

NATIVITY

of our Lord



GLORY TO
THE
NEWBORN KING!



Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

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HOLY MYSTERIES

VISITATIONS OF THE SICK AND INFIRM – If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Father Stephen at the Rectory. Our hospitalization code for Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals is **UKR**.

EMERGENCY CALLS – Please call the Rectory anytime (day or night) in an Emergency!

BAPTISMS – Celebrated by appointment.

CROWNING IN MARRIAGE – Please discuss timing with Father prior to setting a date. At least six months notice is needed. There are three 2-hour courses that must be attended prior to the Wedding.

BULLETIN DEADLINE – The deadline for getting information printed in the Weekly Bulletin is Wednesday.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS – For the Needs of the Parish; 2nd Youth Ministry

January 8, 2023
Volume 59: Number 02
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of January 8 - 15, 2023
Celebrating our 96th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, January 8 – Sunday after the Nativity – Synaxis of the
Mother of God -Tone 5

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Coffee Hour



Monday, January 9 – Feast of ST. Stephen (Veneration of Relics)

8:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, January 11

6:30 PM – Parish Board Meeting (In House)

Friday, January 13

6:00 PM – Great Vespers for the Feast

Saturday, January 14 – Feast of Circumcision – Feast of St. Basil the Great

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy – Veneration Relics of St. Basil

Sunday, January 15 – Sunday before Theophany -Tone 6

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Coffee Hour



SCRIPTURAL READINGS

Sunday Synaxis of the Mother of God: Matins: John 20:11-18; Liturgy: Colossians 3:12-16; Luke 18 35-43; Sunday after Nativity: Galatians 1:11-19 Matthew 2:13-23

Monday – Feast of ST. Stephen – Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15, 7:1-5, 47-60; Matthew 21:33-42; Day: Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31; Mark 10:46-52

Tuesday – Hebrews 12:25-26, 13:22-25; Mark 11:11-23

Wednesday – James 1:1-18; Mark 11:23-26

Thursday – James 1:19-27; Mark 11:27-33

Friday – 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Matthew 12:15-21

Saturday – Circumcision of Our Lord: Colossians 2:8-12; Luke 2:20-21, 40-52; ST. Basil the Great Hebrews 7:26-8:2; Luke 6:17-23; Saturday before the Theophany – 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Matthew 3:1-11

31 Sunday after Pentecost – Sunday before the Theophany – Matins: John 20:19-31; Liturgy: 2 Timothy 4:5-8; Mark 1:1-8



DID YOU KNOW – that our celebration of the Birth of Christ is the foreshadowing of His Death and Burial? Both occur in a Cave. The swaddling clothes remind us of the Burial Shroud. Did you realize that the chopping down of the Christmas Tree represents the Death of Christ and the putting it up and decorating it is a symbol of the Resurrection. Did you realize that the Wreathes that we hang are never ending circles which represent eternity. Did you know that the candy cane represents the Good Shepherd (Christ Himself) and the staff of the shepherds who visit His birth. Did you know that the gifts that we give and receive are

representations of the three gifts of the Magi. Did you know that on that beautiful day we have received the “Perfect Gift”, Christ Himself, Who was given to us to remove all of our sins.



Saint Stephen

Commemorated on December 27 (January 9)

The Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen was the eldest of the seven deacons, appointed by the Apostles themselves, and therefore he is called "archdeacon." He was the first Christian martyr, and he suffered for Christ when he was about thirty. In the words of Asterias, he was "the starting point of the martyrs, the instructor of suffering for Christ, the foundation of righteous confession, since Stephen was the first to shed his blood for the Gospel."

Filled with the Holy Spirit, St Stephen preached Christianity and defeated Jewish teachers of the Law in debate. The Jews maligned St Stephen, saying that he had uttered blasphemy against God and against Moses. St Stephen came before the Sanhedrin and the High Priest to answer these charges. He gave a fiery speech, in which he recounted the history of the Jewish nation, and denounced the Jews for persecuting the prophets, and also for executing the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ (Acts ch. 7).

During his speech, St Stephen suddenly saw the heavens opened and Jesus Christ standing at the right hand of God. The Jews shouted and covered their ears, and rushed at him. They dragged him out of the city and stoned him, but the holy martyr prayed for his murderers. Far off on the heights stood the Mother of God with the holy Apostle John the Theologian, and She prayed fervently for the martyr. Before his death St Stephen said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. O Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." Then he joyfully gave up his pure soul to Christ.

The body of the holy Protomartyr Stephen, left to be eaten by beasts, was secretly taken up by the Jewish teacher Gamaliel and his son Habib, who buried Stephen on his estate. They both believed in Christ, and later received holy Baptism.

St Stephen is also commemorated on August 2 (15) (Translation of his relics) and on September 15(28) (Uncovering of his relics in the year 415).

Troparion – Tone 4

O Protomartyr and mighty warrior of Christ our God, * You are victorious in battle and crowned with glory, O holy Stephen! * You confounded the council of your persecutors, * Beholding your Savior enthroned at the right hand of the Father. * Never cease to intercede for the salvation of our souls!

Kontakion – Tone 3

Yesterday the Master assumed our flesh and became our guest; * Today His servant is stoned to death and departs in the flesh, * The glorious Protomartyr Stephen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTE OF THANKS

On behalf of my wife, Pani Matka Elizabeth and our Family, we would like to thank all of our faithful parishioners for their kind greetings, cards, Christmas wishes, gifts and prayers. I would also like to thank our Parish Sisterhood for their most generous Christmas gift. May God bless you and keep you, may He always shower you with His tender loving care and may you always grow in His love!

Love and Prayers,
Father Stephen, Pani Matka Elizabeth,

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to the following: Christine Morrison, 1/7; John Serth, 1/7; Autumn Rose Fox, 1/9; Stephanie Humeniuk, 1/9 & Nancy Hlywiak, 1/10. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

SPECIAL THANKS - are expressed to those who helped make this year's celebration of the Nativity so special:

- ❖ To all who came and brought food to make this year's Holy Supper so special.
- ❖ To our good friends at Belak's Flowers for once again donating the pointsettias
- ❖ To our good friends at McCreary – Harra Funeral Home for once again donating our annual calendars and this year's wreaths that decorate our Church doors.
- ❖ To Linda Hnatow for chairing the donations for the Flowers for Nativity. A total of \$375 was collected
- ❖ To Our Parish UOL for setting up the Christmas Tree and decorating the Church.
- ❖ To Sandra Cramer and Kathy Duncan for decorating the Church with all the pointsettias.
- ❖ To Nancy Hlywiak and our Parish Choir for singing like the angels!
- ❖ To our Altar Boys for serving and helping at the Altar.
- ❖ To all who helped in the cleaning of the Church!

May God grant all of you many, happy and blessed years!

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to Autumn Rose Fox, 1/9; Stephanie Humeniuk, 1/9 & Nancy Hlywiak, 1/10. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

ENVELOPES FOR 2023 – The Church envelopes and Calendars for 2019 are ready and can be picked up in the back of the Church.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES – are expressed to Michael Tilson and Linda and Joseph Stevens and Ann on the falling asleep of their Aunt, +Genevieve Luchejko, last week. Please remember the soul of the newly departed servant of God, +Genevieve, asking God to place her soul in the abode of the Saints where there is no pain, sorrow nor mourning but only life everlasting. Please also remember to pray for the family that God may give them His strength in this, their hour of need.

SCHEDULING FOR THE PARISH – Please remember that all events, work parties, use of the hall must be cleared through the calendar kept by Father Stephen so that dueling events may not occur.

DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON? – Did you know that if you would get on Smile Amazon and choose our Parish as your beneficiary that Amazon would donate a percentage of your purchase to us? Search on Orthodox Wilmington and choose SS Peter & Paul Ukrainian (yes it is misspelled and we've tried to correct it). Try it and help our Parish Family benefit from your shopping experience!

MEETINGS

PARISH BOARD – Wednesday, January 11 @ 6:30 PM

READER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 8 - Andrew Duncan
January 15 - Linda Hnatow
January 22 - Thomas Sulpizi
January 29 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick
February 5 - Jean Roeth
February 12 – John Plachuta

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of January 9 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration
Week of January 16 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of January 23 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus
Week of January 30 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration
Week of February 6 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of February 13 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly
Week of February 20 - Mark & Laura Andreas

Nativity flowers 2022

donated by

Laura & Mark Andreas: In Memory of the +Andreas Family

Laura & Mark Andreas: In Memory of the +Becker family

Sandy and John Cramer: In Memory of +Minn Cramer

Sandy and John Cramer: In Memory of +Richard Cramer

Sandy and John Cramer: In Memory of +Michael and +Ann Cramer

Sandy and John Cramer: In Memory of +Ted Cramer

Kathy Duncan: In Memory of +David Duncan

Fr. Stephen and Pani Liz Hutnick: Health of the Hutnick and Kurtasz family

Fr. Stephen and Pani Liz Hutnick: For the Departed of the +Hutnick & +Kurtasz Families

Nancy Hylwiak: In Memory of +Mom, +Dad, and +Uncle Stan

Nancy Hylwiak For the health of my family

Leeza and Victor Kaliakin: For the Health of Yanni, Megan, Dimitri, Maria, and Ksenia

Leeza and Victor Kaliakin: In Memory of +Inna, +Irene, +Nikolai, and +Victor

Barbara Mancuso: In Memory of +Dale, Sr.

Barbara Mancuso: For the Health of Dale Jr.

Barbara Mancuso: For my family

Elsie Moroz: In Memory of the +Boyko and +Duncan families

Lorraine Neff: For My Health

John Plachuta: In Memory of the +Plachuta Family

John Plachuta: For the Health of the Plachuta Family

Jennifer Robinson: In Memory of +Kathleen Trahan

Larisa and John Serth: In Memory of the +Serth Family

Linda Hnatow & Michael Tilson: In Memory of Departed of the +Hnatow Family

Linda Hnatow & Michael Tilson: In Memory of the Departed of the +Tyravsky Family

Linda Hnatow & Michael Tilson: For the Health of Our Loved Ones

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 8 - Lorraine Neff, Sonya Patronik

January 15 - David and Eve Lazaration

January 22 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur

January 30 - John and Sandy Cramer

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPRING BAZAAR – MAKING PYROHY

Saturday, January 21

Saturday, February 4

Saturday, February 25

Saturday, March 11

TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 28 – Wine Tasting 6:00 PM

Sunday, February 5 – ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, February 27 – First Day of the Fast

Saturday, April 1 – Spring Bazaar

Sunday, April 16 – Paskha

Sunday, April 23 – St. Thomas Sunday – Cemetery Visitations

Sunday, May 14 – Mother's Day Dinner

Sunday, June 18 – Father's Day Dinner

Sunday, July 16 – Patronal Feastfay

Saturday, August 5 – UOL Flea Market

WINE TASTING – Our Parish is sponsoring a wine tasting and pairing on Saturday, January 28 beginning at 6:00 PM. The wine will be paired with four courses of food: appetizers, a chicken, beef and pork, and seafood dishes, desserts. The donation will be \$35 per person, \$60 per couple. Please see Linda Hnatow or Father Stephen for advanced reservations.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)

January 1 – Lorraine Neff and Ann Duncan

January 8 – Lorraine Neff and Ann Duncan

January 15 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

January 22 - Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

January 29 – Victor Kaliakin and Lorraine Neff

February 5 – Victor Kaliakin and Lorraine Neff

DONATIONS (CREDIT CARDS) ACCEPTED – for those who are interested, we can accept donations to the Church through credit cards. See Mark Andreas or Lorraine Neff for details.



REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archimandrite Raphael, Father Vasili Andrejuk, Father George Bazylevsky, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Mark Odell, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Alicia, Nerry, Mykola, Brennan, Deborah, Galina, Dolores, Julian, Madison, Maria, Matt, Michele, Mykola, Penelope, Rita, Ryan, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Stephania Bacha, Joyce Belles, Neil Belles, Ethel Bernhard, Yaroslav Bilinsky, Irene Billon, Maria Borowenski Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, Thomas Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Mildred (Myrophora) Christo, Erik Colazo, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Margaret Durell, Mary Eagleton, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, Archantula Fanjoy, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Richard Haslam, Rick Hastings, Celeste Heiser, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Alicia Hlywak, John Hlywak, John Hnatow, Michael Hnatow, Daniel Holoziak, Jennifer Huertes, Sally Hutnick, Joette Jago, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Rosalie Ann Kane, Michael Kapelus, Charles Kaszytski, Julia Kaszytski, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Volodymyr Krasnopera, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Jeremy Madea, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Frederick McCarthy, Beth McKirachan, Fred McKirachan, Stephen McNulty, Ronald Michel, Mary Ann Michalcewicz, Michelle Michalcewicz, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Linda Muldoon, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Lorraine Neff, Ann Nester, Laurie Newman, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Janylyn Pinkowicz, Ryan Pinkowicz, Valentina Plachuta, Daphne Pantelopulos, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, John Ruczhak, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Isaac Schmidt, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Kimberly Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Natalia Stanford, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Alexandra Sparco, Lydia Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Mariel Trimble, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Peter Weremedic, Stephen Wienkowitz, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook.

NATIVITY

S R A T S S T F I G D A E C F G O C
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ADVENT – St. Philip's Fast; 40 days of fasting in preparation for the Nativity

ANGELS – Angels sang "Peace on earth" the first Christmas morn.

BABY – The Infant Jesus, the Son of God.

BETHLEHEM – The City of David where the Messiah was born.

BIRTH – Mary gave birth to Jesus the Christ, the Son of God.

CAVE – The place where Jesus was born.

CHRIST – The Messiah, the Savior of the world, born on Christmas day.

CHRISTMAS – The holy day of glory and joy because Christ is born.

FRANKINCENSE – One of the gifts of the Wise Men to Jesus the newborn King.

GIFTS – The offerings given to Jesus on Christmas day.

GOLD – One of the gifts of the wise Men to Jesus, the newborn King.

INCARNATION – God became man by taking on our human flesh.

JESUS – Born on Christmas Day, the Messiah, the Son of God.

JOSEPH – Husband of Mary, guardian and protector of Jesus.

KINGS – They were the Wise Men who came to honor Jesus with their gifts.

MANGER – The Crib for the infant Jesus.

MARY – The Virgin Mother of Jesus.

MYRRH – expensive oil: One of the gifts of the wise Men to Jesus, the newborn King.

NATIVITY – Means "birth"

SAVIOUR – Jesus, the Messiah, the Redeemer of the People.

SHEPHERD – came to worship the infant Jesus.

STAR – The Wise men followed the star to the place where Jesus was born.

VISIT – The Angels, Shepherds and Wise Men came to spend time with Jesus.

HAS CHRISTMAS LOST IT'S TRUE MEANING?

We have probably heard that troubling query expressed hundreds of times over the course of the past few weeks. Each of us, no doubt, has lamented the misplaced emphasis and focus during this season when we are supposed to be commemorating the BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR. Through the years, we have watched helplessly as Christ has effectively been taken out of our celebration of Christmas. "Receiving" has become more important than "giving." Solemnity has given way to revelry. When we attempt to speak out against those who have distorted the meaning of this sacred day, we are truly "a voice crying in the wilderness!" Consequently, we find ourselves saying little about it – except to those who share our sentiments. As we witness the self-indulgent way that today's society observes a day that should be filled with spiritual joy, we are tempted to echo the words uttered by Ebenezer Scrooge: "Christmas? Bah, humbug!"

We must truly remember that CHRIST IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON. God gave of Himself for the benefit of all mankind. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son . . ."* Christ brought peace to the world . . . He brought hope to the world . . . He brought salvation to the world. Only those who willingly give of themselves for the benefit of others can receive these wonderful "gifts" offered freely by our Lord.

Perhaps it involves giving a gift to your favorite charity. Perhaps it involves a donation of your time or talent to a person in need. It could even be something as simple as a kind word of encouragement or an attentive ear. All of these acts are viewed positively by our Lord above.

It is refreshing to see that the true message of Christmas has not been lost. Hopefully this restores our faith in humanity, melts away our cynicism and reminds us what Christmas is all about. May the "SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS" live on in the hearts of those who love and serve the Lord.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.