

## St. Michael's Orthodox Church

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### Sunday Bulletin, December 31, 2017

**30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 5. SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST. HOLY RIGHTEOUS ONES: JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, AND JAMES, THE BROTHER OF THE LORD. LEAVETAKING OF THE NATIVITY. VEN. MELANIA THE YOUNGER OF ROME.**

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#### Service Schedule:

Sunday, Dec. 31: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Hours at 9:10)  
6 PM Great Vespers with Litya  
Monday, Jan. 1 9 AM Divine Liturgy (3<sup>rd</sup> Hour at 8:50) Feast of Circumcision of Our Lord  
Wednesday, Jan. 3: 7 AM Matins  
Thursday, Jan. 4: 7 AM Matins  
Friday, Jan. 5: 6 PM Vigil for Feast of Theophany (Blessing of Water)  
Saturday, Jan. 6: 9 AM Divine Liturgy (3<sup>rd</sup> Hour at 8:50) Feast of Theophany  
5 PM Great Vespers.  
Sunday, Jan. 7: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (Hours at 9:10)

#### Remember in Your Prayers...

**Health / General:** Stella Krenitsky, Michael Jadick, Helen Chesniak, Marie Buranich, Mary Slenska, Helen Wytovich, Rosemary Kuzmich, Tammy Wytovich, Fr. John Nightingale, Pauline Sevensky, Bernie Elko, Lucille Lezinsky, Danny Pregmon, Sandra Pritchuk, Helen Wirhanowsky, Marie Pasternak, John Pritchuk & Matushka Myra Kovalak.

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#### Offerings:

**Vigil Lights: In Memory of:** Profan & Theresa Polanchik by Dorothy Polanchik.

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**Announcements:** (Please submit any announcements no later than the Thursday before they are to be posted)

**St. Michael's Orthodox Church Food Pantry:** The food pantry will be open on Thursday, January 4 and Saturday, January 20 from 11 AM – 12 Noon. The following individuals / organizations made donations to the pantry in the last couple of weeks: Carol Chaykosky, Darlene Chaykosky. We are in need of plastic bags for the Food Pantry. Please place your donation in the tub in the crying room.

**Appeal Letter composed by Barbara Sevensky on behalf of the Parish Council:** This letter will be sent to all parishioners who are members of our Church. These letters are in the Narthex and addressed in alphabetical order. Please take your copy and a copy for any of your relatives or neighbors that you can personally deliver to save on postage. The remaining letters will be mailed out. Thank you for your help.

**House Blessings:** Fr. Peter plans to visit as many families as possible for a house blessing. It is customary to have a table covered with a white table cloth. An icon, candle and a bowl for the holy water is needed. The holy water that is sanctified by the Holy Spirit from Theophany will be provided by Fr. Peter if you don't have any. It is not necessary to buy a white table cloth if you don't have one. You may also want to have a list of names (living and departed) to be remembered. The plan is to start with the Rendham area of Old Forge on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. Fr. Peter will call parishioners to set up a time.

**Liturgy of St. Basil the Great:** The Holy Synod of Bishops has requested one change to the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great that was implemented on Christmas day and all subsequent Divine Liturgy's of St. Basil the Great. We are to remove the saying, "Making the change by the Holy Spirit" from the Epiclesis in the Anaphora. A few copies of the Letter from His Eminence Bishop Mark with the explanation of why this change has taken back is in the Narthex. The new way should be as follows:

Priest: And this cup to be the precious Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: Shed for the life of the world.

Deacon: Amen, Amen, Amen.

**Fast Free:** Continues this week from today through Thursday (1/4/2018).

**81st Novogodny Ball:** Will take place on Sunday 1/14/18 for the benefit of Orthodox Christian & other deserving charities. For info & reservations email [novogodnyball@gmail.com](mailto:novogodnyball@gmail.com) or call Andre Cox at 215-290-4542.

### **Today's Holy Scripture Readings:**

#### **Galatians 1:11-19 (*Epistle, Sunday After*)**

11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.  
12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,

16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

#### **Matthew 2:13-23 (*Gospel, Sunday After*)**

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,

15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

20 saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

21 Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

### **Sunday after the Nativity: Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord**

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.