Christ the Saviour Cathedral

"CATHEDRAL JOTTINGS"



Corner of Garfield Street and Butler Avenue
Johnstown, Pa. 15906
Rectory Office – 249 Butler Avenue; Johnstown, Pa. 15906
Cathedral Church of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa
of the
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
of the
Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople

Cathedral Clergy

Pastor – Very Reverend Protopresbyter Robert A. Buczak, Cathedral Dean
Very Reverend Protopresbyter Frank P. Miloro, Chancellor
Very Rev. John S. Brancho

Rectory Phone……814-539-8086
Mobile Phone……412-759-4481
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E-mail Address (for Father Robert Buczak)……frbuczak@outlook.com
Diocesan Website: http://www.acrod.org ***Facebook***: https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Cathedral: http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral ***Twitter***: https://twitter.com/acrodnews
Camp Nazareth: http://www.campnazareth.org ***You Tube***: https://youtube.com/acroddiocese

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Vol. 79 No. 1842 **January 7th, 2023**



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Friday, January 6th, 2023

The Great Compline of the Nativity of Our Lord - 8 pm

Christmas Carols – 8:45 pm

Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord - 9 pm

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Saturday, January 7th, 2023

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

9:00 am – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Galatians 4: 4-7 Tropar & Kondak: pages 132 – 135 Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

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CHRISTMAS BRUNCH – January 7, 2023

All are invited to join us for a Christmas Brunch Christmas morning, January 7th, 2023, after the Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral Auditorium.

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Sunday, January 8th, 2023

Sunday after the Nativity of our Lord

The Synaxis of the Theotokos (Birthgiver of God)

and

Commemoration of the Holy and Just Joseph, King David and James, the Brother of Our Lord

Divine Liturgy/ Choir Sunday – 9:00 am

Panachida for + ***the Founders and Benefactors of the Cathedral Parish***; ***+Emily Terchanik, and +Mark Bodnar*** (Birthday remembrance) offered by Pani Kathy Buczak; ***+John, Ruth, Michael, and James Horner*** offered by Rosalia Horner; and the ***+Departed Kol'adniki of the Cathedral Parish: Andrew Pavlik, Andrew Medvechy Jr., Constantine Mishurda, John Mishurda, John Kurtz, Nicholas Polak, Joseph Evanisko, Andrew Sakmar, Michael Gritzer, John Duray, Stephen Patrick, John P. Duray, Stephen Matolyak, and John Yurosko*** offered by John and Helen Yurosko; and ***+Ronald Koval*** offered by daughter Susan and Ivan

Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18 Tropar and Kondak pages 132-136 Gospels: Matthew 2:13-23

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Monday, January 9, 2023

The Feast of The Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Panachida for + ***Stephen Evanisko and the Departed Servicemen of the Cathedral Parish*** offered by the Evanisko Family; +***Mary Radasky Kesselak*** offered by Andrea and Jeff Robel; +***Helen Krompak + Kay Miloro*** offered by the family***; Anna Toth*** offered by the family.

Tropar & Kondak: pages 132-137, 138

Epistle: Acts 6: 8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60 Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

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Fri. 1/13 … ***Vespers for the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord……..6:00 pm***

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Saturday, January 14, 2023

Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord

Commemoration of St. Basil the Great

& Julian Calendar New Year

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great - 9:00 am

Epistle: Colossians 2:8-12 Tropar & Kondak: pages 140-141 Gospel: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

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Sat. 1/14 … No Vespers Scheduled

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Sunday, January 15th, 2023

The Thirty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday before the Feast of Theophany

St. Sylvester, Pope of Rome

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Panachida for ***+Frank Evanisko*** (25th Anniversary) offered by daughter Gaynell Shrift; ***+Margaret Mley and Helen Cicmansky*** offered by Pani Kathy Buczak; ***+Patricia Pasternak*** offered by Ann Marie Mlinarchik; +***Prof. Andrew Pancisin***; +***Joseph, Michael, and Anna Chanda*** offered by Mary Chanda; ***+Pani Emily Molchany;*** and ***+Matthew Lazarak*** offered by Mary Lazarak

Resurrection Tone 6

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Tropar & Kondak: pages 93 & 142 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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Wednesday, January 18th, 2023 ---- 6:00 PM

THEOPHANY EVE DINNER

In the Cathedral Auditorium – ALL ARE WELCOME!

We are asking our faithful to bring a covered fasting dish!

Day of Strict Fasting

Vigil Service of Theophany with the Blessing of Water - 7:00pm

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Thursday, January 19th, 2023

The Feast of the Theophany of our Lord

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

+Helen Balog (Remembered in Proskomedia)

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Tropar & Kondak: pages 145-148 Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

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Friday, January 20th, 2023

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

+***David Vreeland*** (Remembered in Proskomedia) offered by Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Vreeland

Epistle: Acts 19: 1-8 Tropar & Kondak: pages 145, 148-150 Gospel: John 1: 29-34

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Sat. 1/21 … Vespers…..……..……6:00 pm

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Sunday, January 22nd, 2023

The Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday after Theophany

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:20 am

Panachida for ***+Very Rev. John Stefanik*** offered by the Family; ***+Rose & John Patrick Sr***.; ***+Betty Ann Lanko Berezonsky*** offered by John Lanko Jr.; ***+John Mirilovich*** offered by Mirilovich family: Rich, Harriet, Richard, Renee, Andrew, Kristen, Michael, Nancy & Marie; ***+ John & Elizabeth Chrasch*** offered by John Chrasch; and +***Very Reverend Dr. Nomikos Vaporis*** offered by son, Subdeacon Michael

Resurrection Tone 6 - Tropar & Kondak: pages 145-148, 96 & 150

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel Matthew 4:12-17

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the ***Christ the Saviour Educational Center*** has been postponed until further notice.

The Annual Meeting of the ***Christ the Saviour Cathedral Parish*** will be held ***Sunday, February 5th, 2023*** immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral Auditorium. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. This is the ***first official announcement*** of the meeting. Proposals for the Annual meeting are being accepted in the Cathedral office in written form until ***Sunday, January 22, 2023.***

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CONGRATULATION TO OUR RECENT CONVERTS

We welcome to our congregation ***Michael Vincent Nicholas and Chrystal Marie Eva Maticic*** and ***Crystal Ann Mary Rickabaugh*** who were Chrismated into the Orthodox Faith Sunday, January 1st, 2023.

God bless you all and grant you many years.

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU – to ***Barry, Julia, and Amanda Gilchrist*** for their generous gift of ***$400.00 to the Cathedral Special Fund*** for the needy in memory of their dearly departed mothers and grandmothers Helen Yuhas and Helen Gilchrist and fathers and grandfathers John Yuhas and Robert Gilchrist.

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CATHEDRAL CHARITY BOX - REMINDER

Did you know that the Cathedral has a charity box for the less fortunate of the parish? On the back of the last pew on the "Virgin's side" of the church is a small wooden box in which you may put your offering to help those in need. Thank you for your stewardship of our parish!

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ETERNAL MEMORY FUND – Thank you ***to Randy and Regina Karashin*** for their donation of $25.00 to the Eternal Memory Fund in memory of ***Ronald Mlinarchik***

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BIRTHDAY PRAYERS – are offered for ***Thomas Allen Buczak III (1/5), Zachary Tvarozna (1/10), David Dudak (1/10), Melanie Dudak (1/10), Anna Furman (1/11), Luke Tvarozna (1/13), Sydnee Lauren Satkovich (1/13), Jerees Noah Zreigat (1/15), Steve Muchesko (1/17), Jodi Billetdeaux (1/17), Richard Kesselak (1/17), Michael Haschak (1/18), Maria Richards (1/18), and Amanda Dutko (1/19).*** You were remembered in Prokomedia!

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ALTAR FLOWERS– are offered the week of January 22nd in honor of the Birthdays of ***George Evanisko, Evelyn Evanisko, Fr. Frank Miloro and Nicholas Benc by the Benc Family.***

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ACRY LOTS-O-LUCK Calendars are available

See Christina Sakmar

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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will resume classes on January 15th, 2023. January is designated for our "Souper Bowl" collection, Please place cans, dry packages, or packs of noodles on the Cathedral Auditorium Stage. The Sunday School wishes all parishioners a Blessed Spiritual Christmas.

Dr. Louise Brudnak -Sunday School Director

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SAINT NICHOLAS DAY SEMINARY COLLECTION - $2,627

Thank you to all who offered funds for our Saint Nicholas Day Seminary Fundraiser. Together we collected **$2,627.00** in much needed funds for the education of our future priests. God Bless!

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ROSES ON THE ALTAR - are offered in memory of Sister Nymphodora (Eleanor Dussling) and her mother, Anna Burik-Schober's Birthday by an anonymous donor.

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PRAYER CHAIN

Thomas Buczak
Cindy LaBarr
Annie Mishurda
Steve Martyak
Veronica Buczak
Jessica McLaughlin
Michael Sakmar
Joseph Muchesko
Roberta Kovalik
Theresa Milkovich
Kira Pronin
Alexxa Lowery
Romayne Laichak
Zachary Rogina
Robert J. Gritzer
Ron Kuzmyak
Paul Kalcik
Henry Laichak
Beverly Tinkle
Ronald Kmet
Michael Derby
Barry Gilchrist
Barbara Virostek

Robert Janeway
Helen Duray
Andy Walls
Jack Dahl
Eva Zeleniak-Whitak
Malcolm Barnes
Ann Koehnlein
Larry Eisenhauer
Evelyn Houston
Judith Rowlands
Angeline Komara
Arianna Risso
Charlie Erisman
Rachael Costlow
Marshall Rosenow
Shirley Mazurak
Donna Babble
Richard Barnes
Michael Logan
Lloyd Broadwater
Nick Timko
Erin Demich
Mary Ann Muchesko

Joella Hamlin
Donna Martyak
Mary Jane Matolyak
Michaela Miller
Arianna Jade Miller
Taylor Miller
Jennifer Gardenhour
Margaret Blehi
Valentina Yaremenko
Olga Yaremetko
Steve Prieber
Aberdeen Rudge
Pat Hanuska
Dwight Nugle
Rose and Terry Fyock
Rosalia Horner
Beverly Mayo
Al Kuzmyak
Michael Paul Gost
Brooklyn Balamuto
Matushka Helen Jasiukowicz
Joanne Democko
Robert Stokes

Barbara Stokes
Marcia Matthews
Jolene McClain
Georgene Coulter
Tanya Britan
Frank Porembka
Daniel Porembka
Dr. Rose Ann Jordan
Elmer C. Laslo
Demetra Mavrophilipos
Gaynell Shrift
Rose Conjelko
Cindy Birth
Roger Zankey
Jess Ambrose
Nelia Yurcisin
Paul Kalinyak
John Rosiak
Louis Pocchiari
Ed and Christine Sakmar
Julie Locher
Denise Stroud
Brianna Thompson

Infant Hale
Elijah Groff
Lisa Shaffer
Stephen Machik
Aniee Himes
Michael Mehalacki
Matthew Hanak
Carol Labad
Carter McAuly
Alberta Hanak
Michael Yaremenko
Alex Yarementko
Pauline Marie Blehi
Sierra Gathagan
Lauri LaBuda
Dorothy and Kathy Bayconish
Nicholas and Carole Blitva
Lorie Joseph
Mary Frances Dutko
Clarabella Knight
Matushka Mary Margaret
Remona Blunt-Wall

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THANKS FOR THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Father Robert and Pani Kathy Buczak– in memory of Metropolitan Nicholas and in honor of Metropolitan Gregory

Father Robert and Pani Kathy Buczak – in memory of Joseph and Helen Rogel and Bernie Buczak

Very Reverend Protopresbyter Frank and Pani Connie Miloro

Ann Melanie Yurcisin– in memory of the Very Reverend Protopresbyter John and Pani Anna Yurcisin

Kristine Bunda – in memory of Stephen and Margaret Herko

Kristine Bunda – in memory of Bill and Peg Ryan and infant George Herko

Susan Kalcik and Nick Bocher

Ann Fischbach

Patti Gable

George and Evelyn Evanisko

Anonymous

Roger Pavlik and Janice Middler in memory of Parents and Grandparents (2)

Louise Brudnak – in memory of Stephen and Anna Brudnak, Dolores Brudnak, Robert and Evalyn Brudnak & Joseph Kuhar

Subdeacon Michael Oleksa – In memory of grandparents Samuel and Brunislava Gzvodich and great-grandparents Michael and Suzanna Oleksa

Thomas Fultz – In memory of the departed members of the Fultz Family

Thomas Fultz – In memory of the departed members of the Tomchik families.

Thomas Fultz – In memory of Theresa and Amanda Fultz

The Gregory Family – in memory of Margaret and Rudolph Gregory

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Haschak – In memory of Bethany Haschak

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Haschak – In memory of John and Julia Haschak and John and Dorothy Eger

Lynne Hood - In memory of my parents Eli and Betty Gvozdich

Halee Karashin – In memory of Frank and Elizabeth Zahoran, Alice Joann Berkey and Julia Holko (2)

Melissa Kolar - In memory of Amelia Kolar and John Kolar

Richard Kesselak (4)

Gaynell Shrift – in memory of Frank & Bernadine Evanisko and Wilber & Mary Shrift

Diana (Gvozdich) Smith - in memory of my parents Mila and Stanko Gvozdich

Diana (Gvozdich) Smith - in memory of Gvozdich Family

Diana (Gvozdich) Smith - in memory of Geisey Family

Michael Teplica

Nicholas and Anita Teplica

The Tvarozna Family – In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Dutko

Dee Tvarozna – In memory of husband, Daniel Tvarozna

The Tvarozna Family – In memory of Becky Bidelman

Donna Zizan in memory of husband, John



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On the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, we also commemorate the veneration of the Magi



Magi, or wise men, referred to a class of priestly scholars, who had great power among the Persian people, not unlike the Levites among the Jews. This group of intellectuals was occupied with the study of medicine, philosophy, the natural sciences, scientific observation of the stars and planets (astrology), and interpretation of dreams. We know that the Prophet Daniel, as a youth, was one of the first of the Jewish captives taken to Babylon in 605 B.C. He was renamed Baltasar (also known as Valtasa) and made chief over this society of scholars that held great honor and respect in the court of the Persian Kings. Recognizing Daniel's God as the "God of gods and Lord of kings, Who reveals mysteries," Nebuchadnezzar elevated him to be the chief of the enchanters, magicians, Chaldeans, and soothsayers (See Daniel 2:48; 4:6, 5:11). The prophet Daniel then asked the king to appoint Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the providence of Babylon, which was done (Daniel 2:49).

The Wise men of the Gospel were among the last successors of this group that held duel priestly duties (a hereditary priesthood) and governmental office. The writings of their chief Magi, Daniel, during the sixth century B.C. concerning the Messianic prophecies, had a profound and motivating effect upon them. Among the prophecies of the holy Daniel, with which they were most familiar, was the prophecy concerning the time of the coming of Jesus Christ (Daniel 9:25-26). The Archangel Gabriel has answered Daniel's prayers by revealing the time span that would intervene: "Thou shalt know and understand that from the going forth of the command for the answer and for the building of Jerusalem until Christ the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty two weeks (Daniel 9:25)." They were also familiar with the prophecy about the star shining forth from Jacob (Num. 24:17).

Saint John Chrysostom rebukes an unbelieving Jewish nation when comparing them to the Gentile Magi. "The Magi sought the Lord Jesus Christ, born King of the Jews, among those from whose race they knew that Balaam, a prophet from the Gentiles, had prophesied that He would come. The faith of the Magi is the condemnation of the Jews. The Magi believed on the authority of their one soothsayer Balaam and the Prophet Daniel; but the Jews, from the testimony of many prophets, refused to believe. Whereas the Magi acknowledged that the coming of Christ would terminate their profane knowledge and magical arts, the Jews would not accept the mysteries of the divine dispensation. The Magi confessed a Stranger; the Jews rejected their own."

Saint Kosmas writes concerning this: "The Magi, beholding the strange course of an unknown and newly shining star that exceeded the brightness of all heavenly light, learned thereby that Christ the King was born on earth in Bethlehem for our salvation.

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Christmas Customs



As the first star of the evening appears, the festivities begin. The father comes into the room, extends Christmas greetings and spreads hay over the floor. Next he places a sheaf of wheat and other farm products (a sample of each) on the table. With a prayer, he ties the four legs of the table with a chain, asking God's blessing and protection from all corners of the world. He also prays that the family be always united like the links of the chain and that those separated from the family be united to them in spirit. This being done the candles are lighted and a star with a candle is placed in a window as a sign of welcome to any stranger who is hungry or needs shelter. **Blessing** - After thus the mother sprinkles everyone present with holy water. Then the father takes the holy water to the barn to bless the animals and to make sure that on this holy night they are well fed. Now a traditional toast is offered. Then the mother takes a clove of garlic, dips it in some honey, and makes the sign of the cross upon the forehead of those present. The honey symbolizes the sweetness of life, the garlic symbolizes the bitterness. Thus, each is reminded to bear sweetness and bitterness of life during the coming year. **Menu** - The supper consists of mushroom soup (with sauerkraut juice); bobalky (small biscuit like breads mixed with nuts or poppy seeds); beans; stewed fruits and/or vegetable dishes; fish; kolachy (Christmas cakes) and tea. The menu varies according to the custom of the village. However, whatever the menu, NO MEAT is served. In some places, the abstinence includes dairy products. (There are traditionally twelve courses served, reminiscent of the Twelve Apostles, with one empty place setting at the table for any unseen, or unexpected guest -- perhaps even Christ himself disguised as such). Prayers are offered during supper for a prosperous growth of products during the coming year. Carols are sung, presents exchanged. An exciting part of the evening for the children would be the hunt for nuts and fruit hidden in the straw on the floor by the father of the house. The games are interrupted by the carolers who make the rounds of the village.

Liturgical Observance - By evening all begin to prepare for church. The Christmas Eve services consist of the Great Compline - an evening service. The church resounds with the chanting of verses taken from the Book of Isaiah: God is with us; all you nations understand and do penance for God is with us! After the church services the men of the village call upon each other offering Christmas greetings to neighbors or favorite friends. Children are often chosen to extend these greetings. The most eloquent receives a special reward from parents, grandparents or godparents. These well-wishers are eagerly awaited at every home. If by chance a high ranking official of the village or county drops in as a well-wisher it is considered not only an honor but a good omen. By the time the well-wishing is complete, the church bells call the people to Christmas Divine Liturgy. Usually those who were shepherds were given a position of honor during this Liturgy. They came with their bagpipes and after Liturgy played Christmas Carols. Afterwards everyone journeys home and quiet reigns in the village until the afternoon when the church bells again call the people for Christmas Day Vespers. More carol singing follows and the festivities of Christmas extend until the feast of Theophany (January 6/19). Carol Singers - A popular practice is the carol singing carried on by the Yaslichkary who carry a Nativity Shrine in the shape of a small church. Angels lead the singers while the old wise shepherd (Kuba or Guba) tags along. They visit every home - every family expects them. They are dressed in white garments with high cylinder-shaped hats, with ribbons of flashy colors across their breast. The Kuba is the comedian of the group, chasing children with his wooden hatchet and threatening to kidnap the bad ones in the bag he carries into which he also collects the gifts the Yaslichkary receive. The caroling continues during the three-day observance of Christmas.



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