

## SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



*Icon of the Holy Ancestors*

### *The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names*

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us. Human being have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned – this God continues to work through the same melange. If it was a challenge to recognize in the last part of

Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence is not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

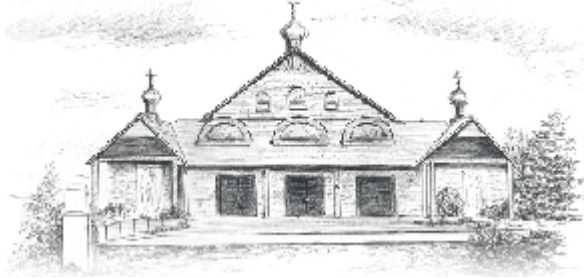
*Father Raymond E. Brown, S.S.*

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# St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

8111 Brecksville Road ✪ Brecksville, Ohio 44141

"The Byzz Line"



"Living the Word of Christ Together"

**Pastor:** Father Bruce Riebe

**Deacon:** Bill Fredrick

**Office Administrator:** Michele Wiltshire

**Rectory Phone:** 440-526-1818

**Office Phone:** 440-526-0016

**e-mail:** [stjoebyz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stjoebyz@sbcglobal.net)

**website:** [www.stjoebyz.com](http://www.stjoebyz.com)



Dear Parishioner:

When I was recovering from my Covid experience I was grateful that the liturgies were live-streamed. I watched the Saturday and Sunday services from my phone. As wonderful as that was, since I was unable to physically be present, there was something missing. It hit me in a "felt sense." That "something" was the Eucharist.

God sent His Son to become Incarnate—to take flesh. To become one of us. That's what we are gearing up to commemorate. This "God With Us" or "Emmanuel" is the greatest gesture of love the Father Almighty could ever have given us. Of course, after His resurrection, He ascended into heaven—He went back to the Father to sit at His right. But He left us the Eucharist—His Body and Blood that we partake of at each Divine Liturgy.

As we prepare to celebrate His Holy Birth, let us also never take for granted the privilege we have as Catholics to receive Christ in Holy Communion.

In Our Savior's Love,

Fr. Bruce Riebe



December 19, 2021

# Christ is Born!



## Liturgy Schedule

Monday	December 20	8:00 a.m.	† <b>Charles Dorobish Sr.</b> by Kathy Bober
Tuesday	December 21	8:00 a.m.	Intention of <b>Sasha Macik</b> by Macik Family
Wednesday	December 22	8:00 a.m.	† <b>Sr. Monica Marie Navin</b> by Family
Thursday	December 23	8:00 a.m.	† <b>Donald Lang</b> by Jack/Joyce Pinchot
Friday	December 24	<b>Christmas Eve Vigil Liturgy</b>	
		9:30 p.m.	Carols
		10:00 p.m.	Intention of the Parishioners
Saturday	December 25	<b>Christmas Day (Holyday of Obligation)</b>	
		10:30 a.m.	† <b>Joseph E. Loya</b> by Family
		<b>(NO 4:00 p.m. Liturgy)</b>	
Sunday	December 26	<b>Feast of the Holy Family</b>	
		10:30 a.m.	Intention of <b>Charles Churavy</b> by Judy Churavy

	<b>Altar Servers</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Greeters</b>
December 24 10:00 p.m.	D. Kattler, M. Ebert, M. & A. Masters	A. Lizanich	C. Kattler & K. Strobel
December 25 10:30 a.m.	J. Bremner & L. Tinter	N. Loya	J. Pinchot & L. Greb
December 26 10:30 a.m.	D. Tytko & J. Lesnick	J.P. Masters	H. Pariza & J. Carrig

**Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.**



**From the  
Pastor's  
Desk**

**Bishop Milan** is working on getting more priests here from Europe to serve in our parishes. (Many of our churches are lacking a pastor or administrator. For example, **Deacon Bill** is the Custodial Manager at St. Mary in Marblehead.) I mention this because **Father Vasyl Kupar** from the Ukraine is arriving this week along with his wife Diana and three boys. They will be living in the former Cathedral rectory on Carlton Rd. He will be assigned here as Parochial Vicar (to get acclimated to ministry in the United States). Chances are likely he'll be con-celebrating the Christmas liturgies. I

know you have made **Fr. Miron** and **Fr. Jan** (and families) feel very much at home. I trust you will do the same with Fr. Vasyl. I am the Administrator at St. John in Solon, so he probably will be taking a lot of those liturgies. At the present time I arrange for a retired priest to celebrate there each Sunday.

I hope you plan on celebrating your Christmas Liturgy at St. Joe's!

## Christmas Eve/Day Viewing in Hall

Anticipating bigger crowds for Christmas Eve and Christmas, we will live-stream the liturgy in the hall with a Communion distribution station for your comfort.



## Christmas Eve Confession

**Father** will be in the confessional on Christmas Eve between the hours of **2-4**.



## Christmas Eve Fast

The liturgical calendar indicates that Christmas Eve is a traditional day of fasting.

## Father Away After Christmas

**Father** will be leaving for the Chicago area after liturgy on Christmas Day returning on the 30<sup>th</sup>. **Father Cyril Pinchak** will be the celebrant on December 26 (and the Holyday on December 27). In case of an emergency requiring a priest, call Father on his cell **(440-227-5037)** and he will help make arrangements.

## Christmas Eve/Day Liturgy Times

The liturgy on **Christmas Eve** will be at **10:00 p.m.** preceded by carols starting at 9:30. The liturgy on **Christmas Day** is set for **10:30 a.m.** **(There will not be a 4:00 liturgy on December 25.)**



Once again the "Giving Tree" was stripped bare! Thanks so much for your St. Nicholas Spirit! The delivery to **St. Mary Byzantine School** will be made tomorrow. Parishioners in need benefitted from the gift cards.

## Altar Server Christmas Party

The altar server Christmas Party is set for **Tuesday**. Call **Father** by today if your son plans on coming but didn't sign up.

## ECF on Christmas Break

There won't be any ECF classes for the next two Sundays. Sessions resume on **January 9** at a new starting time of **9:30**. (More important than ever to be on time.)



Make sure you sign the outdoor St. Joseph Banner. The **Men's Club** purchased this back during the picnic. We'll be putting it in the time capsule. The banner can be found at the religious article counter.

## Our Sympathy

Parish sympathies are extended to **Carol (Steve) Donaldson**. Her mother, **Lucy Firster**, a former parishioner of St. Eugene, was buried from here this past week at the age of 87. Sympathies also to her grandson **Steven**.

## ByzanTEEN Gathering

The **ByzanTEENS** are scheduled to meet **tonight at 5:00** in the Education Center.



Please remember all the sick/suffering in your prayers, especially **Diana Balasz** (St. Vincent Charity); **Barbara Troyan** (Paramount; rehab);

**Joe Popik** (home); **Mary Jo Keshock** (home) and **Debi Shirilla** (home).

## Your Weekly Offering

December 12, 2021

Sunday:	\$3,563.00
e-giving:	200.00
Student Envelopes:	10.00
Cash:	83.00
Candles:	179.00
Holy Days:	214.00
Initial Envelope Offering:	3.00
Flowers:	453.00
Building Fund:	10.00
Christmas:	560.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5,275.00</b>

Have you remembered St. Joseph Church in your Will and/or Trust?

## Mirovanije \$\$

Last week's mirovanije collection of \$200 was sent to the Chancery for the retirement fund for religious (National campaign).

## Annual Stewardship Appeal

The annual Diocesan Stewardship Campaign is underway. The overall goal is \$220,000.00. Our assigned goal is \$25,600.00. Everyone should've received a pledge form in the mail from the Diocese. Returns need to be made directly to the chancery. We will provide monthly updates as we receive them from the Stewardship Office.



The **Ladies' Auxiliary** thanks everyone who patronized last Sunday's "Cookie Walk."

## Envelopes/Liturgical Calendars

We thank **Hopko Funeral Home** for sponsoring our liturgical calendars. If there was not an envelope box for you, it may mean you are not listed as a parishioner. Please contact the office so we can correct this oversight. If you want to formally join the parish, sign the sheet on the table with the envelopes.

## Lector Schedules

New lector schedules can be found in the mail slots and our website. Anyone wanting to participate in this ministry should contact **Father** for proper training.



Jesus  
IS THE  
reason  
FOR THE  
Season.

The presents are tucked by the tree neatly trimmed.  
Children are excited as gift-giving begins.  
Loved ones and friends gather as before  
To hear the story of Christmas told by Grandpa once more.  
Everything is ready, the celebration starts  
But something is missing, could it be in my heart?  
Could Christmas be more than gifts under a tree?  
The true meaning of the season I really want to see.  
My heart begins to ponder, my thoughts see the sight  
Of God's wondrous promise, the King is born tonight!  
I understand the difference, the reason is crystal clear.  
It's JESUS who makes the season-of family, friends and cheer.  
Without the birth of Jesus the celebration would be gone.  
HE brings the love of family, HE brings the joy of song.  
People would still be lonely; no hope would fill their way.  
JESUS is the reason for the season, it is HIS special day!



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PARISH INFORMATION

**ACTIVITY CENTER/PAVILION/PARTY CENTER RESERVATIONS:**

216-749-6232

**CONFESSIONS:** 45 minutes before liturgies for half an hour and by request

**LADIES' AUXILIARY:** 2nd Sunday of the month after liturgy

**MEN'S CLUB:** 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**A-OK CLUB:** 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**FOREVER YOUNG CLUB:** 3rd Wednesday of the month (12-2)

**COFFEE SOCIAL:** Every Sunday after liturgy

**EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF) CLASSES:**

Sundays 9:00 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

**BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE:** Tuesday noon

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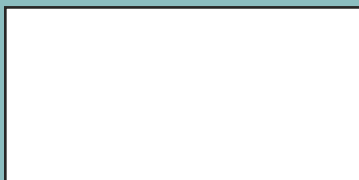
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