

December 25, 2021

Христос Раждається! Славте Єго! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

“For you know the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” (2 Cor. 8:9)

Dear Parish Family! Despite our poverty and weakness, today we are all rich in the joy and love of the newborn Savior. Merry Christmas to you! Special blessings to those who care for the sick, the captive, the refugees, the dying, those in assisted living or homebound, to those who tirelessly and sacrificially donate their time and talents for the life of others. We embrace those who suffer from physical and mental wounds. We send a word of consolation to those who have lost relatives and friends this year . We unite in prayer with those who fearlessly stand at the front lines to defend life and peace in the world, those who defend our country risking their lives. May Almighty God, Who in His infinite Love visited our poverty, fill the hearts of each and every one of you with His peace, grace and hope! We wish you a joyful Winter Pascha , a delicious kutia, and a happy, peaceful and blessed New Year! Fr Artur, Fr Chris, Fr Tyler



**Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix
Most Reverend Thomas J Olmsted Apostolic Administrator**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church
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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday 10:00 am—4:00 pm
Thursday OFF

Advisory Board

Fr. Chris Zugger, Dan Riley, Rafael Plut,
Jeff Brewer, Michael Grega, Alicia Wells

Finance Council

Matthew Blain, Maria Alden

Parish Membership

From time to time it is good for us to reflect on what constitutes membership at Our Lady of Perpetual Help...a time to reflect on our relationship to God and His Church which is expressed by our commitment to this parish

Our parish community is open to any Catholic and to anyone

1. who is interested in seeking the Lord Jesus through His Word, the teachings of the Apostles, and the Sacred Mysteries;
2. who accepts the teachings of the Catholic Church;
3. who will help form a community based on the Lord's love;
4. who is willing to grow as a Christian within the legitimate spiritual traditions of the Byzantine Catholic Church within our American context;
5. who acknowledges the legitimate authority of the Pope, Bishop, and Pastor;
6. who will attend liturgical services on Sundays and great holydays;
7. and who is willing to support the growth of the Church (Eparchy and Parish) by sharing his/her time, talent and treasure (financial support); Actual Parish membership is based on the above and is determined by the following criteria:
 1. Being registered
 2. Attending liturgical services regularly on Sundays and Holydays
 3. Contributing to the support of the Church—both Eparchy (Bishop's Appeal) and Parish through use of the Sunday Tithing envelopes! Membership in the parish gives the parishioners the right to have their children receive the Holy Mysteries of Christian Initiation, be married in church and be buried from the church.

Summary from the Eparchial Pastoral Handbook on "Membership in a Parish"

Welcome to our Church! If you are looking for a spiritual home, contact Father Artur/Fr Chris or the office staff for more information. God bless you!

Gal 1:11-19 & Heb 2:11-18; Mt 2:13-23

**YouTube
Live**

8:30 am Rosary; 9:00 am Matins, Confessions
10:00 am Divine Liturgy for Parish Family, Benefactors and Friends
Eternal Lamp: +Bishop Gerald Dino

**Dec 27 Mon
Fast free week**

***Stephen Protomartyr / Simple Holy Day
Acts 6:8-7:5 & Heb 2:11-18; Mt 2:13-23***

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy / +Angelo Mandelas

Dec 28 Tue

20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia / James 3:1-10; Mk 11:11-23

Fast free week

9:00 am Divine Liturgy / +Mary Garza by Svenssons

Dec 29 Wed

Holy Innocents Martyrs / James 3:11-4:6; Mk 11:23-26

Fast free week

9:00 am Holy Rosary
9:30 am Funeral Divine Liturgy
Noon - Burial at the Mount Calvary Cemetery

5:30 pm OLPH Devotions

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy / +Robert Frank by Svenssons

Dec 30 Thu

Anysia Venerable Martyr / James 4:7-5:9; Mk 11:27-33

Fast free week

Dec 31 Fri

Melany Venerable / 1 Tim 6:11-16; Mt 12:15-21

Fast free week

9:00 am Prayer & witness in front of abortion clinic on San Mateo / Lomas
6:00 pm Vigil Liturgy of St. Basil / Litija / Blessing on Diane Minor

Jan 1 Sat

***Circumcision of Our Lord / Basil the Great Archbishop / Solemn Holy Day
Col 2:8-12; Heb 7:26-8:2; Lk 2:20-21 & 40-52; Lk 6:17-23***

No Morning Liturgy

Jan 2 Sun

Sunday Before Theophany / 2 Tim 4:5-8; Mk 1:1-8

4:00 pm Vespers (YouTube Live)
Hebrew Scriptures for Sunday: Deut 31:7-13; 1 Samuel 2:18-21; Micah 7:14-20
5:00 pm Divine Liturgy / +Frances Fitzpatrick by Fitzpatricks

YouTube LIVE

8:30 am Rosary; 9:00 am Matins, Confessions
10:00 am Divine Liturgy for Parish Family, Benefactors and Friends
Eternal Lamp: Open

Remember Those Who Request Our Prayers:

Physician and Help of Those in sickness, Redeemer and Savior of the infirm; O Master and Lord of all, grant healing to your servants. Be clement, show mercy to those who have sinned much, and deliver them, O Christ, from their Iniquities, that they may glorify your might divine

Sharif Rabadi	Buster Miscusi	Paola Terlaza
Jenny Ford	Barbara De Lap	Ruth Sousa
Priscilla Hughes	Irene Bradley	Linda Granci
Marilyn Fore	Sorlah Chavez	Vicki Frank
Sven & Barbara Svensson	Abraham Haddad	Christopher Barlow
Laurie Bienz	Marianne Gerace	Tracy McTernan
Brent Dodson- Sands	Lori Medina	Scott Fafrak
Lara Davis	Michael Baron	Jordan Smith
Jessica Pieniadz	Gabriel Preisler	Rebecca Baia
Rhonda Glasscock	Todd Bailey	Janet Worthington
	Fr Chris Zegger	Patti Klinkovsky
	Marcie Dark	Matt Williamson
	Michael Grega	

Intentions of the Rosary:

- 1st Decade: Help for persecuted Catholics, especially in communist and Islamic states
- 2nd Decade: Spiritual and physical growth of our parish and the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 3rd Decade: Increase in vocations to priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life to serve the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 4th Decade: Repose of the souls who have no one praying for them
- 5th Decade: Healing of the sick in body, mind and soul

***The joyful mysteries are recited from now until
January 4***

Holy Father's Intentions for December—Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



Vocation Icon

Today: Donlin Family

Next Sunday: Herring Family

“Out of Egypt I have called my son.” The righteous Joseph the betrothed was faithful to his calling, protecting Jesus and the Theotokos by journeying to Egypt and returning to Nazareth. Our Lord calls each one of us out of the spiritual Egypt of our lives so that we may live in the promised land meant for our lives. Is he calling you to a life of holy orders or monasticism? Contact the Vocations Office at 206-329-9219 or email: vocations@ephx.org

January 2, 2022

Cantor: Evie Jilek

Reader: Michael Wells

Altar Server: Michael Grega

Trojca: Esther & Tony Gloetzner

Counters: Rafael Plut, Ann Rajala

Propers for 1/2/22

Sunday before Theophany

Tone 7

Troparion (Tone 7)- 156

Troparion (Pre-feast) - 309

v. Glory...

Kontakion (Pre-feast) - 310

v. Now & Ever...

Theotokion- 406

Prokeimenon & Alleluia- 311

Our Father - 72

Communion Hymn - 305

OLPH Prayer Warriors

Sunday (Zoom). Send your prayer requests to Patricia at pocb@unm.edu

THE PRAYER WARRIORS IS OPEN TO EVERYONE--WOMEN, MEN, & CHILDREN (children who have their parents' permission)! Please join us!!

Barbara's Hall Report

Merry Christmas to all and to all a Blessed Christmas! My wish for Christmas is that everyone will be healthy, and steer clear of Covid & other health related issues!

May the Lord Bless your kindness and generosity to His House!

Coming Events—Mark Your Calendars Now

Wed Jan 5	Theophany of Our Lord Holy Day of Obligation 9:00 am Royal Hours / Litija 6:00 pm Vigil Liturgy of St. Basil / Litija / Great Blessing of Water
Thu Jan 6	10:00 am Divine Liturgy Noon Blessing of the Rio Grande
Tue Feb 1	6:00 pm Advisory Board Meeting
Wed Feb 2	Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon & Anna Solemn Holy Day 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy / Blessing of Candles
Sat Feb 19	First All Souls Saturday 9:00 am All Souls Liturgy / Panachida
Mon Feb 28	FIRST DAY OF THE GREAT FAST 6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy with Anointing

ETERNAL MEMORY: we extend our sincere and prayerful condolences to Debbie Sanchez and her family on the occasion of falling asleep in the Lord of her beloved mother Mary. Jesus received her soul on Saturday December 18 at 3pm. The funeral services will be held at OLPH on WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29:

9:00 am Prayer of the Holy Rosary;

9:30 am Funeral Divine Liturgy;

12pm—Burial at Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Let us offer our prayers commending her soul to God and asking peace for the bereaved. Blessed repose grant O Lord to your handmaid Mary and remember her forever!

Could we see the end of abortion in America?

Only the USA, Canada, South Korea and Communist China and Vietnam allow abortion at any point of a pregnancy, including during birth! The rest of the world restricts abortion, usually after 15 weeks. In the USA, abortion takes the lives of over 600,000 babies a year. A state can impose restrictions only in the second trimester for the health of the mother, but in the third trimester other restrictions are allowed (New Mexico forbids any restrictions, which is why we are the late-term and partial birth abortion capital in the USA). *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* could change that. The Dobbs case being considered by the US Supreme Court Justices would allow states to put in rules like most of the world's nations after the 15-week mark of a pregnancy.

Please, consider praying, fasting, and doing penance for a decision that will protect the dignity of unborn babies and encourage the reintroduction of reasonable limits that will save lives and bring our country back into civilized norms. The Justices will issue their ruling in June, 2022. For more info, please go to: www.prayfordobbs.com

POINSETTIA - BRIEF HISTORY John Robert Poinsett, who was an amateur botanist and the first United States ambassador to Mexico, first introduced poinsettias to the U.S. in 1825. He introduced the plant when he brought some cuttings to his plantation in Greenwood, South Carolina. December 12th is National Poinsettia Day. An official day set aside to enjoy this symbol of holiday cheer. It was established upon the death of Mr. Poinsett to honor him and the plant that he made famous. He died in 1851. Poinsettias are native to Mexico, where they grow wild. The enchanting legend of the poinsettia dates back several centuries, to a Christmas Eve in Mexico when a little girl named Pepita had no gift to present to the Christ child. Her cousin, Pedro, urged her to give a humble gift. So, on her way to church she gathered some weeds that she found along the road. As she approached the altar, a miracle happened. The weeds blossomed into beautiful flowers. Then they were called Flores de Noche Buena - Flowers of the Holy Night. Now simply called Poinsettias.

The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar

The word "magi" is the plural of "magos," the name given to one who was a philosopher and astronomer. They were also called kings. In Holy Scripture, "magos" was a customary name given to one who ruled a single city. Melchior is depicted as an old man, with a beard and long gray hair. He brought gold to the King and Master Jesus. Caspar was young and beardless, with a ruddy complexion. His gift was frankincense to God Incarnate. Balthazar, who was bearded and very dark, presented myrrh to the Son of Man, Who would undergo death. The three Magi came from the East, from the neighboring countries of Arabia, Persia, and Ethiopia. They traveled independently with their entourages, then providentially met and joined company. It was not an ordinary star that led them, but a divine angelic power that appeared in the form a Star. Consensus is that the Star appeared in the sky at the Annunciation. Stars move from east to west, but this Star moved from east to southward to Jerusalem. It shone like the sun during the day, guiding the Magi to Bethlehem. They arrived in Jerusalem on the day of the Nativity, but the star hid itself so others would not go to Bethlehem. When they departed the city, the Star reappeared and descended near the earth, showing the exact location of the cave. It is said that the Holy Family remained in the cave for forty days, until just before the Presentation in the Temple. (Source: The Orthodox Calendar Company)

Sunday after Christmas: Holy Joseph, David and James

On the Second Day of Christmas beside the celebration of the Synaxis of the Theotokos we commemorate the three members of Christ's earthly family - the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of God. The person of Saint Joseph has had less attention and homage paid to him in the east than in the Latin west. We know very few things about Joseph. But the gospel tells us that he was a just man, obedient to the angelic messages, and careful to protect Jesus and Mary. He is the most eminent representative of what one might call the holiness of the laymen, which is neither of a monk - all of whom are so abundantly commemorated in the ecclesiastical calendar - but is that of the head of the family, of the man who plies a trade and earns his family's daily bread. St Joseph is a natural protector of Christian families, of workers, of those whose food is not assured. He fed Jesus and Mary as formerly the patriarch Joseph in Egypt fed his brothers and father in the time of famine. Fittingly, Joseph the Betrothed of Mary protected his family by fleeing with them into Egypt, the theme of the gospel for this day (Mat. 2:13-23)

David is not only an ancestor of Christ but one who prefigures Him. As a shepherd, he prefigures Jesus the Good Shepherd. As King, he mysteriously announces the royalty of Christ. As an adulterer and murderer, he is the type of repentant sinner. As the author of the Psalms he has bequeathed to the synagogue and to us Christians a type of prayer, of adoration in spirit and in truth that Jesus Himself used, and in which all generations have found expression for the deepest longings of their souls.

Saint James, the Brother of God (neither James the Greater nor James the Lesser) was head of the first Christian community in Jerusalem. His name reminds us of the link which connects us with the Church of Jerusalem, with that of the first century as much as with that of the twenty-first century. Antioch and Alexandria, Rome and Constantinople are great and venerable cities in the history of Christianity, but it is from Jerusalem that we are first of all descended. His universal letter reminds us "as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." Holy relatives of Christ, pray to God for us!

Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas *Svjatjy Večur (Holy Supper)*

The Christmas celebration for Carpatho-Rusyns, an East Slavic people hailing from the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe, is steeped in ancient tradition. The customs are a mystical blend of old pagan Slavic customs honoring ancestors and family with the revelations of Eastern Christianity.

The celebration's main time is actually Christmas Eve, when the Holy Supper (*Svjatjy Večur, Velija*) is served. Many customs are associated with this solemn meal, and these customs can vary from village to village and county to county.

In many Carpatho-Rusyn villages, the head of the household takes some of the food first and feeds it to the animals, since the animals in the stables were the first to witness the coming of the Savior when He was born in a manger. This gesture is to help assure a prosperous year for all of the family's animals. Peas are thrown out to the chickens to assure their fertility (and that of the household's) for the coming year.

In the middle of the table rests three key items – the icon of the Nativity of Christ. The *Kracun* or Christmas bread, and a triple candle stand. The icon proclaims the mystery of the Nativity; the bread – that the coming Christ is the bread of life; and the candles – that through Christ's coming the Trinity was revealed to us. The *kracun* is then broken, passed around the table and shared together. Then garlic cloves and honey are shared by all. This must happen so that the family will stay together for the coming year. In some Rusyn villages, the legs of the table are bound by chains to "Keep the family together."

Christmas Eve for Rusyns is a strict fast day. Therefore, all foods served must be free of meat and dairy products. Twelve dishes are served and these too vary from village to village. However, some of the more common include mushroom, pea or bean and sauerkraut soup, *pirohy* (dough stuffed with potatoes, kraut or prunes) *bolbalky* (bread balls with kraut or honey and poppy seeds), *holubky* (cabbage stuffed with rice or barley and mushrooms), fish, and prunes.

The décor is also meant to remind the Carpatho-Rusyn peasant of the mysteries of God becoming man and dwelling with us. The table is covered with a

decorated white cloth, symbolizing that Christ came without sin; hay is scattered on the table and floor, reminding Rusyns that He came in humility, born in a stable; and an extra place is set at the table for Christ, symbolizing the Eastern Christian belief that Christ comes each year—ever present in the Eastern Christian home. Originally, however, this place was set in pagan times for the ancestors to join the family.



After the meal, the family goes to church for Christmas Eve Matins, leaving the food on the table and sometimes the windowsill "for the ancestors." Children awake the next morning and see the food and drink gone, consumed by "their ancestors."

Each Carpatho-Rusyn home is also visited by the *Jaslickari*, or Bethlehem carolers, a custom that can be traced to the blending of pre-Christian caroling customs and the medieval passion plays. The *Jaslickari* are young men from the village dressed as shepherds and angels, who witnessed the miraculous birth of Christ. They come into each home to enact a play with song, about their visit to the manger and their coming to grips with the mystery of Christ's birth and their own human failings. The *Jaslickari* are a genuine folk expression and were a vital piece of the peasant's education in his or her faith.

The *Jaslickari* enter the home carrying a replica of the parish church or a stable. Some are in the role of angels, wearing white robes and tall, stovepipe hats. Others are the shepherds. Among the shepherds is a particularly colorful character, *Guba*, who dressed in sheep's wool and sporting a beard and mask, represents mankind's human tendency towards evil, chasing and frightening many a Carpatho-Rusyn child in the home.

Christmas Day is spent feasting while groups of carolers go from home to home proclaiming the Good News. And Carpatho-Rusyns greet one another with the exchange:

Christ is Born! *Hristos Razdajtsa!*
Glorify Him! *Slavite Jeho!*

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