

**Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2024**

**On behalf of myself and the Parish Council, during this Advent season and as we approach the Nativity of the Lord and the end of 2024, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your support. Your generous financial contributions and the countless other ways you give of your time, talents and prayers are a true blessing to our Church community. It is through your dedication and faith that we continue to grow and serve in God's love. Many blessings for your kindness and commitment.**

**With love and prayers Parish Council and Father Michael**

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 Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Dorothy, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna, Birgin, Richard Matthews and John Francis.

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

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

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

# THE WEEKLY BULLETIN

## HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

[www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

**FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD** - The Forefeast of the Nativity of the Lord begins on December 20. From now on, most of the liturgical hymns will be concerned with the birth of the Savior. Many of the Church's hymns of this period are slightly modified versions of the hymns of Holy Week. From December 20-23 we sing the Troparion (Tone 4) "Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all. Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of it we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning." We also sing the Kontakion (Tone 3) "Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth ineffably to the pre-eternal Word. Hearing this, rejoice, O inhabited earth! With the angels and the shepherds glorify the pre-eternal God, Whose will it was to appear as a young child!"

### Service Schedule

**Great Vespers:** 5pm 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](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com)**

Monthly calendar at [www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

### Dates to Remember

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of December**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of December**

**Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Christmas Dinner from 5 pm – 7 pm**

**Great Compline and Vigil for Nativity at 7 pm**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of December – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Great Vespers at 6 pm**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of December**

**Divine Liturgy at 9 am**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of December**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of December**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS!

#### Visitors Welcome

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Everyone is welcome to visit and worship with us. Following Divine Liturgy, please join us for light refreshment in the church hall.

#### Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who donated to Project Alaska. We have raised over 600\$. May God grant you many blessed years!

#### Spirit of Orthodoxy Christmas Concert

On Friday, December 13th, Holy Spirit Orthodox Church hosted Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir. We had a wonderful evening of Traditional Church Hymns and carols. Thank you for attending this event and to those who cooked and cleaned.

#### Nativity Fast and Confession

We are entering the last week of the Nativity Fast. We are called to abstain from meat, eggs, and dairy products. There's fasting from foods, and also called to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from these other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us. Confessions will be heard every Saturday evening before or after Vespers or by appointment. If you wish to make an appointment for confession, please contact Father Michael via email at [pejovicveljko@gmail.com](mailto:pejovicveljko@gmail.com) or call him at (848)228-1563.

#### Christmas Eve Dinner at HSOC

Subdeacon Mark Benda is organizing Christmas Eve Dinner at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church. The dinner will be held in the church hall on Christmas Eve at 5 pm and is also a potluck. We are still in the Nativity Fast so please bring your favorite lenten food, according to the fasting rules.

#### Christmas Services

Brothers and sisters, please review the Nativity services under Dates to Remember. Please, mark your calendars and try to attend to as many services as possible. Let us come together in worship and welcome the Nativity of our Lord as one true body of Christ.

#### Calendars for 2025

Dear brothers and sisters, Church Calendars are available in the narthex. Please take one for your home. We thank Pinkel Funeral Home for again sponsoring our Church calendars.

#### Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com) or Mary Osinski at [mary.osinski@gmail.com](mailto:mary.osinski@gmail.com).