

St. John Chrysostom, Columbus, OH

Parish Weekly Schedule



Icon of the Ancestors of Christ

Sunday December 18

Sunday of the Ancestors; Sunday before Christmas

9:30a Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
For the Faithful; For the Health of Ruth Turanchick

11:15am ECF Classes

~ Coffee and refreshments will be served in the parish hall following the services. Everyone is welcome!



Monday December 19

9a-1p Office Hours

Wednesday December 21

9a-12p Office Hours

Thursday December 22

**The Parish Office is closed through
January 3, 2017 for the Christmas/New
Year's Holiday**

Saturday December 24

See the schedule of services
inside this bulletin

*Members of St. Barbara are cordially
invited and welcomed to celebrate
Christmas Day Divine Liturgy with
St. John Chrysostom in Columbus*

Sunday December 25

*Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior,
Jesus Christ*

10am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
For the Faithful



Prayer List

For the sick in our parish families, please remember in your prayers:

The Priest Eugene Linowski

Ron Doctor	Ray Duskotch	Julia Fedeczko	Julie Fultz
Charlene Grabner	John Grabner	Ev Houston	Esther Imhoff
Frederick Kowalski	Marilyn Kimbrel	Donald Krofcheck	Victor Lonzrick
Christine Loya	Bill Martin	Joe Martin	Paul Mech
Ed Nyahay	Rosemary Nyahay	Dave Olszyk	Mic O'Halloran
John Oshinski	Paula Oshinski	Bob Parks	Maria Rakowsky
Betty Sikora	John Sikora	Dennis Stinich	Bernie Turanchik
Ruth Turanchik	Anastaszja Wojchak		

That the Lord God, for the glory of His name, visit his sick servants with His Holy Spirit and cure every illness and affliction, let us pray.

Special Dates this Week!

Happy Birthday!

Erin Christie	December 20
John Osifchin	December 20



Robert & Lucy Cook
December 20, 1992
Celebrating 24 years Crowned in Marriage

*May God grant them many Happy and
Blessed Years!*

Collection Counting

Dec. 4	Kathy Krofcheck
Dec. 11	Jerry Stasek
Dec. 18	Mark Frye
Dec. 25	Alex Rakowsky

Cookie Sale

The gross receipts for this year's Sale were \$19,645.00. We are still waiting for a the bills for advertising, but the expenses so far have been \$2,641.00. The cookies that were left over (and not taken home by their bakers) were donated to:

Thank you for making this sale another big success.

2017 Offering Envelopes

The 2017 Offertory Envelopes are available in the church narthex. If you wish to have envelopes and there are none with your name on the box, please call Teresa in the parish office (614-882-7578), during the hours posted on the rear of the bulletin or send an e-mail to her at stjohndbyz@hotmail.com to rectify the issue.

2017 Church Calendars

We have been notified by Byzantine Seminary Press that there have supply chain issues with the calendars. They will ship them out to us as soon as they are able.

Parish Office Closed

The Parish office will be closed from Thursday, December 22, 2016 through Tuesday, January 3, 2017. It will re-open on Wednesday, January 4th at 9:00am.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Blessed New Year!

~ Teresa

Philip's Fast Reflection

**Isaiah 7: 10-14; Psalms 24: 1-6;
Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-24**

It was only a few short weeks ago that we began our Pre-Christmas journeys, and now we find ourselves at the Sunday before Christmas, a short week away. In these final days we need to

increase our awareness of all that is going on in our lives. There is inevitably a longing and a desire associated with Christmas, and the purpose of this time is more than waiting anxiously; we should be preparing to find an intimacy with God.

Christmas should not just be a symbolic feast of God's presence or just a ritual commemorating the birth of the Lord. It is the Feast of God taking on a real body in the person of Jesus. In this body Jesus offered Himself to His Father. Christmas should be a feast of our consecration to God, and we live out that consecration at this time through the birth of Christ. Now is the time to love one another as He has loved us. Christmas is not an empty feast; it demands a commitment on our part as believers and people of faith.

Our First Reading is from the Prophet Isaiah. Within that reading we hear, *"Therefore, the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."* How often have we heard that famous prophecy? The older we are the more often most likely. This is such a clear statement of prophecy about the birth of Jesus the Messiah. We know that within a week that prophecy will have a fulfillment, but we also need to be aware that it has a distant fulfillment for us as well.

Jesus is indeed Emmanuel. That means **"God with us."** That name has so much significance for us always, but especially at this time. With His birth, the Lord is indeed with us. He is with us in our lives today, and by becoming man He was with us here on earth. It is not just a title; it is a fact. He is both near to us and near to God His Father.

On this Sunday, the Second Reading comes from the beginning of St. Paul's letter to the Romans, the very beginning. In a sense it is an introduction of himself to the Romans. Scholars

have concluded that Paul penned this letter from Corinth while he was en route to Rome; he wanted the Romans to know who he was before he arrived. Paul had been warned that he was in danger and he wanted to make sure he got a communication to the Romans.

In that sense the letter to the Romans is unique among Paul's many letters. Most of his letters focused on the Church and its challenges and problems. However, this letter is concentrated on God and on His great plan of redemption. That, of course, is why it is significant at this time. Without Christ there would be no redemption; there would be no Christmas; and there would be no Easter either. St. Clement of Rome quoted Paul's letter so often that some believe he had memorized it. Almost every time there was a meeting or a celebration of the Roman Church, this letter was read.

Paul identifies himself first as a servant of Christ, and then as an apostle of Christ. It is that for which we strive also. At all times, especially at this holy time of Christmas, we need to acknowledge that Christ has called us to serve, just as He served. Then He calls us to discipleship, just as Paul says he was called to be an apostle. That is what stewardship is all about — service and discipleship.

Finally, our Gospel passage from Matthew gives us the exact report of Jesus' birth. In providing the specific description of the Birth of Christ this Gospel calls us to know, to believe, and to do. Like Mary we believe. Christmas is a feast of faith. Just as Mary gave birth we are called to give birth to Christ in our world through our own faith. We live in a world that desperately needs a Savior, someone who gives ultimate meaning to our lives.

St. Matthew relates the prophecy from Isaiah exactly as we heard it in the First Reading. Jesus is Emmanuel. He is "God with us" as He brings God to us; and He is "God with us" because He

lives within us and next to us always. Salvation is here, and it is here in the Person of Jesus Christ.

It is the Sunday before Christmas, yet because of the calendar in this year of 2016, Christmas is still a full week away. We may ask ourselves if we are prepared for Christmas, but that question may focus on the wrong things — we may be thinking of decorations and Christmas gifts and Christmas dinners.

However, the question we should be asking is **"Are our souls ready for Christmas?"** That should be the most important part of our Christmas preparation. Is God present within us? Are we ready to welcome Christ? Do we acknowledge our need to be prepared for Christ's Second Coming?

In his letter to the Romans, the Second Reading, St. Paul uses the phrase *"the Spirit of holiness."* Paul, and in a more important way Christ Himself, calls us to holiness. Holiness is more than what we do; it has everything to do with what we are. It has to do with our very identity. Holiness is characterized by our relationship with the Lord. We are waiting for Christ, but the reality is that Christ is waiting for us. God loves us; knowing and responding to that love is holiness.

St. Teresa of Calcutta may have said it best when she stated, **"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at someone and offer them your hand."** Doing that is being holy, too.

www.catholicstewardship.com

***Come, O Jesus, our Savior
redeem and save us!***



*Christmas, New Year's and
Theophany Schedule for
St. John Chrysostom*

Saturday, December 24

Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ

10:00pm ~ ~ Compline and Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 25

Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ

10:00am ~ ~ Divine Liturgy

Monday, December 26

Synaxis of the Theotokos

10:00am ~ ~ Divine Liturgy in Holy Wisdom Chapel

Sunday, January 1, 2016

Circumcision of Our Lord; St. Basil the Great

10:00am ~ ~ Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Thurs, January 5, 2017

Theophany of Our Lord

7:00pm ~ ~ Vespers, Divine Liturgy of St. Basil;
Blessing of Water