Christ the Saviour Cathedral

"CATHEDRAL JOTTINGS"



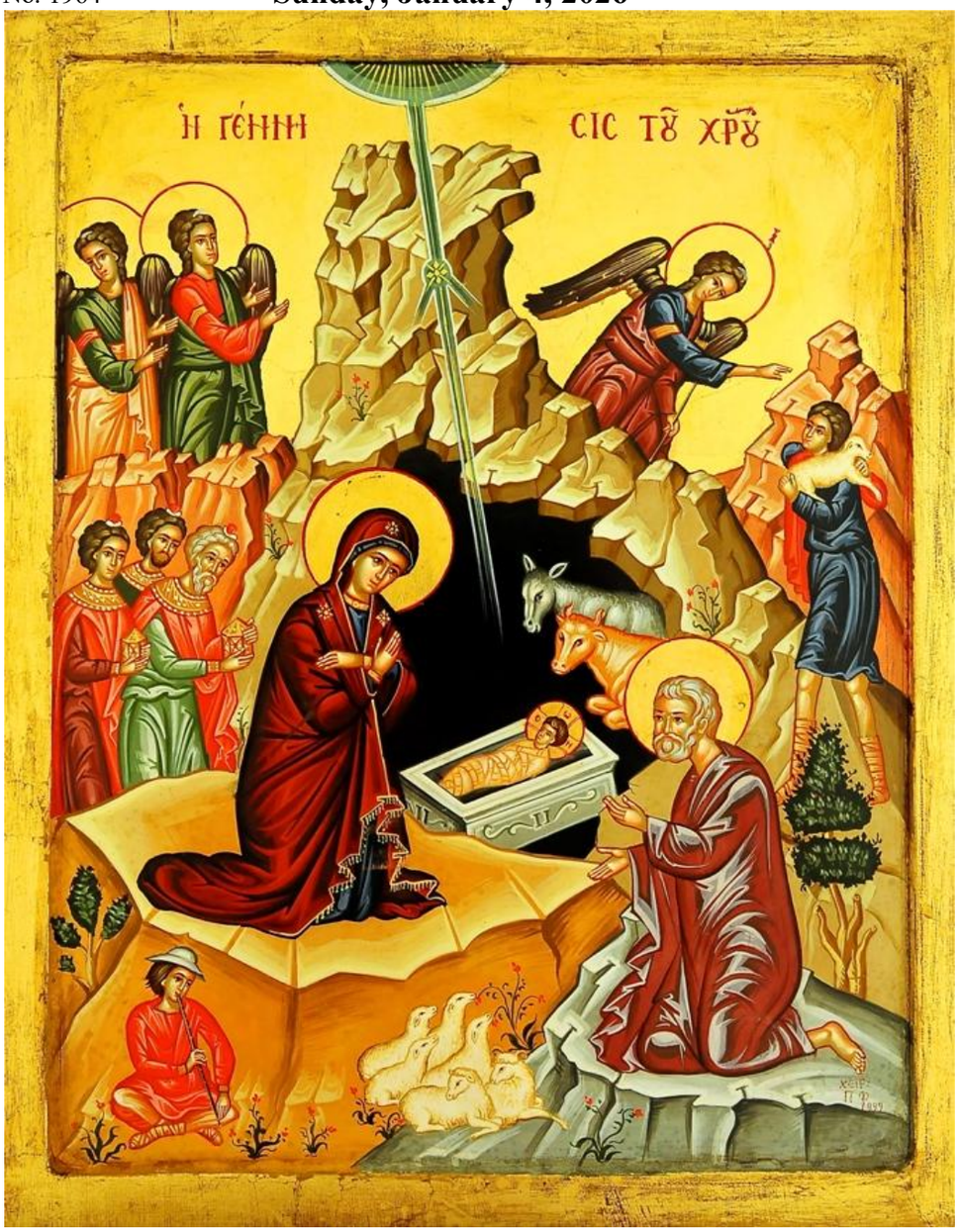
Corner of Garfield Street and Butler Avenue
Johnstown, Pa. 15906
Rectory Office – 249 Butler Avenue; Johnstown, Pa. 15906
Cathedral Church of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa
of the
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
of the
Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople

Cathedral Clergy

Pastor – Very Reverend Protopresbyter Robert A. Buczak, Cathedral Dean
Very Reverend Protopresbyter Frank P. Miloro - Very Rev. John S. Brancho
Rectory Phone……814-539-8086
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Cathedral Office……814-254-4011
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Cathedral: http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral ***Twitter***: https://twitter.com/acrodnews
Camp Nazareth: http://www.campnazareth.org ***You Tube***: https://youtube.com/acroddiocese

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Vol. 84 No. 1964 **Sunday, January 4, 2026**



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Sunday, January 4th, 2026

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday before the Feast of the Nativity; of the Genealogy

Divine Liturgy/Choir Sunday – 9:00 am **No Sunday School**

Panachida for +***Mary Pavlik*** offered by Roger Pavlik;
John, Ruth, Michael, James Horner and Mark DeCoske offered by Rosalie Horner and family;
+Anastasia, John, and Andrew Podolak by the Podolak Family;
+Emily Terchanik, and Mark Bodnar offered by Pani Kathy Buczak;
+John Smider offered by Anna Smider; ***+John Petrick; and +Anna Stolicza*** (Perpetual)
Resurrection Tone 5 - Tropar & Kondak pages 93 & 129

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Chrismation of Jason Donald Jude Leck into the Orthodox Faith

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Tuesday, January 6th, 2026

The Great Compline of the Nativity of Our Lord - 8 pm

Christmas Carols – 8:45 pm

Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord - 9 pm

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Wednesday, January 7th, 2026

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

9:00 am – Divine Liturgy

Tropar & Kondak: pages 132 – 135

Epistle: Galatians 4: 4-7 Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

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CHRISTMAS BRUNCH – January 7, 2026

All are invited to join us for a Christmas Brunch Christmas morning, January 7th, 2025 after the Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral Auditorium.

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Thursday, January 8th, 2026

The Synaxis of the Theotokos (Birthgiver of God)

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Panachida for + ***the Founders and Benefactors of the Cathedral Parish***

Tropar and Kondak pages 132-136

Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18 Gospels: Matthew 2:13-23

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Friday, January 9, 2026

The Feast of The Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Panachida for + ***Stephen Evanisko and the Departed Servicemen of the Cathedral Parish*** offered by the Evanisko Family; +***Mary Radasky Kesselak*** offered by Andrea and Jeff Robel; +***Helen Krompak***.

Tropar & Kondak: pages 132-137, 138
Epistle: Acts 6: 8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

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Sat. 1/10 … Baptism of Cecily Strenski ***No Vespers Scheduled***

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Sunday, January 11, 2026

Sunday after the Nativity



Commemoration of the Holy Righteous ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of Our Lord
The Holy Innocents slain by Herod

Divine Liturgy / Choir Sunday - 9:00 am **No Sunday School**

Panachida for + ***Dorothy Makar, Margaret Mley, and Helen Cicmansky*** offered by Pani Kathy Buczak; + ***Kay Miloro*** offered by the family***; Anna Toth*** offered by the family. ***+Departed Kol'adniki of the Cathedral Parish: Andrew Pavlik, Andrew Medvechy Jr., Constantine Mishurda, John Mishurda, John Kurtz, Nicholas Polak, Joseph Evanisko, Andrew Sakmar, Michael Gritzer, John Duray, Stephen Patrick, John P. Duray, Stephen Matolyak, and John Yurosko*** offered by John and Helen Yurosko

+Ronald Koval offered by daughter Susan and Ivan

+Patricia Pasternak offered by Ann Marie Mlinarchik; ***+Prof. Andrew Panchisin***

+Joseph, Michael, and Anna Chanda offered by Mary Chanda; ***+Pani Emily Molchany***;

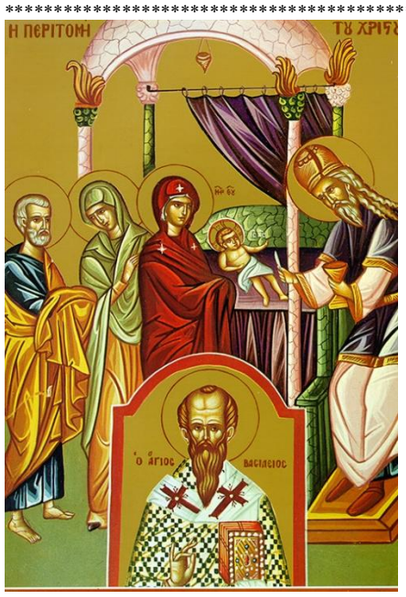
Resurrection Tone 6: Tropar & Kondak: pages 96 &142

Epistle: Galatians 11:11-19 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

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Tue. 1/13 … ***Vespers for the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord……...4:00 pm***

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Wednesday, January 14, 2025

Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord Commemoration of St. Basil the Great & Julian Calendar New Year

Divine Liturgy- 9:00 am

Tropar & Kondak: pages 140-141

Epistle: Colossians 2:8-12

Gospel: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

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1/17 … Great Vespers……..……4:00 pm

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Sunday, January 18, 2026

Sunday Before Theophany

Divine Liturgy / Choir Sunday - 9:00 am **No Sunday School**

Panachida for ***+Deacon Robert Conjelko and Joseph Kuzmyak Sr.*** offered by Pani Kathy Buczak; ***+Jospeh Kuzmyak*** offered by the Balog family;
+Helen Balog; and +Matthew Lazarak offered by Mary Lazarak (Perpetual)

Resurrection Tone 7: Tropar & Kondak: pages 99 &142

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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Sunday, January 18th, 2026 ---- 6:00 PM

THEOPHANY EVE DINNER

In the Cathedral Auditorium – ALL ARE WELCOME! Day of Strict Fasting

Vigil Service of Theophany with the Blessing of Water - 7:00pm

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Thank you to Roger Pavlik for donating the spring water for the Theophany Eve Blessing of Holy Water

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Monday, January 19th, 2026

The Feast of the Theophany of our Lord

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

+Helen Balog (Remembered in Proskomedia)

Tropar & Kondak: pages 145- 148

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

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Tuesday, January 20th, 2026

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

+David Vreeland (Remembered in Proskomedia) offered by Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Vreeland

Epistle: Acts 19: 1-8 Tropar & Kondak: pages 145, 148-150 Gospel: John 1: 29-34

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Wed. 1/21 … +Very Rev. John Stefanik offered by the Family; +Rose & John Patrick Sr.;
+Betty Ann Lanko Berezonsky offered by John Lanko Jr……8:00 am
Thur. 1/22 … +Michael, Mary, Michael, Anna, John, Susanna, Anna, and
+Martha Prokop…….8:00 am
Sat. 1/24 … Great Vespers ……...4:00 pm
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Sunday, January 25th, 2026

The Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday after Theophany
Zacchaeus Sunday

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:20 am

Panachida for +***Anna Marie Dudak*** offered by Dave and Melanie Dudak
+***Deacon Robert Conjelko***, +***Susan Semancik and Ron Belchik*** offered by Pani Kathy Buczak;
+***Dolores Muchesko*** offered by Mary Ann Muchesko
+***John Mirilovich*** offered by Mirilovich family: Rich, Harriet, Richard, Renee,
Andrew, Kristen, Michael, Nancy & Marie; +***Michael and Anna Zahoran*** offered by Joann Berkey;
+***Jan and Mary Koval***; and +***Very Reverend Dr. Nomikos Vaporis*** offered by son, Subdeacon Michael
Resurrection Tone 8 - Tropar & Kondak: pages 145-148, 102 & 150

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel Matthew 4:12-17

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the ***Christ the Saviour Cathedral Parish*** will be held ***Sunday, February 1, 2026*** immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral Auditorium. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. This is the ***first official announcement*** of the meeting. Proposals for the Annual Meeting are being accepted in the Cathedral office in written form until ***Sunday, January 18, 2026.***

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU – to ***Barry, Julia, and Amanda Gilchrist*** for their generous gift of ***$500.00 to the Cathedral Special Fund*** for the needy in memory of their dearly departed mothers and grandmothers Helen Yuhas and Helen Gilchrist and fathers and grandfathers John Yuhas and Robert Gilchrist, and husband and father Barry Gilchrist

CATHEDRAL CHARITY BOX - REMINDER

Did you know that the Cathedral has a charity box for the less fortunate of the parish? On the back of the last pew on the "Virgin's side" of the church is a small wooden box in which you may put your offering to help those in need. Thank you for your stewardship of our parish!

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BIRTHDAY PRAYERS – are offered for ***Ivan Palaski (1/4), Kurtis Dutko (1/4), Thomas Allen Buczak III (1/5), Michael Maticic (1/5), Janice Midler (1/6,)Zachary Tvarozna (1/10), Melanie Dudak (1/10), David Podolak (1/11), Nicholas Podolak (1/12), Luke Tvarozna (1/13), Sydnee Lauren Satkovich (1/13), Jerees Noah Zreigat (1/15), Steve Muchesko (1/17), Jodi Billetdeaux (1/17), Richard Kesselak (1/17), Michael Haschak (1/18), Maria Richards (1/18), Amanda Dutko (1/19), Katie Abele (1/22), George Evanisko (1/23), Nicholas Benc (1/24).***

You were remembered in Prokomedia!

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THE ETERNAL LAMP - is offered the week of January 5th in memory of +***Anastasia, John, and Andrew Podolak by the Podolak Family.***

THE ALTAR CANDLES – are offered Sunday January 5th in memory of +***Mary Pavlik by Roger Pavlik***.

THE ALTAR CANDLES AND THE ETERNAL LAMP – are offered the week of January 11th in memory of +***Michael Savering by his wife Mary Ann Savering.***

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ACRY "Souper Bowl"

The ACRY will be collecting cans of soup for the West End Food bank starting Sunday, January 11, 2026, thru Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, 2026. Please leave your canned good donation on the stage in the Cathedral auditorium for your donations. Thank-you for your continued support! The next ACRY Meeting will be held **Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 6:30 pm**. Sixteen gift bags will be distributed the first week of February to our shut-ins and those in assisted living homes. Thank you for your support and generosity this past year to our ACRY Chapter

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THANKS FOR THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Father Robert and Pani Kathy Buczak– in memory of Metropolitan Nicholas and in honor of Metropolitan Gregory

Father Robert and Pani Kathy Buczak – in memory of Joseph and Helen Rogel and Bernie Buczak

Very Reverend Protopresbyter Frank and Pani Connie Miloro

Margaret Gardenhour in memory of parents, Margaret and Steve Homan

Kristine Bunda – in memory of Stephen & Margaret Herko, & infant George Herko

Kristine Bunda – in memory of Bill and Peg Ryan

Susan Kalcik and Nick Bocher

Ann Fischbach

John and Katherine Krinock

Patricia Gable in memory of Peter and Margaret Gresh

George and Evelyn Evanisko

Zachary and Melanie and Zachary Timko

Roger Pavlik and Janice Middler

Roger Pavlik and Janice Middler in memory of Parents and Grandparents

Louise Brudnak – in memory of Stephen, Anna, Dolores, and Robert Brudnak and Joseph Kuhar

Son, Subdeacon Michael Oleksa – In loving memory of Patricia (Gzvodich)Oleksa

Thomas Fultz – In memory of the departed members of the Fultz Family

Thomas Fultz – In memory of the departed members of the Tomchik families.

Thomas Fultz – In memory of Theresa, William, and Amanda Fultz

The Gregory Family – in memory of Margaret and Rudolph Gregory

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Haschak – In memory of Bethany Haschak

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Haschak – In memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Haschak Sr.

Lynne Hood - In memory of my parents Eli and Betty Gvozdich

Halee Leader – In memory of Elizabeth and Frank Zahoran,

Halee Leader - In memory of Julia Holko and Alice Joann Berkey

Melissa Kolar - In memory of Amelia Kolar and John Kolar

Diana (Gvozdich) Smith - in memory of Gvozdich and Bastaja Families

Diana (Gvozdich) Smith - in memory of the Geisey Family

Rich and Harriet Mirilovich – In memory of parents John and Mary Mirilovich

Rich and Harriet Mirilovich – In memory of sister, Nancy Jo Horvath

Darice Tvarozna and Tvarozna children – In memory of husband, Daniel Tvarozna

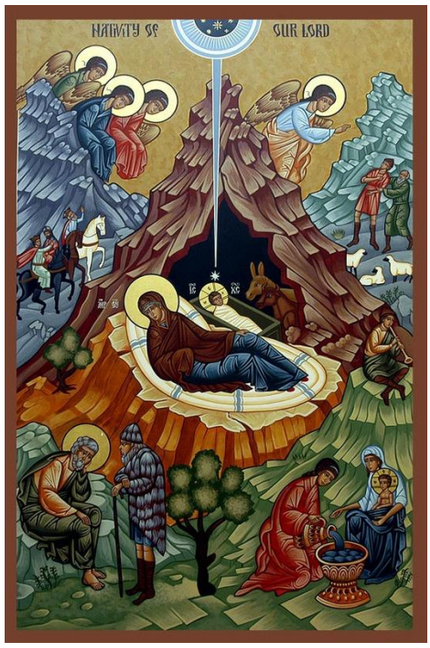
Daughter, Darice and Tvarozna children – In memory of Peter and Helen Dutko

Grand-daughter Darice, Zachary & Luke Tvarozna – In memory of John & Mary Sprincz

Majed and Jehan Zreigat



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In this night of reconcilement let no man be wroth or gloomy in this night that stills all, none that threatens or disturbs! This night belongs to the sweet One; bitter or harsh be in it none! In this night that is the meek One's, high or haughty be in it none! In this day of pardoning let us not exact trespasses! In this day of gladnesses let us not spread sadnesses! In this day so sweet, let us not be harsh! In this day of peaceful rest, let us not be wrathful in it! In this day when God came to sinners, let not the righteous be in his mind uplifted over sinner! In this day in which there came the Lord of all unto the servants, let masters too condescend to their servants lovingly! In this day in which the Rich became poor for our sakes, let the rich man make the poor man share with him at his table. On this day to us came forth the Gift, although we asked it not! Let us therefore bestow alms on them that cry and beg of us. This is the day that opened for us a gate on high to our prayers. Let us open also gates to supplicants that have transgressed, and of us have asked [forgiveness.] To-day the Lord of nature was against His nature changed; let it not to us be irksome to turn our evil wills. Fixed in nature is the body; great or less it cannot become: but the will has such dominion, it can grow to any measure. To-day Godhead sealed itself upon Manhood, that so with the Godhead's stamp Manhood might be adorned. – St. Ephraim of Syria

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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 kindliness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been 'in planted 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 arc 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, "Homily on Christmas Morning"

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CATHEDRAL ON-LINE

Did you know that you can make donations to Christ the Saviour Cathedral on-line? Many parishioners and non-parishioners save time and efforts by donating to the Cathedral at: **https://www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/**

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PRAYER CHAIN

Thomas Buczak	Shirley Mazurak	Marcia Matthews	Michael Mehalacki	Zander Marshall
Veronica Buczak	Erin Demich	Jolene McClain	Matthew Hanak	Kara Dorsey
Michael Sakmar	Mary Ann Muchesko	Georgene Coulter	Mary Frances Dutko	Ronald Patrick
Joseph Muchesko	Michaela Miller	Tanya Britan	Clarabella Knight	Lisa Daugherty
Roberta Kovalik	Arianna Jade Miller	Frank and Daniel Porembka	Matushka Mary Margaret	Cindy LaBarr
Kira Pronin	Taylor Miller	Dr. Rose Ann Jordan	Remona Blunt-Wall	Amber
Alexxa Lowery	Jennifer Gardenhour	Demetra Mavrophilipos	Patti Sweeney	Diana Gvozdich-Smith
Romayne Laichak	Steve Prieber	Rose Conjelko	Samantha Salway	Jean Barnes
Zachary Rogina	Aberdeen Rudge	Cindy Birth	Joan and Ronald Bost	Jennifer Beas
Ron Kuzmyak	Pat Hanuska	Roger Zankey	Cheryl Reese	Douglas Gvozdich
Paul Kalcik	Dwight Nugle	Jess Ambrose	Sheri Smay	Ellen Kuzmyak
Henry Laichak	Rose and Terry Fyock	Paul Kalinyak	Geroge Kuzmiak	Elaine Adams
Ronald Kmet	Rosalia Horner	John Rosiak	Lisa Luterman	Ronnie Horbal
Eva Zeleniak-Whitak	Beverly Mayo	Louis Pocchiari	Jeanne Norris	Audrey Novak
Judith Rowlands	Al Kuzmyak	Ed and Christine Sakmar	Kristo Burkett	Lindsay Penatzer
Angeline Komara	Michael Paul Gost	Julie Locher	Amanda May	Carol Devine
Arianna Risso	Matushka Helen Jasiukowicz	Denise Stroud	Jean Romesburg	Dominic
Charlie Erisman	Joanne Democko	Brianna Thompson	MaryAnn Savering	Florence Gost
Rachael Costlow	Robert and Barbara Stokes	Elijah Groff	Spenser Kreger	

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You have never really lived
until you have done something for someone who cannot possibly pay you back

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Christmas Customs



As the first star of the evening appears, the festivities begin. The father comes into the room, extends Christmas greetings and spreads hay over the floor. Next he places a sheaf of wheat and other farm products (a sample of each) on the table. With a prayer, he ties the four legs of the table with a chain, asking God's blessing and protection from all corners of the world. He also prays that the family be always united like the links of the chain and that those separated from the family be united to them in spirit. This being done the candles are lighted and a star with a candle is placed in a window as a sign of welcome to any stranger who is hungry or needs shelter. **Blessing** - After thus the mother sprinkles everyone present with holy water. Then the father takes the holy water to the barn to bless the animals and to make sure that on this holy night they are well fed. Now a traditional toast is offered. Then the mother takes a clove of garlic, dips it in some honey, and makes the sign of the cross upon the forehead of those present. The honey symbolizes the sweetness of life, the garlic symbolizes the bitterness. Thus, each is reminded to bear sweetness and bitterness of life during the coming year. **Menu** - The supper consists of mushroom soup (with sauerkraut juice); bobalky (small biscuit like breads mixed with nuts or poppy seeds); beans; stewed fruits and/or vegetable dishes; fish; kolachy (Christmas cakes) and tea. The menu varies according to the custom of the village. However, whatever the menu, NO MEAT is served. In some places, the abstinence includes dairy products. (There are traditionally twelve courses served, reminiscent of the Twelve Apostles, with one empty place setting at the table for any unseen, or unexpected guest -- perhaps even Christ himself disguised as such).Prayers are offered during supper for a prosperous growth of products during the coming year. Carols are sung, presents exchanged. An exciting part of the evening for the children would be the hunt for nuts and fruit hidden in the straw on the floor by the father of the house. The games are interrupted by the carolers who make the rounds of the village.

Liturgical Observance - By evening all begin to prepare for church. The Christmas Eve services consist of the Great Compline - an evening service. The church resounds with the chanting of verses taken from the Book of Isaiah: God is with us; all you nations understand and do penance for God is with us! After the church services the men of the village call upon each other offering Christmas greetings to neighbors or favorite friends. Children are often chosen to extend these greetings. The most eloquent receives a special reward from parents, grandparents or godparents. These well-wishers are eagerly awaited at every home. If by chance a high ranking official of the village or county drops in as a well-wisher it is considered not only an honor but a good omen. By the time the well-wishing is complete, the church bells call the people to Christmas Divine Liturgy. Usually those who were shepherds were given a position of honor during this Liturgy. They came with their bagpipes and after Liturgy played Christmas Carols. Afterwards everyone journeys home and quiet reigns in the village until the afternoon when the church bells again call the people for Christmas Day Vespers. More carol singing follows and the festivities of Christmas extend until the feast of Theophany (January 6/19). Carol Singers - A popular practice is the carol singing carried on by the Yaslichkary who carry a Nativity Shrine in the shape of a small church. Angels lead the singers while the old wise shepherd (Kuba or Guba) tags along. They visit every home - every family expects them. They are dressed in white garments with high cylinder shaped hats, with ribbons of flashy colors across their breast. The Kuba is the comedian of the group, chasing children with his wooden hatchet and threatening to kidnap the bad ones in the bag he carries into which he also collects the gifts the Yaslichkary receive. The caroling continues during the three-day observance of Christmas.

