

SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SUNDAY/DEC. 28th Postfeast Sunday After the Nativity (Tone 3)

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Question & Answer Period

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31st (Fast Free)

7:00p.m. Vespers and blessing of St. Basils' Bread

THURSDAY/JAN. 1, 2009

Circumcision & St. Basil the Great

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY/JAN. 2nd (Fast Free)

St. Seraphim of Sarov

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Seraphim

SATURDAY/JAN. 3rd

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/JAN. 4th

Sunday Before the Theophany (Tone 4)

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour; Church School

MONDAY/JAN. 5th (Strict Fast)

Eve of the Theophany

9:30a.m. Royal Hours

7:00p.m. Matins

8:00p.m. Great Blessing of Waters

TUESDAY/JAN. 6th

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

The Good News of the life of Christ is celebrated all year long.

Important moments from the life of Jesus Christ recorded in the Gospels are lifted up and celebrated as great feasts of the liturgical year.

Not only are events of the adult life of Christ celebrated, such as His Baptism (Jan. 6), His Transfiguration (Aug. 6) and His Death and Resurrection (Pasch and every Sunday), but also events of His earliest life such as the Annunciation (Mar. 25), His Nativity (Dec. 25), His Circumcision on the eighth day according to Jewish practice (Jan. 1) and His Meeting with Symeon in the Temple (Feb. 2). All these and other feasts are thoroughly biblical.

The Feasts of our Lord are based on the New Testament and seek to make the saving events of the life of Christ contemporary to us. Hence, we sing in the present tense:

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One...

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe...

Today is the beginning of our salvation...

Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me today...

Cancellations Due to Weather

The Parish Website will indicate any changes to the schedule as necessitated by the weather, at least one hour before the service or event. Please check the website before you leave home if the weather is "iffy." You may also call the rectory, or if there be no answer, Mary Holovach may be called at 908-725-8978.

Postfeast of the Nativity

Is celebrated December 26th thru the "leave-taking," on December 31st. These are the festal days that fill us with great joy. In this period of time, in keeping with the character of the days, we do not fast on any day, not do we kneel or make prostrations either in church or in our homes. The church rules forbid the serving of Memorial Services and the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage in this time.

Namesday Greetings

St. David/Sunday After the Nativity: David Peterson;

St. Melanie/Dec. 31st: Mildred Mock;

St. Basil/January 1st: Basil Kulick, Charles Kachek, William Neudachin, William Kuzemchak;

Many Blessed Years!

Blessing of Homes

Will take place in the months of January and February. All of the faithful are encouraged to have their homes blessed in the period of time between January 7th and February 7th. Aside from homes in Manville – all other homes need to be scheduled. After January 1st, you may make an appointment to have your home blessed.

Deep Appreciation

As the year 2008 draws to a close, sincere thanks is expressed to all of our faithful who have labored and served in many differing ministries and works in this year. Labors great and small and special tasks have been accomplished. The Lord bless your good works and may they inspire others to contribute their time and talent for the growth of our faith community in 2009.

**Who Is So Great A God as Our God!
Thou art our God Who Does Wonders!**

Parish Synodicon – Memory Eternal!

40 Days	Dec. 27, 2008	Vaschen Sarichisian
40 Days	Dec. 31, 2008	Anastasia Barna
December	28, 1927	Joseph Ribsky
December	28, 1927	Olga Solodiuk
December	28, 1983	John Grishkevitz
December	28, 1987	Edmund Kornacki
December	29, 1977	Alice Susko
December	29, 2002	Edna Kalenik
December	30, 1934	Adam Gromako
December	30, 1989	Michael Barna
December	30, 2006	Anna Wasitowski
December	31, 1942	Tikhon Yakovlev
December	31, 1950	Nicholas Chmelik
December	31, 1962	Jacob Hriniaik
January	01, 1963	Peter Romanowski
January	01, 1995	Michael Emilianov
January	02, 1947	Chariton Kucher
January	02, 1966	Mary Knaff
January	02, 1989	Charles Specian
January	03, 1962	Mary Tarby Adamcio

During the Divine Liturgy We Ought

- To remember that the Holy Angels are present and sing and pray with fear and devout piety. So should we.
- We should be in church before 9:30a.m., so we have time to pray in our own words, light candles and be ready for the solemn beginning of the Divine Liturgy. Lateness to church is sinful.
- In prayer talk to God – not one another – Coffee Hour is the time and place for us to hold our conversations.
- Church business should not be engaged in during services by council members.
- Candles should be lighted before service begin, if you come late, light them only at times when the Royal Doors are closed.

Icon Print Collection Box

A box to bring your icon prints – from calendars, and cards is on the vestibule stand. Icon prints should not be disposed like trash. The box will be in the church until the end of January.

Make A Joyful Noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing of His Name! Give To Him Glorious Praise!

News and Events

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah for the Nativity of Christ 2008

Posted 12/23

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of
The Orthodox Church in America

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

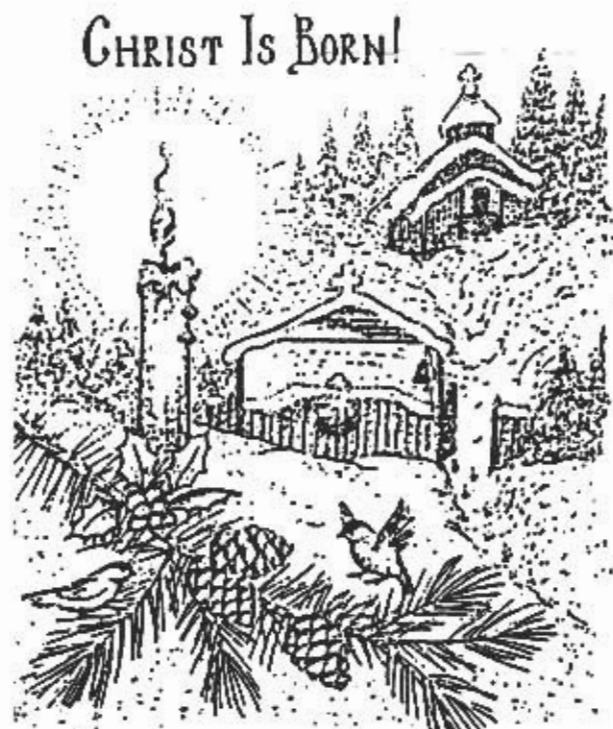
Dearly Beloved in Christ,

*Lo, the time of our salvation draweth nigh!
Make ready, O Cave!
The Virgin approacheth to give birth!
O Bethlehem, land of Judah,
Adorn thyself and rejoice,
For from thee hath our Lord shone forth!
Hearken, ye mountains and hills,
And ye parts of Judea, which lie round about,
For Christ cometh,
That He might save man whom He created,
In that He loveth mankind!*

From of old God worked with the people of Israel, the children of the Covenant, to bring forth Christ. He made the covenants with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; with Moses; with David. He sent the Prophets to announce His will, so that the people might be called to obedience and hence, to life. Finally God sent His Son into the world as the ultimate Mystery of the relationship between Himself and man: the New Covenant, God dwelling in man, and man in God.

Jesus is the revelation of the New Covenant given by God, the revelation of the very goal of creation itself: union, synergy, cooperation, love.

Christ is born! He comes in humility, to show us the way of God.
Christ is born! He comes to empty Himself, and reveal God in human form.
Christ is born! He became everything that we are,
that we might become all that He is.
Christ is born! Born in the cave and laid in the manger;
yet His glory shone from the manger as from the Mercy Seat.
Christ is born! All the angels and the whole creation rejoice!
Christ is born! Empty of self in the poverty of humility.
Christ is born! Radiant in the glory of His divinity,
shining in the obscurity of human darkness.
Christ is born! Enlightening with grace all creation.



Christ is born! The pledge of the Age to Come:
The radiant Coal of the deified New World.

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of salvation, which He has given us so generously by the incarnation of His Son. Let us also empty ourselves of self, so that by embracing His poverty, we might be filled with His life. Let us open our minds and hearts to Him in the persons of the poor and lonely, the destitute and afflicted, and thereby liken ourselves to Him. Let us accept the gift of grace, the deifying gift of the Holy Spirit, and thus being likened to Him by Him, our lives may be fulfilled in that radiant communion of love, which is nothing other than the Kingdom of God.

With joy and gratitude, utterly humbled by the Providence of God, and by your love, I remain faithfully in Christ,

Your servant,



+JONAH
Archbishop of Washington and New York,
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



SAINT JOHN OF SAN FRANCISCO ON MATTHEW 1:25

And [Joseph] knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called His name JESUS.

The word "until" does not signify that Mary remained a virgin only until a certain time. In the Bible, the word "until" and words similar to it often signify eternity. It is said of Christ: "In His days shall shine forth righteousness and an abundance of peace, *until* the moon be taken away" (Psalm 71:7), but this does not mean that when there shall no longer be a moon at the end of the world, God's righteousness shall no longer be; precisely then, rather, will It triumph. And what does it mean when it says: "For He must reign, *until* He hath put all enemies under His feet?" (1 Cor. 15:25). Is the Lord to reign only for a time until His enemies shall be put under His feet? The Savior in the Gospel says to the Apostles (Matt. 28:20): "Lo, I am with you always, even *until* the end of the world." Are we to believe that the Lord will no longer be with the disciples in the age to come? While there are plenty more such examples of the use of the word "until", the above are sufficient to prove that Matt 1:25 does not argue against the life-long virginity of the Mother of God.



Offerings for the week of December 28th

Olive Oil – in memory of Emilia; in memory of Joan; in memory of Michael and Justina;
in memory of Vaschen; in memory of Melanie

Wine – in thanksgiving to God; in memory of Demetre and Evdokim

Odds and Ends

The Parish Council is still seeking a temporary treasurer for 4-6 month period.

The New Entrance Upper Hall Doors have been installed (\$7,000).

Think of starting the New Year 2009 by tithing your offering.

Are You on the E Mail Parish List ?