

### *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 as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

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

## SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS



*Icon of the Holy Ancestors*



## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491

Office: (708) 645-0241 Fax: (708) 645-0243

Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com

Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA

Deacons: J. Timothy Tkach John Evancho

### December 24, 2023 - Sunday Before Christmas Genealogy of Christ Schedule of Services

**Sunday 24** **SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS - GENEALOGY OF CHRIST**  
9:00 AM Matins  
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

9:30 PM Caroling  
10:00 PM Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil -  
+(Pani) Elizabeth Loya by Fr. Thomas Loya

**Monday 25** **NATIVITY OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**  
9:00 AM Matins  
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

**Tuesday 26** **Feast of the Synaxis of the Theotokos**  
7:00 PM Divine Liturgy -  
+George Senko by Joan Senko & Family

**Wednesday 27** **Feast of St. Stephen the Protomartyr**  
8:00 AM Divine Liturgy -  
+Rose Baranko by Catherine Baranko

**Saturday 30** 5:00 PM Vespers

**Sunday 31** **Sunday After Christmas-Relatives of the Lord**  
9:00 AM Matins  
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

We pray for the sick and homebound of our parish, especially:

Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky	Jean Rusnak	Steve Bieniek	Gloria Selvy	William Davis
Dot Wocho	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Horne	Mary Ellen Haber	Gary Paczkowski	Bob Zavada
Francis Hughes	Gloria Paulson	John Orelik	Abbie Sheedy-wc	Michele Lewis	
Fr. Bernard Danber	Frank Miko	Sally Hughes	Teddy McManigal	Marianne Horvath	

## Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Parish

*In all decisions regarding parish membership and Sacramental life, the pastor exercises the final decision and the confidentiality of the persons involved must be respected.*

**Parish Membership** is determined by three things:

1. Being registered in the parish for a sufficient amount of time
2. Faithful and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the parish especially on Sundays and Holy days.
3. Regular financial support of the parish. Use of offertory envelopes by parish members is required for weekly donations

**The Sacred Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Matrimony** are available only to those persons who comply with the above requirements of parish membership.

**A Biblically based stewardship** is part of the vision of Annunciation parish. Parishioners are encouraged to practicing tithing and also to consider Annunciation parish in planned giving such as trust funds, etc.

**Couples who are planning to be married** at Annunciation parish must be free to be married in the Church and must contact the pastor at least six months prior to their proposed wedding date. Persons applying for annulments of a previous marriage should not set a Church wedding date unless their annulment has been granted.

**Couples who are cohabitating or involved in same sex civil unions or so-called same sex "marriages,"** as well as couples who are contracepting are asked to seek the pastor's help in understanding the Church's teaching and in conforming their lives to the moral teaching of the Church. Such persons **cannot receive Holy Communion** until their lives are reconciled with the Church.

**Parish members entering the hospital or who are home-bound** should contact the pastor or parish business office.

**Prior to undergoing surgery or going under anesthesia** parish members should contact the pastor.

**No eulogies** or public addresses by laity are permitted during funeral services.

**Cremation is permitted but not encouraged.** Ashes are not permitted in the church. Funeral services with the body of the deceased in the church must take place prior to cremation. Ashes are to be buried according to the burial rite of the Church. Ashes cannot be scattered or kept in homes.

**Appropriate behavior and dress** are required for all liturgical services. No audible conversations, or waving across the church. Electronic devices must be turned off. No food, candy, or gum chewing. Dress code is formal and modest for all services.

**Abstinence from meat is to be observed every Friday.** If this is not possible an equivalent penitential practice is to be observed.

**Ring in the New Year Right!**

**New Year's Day  
Monday, Jan 1, 2024**

Circumcision of our Lord & St. Basil the Great  
10:00AM  
Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great

## **6th Annual Blessing of Lake Michigan Sunday, January 7, 2024**



**1:00pm**

Christ has come to renew  
all of creation!  
Witness this yourself as the  
waters of Lake Michigan  
become the waters of the  
Jordan River!

### **Hammond Port Authority**

701 Casino Center Dr - Hammond, IN 46320

*Refreshments will follow inside at the Port Authority*

We will be taking the new Church bus on this it's maiden voyage. If you would like to attend this event, please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

## **Schedule of Services for the Nativity of Our Lord**



### **Christmas Eve**

Sunday, December 24th

**9:30PM** Traditional Christmas Caroling  
**10:00PM** Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy of St. Basil  
*\*Confessions available 9:00pm - 9:45pm*

### **Christmas Day**

Monday, December 25th

**9:00AM** Matins  
**10:00AM** Divine Liturgy

**Christ is Born!  
Glorify Him!  
Christos Razdajestja!  
Slavite jaho!**





CHRIST IS BORN!  
*Glorify Him!*

Glory to Jesus Christ!

December 4, 2023

Dear Clergy, Religious, Faithful, and Friends of the Eparchy of Parma:

These days which find me new in my acceptance of episcopal ministry also find me journeying with you toward an experience of Christ in the cave in Bethlehem and a glorious celebration of His incarnation.

Our winter celebration also includes the Great Feast of the Theophany and Our Lord's baptism in the Jordan. As we celebrate this feast, we are reminded in the gospel of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew that "the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen." (Matthew 4:16)

While manifesting Himself in the flesh in the most humble of settings, Christ radiates His light, life, and love in a manner that can fulfill our every desire. This fulfillment comes as we recognize that the cave where Christ continues to abide is in the heart of each of us and that His all-holy Spirit makes us temples called to grow more perfect in doing good. All goodness we receive and reflect is a gift from Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our Catholic Church in America finds itself amid a time of Eucharistic revival. Pilgrimages and a national Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis this upcoming July are major events that make clear to us the life-sustaining need for the Eucharistic Christ in the caves of our hearts. My hope and prayer is that the faithful of our Eparchy journey to the Nativity feast with an increased fervor regarding the reception of the precious Body and Blood of Our Lord.

Our journey is made in one of the minor penitential seasons of our Byzantine Christian tradition, and so it is fitting to desire worthy reception while suffering from sickness or recovering from it, while fasting or abstaining, following a good confession in the Mystery of Penance, and always as a sign of unity with Christ and with one another, especially in a world of multitudinous disunifying influences.

Some of us may recall the words of one of the prayers of Thanksgiving that is offered following the reception of the Divine Eucharist. It is especially fitting as we look to the celebration of Our Lord's birth. To the Most Holy Theotokos we pray:

*"I thank you for enabling me, unworthy as I am, to be a partaker of the most pure body and precious blood of your Son. You gave birth to the true Light; enlighten the eyes of my heart. You have the source of immortality; give life to me who am dead in sin. O compassionate and loving Mother of the merciful God, have mercy on me."*

In the spirit of this prayer may we journey to the Christmas celebration longing to be enlightened by and to radiate the presence of Christ Who resides in the caves of our hearts. Journeying with you, I assure you of my prayers and blessings and my hope to meet each of you in my parochial visits between now and the end of summer. For now, let us raise up one another in the light of Christ and be filled with joy anticipating our Nativity greeting, "Christ is born! Glorify Him!"

With love in our Incarnate Savior,

+ Robert

The Most Rev. Robert M. Pipta  
Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PARMA

3000 ROCKSIDE RD. SUITE 300  
INDEPENDENCE OHIO 44131  
206.741.8773 | BISHOP@PARMA.ORG



# Break free from your Pharaohs.

Our culture today has no shortage of 'modern Pharaohs' that hold us back from true unity with God. If we're ruled by these Pharaohs, how can we truly be free to become the men God made us to be? Exodus 90 gives you the tools to take control of your life.



Join other men from our parish as we take a 90-day journey through the Book of Exodus, diving deeper into understanding the similarities we share with the ancient Israelites and finding our path to freedom from our own 'Modern Pharaohs' holding us back from true unity with God.

We will focus on three core pillars: prayer, asceticism, and fraternity – a model witnessed to us centuries ago by the desert fathers in the early Church.

We start Jan. 1, 2024:



MenOfExodus.com

To learn more about this fraternity of men, speak with Jim Brown at 815-919-4453.

## 11th Annual Women's Retreat SAVE THE DATE

*The Beatitudes: The Way of Life*

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center  
Fremont, Ohio

February 16 - 18, 2024

Retreat Master: Fr. Lukas Mitro

Contact Susan A. Gallagher for further information  
womenretreat2024@yahoo.com  
419-626-0375

Further details will follow  
Sponsored by:  
St Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

## The Third Annual Men's Retreat SAVE THE DATE

*From Fallen Passions to Apathia:  
Pursuing the Virtuous Life*

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center  
Fremont, Ohio

March 15 - 17, 2024

Retreat Master  
Fr. Thomas J Loya, STB, MA

Contact Karl Busam for further information  
karl.busam.77@gmail.com  
419-626-6811

Further details will follow  
Sponsored by:  
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