

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2024**

**MARTYR NEOPHYTUS OF NICEA**

**Epistle Reading: Colossians 1:12-18**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14**

**Troparion – Tone 4**

**Your holy martyr Neophytus, O Lord, / through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God. / For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through his intercessions, save our souls!**

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, Protodeacon John, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Matushka Svetlana, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, 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, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Irene, Dorothy, Pauline and Irene. Amen!!!

**\*\*\* 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)

**January 21st, 2024**

**MARTYR NEOPHYTUS OF NICEA** - The Holy Martyr Neophytus, a native of the city of Nicea in Bithynia, was raised by his parents in strict Christian piety. For his virtue, temperance, and unceasing prayer, it pleased God to glorify Saint Neophytus with the gift of wonderworking, while the saint was still just a child! Like Moses, the holy youth brought forth water from a stone of the city wall and gave this water to those who were thirsty. In answer to the prayer of Saint Neophytus' mother, asking that God's will concerning her son might be revealed to her, a white dove miraculously appeared and told of the path he would follow. The saint was led forth from his parental home by this dove and brought to a cave on Mt. Olympus, which served as a lion's den. It is said that he chased the lion from the cave so that he could live there himself. The saint remained there from the age of nine until he was fifteen, leaving it only once to bury his parents and distribute their substance to the poor. During the persecution by Diocletian (284-305), he went to Nicea and boldly began to denounce the impiety of the pagan faith. The enraged persecutors suspended the saint from a tree, they whipped him with ox thongs, and scraped his body with iron claws. Then they threw him into a red-hot oven, but the holy martyr remained unharmed, spending three days and three nights in it. The torturers, not knowing what else to do with him, decided to kill him. One of the pagans ran him through with a sword (some say it was a spear), and the saint departed to the Lord at the age of sixteen.

### 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

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of January**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of January**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> of January**

**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> of January**

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS!

#### A message from your Pastor

Many thanks and blessings to the V.Rev. John Kowalczyk for serving at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church during my time away. My plan is to return late evening on January 21<sup>st</sup>. During my time away, if you require a priest or pastoral care, please contact V.Rev. Samuel Kedala via email at [priest004@gmail.com](mailto:priest004@gmail.com) or call (973)271-0524. During my travels, I will have limited internet access but if you need to contact me, please do so by sending an email at [pejovicveljko@gmail.com](mailto:pejovicveljko@gmail.com).

#### Thank You from Despena Eptamentis

I have received the beautiful flower arrangement that you sent me. It arrived the day I was released from rehabilitation. I am so deeply touched by your thoughtfulness, prayers, and love. I look forward to the day when I will be able to attend Liturgy at Holy Spirit Church again – Despena Eptamentis.

#### Blessing of Homes and Blessed Water

Please take some blessed water from the Church to your homes. The blessing of homes will begin this year when I return from my trip.

#### 2024 The Church Calendar

Church calendars have arrived and are in the narthex. You are welcome to take one for yourself and take another and give it to your family member or a friend. On behalf of the HSOC, thanks to Pinkel Funeral Home for again providing the calendars for our church.

#### Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has announced Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, as Sanctity of Life Sunday to be observed in parishes of the Orthodox Church in America. For more information, please follow the link: [His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Announces Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 21, 2024 - Orthodox Church in America \(oca.org\)](https://oca.org)

#### Registration Opens for Online Music Classes

The OCA Music Department again offers its popular introductory online courses for the benefit of church singers and conductors. For more information please follow the link: [Registration Opens for Online Music Classes Offered by the OCA Music Department - Orthodox Church in America](https://oca.org)

#### Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate. Dan Taylor informed us that the current needs of the Sussex Help Center are the following: peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish cans, cereal boxes, and baby diapers (size newborn to 6-month-old).

#### 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)