



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church

Fr. Edward G. Cimbala, D.Min – Pastor

1773 Woodbourne Road \* Levittown, PA 19057

Mailing Address - PO BOX 777 \* Levittown, PA 19058-0777

Residence – 2 Coral Rock Road \* Levittown, PA 19057-1721

(Cell) 908-872-2928 \* (Residence) 215-968-8707 \* (Rectory) 215-945-5122

fredcimbala@gmail.com \* Website – olphbyz.com

Rev. Myron Badnerosky – Pastor Emeritus

### Liturgical Schedule

#### for the Week of December 24, 2017

Saturday, December 23 ~ **Vişil**

**Sunday Before Christmas- of the Ancestors**

5:30 PM +Ann Marie King by Rhonda King

Sunday, December 24 ~ **Sunday Before Christmas of the Ancestors**

9:00 AM For the Parish Family of OLPH

**Christmas Eve - Vişil of Christmas**

7:00 PM Grand Compline

7:30 PM First Liturgy of Christmas

For the Parish Family of OLPH

Monday, December 25 ~ **Christmas Day**

9:00 AM Special Intention

Festal Anointing After Christmas Liturgies

Tuesday, December 26 ~ **Synaxis of the Theotokos**

7:00 PM +Andrew Stancoski

Wednesday, December 27 ~ **Stephen – Protomartyr**

8:30 AM For the Deacons of the Eparchy of Passaic

Saturday, December 30 ~ **Vişil**

**Sunday After Christmas-**

5:30 PM For the Parish Family of OLPH

Sunday, December 31 ~ **Sunday After Christmas**

9:00 AM +Raul Stevens by wife Eleanor, children and grandchildren

### PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

A very special THANK YOU to all who responded to Fr. Ed's request for a special end of the year donation to help us balance the budget. We received \$2,770. If you didn't have a chance to make that special gift, please consider adding it to your Christmas donation. As you plan your giving for 2018, please think about increasing your weekly donation – a few dollars each week adds up at the end of the year.

### 2018 LOTTERY CALENDARS NOW ON SALE

Margaret Churilla now has the 2018 Lottery Calendars for sale at \$20.00 per calendar. Every night a possible winner based on 3 digit PA Evening Daily Number. Prizes vary from \$20 to \$200. Please sell some to your friends and families. This is an important fundraiser for the parish.



### Offertory – December 16 and 17, 2017,

	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Regular	\$847.00	\$1,597.00	\$2,444.00
Holyday	\$40.00	0	\$40.00
Energy	\$90.00	\$20.00	\$110.00
Building Fund	\$50.00	0	\$50.00
Flowers	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$30.00
Christmas	\$250.00	\$60.00	\$310.00
Candles	0	\$44.00	\$44.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1302.00</b>	<b>\$1,726.00</b>	<b>\$3,028.00</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>82</b>

**Feast of St. Basil & Circumcision of Our Lord**  
January 1 – Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM.  
Begin the New Year by Giving Thanks to God!

## Danube River Cruise

Plus Munich, Budapest and Krakow  
With Fr. Ed

October 31 to November 13, 2018

Brochures Available in the Vestibule

See Fr. Ed for more details.

Special Cruise Information Webpage

<http://www.olphbyz.com/Pg/DanubeCruise.html>

**RESERVATION DEADLINE EXTENDED**

## COOKBOOK RECEPIES COLECTED



'Tis the season for celebrating the birth of Jesus with family and friends around the table enjoying all our traditional trends. From your Thanksgiving meals to your Christmas holiday menu planning; please don't forget to set aside those memorable recipes that keep your family and friends coming back for more year after year. Thank you! Our deadline for our church cookbook is the end of January 2018. We'll have a drop box in the church vestibule. Thank you again and may you enjoy your Holidays in good health!



**House Blessings** - As you know, it is our tradition to have our homes blessed after the feast of Theophany on January 6. If you wish

to have Fr. Ed come and bless your home, fill out and return the form below. Fr. Ed will contact you to arrange your house blessing.

**Fr. Ed, I/We would like to have our home blessed**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

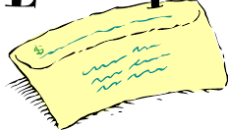
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

## Offering Envelopes



## CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS

Are now available on the table in the vestibule.

You may have a different envelope number for 2018. 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.

**“MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLES.” - Isaiah 56: 7**

If you are a visitor to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we want you to know how welcome you are; whether you



have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish. We hope you find our worship true and reverent and our people here friendly and cordial. If you are seeking a spiritual home, we would be honored by your presence in our family. For more information about becoming a parishioner, please see Fr. Ed.



Please remember our Seminarian 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 DEDICATION FOR DECEMBER Sanctuary

In Memory of Frank Scalia & Thomas Downs,  
our fathers Nora & Greg Downs  
Tetrapod

In Honor of all the ECF Children  
By M. Catherine McFarland

“Remembering that a child led the way...”  
Altar of Preparation

In Memory of the Yatsko & Puketza Families  
By Helen Yatsko  
Blessing Altar

In Memory of Nelli G. Donatelli, my grandmother  
by Robert P. Donatelli



### Special Thanks!

The wonderful people of OLPH donated over 50 gift packages to the Angel Tree

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS Mark Your Calendars!

Monday, January 1

Feast of St. Basil & Circumcision of the Lord

8:30 AM - Liturgy of St. Basil

Friday, January 5

Viñil of Theophany

7:00 PM

Divine Liturgy

With the Great Sanctification of Water



## “Knight” at the Races

January 20, 2018

6:30 pm - 11:00 pm

The Crow's Nest

1492 Woodbourne Road  
Levittown, PA



10 simulated horse races with the ability to live wager, buy a horse, or win

the grand prize of \$250 with the Raffle Tickets we are selling. There will also be raffle baskets and a 50/50 drawing. Event Tickets are \$35.00 per person and includes buffet dinner, beer, wine and soda. Each event ticket holder will also be entered in one of the races to be held for a chance to win \$50.00 by being the winning horse in that race/heat. There will be a variety of raffle baskets as well. **For more information see Dr. Dan Tisak, Deputy Grand Knight.**



## Fashegg!

A Joint Celebration  
With the Parishes  
Of  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Levittown

Assumption of the Virgin Mary - Trenton  
St. Nicholas - Roebling  
Sunday, February 11

at

Assumption of the Virgin Mary  
Trenton

A Fun-Filled Fantastic Celebration to Prepare  
Us for the Great Fast

Luncheon and Party followed by the celebration of  
Forgiveness Vespers

What's Going to be Happening?

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

Followed by Food! Music! Dancing!

Then The Celebration of Forgiveness Vespers  
to Begin the Great Fast,  
More Details to Follow.

Transportation will be arranged  
from OLPH to Trenton.



# 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.

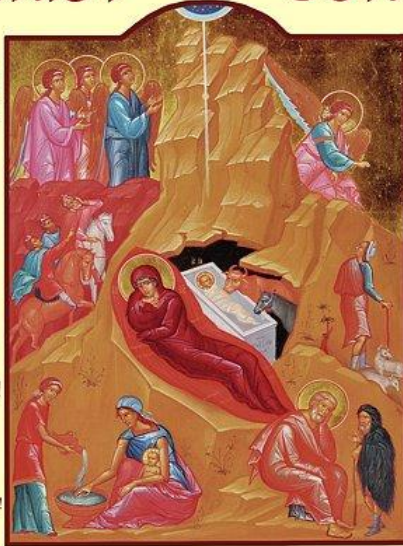
# CHRIST is BORN!

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ  
ΓΕΝΝΑΤΑΙ!  
ΔΟΞΑΣΑΤΕ!

Христос  
Се Роди!  
В истину  
се роди!

Христос  
рождается!  
Славите Его!

¡CRISTO  
NACE!  
GLORIFIQUELO!



دل وحيه مېلا!  
! ده ج مېف

KRISTUS  
SYNTYY!  
KIITTÄKÄÄ!

HRISTUS  
S-A NASCUT!  
SLAVA LUI!

CHRISTUS WIRD  
GEBOREN!  
VERHERRLICHT  
IHN!

Christ est né!  
glorifiez-le!

## GLORIFY HIM!