



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

# Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church

**Very Rev. Edward J. Higgins, Administrator**  
**Rev. Myron Badnerosky, Pastor Emeritus**  
**Rev. Vasyl Sokolovych, Parochial Vicar**  
**Dr. Daniel J. Tisak, Cantor**

1773 Woodbourne Road, Levittown, PA 19057

Mailing Address: PO BOX 777, Levittown, PA 19058-0777

Rectory: 2 Coral Rock Road, Levittown, PA 19057-1721

Rectory Phone: (215) 968-8707, Parish Website: olphbyz.com

Email: frvasylolph@gmail.com



## Liturgical Schedule For the Week of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018



Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Vigil, Sunday before Christmas –  
Of the Ancestors<sup>1</sup>

5:30 PM +Faithful Departed

Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday before Christmas – Of the  
Ancestors<sup>1</sup>

9:00 AM For the Parish Family of OLPH

Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Vigil of Christmas<sup>2,7</sup>

7:00 PM Great Compline

7:30 PM Intention of the Donor

Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas – Birth of our Lord<sup>3,7</sup>

9:00 AM For the Parish Family of OLPH

Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, Synaxis of the Theotokos<sup>4</sup>

9:00 AM Intention of the Donor

Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, Stephen Protomartyr<sup>5</sup>

7:00 PM Intention of the Donor

Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, Vigil, Sunday after Christmas<sup>6</sup>

5:30 PM Intention of the Donor

Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, Sunday after Christmas<sup>6</sup>

9:00 AM For the Parish Family of OLPH

<sup>1</sup>Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40; Mt 1:1-25

<sup>2</sup>Heb 1:1-12; Lk 2:1-20

<sup>3</sup>Gal 4:4-7; Mt 2:1-12

<sup>4</sup>Heb 2:11-18; Mt 2:13-23

<sup>5</sup>Acts 6:8-7:5 & 47-60; Mt 21:33-42

<sup>6</sup>Gal 1:11-19; Mt 2:13-23

<sup>7</sup>All Liturgies of Christmas Followed by Festal Anointing

**Candle Intentions:** Available, by month. The cost is \$25 per request which should be submitted along with the request form.

**Holy Communion:** As you approach the chalice to receive our Lord, please say your name to Father in a low voice.

**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 Forgiveness (Confession).** Saturdays, from 4:45 to 5:15 and, Sundays, from 8:15 to 8:45. If these times are not convenient, please make an appointment with Fr. Vasyl.

**Very Rev. Edward J. Higgins, Administrator**

**Contact Number: (215) 334-5129**

Should you have any pastoral needs or, concerns, sick calls, funerals, liturgy intentions, etc. please call Fr. Higgins at 215-334-5129. 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.

### Offertory – December 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind.” (Hebrews 13:16)*

	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Regular	442	721	1,163
Building Fund	20		20
Energy	50	10	60
Candles		22	22
Candle Intentions		150	150
Flowers		10	10
Christmas		50	50
Total	512	963	1,475
Attendance	25	51	76

# CHRIST is BORN!

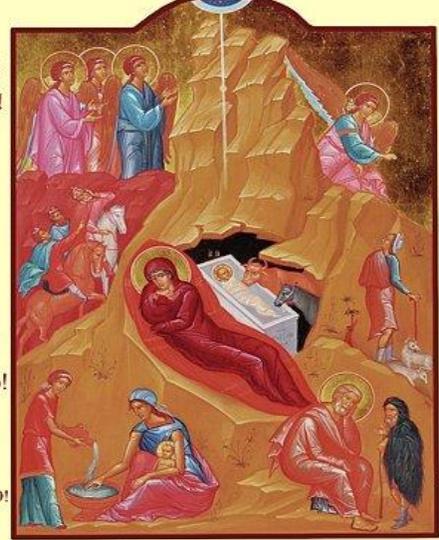
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ  
ΓΕΝΝΑΤΑΙ!  
ΔΟΞΑΣΑΤΕ!

Христос  
Се Родил!

Ванстину  
се роди!

Христос  
рождается!  
Славите Его!

¡CRISTO  
NACE!  
GLORIFIQUELO!



دلو حيسملا!  
مدج مرف!

KRISTUS  
SYNTYY!  
KIITTÄKÄÄ!

HRISTUS  
S-A NASCUT!  
SLAVA LUI!

CHRISTUS WIRD  
GEBOREN!  
VERHERRLICHT  
IHN!

Christ est né!  
glorifiez-le!

# GLORIFY HIM!

Welcome to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord. If you are visiting, we hope you find your experience of the Divine Liturgy to be prayerful and uplifting. Please introduce yourself so that we can get to know you!

Fr. Vasyl



### Special Thanks!

To the wonderful people of OLPH who donated so many gift packages for our Angel Tree Holiday Gift Drive!

Thank you for your support of this very special program which benefits the Children's Home Society of New Jersey.



Father Vasyl, along with representatives of the Children's Home Society of New Jersey who had come to take the gifts that will be given to the children.

### Feast of St. Basil & Circumcision of Our Lord

12/31/18, 7 pm Divine Liturgy; 1/1/19, 10 am Divine Liturgy.

Begin the New Year by Giving Thanks to God!

### Upcoming Liturgies at OLPH, Mark Your Calendars!

**Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, Vigil of Theophany**

5:30 PM Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Sanctification of Water

**Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, Theophany of our Lord**

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy and Blessing with the Newly Sanctified Water

Both Liturgies of Theophany Followed by Festal Anointing





### Christmas Greetings for Fr. Myron

If you wish to send Fr. Myron a Christmas greeting, please use to the following address:

Rev. Fr. Myron Badnerosky  
922 S. Woodbourne Road  
Suite 417  
Levittown, PA 19057

**Please remember our Seminarian, Reader Tim Fariss, during the Christmas Season. He will be delighted to hear from you.**

Tim Fariss

Byzantine Catholic Seminary  
3605 Perrysville Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214



### Candle Dedications for December, 2018

#### **Tetrapod:**

In memory of my Grandmother, Nellie G. Donatelli by  
Robert P. Donatelli

#### **Altar of Preparation:**

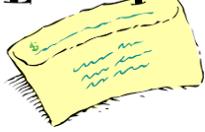
In memory of our Daughter, Tara Zawatsky Eriksen by  
Karen and Thaddeus Zawatsky

#### **Altar of Blessing:**

In loving memory of our dear friend Eddie Kravcak by  
Michael and Stephen Macinsky



## Offering Envelopes



### Church Offering Envelopes And Calendars

Are now available in the back of the church. You may have a different envelope number for 2019. If there is not a box of envelopes for you, please make a notion on the sheet next to the envelopes and a box will be prepared for you.

### Christmas in the Carpathian Highlands

*This article first appeared in Greek Catholic Union Magazine, and was authored by Michael Roman, K.S.G.G.*



## Holy Supper Svjatyj Večer

For many centuries Holy Supper on the eve before Christmas was traditionally a special family meal for our Rusins. It was full of meaning and symbolism. Even those who have unfortunately abandoned this glorious tradition still recall and cherish the childhood memories of "Svjatyj Večer."

In a booklet printed a few years ago, Father Joseph Ridella, Donald Petyo and Michael Huszti of the Parma Diocese have emphasized the importance of observing the traditional Holy Supper in the following words.

"This custom of taking time to gather together in joy as a family and to share a special meal is not only something of fond memories but a vital way of reaffirming the importance of family where we learn to love and be loved. Beginning our Christmas celebration with 'Holy Supper' is just as meaningful today as it was years ago; perhaps it is needed even more now than ever before."

It is my hope that more of our Rusin-Americans heed the call for the revival of the traditional Holy Supper on Christmas Eve. Recalling his fond childhood memories of Christmas Eve in the old country, a Rusin writer - Michael I. Dzamka of Cleveland, Ohio - wrote a very illuminating article on "Rozdestvo na Verchovini", Christmas in the Highlands.

The Carpatho-Rusin article was published thirty years ago in another fraternal newspaper, microfilms of which are at the Hillman Library of the University of Pittsburgh. Most of the following paragraphs are based on notes taken while reading the microfilm of the article.

Many of our older readers will recall that a strict fast was fully observed on the day before Christmas. Some families -- in the Carpathians and in America -- observed the fast so strictly that they did not eat any food until Holy Supper. Only the drinking of water was permitted. No wonder everyone waited for Holy Supper!

For the wife and mother of a Rusin family the day before Christmas was a very busy one indeed. She spent it entirely in the preparation of the various foods for Holy Supper and in cleaning the hut.

#### **HOLY SUPPER TABLE**

When twilight arrived on Christmas Eve, the mother covered the table with a white cloth in memory of the swaddling clothes of infant Jesus. She then set the various foods in their proper places on the table. The foods, prepared in or with oil, included fish, herring, bobalki, mushroom sauerkraut soup or lima bean sauerkraut soup, meatless holupki, stewed plums, mashed potatoes, honey, garlic, etc. In some villages there were twelve foods on the table, symbolizing the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ.

In the center of the table was a large round loaf of bread which symbolized Jesus as the bread of life. The candle, which was placed in the bread, symbolized the Star of Bethlehem that guided the shepherds and wise men to worship and adore the light of the world.

While mother prepared the table for Holy Supper, the father fed the cattle a little earlier than usual. He then picked up some straw and entered the hut saying: "We wish happiness, fortune and health with the approaching Feast Day of the Nativity of Our Lord, and we hope all of us may live to another Christmas, live in peace and happiness and we ask God's blessing upon all of us."

The straw was strewn on the floor and some of it was also placed on the table, symbolizing the fact that little Jesus lay on the straw in the manger.

Immediately before the beginning of Holy Supper, all participants therein went to a nearby stream or creek to wash their faces and hands. This was done in the belief that they would be clean and healthy during the coming New Year. The washing also signified that the shepherds first washed themselves before they went to see the newly born Child.

Returning to the hut, they all enthusiastically greeted each other with "Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho!" Christ is born! Glorify Him! They then gathered around the table and the father, opening the Holy Supper with prayer, asked God's blessings on the foods that they were about to eat.

The father then poured himself a drink and proposed the following toast: "Grant, Oh God that we may live too an even better Holy Night next year. May the Lord give good health to you, my dear wife, and to our children, to my good and bad neighbors, to my friends and enemies. May God bless all Christians here and abroad and may He grant eternal memory and heaven to the departed. And above all, my Little Jesus, born this day, bring peace, health and happiness!"

The mother replied: "Daj Boze!" Grant it, Oh Lord! She also took a little drink and expressed similar greetings. The older children were allowed to take a sip.

#### **A HONEYED SIGN OF THE CROSS**

After dipping her forefinger into the honey, the mother made a sign of the cross on the foreheads of all present including herself. The use of honey symbolized the mother's prayer that the lives of all present will be sweet, without any bitterness. However, when the mother made a honeyed sign of the cross on the forehead of her eligible-for-marriage daughter, she expressed her prayerful wish: "May Jesus grant that the young men will go after you like the bees go after honey!"

The mother then dipped garlic into honey and each one present had to taste it. Our Rusin ancestors believed that garlic chased away all pagan and evil spirits and kept them healthy. While giving the garlic to taste the mother said: "May God grant that you be as healthy as this garlic!" Yes even in this day and age there are many Rusin old people who believe that garlic has curative powers.

With the symbolic preliminaries out of the way, all started to eat the delicious strict-fast foods on the table. No one was permitted to by-pass a food; he or she had to taste it at least.

After Holy Supper the cattle also received a portion of each of the foods that were on the table, thus symbolizing the fact that Jesus at His birth was surrounded with cattle. The Holy Supper ended with an extemporaneous prayer by the head of the household who again expressed gratitude to Infant Jesus and wished everyone a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

#### **CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

Christmas carols and hymns were sung in every hut in the village, starting immediately after the conclusion of Holy Supper. One of the favorite carols was "Bozij Syn dnes' narodilsja," God's Son is Born Today, composed by Bishop Basil Popovich.

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**House Blessings** - As you know, it is our tradition to have our homes blessed after the Feast of Theophany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to have Fr. Vasyl come and bless your home, fill out and return the form below. Fr. Vasyl will contact you to arrange your house blessing.

**Fr. Vasyl, I/We would like to have our home blessed**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The best days of the week are: \_\_\_\_\_

The best time of day is: \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, this is the best date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Christos Raždajetsja! Slavite Jeho! Christ is born! Glorify Him!**



*Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church, Nativity of our Lord, 2017*