

December 29, 2019
Sunday after the Nativity



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Christ is born! Glorify Him! ~ Christos Raždajetsja! Slavite Jeho!
Propers for this Sunday: pp. 141, Tone 4 and pp. 302 - 305

Divine Services Schedule:

SUN., DEC. 29 8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY after the NATIVITY <i>Holy Rosary</i> DIVINE LITURGY + Anna George, offered by the George family
TUE., DEC. 31 6:00 P.M.	CIRCUMCISION of our LORD HOLYDAY VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY
SUN., JAN. 5 8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY before THEOPHANY <i>Holy Rosary</i> DIVINE LITURGY +Andrew Yuhasz, offered by Yuhasz family
MON., JAN.6 6:00 P.M.	THEOPHANY of our LORD DIVINE LITURGY and GREAT BLESSING of WATER <i>Day of obligation</i>

ON HONORING GOD

Do you wish to honor the Body of the Savior? Do not despise it when it is naked. Do not honor it in church with silk vestments while outside it is naked and numb with cold. He who said, "This is my body," and made it so by his word, is the same who said, "You saw me hungry and you gave me no food. As you did it not to the least of these, you did it not to me." Honor him then by sharing your property with the poor. For what God needs is not golden chalices but golden souls.

St. John Chrysostom "On the Gospel of St. Matthew"

Happy Birthday Greetings this Week:

December 29: Louisa Hersh, January 2: Sandra Stewart

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

Please pray for our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship, or any special need:

HOME – Eileen Batcha, Natalie Jugan-Diaz, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Alice Haber, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Josephine Maruhnich, Mary Salamon, John Simunick, Bonnie Taylor

Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

West Hills Health & Rehab Center (951 Brodhead Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108) – Margaret Klacik

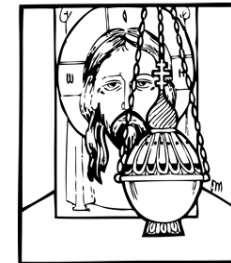
Beaver Meadows (5130 Tuscarawas Rd, Beaver, PA 15009) - Angie Yuhasz

Brighton Rehabilitation and Wellness Center (246 Friendship Cir, Beaver, PA 15009) - Carole Panella

Epistle Readers: Dec. 29: Prudy Peya – January 5: Reagan Cody

Ushers: Dec. 29: R. Dzumba/J/ Yurosky – January 5: M. Bobanic/J.Yurosky

Troica Holders: Dec. 29: M. Mudron – January 5: F. Hersh



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

December 29 – January 4, 2019

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

Bob Fedell
(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:
Wife, Eleanor Fedell




Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Upcoming Calendar of Events

December 31 6:00 P.M. Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Circumcision HolyDay
 January 1 Circumcision of our Lord HolyDay
 January 5 ECF Classes Resume
 January 6 Feast of Holy Theophany, Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of water, 6:00 P.M.
 January 30 Three Holy Hierarchs HolyDay
 February 2 Meeting of the Lord Holy Day

E	D	E	E	G	A	M	O	H	T	BETHLEHEM
C	H	L	K	I	D	E	T	S	E	EAST
H	T	I	I	N	I	H	A	A	G	INFANT
I	N	H	N	H	H	E	S	T	E	KING
T	A	R	G	F	C	L	O	R	A	STAR
A	F	R	O	I	E	H	A	A	M	HOMAGE
D	N	Y	L	A	L	T	A	S	O	LEADER
E	I	M	D	R	S	E	R	R	H	DATE
S	K	E	T	A	D	B	D	Y	I	CHILD
A	R	B	E	T	L	E	M	E	M	DELIGHT
										GOLD
										MYRRH



Wishing you all a Happy and Blessed New Year 2020!

Bless us, O Lord, and bless the time and seasons yet to come. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart. And fill this New Year with Your kindness that we may be glad and rejoice all the days of our life.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

During this celebration of Christmas, it is our custom to greet one another with the joyous exclamation, "Christ is born!" to which the one greeted responds, "Glorify Him!"

A Christmas Gift for You

Everyone who attended our Christmas service received a gift of Rejoice Isaiah by Fr. Jack Custer; a full color, pocket-size book of spiritual reflections on the readings from Isaiah to be used during the upcoming Great Fast. Rejoice Isaiah looks at the Great Fast through a unique and different Eastern perspective and is pocket-sized to carry with you every day. This is our Church's spiritual gift to you. Please pick-up a copy following Liturgy if you did not yet get one.

Fugitives with Christ

Even as He came in swaddling clothes we see a tyrant raging, a flight ensuing and a departure beyond the border. For it was because of no crime that his family was exiled into the land of Egypt. So do not be troubled if you are suffering countless dangers. Do not expect to be celebrated or crowned promptly for your troubles. Instead you may keep in mind the long-suffering example of the mother of the Child, bearing all things nobly, knowing that such a fugitive life is consistent with the ordering of spiritual things. You are sharing the kind of labor Mary herself shared. So did the Magi. They both were willing to retire secretly in the humiliating role of fugitive.

(St. John Chrysostom)

He Became Man

Jesus is said to have progressed in wisdom and age and grace, because He did increase in age and by this increase in age brought more into evidence the wisdom inherent in Him. By making what is ours altogether his own, He made His own the progress of people in wisdom and grace, as well as the fulfillment of the Father's will, which is to say, man's knowledge of God and his salvation.

(St. John of Damascus in "On the Orthodox Faith")



Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

LET US FOLLOW THE MAGI

In the nativity narrative of St. Matthew, we are introduced to the shadowy and mysterious figures known as the Magi, or Wise Men, "who studied the stars and came from the East to Jerusalem." (2:1). If we are willing to reflect for a moment, I think that we can catch glimpses of ourselves in the journey of these men. In a deep sense, they reflect the many dimensions of our own individual journeys of faith.

It is not difficult to imagine the many real dangers of their long journey. The resistance of their families, the efforts of colleagues to discourage them, the unbearable heat and freezing nights of the deserts they crossed, the danger of marauding thieves. And yet, they felt impelled to answer the call of the beckoning Star of Bethlehem, to worship the new-born King and lay their gifts at his feet. In this act of faith and obedience, "how happy they were, what joy was theirs!" (2:9). Finding the child "they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and presented them to him." (2:11).

In this same way, that Star calls each of us to begin a life long journey to meet Jesus Christ, to acknowledge Him and make Him a part of our lives. In doing so, however, we need to acknowledge with honesty and forthrightness the difficulty of following Christ. But as with the Magi, we must undertake the journey knowing of its difficulty.

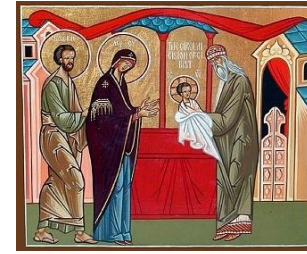
In the Christian life, discouragement comes in many forms. There is discouragement when it seems our prayers are not answered; when we work with honesty and integrity, but see others, who cut corners, prosper and advance; when we endure personal separation and loss, and when we need compassion and affirmation, and they are not to be found.

But through the mystery of faithful obedience, the Magi offered themselves and their gifts to Christ, transcending at that moment the difficulties and discouragements of their journey. And having met Christ they were changed men, and went home by another route, symbolizing their confidence and trust in the new direction their lives had taken. And to the wise men and women of every age, this same opportunity is given each Christmas when the star returns again, to shine anew in the heart of each of us.

- Rev. Andrew Demotses



Circumcision of our Lord



On the eighth day of the feast of the Nativity, which also happens to be the first day of the civil New Year, the Church celebrates the Lord's circumcision and His receiving the name Jesus, which means savior.

And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. (Lk 2:21)

This day is also the anniversary of the death of St. Basil the Great, whose memory is part of the liturgical feast.

The Lord of all accepts to be circumcised; Thus in His mercy He circumcises the sins of mortal men. Today He grants the world salvation, While Basil, high priest of God our creator, Rejoices in Heaven as the radiant star of the Church.

According to the Church's liturgy, the Lord underwent circumcision in order to fulfill the Law of Moses, which no one had been able to fulfill before. In performing "everything according to the law" (Lk 2:39), the Messiah finds it fitting "to fulfill all righteousness" (Mt 3:15). In this sense He is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets; not only by doing what was written of Him, but also by doing all things that everyone should do if they truly fulfilled the Word of God.

From The Winter Pascha, by Fr. Thomas Hopko

For the Feast of the Circumcision we will have a Vespertal Divine Liturgy on Tuesday evening, December 31 at 6:00 P.M.

Prayer for the New Year

Almighty God, thank You for the gift of a New Year. May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son Our Lord Jesus Christ. May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at work, a time to embrace my faith more fully.

Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this New Year that the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings. Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You. Amen

Excerpt from Christ Our Pascha - The Consequences of the Fall. The universal consequences of the fall arise before us in the story of the flood (see Gn 6-9): "The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually...the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence" (Gn 6:5,11). The raging and passion of evil inclinations that predominated among people and defined their behavior led to God's punishment – the Flood: "You alone, my soul, have opened the windows of the wrath of your God, and you have flooded, as the earth, all your flesh and deeds and life; and you have remained outside the Ark of salvation." (#157)

Christos Razdajetsja! ~ Slavite Jeho!

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, David Klacik,
Louisa Hersh**

**E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh
Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation.....Before and after Liturgies
Holy Mysteries of Initiation.....Contact the church office
Holy Mystery of AnointingAsk prior to surgery or serious illness
Holy Mystery of MarriageContact the church office eight months prior to wedding
Religious Education Classes.....September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy
Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month, Sept. through May
St. George Ladies’ Guild & Men’s Club..... Everyone welcome to participate

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