

A BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

Father Michael, Matushka Mihaela, and the Parish Council Members send best wishes for a most blessed and happy, healthy safe and peaceful New Year to our parishioners, their families, and friends of our parish. Many blessing to all for a prayerful 2023!

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, Protospesbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Nadine, Michelle, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, 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, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, PamelaAnne, and David.
Amen!!!

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

Follow us on



And remember to use:



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

The WEEKLY BULLETIN

HOLY SPIRIT ORTHOODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

January 1st, 2023

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

- On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants [Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3]. After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos [Luke 1:31-33, 2:21]. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics had taught. In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured [Colossians 2:11-12]. Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by Saint Stephen of the Saint Savva Monastery. In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus [Savior] on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world [Matthew 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Philippians 2:9-10]. These two events -- the Lord's Circumcision and Naming -- remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" [Colossians 2:11]. The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

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 holyspiritwantagej@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 31st of December

Great Vespers at 4 pm

Sunday 1st of January

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST and SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great at 10 am

Thursday 5th of January

Great Vespers at 6 pm followed by Great Blessing of the Waters and Blessing of the Church

Friday 6th of January

**HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
Divine Liturgy at 9 am followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters**

Saturday 7th of January

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 8th of January

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Nativity Services

Many thanks to Timothy Kachur, Choir Director, and members of the choir for their wonderful voices and participation in the Nativity services. We are also thankful to all who decorated the Church for the Nativity and all who attended all or any of the services. As we celebrate this special season, may our hearts be filled with love for all.

New Year 2023

The best way to start a new year is with our church family and by attending Great Vespers on Saturday, December 31st at 4 pm and Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 1st at 10 am. Plan to start the New Year at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church, Wantage.

New Year's Day Potluck Brunch

As the new year comes in, Holy Spirit Orthodox Church wants to make it special for you and your entire family. Come and join us on New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1st, for a potluck brunch following Divine Liturgy in the Parish Hall. Please plan to bring your favorite dish to share with our church family and friends. We promise a good time and plenty of delicious food!

Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

This Feast is celebrated on January 6th. Here, our Lord Jesus Christ is baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan. Join us at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church for Vespers on Thursday, January 5th, at 6 pm and Divine Liturgy on Friday, January 6th, at 9 am. At the end of both services, we will be performing greater blessings of the water.

Blessing of the Homes

After Theophany, there will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please sign your name if you would like Father Michael to bless your home this year.

Baptism of Vada Rose Hardcastle

Please plan to join us for the Baptism of our dear Vada Rose Hardcastle. The Baptism will take place on Saturday, January 14th at 10:00 am. Following the baptism, there will be a reception at the Church Hall. All are welcome!

For Sale

There are still some pierogies for sale at \$10 per dozen. See Nadine Olsen to purchase. Our thanks to all for purchasing pierogies in the past.

Have an item for the bulletin?

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