

**SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835-1856  
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Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org Diocese of NY-NJ: www.nynjoca.org

**BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 2, 2012**

**SUNDAY/DECEMBER 2**

**26th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 1)**

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour and Question & Answer Period

**MONDAY/DECEMBER 3**

7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to  
Great-Martyr Barbara

**WEDNESDAY/DECEMBER 5**

6:30p.m. 9<sup>th</sup> Day Memorial John Kachek  
7:00p.m. Vespers

**THURSDAY/DECEMBER 6**

**St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker**

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
7:00p.m. Memorial Service for  
Howard Bozinta (1 year anniversary)

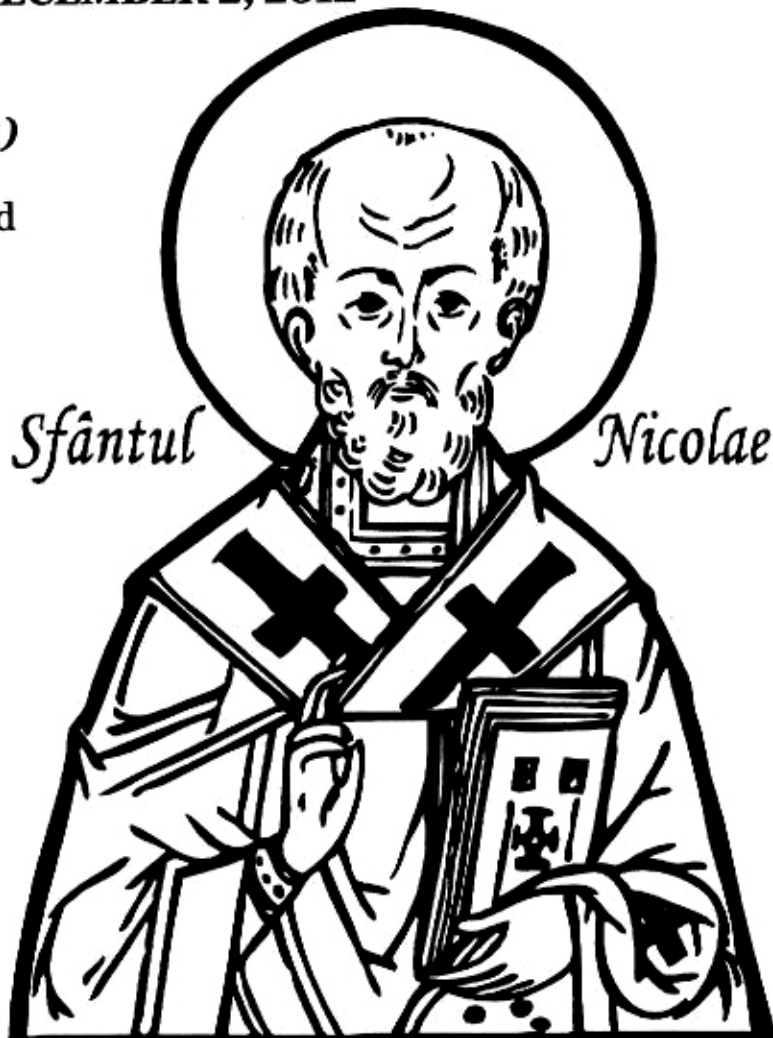
**SATURDAY/DECEMBER 8**

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions  
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

**SUNDAY/DECEMBER 9**

**27th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 2)**

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour; Church School & Teen Class



**Nativity 40 Day Lent: November 15 – December 24**

A fast is observed from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil products. Modifications are listed here below. The printed parish monthly calendar omits some modifications. Your parish wall calendar is correct.

Sun. Dec. 02 (fish, wine & oil)

Mon. Dec. 03

Tues. Dec. 04 (wine & oil)

Thurs. Dec. 06 (fish, wine & oil)

Fri. Dec. 07

Sat. Dec. 08 (fish, wine & oil)

### **Offerings Week of December 2**

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael, Justina and Rosalie; in memory of Sandy and Joan; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of Alexander (namesday);

Wine – for the health of Nicole (namesday); in memory of Bukhuti, Katusha and Vasil.

Flowers - for the health of Kaliashvili family.

### **Parish Synodicon – Memory Eternal!**

Dec. 05, 1941 Anastasia Rilik  
Dec. 05, 1978 Stefan Syubiak  
Dec. 06, 1997 John Suseck Jr.  
Dec. 06, 2010 John Chabra  
Dec. 06, 2011 Howard Bozinta  
Dec. 07, 1972 Gregory Hriniaik  
Dec. 07, 1999 Fr. Jaroslav Roman  
Dec. 09, 1965 Max Horbel  
Dec. 09, 1970 Helen Horbel

### **Coffee Hour Hosting \_ Fasting**

Dec. 02 Motoviloff, Torrisi, Kachek & Stone  
Dec. 09 Combs, Mantzafos, Parsells & Sokol  
Dec. 16 Hunchar, Erkman & Turri

### **Ushers Schedule**

Dec. 02 - T. Smith and P. Bakaletz  
Dec. 09 - T. Gorbatuk and J. Stone  
Dec. 16 - P. Parsells and C. Dunaenko

### **Incense Fragrances In Usage**

Week of Dec. 02 "Sinai"  
Week of Dec. 09 "Mirmosa"  
Week of Dec. 16 "Violet"

### **Names day Greetings: Many Years!**

St. Barbara/Dec. 4: Barbara Kulick and Barbara Erkman;

St. Sabbas/Dec. 5: Saba Kaliashvili;

St. Nicholas/Dec. 6: Nicholas Kita, Nicholas Oliver, Nicholas Mattei and Nicholas Holot

### **A Gift to the Monastery of St. Elizabeth**

The parish made an offering of \$200 for the Monastery of St. Elizabeth in Belarus, upon the visit last week of Mother Susanna.

### **The Mysteries of Confession & Communion Are Central to the Nativity Fast/Feast**

In this period of the 40 days of Lent (Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> thru Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>), we should avail ourselves of the Sacraments of Confession and Communion. This is the final fruit of our prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

### **The Parish calendar – January thru June Of 2013 May be Viewed On-Line**

See schedule of services: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org)

### **2013 Parish Wall Calendars**

Are available in the church vestibule. One per family please.

### **Annual Christmas Cookie Walk**

Will be held on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30a.m. Bakers are sought. A sign-up sheet is on the vestibule stand. Questions? Please speak with Jill Peterson (908-541-9586).

### **Christmas Performance – Sunday, January 13, 2013**

A presentation by our children is in the works. Help is needed. If you can be of assistance, please let us know using the sign-up sheet on the vestibule stand.

### **Coffee Hour Hosting Schedule**

Is currently being prepared for 2013. Please speak with Jill Peterson for any need changes. If you are not already part of a hosting team and wish to be, again, speak with Jill. Thanks to all!

### **Visitation of Shut-Ins**

Those that are home bound and wish the Holy Mysteries and/or prayers by the priest, are asked to make arrangements for such a visit of Father James to your home between Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Memory Eternal!**

Your prayers for the newly-departed (+) John Kachek of Manville. Our sympathy is expressed to his wife Theodora and her children Austin and Tara; and to John's sister, Julia Galida.



## ***TWO QUESTIONS WE NEED TO ASK ABOUT THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST***

***By St. John of Kronstadt***

### ***Why did God become Man While Remaining God?***

The answer to this may be found in the words of the Archangel to Joseph, the betrothed of the Holy Virgin: God became man to save "His people from their sin" (Matthew 1:21). For this reason He is called Jesus, which means "Saviour." And so, it was for our salvation that the Lord came to earth and became man, for the regeneration in us of the image of God which had fallen. The Son of God became the Son of Man in order to make us sons of God who were called the children of wrath and eternal damnation. In the words of the Apostle John the Theologian: that we should be called the sons of God (1 John 3:1); "Now God became man, that He may make Adam a god" (Stichera for the praises of the Annunciation).

And so, my brethren, the Feast of the Nativity of Christ reminds us that we are born of God, that we are sons of God, that we have been saved from sin and that we must live for God and not for sin; not for flesh and blood, not for the world which lies in evil (1 John 5:19), not for earthly corruption, but for an inheritance incorruptible reserved in heaven.

### ***What does God's Incarnation require of us?***

As we prepare for the feast of the Nativity of Christ, you must ask yourself:

- Have you preserved the spiritual birth from God which we each received in Baptism?
- Are you always heedful to the divine sonship and the sacred treasure of the Spirit which you acquired in Baptism?
- Have you loved one another as befits the children of God?
- Have you grown closer to God through faith and love, like His beloved children?
- Have you despised evil and all-destructive sin?
- Have you loved truth and every virtue?
- Have you loved immortal and eternal life prepared in a land which will not pass away and to which we are called by Him Who now has come to our corrupt earth?

These are the questions we must ask ourselves now and decide; not only with our minds, but above all, with our hearts and our very deeds.

THE ALL-NIGHT VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION  
PART 12

THE PRAYER OF ST. SYMEON This prayer brings us to the last theme of Vespers: that is of the end. It is announced by the prayer Lord Now Lettest Thou Thy servant.. At daily Vespers this prayer is read, at Great Vespers it is either read by the priest or sung by the choir. The words of this wonderful prayer come from the lips of St. Symeon the God-Bearer. (see Luke 2:22-35). St. Symeon had spent his entire life in constant expectation of the coming of the Messiah, because he had been told in a vision that he would not die before he saw the Promised One of Israel. When Mary and Joseph brought the Child Jesus to be presented to God in the Temple, he was there and received Him into his arms, and thus the Gospel records that he said:

"Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of Thy people Israel."

St. Symeon had been waiting all his life, and then at last the Christ Child was given to him: he held the Life of the world in his arms. He stood for the whole world in its expectation and longing, and the words he used to express his thanksgiving have become our own. He could recognize the Lord because he had expected Him; he took him into his arms because it is natural to take someone you love into your arms; and then his life of waiting was fulfilled. He had beheld the One he had longed for. He had completed his purpose in life, and he was ready to die.

But death to St. Symeon was no catastrophe. It was only a natural expression of the fulfillment of his waiting. He was not closing his eyes to the light he had at last seen; his death was only the beginning of the more inward vision of that light. In the same way Vespers is the recognition that the evening of this world has come, which announces that day that has no evening. In this world, every day faces night; the world itself is facing night. It cannot last forever. Yet the Church is affirming that an evening is not only an end, but also a beginning, just as any evening is also the beginning of another day. In Christ and through Christ it may become the beginning of a new life, of the day that has no evening. For our eyes have seen salvation and light which will never fail. And because of this, the time of this world is now pregnant with new life. We come into the presence of Christ to offer Him our time, we extend our arms to receive Him. And He fills this time with Himself, He heals it and makes it - again and again - the time of salvation.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS AND TROPAR The usual Holy God thru Our Father Prayers are read, called the Trisagion (Greek, meaning "thrice-holy") Prayers. The Troparion for Saturday evenings as part of the Vigil, has the hymn to the Theotokos, "Rejoice O Virgin," (2 times) and then the Tropar, either of the Resurrection or the Saint of the Day. If a Litya is being served, the Deacon censes the "foods" and the priest reads the prayer for the blessing of the Five Loaves. The Vespers comes to an end. The Church is darkened, the Royal Doors closed, and the bell announces the beginning of the Matins.



## When should Orthodox Christians decorate for Christmas?

There are some logical ways to look at this, even though it may not be our tradition to decorate for Christmas.

First, consider the timeline of the Gospels. Advent begins with the Feast of Saint Philip on November 14. The Magi, traveling with guidance from the Star of Bethlehem, probably had to get a good start in order to arrive wherever the Star led them in order for them to arrive on time for the Savior's birth. Might we not consider these two events as simultaneous?

Next is Saint Joseph leading his family back to his hometown at the order of the Roman tax collector. Taxes had to be paid in person as there were no checks, money orders, direct wire transfers, money grams or convenient ways around the Roman edict. Finding no room in any sort of hotel, inn or other accommodation, Saint Joseph led his little family to shelter in a cave, used as a manger for animals.

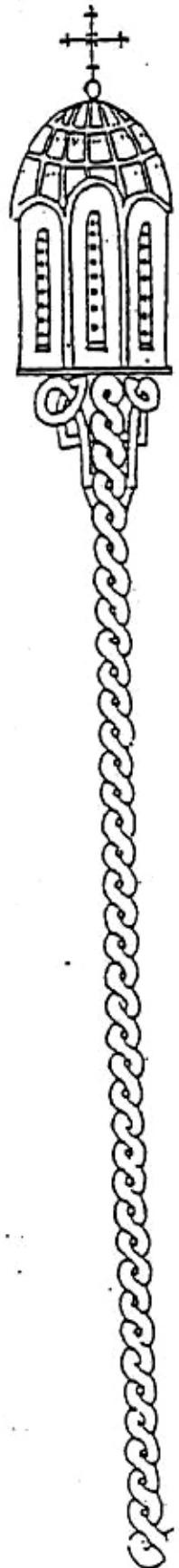
After Mary gave birth, choirs of angels came to sing the praises of the pre-eternal God born as a little human child, and the King of the Angels. They proclaimed this song with all their excellent musicanship so that Our Lord was welcomed first in warmth, and then in heavenly splendorous beauty. The shepherds came in from the fields to worship Him.

And then the Star came and stood over the place where the young child was and the Magi were soon to follow, bearing gifts fit for the King of Heaven. Mary kept all these wonders in her heart.

We celebrate the second part of the Coming of the Lord on the feast of Epiphany, 12 days after the Nativity. At this great Theophany, the voice of God the Father was heard to say, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

It's possible to think of the Nativity season extending for 40 days and ending with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, on February 2. At His presentation, prophecies were fulfilled and Our Lord paid homage to the Law His Father had given to Moses in order to guide men.

So, the first preparations for the Nativity were in November. It might be possible to begin to decorate the outside of the house so that the world can see that we are preparing a place for Our Lord in our homes as well as in our hearts. And if you begin to decorate in November, before the heavy snows and bad weather of deep winter, it will be less dangerous and less onerous. Do you celebrate with an Advent wreath? On the four Sundays of Advent, the English place, on the dining table, a wreath of evergreen branches into which is inserted four candles, one is lit each of the Sundays – the first three red, and the last violet. After that, the wreath leaves the table and is hung (without the candles) on the front door. This is principally an English custom.



If you think that November 14 is too early to begin your exterior decorating, you might wait until the feast of Saint Nicholas, on December 6. Many families exchange gifts, in commemoration of Saint Nicholas' great charity, benevolence and munificence.

Do you receive and exchange Christmas cards? You can begin to decorate your home with them as soon as the mailman starts bringing them around – some people send theirs on the day after Thanksgiving and earlier! (I don't usually get a chance to send mine out until after the feast of Saint Stephen on December 27<sup>th</sup>! )

We can begin to decorate the interiors of our homes 7 days before the Feast of the Birth of Christ, when the Church begins to sing the hymn of the pre-feast of the Nativity, "O House of Ephrata..."

Do you place a crèche, or Nativity scene, in your house? The pre-feast is a good time for that to go up, but traditionally, the Christ-child isn't put into the midst until Christmas Eve.

On Christmas Eve, traditionally in the West, the tree is erected and decorated. You might put up the tree during the pre-feast as well. But you might want to save putting the star atop the tree until Christmas Eve. We eat a special meal that night, the Holy Supper, at which, traditionally, there are at least 12 special foods prepared. Depending on your nationality, you might have fish, or even seven fish dishes as part of your meal.

On Christmas Day, after Divine Liturgy, a special Christmas dinner is prepared to break the fast. In America, it's traditionally a turkey or a goose, and a number of sweet and savory dishes which we couldn't eat during the fasting period. In other countries, other foods are prepared. And, at some point, gifts are exchanged. Some have already shared gifts on Saint Nicholas' Day.

The European custom says that Christmas decorations must all be removed by the end of Twelfth Night – the Eve of the Epiphany, because after that we invite the priest to come and bless your house. But you know, the decorations bring so much light into the darkness of winter, and they're too pretty to trash them so early - you could leave some of them up longer. And since Christmas and Epiphany - Nativity and Theophany are one feast, you could stretch de-decorating until the leave-taking of Epiphany.

What ever you do, however you decorate, God bless your fasting and feasting.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him.

**Father John Udics, Herkimer NY**