

The Forerunner

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HE MUST INCREASE.....AND I MUST DECREASE. (JOHN 3:30)

The Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Comments and Suggestions

On January, eight days after the Holy Nativity of our Lord, we celebrate His Circumcision, one of the Feasts of the Lord, on which—in accordance with Hebrew tradition—He received the name "Jesus": "And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the Child, His name was called Jesus, which was so named of the Angel before He was conceived in the womb" (St. Luke 2:21).

The true descendants of the Patriarch Abraham were separated from the other nations by the sign of circumcision (a prefigurement of Baptism: "the circumcision made without hands"[Colossians 2:11ff]) and thereby became members of the God-ruled community of the Old Testament; that is, through circumcision, they entered among the chosen People of God.

Christ was now "made under the law," being conformed to the prescriptions of the Mosaic Law (Galatians 4:4) and "fulfilling" the Law (St. Matthew 3:15), in order to elevate the Church of the Law

into a Church of Grace, into a new "Israel of God" (cf. Galatians 6:16), into a Theanthropic organism—into His Body.

The Circumcision of our Lord inspired our Holy Church to institute a beautiful and deeply symbolic custom for the newborn children of Christians: at eight days, the Priest reads the "Prayer for the Signing of a Child Who is Receiving a Name on the Eighth Day After His Birth"(see the Small book of needs); in such a way the first "Seal" of Grace is given to the infant: "Let the light of Thy countenance be signed upon Thy servant (name), and let the Cross of Thine Only-begotten Son be signed in his heart and his thoughts...."

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1) A worthy thing it would be were parents not to neglect this most blessed tradition of our most Holy Orthodox Church, so that newborn children might immediately be "sealed" in Christ through the blessing of a Priest.

2) And that parents should decide in a timely manner on the name to be given to the infant; our Lord's name, "Jesus," was "given" by an Angel even before Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the immaculate womb of the Theotokos (Annunciation: St. Luke 1:31).

3) A timely decision on a name means that an infant will have its own Saint to protect it from an early stage, and the parents will immediately call it by its Christian name, thereby avoiding the oddity of calling it "baby" until it is Baptized and illumined.

4) The Orthodox Slavs have the good custom of giving a child the name of the Saint who is celebrated on the day of its birth, in order to avoid unnecessary and senseless friction in the family; moreover, this practice insures that there are no "forgotten" or "displeased" Saints!

5) The name "Jesus," which our Lord received at His Circumcision, means "Savior"; that is, in Greek, the name of our Lord is "Soter" ["Savior"] (St. Matthew 1:21): "For this name (Jesus), when translated into the Greek language, is rendered 'salvation of God'; 'Jesus,' therefore, is translated as 'Soter' ['Savior']" (St. Theophylact, *Patrologia Graeca*, Vol. CXXIII, col. 704AB).

Perhaps, therefore, all those who are [among Greeks] named "Soterios" or "Soteria" would do well to celebrate their Name Days on January 1, so that the Feast of the Circumcision might become more familiar.

It is truly a pity that the profound symbolism of this Feast should be "lost" in the "worldly tumult" of the twelve-day period between the Nativity and Theophany, and particularly on New Year's Day; and that we should lose, as well, an opportunity for us to enter more deeply into the "circumcision made without hands" of our Holy Baptism.

From *Orthodox Tradition*, Vol. XVI, No. 2 (1999), pp. 2-3. Translated from the Greek by Hieromonk Patapios from the periodical *Hagios Kyprianos*, No. 282 (January-February 1998), pp. 9-10.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 3rd – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM

Saturday, December 6th – St. Nicholas Day

- **Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM**
- Adult Ed. Class – 10:00 AM
- **Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM**

Sunday, December 7th – 26th Sunday of Pentecost

- **Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Wednesday, December 10th – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM

Saturday, December 13th – St. Herman of Alaska

- Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM
- Adult Ed. Class – 10:00 AM
- **Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM**

Sunday, December 14th – Sunday of the Forefathers

- **Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Monday, December 15th - Pierogie Making

- Morning Shift – 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- Evening Shift – 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Tuesday, December 16th – Pierogie Making

- Morning Shift – 8:00 PM

- Pickup – 1:00 AM – 5:00 AM

Saturday, December 20th

- Moleben to St. Panteleimon – 9:30 AM

- Adult Ed. Class – 10:00 AM

- **Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM**

Sunday, December 21st – Sunday Before Nativity

- **Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Wednesday, December 24th – Nativity Eve

- **NO MORNING SERVICE**

- **Holy Supper – 6:00 PM**

- **Nativity Compline – 7:00 PM**

Thursday, December 25th – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD!

- **Festal Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

Friday, December 26th – Synaxis of the Theotokos

- Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Saturday, December 27th

- **Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM**

Sunday, December 28th – Sunday After Nativity

- **Resurrection Divine Liturgy**

JANUARY

Thursday, January 1st – New Year / Circumcision / St. Basil

- Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Saturday, January 3rd – Forefeast of Theophany

- Moleben to St. Panteleimon – 9:30 AM
- Adult Ed. Class – 10:00 AM

- Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM

Sunday, January 4th – Sunday Before Theophany

- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Monday, January 5th – Theophany Eve

- Royal Hours – 9:00 AM
- Great Vespers – 6:00 PM
- Blessing of Water – Immediately After Vespers

Tuesday, January 6th – GREAT FEAST OF THEOPHANY!

- Festal Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM**
- Blessing of Water – Immediately After Liturgy**

Wednesday, January 7th – Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

- Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Saturday, January 10th

- Moleben to St. Panteleimon – 9:30 AM
- Adult Ed. Class – 10:00 AM
- Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM**

Sunday, January 11th – Sunday After Theophany

- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Saturday, January 17th – St. Anthony the Great

- Moleben to St. Panteleimon – 9:30 AM
- Adult Ed. Class – 10:00 AM
- Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM**

Sunday, January 18th – 32nd Sunday of Pentecost

- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Wednesday, January 21st – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM

Saturday, January 24th

- Moleben to St. Panteleimon – 9:30 AM

- Adult Ed. Class – 10:00 AM

- Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM

Sunday, January 25th – Sunday of Zacchaeus

- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Thursday, Jan. 29th – Great Vespers (3 Hierarchs) – 6:30 PM

Friday, January 30th – Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs

- Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Saturday, January 31st

- Moleben to St. Panteleimon – 9:30 AM

- Adult Ed. Class – 10:00 AM

- Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM

Sunday, February 1st – Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

- Great Vespers (Meeting of the Lord) – 6:00 PM

Monday, Feb. 2nd – MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

- Festal Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM



ALTAR CANDLES

Sunday, October 5th: were donated in memory of Theodore Woycio and the newly departed Daniel Woycio. Memory Eternal!

3 Candles at the Golgotha: were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Alan Decker in memory of Stanley and Olga Mayerjak. Memory Eternal!

Sunday, October 12th: were donated in memory of Olga Fritzky. May her memory be eternal!

Sunday, October 19th: were donated by Valerie Kennedy in memory of Alan Kennedy. May his memory be eternal!

The New Resurrection Candle was donated by Valerie Kennedy in memory of Alan Kennedy. May his memory be eternal!

Sunday, October 26th: were donated by Father Paul and Matushka Helen Ziatyk for the health and well-being of Mark Ziatyk on his birthday. May God grant him many years!

Three Candles at St. Panteleimon were donated by Garrette M. and Nancy Jean Blubaugh for the health and well-being of Walter J. Hill. May God grant him many years!

Sunday, November 2nd: were donated by Valerie Kennedy, in memory of Pearl Zalupski on her birthday. May her memory be eternal!

Sunday, November 16th: were donated by Valerie Kennedy for the health and well-being of Mark Kennedy, on his Birthday! May God grant him many years!

Sunday, November 23rd: were donated by Fr. Paul and Matushka Helen Ziatyk for the health and well-being of Paul Ziatyk and Lon Dailey on their birthdays. God grant them many years!

3 Candles at St. Panteleimon were donated by Valerie Kennedy for the health and well-being of Megan Kennedy on her 19th birthday. God grant her many years!

Sunday, November 30th: were donated by Fr. Nikolai and Matushka Liudmyla in memory of all those departed of the Breckenridge, Boros, Fedin, and Illichov families. May their memory be eternal!

Sunday, December 7th: were donated by Mark, Susan, Jayme, and Megan Kennedy for the health and well-being of Valerie Kennedy on her birthday. May God grant her many years!

3 Candles at St. Panteleimon were donated by Subdeacon Harry Papaila for the health and well-being of Catherine Papaila, on her birthday. May God grant her many years!

Sunday, December 14th: were donated by Fr. Nikolai for the health and well-being of Matushka Liudmyla who celebrated her birthday, on December 10th. May God grant her many years!

Perogie Making

Next Perogie workshop will be:

January 19th and 20th

THANK YOU!

PEROGIES: Fr. Paul, Fr. Nikolai, Nick Bia, Becky Hixson, Alexis Parshook, Donald and Dorothy Chlodney, Richard and Elaine Duncan, Leon and Ellie Parshook, Donald Rywak, Harry Papaila, Peter Kiproff, Evelyn Herrick, Kita Georgevich, Mary Breckenridge, Marion Kuniak, Pat Kraynik, Valerie Kennedy, Mark and Sue Kennedy, Bruce and Linda Parshook, and Jean Trebilcock

STUFFED CABBAGES: Fr. Paul, Fr. Nikolai, Richard and Elaine Duncan, Marion Kuniak, Dorothy and Don Chlodney, and Kita Georgevich.

FALL FOOD FESTIVAL: Fr. Nikolai, Bruce Parshook, Alexis Parshook, Dorothy and Don Chlodney, Mark and Sue Kennedy, Valerie Kennedy, Becky Hixson, Karen Kaminsky, Joan Hughes, Don Rywak, Becky Hanes, Barb Haught, Bob Smurphat, Pam Kraynik, Jean Trebilcock, Seraphim and Mary Joyce, Julianne Dailey, and Rdr. Matthew Kowasic.

PIES AND ROLLS: Barbara Haught, Dorothy and Donald Chlodney, Fr. Nikolai, Marion Kuniak, Richard and Elaine Duncan, Kita Georgevich, and Valerie Kennedy

ALL THOSE WHO DONATED TO THE BOILER FIND!

THE BOILER IS FULLY INSTALLED AND FULLY FUNDED!

<p>Sbdn. Harry & Catherine Papaila Bob and Pam Kraynik Paul Veremeychik Joan Hughes Tom Kachanuk Anonymous Bruce Parshook Andrew and Mary Rusnak Evelyn Herrick Leon and Ellie Parshook Anonymous Linda Soulchek Marlene Wray Alexis Parshook</p>	<p>Martin and Dawn Miller John and Tenley Watton Peter Kiproff Dr. Bradley and Millicent Novic Judith Frynco Martha Hannan Alice Eframo Marion Kuniak The Woycio Family (In memory of Daniel, Ted and Walt Woycio) Donald and Dorothy Chlodney Mark and Susan Kennedy Bill Rusiewicz</p>
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VIGILS – 8/3 – 11/30

<p>Zachary Fry – 1 Alan Kennedy – 17 Philip & Mary Weremeychik – 1 Greg Bitsko – 2 Judith Goldberg – 3 Eve Ann Faybik – 2 Marion Kuniak – 1 Valerie Kennedy – 1 Megan Kennedy – 1 Jayme Kennedy – 2</p>	<p>Andrew Kuniak – 1 Paul Veremeychik – 1 Jim Kuniak – 2 Alan Miller – 1 Eric Scarano – 1 Larry Walker – 1 Theresa Klos – 3 Christine Scott – 1 Alan Shiposki – 1 Dominic Scarano – 1</p>
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CHRISTMAS APPEAL

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Attached is an offering envelope for a special Christmas donation to the Church. Remember to make a gift to the Church during this season when we contemplate the mystery of God's love for mankind in sending His Only-begotten Son into the world in order to save mankind. Your gift helps keep the doors of the Church open and allows us to carry out our mission to our parishioners and for the building up of Christ's Church in the world. Bring the envelope to Church or mail it to the parish office at 150 Elmtree Road, New Kensington, PA 15068

ASSESSMENTS AND MAINTENANCE PLEDGES

Assessments and maintenance pledges for 2014 are due. Please make sure that the minimum monetary responsibilities are met by the end of December. As per the parish By-laws, everyone 18 years of age or older are requested to remit \$210 for each year for the work of our National Church, Diocese, and local parish.

