

## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

### BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



**Rev. Yuriy Oros - Administrator**

**Contact Number: (908) 381-2764**

**Should you have any pastoral needs or, concerns, sick calls, funerals, liturgy intentions, etc. please call Fr. Yuriy at 908-381-2764. Please leave a message if Father is not available and he will return your call as soon as possible. Father will then either address your request, concern, or, need or, he will forward it to Fr. Vasyl.**

#### **Church Office**

**Mailing Address**

*PO BOX 777, Levittown, PA 19058-0777*

**Rectory**

*2 Coral Rock Road, Levittown, PA 19057-1721*

**Church address**

*1773 Woodbourne Road, Levittown, PA 19057*

#### **Parish Contact Information**

**Fr. Vasyl Sokolovych**

*Parochial Vicar*

**Cell Phone**

*(908) 404-0777*

**Rectory**

*(215) 968-8707*

**Website**

*olphbyz.com*

**Email**

*frvasylolph@gmail.com*

**Hospital/Home Visitation:** *Available upon request.*

**Liturgy Intentions:** *Available upon request. The offering is \$15 per request which should be submitted along with the request form*

**Mystery of Reconciliation (Confession):**

*Saturdays 4:45 to 5:15*

*Sundays 8:15 to 8:45*

*If these times are not convenient, please make an appointment with Fr. Vasyl.*

#### **CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR YEAR 2020**

**THE FORMS FOR CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR YEAR 2020 ARE AVAILABLE. ANYONE REQUESTING A DEDICATION(S) SHOULD COMPLETE THE MONTHLY AND OFFERING FORMS IN THE BINDER ON THE TABLE IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE.**

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#### **Candle Dedications December 2019**

**Sanctuary Lamps:** In memory of George E. Danka, Michael & Mary Bardzak, and George & Helen Danka by Margaret Danka & family.

**Tetrapod:** In loving memory of our daughter Tara Zawatsky Eriksen by Thaddeus & Karen Zawatsky.

**Altar of Preparation:** In loving memory of my dear friend Ed Kravcak by Stephen Macinsky.

**Altar of Blessing:** In loving memory of Michael & Romaine Macinsky by the Macinsky family.

**Sanctuary Eagles:** In memory of Joseph & Mary Simko by Nadia Kopcho



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#### **CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The offering envelopes for 2020 are available in the back of the church. You may have a different number than you have this year. If there is not a box of envelopes for you, please make a notation on the sheet next to the envelopes and a box will be prepared for you.



**CHRISTMAS CRAFT SESSION**

The Decembre 14th & 15th Christmas Craft Session were enjoyable. The children and adults had fun creating beautiful ornaments and decorations. Many thanks are expressed to Donna Rayner and Elsie Snyder for organizing and conducting the activities.

Schedule of Liturgical Services OLPH  
for the Week of December 21, 2019 - December 29, 2019  
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**Thanks to Steve Macinsky, Tom Hadzick, Michelle Baradziej, Robert Donatelli, Margaret Churilla, Marijean Harmonis, Donna Rayner, Ed Pustay and Richard Helbling for decorating the church for Christmas.**

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**Thank you to the generous parishioners of OLPH who donated \$510 in gift cards and \$50 cash to the United Way of Bucks County's Holiday Gift Card Drive. The gifts are deeply appreciated by local teens and older kids who are experiencing a true need this holiday season.**

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**OLPH PARISHIONER LIST**

The OLPH parishioner list is being updated. To ensure that the information on file is current and accurate, complete the form that is on the table by the bulletins and place in collection basket. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Schedule of Liturgical Services OLPH  
for the Week of December 21, 2019 - December 29, 2019**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2019 5:30 PM	DIVINE LITURGY <i>for the deceased Ashley Marie Hedlund requested by Justin Levine</i> Epistle: Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40; Gospel: Mt 1:1-25 Tone 3, p.135 & 285
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019 9:00 AM	DIVINE LITURGY <i>for the deceased Clare Powell requested by Margaret Churilla</i> Epistle: Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40; Gospel: Mt 1:1-25 Tone 3, p.135 & 285
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE  GREAT COMPLINE DIVINE LITURGY <i>for the deceased Frank &amp; Mary Swider requested by Kevin &amp; Mary Frances Swider Barr &amp; family</i>
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019 9:00 AM	CHRISTMAS DAY DIVINE LITURGY Epistle: Gal 4:4-7; Gospel: Mt 2:1-12 p. 289
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019 7:00 PM	SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS DIVINE LITURGY Epistle: Heb 2:11-18; Gospel: Mt 2:13-23 p. 294
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2019 7:00 PM	STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR DIVINE LITURGY Epistle: Acts 6:8-7:5&47-60; Gospel: Mt 21:33-42 p. 298
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2019 5:30 PM	DIVINE LITURGY Epistle: Gal 1:11-19; Gospel: Mt 2:13-23 Tone 4, p.141 & p.302
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019 9:00 AM	DIVINE LITURGY Epistle: Gal 1:11-19; Gospel: Mt 2:13-23 Tone 4, p.141 & p.302

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



DEAR PARISHIONERS,  
CHRYSTOS ROZHDAYETSYA!

CHRISTMAS AND JOY GO TOGETHER. WE SEND AND RECEIVE GREETING CARDS THAT PROCLAIM CHRISTMAS JOY. WE SING THE TIME HONORING HIM "BOH PREDVICHNI", AND LOOK FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS. YES, CHRISTMAS IS A SEASON OF REJOICING. JOY IS NEITHER A MERE PLEASURE NOR A FLEETING EMOTION, BUT A CONVICTION, WROUGHT IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

WE REJOICE IN THE LOVE OF GOD THE FATHER, WHO SENT HIS ONLY SON TO DRAW NEAR TO US AND TO SHARE OUR HUMANITY WITH ITS BURDEN OF SIN- PRECISELY TO REDEEM US OF SIN, TO FORGIVE US, AND TO TRANSFIGURE OUR LIVES AFTER THE PATTERN OF HIS OWN GLORY. TO BELIEVE, TO HOPE, TO RECEIVE THAT THE DIVINE GIFT IS TO HAVE JOY WHICH ENDURES THROUGH EARTH'S TRAVAILS AND INTO ETERNITY.

LET US NOT IMAGINE THAT THIS JOY, WHICH HAS ITS ORIGIN IN GOD, IS OUT OF REACH. IT IS MEANT FOR EVERYONE AND DWELLS MOST INTENSELY IN THE HUMBLENESS OF HEART. IT IS THE JOY OF THE CHILDREN WHO WERE BLESSED BY JESUS.

AT CHRISTMAS, WE CELEBRATE THIS SUPREME JOY THAT DOES NOT ORIGINATE IN THIS WORLD. IT IS THE JOYFUL NEWS THAT THE ANGEL GABRIEL FIRST REVEALED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SAYING: "BEHOLD YOU SHALL CONCEIVE IN YOUR WOMB AND BEAR A SON, AND YOU SHALL NAME HIM JESUS. HE WILL BE GREAT AND CALLED THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH" (LUKE 1:31-32). SO, TOO, ON THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS NIGHT, THE SKY WAS LIT WITH GOD'S GLORY AND THE ANGLES BROUGHT TIDINGS OF JOY TO ALL THE EARTH. "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE TO THOSE ON WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS."

MAY YOUR HEART BE FILLED WITH GLADNESS AS WE CELEBRATE GOD'S GREATEST GIFT THIS BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON!!! MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

**CHRYSTOS ROZHDAYETSYA! SLAVITE YEHO!**

**WITH BEST WISHES FATHER VASIL**

## Byzantine Catholic Christmas

*One of the most joyous holidays of the Byzantine Catholic Church, is the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. Preceding this feast is the fasting period, commonly known as the "Filipovka" (Phillip's Fast) which began on the Feast of St. Phillip. During this period we are reminded to reflect and prepare ourselves spiritually for the celebration of this feast.*

*On the Eve of Christmas all family members (grandparents, parents, and children) gather to share a special family meal. Today many look back and cherish their childhood memories of the "Holy Supper."*

*The various foods and customs surrounding this meal differed in Europe from village to village, from family to family, and thus became part of the heritage of many families here. Yet this custom of taking time together in joy as a family and to share a special meal is not only something done for fond memories, but a vital way of reaffirming today God's love for the world and a reaffirmation of the importance of the family where we learn to love and be loved. Beginning Christmas with "Holy Supper" is just as meaningful today as it was years ago. Its prime purpose being to gather the family.*

*The Christmas Eve supper begins at twilight, with the appearance in the heavens of the first star. The family gathers around the table to honor the Holy Child. The table, covered with a white tablecloth is symbolic of the swaddling clothes of Christ. Hay is placed on the table as a reminder of the poverty of the cave where Jesus was born. A large round bread, placed as the centerpiece, symbolizes Christ as the Bread of Life. The candle in the center of the bread recalls the Star of Bethlehem which led men to worship the true Light of the World. "Better is dinner of herbs where love is than a fatted calf and hatred with it." (Proverbs 15:17)*

*The meal begins with the Lord's prayer and then a prayer of thanksgiving for all the blessings of the past year and prayers for the good things in the coming year. The head of the family then greets those present with the traditional Christmas greeting "Christ is Born" to which they all reply "Let us glorify Him." Following this everyone partakes of the bread, garlic, and honey. Honey is symbolic of the sweetness of life while garlic is the symbol of bitterness.*

*The supper on the Holy Night generally consists of twelve different foods, symbolic of the twelve Apostles. These are non-meat foods, and in most instances are made without the use of dairy products for the Eve of Christmas was customarily a day of strict fast and a time of spiritual preparation for the worthy celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus. The traditional dishes include a mushroom soup thickened with a brown sauce (zaprashka); bobal'ki, very small biscuits; pirohi, pagach, fish, peas, beans, fruit and nuts.*

*The hospitable Slav people have a saying: "Our hearts are open to strangers, kith and kin." And so an extra place was set for anyone who might come knocking at the door.*

*The Holy Supper is concluded with the singing of the Nativity Troparion and Christmas Carol.*

**Nativity Troparion & Kontakion**

**Troparion-Tone 4**

*Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge, for through it, those who worshiped the stars have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, and to know you, the Dawn from on High. Glory to you, O Lord!*

**Kontakion-Tone 3**

*Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing his glory with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star. The eternal God is born for us as an infant child.*

***YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS***  
***December 14 and December 15, 2019***

	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Regular</i>	\$1,247	\$535	\$1,782
<i>Energy</i>	-	\$10	\$10
<i>Candles</i>	-	\$32	\$32
<i>Christmas</i>	-	\$1,600	\$1,600
<i>Candle Intentions</i>	\$225	\$150	\$375
<i>Retirement Fund</i>	\$25	-	\$25
<i>Christmas Flowers</i>	-	\$5	\$5
<i>Total</i>	\$1,497	\$2,332	\$3,829
<i>Attendance</i>	36	31	67