

A BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2022

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 blessings to all for a prayerful 2022!

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, 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:



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www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org
<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>
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The Weekly Bulletin **HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

January 2nd, 2022

SAINT SYLVESTER, BISHOP OF ROME - Saint Sylvester, Bishop of Rome (314-335) was born at Rome of Christian parents named Rufinus and Justa. His father soon died, and the saint remained in the care of his mother. Sylvester's teacher, the presbyter Quirinus, gave him a fine education and raised him as a true Christian. When he was an adult, Sylvester fulfilled the Lord's command to love one's neighbor. He often received strangers and travelers, serving them like a slave in his own home. During a persecution against Christians, Sylvester did not hesitate to take in the holy confessor Bishop Timothy of Antioch, who dwelt with him for more than a year, and who converted many to Christ by his preaching. Bishop Timothy was arrested and executed on orders of the Prefect Tarquinius. Sylvester secretly took the body of the saint and buried it. This came to the attention of Tarquinius, and the saint was arrested and brought to trial. Tarquinius demanded that he renounce Christ, threatening him with torture and death. Saint Sylvester was however not intimidated, and he remained steadfast in his confession of faith, and was then thrown into prison. When Tarquinius suddenly died after the trial, the saint was set free and fearlessly he evangelized the pagans, converting many to Christianity. At thirty years of age Saint Sylvester was ordained as a deacon, and then presbyter, by Bishop Marcellinus (296-304). After the death of Bishop Miltiades (or Melchades, 311-314), Saint Sylvester was chosen Bishop of Rome. He encouraged his flock to live in a righteous manner, and he insisted that priests strictly fulfill their duty, and not be involved with secular businesses. Saint Sylvester became renowned as an expert on Holy Scripture and as a staunch defender of the Christian Faith. During the reign of the emperor Saint Constantine the Great, when the period of persecution had ended for the Church, the Jews arranged a public debate to determine which faith was true. Saint Constantine and his mother, the holy Empress Helen, were present together with a large crowd. Saint Sylvester spoke for the Christians, and the Jews had one hundred and twenty learned rabbis led by Zambres, a magician and sorcerer. Quoting the sacred books of the Old Testament, Saint Sylvester convincingly demonstrated that all the prophets foretold the birth of Jesus Christ from the all-pure Virgin, and also His voluntary suffering and death for the redemption of the fallen race of mankind, and His glorious Resurrection. The saint was declared the victor in the debate. Then Zambres tried to resort to sorcery, but the saint obstructed the evil by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Zambres and the other Jews came to believe in Jesus Christ, and they asked to be baptized. Saint Sylvester guided the Roman Church for more than twenty years, earning the esteem of his flock. He died peacefully in old age in the year 335.

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 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

Wednesday 5th of January
Great Vespers at 6 pm followed by the Great Blessing of the
Waters and Blessing of the Church

Thursday 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 8th of January
Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 9th of January
Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Announcements

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Nativity Services

During these difficult times with the pandemic, our many thanks to Matushka Joanne Kedala for being the choir director in the absence of Timothy Kachur. Special thanks to Seth Fleishman who sang vespers on December 25th and to all who participated in the Nativity services.

New Year's Party

We were all excited to once again revive the tradition of the open rectory house on the 1st of January, however, due to the fact that some of our members are still sick, we will try to organize this event later during the year.

From the Family of Olga Maio

Our sincere thanks to the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church parishioners for the beautiful flowers sent for Olga's funeral. We are most grateful to the V. Rev. Samuel Kedala, Rev. Michael Pejovic, choir members, and parishioners for the most sacred and loving Panikhida/Memorial service for Olga Maio on Tuesday, December 28, 2021. On behalf of the Maio family and Olga's sisters, sincere thanks for your support and God Bless.

2022 Church Calendars

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

Parish Council Meeting

Due to some COVID-19 cases, the Parish Council Meeting was canceled. We are hopeful that we will have the next Parish Council Meeting soon.

Rectory renovation

We have started many renovations in the Parish Rectory. If you would like to help please talk with Adrian Pawelko or Father Michael.

Blessing of the homes

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

Have an item for the bulletin?

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