

Your Support is needed

As we approach the end of the year, your help and financial support of the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church is requested and needed. Please continue to contribute to our church and keep your financial support current. Your support is appreciated, and we are thankful.

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Cor. 9:6-7

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Nadine Olsen, Mariella, Frank, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance & Elaine Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic and Sunny Hunsicker. Amen!!!

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

Follow us on



And remember to use:



Holy Spirit Orthodox Church

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www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>

<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/weeklybulletins>

The Weekly Bulletin

HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

December 26th, 2021

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST - Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian). Caesar Augustus decreed that a universal census be made throughout his Empire, which then also included Palestinian Israel. The Jews were accustomed to being counted in the city from where their family came. The Most Holy Virgin and the Righteous Joseph, since they were descended from the house and lineage of King David, had to go to Bethlehem to be counted and taxed. In Bethlehem, they found no room at any of the city's inns. Thus, the Godman, the Savior of the world, was born in a cave that was used as a stable. "I behold a strange and most glorious mystery," the Church sings with awe, "Heaven, a Cave; the Virgin the Throne of the Cherubim; the Manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain is laid." Having given birth to the divine Infant without travail, the Most Holy Virgin "wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger" (Luke 2:7). In the stillness of midnight, the proclamation of the birth of the Savior of the world was heard by three shepherds watching their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord (Saint Cyprian says this was Gabriel) came before them and said: "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). The humble shepherds were the first to offer worship to Him Who condescended to assume the form of a humble servant for the salvation of mankind. Besides the glad tidings to the Bethlehem shepherds, the Nativity of Christ was revealed to the Magi by a wondrous star. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Theophylactus, commenting on Saint Matthew's Gospel, say that this was no ordinary star. Rather, it was "a divine and angelic power that appeared in the form of a star." Saint Demetrius of Rostov says it was a "manifestation of divine energy" (Narrative of the Adoration of the Magi). Entering the house where the Infant lay, the Magi "fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11). Thus, the Nativity of Christ, a most profound and extraordinary event, was accompanied by the wondrous tidings proclaimed to the shepherds and to the Magi. This is a cause of universal rejoicing for all mankind, "for the Savior is Born!" Concurring with the witness of the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church, in their God-inspired writings, describe the Feast of the Nativity of Christ as most profound, and joyous, serving as the basis and foundation for all the other Feasts. ***Christ is Born! Glorify Him!***

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5 pm Saturdays
Hours: 9:45am Sundays
Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Friday 24th of December

Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at 9 am
Vigil for the Nativity – 6 pm

Saturday 25th of December

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at 9 am
Great Vespers at 5 pm (Tentatively Scheduled)

Sunday 26th of December

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Friday 31st of December

Great Vespers at 6 pm

Saturday 1st of January

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
and St. Basil the Great
Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great at 9 am
Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 2nd of January

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Announcements

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Parish Council alongside Father Michael wishes you the blessed Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Chrismation

During Divine Liturgy this past Sunday before the Nativity, Pamela Kachur was chrismated by the Very Rev. Samuel Kedala and Rev. Michael Pejovic. God Grant Many Blessings to Pamela, her husband Timothy, their family, friends, and to her sponsors, Michael, and Nadine Olsen.

Memory Eternal

With sadness and hope in our Risen Lord, I am letting you know that our sister in Christ Olga sister of Mary Osinski died yesterday. The Panikhida service will be served by Very Rev. Samuel Kedala and Rev. Michael Pejovic in Shook Funeral Home in Clifton on Tuesday 28th of December at 1 pm. May her memory be eternal!

Memorial or Panikhida Service

Following Vespers this past Saturday, a Panikhida Memorial Service was held for the departed +Mary offered by Nadine and Michael Olsen. Make her memory eternal! If you would like to offer a Memorial service for a loved one, please speak with Father Michael.

Fast Free Week

After celebrating the Most Holy Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our Holy Church prescribes the week of feast and as such we are not called to fast on Wednesday and Friday.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday, December 29th at 7 pm via ZOOM.

The 2021 Year and Appeal

This year is fast coming to an end and Holy Spirit Orthodox Church would be most appreciative if you could consider making a year-end contribution to our Church to offset some of the many major expenses incurred this past year. Please make our Church a priority in your year-end giving. Gifts can be in any amount and made by check, credit, or online by following this link: <https://holyspiritorthodox.org/>. May God bless you for your generosity.

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com