

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
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BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 23, 2012

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 23

Sunday Before the Nativity

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
6:30p.m. Compline & Confessions

MONDAY/DECEMBER 24

Eve of the Nativity (fast)

9:30a.m. Royal Hours
4:30p.m. Vigil

TUESDAY/DECEMBER 25

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Nativity Lent ends after Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
6:30p.m. Vespers

WEDNESDAY/DECEMBER 26

Synaxis of the Theotokos

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

THURSDAY/DECEMBER 27

Proto-Martyr St. Stephen

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

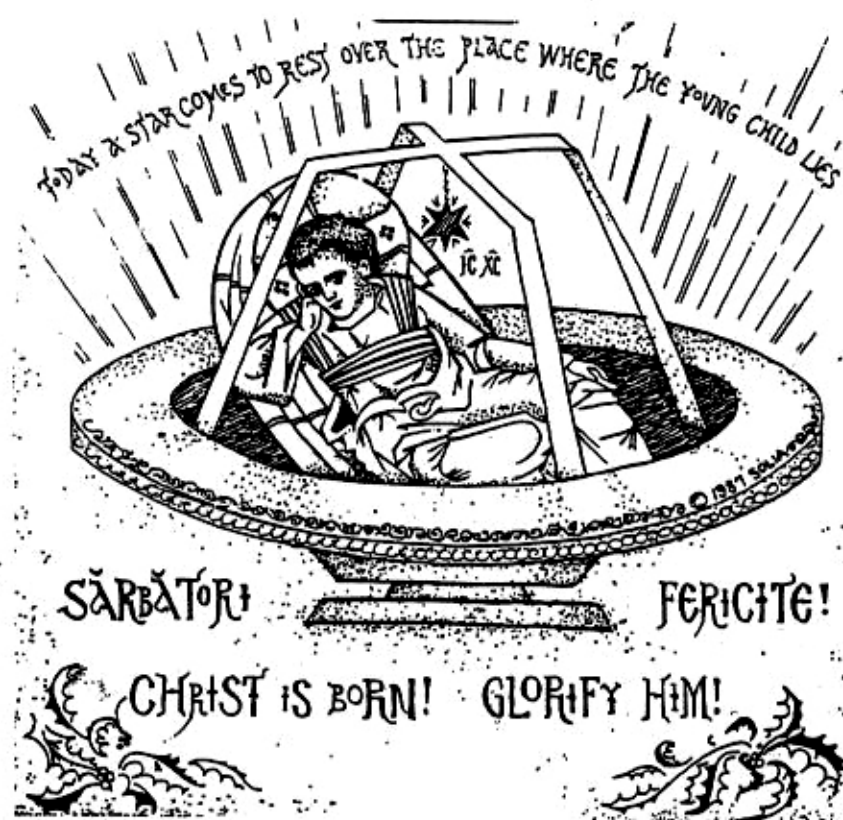
SATURDAY/DECEMBER 29

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

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 30

Sunday Before Theophany

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



Offerings Week of December 23

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael, Justina, and Rosalie; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for Florin, Livia, Ioan and Maria.

Wine – in memory of Sandy and Joan; in thanksgiving to God, for protection and salvation of Mariana, Simona, Gabriel, Stefan, David, Herman and Ira-Crista.

Flowers – for Nicholas and Eleanore; for the souls of those who died in the tragic shooting, for their salvation and for their families and loved ones.

Parish Synodicon – Memory Eternal!

Jan. 05 2013 John Kachek (40th Day)
Dec. 23 1950 Gregory Persurance
Dec. 23 1989 Peter Kozura
Dec. 23 1991 Olga Barna
Dec. 24 1946 Steven Holovach
Dec. 24 1947 Catherine Hriniak
Dec. 24 1961 Sophie O'Connell
Dec. 24 1978 Anna Matrinchuk
Dec. 25 1990 Alexander Kuntzevich
Dec. 25 1991 Helen Wislosky
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 1987 Edmund Kornacki
Dec. 29 1977 Alice Susko
Dec. 29 2002 Edna Kalenik

Coffee Hour Hosting _ Fasting

Dec. 23 Sarchisian and Dunaenko
Dec. 25 ? (any volunteers)
Dec. 30 Peterson, Bakaletz and Mattei

Ushers Schedule

Dec. 23 - E. Sarchisian and L. Khuzaurashvili
Dec. 30 - N. Oliver

Names day Greetings: Many Years!

St. Anastasia/Dec. 22: Anastasia Mickel, Anastasia Kita;
St. Eugenia/Dec. 24: Joan Bongiriono;
St. Stephen/Dec. 27: Stephanie Kachek;
St. David/Sun. after Nativity: David Peterson

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

In this period of the 40 days of Lent (Nov. 15th thru Dec. 24th), we should avail ourselves of the Sacraments of Confession and Communion. This is the final fruit of our prayer, fasting and almsgiving. **If you are a regular communicant and have not been to Confession in the month of November or December, you must do so before the Nativity Feast (Dec. 25th).** This includes children of Confession

Post-Feast of Nativity: Fast Free Season

From the feast of the Nativity (Dec. 25) thru Jan. 4, there is a dispensation from all fasting on all days. In this festal time we do not kneel or make prostrations either in church or at home.

Blessing and Distribution of St. Basil Bread

On December 31, Vespers will be held at 5:30p.m. and followed by the Blessing of St. Basil Bread.

The 2013 Coffee Hour Teams

There are six teams for the coming year. Our sincere thanks to all those who hosted the Coffee Hours in this year of 2012. Our Coffee Hours have been fabulous! While we have 21 volunteers for the new year, we seek at least another four persons – 3 for team #7 and 1 for team #6. The more hosts we have, the easier for all. Be part of this important ministry of fellowship! Please speak with Jill Peterson.

Extending to All our Parishioners and Friends of our Parish for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Greetings from Father James

May the Son of God, Who became the Son of Man, for our sake and salvation, grant to all of you the rich and manifold blessings of this great feast of light, joy, promise and salvation! It is a time for thanksgiving, glorification, re-dedication to our Lord God and a time for sharing love, joy, kindness and good will to all. May these days be blessed ones for you all!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

**Archpastoral Letter for the
Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord 2012**

Beloved Clergy, Monastics and Faithful
of the God-saved Diocese of New York and New Jersey:

Christ is Born! – Let us glorify Him!

Once again we come upon the “*most wonderful time of the year,*” as the song goes. What exactly does this mean? For some, it is simply the winter holiday season – Frosty and Rudolph. For most, it is probably all about Santa, and making a list, and getting great gifts. Certainly for many others, Christmas is about the birth of a beautiful baby in Bethlehem ... who grew up to be a great teacher, a gentle healer, perhaps even a miracle worker.

But for us who are Orthodox Christians, the Feast of the Nativity is much more than all that. It is the coming in the flesh of the Son of God. It is the ultimate proof of God’s unimaginable love for us: “*God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16). It is the fulfillment of the promise made by that God out of love so long ago: “*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons*” (Galatians 4:4).

Why exactly did it happen that way? Because it had to; there was no other way for mankind to be saved – from sin and death and eternity with the evil one. Our salvation lay not in education or economics, not in politics or power. It could be found only in Christ – the Savior, the Son of God Incarnate. Saint Gregory of Nyssa explains it this way:

*“Our nature was sick and needed a doctor.
Man had fallen and needed someone to raise him up.
He who ceased to participate in the good needed someone to bring him back to it.
He who was shut in darkness needed the presence of life.
The prisoner was looking for someone to ransom him;
The captive for someone to take his part.
He who was under the yoke of slavery was looking for someone to set him free.”*

The salvation that is gifted to us by the coming of the Infant Messiah is a spiritual, inner salvation, which in turn can produce an outer salvation. Changed people can produce changed parishes ... a changed society. The grace and fulfillment we are all seeking can be found in a relationship with God

that only Our Lord and Savior can bring. He offers us this hope: *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you"* (John 14:27).

The Son of God did not come to condemn us because we had become enslaved to sin. He came to save us by breaking the bonds of sin and death. In this season of wonder, let us thank the Father for His unspeakable Gift, Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ ... and live our life forever changed by His coming – turning from sin, loving Him, serving Him, glorifying Him each and every day.

With my prayers, my blessings and my love,

+ MICHAEL

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

ALL Things are filled
with joy
Today:
Christ is born
of the
Virgin.

