

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

Cantor
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy

Sunday: 8:30 am
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or
by appointment

**Circumcision of Our Lord
Basil the Great - Archbishop
Sunday Before Theophany.**

Tone 8

Menologion

Pre-festive Day of the Theophany.

Our Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome
(335).

Served By

Father Vasyl Yakubych
Cell: 412-627-1678
E-mail: yakubichvasill2020@gmail.com

January is the season for house blessings. Father is invited to come to the family home in order to celebrate this annual rite.

It is not a time to worry about the house being spotless: more important is that the family's interior life is spotless!

Anything else which needs blessings should be placed on a white cloth on the table.

If you are interested in having your home blessed talk to Father Vasyl.

Wishing all of you God's
blessings and a prosperous
happy New Year

Fasts & Feasts

January

06 Feast of Theophany

30 The Three Holy Hierarchs: Basil The Great,
Gregory The Theologian And John Chrysostom.

February

02 The Meeting Of Our Lord, God And Savior Jesus
Christ With Simeon And Anna

We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility

Reminder:

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

The Importance of the Eighth Day for Naming of Jesus. What is the significance of the eighth day? The world was created in seven days. Beyond the physical world – beyond seven days – is the eighth day, which represents the metaphysical, the spiritual. Since for the Jews, circumcision of the male child symbolizes taking the physical and elevating it to serve God by fulfilling the covenant God made with Abraham and the Jewish people, it is done on the eighth day, a day that represents a level beyond physicality. Mary and Joseph would have taken their holy Child, Son of the Most High, to Bethlehem's synagogue to have this ceremony performed. The Circumcision makes Jesus a son of Abraham, a son of the covenant. God had told Abraham that his descendants would outnumber the stars of heaven and the sands of the seas. That will be fulfilled by Jesus, the Christ, Who will proclaim the Good News to all nations through His disciples, a mission which continues today. We are the ones entrusted with the Good News today. We are the ones who must proclaim it to those around us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in the power of the Holy Name of Jesus.

In some icons of this event, the Child Jesus is laid out on a table, foreshadowing the Altar of Sacrifice on which the Holy Eucharist takes place. This feast also marks the first shedding of the Precious Blood by Christ, done willingly for our sake.

OUR SPIRITUAL CIRCUMCISION

Circumcision is a cutting of the flesh; circumcision according to the letter, as St Cyril describes it, is also a cutting, but of the heart. It is the removal of something, often painful, so that we can be fitting members of Christ by “the sharp surgery of faith and by ascetic labors.”

The sharp knife of faith removes from our hearts its reliance on whatever we trust for our security other than the true God. In the Roman Empire Jews trusted in the Law of Moses and pagans trusted in the gods and goddesses of the state. In our day it may be our family, our job, our culture or our political and economic systems that we feel will take care of us.

People continually find that any of these can fail them drastically if they put the confidence in them that is due to God alone. The surgery of ascetic labors is the way we deal with our pride, our greed, our lust and the like: often particularly painful as it is a surgery we face daily. St. Paul described this dynamic as “...the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh” (Col 2:11). Elsewhere he cataloged these sins as “... your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col 3:5). Lest we feel too confident in our “sinlessness” he continues the list with “anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language” and lying (Col 3:8-9). Of these we continually need to be circumcised.

O Lord our God, You are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Creator of time, existing before time and outside of time, the same yesterday, today and forever. You are the Pantocrator, the absolute Ruler who exercises sovereign authority over the entire universe and its laws. You are not limited by any natural events and occurrences, or by our action or inaction. The world is not driven by blind forces, but is governed wisely and lovingly by Your divine Providence.