



**EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
Byzantine Catholic Church
3410 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003
Phone: 703-573-3986 --- Fax: 703-573-0344**

Parish Clergy
**Very Rev. Father John G. Basarab, Pastor
Rev. Deacon Elmer M. Pekarik**

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!	December 14, 2014	Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
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DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Dec. 14 Sun. 8:00 AM +Michael Koshuta by Monica Koshuta & Family
10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

Twenty-eighth Week after Pentecost

Dec. 16 Tues. Aliturgical Day
Dec. 17 Wed. 10:00 AM +Daniel Green by Sally Green
Dec. 18 Thurs. Aliturgical Day
Dec. 19 Fri. Aliturgical Day

***Saturday before Christmas
Pre-fest of Christmas***

Dec. 20 Sat. 10:00 AM Deceased Members of the John Butchko Family

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Dec. 21 Sun. 8:00 AM Intention of Parishioners
10:30 AM +Harry Shinock by Joseph Stone

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – December 21, 2014

Dec. 21 Sun. 8:00 AM BCY
10:30 AM D. Clark (L), T. Clark, G. Noyes, James Soyka

USHER SCHEDULE – December 21, 2014

Dec. 21 Sun. 8:00 AM BCY
10:30 AM D. Semanco (L), R. Bass, M. Kernich

Sunday of the Forefathers

December 14, 2014

Sunday of the Holy Ancestors. Today, the second Sunday before Christmas, we observe the Sunday of the Holy Ancestors. The first commemoration is of all the human ancestors of Christ, from Adam and Eve, including his cousin in the flesh, St. John the Baptist. On this day we commemorate as well the patriarchs of the Old Testament who awaited the Messiah, and the faithful women. We recall in prayer King David who was beloved by God and received the promise that the Messiah would be born from his descendants. As well as the human ancestors of the Son of God we remember the prophets also, for they called attention to evil in society and predicted the coming of the Messiah. Specifically, we remember Daniel the prophet in the lion's den and the three youths in the fiery furnace. These righteous ones manifest the suffering condition of the whole human race as a result of sin. As they were preserved from injury by God's intervention God intervenes to save those who believe in Him by the coming of the Son of God as Son of Man. We can also remember that the flames of the furnace did not consume the three young men since there was a fourth in the furnace who looked "like a Son of God" (Daniel 3:92). This predicts that contact with God will save, not destroy, us like the union of divine and human in the womb of the Mother of God does not consume her but is for our redemption and salvation.

Christmas Fast and Aliturgical days. During the Christmas Fast the typicon directs that certain days are aliturgical days. An aliturgical day is a day when the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated. The Old Testament people waited for the coming of the Messiah, so an aliturgical day helps us wait with longing for a day when the Divine Liturgy can be celebrated and Christ can be in our midst. This week there are three aliturgical days, December 16th, December 18th, and December 19th.

Sunday of Grandparents. This Sunday of the Forefathers and mothers who waited for the Messiah and handed on this hope to the generations who came after them is an appropriate day to remember and pray for our grandparents who shared the faith with our parents and sustained them and us in the faith. This remembrance in prayer and a blessing is offered in the Anthologion or Izbornik published by the Ukrainian Catholic Church with the imprimatur of Lubomir Cardinal Husar in 2004. The Izbornik also proposes September 9th, the feast of Ss. Joachim and Ann who are the grandparents of our Lord, or the Sunday closest, as another grandparents' day.

Holy Supper Booklets. The Holy Supper booklets used on Christmas Eve at the evening meal called Holy Supper are available today in the narthex of the church.

Condolences. We offer our condolences to the family of Raymond Ryabik who passed away Friday, December 5th. Family and friends will be received at Advent Funeral Services, 7211 Lee Highway, Falls Church, VA today from 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM. Parastas will be prayed at 7:30 PM. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Vienna, VA tomorrow at 10:30 AM. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date. May God grant His departed servant, +Raymond, peaceful repose. Vičnaja jemu pamjat'.

Nativity Candles. Anyone wishing to donate a candle for their family or loved ones may do so by signing up in the Parish Office beginning today Sunday, December 7th after the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Divine Liturgies or by coming to the Parish Office Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. We have converted the Manualia oil candles to traditional wax candles. We have heard the complaint that these candles were not always lit during the Christmas (and Easter) liturgies. Everyone concerned with the lighting of the candles for liturgies has been informed that the Manualia candles must be lit.

Epiphany Holy Supper. We are looking for some helpers for preparing the Epiphany Holy Supper on Saturday, January 3 (food preparation) and on Sunday, January 4 to help serve the food and clean up. Please call Madonna Jaimes, 703-522-0019. If you can help just an hour or two, all help is appreciated.

Adult Classes for Church Transfer or Baptism. Classes will start soon for adults wishing to transfer into the Catholic Church, and for those adults preparing for baptism in the Catholic Church. Please contact Deacon El as soon as possible to register and begin preparations for this process.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECF-SOR. The ECF-SOR is sponsoring three parish wide collections during this Christmas Fast: 1. **Toys for Tots.** Please bring new unwrapped toys to help the Marines' Toys for Tots annual drive. You may bring your contributions to the containers available in the Parish Center; 2. **Food for Others.** Please bring canned food items for the needy in Northern Virginia. You may deposit them in the green plastic tub in the vestibule of the Parish Center; 3. **Right for Life.** The ECF-SOR will be collecting baby diapers in all sizes to help "A Woman's Choice for Life, Morality & Justice." Containers are in the Parish Center for the wrapped diaper packages.

Parish Activity Calendar. Organization and activity chairpersons please contact Marsha Puhak with the event dates you are planning for each month in 2015. Failure to do so will leave your planned event unscheduled on the church and Parish Office calendar.

Epiphany Bookstore. The Epiphany Bookstore is located in the Chapel and open for about 15 minutes after each morning Liturgy on Sunday. Please stop by and check out our selection of icons, cards, crosses, books, and gift items. All proceeds benefit the Epiphany Building Fund.

Epiphany Christmas Cards. If you ordered Epiphany Christmas cards this year from the Epiphany Bookstore, the cards will be available for pickup today Sunday, December 14th.

Epiphany Ladies Guild. Perohi and apricot and poppy seed rolls will be available for purchase this Sunday.

Christmas Bread. Epiphany Ladies Guild will offer Christmas bread for sale today, December 14th, as long as supplies last.

2014 Awards Club Drawing. The winner of the eighth Epiphany Men's Club Awards Club drawing is Dolores Opachko, #274. The winner of the ninth Epiphany Men's Club is Marlene McCracken, #134. The tenth drawing will be today.

EMC Breakfast. Epiphany Men's Club will sponsor a breakfast for the parish next Sunday, December 21st between the Divine Liturgies in the Parish Center. All parishioners are invited to attend at no cost.

End of Year tax Planning. Now is the time to plan donations you wish to make by the end of the year. Remember donations must be postmarked or delivered to the Parish Office by December 31, 2014 to count for 2014.

Eparchial Stewardship Appeal 2014. Our parish goal this year is \$19,800; when we reach our goal, we will receive a 40% rebate on the goal in addition to pledges over the goal! Many thanks to the fifty families who have pledged \$8,510 towards our goal. If you make your pledge online at www.eparchyofpassaic.com - by scrolling down to the bottom of the home page and clicking the "Donate" button - please contact the Parish Office with that fact and the amount to ensure that Epiphany will be credited with your pledge. Thank you for your generosity!

EMC BINGO

12/09/14 Team D
12/16/14 Team A
12/23/14 No Bingo Team B
12/30/14 No Bingo Team C
<http://EMCBINGO.com>

EPARCHIAL AND OTHER CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

O'Connell High School Dance Team. The Royalette Dance Team of O'Connell High School will be hosting a Holiday Kids Clinic on Saturday, December 20th from 12-3pm. It's the perfect opportunity for parents to finish their last minute shopping and those holiday errands. Dancing, letters to Santa, arts & crafts, snacks, and more. To pre-register, visit www.bishopoconnell.org/dance. Questions can be sent to dance@bishopoconnell.org.

Status of Celibacy Decree. The relaxation of the Vatican Decree, *Cum data fuerit* of 1929 was requested by Cardinal Sandri and approved by Pope Francis December 23, 2013 and published in *Acta Apostolicae Sedes* June 6, 2014. With this decree, the traditional discipline regarding celibacy and married priests as was always practiced in Europe is extended to include the United States where previously married priests were not allowed and where married men could not be ordained. There are pastoral, spiritual and pragmatic considerations for our Particular Church *sui iuris* in the United States. Some spiritual considerations are:

1. Ordination to the priesthood is not like a commissioning or being hired for a ministry. The rite of laying on of hands at ordination effects an ontological change in a man so that he becomes completely configured to Christ the Priest (or Christ the High Priest in the case of a bishop). By this sacrament the priest is the very icon of Christ and acts in Christ as priest, prophet and king. The rite of ordination conveys a sphragis or an indelible mark so that it cannot be repeated, given temporarily, or relinquished. In other words, it is Who one becomes—Jesus Christ—more than what one does, priesthood is not a job. The sacred canons require certain things of such a man and also legitimately of his wife and family along with all the other canons that specifically bind the priest which are the same for celibate and married priests.
 - a. Canon 374 “Clerics, celibate as well as married, should shine forth with the splendor of chastity; it is for particular law to establish suitable means to attain to this end.”
 - b. Canon 375 “Married clerics are to offer an outstanding example to other Christian faithful in conducting family life and in educating children.”
2. Msgr. Basil Shereghy, STD, son of a pioneering priest in the United States, and a priest of the Eparchy of Mukachevo and professor of the seminary in Uzhhorod (1942) before coming to the United States where he was a pastor and a seminary professor in our seminary in Pittsburgh, explained that in the Eparchy of Mukachevo it was the duty of the spiritual director of the seminary to be responsible for the spiritual formation of the girlfriends, fiancées, or wives of the seminarians and to discern whether they were suited or prepared to be the wife of a priest. Cf. Father Basil Shereghy and Father Athanasius Pekar, OSBM, *The Training of the Carpatho Ruthenian Clergy*, Pittsburgh, 1951. Recently a Ukrainian Catholic married priest visited our seminary in Uzhhorod and mentioned that the formation program for future priests’ wives is still part of the seminary formation. How will the Council of Hierarchs apply this for the United States?
3. A celibate priest is an icon of Christ the Virgin Celibate Savior while a married priest is an icon of Christ the Divine Spouse who united himself in “a mystical marriage” to His Church. This points to the fact that the married priest is “married” to the Church and married to his wife. Their children live with the reality that their father has another family and that family calls him father also and has a right to Christ’s attention and ministry. The wife and the children have to develop a deep love of Christ and His priesthood along with a deep love of their husband and father to allow them to sacrifice the time and attention of their father as well as share the simplicity of life the canons impose on their father.

In the past many of our parishes were staffed by married priests, and Christ’s Faithful recognized the great sacrifice the priest’s family made. At present the Eparchy of Passaic has seven married priests, all from eparchies in Europe. The restoration of this state of life requires Christ’s Faithful to respond in a supportive way once again. We should begin to pray for our bishops and priests and also their wives and children, and Christ’s Faithful as we return to our traditional discipline.