

Sunday December 31, 2017 30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. Leavetaking of the Nativity. Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. Ven. Melania the Younger of Rome (439). Ven. Chiriacos (Kyriakis) of Bisericani (Romanian—160). Ven. Chiriacos (Kyriakis) of Tazlau (Romanian—1660).

This Week's Schedule

Friday 1/5 Theophany Vigil 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 1/6 Theophany (Baptism) of our Lord

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. followed by Blessing of Water

Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1/7 Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Reader Schedule

DATE	3RD HOUR	6TH HOUR	EPISTLE
Dec 31	SOUDER	SULPIZI	BRASOWSKI
Jan 6	THEOPHANY		
Jan-7	LEWIS	SOUDER	BRASOWSKI
Jan-14	BUNITSKY	BUNITSKY	CAREY

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 5 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 Troparion *(for the Feast)*

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore Thee,
the Sun of righteousness,
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to Thee!

Tone 2 Troparion *(of the Righteous Ones)*

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancestor of God;
you saw a Virgin great with child;
you gave glory with the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi;
you received the news from the Angel.
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Tone 3 Kontakion *(of the Righteous Ones)*

Today godly David is filled with joy;
Joseph and James offer praise.
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth,
and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

Tone 3 Kontakion of the Feast

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.

Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
The wise men journey with the star, //
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

Tone 5 Prokeimenon

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

(Ps 11/12:7)

v: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps 11/12:1)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel. *(Ps 67/68:35)*

Epistle Galatians 1:11-19 *(Sunday after the Nativity)*

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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

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

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

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

Tone 5

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. (Ps 88/89:1)

v: *For Thou hast said: "Mercy will be established forever; My truth will be prepared in the heavens." (Ps 88/89:2)*

Tone 4

v: *Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Ps 131/132:1)*

Gospel Matthew 2:13-23 (*Sunday after the Nativity*)

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."

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

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."

(Instead of "It is truly meet," we sing:)

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:
heaven—the cave;

the cherubic throne—the Virgin;
the manger—the place where Christ lay;
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

(or, the ninth heirmos of the second canon)

Out of fear, we should choose to love silence,
for that is a safer course;
so difficult it is lovingly to compose intricately woven songs
to thee, O Virgin.
But grant us strength, O Mother,
equal to our natural calling.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest. (*Ps 148:1*)
The Lord has sent redemption to His people. (*Ps 110/111:9*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

This Week's Announcement

Theophany (Baptism) of our Lord The feast of Theophany, means the shining forth and manifestation of God, the emphasis in the present-day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Thus, in the baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus identifies himself with sinners as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (Jn 1:29), the “Beloved” of the Father whose messianic task it is to redeem men from their sins (Lk 3:21, Mk 1:35). We will celebrate this blessed feast with Vigil on the eve of Theophany, Friday, Jan 5th at 7:00 p.m. then on Saturday January 6th Theophany Divine liturgy at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Great Blessing of Waters.

Seminary Appeal the Diocese of Eastern PA is taking a collection for the three seminary families from our diocese (including the Conover family from St. Michael's). The collection will be taken for the seminarians today Sunday Dec. 31st. Individuals may also send donation to the Diocese of EPA or send to the individual families themselves.

Nativity Parish Holy Supper Thank you to Silvana Oberto and to all of you for your efforts with this year's Nativity Holy Supper. The dinner

was well attended and a blessing to all. We hope and pray that you will all join us for the dinner again next year.

Family Promise Please help cook, serve a meal and eat with homeless families Mon. Jan.8, Tues. Jan. 9, and Thurs. Jan. 11, at St. Philips Lutheran church 5320 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808. Family Promise helps homeless families find jobs, training and homes and has an 83% success rate of keeping them in homes after more than one year. We need to share our hope, compassion, smiles and encouragement with them and especially their children. Please sign up on board in narthex. see Ellen Gundersen 610.388.0695 or puffins1000@gmail.com.

2018 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY The 2018 Diocesan Assembly will be held January 25-26, 2018 sponsored by St. Michael the Archangel Church. We will need help with the preparations, the food, hospitality, and cleanup. We will also need help with the singing of the responses for the divine services. Please see Jeff Kendall if you can help.

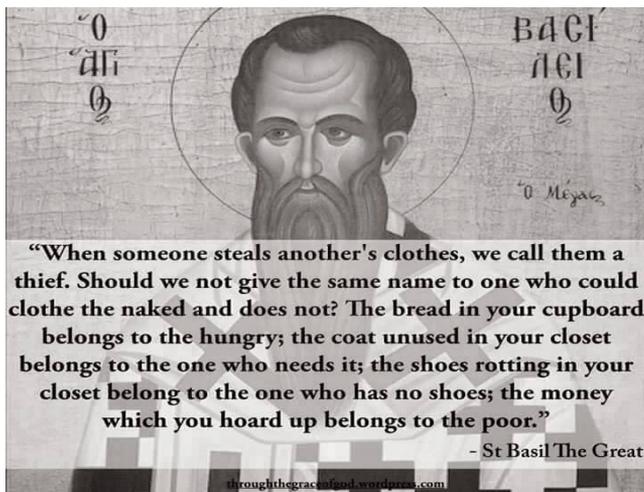
Teen Retreat The diocesan teen retreat will be held on Feb. 9-11, 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in Canadensis, PA. The retreat is an excellent opportunity for Orthodox teen fellowship. The retreat is open to all youths ages 12-17. There will be snow tubing, winter hiking, and more. Download your registration form at www.ocayouth.org.

Parish Library Thank you to Juliana and Kate Bunitsky who continue to do an excellent job bringing library books from the basement library to the more convenient place in the social hall. Thank you very much for giving us interesting Orthodox reading material all year. Everyone is invited to visit our library downstairs. We have more than 500 books available. Check a book out today!

Study Group Our weekly study group will take its annual Christmas / Theophany break (Dec28 and Jan 4) so that we can all spend some time with family and friends. Study group will resume on Thurs. Jan.11th. All are encouraged to come for continued Adult Education.

Paraklesis Small Paraklesis will pause for the Nativity and Theophany season. We will resume on Wed. Jan. 10th at 6:30 p.m. Please consider making a commitment to be a reader or to learn and help offer the responses. Come be a part of the mid-week service of supplication.

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers



“Recollect the fall of the strong, that thou mayest remain humble under thy virtues. And think of the heavy sins of those who fell and repented; and of the praise and honour they received afterwards, so that thou mayest acquire courage during repentance.”

+ St. Isaac the Syrian, *“Six Treatises on the Behaviour of Excellence”*,

“In the mercy of God, the little thing done with humility will enable us to be found in the same place as the saints who have labored much and been true servants of God.”

+ St. Dorotheos of Gaza

“Don't be afraid of them [the demons]. You don't see how many of them fall and turn their backs with every prayer you say. You only see how much you are wounded. But they are also thrashed; they also suffer. Every time we are patient, they flee with leaps and bounds, and every time we say the prayer, they are seriously injured. So at the time of battle, when you are firing shots and bullets, don't expect them to throw marshmallows and chocolates.”

- Elder Joseph the Hesychast

Prayers for the Departed: Archpriest Stephen Mack, Archpriest Wsevolod Drobot, Protodeacon Keith Russin, Matushka Martha Ermikov, Matushka Marie (Gambal) Kreta

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Fr. Deacon James Carpenter, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Lemlem Resat, Peter Melnik, Olga Riley, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, JamesHicks, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell, Catalina(Mary) & Jeremy (John) Finck, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Benjamin, Charles, Patrica, Lubov, Marilyn Coyle, Alfred Mokhiber, Stephanie Hojnicky

Prayers for Women and the Child to be born: Mary (Misty) Robinson, Laura Cristina Najemy, Maria Peck, Rachel Facaros, Leah Reed

Prayers for Catechumens: Stephanie Smiertka Riley

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
31-Dec	Whalen /Clause//Bisrat	Riley	Riley	Maloney
7-Jan	POT LUCK - Riley	Sulpizi/Finck	Riley	Lewis
14-Jan	Shatley/Hines	Hojnicki/Souder	Bunitsky	Gundersen
21-Jan	Sulpizi/Skomorucha	Telep/Baldychev	Farrell	Farrell

Church School Reminder

Dec 31 No Class Nativity/
Theophany Break
Jan. 7 No Class Nativity/
Theophany Break
Jan. 14 Class
Jan. 21 Class

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Dec-31 Roel
Jan-7 Rafael
Jan-14 Roel
Jan-21 Rafael
Jan-28 Roel