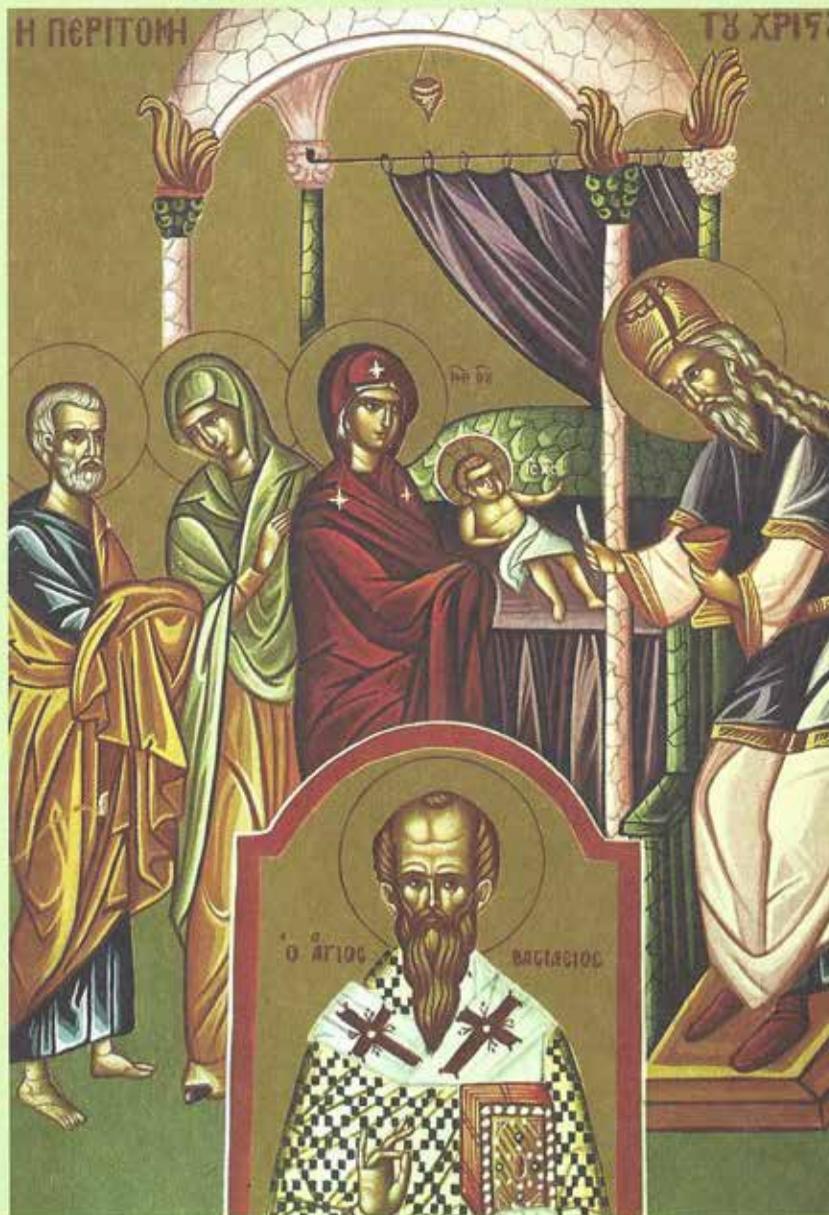


CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD
SAINT BASIL THE GREAT



Icon of the Circumcision -- January 1st

January 1, 2017: Sunday Before the Theophany

Epistle: 2 Tim. 4: 5-8

Gospel: Mk.1: 1-8

Mon., Jan. 2	8:00	+ Joseph Himchak (Roman & Eileen Kushner)
Tues., Jan. 3	8:00	+ Leo & Julia Anderson (Micky Klapatch)
Wed., Jan. 4	8:00	+ June Stadnitski (Ken & Elissa Smargiassi)
Thurs. Jan. 5	No Morning Divine Liturgy <u>For the Theophany:</u> 7:00 pm For Our Parishioners; Solemn Blessing of Water)	
Fri. Jan. 6	Theophany of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation) 9:00 + Joseph Chmil (Brother Terry & Barbara)	
Sat., Jan. 7	No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Raymond Popovich (Mildred Harrigan)	
Sun., Jan. 8	9:00	For Our Parishioners 11:30 + William Trently (Wife Evelyn & Family)

New Year's Greetings

My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we stand today on the threshold of a brand New Year, I offered this prayer of faith and anticipation for all of you. A New Year always stands before us like a gift not yet unwrapped - we wonder what's inside, what will come our way with this New Year. No matter what: happy, sad, easy, difficult,

challenging - we can handle it all by holding fast to our faith in God and in His love for us.

So, to all of our parishioners, your families, and your friends: Happy New Year! God bless you all in this New Year 2017, most especially with the best of health! And please pray for me too!

Father Nestor

A Prayer For The New Year

“Keep us O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with faultfinding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretenses and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous — let us make time for all things. Make us grow calm, serene, and gen-

tle. Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences that in the big things of life we are as one. And may we strive to touch and to know the great, common human heart of us all, and O Lord God, let us forget not to be kind.”

Christmas Spirit

Christ is Born! - Glorify Him!!
So many thanks - so little space!

Our beloved Church and the surroundings were breathtaking to behold with the glorious decorations. I wish to say a very heartfelt THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU to all the angels who helped to decorate the Church. All of you demonstrate the true spirit of Christmas. Everything was perfect.

To all the Altar Boys of St. Cyril's - a big thank you! You are the best Altar Boys around. You have made my life much easier during Divine Servic-

es. It would seem that you were taught very well.

I thank the cantors and St. Cyril's Choir for gifting us with “heavenly music” throughout this Christmas Season. And, as we all know, “He who sings, prays twice!”

To the “heavenly bakers” who provided all the bread for the services (and some goodies for the rectory), our sincerest thanks.

I also wish to thank all of you who sent cards, remembrances and the delicious baked goodies!

Keep Greeting One Another

A reminder to all: just as we prepared for Christmas with a 40-day preparation and fasting period, so now we

celebrate the bright days of Christmas, New Year's, and Theophany for 40 days. Please continue to sing our beau-

tiful Christmas carols, and to greet one another with our traditional “*Christos Razhdayetsia! Slavite Yeho!* Christ is Born! Glorify Him!” During the darkness of the Winter months, do all you can to keep the bright light of Christ

burning brightly! Let Christ shine through you!

Note: according to tradition, we continue to sing Christmas carols up until the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord on February 2nd.

The Safest Place On Earth

How to stay safe in the world today.

1. Avoid riding in automobiles, because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home, because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks, because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water, because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transporta-

tion.

5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

BUT...

You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur during Church services and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is in church!

Theophany of Our Lord

We remind our Parishioners that the Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord is a Holy Day of Obligation in our Ukrainian Catholic Church. Attending the the Divine Liturgy either on Thursday, January 5 at 7 pm or on Friday, Janu-

ary 6 at 9 am fulfills your obligation. Also, please note: **THE SOLEMN BLESSING OF WATER WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE 7 PM DIVINE LITUGY ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2017.**

Holy Name Society Raffle

The Holy Name Society will once again have its annual raffle. Tickets

will be mailed to parishioners. Please support this raffle with a \$10. Dona-

tion. The proceeds of the raffle are used for expenses related to our parish.

A Sincere Thank You

A sincere thank you to all the youth of our parish who participated in, and made, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," at our parish, December 18, 2016, a very special occasion. Our youth who accompanied Saint Nicholas: Angels: Miss Samatha Borowski, "The Angel of Christmas Spirit," the Tiniest Angel of All, and, Miss Julianne Hunt, "The Angel of Ancestry," who carried The Traditional Didukh, (Didukh translated means, 'Grandfather Spirit,') which is a Sheath of Wheat, ensuring prosperity to all for the upcoming New Year 2017. The Angels were escorted by our Altar Servers: Nicholas Borowski, Brennin Marcinko, Cole Marcinko, Patrick Marcinko IV, John Nasevich, Samuel Sczesniak, and, David Slachtish. In addition, Miss Ann Victoria Nasevich, and Miss Sierra Sczesniak, dressed in Traditional Ukrainian National Dress, served as assistants of St. Nicholas by handing out bags of candy, much to the delight of children of all ages. All parishioners were presented with a laminated prayer card to mark the occasion. Special thanks to all Parents and Volun-

teers, who helped behind the scenes. Thank you to our financial donors, whose funds were used to restore, renovate and reconstruct the original vestments. The vestments for St. Nicholas were originally designed in 1975 by The Reverend Fathers Nakonechniy and Kowal, for the first of many yearly appearances of "A Visit from St. Nicholas," at The Everhart Museum, The Anthracite Museum, and various other venues by the original coordinators of "A Visit by St. Nicholas," Mr. Matthew Beckage and Mrs. MaryAnn Beckage, under whose guidance of Ukrainian Folk, Visual and Performing Arts, combined with their knowledge of Cultural Traditions, helped to secure their first effort of this annual event in December 1975, not only for the enjoyment of our immediate Church Community, but as an annual civic and social event, brought to fruition for over 20+ years, through collaboration with Members of Ss. Cyril and Methodious Ukrainian Catholic Church, Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck and Sisters of O.S.B.M, and, it's Choir, under the Direction of Nicholas Marty-

nuk, and Patrick Marcinko, II, and, all of the parochial school children. This tradition has now been re-instituted this year, 2016, by their daughter, Miss Mara Beckage, with the blessing of Father Nestor and a fellow supporter of

Ukrainian Heritage and Folk Art, who wishes to remain anonymous. A very special thank you to, The Olyphant Lion's Club for the large donation of candy for this special event. Thank you to everyone.

St. Mary's Dinner Club

ST. MARY'S PARISH DINNER CLUB "WINTER COMFORT DINNER", 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18503. This menu will start with a Neighborhood Ham & Bean Soup, the entrée will be Bobby Fay's Roasted Vegetable Meatloaf with Balsamic Glaze with Three Cheese Macaroni

Delight and Broccoli and Cauliflower medley. Dessert is a Homemade Lemon Lush. Coffee, Tea, Soda and Water are included. And a Cash Bar is available. This feast is available for only \$20.00 per person and you may make reservations by January 12, 2017 at 570-343-5151.

Malanka 2017

Northeastern Pennsylvania's 13th Annual Ukrainian New Year Dinner Dance - MALANKA - will take place from 6:00pm to 11:00pm on Saturday evening, January 14, 2017 at La Buona Vita, 200 Reilly Street, Dunmore, PA. Please note that we are moving from St. Vladimir parish center to a different venue, engaging a popular caterer who has an outstanding reputation and contracting with a different musical group. Basically, we have followed the same format for twelve years and many

agree it is time for some changes.

The menu will feature both Ukrainian and American fare catered by Kathy Gavin of Stirna's Catering. Music for dancing will be provided by the Ukrainian band "Fourth Wave Ensemble" of Philadelphia. Cash bar will be available. Wearing Ukrainian attire is encouraged.

Tickets are \$45.00. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Sandra Berta at 570-383-9487. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Festival of Christmas Carols

Annual Festival of Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 3 p.m. at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Con-

ception in Philadelphia. Choirs from different parishes will participate. Everyone is welcome.

Choir To Perform At St. Vladimir's Church

The Dzvin Ukrainian Folk Choir of Philadelphia will appear at Scranton's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, 430 North Seventh Avenue on Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 3:00pm. The eighteen-member all male group will offer a program of Ukrainian and English Christmas carols.

The group is known for its rendering of traditional and contemporary

Ukrainian songs with a unique and lively interpretation. They have appeared extensively in Southeastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maryland as well as in Canada.

The event is open to the public and no tickets are required. Attendees can make a free will offering if they so desire.

Collection Processing Team...

We wish to thank all the Board Members who helped out last year, especially during the Christmas Holy Days. The Board Members for the month of

January 2016 are Team #1: William Vervan, Roger Barren, and Jerry Sereditch.

Sunday Collection for December 24 & 25, 2016: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for January 7 & 8, 2017

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Brett Lowe -- Nicholas Chylak	Andrew Augustine
9:00 am	Cole Marcinko -- Patrick Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Thomas Radle -- Nicholas Muchisky	Frank Lesnefsky

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Mystery of the Lord's Baptism

The Gospel tells us that the Lord went to the Jordan River to be baptized and that He wished to consecrate Himself in the river by signs from heaven. Someone might ask, "Why would a holy man desire baptism?" Listen to the answer: Christ is baptized, not to be made holy by the water, but to make the water holy, and by His cleansing to purify the waters which He touched. For the consecration of Christ involves a more significant consecration of the water.

For when the Savior is washed all water for our baptism is made clean, purified at its source for the dispensing of baptismal grace to the people of future ages. Christ is the first to be baptized, then, so that Christians will follow after Him with confidence.

I understand the mystery as this. The column of fire went before the sons of Israel through the Red Sea so they could follow on their brave

journey; the column went first through the waters to prepare a path for those who followed. As the Apostle Paul said, what was accomplished then was the mystery of baptism. Clearly it was baptism in a certain sense when the cloud was covering the people and bringing them through the water.

But Christ the Lord does all these things: in the column of fire He went through the sea before the sons of Israel; so now, in the column of His body, He goes through baptism before the Christian people. At the time of the Exodus the column provided light for the people who followed; now it gives light to the hearts of believers. Then it made a firm pathway through the waters; now it strengthens the footsteps of faith in the bath of baptism.

Saint Maximus of Turin

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com