

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY, OF THE ANCESTORS



Icon of the Nativity of Our Lord -- December 25th

December 20, 2020: Sunday Before Christmas		
Epistle: Heb. 11: 9-10 & 32-40		Gospel: Mt. 1: 1-25
Mon., Dec. 21	9:00	+ Debra Altier (Family)
Tues., Dec. 22	9:00	+ Christine Danylak (Leo Danylak)
Wed., Dec. 23	9:00	+ Patrick & Mary Marcinko (Family)
Thurs. Dec. 24	Christmas Eve 7:30 pm Divine Liturgy for Christmas 10:00 pm Divine Liturgy for Christmas	
Fri., Dec. 25	Nativity of Our Lord 10:00 Divine Liturgy for Christmas	
Sat., Dec. 26	Synaxis of the Mother of God 9:00 + Dorothy A. Chezik (Children) 4:00 pm + Joe Muchisky (Family)	
Sun., Dec. 27	Feast of St. Stephen 10:00 + Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck (Legate)	

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have had to adjust our schedules. This has affected the Church as well. Normally, the Christmas Eve service is the most attended. In order to facilitate social distancing and keep everyone safe, we will have two (2) Divine Liturgies on

Christmas Eve. The first Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy will be at 7:30 pm; the second Divine Liturgy will be at 10:00 pm. The Christmas Day Divine Liturgy will be at 10:00 am.

We remind our Parishioners that social distancing of 6 feet must be maintained while in Church between non-family members. Also, please wear your mask. And as always, if you are not feeling well, PLEASE STAY HOME!

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM! ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЕТСЯ! СЛАВИМО ЙОГО!



celebration. We will receive gifts, many will receive more than others. But we will receive one gift equally. That is the gift of the Incarnate God. Let us acknowledge this unique gift by participating in as many of the special Christmas Services as possible and remembering the real reason for the season, and to pray for Peace on Earth!

May the Incarnate Christ, be with each and everyone of you during this holiday season and throughout the year 2021. My prayers for your continued health and happiness.

Christ is Born! -- Glorify Him!
Христос Рождается! Славимо Його!

Another Christmas is here. Let us reflect on the true meaning of this

Father Nestor

TIS THE SEASON TO SAY THANKS

We wish to thank all the Parishioners, and especially our youth, who volunteered their time to decorate our Church for the Christmas Season. It

was a task which took several days to complete. Our Church looks beautiful for this Holy Season. Thank you to all of our "Angels."

IT'S OKAY TO SAY "MERRY CHRISTMAS"

Every Christmas, anti-Christian groups such as the American Civil

Liberties Union, the American Communist Party, various Islamic



groups and Atheist groups sue some city for erecting a nativity scene on public property. Likewise, fearing they may be perceived as politically incorrect, a handful of retailers replace the word "Christmas" with "Holiday" in their marketing.

It may seem like a small issue, but these things are significant because they diminish the importance of the Christian foundations of our society.

Our ideas of justice, mercy, liberty and love for our fellow man are deeply rooted in the Traditions of the Apostolic Church which includes the Bible, particularly in the life, death

and resurrection of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. That's why America has been a light among the nations in the world.

Like the angel who appeared to the shepherds saying: "I bring you good news of great joy," we Christians have a story to tell about the blessings of honoring the true God. Telling the story can start with simply not patronizing stores that use "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas" and by reminding those who say "Happy Holidays" that "It's okay to say Merry Christmas."

THE LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE

Every year as Christmas nears, candy canes show up in stores and millions are sold and eaten. While the striped candy is delicious, it is more than just a pretty, tasty treat to enjoy around Christmas. The Legend of the Candy Cane was designed to be a reminder of what Christmas is all

about.

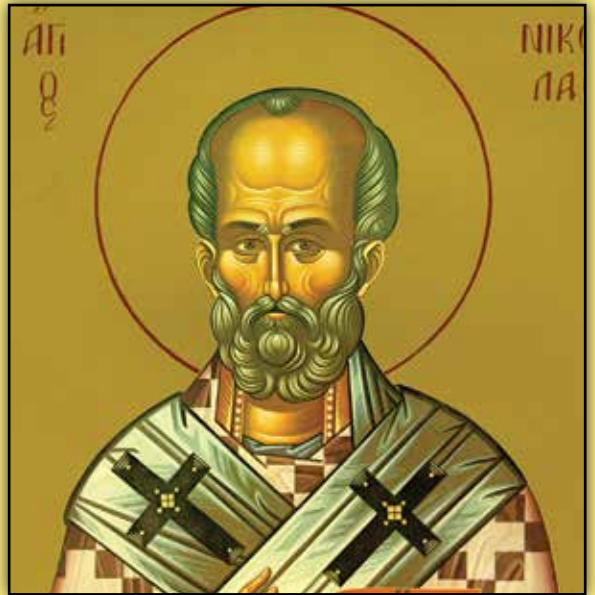
A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would help us remember who Christmas is really about. So he made a Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of

CHRISTMAS AND THEOPHANY

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker
December 6th

When you appeared in a dream to Constantine the King, you gave him this warning: Release at once from prison those you have unjustly confined, for they are innocent; no murder did they commit as you claim. O King, listen to me, or else I shall call upon the Lord.

O holy Nicholas, holy preacher of Christ, always ready to help all on land or at sea. Whether they be near or far, you have compassion for all. You are a precious helper; therefore, we who gather here ask you to pray to the Lord that we be delivered from all distress and sorrow.



Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, the Patriarchs

Today we commemorate the ancestors of Christ. Sing with fervor a hymn of praise to Christ the Savior who exalted them among all nations. He is the Lord who does wondrous deeds because He is powerful and mighty. From them He brought forth a royal scepter, the immaculate maiden of God and virgin Mary. From her, Christ our God came forth to give life and eternal salvation for all.

The three holy youths were refreshed by the Holy Spirit when they walked in the fire as in a cool place. In them the Trinity and the Incarnation of Christ were prefigured in a mystical manner. By their wisdom and faith they overcame the power of fire. As for the just Daniel, he stopped the mouths of lions. Through their intercession, we beseech You: O Savior and Lover of Mankind, protect us from eternal fire and make us worthy of your heavenly kingdom.



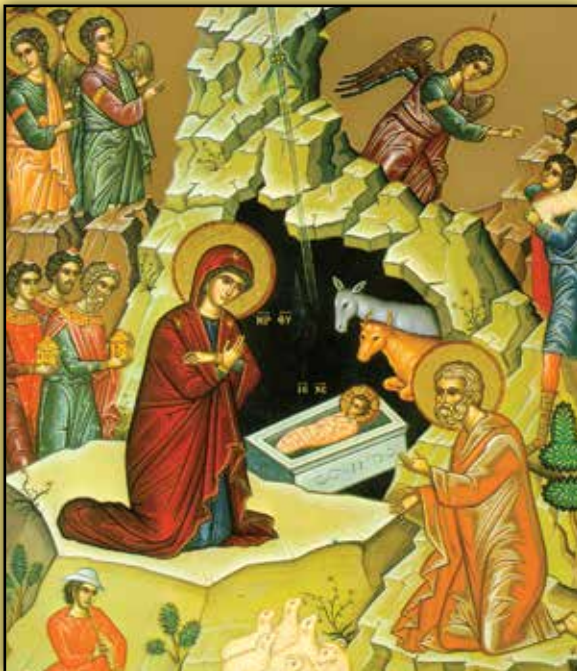
Sunday of the Holy Fathers

The commemoration of the Holy Fathers is manifested to the ends of the world. It is truly of splendor, and it glistens with the rays of grace; for Christ the splendrous Sun has shone forth on high from afar. He forms the assembly of stars which glisten with Him, and the star reveals that the nativity of the God-man will be in Bethlehem. Therefore, we piously and faithfully clap our hands and leap for joy at this nativity, and we give praise before the feast.

The Holy Fathers are adorned by the glory of the divine sharing of our nature. Adam rejoices today, since he is the foundation and the strength of the wise Forefathers; Abel leaps for joy as well. Enoch is glad; Seth and Noah dance together. The praiseworthy Abraham sings with the Patriarchs. Melchisedek now sees from on high the birth without a father.



*Nativity of Our Lord
December 25th*



O Christ our God, your kingdom is eternal, and your reign is from generation to generation. You became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and became man from the ever-virgin Mary. Your coming, O Christ, has shed a great light upon us. You are the Light of Light and the radiance of the Father. You have illumined the whole creation. Therefore, everything that breathes sings a hymn of praise to You. You are the image of the Father's glory. You are the eternal God, existing before all ages, who shone forth from the Virgin. O Lord our God, have mercy on us.

*Synaxis of the Holy Mother of God
December 26th*

O Christ, what shall we offer You for your coming on earth in our humanity for our sake? Every creature that has its being from You gives thanks to You: the angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star; the Magi present their gifts and the shepherds, their wonder; the earth provides a cave and the desert, a manger. As for us, we offer a Virgin Mother. O God who are from all eternity, have mercy on us.

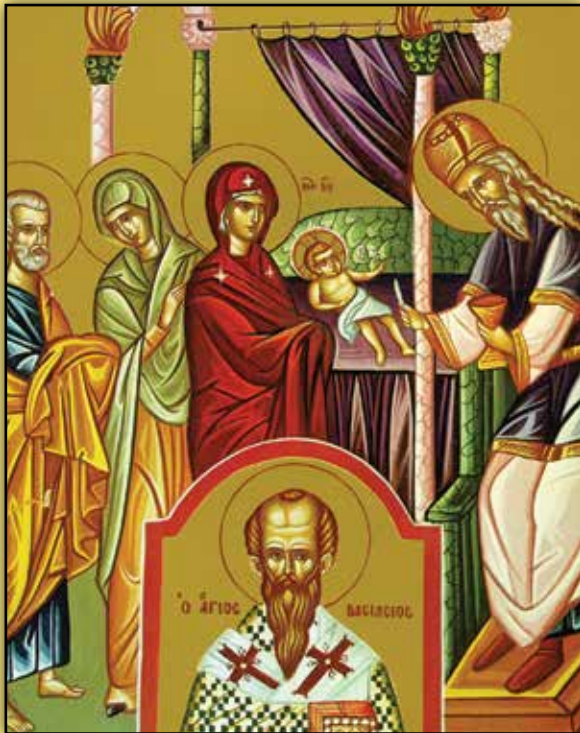
Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth. Today Bethlehem receives the One who at all times sits with the Father. Today the angels sing the praises of the newborn infant. Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will to all.



*Saint Basil the Great
January 1st*

You have been called by the name of Basil, after the kingdom. In your kingly rank you led the people of Christ to wisdom and knowledge. Then the Lord of all and King of Kings adorned you with the crown of the kingdom, O Basil. He is the everlasting and co-eternal Son who was united to her that bore Him. Therefore, intercede with Him that He may enlighten and save our souls.

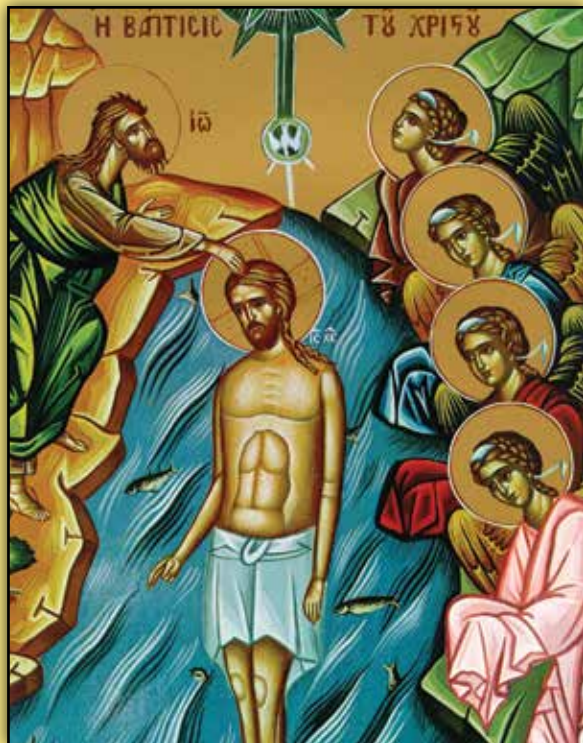
Adorned with the vestments of a bishop, O Basil, you gladly proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and poured out the teachings of the true faith for the Church. Now enlightened by them, we confess and glorify the one Godhead, indivisible in three Persons; namely the Almighty Father, the only-begotten Word of God, and the Divine Spirit. Intercede with Him that He may enlighten and save our souls.



Theophany of Our Lord in the Jordan
January 6th

When the Jordan received You, O Fountainhead, the Comforter descended in the form of a dove. Now behold the marvel: the One who bowed the heavens bows his head to the Forerunner, and the one made of clay cries out to his Maker: Why do you command me to perform what is beyond my power? It is I who need to be baptized by You. O Christ our God, O Sinless One, glory to You!

You have bowed your head before the Forerunner, and You have crushed the heads of the demons. You have descended into the waters and given light to all things that they may glorify You, O Savior, and Enlightenment of our souls.

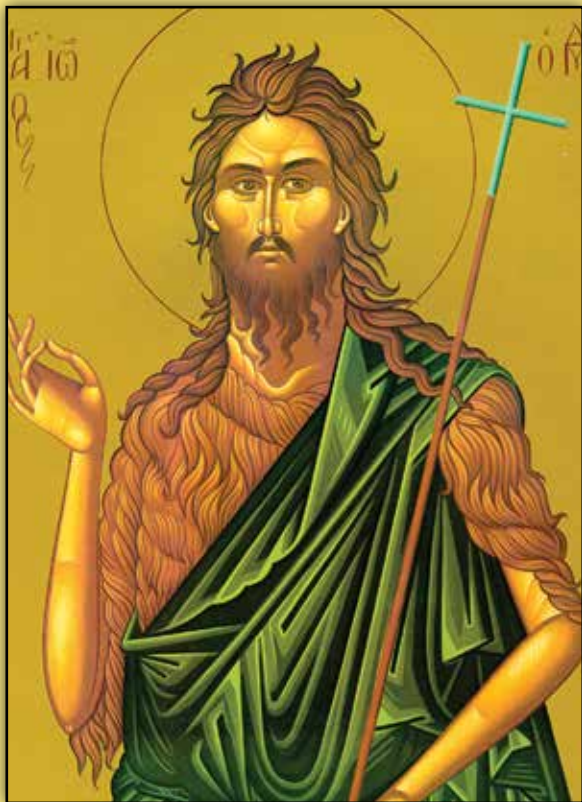


Synaxis of John the Baptist
January 7th

The Forerunner said to the Creator: For my part I am held back, and I do not know where to flee. O generous One, You are the river of delight. How is it, therefore, that the streams of the river receive You as You enter them? To all those who venerate your holy manifestation, You pour out salvation, O Word!

O luminary in the flesh and Forerunner of the Savior, O offspring of the barren one, O friend, by leaping in the womb you adored the One who is born of the Virgin; and you baptized Him in the waters of the Jordan. O prophet, we pray to you: Implore Him that we may escape the future torments.

All text from Vesper Stichera of each feastday, The Festal Menaion, Sisters of Saint Basil, Uniontown, PA



pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus. Hard candy to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God. The candy maker made the candy in the



form of a “J” to represent the name of Jesus. It also represented the staff of the “good Shepherd”. The candy maker

then included red stripes. He used three small stripes and a large red stripe to represent the suffering Christ endured at the end of his life. The candy became known as a Candy Cane - a decoration seen at Christmas time. The

meaning has faded, but still gives joy to children young and old, whom Jesus loves and treasures.

ANDREW’S PENCE

The Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) has decided to hold a collection, called Andrew’s Pence, to support faithful of UGCC abroad where there is no permanent ecclesiastical structure.

More than 100 years ago Ukrainians started to leave their native land in search of a better life, material welfare, and freedom. Many settled on another continent, where church buildings of the UGCC are not everywhere, so that

the faithful could not attend services in their native Church. Wishing to provide all faithful of the UGCC with spiritual care, the bishops call upon all to support the faithful of the UGCC abroad in prayer and financially, collecting the so-called Andrew’s Pence.

According to the Protocol of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, the “Andrew’s Pence” collection is to be taken in all parishes each year in the month of December.

2021 CHURCH CALENDARS

The 2021 Church Calendars are Church. The Calendars are free, but available in the Vestibule of the any donations will be appreciated.

2020 PARISH DUES

With the end of 2020 quickly approaching, we offer this gentle reminder to make sure that your 2020 Parish Dues are paid. Also, we remind our Parish Family Members that at a Parish Meeting in February 2020, it was decided that beginning 2021 Parish Dues will increase to \$50.00 per adult per year. This is less than \$1 per week.



CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE REMINDER

For those who ordered items from the Christmas Bake Sale, pick up is Monday, December 21st between 3:00 and 7:00 at the Church Hall at 207 River St. Please remember to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

OUR CONDOLENCES

In your Christian Charity, please remember the souls of our Parishioners who recently fell asleep in the Lord.

+ **Lori Vladika** was buried from St. Cyril's on Thursday, December 3rd.

+ **Peter Krenitsky** was buried from St. Cyril's on Saturday, December 12th.

May their memory be eternal!
Vichnaya Pamyat!

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!

We all know family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, or school friends, who are Catholic and no longer attend the Divine Liturgy. Christ-

mas is a great time to invite them to come home to the Church. Think about it, pray about it, and invite someone to come to Church with you during the

Christmas Season. There is always a chance that you will be rejected or your invitation will fall on deaf ears. Just remember that Jesus experienced the same kind of reception and He did not give up. So if your invitation receives no response or a negative one,

just wait a few weeks and ask again. In the meantime, pray for that person, but don't give up on them no matter how long it takes. It is hard to persevere and it is hard to be rejected, but just be patient and kind and trust in the Lord.

PROPERLY RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

When approaching to receive Holy Communion, do not be afraid to approach the Priest. Father's arms are only so long and when you stand too far away, it is difficult to distribute Holy Communion.

We also remind everyone to tilt your head back and open your mouth WIDE. Please keep your tongue in your mouth. Please do not bite down on the communion spoon. There is no need to say anything since the priest says the prayer. There is no need to say AMEN as is done in the Roman Catholic Church.

For those faithful who are a little unsteady on your feet, please feel free to use the first pew in front of the icon of the Mother of God. We don't want anybody to get hurt. Father will come up and give you Communion.

Now finally, a little about the red Communion Cloth. Sometimes the Altar Servers hold it; sometimes Father holds it. When the Altar Servers hold, simply approach (i.e., come close to the Priest). If Father is holding it, simply lift it up to your chin. The purpose of the Communion Cloth is to help prevent accidents.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for #4: Ron Barkofsky and Joe Smagula.
the month of December 2020 is Team

Sunday Collection for Dec. 12 & 13, 2020: \$2,349.00

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Parish financially in our weekly collections. If you are still staying at home due to the pandemic, and are able to send any amount, it would be a blessing.

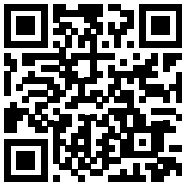
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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ

Come, then, let us observe the Feast! Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been implanted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.

Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven did

not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infant's food from His Virgin Mother. So, the Father of all ages, as an infant at the breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star.

To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Ghost, we offer all praise, now and forever. Amen.

St. John Chrysostom