

# **Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church**

(Saint Mary's Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church, Inc.)

On the Corner of East 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Second Avenue

Father Edward G. Cimbala, MAOL, D.Min. ~ Pastor

Boris Derow ~ Music Director/Cantor

Parish Office

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**December 22, 2024**

Sunday Before Christmas of the Ancestors

**December 25, 2024**

Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

# WELCOME VISITORS

**“MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER  
FOR ALL PEOPLES.” - Isaiah 56: 7**

If you are a visitor to St. Mary's, we want you to know how deeply we appreciate your presence. Whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish, we are grateful for your interest in our church. We warmly welcome you and hope you find our worship true and reverent. We consider you part of our family and would be more than honored by your presence in our spiritual home. For more information about becoming a parishioner, please see Fr. Ed.

## Poinsettia Memorials

**Thank you for your generosity in honoring your  
loved ones.**



**In Memory of Philly and Philip Chillak  
by Mary Chillak**

**In Memory and Honor of the Cimbala Family by Fr. Ed**

**In Memory of Arthur Joseph Dalton by Alexandra Dalton**

**In Memory of the Vislocky/DiMatteo Family  
by Mary DiMatteo**

**In Memory of Vasil and Katarina Zihal by Mary Galus**

**In Memory of Michal Sikoriak \* In Memory of Vasil Hlinka**

**In Memory of Helena Hlinkova  
by Miroslav and Anna Hlinka**

**In Memory and Honor of the Kopinets Family by Roman Kopinets**

**In Memory of the Ochlon Family by Margita Ochlon**

**In Memory of the Kormanik and Rinkovsky Families  
By Justina Rinkovsky**

**In Memory of John, Mary, Johnny Ruschak  
by Eleanor and Margie Ruschak**

**In Memory of Irene and Larry Palumbo  
by Eleanor and Margie Ruschak**

**In Memory of Dorothy Sank, Mary & John Malast, Chole Malast,  
Kevin Guiteras, and Mary Ann Hogstrom by Debbie Sank**

**In Memory of John Sikora, the Sikora Family,  
and the Gabor Family by Margaret Sikora**

**LITURGICAL  
SERVICES**

**Sunday, December 22**

**10:00 AM**

**Sunday Before Christmas**

+Theresa Hutnik

By Dorothy Huzinec

*Carols From Ukraine*

*Concert*

*2:00 PM*

**Tuesday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve**

**6:00 PM**

**Holy Supper in**

**Social Hall**

**8:00 PM**

**Divine Liturgy**

**For the Parish Families of  
St. Mary's and Holy Cross**

**Wednesday, December 25**

**10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy  
Special Intention of Fr. Ed**

**Festal Anointing Following  
Christmas Liturgies**

**Thursday, December 26**

**6:30 PM**

**Synaxis of the Theotokos**

+Mary Ann Hogstrom

By Lillian and Diana Hrisinko

**Sunday, December 29**

**10:00 AM**

**Sunday After Christmas  
David, Joseph and James**

+Dorothy Sank

by Debbie Sank

**Wednesday, January 1**

**10:00 AM**

**Feast of St. Basil**

**Circumcision of Our Lord**

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil  
For the Parish Families of St.  
Mary's and Holy Cross for  
Blessings on the New Year

**Sunday, January 5**

**10:00 AM**

**Sunday Before Theophany**

For the Parish Families of St.  
Mary's and Holy Cross for  
Blessings on the New Year  
With the Great Sanctification  
of Water

**Monday, January 5**

**Feast of Theophany**

**6:30 PM**

Divine Liturgy

+Peter Cimbala

**Sunday, January 12**

10:00 AM ~ Divine Liturgy  
For the Parish Families of St.  
Mary's and Holy Cross  
+Helen Gaydos

**Sunday, January 19**

10:00 AM ~ Divine Liturgy  
For the Parish Families of St.  
Mary's and Holy Cross  
+Helen Hayes  
By Patricia Dietz

**Christ is Born!**

**Christos Razdajetsja!**

**Glorify Him!**

**Slavite Jeho!**



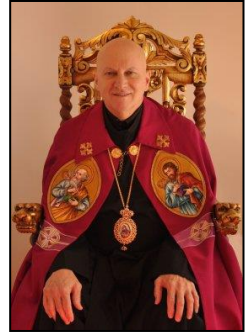
# PRE-CANA FOR COUPLES MARRYING IN 2025

**CROWNED IN LOVE:** Are you planning to marry in 2025? Then, you need to enroll in the one-day Pre-Cana program sponsored by the New Jersey

Byzantine Catholic parishes. The event will be hosted by St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 1900 Brooks Boulevard, Hillsborough, NJ. The cost per couple is \$75.00. See Father Ed for information and registration, or contact Fr. James Badeaux at [pastor@stmaryhillsboroughnj.org](mailto:pastor@stmaryhillsboroughnj.org)

## Bishop's Appeal

You have received information about the Bishop's Appeal. Please be generous. Bishop Kurt hopes each family will donate to this appeal. St. Mary's and Holy Cross benefit directly from this appeal, with these funds raised from the generosity of the people of the Eparchy of Passaic. You may pay your contribution over five months. **MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTION DIRECTLY TO THE EPARCHIAL OFFICES.** If you did not receive a brochure in the mail, copies may be found on the bulletin board outside the Social Hall. St. Mary's goal is \$5,000. If we meet our goal, we receive a 40% rebate. **The Eparchy financially supports St. Mary's by sending us \$6,000 monthly (\$72,000 annually). As a parish family, we should show our appreciation by responding to the Bishop's Appeal. If you have any questions, please see Fr. Ed.**



**Please Take This Bulletin Home  
So, You Can Keep Up With All The Parish Activities**

## Envelopes and Calendars are Available

Envelopes and Calendars may be found on the counter in the back of the church (eastside). If there is not a box of envelopes with your name on it, please take a blank box and indicate the number you took on the sheet. Everyone should have a box of envelopes and support the parish to the best of their ability.

# Christ is Born! Christos Razdajetsja! Glorify Him! Slavite Jeho!



*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”*

(Isaiah 9:6)

## Christmas 2024

My Dear Parish Family and Friends,

Yes, a child is born to us. He is wonderful! The Prophet Isaiah starts his titles for the birth of Christ with the word **“Wonderful.”** It is an appropriate word because it truly captures the true understanding and mystery of this tremendous event in human history.

God becomes man for us in all His wonder, mystery, fascination, and awe. He becomes one like us in all things except sin. He came that we might live, not die, and to grant us eternal and everlasting life, with freedom from the corruption of sin and eternal death.

In the mystery of the **“Incarnation,”** God becomes man so that we can share in our human nature and experience firsthand what it is like to live in an imperfect existence, to share in our sufferings, fears, anxieties, and yes, even death itself.

The first man, Adam, led us into sin and death by rejecting God. Christ, the Son of God made man, freed from sin and death, takes on the role of the “New Adam,” a term used to signify Christ's role in restoring humanity's relationship with God, in human nature to assume upon Himself all sin, destruction, and death itself. He also liberates us from a world without hope, wonder, or awe.

It is wonderful to witness and behold this great event and personally participate in it through the ministry of the Church as we celebrate another Christmas in humanity's salvation history and in each of our personal histories.

Despite our challenges, let us not allow them to overshadow this Christmas Season's joy, hope, and wonder. The Good News of the Christmas message should always be our guiding light before, during, and after the Christmas experience.

Our true mission and purpose in life and the true meaning of Christmas can be lost when our prayer life is not robust. Our relationship with God must be not just intellectual but is deepened through our ongoing spiritual growth.

Like that first Christmas in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, only the poor shepherds could see, understand, and share in the joy of this great miracle. This was so because they were poor and lived simply. But they were also poor in spirit and wholly disposed to witness the glory of God ***“shown round - - about them.”*** Their focus was always on God. Their mission in life was to follow their God unconditionally. They did this by upholding the faith handed to them by God through Abraham, Moses, and the prophets.

Like many of us these days, their lives were filled with daily sorrows, tears, disappointments, and fears, but they were uplifted by their love of God and by following His commandments. What they had seen and lived was a positive experience. It was a life of liberation from their day-to-day poor plight. Their understanding and belief in God gave them meaning, direction, and hope; therefore, they saw God and their lives as ***“Wonderful.”***

This coming Christmas Day, let us focus on the true meaning of Christmas joy and share what we believe and experience with others as a lasting Christmas gift to others. Let our eyes and soul gleam with Christmas wonder, mystery, awe, and fascination in our tremendous God who became man for us and for our salvation.

To make this happen for you, I entreat you to encourage your family to attend the Divine Liturgy at Christmas and throughout the coming New Year. Receive the Lord Jesus Christ in Holy

Communion often with true love, reverence, and devotion. Say your daily prayers and build a personal relationship with Christ through prayer and devotion. Try to think more of others and less of yourself and your problems. Spend your time doing good for others. Be extra generous with your time, talents, and treasures. Do not hide your gifts under a bushel basket, but let them shine as a light before all.

Make the Lord Jesus Christ and your acts of Charity a part of your everyday life and all you do as a Byzantine Catholic. If you follow these simple suggestions, I assure you that your life will be enriched with joy, peace, and contentment that will surpass all that you have already experienced in life, good or bad.

As a parish family, we are called to share the gift of our faith with friends and strangers alike. We are not selfish people; we have the greatest gift to share—our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and Byzantine Catholic tradition.

Yes, my dear friends, a child has been born to us. He is wonderful! And He made us wonderful in His eyes to behold! I offer you and yours my priestly blessings, prayers, and intentions in all my Divine Liturgies this Christmas Day.



I wish each of you and your families a happy and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely yours in the New Born King!

Fr. Ed  
Rev. Edward G. Cimbala, D.Min.  
Pastor





# St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

Presents

## Carols From Ukraine

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

2:00 pm



St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir

Free-will offering to benefit children in Ukraine.