

Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church
4815 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213-2917

Parish Office: 412-687-1220
Website: www.HolySpiritByzCath.com
Prayer Request Line: HolySpiritPrays@gmail.com

Father Michael D. Kunitz, Administrator

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021
THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREBEARS OF GOD
THE SYNAXIS OF THE MOST HOLY GODBEARER

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK

Sunday, December 26:	11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• + <i>John Kepich (1st Anniversary) by Mrs. Theresa Carr</i>
Saturday, January 1:	<i>New Year's Day of 2022: The Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord & The Feast of Saint Basil the Great (HOLY DAY)</i> 9:00 a.m. - New Year's-Day Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>
Sunday, January 2:	<i>The Sunday of the Holy Forebears of God & Synaxis of the Most Holy Godbearer</i> 11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• * <i>God's Blessings for New Pastor Father Michael Kunitz</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>by Catherine J. Warhola</i></p>

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 & Hebrews 2:11-18 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

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. The Church remembers these infant martyrs on **Wednesday, December 29th**, with 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 SATURDAY: THE NEW YEAR OF 2021.....

On **January 1st**, we celebrate **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 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." In addition, our Holy Father Pope

Francis has proclaimed January 1st to be **The 55th Annual World Day of Peace**. The theme for 2022 is: *“Education, work, and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace.”* The real Prince of Peace has been born to us. He is the Lord Jesus, Who is the genuine answer to true peace in our personal lives as well as throughout the whole world. Pray to Him for peace on earth and goodwill among all peoples everywhere! Saturday is also **New Year’s Day** on which we commence the civil new year. We pray for a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2022 and an end to the Covid pandemic!