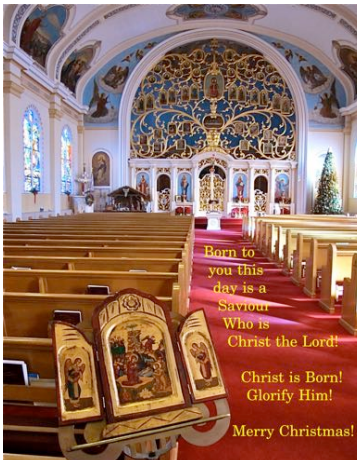




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St. Michael's Christmas Bee, January 7, 2022



St. Michael's Christmas Bee, January 7 2022

Fr. James S. Dutko, pastor, 797-4471,

Cell: 725-3672, frjimd@stny.rr.com

Fr. Deacon Charles Ellis, 785-1485

www.saintmichaels.info

*St. Michael's in a parish family of Orthodox Christians American
Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of
Constantinople*

Friday: *Christmas Day Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

**Live-stream of this morning's Christmas Liturgy can be
seen at www.saintmichaels.info and on Facebook channel:
facebook.com/StMichaelsBGM*

Saturday: *Feast of the Mother of God, Divine Liturgy 9 AM

Sunday, January 9th, Feast of St. Stephen the Martyr

***Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

**Church School Classes, 10:30-11:30 AM*

**Coffee Shop, 10:30-11:30 AM*

Wednesday **Moleben to the Mother of God, Taylor, 6 PM*

Thursday: **Vespers, Holy Day of St. Basil, Circumcision of the Lord, 5 PM*

Friday **Holy Day Liturgy, St. Basil the Great, Circumcision of the Lord, 9 AM*

Saturday: **Divine Liturgy, with prayers for Fr. Slovesko, 8:30 AM*

**Confessions 4 PM; Vespers, 5 PM*

Sunday before Epiphany, January 16

***Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

**Church School Classes, 10:30-11:30 AM*

**Coffee Shop, 10:30-11:30 AM*

Condolences

Our sympathy is extended to the family of +Marie Kibler who fell asleep in the Lord on December 28 in Dublin, OH. Funeral services took place here on Wednesday, January 5th !

Our condolences are also extended to Theresa Koast of the passing of her brother, the Very Rev. Protopresbyter Michael Slovesko. Fr. Michael died on January 4 in Ephrata, PA where he had lived in retirement after a lifetime of dedicated service as a faithful and beloved pastor. The Priest's Funeral Service will be on Monday at 6 PM at SS. Peter and Paul in Windber. The Liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday at 10 AM.

May Our Lord grant them and all our departed rest with the saint. Eternal Memory!

Scripture Readings for Christmas Week

Thursday: Galatians 4: 4-7

Friday: Hebrews 2: 11-18

Saturday: Acts 6: 8-7:5, 47-60

Sunday: Galatians 1:11-19

Monday: Hebrews 8: 7-13

Tuesday: Hebrews 9: 810, 15-23

Wednesday: Hebrews 10 1-18

Thursday: Hebrews 10: 35-11:7

Friday: Colossians 2 8-12

Saturday: 2 Timothy 4: 5-8

St. Matthew 2: 1-12

St. Matthew 2: 13-23

St. Matthew 21: 33-42

St. Matthew 2: 13-23

St. Mark 10: 46-52

St. Mark 11 11-23

St. Mark 11: 23-26

St. Mark 11 27-33

St. Luke 2: 20-22

St. Mark 1: 1-8

Daily Readings are online at: www.acrod.org

The Readings for the Nativity of Our Lord

Epistle Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

When Herod the king heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the East, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.



Christmas Greetings for One and All!

His All Holiness, Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople in these days of crisis and conflict our COVID-19 world and his words of hope and inspiration during this Paschal season;

His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa, as he shares if the joy of the Nativity of Our Lord in his service to the Holy People of God and our Diocesan parish;

Fr. Deacon Charles and Pani Sally Ellis for his faithful and dedicated service to our parish family since his ordination to the Diaconate during Theophany at Christ the Saviour Cathedral in January, 2011;

Our Cantor, Dave Dervay, for his dedication, sacrifice, faithfulness and love in beautifully singing our Sunday and daily services during these critical years of the COVID-19 Crisis. Thanks also for the help from Theresa Koast, Mary Ann Herman, Maria Korchak, Sandy Kostun, Ernie Flamik and all who add their voices in 'making a joyful sound to the Lord.'

Our Seminarian Dylan Kelemecz, a third year theological student at Christ the Saviour Seminary;

Randy May and the members of our Parish Council for their faithful and dedicated service to Our Lord and the People of God in our parish family and their efforts to help protect all of our faithful while maintaining the operation of our church during the pandemic;



Barbara Knighton, coordinator, and all who assist in preparing and hosting our Monday Community 'Grab and Go' Meal program on Mondays, and our CHOW pantry on Thursdays and the monthly Food-Give-Aways.

Our pirohi and holubki chairman, Randy May, and all of our volunteers who helped with our parish festival in September and our Christmas sale of these favorite delights.

Rick Dutko, our Church School Principal, to Maria Korchak, Chris Puzaklics, Tasha Gdovin, Deacon Charles and Harold Harrington for teaching in our parish religious educational program during these challenging times.

Our School Guild officers, Valerie Augenstern, Lori Asquith, Tasha Gdovin, Bonnie Delahanty and Eve Allan together with the parents and friends of our School Guild during these challenging days of the Pandemic that has touched many.

Sandie Koytek, Tricia Carman and Randy May for overseeing the +Msgr. Stephen and Pani Mary Dutko scholarship program, the Popp, the Carl Paccio/Mark DelVillano and Lillian Nezelek Scholarships.

Sandie Koytek, in preparing the weekly and Paschal candle donations pages for the Bee and to Fran Bucek and Helen Ballus for their service in our church offices;

Jimmy Campbell, Ernie Flamik and Serge Kostun for their assistance in collating and stapling the Bee each week;

David Dervay, Shellee May and Sandi Koytek for their labors in tending to the Church financial records, preparing reports and writing checks;

Rick Dutko for managing our parish Website and Face Book channels for our live-streaming services, and to Tom Gazda for his technical support in improving our transmissions;

Maria Bocinski for managing our School Guild Gift Case with the many beautiful icons, prayer books and crosses;

Our cemetery staff, Randy May, Chris Puzakuics, Christopher DelVillano, Jess Cron, Allan Gnall with landscaping, Sandie McKillop for our roadside flowers, Bob Chalachan for equipment maintenance, Steve Marusich, Alan Gnall and Jimmy Campbell in straightening monuments and Fran Bucek and Bill Delahanty for doing cemetery records and admin;

Barbara KnightLyle Campbell, now retired, for his many years of dedicated and faithful service as our church custodian;

Jimmy Campbell for his daily visits to the church to assist in any way needed for the benefit of all;

Our Altar Boys, the “Knights of the Altar” who have served faithfully during these COVID days,

Our special “*St Nicholas Helpers*” who prepared both delicious Christmas foods for all of home-bound faithful to enjoy for today’s Paschal celebration;

Our special decorators at the Center, Helena Gee, Tricia Carman and Judy Rice;

Rick Dutko, president, and all the officers and members of the ACRY, as well as to Tasha Gdovin, Jr. ACRY Advisor, Grace Gdovin, Jr. President and all the officers and members of our Junior ACRY;

Our local doctors, nurses, first-aid responders and all who assist in any way in reaching out to patients and families in the mist of COVID-19.

All of those in the service of our country and those who are in harms way in the troubled regions of the world. May Our Lord strengthen and safeguard them all of them in these times of danger.

Epiphany Supper Cancelled!

Due to our increasing numbers of COVID cases both at home and in local hospitals and nursing facilities, we have decided that once again this year, we will not be able to host the traditional sit-down Holy Night Supper on Epiphany Eve on January 18. However, we will celebrate the Complines of the Feast with the Great Blessing of Water at 7 PM that evening Be sure to join us!



Archpastoral Letter for the Nativity 2021/2022

Protocol. No. 27/2021

December 25, 2021 / January 7, 2022

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
On this glorious Feast of the Nativity of Christ we celebrate a truly a wondrous event in which God, in His infinite and marvelous grace, became man bringing us enduring hope, newness of life, and eternal salvation. The Son of God, the Lord of Glory and King of kings who upholds the universe by His word of power, became man so that we human beings might be redeemed, renewed, united with Him, and become fellow citizens with the Saints and members of God's kingdom.

The magnitude and depth of the event of the Nativity of Christ are impossible to grasp, but the message is clear and true. It is a message of grace, hope, and salvation to all humanity and to all the created order. It is a message which we both celebrate and share on this sacred day, an invitation to "come and see" what our loving Creator and God has done for us.

On the night of the Nativity, the angels appeared in the glory of God and announced the birth of Christ to the Shepherds. In response they said, "Let us go...and see this thing that has happened." Accepting the invitation to participate in this glorious event, they came and saw the newborn Christ, and becoming amazed by what God had done for our salvation, went away glorifying and praising Him for all that they had seen and heard (Luke 2:8 – 20).

Following the Nativity, Wise Men in the East saw a mysterious star and following it came seeking the King who was born in Judea. Upon learning of the place of the birth of the Lord, they came and saw the Christ child, offered Him gifts, and worshipped Him. Responding to the invitation presented to them in the sign of the star, they came and encountered the One who would be a great ruler of His people as foretold by the prophets (Matthew 2:1 - 12).

As the Shepherds and Wise Men received the invitation to "come and see" the superb miracle of the Incarnation of God, we are also invited to "come and see" Christ and the great work He has done for our salvation. On this day we "come and see" the bright light of truth and life shining through the darkness and despair of our violent and war torn world. On this day we hear a message of hope, grace, and peace. We come to Christ and see justice, holiness, and love.

Today may all of us, Priests, Panis, Deacons, Sub-Deacons, Readers, Parish Officers, Parishioners, Friends, and Supporters of our God-protected American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese experience the joy and wonders of the Shepherds and the awe and respect of the Three Wise Men at the arrival of the Messiah, our new born King.

Christ is Born!

Greetings from Johnstown with much love
+Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa



A Prayerful Christmas Reflection: “Mary, Did you Know?”

Mary did you know that your baby boy
will some day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy
will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has
come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will
soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy
will give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy
will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has
walked where angels trod?
And when your kiss your little baby,
you have kissed the face of God.



Icon of the Theotokos at Camp Nazareth Church

Oh Mary did you know

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the great “I AM!”

-----lyrcis by Mark Lowry



"O Come, Let us Adore Him!"

Colored by _____ Date: _____

A closer look at the Nativity story in Luke's Gospel

By Joseph Kelly

Catholic News Service

Christmas is a major feast day, yet it is based upon small passages in two Gospels. These are the Nativity accounts in the first two chapters of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

As the initial accounts, they point toward the themes of the entire Gospels. Here we will look at some elements in the Nativity account in Luke that may not be familiar.

Mary and Elizabeth

The evangelist Luke was likely a gentile who emphasized Jesus as the savior of all peoples, at a time when many people thought God cared only for His chosen people.

But Luke's universalism applied not only ethnically but also socially.

In his day, women had few rights in Jewish or Roman society. They were always dependent upon men, mostly their fathers and husbands. They could not run businesses (except to help their husbands!), and only queens had political influence.

Yet Luke would challenge this, not just in his Gospel but also in a second work, the Acts of the Apostles, where women are active in the early Church. More women appear in his universalist Gospel than any other one, and he had particular interest in Jesus' female relatives, especially, Mary, the only woman to appear in both his Gospel and Acts. In Luke's Gospel, the angel Gabriel says the words that would become immortal in the "Ave Maria."

Luke emphasizes Mary's role, especially at the Nativity, but Luke is also the sole biblical writer to mention a second woman by name in that account, Elizabeth, who appears only in Luke's infancy narrative.



Tradition has made her a cousin of Mary, but Luke says only that she was a “relative,” which could mean much in days of large, extended families. But if not full-blood cousins, Elizabeth and Mary were close. The virgin traveled, pregnant and probably on foot, to see her, and Elizabeth made a stirring prophecy about Mary’s son.

Luke also mentions Elizabeth’s son yet to be born, although the messenger, the angel Gabriel, prophesies to the boy’s father Zechariah, not to Elizabeth.

Two women were the first to know of the Messiah, contrary to what everyone in the ancient world would have expected.

This is an important, well-known passage, but even some minor Nativity passages can require more explanation, even today.

The manger

Luke tells us that the infant Jesus was laid in a manger because Mary and Joseph could find no room at a Bethlehem inn. This striking story of humility has become very popular but often at the expense of the Gospel account. Endless Christmas paintings and greeting cards show the infant in immaculate clothing, lying on unbelievably clean straw and with little angels hovering about Him as He sleeps.

Not exactly.

A manger was a trough in a stable set up to feed animals, especially large ones, such as cows and mules. It would have been filthy, uncomfortable, odiferous and hardly a place for a newborn king. Here Luke emphasizes the deep humility of the Savior, Mary and Joseph.

A small detail: In ancient Judea, shepherds sometimes used caves to house their livestock. This explains why a number of visual images of the Nativity are set in caves instead of a barn-like structure.

Every Christmas the Church urges people to read the Gospel accounts. They may not match many now-traditional images, but they are the basis of our blessed winter feast, and knowledge of the scriptural Nativity can only help our understanding of the feast.

Joseph F. Kelly is retired professor at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio.

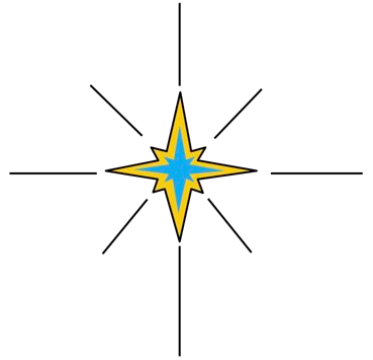


The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour, December 25/January 7

Beloved Members of our Parish Family,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho!



As we celebrate the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity, my personal life has been touched by the passing of some wonderful people in the last two weeks:

Fr. Michael Macura, a former Army chaplain who served St. John the Baptist Orthodox church in Stratford, CT and was a member of the Diocesan Altar Boy's Staff;

Fr. Michael Polanichka, a priest who served the diocese with great service and love since the late 1950s in St. Mary's in Bayonne, St. John the Baptist in Rahway, and St. John's in Sharon/Hermitage, who played a major role in the development of Camp Nazareth with the late Bishop John;

Archon John Halecky, a long term member of the Diocesan Board of Trustees who played major roles in the development and construction of Camp Nazareth, the Diocesan Clergy Pension Fund, Annunciation Monastery and many area of support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;

Marie Kibler, a gifted and beloved teacher of more than 30 years, who in her death at 92 was reunited with her husband Cardin who had passed a half century ago;

Fr. Michael Slovesko, former dean of the Johnstown Deanery, a beloved faculty member of Christ the Saviour Seminary, member of the consistory of the late Bishop John, the builder of St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Niles, IL and Ss. Peter and Paul in Windber, PA, and a faithful and dedicated priest of the church for decades.

All of these deaths have taken place in the final days of Advent, a time when our focus crystallizes on the Birth of the New Born Saviour. Christmas seems a most unlikely time to have to confront this specter of death, to discover *Requiem Bells* in the midst of *Silver Bells*, tears of mourning when we continue to sing "Joy to the world!."

And yet the truth is that all of these losses are part of what Metropolitan Gregory and Fr. Alexander Schmemmann would term "bright sadness," that is, *charmolyphê*, or the affliction that is linked to "a deep joy that only tears can adequately express." It is like the winter Pascha that Fr. Thomas Hopko writes of, or the Lenten spirit of sorrow leading to the joy of the Resurrection.

Bright sadness is linked to the truth expressed by the Lebanese poet and writer, Kahil Gibran who in his classic, "The Prophet," noted that *"the deeper sorrow cares into your being, the more joy you can contain."*

As a beloved and faithful parishioner who neared death noted, *"these are not tears of sorrow but of joy."*

In other words, in the depth of grief, it is possible to experience joy which is nothing less than the *"infallible presence of the sign of God."*

How else could it be. We sing the prophecy of Isaiah in our Christmas celebrations, "Snamí Boh," "Emmanuel," that is, "God with us," even in the depth of such sorrows!

Years ago Harry Belafonte in a carol seldom heard these days, sang of it this way:

"A long time ago in Bethlehem, the Holy Bible says, Mary's boy child Jesus Christ was born on Christmas day. Hark the Herald Angels sing, a new King is born today, and man will live forever more, because of Christmas day!"

We hear this same truth in the proclamation of the angels to the shepherds and in reality to all of us in the Gospel of Saint Luke 2: 10-14:

"¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

May our new born Saviour, the child of Bethlehem bless each of you in the way He knows you need the most as we seek to emerge once again not only from the COVID pandemic that has touched us all but all the challenges of life in front of each of us.

Pani and I thank you for your love and your prayers. A Blessed and Joyful Christmas, for *Christ is Born, Glorify Him, Christos Razdajetsja, Slavite Jeho!*



Icon of the Nativity of Our Lord

With love in Christ,

Fr Jim



Divnaja Novina

"Hear the Wondrous Tidings"

St. Michael's, Binghamton, NY

Traditional Composition



Div - na - ja no - vi - na: ry - ni D'i - va
Nev car skoj pa - la - tŭ, no mez - du byd -



Sy - na po - ro - di - la,
I'a - tŭ, Vo - pu - sty - ni,



vVif - le - je - mi, Ma - ri - ja je - di - na.
vo ja - sl - ni, A tre - ba vs'im zna - ti.



Hear the won - drous ti - dings: God be - came In -
Not in a rich pal - ace, But a - mong the



car - nate, Christ is born,
low - ly, Let all know that,



in Beth - le - hem Ma - ry is His Mo - ther.
in a man - ger, God came as a strang - er.

Heaven and Earth - Chant No. 1

"Similar to Nesbo J Zem'a"

St. Michael's, Binghamton, NY

Traditional Plain Chant



1a Hea - ven and earth, _____ Hea - ven and earth, _____
1b An - gels and peo - ple, An - gels and peo - ple,
2a Come and a - dore Him, Come and a - dore Him,
2b Ma - ry the Vir - gin, Ma - ry the Vir - gin,

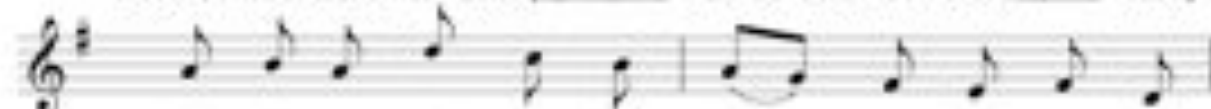


1a now sing _____ in _____ tri _____ - umph.
1b Join in _____ ce - le - bra _____ - tion.
2a Ly - ing _____ in a man _____ - ger.
2b Keeps watch _____ o'er the Sa _____ - vior.

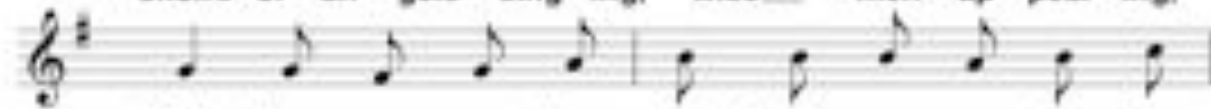
Refrain



Christ the Lord is Born, _____ come and be - hold _____ Him,



choirs of an - gels sing - ing, wise _____ men ap - pear - ing,



Christ they are greet - ing, shep - herds are re - tell - ing,



joy - ful - ly the won - drous sto _____ - ry.

Sing 1a and 1b then sing refrain 2 times.
Sing 2a and 2b then sing refrain 2 times.

On This Bright Day

"To tune of 'Boh Predvikony'"

Traditional Composition

Soprano/Alto

(1) On this bright day, was born to us,
(2) In Beth - le - hem, was born this day,

Tenor

(1) On this bright day, was born to us,
(2) In Beth - le - hem, was born this day,

Bass



S/A

(1) Sa - viour and King, God of all, Com - for - ter of
(2) the Mes - si - ah fore - told, by the proph -

T

(1) Sa - viour and King, God of all, Com - for - ter of
(2) the Mes - si - ah fore - told, by the proph -

B



S/A

(1) all man - kind, Christ the Son of God,
(2) ets of old, Christ the Son of God.

T

(1) all man - kind, Christ the Son of God,
(2) ets of old, Christ the Son of God.

B

