

## SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY, OF THE ANCESTORS



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

**December 20, 2020 – SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS - of the Ancestors**  
*Tropar, Kontakion, Prokimenon, Alleluia Tone 4 - Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40; Mt 1:1-25*

**Sat. Dec. 19 St. Boniface, Martyr (+290) – Saturday Before Christmas**

4:00 pm Great Vespers (Livestream)  
5:00 pm Divine Liturgy +Wengrin Family by Annie Yex (Livestream)

**Sun. Dec. 20 Sunday Before Christmas – Of The Ancestors**

8:00 am Matins (Livestream)  
9:00 am Rosary – (Livestream)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Livestream)  
11:00 am Divine Liturgy for Our Parish Family (Livestream)  
3:00 pm Vespers (Livestream)

**Mon. Dec. 21 St. Juliana, Virgin-Martyr from Nicomedia (+306)**

8:00 am Matins (Livestream)  
8:30 am Divine Liturgy +Charles Dorobish by Bruce and Kathy Bober (Livestream)  
5:00 pm Vespers (Livestream)

**Tues. Dec. 22 St. Anastasia, Great-Martyr (+304)**

8:00 am Matins (Livestream)  
8:30 am Divine Liturgy (Livestream)  
8:30 am Divine Liturgy with School Children – Birthday Blessings for Joseph Basalla by Family (at St. Mary Church)  
5:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

**Wed. Dec. 23 Ten Martyrs at Crete**

8:00 am Matins (Livestream)  
8:30 am Divine Liturgy (Livestream)  
5:00 pm Vespers (Livestream)

**Thur. Dec. 24 St. Eugenia, Venerable Martyr (+257) – Christmas Eve – VILIIA – Day of Strict Fast**

8:00 am Matins (Livestream)  
12 Noon Royal House (Livestream)  
4:00 pm Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for +Andrew Loya Sr. by Andrea Loya (Livestream)  
9:00 pm Great Compline with Litija (Livestream)

**Fri. Dec. 25 The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ – Christmas Day**

8:00 am Festal Matins (Livestream)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy for Our Parish Family (Livestream)  
5 pm Vespers (Livestream)

**Sat. Dec. 26 Synaxis of the Theotokos and St. Joseph, her Spouse**

8:00 am Matins (Livestream)  
8:30 am Slavonic Divine Liturgy (Livestream)  
4:00 pm Great Vespers (Livestream)  
5:00 pm Divine Liturgy for +Marion Dorosy by Family (Livestream)

**Sun. Dec. 27 Sunday After Christmas – Memory of David, Joseph, and James**

8:00 am Matins (Livestream)  
9:00 am Rosary – (Livestream)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Livestream)  
11:00 am Divine Liturgy for Our Parish Family (Livestream)  
3:00 pm Vespers (Livestream)

**MASK REQUIRED IN CHURCH BUILDINGS:** Masks are mandatory for anyone attending Divine Liturgies. (Exceptions are those with health issues that prohibit wearing a mask and children ten and under.) We ask that you cooperate with this request. If you are uncomfortable wearing a mask or simply “uncomfortable” being inside the church we continue to provide the services on livestream for you to watch from home ([www.parma.org](http://www.parma.org) or [www.logos.tv](http://www.logos.tv) or YouTube LOGOS TV – PARMA).

**The 2020/21 Annual Stewardship Appeal:** The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord is this week and through the liturgies of the Church we have been called to focus on the miracle of the *Incarnation* in the cave of Bethlehem. God the Father will give us the greatest gift in His Son this Christmas. How are you responding to God’s gracious gift to us? How will you show your gratitude for the infant Christ?

As you complete your preparations for the Christmas Feast, please remember the Eparchy of Parma and the Church’s many needs by contributing to the annual Stewardship Appeal. Visit [parma.org/2021appeal](http://parma.org/2021appeal) to make your one-time or monthly donation through our secure website. Thank you for your generosity!

**PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY (ALL) :** All are invited to join in as we pray the rosary together before the



Sunday, 9:30 am Divine Liturgy each week at the Cathedral. We will pray the rosary together in church as a group. Please plan on joining us, adults and children are encouraged to attend as we will be praying the joyful mysteries! Those who are at home may pray along with the Livestream.

**2021 DONATION ENVELOPE BOXES AND CALENDARS (ALL):** 2021 Donation Envelopes for all parishioners of the Cathedral, Holy Spirit, and St. Mary Church are ready for pick up at the Cathedral building in the Bridal Room (located in the back of church near the restrooms). **The boxes of envelopes are grouped by church and are in alphabetical order.** If you do not see your box, please call the parish office at (440) 884-8452. Liturgical calendars are also available compliments of our local funeral homes.



**DEEPEST SYMPATHY (SM):** We wish to express our heart-felt sympathy to the Pordash family on the passing of their loved one, **+Art Pordash**, this past week. May God grant to His servant, **+Art**, blessed repose and eternal memory. *Vicnaja jemu pamjat!*

**COMBINED PARISH COUNCIL:** Bishop Milan has granted permission to form one advisory council of the three parishes that Fr. Marek currently serves at: Holy Spirit, St. Mary, and the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. The following parishioners have accepted positions on the council and been approved.

Mr. John Jurcisin (Holy Spirit)

Mrs. Kimberly Kocuba (St. Mary)

Mrs. Sue Ann Kochilla (Holy Spirit)

Mrs. Rosemary Trompak (St. Mary)

Mrs. Carol Szucs (Holy Spirit)

Mrs. Mary Veronico (St. Mary)

Mrs. Rita Basalla (Cathedral)

Mr. Alan Bratnick (Cathedral)

Mrs. Sharon Rayokovich (Cathedral)

Please keep each of the council members and Fr. Marek Visnovsky in your prayers!

**RAFFLE WINNERS (CTH):** Congratulations to the winners of the Cathedral 50/50 Raffle for December. \$75 Holy Name Society, \$25 John Trompak, \$25 Linda Primuth. Thanks to everyone who participated! Have a blessed Christmas and a safe & healthy New Year!



Christmas 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The heart of Christmas is Christmas in the heart. We cannot truly experience Christmas unless we have it in our hearts. Experiencing the holiday in our hearts means having Christ at the center of our hearts. This simple reason is why many people cannot truly experience Christmas. They carry everything else in their hearts except for Christ. God does the greatest things in silence. For example, Christ coming to earth and becoming one of us, was the greatest event of the universe, yet it happened quietly in the darkest spot of the Judean desert near Bethlehem. When we want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, let us invite Christ into our hearts, to the darkest spot of our soul. We do not have to be holy in order to invite him, otherwise we would be waiting forever. Let us invite him now as we are, simple, weak, and full of fear. When the desert fathers were experiencing difficulties in their spiritual struggle, and were at the ends of their ropes, they recited the simple words of Psalm 70: ***"Deign, O God, to rescue me; O Lord, make haste to help me."*** God is waiting for our invitation into the darkest, weakest spot of our hearts, our souls, so he can touch it and heal it. Once this happens we will experience the true meaning of Christmas. It seems like a very small thing on the outside, yet it is a great thing on the inside. Why? Because we invite Christ to touch the weak spots of our heart. When he does so, we start seeing our sins and weaknesses, and at that moment we receive the grace to confess them. This is true healing and the true meaning of Christmas, to have Christ in our hearts.

I wish all of you a blessed remainder of the Philip's Fast (Advent), not only as we are expecting Christ, but also as Christ is expecting us, so we can joyfully sing on Christmas Day the Troparion: ***"Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge..."***

Fr. Marek



# **Christmas 2020 - Liturgical Schedule**

## **Christmas Eve – Vigil of Christmas**

**(Day of Strict Fast)**

### **December 24th**

8:00 am - Matins

12 noon - Royal Hours

4:00 pm - Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

9:00 pm - Great Compline with Litija

## **Christmas Day - OBLIGATION**

### **December 25th**

8:00 am - Festal Matins

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

All services will be held at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist Church and Livestreamed. All parishioners are invited to attend any and all of the church services offered.

**CHRIST IS BORN!**

**GLORIFY HIM!**

**PRAY DAILY** - have a keep able rule of prayer that you do by discipline. Say the Lord's Prayer several times a day. Any time you have an opportunity to say a prayer, take advantage of it.

The devil tries to

eliminate your prayer since the prayer eliminates the devil.

- For courage to repent (to go to confession) - **St. John Forerunner, pray for us!** (40x)
- For Peace in the World – **Lord, have mercy!** (40 times)
- For Our Children – **Holy Father Nicholas, pray for us!** (40 times)
- For the Sick and Those in Need – **O Most Holy Trinity, save us!** (40 times)
- For Our Parish – **O Most Holy Theotokos, pray for us!** (40 times)
- For the courage to sing in church – **Holy Father Roman, pray for us!** (40 times)
- For the departed – **Psalm 51, 91, 119 (50, 90, 118 in LXX)**
- Jesus Prayer – **“Lord Jesus Christ,\* Son of God,\* have mercy on me\* a sinner!”**



Every evening before you go to bed, simply go through the whole day and think what you have done right or wrong, do the examination of conscience, and ask the good Lord for forgiveness. Make a sign of the cross over the place where you sleep and say: **“Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my soul and body. Do You Yourself bless me, have mercy on me, and grant me life eternal. Amen.”**

#### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE (ALL):**

Parishioners of all 4 parishes (Cathedral, Holy Spirit, St. Mary, St. Nicholas Croatian) may continue to mail their donation envelopes to the Parish Office, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, OH 44129 or simply drop them in the black locked mail box outside the office door. They will then be deposited into the proper church account. ***Please also continue to use your church envelopes when turning in your donations and print your full name on the outside of the envelope, on the line provided. This will help with the recording of your donations in the computer.*** Thank you.

-OR-

**ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE (ALL):** Giving made easy! We now offer electronic giving for all with Churches-GivePlus. You can contribute anywhere, anytime right from your computer, smartphone or tablet. Give online by visiting the website <http://stmarybyz.com/> and clicking on the **Give OnLine Link**. Or download the free GivePlus mobile app from the App Store or Google Play.

Giving online is fast, easy and secure. You can set up single donations, recurring donations and how frequently you wish to give. Online giving can be done either by credit card or a bank account. The first time going to the GivePlus application, create your profile; then login, follow the easy to read screens and make your donation.

Watch the livestream at [www.parma.org](http://www.parma.org) or [www.logos.tv](http://www.logos.tv) or YouTube LOGOS TV - PARMA  
If you know of someone that does not have access to the internet, reach out to them by phone to keep them informed with updates and encourage them to continue their daily prayer at home.

**OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS**  
**December 13, 2020**

Cathedral Parish	-	<u>\$1,178.00</u>	<u>\$ 60.00</u> Online Giving
Holy Spirit Parish	-	<u>\$1,940.00</u>	<u>\$ 175.00</u> Online Giving
St. Mary's Parish	-	<u>\$2,166.00</u>	<u>\$ 500.00</u> Online Giving

*Have you remembered Your Church in your Will and/or Trust?  
Thank you and may God reward your generosity!*

**St. Mary Church 250 Club Winner – 12/13/2020**

#80 Pat Long - Captain, JoAnn Hardony

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND CONFINED:** St. Mary's – John Krenisky, Kathleen Miller, Mary Ann Ridilla; Ray Yasenchak; Esther Morganosky; John Anitas; Pat Asmondy; Goldie Barvinchak; Pearl Beningo; Mildred Bobick; JoAnn Chaky; Eva Cook; Seleema Corrigan; Sally Csejpes; Lois Deighton; Dolores Furda; Mary Grauel; Ruthann Hodar, Margaret Huges, Rosemary Kennick; Larry Lantz; Barbara Miterko; Eleen Monoc; Carl Panko; Sue Peterchalk; Joseph Popik; Eleen Reese; David Starling; Isabelle Sweeney; Bob & Mary Zelenka.

**Cathedral** – Theresa Dorony; Phil Nechvatal; Joe Kaltner; Helen Fredericks; Frank Lizanich; Carol Morin.

**Holy Spirit** – Violet Kassay, Carol Marino, Margaret Girman, Samuel Basalla, Jim Neitzel, Elizabeth Loya; George Hapker; Ken Kalas; Ann Yorko; Janice Misch; Richard Onderak; Elizabeth Sheppard; Helen Sawchak; Carol Vasil; Helen Alpine; Andrea Seman; Carol and Richard Bub.

Helen Jeris; Marge Kordic; Walter Badovinac; Mary Ann Zubovich; Michelle Zubovich-Simon.

*Thank you for all the prayers and well wishes for the recovery of Fr. Marek!*

*Call Fr. Marek at (440) 783-2051 for **Emergency Sick Call Visits***





St. Mary's Church, 4600 State Rd, Cleveland (SM) Phone: 216.741.7979

[www.stmarybyz.com](http://www.stmarybyz.com)

St. John's Cathedral, 1900 Carlton Rd, Parma (CATH) Phone: 216.661.8658

Holy Spirit Church, 5500 West 54<sup>th</sup> St., Parma (HS) Phone: 440.884.8452

Most Rev. Milan Lach, SJ, Bishop of Parma

Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Marek Visnovsky, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Hnat (St. Mary Parish), Deacon Gregory Loya (Cathedral Parish),

Deacon Robert Cripps (Holy Spirit Parish)

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES held at the Cathedral and Livestream at parma.org:**

Saturday: 7:30 am Matins; 8 am and 5 pm Divine Liturgy; 4 pm Great Vespers

Sunday: 8 am Matins; 9:30 am and 11 am Divine Liturgy; 3 pm Vespers

**HOLY DAY SERVICES:** 7 am Festal Matins; 8 am Divine Liturgy (6 pm Great Vespers with Litija the evening before the holy day)

**DAILY SERVICES:** 7:30 am Matins; 8 am Divine Liturgy; 5 pm Vespers

***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*