovich (1929) ©              | 16- Svetlana Gozur Evanoff (2014) © |
| 1- Sam Zilens Sr (1978) ©           | 18- Archbishop Job (2009)           |
| 1- Mary Livoniak (1952) ©           | 18- V. Rev. Michael Macura          |
| 2- John Gozur (1972) ©              | 19- Edward Malchisky (2001)         |
| 2- Marian Dunchak (1999) ©          | 19- Catherine Bondar (2010) ©       |
| 2- Priscilla Sirilla (2003) ©       | 19- Margaret Boldish (2016) ©       |
| 3- John Korchniak (1919) ©          | 20- George Fischu, Sr (1983) ©      |
| 3- Irene Black (2003) ©             | 20- Anna Livosky (1946) ©           |
| 4- Kathleen Garman (2010) ©         | 20- Loukas Arfaras (1951) ©         |
| 4- Anakreon John (1923) ©           | 21- John Kotchmar (2022) ©          |
| 5- Mary Bobosh (1975) ©             | 22- Susan La Valle (2019)           |
| 5- Michael Evans (1977) ©           | 22- Peter Alesaudridis (1946) ©     |
| 6- Sophie Sasnowchik (1975) ©       | 22- George Roman (1953) ©           |
| 6- Ann Dahulich (2017)              | 23- Fr. David Sedor (2008)          |
| 6- Mary Krajnak (1945) ©            | 23- Anna Volchko (1989) ©           |
| 8- Anna Hastol (1982) ©             | 23- Mary Vansuch (2008) ©           |
| 8- Bill Soltis (2014)               | 23- George Matzye (1950) ©          |
| 8- George Kotie (1940) ©            | 24- John Feltovich (1981) ©         |
| 8- Mary Pretko (1947) ©             | 25- Stephen Vansuch (2002) ©        |
| 8- Anna Papoch (1963) ©             | 26- Fr. Robert Sally (2002)         |
| 9- Mary Niznih (1990) ©             | 26- Julia Malchisky (1971)          |
| 9- Emanuel Ginnis (1954) ©          | 26- John Joseph Marinelli (1996) ©  |
| 9- Joseph Andrasko (1960) ©         | 27- Eileen Elash (2009) ©           |
| 9- Judith Banas (2018) ©            | 27- Adam Nedastup (1920) ©          |
| 10- Michael Basala (1991)           | 28- Fr. John Kuchta (2019)          |
| 10- Suzanne Marinelli (1999) ©      | 28- Julia Zora (2001) ©             |
| 12- Pauline Truhan Livosky (2017) © | 29- Andrew Midlik (1943) ©          |
| 13- Andrew Libertin (1931) ©        | 29- John Vansuch (1995) ©           |
| 14- Michael Hastal (1984) ©         | 30- Bishop Boris (2000)             |
| 14- Susan Marie Sveda (2004) ©      | 30- Ed Pehanich, Sr (2019)          |
| 15- Theodore Fesz (2020) ©          | 30- Kosta Alesandridis (1928) ©     |
| 15- Joseph Graban (2003) ©          | 30- Christina Chulik (1943) ©       |
| 15- Still born Cmur (1924) ©        | 31- Robert LaVallee (2007)          |
| 15- Catherine Papantonakis (1951) © | 31- Hermenegildo Guerrero (2018)    |
| 15- Eugenia Pontikos (1953) ©       | 31- Mary Shirilla (1952) ©          |
| 16-Ann Cvercko (1996) ©             | 31- John Niciforos (1964) ©         |

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### ***Fr. William con't from previous pg***

we find it imperative to seek the guidance of the Spirit, in this more concentrated and specific manner, as the Church always has.

And so, in efforts to be good stewards of this present moment - in order to articulate how the Holy Spirit may be calling us, and in order that it would constitute a 'call' - we need to hear from you: disciples and members of the Church. It is you and I who now comprise the Spirit-anointed, empowered, and equipped Body of Christ in this place and time, and so speaking to the challenges, needs, and opportunities of this place and time in which we find ourselves is an important part of understanding & fulfilling our call. No one is better positioned to speak to those things than you.

Simply put, your voice could be the one through which the Spirit speaks, and calls his Church to more effective service to the poor and the needy in our midst. Yours could be the one that offers insight into how to better educate our faithful, or how to better handle money and material things. Your voice could simply draw attention to an overlooked part of the 'vineyard,' but one that needs to be considered part of the mission. Please consider speaking up, and lending the Spirit a voice.

Together, we seek greater faithfulness: to Christ and to his work in North America. He has not left us alone, unsure of what to do and where to seek help. But we do need to invoke that Spirit, we do need to ask for guidance; we need to be willing to cooperate with the Spirit when he seeks to lead us 'into all the truth.' Please join us in this important work.

## December Celebrations

### *Birthday*

- 1 Ileana Bruner / Thomas McDonald
- 3 Melanie Yannitto
- 4 Stephen Calzone / Hannah Willison
- 5 Ted Fesz / Mat. Laryissa Bremer
- 6 Paul Demkosky Sr
- 8 Nicholas Basile / John Koval
- 9 Alexis Jesko / Pauline Meath / Angie Dardovsky / John Koval
- 10 Karen Phillips
- 12 Nicholas Shirilla
- 13 Helen Colaluca
- 16 George Clark
- 17 Ann Cvercko
- 27 Claudia Moore
- 30 Jeff Stokely / Christina Adzima
- 31 Ken Krause

### *Anniversary*

- 2-2023 His Grace Bishop Benedict Bishop of Hartford & New England
- 5-2004 AB Mark of Philadelphia & Eastern, PA
- 19-197 Retired Bishop Seraphim of Sendai
- 26 Anthony & Shelia Jesko, Jr.
- 31 Jimmy & Christine Billy

### *Names Day*

- 4 Barbara Kolesar / Alex Vansuch
- 6 Nicholas Basile / Dr. Niicla Nicoloff / Reader Nick Vansuch / Mildred Wilfong
- 9 Ann Cvercko / Kelly Ann Ferrick / Annie Jesko / Sue Kennedy / Linda Livosky / Carol Ruff / Lynn Krause / Audrey Chengelis
- 15 Debbie Zelinsky
- 22 Nancy Tusinac
- 27 Stephen Simko
- 29 David Dionisio / Dc. David Gemmel / David Konik
- 31 Melanie Rusnak / Melanie Yannitto

## INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR COUNCIL?

If anyone is interested in running for council, please see Fr. Andrew ASAP.

In 2018 Archbishop Paul made it mandatory that any potential council member be vetted and have a background check before they could be presented for nomination. Obviously, that cannot happen on the day of a meeting. Therefore, there will not be any nominations from the floor.

One needs to be in good standing in the church. Regular confession (at least 4 times a year & frequent communion).

## Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

### (Epistle, Sunday Before)

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

## Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks, and went to see the Lord Commemorated on December 25

In the stillness of midnight (Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15), the proclamation of the birth of the Savior of the world was heard by three shepherds watching their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord (Saint Cyprian says this was Gabriel) came before them and said: "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). The humble shepherds were the first to offer worship to Him Who condescended to assume the form of a humble servant for the salvation of mankind.

## Sunday before the Nativity Commemorated on December 22

The Sunday before the Nativity of Christ we commemorate Adam and Eve (the first-created), the righteous Abel, son of Adam, the righteous Seth, son of Adam, the righteous Enos, son of Seth, the righteous Kenan, son of Enos, the righteous Mehaliel (Maleleim), son of Kenan, the righteous Jared, son of Mehaliel, the righteous Enoch, son of Jared, the righteous Methuselah, son of Enoch, the righteous Lamech, son of Methuselah, the righteous Noah, son of Lamech, the righteous Shem, son of Noah, the righteous Japheth, son of Noah, the righteous Arphachshad, son of Shem, the righteous Canaan, son of Arphachshad (in some versions of the OT, Canaan is called the son of Ham), the righteous Shelah, son of Canaan (some versions of the OT call Shelah the son of Arphachshad), the righteous Eber (from whom the Hebrews take their name), son of Shelah, the righteous Peleg, son of Eber, the righteous Ragab (Reu), son of Peleg, the righteous Serug, son of Ragab, the righteous Nahor, son of Serug, the righteous Terah, son of Serug.

The holy Patriarchs: the righteous Patriarch Abraham, son of Terah, the righteous Patriarch Isaac, son of Abraham, the righteous Patriarch Jacob, son of Isaac, the righteous Patriarch Reuben, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Simeon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Levi, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Judah (Christ was of this tribe), the righteous Patriarch Zebulon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Issachar, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Dan, son of Jacob and Bilhah (Rachel's maid), the righteous Patriarch Gad, son of Jacob and Zilpah (Leah's maid), the righteous Patriarch Asher, son of Jacob and Zilpah, the righteous Patriarch Naphtali, son of Jacob and Bilhah, the righteous Patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel, the righteous Patriarch Benjamin, son of Jacob and Rachel.

The righteous Pharez and Zerah, twin sons of Judah, the righteous Hezron, son of Pharez, the righteous Aram, son of Hezron, the righteous Aminadab, son of Aram, the righteous Nahshon, son of Aminadab, the righteous Salmon, son of Nahshon, the righteous Boaz, son of Salmon, the righteous Obed, son of Boaz and Ruth, the righteous Jesse, son of Obed.

The holy Prophet-King David, son of Jesse, King Solomon, son of David, King Rehoboam, son of Solomon, King Abijah, son of Rehoboam, King Asa, son of Abijah, King Jehosaphat, son of Asa, King Joram (Jehoram, an evil king), son of Jehosaphat, King Ochoziah (Ahaziah), son of Joram, King Jotham, son of Uzziah (Oziah), King Ahaz (a faithless king), son of Jotham, King Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, King Manasseh, son of Hezekiah, King Amos (Ammon), son of

Manasseh, King Josiah, son of Amos, King Jechoniah, son of Josiah.

Shealtiel, son of Jechoniah, Zerubbabel (who led captives back to Jerusalem, and laid the foundations of the new Temple), son of Shealtiel, Abiud, son of Zerubbabel, Eliachem, son of Abiud, Azor, son of Eliachem, Zadok, son of Azor, Achim, son of Zadok, Eliud, son of Achim, Eleazar, son of Eliud, Matthan, son of Eleazar, Jacob, son of Matthan, St Joseph the Betrothed, son of Jacob.

The righteous Melchizedek, King of Salem, the righteous Job, the holy Prophet Moses, the priests Hur and Aaron, Joshua, son of Nun.

The holy prophet Samuel, the holy prophet Nathan, the holy prophet Daniel, the three holy youths Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

The righteous Sarah, wife of Abraham, the righteous Rebecca, wife of Isaac, the righteous Leah, first wife of Jacob, the righteous Rachel, second wife of Jacob, the righteous Asineth, wife of Patriarch Joseph the all-comely, the righteous Miriam, sister of Moses, the righteous Deborah, Judge of Israel and prophetess, the righteous Ruth, wife of Boaz, the righteous woman of Zarephath, to whom Elias was sent (3 Kings 17), the righteous woman of Shunem, who was hospitable to Elisha (4 Kings 4), the righteous Judith, slayer of Holofernes, the righteous Esther, who delivered Israel from death, the righteous Hannah, mother of the prophet Samuel, the righteous Susanna.

Righteous Ezra was a scribe and priest who lived in Babylon (during the Captivity), and returned to Jerusalem circa 458 B. C. He collected and revised the previous Old Testament writings, and established the Old Testament Canon. His book I Esdras 1 (in the Greek Septuagint) tells the story of the return to Jerusalem.

### 2024 - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nancy Tusinac (President)  
Phone- 724-456-7366  
Cindy Ferrick (Treasurer)  
Phone 330-531-1119  
Joann Sirilla (Financial Secretary)  
Phone 330-881-6775  
Sub-deacon Dr. Donald Tamulouis (Council)  
Phone 330-774-8860  
Natalia Simko (Council) (Cemetery issues)  
Phone- 330-980-3033

#### Maintenance Issues:

Michael Simko - 330-565-0084  
Michael Centofanti - 330-544-3518

## Christmas Flowers

Your loved one's name (living and/or deceased) will be remembered at the Christmas Liturgy. Cost: \$15 per flower. Please give names to the Church Office or Father Andrew directly.

### Fredericks, Sherrie (2 Flower)

- ◆ In memory of my dad Robert Fredericks
- ◆ For the Health of my mother Mary

### Fredericks, Mary (1 Flower)

- ◆ In memory of my parents Naume & Mary Evanoff

### Bartek, V.R. Andrew (10 Flowers)

- ◆ In memory of my Ordaining Hierarch His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, AB Paul, His Grace Bishops John & Matthias
- ◆ In memory of My parents George & Dorothy & all my family & friends
- ◆ In memory of the diptychs of the parish including John Shirilla killed in action & all the priests who served this parish (Priest: Theodore Kulchitsky, Daniel Kreshko, Joseph Dvonchik, Isadore Salko, Peter Honchok, Michael Ugrin, Nicholas Yuschak & Archpriests: Michael Kostyk, Nicholas Vansuch, John Psinka
- ◆ All the military who lost their lives defending the freedoms of this country will still observe
- ◆ For the Health of all our parishioners & their families especially the former Priests who served here, Archpriest John Steffaro, Archpriest Andrew Nelko; for the parish council; all the organizations of this parish; and all those on our prayer list
- ◆ For the Health of the Campbell City Hall, all the residents & businesses of this City, including the Fire Department: Stephen, David, Evan, Greg, Robert, Steve, Bryan, Nick
- ◆ For the health of all my friends & family especially my 5 God-children
- ◆ For the health of all the active military especially those in harm's way and away from their families
- ◆ For the health of all who are homeless, depressed, lonely and all those in need of God's mercy
- ◆ For the Health of the entire Diocese, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Chancery staff, all my former parishes & their parishioners and my home parish

### Jesko Family (2 flowers)

- ◆ -In memory of Kathleen Mahar & Anne Jesko

### Kiolesar Family (2 flowers)

- ◆ -In memory of Hary Sveda & Olga Sveda

### Cverko Family (3 flowers)

- ◆ In memory of Andrew Cvercko
- ◆ In memory of Andrew & Anna Cvercko
- ◆ In memory of Morris & Antonia Pecuszok

### Gozur Family (1 flower)

- ◆ In memory of our parents Stevlana and Steve Gozur

### Zenko Family (1 flower)

- ◆ In memory of my mom Charlotte & my uncle Andy

### Ruff Family (1 flower)

- ◆ In memory of my brother William Karr

## ARCHPASTORAL LETTER REGARDING ORTHODOX YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

To the Deans, Rectors and Priests-in-Charge of the Diocese of the Midwest:

The Lord bless you!

I write to you to encourage you to assist Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM), the newest Agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, which will be reaching out to you in the near future. OYM will contact you via email or telephone to ask that you complete a survey on youth and young adult ministry at your parish. The data they receive will be used to assess national trends in youth work, and will not be shared except in the aggregate. OYM will use this data to formulate strategies for addressing the needs expressed in the survey results.

Your participation in this nationwide survey is vital to painting a complete picture of our ministry to our young people, and how best to serve their needs and the needs of those wonderful volunteers who take on this service to Christ and His Holy Church.

Should you have any questions, you can reach out directly to OYM Director of Operations Sandra Glisic at [sglisic@theoym.org](mailto:sglisic@theoym.org) and the staff of OYM will walk you through the process.

With love in Christ and invoking God's blessings upon our efforts, I remain,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest





## The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ Commemorated on December 25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian). Caesar Augustus decreed that a universal census be made throughout his Empire, which then also included Palestinian Israel. The Jews were accustomed to be counted in the city from where their family came. The Most Holy Virgin and the Righteous Joseph, since they were descended from the house and lineage of King David, had to go to Bethlehem to be counted and taxed.

In Bethlehem they found no room at any of the city's inns. Thus, the God-Man, the Savior of the world, was born in a cave that was used as a stable.

"I behold a strange and most glorious mystery," the Church sings with awe, "Heaven, a Cave; the Virgin the Throne of the Cherubim; the Manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain is laid."

(Irmos of the 9th Ode of the Nativity Canon). Having given birth to the divine Infant without travail, the Most Holy Virgin "wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger" (Luke 2:7). In the stillness of midnight (Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15), the proclamation of the birth of the Savior of the world was heard by three shepherds watching their flocks by night.

An angel of the Lord (Saint Cyprian says this was Gabriel) came before them and said: "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). The humble shepherds were the first to offer worship to Him Who condescended to assume the form of a humble servant for the salvation of mankind. Besides the glad tidings to the Bethlehem shepherds, the Nativity of Christ was revealed to the Magi by a wondrous star. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Theophylactus, commenting on Saint Matthew's Gospel, say that this was no ordinary star. Rather, it was "a divine and angelic power that appeared in the form of a star." Saint Demetrius of Rostov says it was a "manifestation of divine energy" (Narrative of the Adoration of the Magi). Entering the house where the Infant lay, the Magi "fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11).

The present Feast, commemorating the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, was established by the Church. Its origin goes back to the time of the Apostles. In the Apostolic **Con't next Pg**

## Eve of the Nativity of our Lord Commemorated on December 24

In Slavic practice, on the eve of the Nativity of the Lord, the liturgical services consist of the Royal Hours with the Typika, Vespers, and the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great. At Vigil in the evening, Great Compline is followed by Matins.

If the Nativity falls on Sunday, however, the Royal Hours with the Typika are read on the preceding Friday. On Friday evening, the office of the Forefeast is served, December 24. The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is served on Saturday morning. At Vigil in the evening, Great Compline is followed by Matins. On Sunday morning, the Liturgy of Saint Basil is celebrated.

If the Nativity falls on a Monday, Royal Hours with the Typika are read on Friday December 22. On Saturday evening and Sunday morning we follow the order for the Sunday before the Nativity with the office of the Forefeast for December 24. On Sunday morning the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is served. Vigil on Sunday evening consists of Great Compline is followed by Matins. On Monday morning the Liturgy of Saint Basil is celebrated.

On the eve of the Nativity, instead of three readings from the Old Testament at Vespers, there are eight readings (from Genesis, Numbers, Micah, Isaiah, Baruch, Daniel, and two more readings from Isaiah). The entrance is made with the Gospel.

At the end of Liturgy the priest places a lighted candle in a candlestick in the center of the church. Then the troparion and kontakion of the Feast are sung. At Vigil on the evening of the twenty-fourth, Great Compline is

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## The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar Commemorated on December 25

The Nativity of Christ was revealed to the Magi by a wondrous star. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Theophylactus, commenting on Saint Matthew's Gospel, say that this was no ordinary star. Rather, it was "a divine and angelic power that appeared in the form of a star." Saint Demetrius of Rostov says it was a "manifestation of divine energy" (Narrative of the Adoration of the Magi). Entering the house where the Infant lay, the Magi "fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11).

The names of the three Wise Men (Magi) do not appear in the Gospels. The tradition that there were three visitors from the east is very ancient, but their names are only mentioned in the Middle Ages.

Bones reputed to be the relics of the three kings have been in the cathedral at Cologne, Germany since 1164.

### *Nativity con't from previous pg*

Constitutions (Section 3, 13) it says, "Brethren, observe the feastdays; and first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month." In another place it also says, "Celebrate the day of the Nativity of Christ, on which unseen grace is given man by the birth of the Word of God from the Virgin Mary for the salvation of the world."

In the second century Saint Clement of Alexandria also indicates that the day of the Nativity of Christ is December 25. In the third century Saint Hippolytus of Rome mentions the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, and appoints the Gospel readings for this day from the opening chapters of Saint Matthew.

In 302, during the persecution of Christians by Maximian, 20,000 Christians of Nicomedia (December 28) were burned in church on the very Feast of the Nativity of Christ. In that same century, after the persecution when the Church had received freedom of religion and had become the official religion in the Roman Empire, we find the Feast of the Nativity of Christ observed throughout the entire Church. There is evidence of this in the works of Saint Ephraim the Syrian, Saint Basil the Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, Saint Ambrose of Milan, Saint John Chrysostom and other Fathers of the Church of the fourth century.

Saint John Chrysostom, in a sermon which he gave in the year 385, points out that the Feast of the Nativity of Christ is ancient, and indeed very ancient. In this same century, at the Cave of Bethlehem, made famous by the Birth of Jesus Christ, the empress Saint Helen built a church, which her mighty son Constantine adorned after her death. In the Codex of the emperor Theodosius from 438, and of the emperor Justinian in 535, the universal celebration of the day of the Nativity of Christ was decreed by law. Thus, Nikēphoros Callistus, a writer of the fourteenth century, says in his History that in the sixth century, the emperor Justinian established the celebration of the Nativity of Christ throughout all the world.

Patriarch Anatolius of Constantinople in the fifth century, Sophronius and Andrew of Jerusalem in the seventh, Saints John of Damascus, Cosmas of Maium and Patriarch Germanus of Constantinople in the eighth, the Nun Cassiane in the ninth, and others whose names are unknown, wrote many sacred hymns for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, which are still sung by the Church on this radiant festival.

During the first three centuries, in the Churches of Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria and Cyprus, the Nativity of Christ was combined together with the Feast of His Baptism on January 6, and called "Theophany" ("Manifestation of God"). This was because of a belief that Christ was baptized on anniversary of His birth, which may be inferred from Saint John Chrysostom's sermon on the Nativity of Christ: "it is not the day on which Christ was born which is called

Theophany, but rather that day on which He was baptized."

In support of such a view, it is possible to cite the words of the Evangelist Luke who says that "Jesus began to be about thirty years of age" (Luke 3:23) when He was baptized. The joint celebration of the Nativity of Christ and His Theophany continued to the end of the fourth century in certain Eastern Churches, and until the fifth or sixth century in others.

The present order of services preserves the memory of the ancient joint celebration of the Feasts of the Nativity of Christ and Theophany. On the eve of both Feasts, there is a similar tradition that one should fast until the stars appear. The order of divine services on the eve of both feastdays and the feastdays themselves is the same.

The Nativity of Christ has long been counted as one of the Twelve Great Feasts. It is one of the greatest, most joyful and wondrous events in the history of the world. "The angel said to the shepherds, 'Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' Then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, glorifying God and saying: 'Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' Those who heard these things were astonished at what the shepherds told them concerning the Child. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen" (Luke 2:10-20).

Thus the Nativity of Christ, a most profound and extraordinary event, was accompanied by the wondrous tidings proclaimed to the shepherds and to the Magi. This is a cause of universal rejoicing for all mankind, "for the Savior is Born!"

Concurring with the witness of the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church, in their God-inspired writings, describe the Feast of the Nativity of Christ as most profound, and joyous, serving as the basis and foundation for all the other Feasts.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



### **THANK YOU**

Thank you all who participated in the Christmas Cookie Walk sponsored by the Sisterhood. Although the final dollar figure is not in (currently over \$900) it was a successful event.

Thank you to those who baked, prepared & bought the cookies. May God bless you!