

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

Cantor
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy

Sunday: 8:30am
Holyday: 9am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or by
appointment

Served By

Father Vasyl Yakubych

Cell: 412-627-1678

E-mail: yakubichvasill2020@gmail.com

Remember that, on December 13-14th at am, we have been invited to help pinch pirohy at Saint Stephen's church. We are doing this in order to provide Christmas gifts for our orphan children in Ukraine.

You may also donate money for this project.

Today I am going to start singing Christmas carols (koljady). We want to be prepared for Christmas, spiritually and liturgically.

Everyone, including the cantor, gets a little rusty when we sing the occasional melodies. This is why I vary the melodies and try to sing about one third of the Divine Liturgy in old Slavonic. I only wish that I knew more to pass on and preserve the liturgical tradition

Divine Liturgy Intentions

December

- 11 +Stephen Nagy by daughter Joann
- 18 +Irene Kustra by husband Mike

January

- 01 +Mary and John Portana by Arlene Martin
- 06 +Mary Nartic by Carol Luzanski

Sunday Of The Fore Fathers

Tone 2

Menologion

St. Daniel the Stylite December 11, 2022

Our venerable father, Daniel, Stylite, imitating St. Simeon in the mode of austere life, he spent 30 years on his pillar, miraculously healing many sick people. He died A.D. 492 at the age of 80.

The Sunday of the Holy Forefathers is the Sunday that falls between December 11-17, the second Sunday before the Nativity. The ancestors of Christ according to the flesh are remembered on this Sunday of the Nativity Fast.

All the great Fathers and Mothers and Prophets of the Old Testament, starting with Adam, Abraham, the Righteous Sarah, Isaac and Jacob, including Holy Prophet Elias and Daniel, and concluding with Holy Prophet Zechariah (Zachary), Joachim and Anna, Holy Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist and The Theotokos. They lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3, 22:18).

Nativity Fast November 15th thru December 24th

December

- 11 Second Sunday Before Christmas (Holy Forefathers)
- 18 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
- 27 First-Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen

Reminder:

There is a list for Divine Liturgy and Sanctuary Lamp intentions in the vestibule of the church.

The Christmas Eve Holy Supper **(Svjatij Vecer / Veliija)**

The Carpatho-Rusyn people maintain a wide variety of customs associated with all the holidays of the year, but few of them are as elaborate or as eagerly awaited as those associated with the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

Rusyns reserve the day of Christmas Eve to prepare for the Holy Supper. The men of the house spend the day caring for the livestock; the women are busy baking, cooking and cleaning. Weeks before, the houses are whitewashed or painted inside and out; this day is to make sure everything - and everyone - is thoroughly cleansed inside and out.

In our Carpathian Mountain villages, the "gazda" or head of the household feeds the animals with generous portions of food, honoring them as the animals who gathered at the cave to honor the newborn Christ child. There he picks up some straw or hay and enters the house. Asking God's blessings that the family all live to see the next Christmas, he places it on the table, under the tablecloth, or on the floor under the table. Seeds or garlic may also be scattered on the table. He might prepare a sheaf of wheat or oats ("didko" or "Diduch") and place it in a corner of the house under the icons in hopes of a rich and good harvest next year. A clean white linen cloth covers the dinner table, representing the swaddling clothes with which the Virgin Mary clothed her infant son. An empty chair and place are set at the table in memory of departed family members and reserved for the unexpected guest for whom there should always be room.

The entire drama of events associated with Christmas is made present in the Rusyn home by the observance of the Holy Supper. The custom of Holy Supper is observed wherever Rusyns live, but variations in customs and foods served at the meal are found from region to region, village to village, even among different families. These variations testify to the richness of the Rusyn culture, but in the unity of a tradition kept by all Rusyns. The Carpatho-Rusyn people maintain a wide variety of customs associated with all the

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The meal begins just as the first star appears in the sky at the setting of the sun. The first star represents the star of Bethlehem. The father then proceeds into the room greeting his family with "Christos Razdajetsja" - "Christ is Born!" The family replies, "Slavite Jeho" - "Glorify Him!" He then ties the four legs of the table with rope or chain, asking God's blessings and protection from all corners of the world. He also prays that the family be always united like the links of the chain.

In the middle of the table sits a large round loaf of white, corn, rye or wheat bread, similar to the Easter Paska bread but variously called "kracun", "krecun", "kracuny", "rohac" or "lokška". Candles are placed near the center of the table, or even one in the center of the bread. The bread represents Jesus Christ who called Himself "the Bread of Life." Another candle is placed in the window as a sign of welcome to any traveler seeking shelter. Finally, a manger scene or icon of the Nativity is placed on the table. The room now represents the cave and the manger of Bethlehem, the humble surroundings of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The entire family prepares to greet the newborn Jesus by hurrying to wash their faces and hands at a nearby cold stream, believing they will be kept clean and healthy throughout the next year.

The Evening Star Appears - At Last the Holy Supper Begins
(To Be Continued)