



ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday, Dec. 23

Saturday before Christmas

Readings: Heb. 11:19-10 & 32-40; Mt. 1:1-25

4:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (South Side)

6:30 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)

Sunday, Dec. 24

Sunday before Christmas – of the Ancestors

Readings: Heb. 11:19-10 & 32-40; Mt. 1:1-25

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Supplications will be offered for+**Stella Shedno, given by Rose Shedno.**

Supplications will be offered for+**Justin Winghart Olga Siweckyj, given by Mary Siweckyj.**

Christmas Eve

**8:00 P.M. Paramon Vespereal Divine Liturgy,
Anointing with Holy Oil (Mirovanya)**

Monday, Dec. 25:

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Christmas Day)

(St. George)

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Mirovanya

(St. John)

11:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Mirovanya

Tuesday, Dec. 26:

Synaxis of the Theotokos (2nd Day of Christmas)

(St. John)

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Dec. 27

St. Stephen Protomartyr (3^d Day of Christmas)

(Sheptytsky Arm)

9:30 A. M. Service of Holy Eucharist- Mass (Latin rite)

Saturday, Dec. 30

Saturday after Christmas

Readings: Gal. 1:11-19; Mt. 2:13-23

4:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (South Side)

6:30 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)

Sunday, Dec. 31

Sunday after Christmas

Readings: Gal. 1:11-19; Mt. 2:13-23

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Supplications will be offered for+**Martin Fedenko, given by Christine Rubin & Sheryl Fedenko..**



Jesus was called by many names and titles. One of them was "Immanuel," which means "God with us."

Find these names and titles of Jesus in the puzzle below.

They may be found **↑ ↓ → ← ↖ ↗**.

Immanuel
Messiah
Master
Word
Savior

Beloved
King
Way
Christ
Bread

Lamb
Rock
Jesus
Shepherd
Light

Redeemer
Son
Lord
Prince
Cornerstone

C	Y	C	B	D	E	V	O	L	E	B	J	S
A	O	H	E	L	I	G	H	T	I	K	E	O
W	E	R	E	D	E	E	M	E	R	W	S	S
H	M	I	N	B	W	M	S	A	R	O	U	A
A	M	S	L	E	O	E	S	D	S	E	S	V
I	A	T	U	R	R	W	A	Y	I	T	N	I
S	N	O	E	L	D	S	E	A	H	G	E	O
S	V	L	A	M	B	A	T	K	I	N	G	R
E	S	B	R	E	A	D	J	O	S	A	V	K
M	U	S	L	D	I	M	M	A	N	U	E	L
P	R	N	I	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D
N	I	O	B	O	R	L	O	M	A	T	O	E
L	O	M	C	R	E	D	E	D	S	R	C	R
A	C	S	D	K	R	E	C	N	I	R	P	C





Sviata Vechera-Holy Supper on Christmas Eve

The Holy Supper brings families together to observe ancient customs and traditions, and to eat unique foods, prepared specifically for the occasion. The meal itself is comprised of twelve courses, in honor of Christ's Apostles. The courses are meatless and dairy free because the Church requires a period of fasting until Christmas Day.

Dinner tables are typically covered with two embroidered tablecloths, one for ancestors, and the other for living family members. A few wisps of hay may be placed between the tablecloths or underneath the table as a reminder that Christ was born in a manger. An extra place setting is always included at the table for deceased family members. A kolach (Christmas bread) is placed in the center of the table. Three loaves, each braided in a ring, are placed on top of each other, with a candle placed in the center of the topmost bread. The three rings symbolize the Trinity, and the circular form represents Eternity.

Traditionally, dinner begins when children see the first star (the star of Bethlehem) followed by prayer. The special first course is called kutia, also known as God's Food. This dish is boiled wheat kernels sweetened with honey and flavored with poppy seeds or nuts. All family members are required to partake in the kutia, which symbolizes prosperity in the coming year. The second course is borsch, a beet soup. Honoring tradition, the soup for this meal is made without meat or meat stock. The meal's main portion consists of various fish and vegetable dishes. Of course, no special Ukrainian meal would be complete without pyrohy/varenyky. Prior to dessert, a compote of dried fruits is served. This dish is cooked with honey and may include prunes, apricots, apples, or figs. Dessert is usually an assortment of small, deep-fried pastries known as pampushky, containing various fillings such as poppy seeds or dried fruit.

Since the dinner is a link to centuries of tradition, after the meal, people typically remain seated at the table singing Christmas carols-Kolyadi. Following this sacred meal the faithful gather in their Holy Churches to praise the Newborn King born in Bethlehem.



Dec. 24, 2017

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ; Octoechos Tone 4; Eve of the Nativity of Christ;

The Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia

Changeable Part: Page 2

In the Booklet of Changeable Parts (Small white book)

Христос Рождается! Christ is Born!

May He, Who was born in a cave and lay in a manger, for our salvation sake, Christ our true God, grant you and your families a most blessed Nativity and a joyous New Year 2018!

With love in the newborn Christ,

Fr. Igor and Family



Welcome Visitors!

We warmly welcome all those who are visiting us today to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord. It is good to have you all with us! We greet you and welcome you with the love, joy and hope that is so graciously granted to us with the Incarnation of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank You!

Together with my family we want to thank you for all the beautiful Christmas cards we have received during this Holy Season. Thank you all for your prayers, best wishes and generous gifts. May Our Lord reward you with many happy and blessed years!

Announcements:

Festal Greeting

During the celebration of the Nativity of Our Savior, it is our custom to greet one another with the joyous exclamation, “Христос Рождается! Christ is born!”, to which the one greeted responds, “Славите Його! Glorify Him!”

Ticket Sale: Christmas Dinner

We start with the ticket sale for our Parish Christmas Dinner “*Просфора*” which will take place on Sunday, January 14th, starting at 11:00 a.m. Tickets for this parish event are \$10.00 per adult, children (12 and younger) \$4.00, and will be available from our tickets sellers following the Divine Liturgy in the Church vestibule. Please mark your calendars for this happy event.

Parish Registration

In preparation for our 100th Anniversary we will continue with our new parish registration forms. It is necessary for our parish office to have an up to date record of our parish families. Also collected information will be inserted in to the anniversary book. Please take a registration form, complete it and return to the office.

Envelopes 2018-Calendar 2018

We continue with the distribution of the Church offering envelopes for the year 2018 and the Church Calendar for 2018. They are available in the hallway off the Church vestibule. Sincere thanks to Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home for sponsoring the calendars for 2018. Should you not see your envelopes (or a mistake, or address change), please let Father Ihor or Mr. Don Hall know, following the Divine Liturgy. Thank you all for your support and generosity throughout the year 2017. *Многая Літа!*

Pyrohy

From the previous week our total income was \$1703.00. An enormous THANK YOU to all our dedicated pyrohy workers. We will reopen on Thursday, January 11th, 2018. Enjoy your well-deserved Christmas vacation!

Collection- May God bless you...

The grand total for Sunday of December 17, 2017 was **\$3,779.61**
(Collection: \$1970.00, loose & candles: \$54.00, Pyrohy: \$1703.00, Candy Sale profit \$52.61)

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!

The Star of Bethlehem

There have been many attempts to explain the Christmas Star scientifically, and three ideas will be mentioned here. Some scholars think this “star” was a comet, an object traditionally connected with important events in history, such as the birth of kings. However, records of comet sightings do not match up with the Lord’s birth.

Others believe that the Star of Bethlehem was a conjunction, or gathering of planets in the night sky. Since planets orbit the sun at different speeds and distances, they occasionally seem to approach each other closely. Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) preferred this view. However, multiple planets do not look like a single light source, as described in Scripture.



Finally, an exploding star, or supernova, has been proposed to explain the Christmas Star. Some stars are unstable and explode in this way with a bright blaze. However, historical records do not indicate a supernova at the time of Our Lord’s birth. All three explanations for the Star of Bethlehem fall short of the Nativity story as predicted in the Book of Numbers 24:17 and recorded in Gospel from St. Matthew 2:1-12. Two details in the Gospel of St. Matthew are of special interest:

First, the text implies that only the Magi saw the star. However comets, conjunctions, and exploding stars would be visible to everyone on earth.

Second, the star went before the Magi and led them directly from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. This is a distance of about six miles, in a direction from north to south. However, every natural object in the sky moves from east to west due to the earth’s rotation. It also is difficult to imagine how a natural light could lead the way to a particular house.

The conclusion is that the Star of Bethlehem cannot be naturally explained by science! It was a temporary and supernatural light. This special light is a visible manifestation of Divine Majesty.

The great mystery of the first Christmas is not the origin of its special star. It is the question of why the Magi were chosen to follow the light to the Messiah and why we are given the same invitation today.