



**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**

<b>Glory to Jesus Christ!</b>	<b>December 21, 2014</b>	<b>Slava Isusu Christu!</b>
<b>Glory Forever!</b>		<b>Slava Na Viki!</b>

***DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE***

***SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS***

***THE ANCESTORS***

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

***Twenty-ninth Week after Pentecost***

***VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS***

Dec. 24 Wed. 10:00 AM Royal Hours  
 7:30 PM Christmas Carols  
 8:00 PM Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

***NATIVITY OF OUR LORD***

Dec. 25 Thurs. 10:00 AM Christmas Carols  
 10:30 AM Christmas Divine Liturgy

***SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD***

Dec. 26 Fri. 7:30 PM +Stefan Matlaga by Theresa Matlaga & Family

***SATURDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS***

***STEPHEN - PROTOMARTYR***

Dec. 27 Sat. 10:00 AM Health & God's Blessings on LaDonna Rodock  
 by Epiphany Parish

***SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS***

***DAVID, JOSEPH & JAMES***

Dec. 28 Sun. 8:00 AM +David Haynes by Epiphany Men's Club  
 10:30 AM Intention of Parishioners

***ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – December 28, 2014***

Dec. 28 Sun. 8:00 AM K. Ceragioli (L), J. Jaimes, J. O'Leary, P. O'Leary  
 10:30 AM T. Clark (L), D. Clark, M. Noyes, M. Tanner

***USHER SCHEDULE – December 28, 2014***

Dec. 28 Sun. 8:00 AM J. Nashwinter (L), H. Katawczik, T. Susco  
 10:30 AM E. Koval (L), J. Kepick, T. Soyka

*Sunday before Christmas*

*December 21, 2014*

**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.

**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 Reception into the Catholic Church or Baptism.** Classes will start soon for adults wishing to come into full Communion with 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.

**Inquirer's Classes.** Informational classes for those interested in learning about the Byzantine Catholic tradition will begin in January. If you are a Latin Catholic interested in finding out more about the Byzantine Catholic Church or just curious about us, please join the conversation. The classes will be held January 11<sup>th</sup>, January 25<sup>th</sup>, February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup> between Divine Liturgies in the Chapel basement.

**Parish Office Schedule.** In observance of the birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Parish Office will be closed Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. Office hours will resume on Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Bulletin Deadline.** The deadline for submitting announcements for this week's bulletin is tomorrow December 22<sup>nd</sup> by Noon.

**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 now located in the entry area of the Parish Center. It is open between liturgies 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 Ladies Guild.** Perohi will be available for purchase today Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Christmas Bread.** Epiphany Ladies Guild will offer Christmas bread for sale today, December 21<sup>st</sup>, as long as supplies last.

**2014 Awards Club Drawing.** The winner of the tenth Epiphany Men's Club is Kevin Koshute, #271. The final drawing will be today.

**EMC Breakfast.** Epiphany Men's Club will sponsor a breakfast for the parish today Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 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-six families who have pledged \$8,945 towards our goal. If you make your pledge online at [www.eparchyofpassaic.com](http://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!

**Charitable IRA Distribution for 2014.** Congress has extended the 2012 tax legislation opportunity throughout 2014 for individuals age 70½ or older to make a direct distribution from an IRA by December 31, 2014 to a qualified charity, such as Epiphany of our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church. These qualified distributions (up to \$100,000) to charity from your IRA are not subject to federal income tax. Arrangements must be made with the IRA plan administrator. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Epiphany of Our Lord Church, Annandale, VA  
<http://www.eolbcc.org>

Epiphany of Our Lord does not conduct pastoral business on the website email.

Epiphany of Our Lord Mission  
<http://www.montgomeryvz.org>

## EPARCHIAL AND OTHER CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Epiphany Church, Roswell, GA Fire.** The fire at Epiphany church, Roswell, GA on December 14<sup>th</sup> was as a result of arson by a man who had attended Divine Liturgy December 7<sup>th</sup> with his girlfriend, ate at the Saint Nicholas luncheon, and promised to return. Father Philip Scott and the parishioners will be using the chapel of a nearby Catholic academy for Divine Liturgy and services. The contractor expects repairs to be completed in six weeks. Catholic Mutual Insurance Company adjustors are on the scene. After Bishop Dudick ordained him a priest, Father Philip Scott offered his First Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving here at Epiphany October, 1979. While all parishes are fully insured, Bishop Kurt has set up a means for those who wish to donate to the parish to do so by going to [www.eparchyofpassaic.com](http://www.eparchyofpassaic.com) and clicking on [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) or send the donation to the Eparchy of Passaic with the memo: Epiphany fire. If you wish to sign a letter of support to our parish vocation, Father Philip, and to his parishioners, please sign the letter in the narthex.

**A Birthday Greeting.** This month we are preparing for the observance of the birthday of Jesus, the Son of God who was born Son of Man. This month is also the birthday of Msgr. George Dobs. Happy Birthday, Msgr. George. May God grant you peace, health and happiness for many years.

**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.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eastern Catholic Churches Decree.** This year November 13<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St. John Chrysostom, was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Byzantine Divine Liturgy celebrated at Vatican II Council November 13, 1964. At the conclusion of that Divine Liturgy, Pope Paul VI offered his papal triple tiara for sale to raise money for the poor. The tiara was purchased by a wealthy American Catholic who gave it to the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, DC where it can be viewed in Memorial Hall. On November 21, 1964, fifty years ago at Vatican II Council the Decree on the Eastern Catholic Churches was promulgated. It was a document whose effects continue to be felt today. The council fathers of Vatican II had decreed the use of the vernacular in worship so on December 6, 1965, the Feast of Saint Nicholas, the Divine Liturgy for the Council fathers was celebrated by Bishop Nicholas Elko, the Byzantine Ruthenian bishop of Pittsburgh in the vernacular, English. The choir of the Pontifical Russian College in Rome sang the responses. Please note that the choir did not know English. They had to learn it for the Divine Liturgy using the newly-approved 1964 English translation. This is the youtube link to hear the opening troparion of Saint Nicholas as recorded at the council [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaLfjOgbwVk&feature=playerembedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaLfjOgbwVk&feature=playerembedded).

**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 pastoral considerations are:

1. The article in the Byzantine Catholic World December issue says the following: “However, Archbishop William stresses that because priesthood is such a demanding commitment, ‘the Church will still encourage men in discernment to consider celibacy as a way to more totally dedicate one’s life to the Lord and the service of the people.’” p. 3. (1 Corinthians 7:32-34 “An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord...”).
2. The Byzantine Ruthenian Church traditionally has both celibate and married priests. Another aspect of what the Archbishop mentioned is there is an important need for celibate priests. Our eparchies in Europe carefully encourage a number of seminarians to embrace celibacy so that there would be enough priests for leadership. It is very important for our Church to encourage suitable seminarians to remain celibate because bishops and protosyncelli are chosen from among the celibate priests. If a Byzantine Church does not have celibate priests, bishops will have to come from the Latin Church or from the eparchies in Europe to lead that eparchy.
3. Life in a rectory is different than living in a home. It is like living in a fishbowl. People must be careful in comments about or to the children. People must weigh their words and tone when speaking to the priest when his children are present. Living in a rectory is like living in a monastery. The priest and the panyi matka must try to make a home for the family in the rectory even though the rectory and the furnishings do not belong to them. Furnishings and other needs are dependent upon the generosity of the parishioners and their counselors.

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 and the Faithful made great sacrifices to have a priest. In the past there were celibate priests as well insuring candidates for bishop and protosyncellus. 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 celibate and married priests, and Christ’s Faithful as we return to our traditional discipline.