

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
SUNDAY OF KING DAVID, JOSEPH AND JAMES



Icon of the Nativity of Our Lord

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

FASTING IS MITIGATED THROUGH JANUARY 4TH

- Sat, Dec 30th:** **The Saturday After Christmas/Before Theophany**
6:30 pm: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Eng.); Intention for God's Blessings on Our Living and Deceased Parishioners.
- Sun, Dec 31st:** **The Sunday After Christmas/Before Theophany, of King David, Joseph the Betrothed, and James, Brother of Our Lord**
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Eng.); Intention for +Victor Paclawski, by Irene and Adrian Strysky.

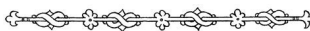
2024 - HAPPY NEW YEAR! 3' HOBIM POKOM!

- Mon, Jan 1st:** **The Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; of the Hierarch Basil the Great of Cappodocia**
9:00 am: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Eng./ Ukr./OCS); Intention for +Yaroslav Turcheniak (1 Year Anniversary).
- Tue, Jan 2nd:** **The Hierarch Sylvester, Pope of Rome**
9:00 am: Matins/3rd Hour.
6:30 pm: Moleben for Peace in Ukraine; Assumption of the BVM Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Northampton, PA.
- Wed, Jan 3rd:** **The Prophet Malachi**
8:00 am: Matins/3rd Hour.
- Thu, Jan 4th:** **The Synaxis of the 70 Apostles**
No Divine Services.
- Fri, Jan 5th:** **The Martyrs Theopemptas and Theonas - The Vigil-Eve of Theophany [Day of Strict Fasting]**
9:00 am: Royal Hours for Theophany
6:30 pm: Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great and the Great Blessing of Water; Intention for God's Blessings On Our Living and Deceased Parishioners.
- Sat, Jan 6th:** **The Feast of the Theophany [HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION]**
9:00 am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom with the Great Blessing of Water; Intention for +Stephanie Szypula (3rd/9th Days).
6:30 pm: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Eng.); Intention for God's Blessings on Our Living and Deceased Parishioners.
- Sun, Jan 7th:** **The Sunday After Theophany**
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Eng.); Intention for +Michael Belzeckyj, by Wife, Children, and Family.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. May God's blessings be upon you all as the New Year begins; may God bless you with health, happiness, and long life! **HAPPY NEW YEAR! 3' HOBIM POKOM!**

2. **IMPORTANT:** Per the Typikon of Our Church, the days of Sunday, December 24th, through Thursday, January 4th, is a fast-free week. The Vigil-Eve of Theophany, Friday, January 5th, is a day of strict fasting from meat and dairy products.
3. **IMPORTANT:** The Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord is a Holy Day of Obligation. All faithful are reminded that attendance at the services for the Theophany does NOT discharge your obligation to attend services for Sunday. You may discharge your obligation for Theophany by attending Royal Hours or the Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great on Friday, January 5th, or the 9:00 am Divine Liturgy on January 6th. **NOTE**—the Great Blessing of Holy Water will be conducted on both days for the faithful; you may bring containers for the blessing of water on Friday and Saturday. To discharge your Sunday obligation, you may attend the 6:30 pm Saturday Divine Liturgy on January 6th, or the 10:00 am Sunday Divine Liturgy on January 7th.
4. Again, as a reminder, we have put out our 2024 parish envelopes and calendars in the vestibule of the Church for the faithful to come and pick up for themselves and also for their family members. We will close out all 2023 envelopes as of Sunday, January 8th, 2024 (**IMPORTANT:** any 2023 envelopes collected after January 8th will not be credited for that year). Please be sure to collect your envelopes at that point; envelopes, while not required for the sick and shut-ins, will be delivered to all sick and shut-ins on our prayer list. If you have not received envelopes and are a registered parishioner, or, if you would like to join our parish and begin contributing to the stewardship of our church, please contact St. Josaphat Rectory as soon as possible.
5. Again, as reminder, the book for 2024 Intentions for Divine Services are open. Intentions are scheduled on a first-in/first-out basis. You may submit your 2024 Liturgy intentions with Father Paul by emailing St. Josaphat Rectory or submitting them with your Sunday donations. You may request intentions not only for Divine Liturgies, but also for other Divine Services that are held throughout the year (i.e., Molebens, Akathists, Panachydas, etc.) Thank you and God bless!
6. Holubtsi are on sale in the Church Hall after each Divine Liturgy; they are \$10.00 per container. To purchase, please see David Kadingo, or any Tryzub member after our scheduled Divine Liturgies.
7. The Ukrainian Catholic/Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of the Lehigh Valley will have their next weekly Moleben for Peace in Ukraine on Tuesday, January 2nd, at Pokrova/St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Allentown, PA, at 6:30 pm. All are encouraged to come and pray with us.



Please remember to pray for the sick, for those who are shut-in, and for all those who have requested, or are in need of, our prayers:

Anna Kapustiak	Amelia Balandovich	Ethel Bednarchek	Slava Harasymovych
Oleh Balaziuk	Mike Wetherill	Maria Wetherill	Pearl Kiniuk
Helen Karol	Nick Halibey	Rev. Paul J. Makar	Rev. Paul Wolensky
Very Rev. Roman Mirchuk	Rev. John Hunwicke	Anna Smolij	
All of Our Archeparchial Seminarians			

If anyone knows of someone in need of our prayers, or who is sick or shut in and cannot make it to church, please contact Father Paul via email or telephone as listed on the cover of this bulletin.

Please don't leave this bulletin in the pew or in the trash when you are finished. We kindly ask you share this bulletin with your loved ones. Let your family & friends know of the spiritual treasure that God has for all people here at St. Josaphat's Church in Bethlehem!

**Sunday Propers:
The Sunday After Christmas**

Antiphon 1: I will give praise to You, O Lord, with all my heart; * I will recount all Your wondrous deeds. Through the prayers of the Mother of God, . . .

In the assembly of the just and in the congregation, * great are the works of the Lord. Through the prayers of the Mother of God, . . .

His work is majesty and splendor * and His justice endures forever. Through the prayers of the Mother of God, . . .

Glory be . . .; Now and forever . . .; Only Begotten . . .

Antiphon 3: The Lord said to my Lord: * “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia

The Lord will extend the sceptre of your power from Sion:* “Rule in the midst of your enemies.” O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia

With you is sovereignty in the splendor of holiness on the day of your birth. O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia

Entrance: Before the morning star, like the dew, I have begotten you.* The Lord has sworn and He will not repent* “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech.”* O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia

Tropar of Christmas – Tone 4. Your Nativity, O Christ our God,* has shed the light of knowledge upon the world.* Through it, those who had been star-worshippers * learned through a star to worship You, O Sun of Justice,* and to recognize in you the one who rises and who comes from on high, * O Lord, glory to You!

Tropar of the Saints—Tone 2: Joseph, proclaim these miracles of David, * the ancestor of Christ our God: you have seen the Virgin with child, * given praise with the shepherds, adored with the wise men, and an angel of the Lord has appeared to you. Pray that Christ our God wilt save our souls.

Kondak of the Saints—Tone 3: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.* Today David the holy one is filled with joy: Joseph and James offer Praise, for the glorious crown of their kinship to Christ fills them with joy. They sing praise to the One ineffably born on earth, exclaiming: “O Merciful One, save those who honor you!”

Kondak of the Feast—Tone 4: *Now and forever, and ever. Amen.* Today the Virgin gives birth to the Supreme Being, and the earth offers a cave to the Unencompassed One. Angels sing His glory together with the shepherds. While the Magi are journeying by a star. For unto us a Child is born.

Prokimen—Tone 4: How great are Your works, O Lord, You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: God is Marvelous in His saints, * The God of Israel.

Alleluia Verse (4): Remember, O Lord, David and all his anxious care.

Verse: How he swore to the Lord, vowed the Mighty One of Jacob.

Instead of It Is Truly . . ., The Irmos: Magnify, O my soul, Christ the King born in the Cave. A strange and most wonderful mystery I see; the cave is heaven, the Virgin – the throne of the cherubim; the manger, a place where Christ is laid – the God whom nothing can contain. Him do we praise and magnify. Magnify, O my soul, Christ the King born in the Cave.

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia (3x).

Sunday After the Nativity of Our Lord

Author Unknown. Edited for the Bulletin.



"The Work of Christmas" Christmas has become such a big celebration in the Western world. We spend weeks preparing, the day comes, and the rest of life stands still (ideally, at least), as we immerse ourselves in the feast.

Our desire to prolong the festivity is echoed in an elaboration of the carol, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas:" Once in a year it is not thought amiss, To visit our neighbors and sing out like this; Of friendship and love, good neighbors abound; Why can't we have Christmas

mas the whole year around?" But then it all comes to an end, normal life resumes, and we leave Bethlehem behind.

Today's Gospel reading illustrated that. After the magi left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, telling him to "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt." Herod felt threatened by the newborn King of the Jews, so his solution was to have all the Jewish boys in Bethlehem under age two killed.

So Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt, and after Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared again to Joseph in a dream, telling him to return to Israel, and he did so, this time settling in the town of Nazareth. All these events, incidentally, had been foretold hundreds of years earlier by the prophets. So from Bethlehem, to Egypt, to Nazareth, Jesus' life was off to a busy and mobile start. Figuring in these orchestrations was St. Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus.

A tradition of the Church says he was a widower with children (the "brothers" of the Lord); the Gospels tell us he was a just man, obedient to the angelic messages, and careful to protect Jesus and Mary. A "Monk of the Eastern Church" writes, "We could, with advantage, grant him a greater place in our devotion. He is the most eminent representative of what one might call the holiness of the layman, which is neither the holiness of an apostle, nor that of a bishop or priest, nor that of a monk--all of whom are so abundantly commemorated in the ecclesiastical calendar--but is [the holiness] as that of the head of a family, of the man who plies a trade and earns his daily bread.

St. Joseph is the natural protector of Christian families, of workmen, of those whose food is not assured. For he fed Jesus and Mary, as formerly the patriarch Joseph, in Egypt, fed his brothers and father at the time of famine." So Joseph took Jesus and Mary to Egypt to flee the bloodthirsty tyranny of Herod. God gave the word, and Joseph acted, without hesitation.

"A Monk of the Eastern Church" continues in his commentary, "The angel commands us, as he did Joseph: 'Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt.' That is to say: renounce your sin and your slackness; take into your soul the Jesus you saw at Bethlehem...flee the evil and the temptations which surround you; set yourself a hidden, retired, silent life, a life of intimacy with the small child and his mother--and also with Joseph. May the life of the Holy Family...become an inspiration and model for us."

There is work in the Christian life; the work of sustenance, of commitment, of love. Howard Thurman once wrote, When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and the princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among brothers, To make music in the heart. Amen.



GUIDELINES FOR OUR FAITHFUL, GUESTS, AND FRIENDS

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Membership at Saint Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church benefits **YOU** as it enables you to participate in stewardship of your church and enjoy a fuller spiritual life. To join as a registered member, email or telephone the Rectory Office .

THE MYSTERIES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, HOLY EUCHARIST): Those who wish their children to receive the Mysteries of Christian Initiation must contact Saint Josaphat Rectory Office at least 6 weeks in advance of the desired Baptismal date; at least one parent must be an active registered parishioner of Saint Josaphat Church when requesting this Sacrament. Sponsors (Godparents) must provide a letter of suitability from the pastor of the Catholic Church they attend if they are not registered members this parish. Non-baptized adults who wish to be received into the faith should contact Saint Josaphat Rectory Office.

THE MYSTERY OF CONFESSION: Confessions are offered to all the faithful 1 hour before each scheduled Divine Service, or you may make an appointment with Father Paul (or Father Andrii at Holy Ghost, West Easton) at any time.

THE MYSTERY OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST: The reception of the Most Holy Eucharist is reserved only for Baptized Catholic Christians whose consciences are free from mortal sin.

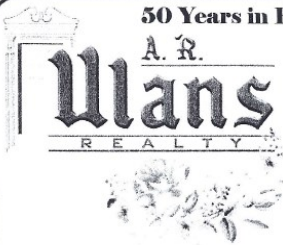
THE MYSTERY OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK can be administered anytime there is a case of serious illness, injury, or disease. Please do not wait until your loved one is in danger of death!

THE MYSTERY OF MATRIMONY: Couples who wish to marry at should contact the Rectory Office at least 6 months in advance of the desired wedding date (or as soon as they are engaged).

FUNERALS: Active parish membership and participation is mandatory if one desires an ecclesiastical funeral within the Church; otherwise, the funeral service will be conducted at the funeral home or the home of the deceased (**IMPORTANT—this rule does not apply to those who are sick, shut-in, or are actively supporting the parish and are registered but have moved out of the area**). In-church viewings and cremations are strongly discouraged. For inquires regarding Saint Josaphat Cemetery, contact Walter Zagwoski.

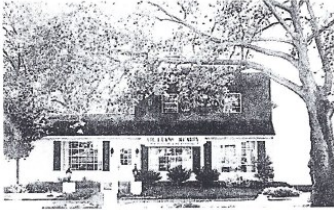
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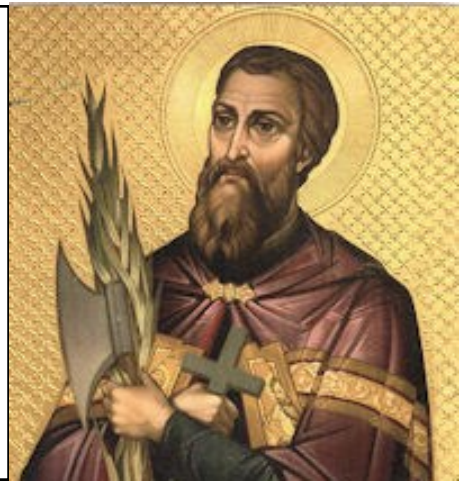
E-Mail: bethlehem@ukrcatholic.org

Website: www.stjosaphatbethlehem.org

Rev. Paul J. Makar, Pastor

Mrs. Carol Hanych, Cantor

Ms. Kimberly McGowan, Parish Secretary



Glory to Jesus Christ! Слава Ісусу Христу!

We welcome you to our parish family and invite you to worship with us in a most ancient Church of the Christian East. We are happy to have you with us, and we are honored to share our Ukrainian Catholic tradition of prayer and spirituality with you, your family, and your friends. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to bring them to Father Paul or one of our parishioners. Our doors and our hearts are open to you. May God's blessings be with you always!

Celebrate and Be Glad

Let us strive to comprehend the mystery. The reason God is in the flesh is to kill the death that lurks there. As diseases are cured by medicines and assimilated by the body, and as darkness in a house is dispelled by the coming of light, so death, which held sway over human nature, is done away with by the coming of God. And as ice formed on water covers its surface as long as night and darkness last but melts under the warmth of the sun, so death reigned until the coming of Christ; but when the grace of God our Savior appeared and the Sun of Justice rose, death was swallowed up in victory, unable to bear the presence of true life. How great is God's goodness, how deep his love for us!

Let us join the shepherds in giving glory to God, let us dance with the angels and sing: Today a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ the Lord. The Lord is God and He has appeared to us, not as God, which would have been terrifying for our weakness, but as a slave so as to free those who live in slavery. Who could be so lacking in sensibility and so ungrateful as not to join all here present in our gladness, exultation, and radiant joy? This feast belongs to the whole of creation. Let everyone join in and be grateful. Let our voices too ring out in songs of jubilation!

St. Basil the Great

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com