



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Orthodox Church

PASTOR

VERY REVEREND

FR. MICHAEL T. CHENDORAIN

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*An Orthodox Christian
community of the American
Carpatho-Russian Orthodox
Diocese of the USA under the
protection of the Ecumenical
Patriarchate of Constantinople.*

WELCOME!



WEEKLY BULLETIN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 02, 2022

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY - ST. IGNATIUS the GODBEARER

⌘ TONE III ⌘ HEBREWS 11:9-10, 17-23 ⌘ GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 1:1-25

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY DIVINE SERVICES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 02

9:00AM Sunday Divine Liturgy followed by a Panachida in Memory of +Richard Rezes (5 years), offered by his son, Richard.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 06 - EVE OF THE NATIVITY

9:00AM Royal Hours of the Nativity.

10:30AM Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for Christmas Eve.

7:00PM Candlelight Compline Service of Christmas Eve.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 07 - FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

8:45AM Singing of Traditional Christmas Carols.

9:00AM Festive Divine Liturgy of the Nativity with anointing!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 08 - SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS

9:00AM Holyday Divine Liturgy.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 09 - FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN (PROTOMARTYR)

9:00AM Sunday Divine Liturgy.

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY PARISH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 02

NO Coffee Social Hour

MONDAY, JANUARY 03

5:00PM Weekly Soup Kitchen Service.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 09

10:30AM NO Coffee Social Hour

Parish Council Meeting — All Members are asked to attend!

PLEASE PRAY for the Servants of God: His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Pani Eleanor Herbert, Archon John Halecky, Fr. John & Pani Eleanor Pribish, Helen Hrehowsik, Lia Gogoladze, Judith Raskoshin & Unborn child, Jenna Quinn & Newborn Son, John & Suzanne DiBiasi, Frank Ello, John Billy, Amet Ramnarian, Bill Kobasz, Helen J. Dunham, Dacia Snider, CPL Michael Delcher, Joann Kolator, Irene Tobin, Olga Mitko, Lynn Beres, Maryann Dudash, Eleanor Aleksza, Sandy DiLeo, Olga Medvigy, John & Suzanne DiBiasi, Michele Camisa, Abigail Billy, Joseph Santalla, Sussi Howard, Amanda Orender, Helen Deliman, Melanie McHenry, Peggy Patrick, Lillian Kalog, Maryann Della Serra, Victoria Dean, Stephen Skasko, George Kratsashvili, John Paul Hall, Veronica Houser, Joshua Skoog, Michael Ascher, Elizabeth White, CPL Logan Grguric, PO Daniel Langner, Smn. Daniel Birthisel, the unborn children of this world and for more vocations to the Holy Priesthood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2022 DONATION & STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES are available today from the church basement. Any questions, please see Kim Kuzma.

2022 CHURCH CALENDARS ARE IN!! At this time, please take one per household. We thank Greg Chubenko and Novak Funeral Home for underwriting these calendars again.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Please remember, if you are admitted to the hospital in an emergency or for any reason, or are undergoing surgery, please notify Fr. Michael so he can make arrangements to visit and pray with you ASAP. He may be reached on his cell phone, at any hour of the day by calling (201) 486-2123. If he cannot be reached: **Fr. Andrew Fetchina (732) 382-8844** or **Fr. Ken Ellis.**

WELCOME VISITORS

We are happy that you have joined us today. Please join us in the church hall (behind the church) for coffee and a bite to eat. You have just experienced the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is the ordinary service of worship celebrated on regular Sunday's in the Orthodox Church. The Liturgy—as experienced at St. John's Church—stems from the 4th century though its practices were inherited from the time of the apostles in the book of Acts. (Acts 1:14) It also represents a time when all Christians worshipped in One Undivided fully Catholic Christian Church. If you have any questions in regards to our worship or the Orthodox Church in general please see Fr. Michael and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you.

At our best we are known for our welcoming attitude, hospitality, prayerfulness, generosity and compassion. At our worst, we are sinners, but we're working out our salvation together, and could use your help. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider making St. John's Church that place.

PANACHIDA REQUESTS

Please be reminded to submit requests for all Panachidas to Fr. Michael in writing so there is no confusion. Multiple requests on the same day will be combined, with the exception of 40th day and 1 year anniversaries which take precedence.



PAYPAL QR DONATION CODE

Just scan with your phone and follow the prompts. Thank you!

2022 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Sunday, February 06 Following Divine Services We need Your Support of our Parish

Nativity Week:

Don't Be a Footnote...

Our hearts today are filled with anticipation dear ones, as we have reached the week of the Nativity of our Savior. We are nearing the end of this long period of preparation and we now stand at the threshold of the Winter Pascha, awaiting that moment that changes EVERYTHING FOR US!

St. Ambrose so beautifully stated: *“Christ was in a manger so that we might be at the altar. He was on earth, so that we might be in the stars. He had no place in the inn...so that we might have mansions in paradise.”*

This week, the Church will be transformed. The white altar clothes will be brought out as THE LIGHT comes forth from this little city of Bethlehem. God didn't come into the world in some massive capital city. The King of Kings wasn't born in a featherbed made from the cedars of Lebanon. He wasn't surrounded by the riches of the Jewish Kingdom like so many of His forefathers. The Savior, the Messiah of us all, came into this world in the middle of a damp, cool, and rocky cave, being warmed by the breath of the animals who dwelt there.

Why?

Because the truly important things in life are not riches, gold, or beauty. From a Divine Perspective, none of these things matter. What is important, is **humility and repentance.**

“The Genealogy Gospel” of Matthew is perhaps one of my favorite passages of the entire New Testament, because it serves as a wonderful link to the past! As we go through this list of names, there are probably many that you recognize from Holy Scripture and many that you do not recognize. If you don't recognize many of the names, it is not because you don't open your bible often enough. Rather it is because for a good majority of them, there is not a lot written!

We learn about a good portion of this lineage of Christ in 4 books: 1st and 2nd Samuel, and 1st and 2nd Kingdoms. After we get through the story of David and Solomon, there is a line that keeps popping up over and over about most of these other names, who were the kings of both Israel and Judah. In a few verses, they will say something about them and then you hear: *“Now the rest of the words of _____, and all that he did...are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?”*

(Continued last page)

Scripture doesn't go into details about figures like King Omri, who from a historical perspective was a big deal. He was the founder of the Omri Dynasty, and according to scholars, was one of the most important rulers ever in the history of Israel. He conquered the territory of Moab, brought peace to the Northern Kingdom, formed alliances, even founded the city of Samaria where he made his capital! All of these earthly achievements in his 12 year reign, and this is what the bible says about him:

*"In the 31st year of Asa the King of Judah, Omri became king over Israel and reigned for 12 years. Omri bought the hill of Samaria for 2 talents of silver from its owner Shemer. Then he built on the hill and called the name of the city Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill. Omri did evil before the Lord, and did worse than all who were before him. For he walked in the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in the sins he committed and caused Israel to commit. **"Now the rest of the words of Omri, and all that he did...are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel."***

Why is it that King Omri only has 3 verses in the Bible, 1 of which says that his greatest accomplishment was to buy a hill? Because Holy Scripture is given to us from a Divine Perspective...it comes from God. To God, riches, power, beauty, and strength are meaningless. The political exploits of a king long forgotten by the world accomplishes **nothing** in the eyes of eternity. What God treasures the most is humility and repentance.



In contrast to King Omri, King David is a big deal in Holy Scripture, but until 1993, outside of the Bible, no one had discovered any archeological evidence that He was even a real person! In the world and in non-biblical history, he wasn't a big deal. But to us, and through the Divine Perspective of God, David is held as an example that we must all follow. He was a man who was not perfect, but had a love for God in his heart. He fell many times, even to the point of adultery and murder, yet no matter how many times he had fallen, David ran back to God with repentance. David is even credited with giving us Orthodoxy's most popular psalm, Psalm 51, which we call the psalm of repentance. He literally gave us poetry on how to humble ourselves before God, just as **God humbled** Himself to be with us in the middle of the damp cave in Bethlehem.

This week, there will be so many distractions. Last minute shopping...cooking for our families...figuring out plans on how to come together in this unique time...all of these things are great in and of themselves, but from a Divine Perspective, **they do not matter.**

If my life were written about in Holy Scripture, and if my normal activities **did not include** coming to Church with Humility and Repentance on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning, the verse would read: *"Fr. Gabriel and Family didn't worship God for the Nativity...Now the rest of the words of Fr. Gabriel, and all that his family did for Christmas...are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel."*

Brothers and Sisters, let us not be a footnote in the eyes of our Lord, but rather humble ourselves and join together in worship and celebration, as we approach the coming of our Savior into the world...Amen.

FR. GABRIEL BILAS
pravmir.com



His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory's

NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENGE 2021

To Be Prayed Every Evening of the Nativity Fast

O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God: I truly believe and confess that You became flesh and dwelt among us for the salvation of the whole world. At Your Nativity, You endured the cold of the manger to enkindle within me love for You. You were bound in swaddling clothes to deliver me from the chains of sin and death. You were nourished with milk and thereby fed the Body which one day would suffer for my sake. During these days of fasting and prayer, forgive me—unworthy as I am—all the sins by which I have offended Your infinite goodness. Renew in me fervent faith, unflinching hope, and a charitable desire to serve others. Accept this act of thanksgiving, just as You accepted the gifts and worship of the Wise Men, and preserve us all from dangers that we may adore You and say: Glory to You, O Lord Jesus Christ, forever and ever. **AMEN!**