

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS



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.



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

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Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA
Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

December 21, 2025 - Sunday Before Christmas Genealogy of Christ Schedule of Services

Sunday	21	SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS - GENEALOGY OF CHRIST 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Wednesday	24	VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST 9:00 AM Royal Hours 9:30 PM Caroling 10:00 PM Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil - +Pani Elizabeth Loya by Fr. Thomas Loya
Thursday	25	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Friday	26	Feast of The Synaxis of the Theotokos 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +George Senko by Joan Senko & Family
Saturday	27	Feast of St. Stephen the Protomartyr 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Rose Baranko by Catherine Baranko 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	28	9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

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

Dot Wochok	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Horne	Francis Hughes
Gary Dorencz	Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky
James Forkal	Richard Adamowski	Marianne Horvath	Katelyn Fuentes-wc

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.



After watching "White Christmas" at Marcus theater, Mary's Helpers headed back to church for some hot cocoa and cookies where they also auditioned for the role of Santa's Little Helpers. However, all in attendance decided that even though elfing around does have its perks, they are going to stick by Mary's mantle.



Consider making a donation to the Annunciation Charity Fund. This fund helps to directly support members of our own community in their time of need.

EPARCHY OF PARMA FOUNDATION'S
2025-2026
STEWARDSHIP
APPEAL

TIME. TALENT. TREASURE.
THIS YEAR'S APPEAL WILL RUN FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2025 TO MAY 31, 2026



Donations to the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal help to support the activities of parishes, outreaches, missions, and eparchial events.

The goal for this stewardship drive is to increase the number of participants giving to the fund. The Bishop is therefore suggesting a one-time donation of \$175 per household.

Schedule of Services for the Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

Day of Strict Fast - No Meat or Dairy Products

- 9:00AM Royal Hours
 - 9:30PM Caroling
 - 10:00PM Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
- *Confessions available 9:00pm - 9:45pm*

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th

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



Friday, December 26th

Feast of the Synaxis of the Theotokos

- 7:00PM Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 27th

Feast of Stephen - Protomartyr

- 8:00AM Divine Liturgy



Congratulations

2025 Raffle Winners

\$5,000
Rita
Chatelaine

\$3,000
Sophia Meseke

\$2,000
Georg & Kim Gulas

\$1,000
Bill & Nancy Withers

\$750 - Mary Ellen Haber

\$200 - Cheryl Foster

\$500 - Margaret Mufich

\$200 - Mike Triggs

\$250 - Richard Palasz

\$200 - Steve & Roberta Bieniek

\$250 - Denny Davis

\$200 - Anna & Mark Chagnon

\$250 - Mark & Mary Ellen Ayers

\$200 - Larry Lynch

Early Bird Winners!

\$250 - Bob Horne / Julian Jankowski

\$150 - Mary Oreluk / Niko Paris

\$100 - Kathleen Reinhardt / George & Kim Gulas

The Tradition of Holy Supper on Christmas Eve



Sharing a special, family meal, different from all other times of the year, has always been an important part of our Christmas celebration. Today many families look back on and cherish childhood memories of the "Holy Supper." The various foods and customs surrounding this meal differed from village to village, indeed from family to family, and thus became part of each family's heritage. Yet this custom of taking time to gather together in joy as a family and to share a special meal is not only

something for fond memories but a vital way of reaffirming today God's love for the world, a vital way of reaffirming the importance of the family where we learn to love and be loved. Beginning our Christmas celebration with "Holy Supper" is just as meaningful today as it was years ago; perhaps it is needed even more now than ever before.

Holy Supper usually begins at twilight when the 'first star' appears. The table is covered with a white tablecloth in memory of the swaddling clothes of Christ. Hay or straw is strewn on the table to remind us of the poverty of the cave Jesus was born in. A large loaf of bread is the centerpiece of the table symbolizing Christ the Bread of Life. A candle in the center of this bread recalls the Star of Bethlehem, which led men to worship the true Light of the World. This bread, along with garlic and honey, is shared by all present. Holy Supper begins with prayer in Thanksgiving for all the blessing of the past year and prayer for all good things in the coming year.

Since St. Philip's Fast culminates with a day of strict fasting on Christmas Eve, the Holy Supper dishes contain no meat and (usually) no dairy products. **The meal consists of seven, nine, or even twelve courses, representing Christ's twelve Apostles. A wide variety of food may be prepared, depending on the region or village, including:**

Bobal'ki with Sauerkraut or Poppy Seeds and Honey; Pierogi filled with potatoes, prunes or sauerkraut/mushrooms and onions; Pea or Lima Bean Soup; Stewed and Fresh Fruit; Sauces of Dried Plums or Pears; Lentils; Nuts; Mushroom Soup; Mashed Potatoes; Meatless Stuffed Cabbage; Fish or Herring.

There are many references on the web, you can Google Traditional Holy Supper to find many of these recipes. This is a good reference - http://www.wirnowski.com/Carp/Nat_Recipes1.html