

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY, OF THE ANCESTORS

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

Come, then, let us observe the Feast! Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been implanted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.

Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven did

not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infant's food from His Virgin Mother. So, the Father of all ages, as an infant at the breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star.

To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Ghost, we offer all praise, now and forever. Amen.

St. John Chrysostom



Icon of the Nativity of Our Lord -- December 25th

ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

1123 44TH St NE, Canton, OH 44714

Website: stgeorgeoh.org

Tel: 330-492-8413 FAX: 330-493-9963

Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355

Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413

Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355

Fr. Deacon Remus Orian – 330-809-2500

Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Vespers: 6:30 p.m.

Day of Feast: 10:00am and 6:30 p.m.

Confessions: See calendar or at any time by request.

Ann Fosnaught, Secretary 330-492-8413 or annf@rcdcanton.org

December 20, 2020

Sunday before Christmas

This Sunday: Epistle Heb 11:9-10; 17-23; 32-40 Gospel Mt 1:1-25

Next Sunday: Epistle Gal 1:11-19 Gospel Mt 2:13-23

Weekly Liturgy Schedule

Monday 12/21	No Divine Liturgy
Tuesday 12/22	8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Mark Hampu
Wednesday 12/23	8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family
Thursday 12/24	9:00am Royal Hours for Nativity of our Lord
Thursday 12/24	6:30pm Vespers for Nativity of our Lord
Friday 12/25	10:00am Divine Liturgy: Nativity of our Lord with social to follow in Large hall
Saturday 12/26	10:00am Divine Liturgy: Synaxis of the Mother of God
Sunday 12/27	10:00am Divine Liturgy

Church Bulletin donated in December 2020 by Rick Bollon

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at <https://stgeorge.click2stream.com/>. Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner. Also, we are every Sunday on St. George Cathedral Facebook.

Coffee hour will take place in the Large Hall and is donated by Deb and Tim Reichel. Thank you!

Sunday Collection: December 13, 2020

Sunday envelopes	\$1,865.00
Martyr Bishops Collection – Clergy Retirement Fund	\$105.00
Candles	<u>\$70.00</u>
Total	\$2,040.00

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

In memory of all Zagan Family Members	The Zagan Family
+Husband Dan Cseak	Natalie Cseak
+All family members and angel +Trisha	Del and Sandy
H/S All family members	Del and Sandy
Special Intention for Family	Doru Jacobs
Health and Salvation	Mihai and Elena Florea
In memory of loved ones	Mihai and Elena Florea
H/S Maria-Claudia	Maria Marcu
H/S Eugene Murari	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Us	Earl and Amparo Adkins
For paz/pace in USA	Earl and Amparo Adkins
Health and Salvation	Earl and Amparo Adkins
H/S All parishioners	Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian
+Miron, father	Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian
Special Intention	Anonymous

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Special Announcement:

Please pray for: Bryan Pryce, John Contini, Donna Pandullo, Missy Lawver, Carol Hoge, Veronica Maier, Sr. Agnes Scalero, Earl Adkins, End to Corona Virus attack, Clore Family, Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian, Grace Mary Fein, Barbara Greavu, Connie McAdams, Suzie Dragos, Doris Rotar, Virginia Rogers, Stella Lazar and all who need our prayers.

Sick and homebound: Amelia Botean (Home), Magdalene Florian (Florida), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Ann Stimer (Home), Maria Poplacean (Canton Regency Rm.#256), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home) Natalie Cseak (St. Joseph, Louisville), Eugene Popa (St. Joseph, Louisville) and Irene Pontones (Chapel Hill Retirement Community)

For holy Baptism contact the parish office at least one month prior to the date requested.

For First Reconciliation contact the parish office when your child turns 7.

For Weddings contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date requested.

To guarantee announcements for the bulletin, they need to be given to the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

To facilitate **accurate counting**, please use separate checks/cash for the special collection, candle and Sunday collection envelopes. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

Please let the office know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc., so we can put you on our prayer list. Thank you!

Altar Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **the Craciun Family for the health of Mrs. Georgeta Barcutian and Mrs. Mary Cornea.**

Left Iconostasis Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **Danny and Cyndi Ardelean Family in memory of +Vasile and +Mary Ardelean and Family.**

Right Iconostasis Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **Danny and Cyndi Ardelean Family in memory of +Vasile and +Mary Ardelean and Family.**

Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **Del and Sandy Schock in loving memory of +Trish Schock, daughter for her birthday on December 2.**

If you would like to sponsor candelabra for any month of the year in honor of a living member or in memory of any loved ones that have passed away, please get in touch with the Church office and Ann will be able to schedule it for you. Thank you for your continuous support of the Church!!!

Prescura for December 2020: Amparo Adkins, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Jacqui Oprean, Virginia Rogers, Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and Psa. Gabriela Marginean.

Announcements

Sunday envelopes for 2021 will be available on Christmas day. Thank you for your commitment to our parish!

As we approach Christmas, we have been putting in the bulletin about stories for Christmas – Nancy would have been the person to give the stories to, so she can put them all together – to include with our Christmas mailing. I think this kind of fell through the cracks, and I apologize for not publicizing it more this way. I would like to do this project, still, but let's plan this one for next year. So, to jump start our next year project – if you want – please write down what meant Christmas for you **this year**, and then, we can put all these stories together for our next Christmas when we can – God willing – celebrate all together first here in Church and then with our families without the fear of COVID-19!

Fulfillment of your **Pledge!** Stewardship is your responsibility to God and His Church. We need to take care of what He has given us at St. George Cathedral. If you are unable to come to church, please drop off your donation to the office. Your care for this parish is gratefully appreciated!

Especially during this Christmas season, use Amazon Smile and choose St. George Cathedral. Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to the charity of your choice when you go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. As you are shopping online, you can go to choose the St. George Cathedral. Thank you for using <https://smile.amazon.com/>!

Thank you to all who donated towards the Stark County Hunger Task Force by bringing non-perishable food items!

Thank you to all who helped to decorate the church for Christmas!

Parish events:

The carolers are missing sharing the message of Jesus' birth with song, but you can hear some reminders of the season at these links. **Christmas colinda / caroling** can be found at <https://www.stgeorgeoh.org/> or at <https://youtu.be/2qoFpWqTE3E>.

. A **Christmas social** will be held in the Large Hall following Divine Liturgy on Friday, December 25. If you plan to attend, please bring goodies to share. Merry Christmas!!

To Tickle Your Funny Bone ☺

“Do you take this woman for you wedded wife?”, the minister asked the nervous bride groom. “For better or worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness or ...”

“Just a minute, pastor!” interrupted the bride. “Stop now or you will talk him right out of it!”

Word of Life

“Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother.” Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”

For all parents awaiting the birth of their child:

May they look to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph

and follow their example

of cherishing and protecting human life;

Let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mercy.

Happy Birthday! La mulți ani!!

Rachel Bollon – December 21st

Frank Getz – December 21st



	Mon 12/21	Tue 12/22	Wed 12/23	Thu 12/24	Fri 12/25	Sat 12/26	Sun 12/27
	Christmas Fast - Common abstinence (unless otherwise noted)			Strict fast and	Dispensation (Harti)		
	Rachel Bollon's	Anastasia, martyr,	10 Martyrs of Crete	Vigil of the Nativity.	Nativity in the Flesh	Pete and Dodi	Olivia Bosca's
	Frank Getz's birthday		Abstinence	Christmas Eve	+CHRISTMAS DAY -	+SYNAXIS OF THE	+St. Stephen,
	Juliana of Nicomedia,				Abstinence		SUNDAY AFTER
					Christmas Day		
9am		Liturgy: +Mark Hampu 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family 8:30am - 9:30am	Royal Hours: Nativity of Our Lord 9am - 11am			
10am					Divine Liturgy: Christmas 10am - 12pm	Divine Liturgy 10am - 11am	Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am
11am							
12pm				Confessions 12pm - 1pm	Christmas social 12pm - 1pm		Coffee: Tony Orlando 11:30am - 12:30pm
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm				Confessions 4:30pm - 5:30pm			
6pm							
7pm				Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy: Eve of Nativity 6:30pm - 8:30pm			
8pm							

Sunday of the Holy Fathers

The commemoration of the Holy Fathers is manifested to the ends of the world. It is truly of splendor, and it glistens with the rays of grace; for Christ the splendrous Sun has shone forth on high from afar. He forms the assembly of stars which glisten with Him, and the star reveals that the nativity of the God-man will be in Bethlehem. Therefore, we piously and faithfully clap our hands and leap for joy at this nativity, and we give praise before the feast.

The Holy Fathers are adorned by the glory of the divine sharing of our nature. Adam rejoices today, since he is the foundation and the strength of the wise Forefathers; Abel leaps for joy as well. Enoch is glad; Seth and Noah dance together. The praiseworthy Abraham sings with the Patriarchs. Melchisedek now sees from on high the birth without a father.



*Nativity of Our Lord
December 25th*

O Christ our God, your kingdom is eternal, and your reign is from generation to generation. You became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and became man from the ever-virgin Mary. Your coming, O Christ, has shed a great light upon us. You are the Light of Light and the radiance of the Father. You have illumined the whole creation. Therefore, everything that breathes sings a hymn of praise to You. You are the image of the Father's glory. You are the eternal God, existing before all ages, who shone forth from the Virgin. O Lord our God, have mercy on us.



*Synaxis of the Holy Mother of God
December 26th*

O Christ, what shall we offer You for your coming on earth in our humanity for our sake? Every creature that has its being from You gives thanks to You: the angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star; the Magi present their gifts and the shepherds, their wonder; the earth provides a cave and the desert, a manger. As for us, we offer a Virgin Mother. O God who are from all eternity, have mercy on us.

Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth. Today Bethlehem receives the One who at all times sits with the Father. Today the angels sing the praises of the newborn infant. Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will to all.



*Saint Basil the Great
January 1st*

You have been called by the name of Basil, after the kingdom. In your kingly rank you led the people of Christ to wisdom and knowledge. Then the Lord of all and King of Kings adorned you with the crown of the kingdom, O Basil. He is the everlasting and co-eternal Son who was united to her that bore Him. Therefore, intercede with Him that He may enlighten and save our souls.

Adorned with the vestments of a bishop, O Basil, you gladly proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and poured out the teachings of the true faith for the Church. Now enlightened by them, we confess and glorify the one Godhead, indivisible in three Persons; namely the Almighty Father, the only-begotten Word of God, and the Divine Spirit. Intercede with Him that He may enlighten and save our souls.



Theophany of Our Lord in the Jordan
January 6th

When the Jordan received You, O Fountainhead, the Comforter descended in the form of a dove. Now behold the marvel: the One who bowed the heavens bows his head to the Forerunner, and the one made of clay cries out to his Maker: Why do you command me to perform what is beyond my power? It is I who need to be baptized by You. O Christ our God, O Sinless One, glory to You!

You have bowed your head before the Forerunner, and You have crushed the heads of the demons. You have descended into the waters and given light to all things that they may glorify You, O Savior, and Enlightenment of our souls.



Synaxis of John the Baptist
January 7th

The Forerunner said to the Creator: For my part I am held back, and I do not know where to flee. O generous One, You are the river of delight. How is it, therefore, that the streams of the river receive You as You enter them? To all those who venerate your holy manifestation, You pour out salvation, O Word!

O luminary in the flesh and Forerunner of the Savior, O offspring of the barren one, O friend, by leaping in the womb you adored the One who is born of the Virgin; and you baptized Him in the waters of the Jordan. O prophet, we pray to you: Implore Him that we may escape the future torments.

All text from Vesper Stichera of each feastday, The Festal Menaion, Sisters of Saint Basil, Uniontown, PA

CHRISTMAS AND THEOPHANY

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker
December 6th

When you appeared in a dream to Constantine the King, you gave him this warning: Release at once from prison those you have unjustly confined, for they are innocent; no murder did they commit as you claim. O King, listen to me, or else I shall call upon the Lord.

O holy Nicholas, holy preacher of Christ, always ready to help all on land or at sea. Whether they be near or far, you have compassion for all. You are a precious helper; therefore, we who gather here ask you to pray to the Lord that we be delivered from all distress and sorrow.



Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, the Patriarchs

Today we commemorate the ancestors of Christ. Sing with fervor a hymn of praise to Christ the Savior who exalted them among all nations. He is the Lord who does wondrous deeds because He is powerful and mighty. From them He brought forth a royal scepter, the immaculate maiden of God and virgin Mary. From her, Christ our God came forth to give life and eternal salvation for all.

The three holy youths were refreshed by the Holy Spirit when they walked in the fire as in a cool place. In them the Trinity and the Incarnation of Christ were prefigured in a mystical manner. By their wisdom and faith they overcame the power of fire. As for the just Daniel, he stopped the mouths of lions. Through their intercession, we beseech You: O Savior and Lover of Mankind, protect us from eternal fire and make us worthy of your heavenly kingdom.

THE LITURGICAL PREPARATION for the feast of Christ's Nativity intensifies today with the Sunday of the Genealogy, which commemorates those who were Christ's physical ancestors.

The Sunday of the Genealogy accelerates the countdown to the feast of Christ's Nativity. During the Nativity Fast we celebrate the memorials of several Old Testament prophets – Obadiah (Nov. 19), Nahum (Dec. 1), Habbakuk (Dec. 2), Zepheniah (Dec. 3), Haggai (Dec. 16), and Daniel (Dec. 17). Today we reflect on how the entire Old Testament period has been a preparation for Christ and how we are called to be ready for His ultimate triumph.

Prophecies of the Messiah

It is appropriate today to reflect on what the Scriptures tells us preceded the Incarnation. The following timeline and reading guide may be helpful in doing so. All the dates older than 1000 BC are approximate.

Before Time – The Word was with God before anything material came to be (John 1:1-4). It is through this eternal Word that our material creation comes into being.

The Pre-History of the Israelites before 4000 BC – The creation of our universe, the human race falls away from communion with God, life on earth as we know it begins (Genesis 1-3). Genesis actually contains two creation stories. The first (Gen 1:1-2:3) is a version of an older Babylonian myth re-edited to teach that creation is by the will of the only true God, not the result of warring gods and demons. It is cast in the form of a

single week to promote the character of the Sabbath as a day of rest. Its narrative (creation begins with a burst of light followed by the creation of the planets, etc.) harmonizes with the modern Big Bang theory and subsequent discoveries.

Genesis continues with the story of the creation and the fall of Adam and Eve. This tragic story concludes with these words addressed to the serpent: *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers; he will strike at your head while you strike at his heel”* (Gen 3:15). Many Fathers saw this as the first heralding of the Messiah's victory over sin and death (the “proto-gospel”). Satan's seeming defeat of Christ on the cross is but a striking of His heel while Christ's striking at his head is His ultimate defeat of Satan. It would take countless generations – from the beginning of humanity, through the years of both Old and New Testaments and the subsequent history of this age – for this event to be fulfilled.

Before 3000 BC – Sin prevails and increases, illustrated by Cain and Abel and Lamech, Noah and the Great Flood, (Gen 4-9). According to Jewish tradition, God makes a new covenant with Noah after the flood. Man is committed to observe the seven Noahide Laws prohibiting idolatry, murder, theft, sexual immorality, blasphemy, and the eating of meat with its blood (i.e. while the animal is still alive). They are also enjoined to establish courts of law.

The Prophets Read in the Church

At the time of the Hebrew kingdoms (the six or seven hundred years before Christ) prophets were periodically calling the people to trust in God despite the troubles of their nation. Despite conflicts with the Philistines or the Assyrians, and even in the midst of defeat and exile by the Babylonians and occupation by the Romans, the prophets encouraged the people to trust in God who would provide a deliverer.

After the death and resurrection of Christ the apostles, inspired by the Holy Spirit came to see these prophecies fulfilled in a decisive way by Jesus Christ, who delivers all mankind – not just the Jewish people – from its ultimate enemies, sin and death, not just foreign oppressors. Around the Old Testament prophecies of a deliverer, the apostles built their preaching of the true Messiah (Anointed One) of God, Christ Jesus the Savior. What we call the Old Testament was the Bible for the early Church as well as for Judaism and its prophecies shaped the presentation of the incarnation in the New Testament. As the following quotations show, the apostles considered these prophecies as clearly pointing to the coming of Christ:

- **His Conception** (Isaiah 7:14, cited in Mt 1:23) - “A virgin shall conceive and bear a son.”
- **The Place of His Birth** (Micah 5:2, cited in Mt 2:6) - “Bethlehem...out of you shall come a ruler...”

• **The Flight into Egypt** (Hosea 11:1, cited in Mt 2:15) - “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

• **The Slaughter of the Infants** (Jeremiah 31:15, cited in Mt 2:18) - “A voice was heard in Ramah...”

• **His home in Nazareth** (possibly Judges 13:5, cited in Mt 2:23) - “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Other prophecies were frequently cited as pointing to Jesus as the Messiah:

• Numbers 24:17 - “a star shall come forth out of Jacob...”

• Isaiah 11:1 - “There shall come forth a shoot from the root of Jesse...”

• Isaiah 60:5-6 “...they shall bring gold and frankincense”

While there are no verbatim quotations of prophecies in Luke’s infancy narratives, there are allusions to Old Testament scriptures throughout. In Luke 1:17, for example, John the Baptist is described by the angel as going “before him in the spirit and power of Elijah.” This alludes to Malachi 4:5-6: “Behold I am sending to you Elijah the Thesbite before the great and notable day of the Lord comes.”

These allusions, and others throughout the Gospels, reflect the early Church’s belief that the entire Old Testament leads us to see Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Our Preparation Continues

From December 20 to 24 we observe a five-day “holy week” during which Christ’s birth seems ever closer. As we sing during those days, “Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth.”

This fore-feast of the Nativity culminates on December 24, the Paramony of the feast. Usually translated as vigil or eve, paramony actually refers to the uninterrupted nature of the Church’s prayer on this day. During the day, the lengthier Great Hours or Royal Hours are chanted, followed by the Typika and a more elaborate than usual Great Vespers, to which is attached the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil.

A special service of Great Compline with a Litia for the feast ends the day. Sometimes this leads directly into the Orthros and Divine Liturgy of December 25. In some countries of Eastern Europe it culminates with a Holy Supper prior to the Liturgy. The same cycle of uninterrupted prayer is also prescribed for the Feast of the Theophany on January 5.

Let us offer up a hymn to the fathers who shone forth before the Law and under the Law, and who, by their upright will, were pleasing to the Lord and Master Who shone forth from the Virgin, for they now delight in the unfading light.

Canon of the Forefathers, Ode 1

Sunday before the Nativity (the Genealogy of Christ)



The Fathers Before Christ