

# **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 29, 2024**

**Sunday The Sunday After Christmas**

**David, Joseph, and James**

**January 5, 2025**

**Sunday Before Theophany**

# 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

**Updated**

**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 of Tamara and George Hspodar  
By Elizabeth Hspodar
- 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 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  
with the Great Sanctification  
of Water

**Monday, January 6**

**Feast of Theophany**

**6:30 PM**

Divine Liturgy  
+Peter Cimbala

**Sunday, January 12**

**Sunday After Theophany**

**10:00 AM ~ Divine Liturgy**

For the Parish Families of St.  
Mary's and Holy Cross  
+Helen Gaydos  
Festal Anointing for the Feast  
of Theophany

**Sunday, January 19**

**10:00 AM**

**35<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

For the Parish Families of St.  
Mary's and Holy Cross  
+Helen Hayes  
By Patricia Dietz

**Sunday, January, 26**

**10:00 AM**

**36<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

For the Parish Families of St.  
Mary's and Holy Cross  
+Irene and Larry Palumbo  
By Margie Ruschak

**Sunday, February 2**

**10:00 AM**

**Sunday of Zacchaeus  
Encounter of Our Lord  
With Simron and Anna**

For the Parish Families of St.  
Mary's and Holy Cross  
+Anna Flanagan  
By Mary DiMatteo  
Festal Anointing for  
the Feast of the Encounter

**A Special Thank you to all  
who helped to decorate the  
Church for Christmas. Many  
volunteers came together to  
make the church look  
beautiful for the Christmas  
Season. The entire parish  
family appreciates your work!**

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



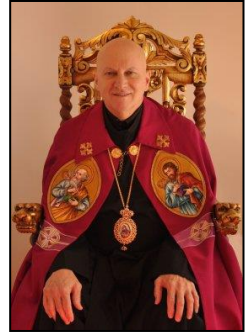
# PRE-CANA FOR COUPLES MARRYING IN 2025

**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, on Saturday, February 1. 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 no 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.

Thank you to the Parish Family of St. Mary's for the many kindnesses shown to me during the Christmas Season. Please know that you were remembered during my Christmas celebrations of the Divine Liturgy. You will also be in my constant prayers throughout the New Year.

*Fr Ed*

### Parish Census Form

If you have not completed a parish census form, please get one from Fr. Ed. Completing this form confirms your membership in the parish of St. Mary's. This is important as the Eparchy requires an accurate count of parishioners. The forms may be found by the envelopes and calendars.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** will be sent by January 15 to those who requested them in previous years. If you did not receive one and wished one to be sent, complete the form and drop it in the collection box or email Fr. Ed, and the statement will be sent to you.

### CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2024 Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*(It is not necessary if all your gifts were made online)*



**Remember St. Mary's** ~ It is not a topic we are comfortable discussing or even considering. Maybe that's why over 60 percent of Americans die without a will. And yet, a will is one of the most profound expressions of love and commitment we can leave behind. It is how we let family and friends know how much we truly treasure them. It is also a way to ensure that our parish will continue to prosper after we are gone. Your bequest to St. Mary's is a beautiful way to thank God for our parish's place in your life. Please complete a will for your own sake and your family's sake after you are gone. Please consider St. Mary's in your estate plans.

## Mark Your Calendars



## **Christmas Decoration Take-Down February 2 Following The Coffee Social**

Please stay and help take down the Christmas decorations. The more people who stay, the quicker the work will go.

**House Blessings** - It is our tradition to have our homes blessed after the feast of Theophany on January 6. If you wish to have Fr. Ed come and bless your home, please see or email him to schedule a time. Blessings will begin after the Sanctification of the Water on January 7.



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**The Feast of Theophany** celebrates a historic event, the Baptism of Christ. In addition, we celebrate all the different manifestations of God (Theophanies) to men in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. We celebrate in this Feast His mysterious union with humanity in the Church -- a union of faith and love, engendering men to a new spiritual life in Baptism. The event of the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River (Mk. 1: 9-11) reveals this union in a clear and special manner.

In accordance with the Gospel, this is the first revelation of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- the Holy Trinity. The icon brings this revelation to us. At the top of the icon, the opening of heaven is symbolized by the segment of a circle. This circle signifies God's presence and witness at the event. Emanating from the circle are rays of light surrounding the Holy Spirit, depicted in the figure of a dove descending upon our Savior, Who is being baptized in the Jordan by John. In this graphic manner, the Father and the Holy Spirit give testimony to the appearance of the Son of God in the flesh among mankind.

In this icon, we are immediately drawn to the Person of Christ. He stands in the waters of the Jordan. The iconographic imagery



expresses that not just a part but the entire body of Christ is immersed in the Jordan as a token of His burial; for in Colossians, we read: "In baptism you were not only buried with Him but also raised to life with Him because you believed in the power of God Who raised Him from the dead." (2: 12) The icon's illustration of the total immersion of Christ as well as His right hand blessing the waters signifies the sanctification and purification of the waters by Christ. Water is no longer

an image of death but an image of birth into a new life, which we share with Christ, who took upon Himself the sins of the world. In Christ, we celebrate that all of creation is renewed.

A further illustration of our coming to share this new life in Christ is the symbol of Christ undergoing Baptism "clothed" in the nakedness of Adam, the Father of all mankind. Through Christ's sanctification of the waters, He enables us to be raised up with Him and to put on the robes of incorruptibility.

The role of John the Baptist is depicted by placing his right hand on the head of Christ -- a gesture which has always been an integral part of the sacramental ritual of Baptism. With his left hand, John makes a gesture of prayer, symbolizing the trembling awe that overwhelmed him at the sight of the divine manifestation. Present in the icon are Angels with their hands covered. Their heads are bowed to indicate their role of service to God and their reverence for Him Whom they serve. The Icon of Theophany brings us visually and symbolically to the presence of the manifestation of God, the revelation of the Trinity, and the deep, spiritually rich significance of Baptism. In its presence, we know that God does reveal Himself to us and that through our baptism, which is established by the baptism of Christ, we are made new in Christ.

**Christ is Baptized!**  
**In the Jordan**

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**My Dear St. Mary Parish Family,**

As we begin a new year, let us plan and make Stewardship of time and talent a part of our lifestyle and Stewardship of treasure a part of our budget. Your giving to the parish should be planned and consistent. I ask you to think about your level of giving for 2025. Can you increase your gift in the coming year, or do circumstances require you to reduce your contribution? The important thing is that you think about your giving.

*“Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

(II Corinthians 9:7)

Please pick up your envelopes – even if you make your contributions electronically. This will give me an idea of who will financially support the parish in 2025.

As we begin the New Year, I also ask that you reflect on your stewardship of time and talent. What can you do for the good of your parish? Talk with me, and we will find something for you!

We have much to do here, and the parish (and I) need your time, talent, and treasure. You are in my prayers, and I ask that you keep me in yours!

*Fr Ed*



**Some Volunteer  
Opportunities  
At St. Mary's**

**Office Help – Organizing – Ushers**

**Church Tour Docent**

**Greeters - Collection Counters**

**Social Events – Parties**

**Special Event Hospitality – Photography**

**Flower Care**

**Anything that you see that needs to be done!**

**Please see Fr. Ed to Volunteer.**