

PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY  
(Pokrov)

December 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

5 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Herminie, PA 15637  
<http://pokrov.iksnazul.com/>

Cantor  
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy  
Sunday: 9 am  
Holyday: 9 am

Confessions

One half hour before  
the divine liturgy or  
by appointment

Served By

Rev. Michael J. Huszti  
Cell Phone: 724-550-0063  
150 Alamedia Road  
Butler, PA 16001

**C**hrist, our Defender, taking the form of  
man, You have bestowed upon him  
(man) the joy of becoming Godlike! (St. John  
Damascene)

Let us remember in our prayers all of our  
friends and parish family members who are sick  
at home or in a nursing facility and for all who  
are in need of our prayers.

Please let Father Michael know of those in need  
of prayer.

*Christmas will soon be upon us.  
Today we are going to start  
singing Christmas carols.*

Father Michael will be hearing confes-  
sions for Christmas both before and after  
the Divine Liturgies

Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
Tone 4

Sunday of the Forefathers

On this, the second Sunday before the Birth of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, the Church celebrates the feast of the Holy Forefathers  
of the Old Testament. These righteous men and women of the  
Old Testament are those who formed the lineage of Christ, for  
He shone forth from the Virgin, who is descended from Adam  
(Theotokion of the Exapostilarion of Matins).

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have  
mercy on me a sinner!”

December

Nativity Fast

12 Second Sunday Before Christmas (Holy  
Forefathers)

19 Sunday Before Christmas (Holy Fathers)

24 Christmas Eve

25 *The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior, Jesus  
Christ*

26 Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God,  
Sunday after Christmas: Commemoration of  
the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the  
Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord

27 First-Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen



CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY SUPPER

Many Christian cultures have special, ritualized meals to mark major feasts on the Church calendar. The Christmas Eve Holy Supper (Svjatyj Večer or Velija) as practiced by Poles, Slovaks, Ukrainians, Rusyns and Lithuanians, may be the most elaborate of all. Just about every detail of the seven- or twelve-course meal is rich in symbolism.

**THE MENU:** Christmas Eve is at least a day of abstinence. No meat should be eaten and many people also abstain from dairy. Fish, vegetables, fruits, nuts and grains are the traditional foods for Christmas Eve.

A traditional Velija would include foods like these:

**Garlic and honey:** Dip a sliver of garlic in the honey and eat as is or on a piece of bread. (Traditionally, the head of the house anointed each member of the family with the honey just as a priest would anoint with oil in Church. In Slav folklore, this is supposed to insure good health. People gave it a spiritual interpretation too: it represents the bitter and sweet aspects of life.)

**Bobal'ky;** What do Ukrainian kutya, Slovak bobal'ky have in common? They are all made to resemble animal fodder---another reminder of the Bethlehem stable!

**Vagač** stuffed with potatoes, cabbage or onions.

**Soups:** mushroom, mushroom barley, cabbage, bean, beet (boršč)

**Dips:** mushroom mačanka, bean puree

**Pirohy** (only if you're not strict fasting from butter, cheese and eggs). Think of them as pillows for baby Jesus. Think of them as pillows for baby Jesus.

The fundamental gesture of Christians is the sign of the cross, made with one's right hand. The Divine Liturgy is the eternal reality of the sacrifice of Christ, now in an unbloody but real way, and the gesture of the cross is the physical way in which this is manifested. The cross is also made at the mention of the Trinity, for the deification of the people through the sacrifice of Christ is a work of the Trinity, as the sacrifice was offered by the death of Jesus and accepted by the Father and made life-giving by the action of the Holy Spirit. Each time we make the sign of the cross, therefore, we signify that we live by the mystery of the love accomplished on the cross. The cross may be made upon one's body, from the forehead to the chest, and the priest does this before invoking the Holy Spirit. The priest makes the sign of the cross upon the faithful celebrating with him in the introduction to the Anaphora, facing them and blessing them with the Trinitarian words of Saint Paul: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." (2 Corinthians 13:13)

**Cabbage:** Mushroom-barley stuffed cabbage, sautéed cabbage (kapusta)

**Beans** (sometimes with Prunes; actually better than it sounds!)

**Potatoes:** mashed, baked or fried.

**Fish:** fresh or smoked, or shellfish. Fish are prominent whenever Jesus eats with others (Matthew 14:17; Luke 24:41; John 21:13). Because fish were plentiful in Italy, the Italian vigilia is often an all-fish meal of seven courses.

**Sweets:** Dried fruit, fruit compote, nuts. (Kolač, which is rich in butter and eggs, would not be served if people are fasting strictly.)