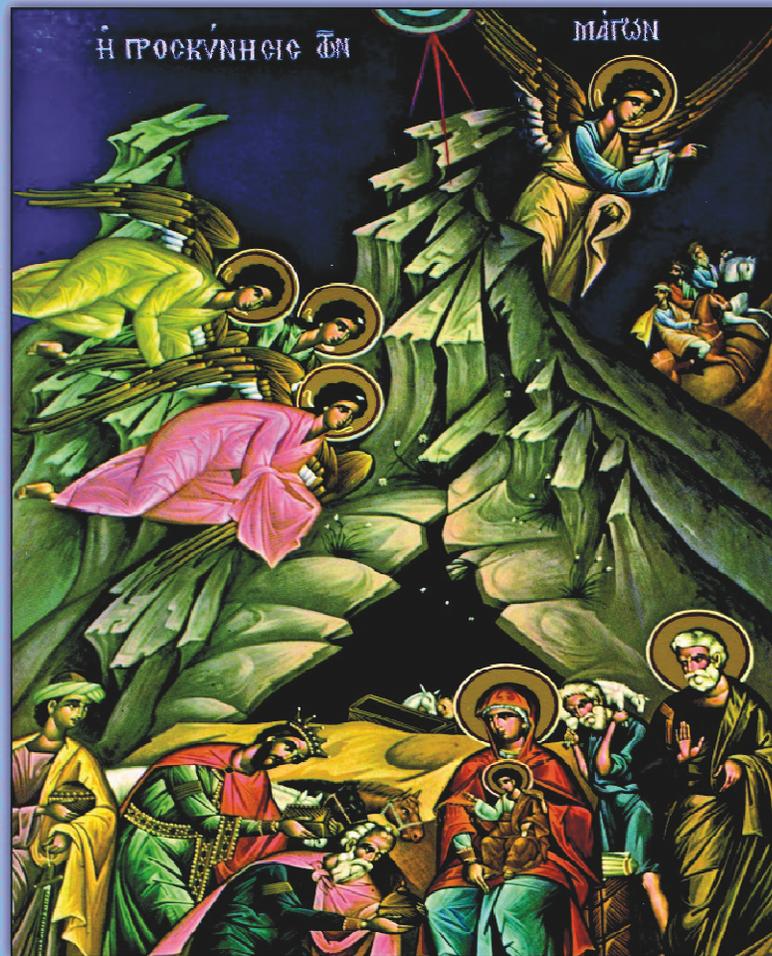


SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY  
JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING,  
JAMES THE BROTHER



*Icon of the Visit of the Magi*

***The Lord Has Made His Salvation Known to the Whole World***

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days He would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ. A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith.

In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judea only, but in the whole world. . . . As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwell in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you. . . .

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

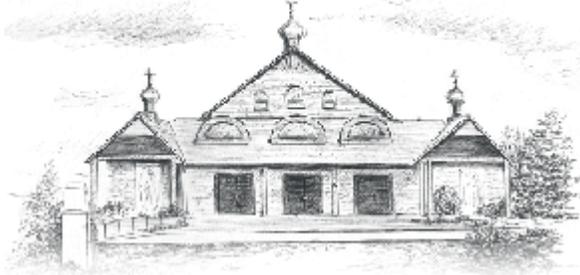
Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

*St. Leo the Great*

# 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)

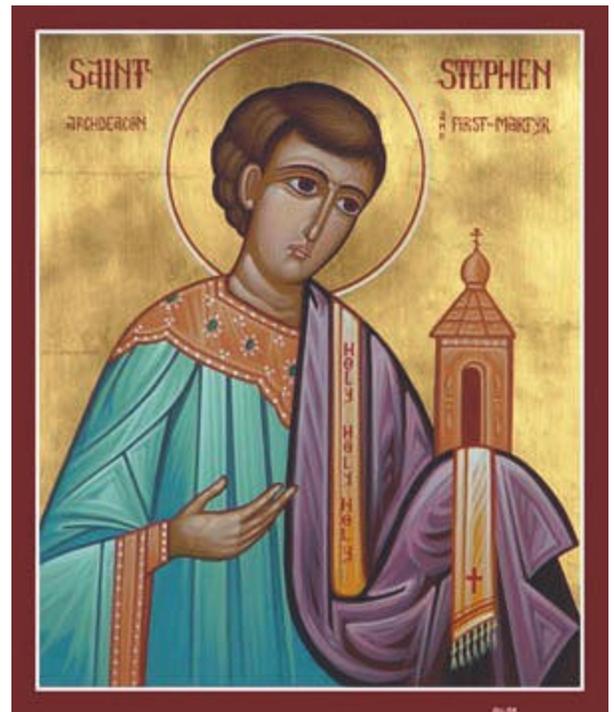


## DECEMBER 27: ST. STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR

Stephen is first mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as one of seven deacons appointed by the apostles to distribute food and charitable aid to poorer members of the community in the early church. According to Orthodox belief, he was the eldest and is therefore called "archdeacon."

As another deacon, Nicholas of Antioch, is specifically stated to have been a convert to Judaism, it maybe assumed that Stephen was born Jewish, but nothing more is known about his previous life. The reason for the appointment of the deacons is stated to have been dissatisfaction among Hellenistic (that is, Greek-influenced and Greek-speaking) Jews that their widows were being slighted in preference to Hebraic ones in the daily distribution of food. Since the name "Stephanos" is Greek it has been assumed that he was one of these Hellenistic Jews. Stephen is stated to have been full of faith and the Holy Spirit and to have performed miracles among the people.

It seems to have been among synagogues of Hellenistic Jews that he performed his teachings and "signs and wonders" since it is said that he aroused the opposition of the "Synagogue of the Freedmen", and "of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and one of them that were of Cilicia and Asia." (Acts 6:9) Members of these synagogues had challenged Stephen's teachings, but Stephen had bested them in debate. Furious at this humiliation, they suborned false testimony that Stephen had preached blasphemy against Moses and God. They dragged him to appear before the Sanhedrin, the supreme legal court of Jewish elders, accusing him of preaching against the Temple and the Mosaic Law. (Acts 6:9-14) Stephen is said to have been unperturbed, his face looking like "that of an angel."



**Monday is a Simple Holyday.** The liturgy will be celebrated by **Father Cyril Pinchak SJ** at **7:00 p.m.**

December 26, 2021

# Christ is Born!

## Liturgy Schedule

Monday	December 27	<b>Simple Holyday: St. Stephen</b> 7:00 p.m.	†Evelyn Yaro by Rich/Linda Baszynski	
Tuesday	December 28	<b>No Liturgy</b>		
Wednesday	December 29	<b>No Liturgy</b>		
Thursday	December 30	<b>No Liturgy</b>		
Friday	December 31	8:00 a.m.	Poor Souls by <b>John Mcardle</b>	
Saturday	January 1	<b>Solemn Holyday: Circumcision</b> 10:00 a.m.	†Betty Fetko by John/Mary Dirda	
		<b>NO 4:00 LITURGY</b>		
Sunday	January 2	10:30 a.m.	†Anne Becker by Steve/Don Becker	
		<b>Altar Servers</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Greeters</b>
December 27	7:00 p.m.	G. Lupia & D. Tytko		
January 1	10:00 a.m.	D. Kattler & J. Mosgo	J. Foreman	C. Kattler & J. Weitzel
January 2	10:30 a.m.	A. & R. Percic	C. Csornok	K. Lambourne & J. Klinkovsky

If we depend on Christ for everything, we can endure anything.



As you read this, I am vacationing back in the Chicago area. I'll be making numerous visits to see my Mom who recently was transferred to a new memory unit. She is doing well and always in good spirits!

I want to personally thank everyone who remembered me at Christmas in heartfelt ways, be it with a card, gift or goodie.

Thanks to all who had ministry roles on Christmas Eve and Christmas and fulfilled them well. Also for your generosity in giving, not only at Christmas but all year long.

Last week I mentioned about **Father Vasyl Kubar** arriving from the Ukraine and being assigned to St. Joe's as a Parochial Vicar. With this early bulletin deadline I haven't met him yet because he had not yet arrived, but he probably has been with us for the Christmas liturgies and with **Fr. Cyril** this weekend. I hope to have some biographical information from him for the next Byz Line.

With the increased number of Covid cases I have decided not to bless homes for the second year in a row. This year was supposed to be folks living east of I-77. Hopefully I'll resume with this route next January. Thanks for your understanding.

As we celebrate the close of 2021, let's hope and pray that the New Year will be filled with much peace, health and happiness!

**Father** will be back from vacation on Thursday. We welcome **Father Cyril Pinchak SJ** as this weekend's celebrant. In case of an emergency requiring a priest, contact Father and he'll make arrangements **(440-227-5037)**.

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## No 4:00 Liturgy on New Years Day

There will **not** be a 4:00 Vigil Liturgy on New Year's Day.

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## Your Weekly Offering

Due to an early deadline, next week's bulletin will contain offering information for December 19 and 26.

## ECF on Break Till January 9

ECF classes resume **January 9** at a new starting time of **9:30**. (More important than ever to be on time.)

## 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.

**Please Sign  
Our Banner**

Next weekend is the final opportunity to sign the St. Joseph outdoor banner. You can find it below the Right to Life bulletin board next to the elevator. It will then be placed in the time capsule for posterity in remembrance of this "Year of St. Joseph."

## Acme Receipt Collection Ends Soon

The final day to turn in ACME receipts is **January 9**. This benefits the **Ladies' Auxiliary**. The box is located beneath the mail slots.



## Congratulations New Officers

The **Ladies' Auxiliary** recently elected officers.

President...**Darlene Hritz**

Vice President...**Carrie Hotaling**

Treasurer...**Jean Karaffa**

Secretary...**Anne Andrako**

## Raffle Winners Listed Next Week

Because of an early bulletin deadline, the winners of the GCU Holiday Cash Give Away Raffle will be listed in next week's Byzz Line.

## Mirovanije \$\$

The mirovanije collection on Christmas will be used for rectory almsgiving.

## Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp will burn in January in memory of **Michael and Margaret Pinchot**.



Many thanks to the decorators who helped make the church beautiful for the celebration of Christ's Birth. Everything needs to come down after liturgy next Sunday! Volunteers are needed.

## 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

*May the Lord bless  
our coming year  
with spiritual  
growth, love for  
people, and many  
opportunities to  
spread the  
Gospel of Life.*



The celebration of the New Year may be the oldest of all holidays. New Year's festivals have been celebrated for more than 5,000 years.

The ancient Romans marked the New Year by giving each other branches from sacred trees. Later they gave gold-covered nuts or coins imprinted with pictures of the god Janus (after whom January is named). Janus had two faces—one looking forward and the other looking backward.

During the Middle Ages, the church opposed New Year's celebrations because of their pagan roots, particularly the use of the image of a baby to symbolize the New Year. That tradition began in Greece around 600 B.C. The annual rebirth of Dionysus (the god of wine and fertility) was celebrated by parading a baby in a basket.

But the popularity of using a baby to symbolize the birth of a New Year proved strong. The Church eventually relented and allowed its members to celebrate the New Year with a baby, but as a symbol of the birth of the child Jesus.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the Jewish tradition, the ritual circumcision and naming of a male child took place eight days after birth. Thus, it was natural that the Church, eight days after Christmas Eve, celebrated the feast of the "Circumcision of the Lord." By coincidence, the feast falls on New Year's Day.

**Saturday is a Solemn Holyday,  
the Feast of Our Lord's Circumcision.  
The liturgy will be at 10:00 a.m.  
There is no Vigil Liturgy at 4:00 on January 1.**



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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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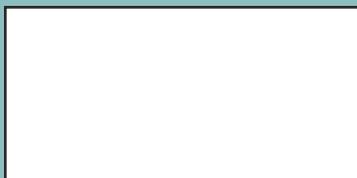
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