

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

December 28, 2025

Sunday After Christmas

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 28: Sunday After Christmas – of David, Joseph, and James

7:00 am Matins 7:45 am Rosary, 8:00 am Divine Liturgy with Panachida

IMO Ann Petro by Holy Spirit Parish

5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Monday, Dec. 29: 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Daily Vespers – Holy Innocents

Thursday, Jan. 1: Solemn Holy Day Circumcision of Our Lord & Basil the Great Archbishop

Holy Spirit 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

St. Pius X 4:00 pm Vigil Divine Liturgy (Wednesday December 31, 2025)

Friday, Jan. 2: 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Vigil Divine Liturgy

Saturday, Jan. 3: 5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, Jan. 4: Sunday Before Theophany

7:00 am Matins 7:45 am Rosary, 8:00 am Divine Liturgy with Panachida

IMO Fr. John Volosin by Mary Anne Meredith

5:00 pm Confessions, 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

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.

THE GREAT FEAST THEOPHANY: The parish will celebrate the Great Blessing of Water on the Vigil of the Great Feast of the Theophany. Please bring your water bottles to stock up on Holy Water!

Monday January 5, Vigil Divine Liturgy for Theophany with the Great Blessing of Water 7:00 PM

Tuesday January 6, Festal Matins for Theophany 7: AM Divine Liturgy for Theophany 8:00 AM

TODAY IS LAST DAY FOR THE WINTER CHARITY FOR THE RED DOOR: Every year, our parish community collects donations for the benefit of a charity in the greater Pittsburgh area during the season of Philipovka as part of our devotional preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas). This year, the parish will collect donations for the Red Door Ministry run out of Divine Mercy Roman Catholic Church. This ministry provides meals, clothes, blankets and other material aid for the homeless in the city of Pittsburgh.

GIVING TREE: Please also consider participating in our Giving Tree fundraiser this season. This year we will be focusing on various floors in the property which have become tripping hazards, etc. We hope to use any funds raised to handle necessary repairs and pull from parish savings as little as possible. **This campaign will continue through to January 11, 2026 - Sunday After Theophany.** More information is in the narthex. Thank you for your consideration!

CHRISTMAS AND THEOPHANY: Please look at your mailboxes for the November parish mailer. It has important details for the upcoming Christmas season, including feast days and the schedule for Christmas and Theophany. We hope to celebrate these wonderful days together as a parish family.

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.

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

DECEMBER/JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: May God grant you many happy and blessed years!

12/2 Robert Walicki

12/5 Lynne & Robert Walicki 27th Wedding Anniversary

12/8 Angelino Revilak

12/25 Genevive Revilak

1/5 Eugene Yeo

1/13 Michelangelo Revilak

1/17 Simeon Kunitz

Don't see your birthday or anniversary? Let us know so we can update the directory!

COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. To make it truly a time of sharing – we ask everyone to sign up to host a Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

EPISTLE: Galatians 1: 11-19 His Call by Christ

Now I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. For I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it, and progressed in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my race, since I was even more a zealot for my ancestral traditions. But when [God], who from my mother's womb had set me apart and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him to the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; rather, I went into Arabia and then returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to confer with Cephas and remained with him for fifteen days. But I did not see any other of the apostles, only James the brother of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23 The Flight to Egypt, The Massacre of the Infants & The Return from Egypt

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."

SAINT OF THE DAY: December 28, The Twenty Thousand Martyrs of Nicomedia. During the reign of emperor Maximian Hercules, the Christian faith was brutally persecuted in Nicomedia. When the local Christians had gathered in the church to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, he ordered his soldiers to surround the church and set it on fire. Those inside were offered free passage out, as long as they betrayed Christ. They refused, men, women and children, and were martyred. (302)

January 1, THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. Coming eight days after the birth of Christ, this feast commemorates his naming and his becoming a member of the Covenant of Moses.

OUR HOLY FATHER BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA, who is called “great” in learning and wisdom. He taught meditation on the Scriptures and manual work in obedience and fraternal love to his monks, and established a way of life for them in the Rules he wrote. He taught the faithful by his excellent writings and shone forth by his pastoral care for the poor and sick. (379)

PILGRIM VOCATION ICON PROGRAM 2025/2026 BYZANTINE CATHOLIC METROPOLITAN CHURCH OF PITTSBURGH:

Vocations are an integral part of the future of the Church. Following God’s call to live in lives of service to Him through Ordination, Marriage, or Consecrated Life is something that all of us in the Church have a vested interest in praying for and promoting. From October 2025 through January 2026, Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church will join the rest of the Metropolitan Church in praying for Vocations by participating in the Pilgrim Vocation Icon Program. Every week, from October 5, 2025 – January 17, 2026. Families are encouraged to sign up to take the Pilgrim Vocation Icon home for a week and to pray the Moleben for Vocations in their home during the week of the Icon’s sojourn. Through these prayers, we hope that the next generations of vocations will embrace their God given callings, and that we may be strengthened in the universal call to discipleship and holiness. The Parish sign-up sheet will be in the Vestibule of the church or call the Rectory at: 412-881-8344 and leave a message with your choice of dates. Shut-ins are also encouraged to participate. We will deliver the Icon to you.

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.



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.