

## HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4815 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 - Rectory Phone: 412-687-1220

Website: holyspiritbycath.com - Email: holyspiritinformation@gmail.com

Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz, M. Div.

Email: FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

### December 29, 2024 - Sunday After Christmas David Joseph & James

#### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**Sunday, Dec 29:** Sunday After Christmas-David, Joseph, & James

10:25 am: Rosary, 10:45 am: Third Hour Prayer, 11:00 am Divine Liturgy

**IMO Deberorah Simak By Judi Ann Mackin**

**Monday, December 30:** 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Daily Vespers

**Wednesday, January 1:** The Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord & The Feast of St. Basil the Great

6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy with Panachida

**IMO of Msgr. Raymond Balta By Mike Meharra**

**Friday, January 3:** 6:00 PM Confessions, 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy (Open Intention)

**Saturday, January 4:** Saturday before Theophany

5:00 PM Confessions, 6:00 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday, January 5:** Sunday Before Theophany

10:00am Readers Matins, 10:45am Rosary, 11:00am Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water

**IMO Michael Dubansky By siblings Mark Dubansky & Sandy Anderson**

6:00 pm Great Vespers for the Feast of Theophany

**Monday, January 6:** Theophany of Our Lord (Obligation)

8:00 am Festal Matins

6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy (open intention)

At our sister parish St. Pius X in Carrick: 11:00 am Confessions 12:00 Noon Divine Liturgy

**Plenty of Divine Liturgies are open for intentions for this new year. If you would like to make an intention for a Liturgy, please call the office or fill out request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael.**

**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:** If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. Matins is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

**COLLECTIONS FOR TERESA'S TABLE:** This year we are supporting Teresa's Table, a ministry that provides meals and soup for those in need. To make a donation, see Mary D.

**ICONS AVAILABLE:** There are several blessed icons in the church hall, there is no charge to take these home, though a free will offering for the benefit of the parish is welcome.

**PARISH MEETING, SUNDAY, JAN 12 – SAVE THE DATE:** Please plan to attend this meeting, which will provide updates on the state of the parish, as well as discuss plans for the coming year.

**ON-LINE GIVING IS HERE!** If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



For *this Sunday* mark with the ribbons in your Liturgy Book pages 302-305 for the Sunday After Christmas

**Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19**

Brethren: I assure you the gospel I proclaimed to you is no mere human invention. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I schooled in it. It came by revelation from Jesus Christ. You have heard I know the story of my former way of life in Judaism. You know that I went to extremes in persecuting the Church of God and tried to destroy it; I made progress in Jewish observance far beyond most of my contemporaries, in my excess of zeal to live out all the traditions of my ancestors.

But the time came when he who had set me apart before I was born and called me by his favor chose to reveal his Son to me, that I might spread among the Gentiles the good tidings concerning him. Immediately, without seeking human advisers or even going to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me, I went off to Arabia, later I returned to Damascus. Three years after that I went up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas. With whom I stayed fifteen days. I did not meet any other apostles except James, the brother of the Lord.

**Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23**

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my son

When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more.”

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region

of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazorean.”

**READING: *Galatians 1:11-19 (Section 200) – [Holy Forebears]***

In writing to the Galatian Christians, the Holy Apostle Paul asserts that he received a direct revelation from God concerning His Son Jesus, and he thus was commissioned to spread the GOOD TIDINGS about the Son of God to the Gentiles, that is to the ENTIRE WORLD. The Church now bids us to realize that we too must proclaim to a secularly minded world the reality of the Good News that *Christ is born* and that truly *God is with us!* In terminating this epistle passage, Paul mentions that he met the Apostle JAMES, the relative of the Lord, whom we are commemorating today.

**GOSPEL: *Matthew 2:13-23 (Section 4) – [Holy Forebears]***

The Holy Evangelist Matthew traces the events that occurred after the Magi’s departure: the flight of JOSEPH and MARY with the Christ Child into Egypt; the massacre of the infant boys; and then the return of the Holy Family to Israel. They settled in the town of Nazareth in the province of Galilee among a mixed population of Jews and Gentiles. This was indicative of Jesus’ messianic mission which was to bring the GOOD TIDINGS of salvation to the ENTIRE WORLD. We also are to proclaim to all people that *Christ is born* and because of this reality, indeed *God is with us!*

**TODAY IS THE SUNDAY AFTER THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NATIVITY.....**

This **Sunday of the Holy Forebears of God** is dedicated to JOSEPH, the spouse of the Holy Virgin Mary, to King DAVID, one of the greatest kings of Israel through whose lineage the Messiah was to be born and who thus is a distant ancestor of the Messiah; and to the Holy Apostle JAMES, the cousin of the Lord. Our Byzantine Catholic Church pays distinct tribute to these three individuals because of their unique relationship to God’s Son, the new-born Messiah, for they are either forebears or relatives of Jesus. Since Jesus chose, for the sake of our salvation, to take on our nature and to be born as a man into the human race, we all thus become by extension His brothers and sisters and relatives.

**THE “HOLY INNOCENTS” OF TODAY.....**

The Sacred Scriptures tell us that when King Herod realized that he had been tricked by the Magi in that they did not report their finding of the infant Jesus to him, the King in anger sent soldiers to kill all of the infant boys in the neighborhood of Bethlehem. Thus, Jeremiah’s ancient prophecy was fulfilled, for it foretold that there would be great crying for the dead infants. On **December 29th**, the Church remembers these infant martyrs by observing **The Feast of the Holy Innocents**. In this modern age, there is also great weeping and lamentation for our own “holy innocents” as we deeply mourn and bitterly cry for those babies murdered through the monstrously evil act of abortion. As this disastrous moral massacre continues unabated, let us pray to the new-born Lord Jesus for these “new innocents” and for the enlightenment of those who perpetrate and continue to perpetuate this most heinous moral crime of abortion

**NEW YEAR’S DAY ON TUESDAY: THE NEW YEAR OF 2025.....**

On **January 1st**, we celebrate solemnly **The Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ**. The Child born to Mary was circumcised eight days after his birth and was given the name JESUS—the name designated by an angel to Joseph after the Child’s conception. Jesus thus gives us the example, in all humility, of obedience to the Law of God. The ritual of circumcision had a sacramental character and was the act of initiation into the community of the “Chosen People of God” of the Old Covenant. Also, we festively observe **The Feast of Saint Basil the Great**. He was a fourth-century Archbishop of Caesarea in the

province of Cappadocia in Asia Minor who died on January 1st. He is esteemed by the Byzantine Catholic Church as an illustrious theologian, a liturgical author, and an influential preacher, thus his title of Basil "the Great."

**PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS:** Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: **Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira**, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

**PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS:** **Saints Cyril and Methodius**, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen