

## **SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**

605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835-1856

Voice: 908-685-1452 / fax: 908-685-1074

Email: [frjames@ssppoc.org](mailto:frjames@ssppoc.org) Website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org)

**BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 26, 2010**

### **CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

**SUNDAY/DECEMBER 26**

**Sunday After Nativity (Tone 6)**

**Synaxis of the Theotokos**

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

**THURSDAY/DECEMBER 30**

7:00p.m. Georgian Service

**FRIDAY/DECEMBER 31**

5:30p.m. Vespers and Blessing of  
St. Basil's Bread

**SATURDAY/JANUARY 1, 2011**

**Circumcision of our Lord**

**St. Basil the Great**

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
5:30p.m. Vespers & Compline; Confessions

**SUNDAY/JANUARY 2**

**Sunday Before Theophany (Tone 7)**

**St. Seraphim of Sarov**

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

**TUESDAY/JANUARY 4**

7:00p.m. Royal Hours of Theophany

**WEDNESDAY/JANUARY 5**

**Eve of the Theophany**

**Strict Fast Day**

7:00p.m. Matins  
8:00p.m. Great Blessing of Waters

**THURSDAY/JANUARY 6**

**THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**

**(One of "the 12 Great Feasts")**

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



The Feast of the Nativity of Christ as a man is the capital of feasts, as St. John Chrysostom says. All the other feasts of the Lord – the Theophany, the Transfiguration, the Passion, the Cross, the Resurrection and the Ascension of Christ – follow from the Nativity. Without the Nativity there would have been no Resurrection, but also without the Resurrection the purpose of the divine incarnation would not have been fulfilled. All the feasts of the Lord are unified. We separate them in order to celebrate them and to look more closely into their content. In every Divine Liturgy we live through all the events of the divine incarnation. Therefore, according to the Fathers, it is always Christmas, always Easter, always Pentecost.



**Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!**

- Jan. 14 40<sup>th</sup> Day John Chabra
- Dec. 26, 1980 Jerry Russo
- Dec. 26, 2004 Douglas Rose
- Dec. 27, 1989 Mary George
- Dec. 28, 1927 Joseph Ribsky
- Dec. 28, 1927 Olga Solodiuk
- Dec. 28, 1983 John Grishkevitz
- Dec. 28, 1987 Edmund Kornacki
- Dec. 29, 1977 Alice Susko
- Dec. 29, 2002 Edna Kalenik
- Dec. 30, 1934 Adam Gromako
- Dec. 30, 1989 Michael Barna
- Dec. 30, 2006 Anna Wasitowski
- Dec. 31, 1942 Tikhon Yakovlev
- Dec. 31, 1952 Nicholas Chmelik
- Dec. 31, 1962 Jacob Hriniak
- Jan. 01, 1963 Peter Romanowski
- Jan. 01, 1995 Michael Hobora
- Jan. 01, 2010 Paul Lebedz



**Coffee Hour Hosting Teams**

Dec. 26 - Kita, Nevitt and Keller

**Offerings for the week of December 26**

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of Lian (birthday); for the health of Cornelia; in memory of Joan.

Wine: in thanksgiving to God and the Holy Theotokos and for the health of Mariana, Gabriela-Antoneta and Simona-Georgiana; for the health of Anna (birthday).

Litya Breads: for the health of Ekaterina.

**Namesday Greetings; Many Blessed Years!**

- Sun. After Nativity/St. David: David Peterson
- St. Stephen/Dec. 27: Stephanida Kachek
- St. Melanie/Dec. 30: Mildred Mock
- St. Basil/Jan. 01: Basil Kulick, William Neudachin

**Winter Weather Conditions**

May necessitate a change in the schedule, please check the parish website for up-dates. Any necessary changes will be posted at least 1 hour before the scheduled event.

**Remember in Prayer**

Michael Warin (Overlook Hospital).

**Fast-free Period: Dec. 25 – Jan. 4**

In this festal period we do not fast, nor kneel or make prostrations. In keeping with the festal character of these days, the Mystery of Marriage may not be performed nor Memorial Services held (except for those who may repose in this period).

**The Parish Website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org)**

Has posted – “schedule of services” – the parish calendar of services, events, adult studies, church school, meetings and deanery and diocesan events thru June of 2011. Check it out and plan your own calendar accordingly.

**Christmas Cookie Walk**

Netted a profit of \$820. Thanks to Jill Peterson for chairing the event and to all our bakers and buyers.

**The Blessing of Homes**

With the newly-blessed Waters of Theophany (January 5<sup>th</sup>) will begin Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> thru Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please speak with Fr. James to arrange a date and time for your home blessing.

**Parish Council Meeting**

January 20<sup>th</sup>, Thursday at 7:00p.m.

**Annual Parish Meeting**

February 13<sup>th</sup>, Sunday at 11:45a.m. All reports for the Annual Meeting must be submitted no later than February 1<sup>st</sup>.



**A FEASTAL BLESSING**

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless all of our parish family and friends of our parish. May the feast of the Holy Nativity be an on-going source of spiritual joy, peace, hope and brightness in the days and times ahead. May this year end in His holy Name; may the New Year begin in His holy Name. The Lord bless each of you and grant you length of days, health, strength and salvation!

*Fr. James*





## ARCHPASTORAL LETTER FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY 2010

Beloved Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of our God-Saved Diocese of New York and New Jersey:  
*Christ is Born! – Let us glorify Him!*

*"For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given"* (Isaiah 9: 5). These words from the Prophet Isaiah contain the true meaning of the Feast of the Nativity.

*A Child is born.* In appearance, He is just another of the world's many children. In the cold of a cave in Bethlehem, He is born in a condition of extreme deprivation: poor among the poorest on the earth.

But there is more: *A Son is given unto us.* The One Who is born is "the Son" – the Son of God, of one essence with God the Father in Heaven, Who *"so loved the world that He gave His Only-Begotten Son that whoever believes in Him may not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16).

What an unfathomable mystery is hidden in the humble coming of Christ! In His simplicity, the Child of Bethlehem teaches us to rediscover the real meaning of our existence. He teaches us *"to live sober, upright and godly lives in this world"* (Titus 2:12), and beckons us to become *"partakers of the divine nature"* (II Peter 1:4).

In grateful response, let us rededicate ourselves to Jesus Christ, the Son of God Who became flesh for our salvation, and live our lives worthily of God's unspeakable gift to us that first Christmas night so long ago.

*Christ is Born! – Let us glorify Him!*

With love in the Infant Messiah,

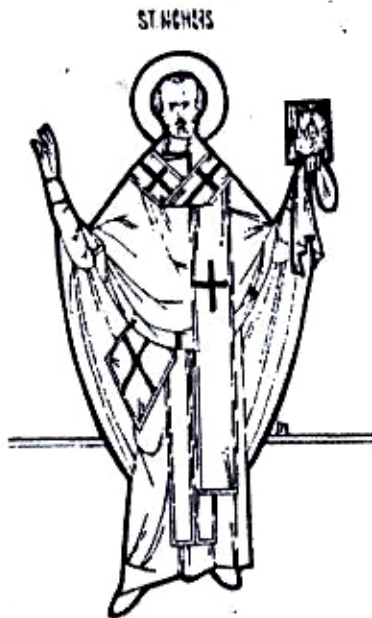
*+ Michael*

**+ MICHAEL**

Bishop of New York and the  
Diocese of New York and New Jersey



## ***The Two Miracles of St. Nicholas in 1907 in West Virginia and Pennsylvania***



December 19, 2007, the Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra according to the Julian Calendar, marked the 100th anniversary of the Darr Mine Disaster and the Miracle of St. Nicholas in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania. This was Pennsylvania's worst mining disaster and one of the worst in the United States. When the Darr Mine exploded, 239 men and boys lost their lives. Only two escaped.

That day Carpatho-Rusyn miners gave up a day's wage to attend a morning Divine Liturgy, as December 19 is the feast day of St. Nicholas, their patron saint. During the service they heard a terrible rumbling and the ground shook as gas and dust exploded in the mine. Recognizing disaster, everyone rushed to help rescue any survivors. However, only two men working near the mine entrance were still alive. The poisonous gas, called afterdamp, killed many who survived the explosion itself. Most of the victims were Hungarian and Italian Immigrants; seventy-one Hungarians are buried in a mass grave in Olive Cemetery.

Many newspapers, including the New York Times, reported the miraculous events. One Pittsburgh paper stated:

*Religious fervor is due to sweep through the Youghiogheny Valley as never before as a consequence of the Darr disaster. Today was a holiday of the Greek Catholic Church, and as such it was observed by many of the men who usually work in the Darr mines. Usually about 400 men toil within the mine. On account of the religious holiday—it was the Feast of St. Nicholas—this number was nearly cut in half, and these, almost two hundred men, who were saved by religious devotion, will certainly be more devout than ever, after the extent of the mine's horror is fully realized.*

The men observing the feast day were spared. It is estimated that St. Nicholas prevented the loss of two to three hundred men and boys, some as young as ten. Had they been in the mine, another thousand women and children would have been widowed or orphaned. They would have faced financial ruin as there was little or no assistance from the coal companies nor government agencies (victims' families in Monongah received funeral expenses and \$150).

This was the second miracle of St. Nicholas and miners in 1907. Earlier on December 6, Nicholas' feast day in the Gregorian Calendar, the worst mining disaster in United States history took place in Monongah, West Virginia. Nearly 400 men lost their lives that day. However, 60–100 Italian Roman Catholic and Carpatho-Rusyn Greek Catholic miners were spared as they attended a Roman Catholic St. Nicholas feast day observance. American mines were more dangerous than European mines. Practices outlawed in Europe were still allowed in the US where minors were three to four times more likely to die on the job.

These two disasters did bring change. For the first time self-contained breathing apparatus was used in deep-mine rescue operations in the United States. Within six months the U.S. Geological Survey created the Mine Accidents Division, opening a station to research of mine rescue techniques. Mining fatalities began to drop the next year, never again did so many mine workers lose their lives. In response to the disasters the U.S. Bureau of Mines was established in 1910 to improve the health and safety of those working in the mines.

After the Darr Mine reopened in 1910, Carpatho-Rusyns on both sides of the Youghiogheny River built churches dedicated to Saint Nicholas in gratitude for his miraculous protection (the area had previously been served by the priest from St. Stephen's in Leisenring). St. Nicholas Orthodox Church was established in Jacobs Creek and, on the other side of the river, St. Nicholas Byzantine (Greek Catholic) Church in Perryopolis. The Darr mine had entrances on both sides of the river.





**St. Basil the Great**

Dismissal Hymn. First Tone.

Thy sound hath gone forth unto all the earth, which hath received thy word. Thereby thou hast divinely taught the faith; thou hast made manifest the nature of all things that be; thou hast adorned the ways of man. O namesake of royal priesthood, our righteous Father Basil, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

## **St. Basil the Great** **commemorated January 1st (January 14th)**

Very few of us realize that the beginning of the Church calendar does not start on January 1st. Actually, our Church calendar begins on September 1st. In our daily living, however, with our friends and neighbors and our society, our year begins on January 1st. This is a very important date in our Church since it marks the feast day of one of our greatest saints, St. Basil the Great.

St. Basil was born in the year 330 AD in the city of Caesarea, Asia Minor. He was one of six children who all became saints in our Church. His brothers and sister became priests, bishops, and nuns. His parents were very devoted to the faith and gave their children a great spiritual heritage which they cultivated in their lifetime. The family of St. Basil was the greatest Christian family of the 4th century. St. Basil studied in Constantinople and Athens. He studied with his best friend, St. Gregory, in the cultural centers of the world. St. Basil was one of the greatest writers and speakers of the Christian Church. Although his fame was spread over the entire Christian world of his day, he returned to his own home town and was ordained Bishop of Caesarea on June 14, 370 AD.

St. Basil was an authority on the monastic life. He formulated the rules and regulations for the monks of his day, and these rules still prevail in most of the Christian monasteries



of the world. St. Basil prepared the Divine Liturgy which we love and know so well. Although the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is used 42 Sundays a year in our Church, it is based on the slightly longer Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. (St. John merely shortened the lengthy prayers and made minor alterations in other prayers.) The Liturgy of St. Basil is celebrated ten times each year: during the Lenten period, Christmas Eve, and on January 1st, the anniversary of his death.

St. Basil was indeed one of the greatest pillars of the Church. He loved children and always assisted the sick and the homeless. He was the first bishop to establish orphanages and hospitals and old age homes. He first directed the attention of the Church to these unfortunate victims of society.

Why was St. Basil given the name "Great"? Only a few people in the world were ever given the magnificent title, "Great"! Alexander the Great was so-called because he conquered the world, but St. Basil was called "Great" because he conquered the hearts and souls of men for Jesus Christ. His whole life was dedicated to Jesus and the message of Christianity. He had the humility of Moses, the zeal of Elijah, the piety of Peter, the eloquence of John the Theologian, and the dedication of Paul. He died in the Lord on January 1, 379 AD.

#### Kontakion (Tone 1)

You became for the Church a solid foundation,  
and for all mankind strengthened by your teaching,  
you became harbor of refuge, O Venerable Basil,  
who reveals heaven's mysteries!

## A Tradition for Observing the Feast at Home

In many Greek homes, a special cake is baked on the eve of St. Basil's Day (January 1st) with a gold or silver coin hidden inside. In the evening, just before midnight strikes and the new [calendar] year begins, all the lights are turned off for a minute to signify the dawning of a New Year. The family gaily exchanges wishes for "A Happy New Year!" and the cake is cut: one slice for St. Basil, one for each family member, one for each of the pets, and then the largest slice of all is cut for the poor people of the world. In one of these slices is hidden the coin, which brings blessings to its recipient throughout the year.

The tradition of the **Vasilopitta** began long ago in the days when St. Basil was the Archbishop of Caesarea in the province of Cappadocia. The Emperor Valens of Cappadocia belonged to a group known as the Arians. The Arians were very much against the Orthodox teachings of St. Basil and tried hard to destroy him and his people. In order to do this, the Emperor sent a very stern soldier to warn St. Basil that all the people in his district would soon have all their earthly belongings taken from them and their city would be completely stricken with poverty and starvation. He further warned that St. Basil himself would have to make a choice between Orthodoxy and death.

St. Basil, a true friend of the poor, could not bear to see his people destroyed by the wicked Emperor, and so he called a meeting of all the kind and rich men in his district. He persuaded them to contribute money and jewels to be given to the Emperor so that the poor and needy would not be robbed. This was done, and on New Year's Eve, St. Basil again met with the Emperor's soldier. He presented to him the wonderful gifts of the good people of Caesarea. ✠