



ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday, Dec. 21

Saturday before Christmas

Readings: Heb. 11:9-10 & 32-40; Mt. 1:1-25

6:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)

Sunday, Dec. 22

Sunday before Christmas/Sunday of the Ancestors

Readings: Heb. 11:9-10 & 32-40; Mt. 1:1-25

9:10 A.M. Third Hour;

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy/Confession

Supplications will be offered for+**Yustyna Czelepis (By Pyptyk's)**

Supplications will be offered for+**Philip Perkun (By children)**

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Eve of the Nativity of Christ (Christmas Eve)

8:00 P.M. Paramon Vesperal Divine Liturgy, (Mirovanya)

****Strict Fast****

Wednesday, Dec. 25

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Anointing with Holy Oil

God's blessing upon all parishioners (By Fr. Igor)

Saturday, Dec. 28

Saturday After Christmas

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

6:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)

Sunday, Dec. 29

Sunday after Christmas; David, Joseph and James

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

9:10 A.M. Third Hour;

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Supplications will be offered for+ **Rumsky & Jacoby family, given by Char Rumsky.**

Supplications will be offered for+ **Olha Siweckyj, given by Mary Siweckyj.**

God's blessing upon Nick Mikovitz, by sister Ann Kaltreider.

Guide to the Mystery-Sacrament of Confession

The following are instructions for the penitent approaching the Mystery of Confession:

Cross yourself twice; kiss the Gospel Book and the Cross; cross yourself a third time. Then, facing the Gospel Book and the Cross, say:

I confess to the Lord my God before you, reverend father, all my sins which I have committed up to the present day and hour, in deed, word and thought. Every day and every hour I sin through ingratitude to God for His great and numberless blessings to me and His most gracious providence and care for me, a sinner. I have sinned through...

(Here one should mention specifically all the sins which may be burdening the soul.) At the end say:

I have sinned with all my senses, both spiritual and physical, wherefore I repent to the Lord and ask forgiveness. Absolve all my sins, reverend father, and bless me to partake of the Mysteries of Christ. (kneel)

After the priest has spoken to you and given absolution, get up and cross yourself twice; kiss the Gospel Book and Cross; cross yourself a third time and bow. Then turn towards the priest, bow to him, saying "Thank you, father," kiss the end of the epitrachelion which he is wearing, and go to your place. There, stand or kneel down, say your penance, and thank God for His great mercy.

St. John says that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).



The Icon of the Nativity of Christ



One of the most famous icons in our Holy Churches is that of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Its symbolism is that of the Creator of the Universe entering history as a newborn babe. The little helpless figure in swaddling clothes represents the complete submission of Christ in the physical conditions governing the human race. Yet He remains Lord of Creation. The angels sing praises. The Magi and the shepherds bring their gifts. The sky salutes Him with a star. The earth provides Him with a cave. The animals watch Him in silent wonder and we humans offer Him one of us, the Virgin Mother.

The lower scenes underline the scandal of the Incarnation. The right-hand scene shows the washing of the infant by the mid-wife and her assistant. It tells that Christ was born like any other child. The scene in the left portrays the

righteous Joseph, who, having observed the washing of the infant, is once again assailed by doubts as to the virginity of his spouse.

He is tempted by the devil, who suggests that if the infant were truly divine, He would not have been born in the human way. The Mother Mary is in the center, and from her reclining position looks at Joseph as if trying to overcome his doubts and temptations.

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Virgin, the whole creation lit up. Behold: shepherds keep watch, the Magi adore, angels sing hymns of praise, and Herod trembles, for the Savior of our souls has appeared in the flesh!

Today the Virgin gives birth to the One who surpasses all essences, and the earth offers a cave to God, the Inaccessible One. Angels sing His glory together with the shepherds, for unto us is born a Child who is God from all eternity.



December 22, 2024

*Sunday of the Holy Fathers
Sunday before Nativity*

The Holy Great Martyr Anastasia

Octoechos Tone 6

Changeable Parts See the special insert available in the church vestibule.



Христос Рождается! Christ is Born!



May our celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ fill our hearts with faith, our minds with hope, and our souls with love for Almighty God and for one another; and for all of you may the New Year 2014 be happy, healthy, and rich in the blessings of our ever-present God.

With love in the newborn Christ,

Fr. Igor and Family



Announcements:

Welcome and thank you Fr. Andrew!

On this Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, again we welcome, to St. George's, Father Fr. Andrew Clarke. Fr. Michael is here to administer the Mystery of Reconciliation for those who wish to receive it before the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. As part of our preparation to worthily celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord-Christmas I ask that you all receive this Sacrament of Healing-Confession. We thank Fr. Andrew for being with us and we ask Our Lord to bless him for many happy and blessed years! *Многая Літа!*

Christmas Fast Project

As a parish family we have a wonderful tradition of reaching out to those who are needed most during the penitential season. This year, as we continue our journey of the Christmas Fast, we will begin with our parish project during which we will reach out and help Ukrainian Soldiers to survive this winter. I received a request from the military chaplain Fr. Oleh Zabolotnyj for a power generator. Total goal is \$1,500. Please, donate as much as you can. Thank you.

Fast and Privileged Week

Please remember that according to the Pastoral Guide of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States (Art. 475, 3), on Christmas Eve we are to abstain from meat in addition to eating only one full meal and a smaller snack, milk products being permitted in accordance with local custom. The week following the Nativity of Christ (December 25-January 4) in our Church calendar is dedicated to this Feast Day, therefore we enjoy the "privileged week" during which the laws of abstinence from meat on Friday do not oblige.

Envelopes 2025-Calendar 2025

The Church offering envelopes for the year 2025 and the Church Calendar 2025 are ready for distribution. They are available now in the church vestibule. Sincere thanks to Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home for sponsoring the calendars for 2025. Should you not see your envelopes, please let Father Igor or Ms. Olga Perkun know, following the Divine Liturgy. Thank you all for your support and generosity throughout the year 2024. May Our Lord reward you with good health and many happy and blessed years: *Многая Літа!*



Nut Rolls

In preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, we are offering delicious Nut Rolls that have been prepared by our dedicated parishioners. The price per Nut Roll is \$12.00. Following the Divine Liturgy you may come into the Church hall and pick up your Nut Rolls for Christmas. Sincere thanks to our parishioners who have dedicated their time and hard labor towards this parish fundraiser.

Pyrohy

This past week was one of the busiest weeks in our pyrohy activity. From the previous week our total income was **\$2,575.00**. An enormous THANK YOU to all our dedicated pyrohy workers. Return to pyrohy production date will be determined but is expected to be either Wednesday, January 15th or January 22nd. Enjoy your well-deserved Christmas vacation!

Collection- May God bless you...

Total for Sunday, December 15, 2024 was **\$1,141.90 + \$2,575.00**

(Collection - \$500.00, Christmas flowers - \$60.00, Aid for Ukraine: \$450.00,
Christmas Candy profit: 131.90)

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



Holy Supper on Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, many families prepare a traditional twelve-dish supper known as Sviata Vecheria, or Holy Supper. Traditionally this supper consists of twelve meatless dishes representing the twelve apostles who shared the last meal with Christ. Meat, eggs, and milk are not permitted at the traditional meal. Instead we dine on fish, mushrooms, grains, fruits, and vegetables.

Here are a few dishes one might see at a traditional Holy Supper:

Kolach – Three large, ring-shaped braided loaves representing the Holy Trinity.

Fish – A variety of fish, typically herring, carp, or pike.

Pyrohy – Traditional dumplings stuffed with sauerkraut, mashed potatoes or fruit.

Kutia – A sweet grain pudding made of wheat berries, poppy seeds, honey, and nuts.

Uzvar – Traditional drink consisting of stewed fruits, or fruit compote.

Borscht – A traditional beet-based soup.

As part of our tradition, this dinner is sacred, and therefore remember to begin with prayer and end with prayer, singing our beautiful Christmas Carols – Kolyadky and Schedrivky.