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## Divine Liturgy Schedule

December 24, 2023 A. D.

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!



Saturday, December 23

6:00 PM

Sunday, December 24

10:30 AM

**SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

†Sophie Staronka- Helen Lipowski & Lisa Placek

**SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

†Metropolitan Joseph Schmondiuk

God's Blessings for Bruce Becker- Maria Becker

**NO CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY AT TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD CHURCH**

**SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE ARE AT SS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH IN PLYMOUTH**

3:00 PM

**VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS- CHRISTMAS EVE**

**GREAT COMPLINE/DIVINE LITURGY/Myrovania**

**NO FAST-CHRISTMAS EVE ON A SUNDAY**

Monday, December 25

10:30 AM

Tuesday, December 26

10:30 AM

**NATIVITY OF CHRIST- CHRISTMAS DAY**

**DIVINE LITURGY (w/MYROVANIA)**

God's Blessings and Good Health for All Parishioners

**SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD(w/Myrovania)**

God's Blessings for the Lipowski Family-Lisa Placek

Wednesday, December 27

Thursday, December 28

10:00 AM

FRIDAY, December 29

Saturday, December 30

6:00 PM

Sunday, December 31

10:30 AM

**PROTOMARTYR STEPHAN –PLYMOUTH -9:00AM**

†Ihor & Olympia Pasicznyk- Helen Lipowski

**HOLY INNOCENTS- PLYMOUTH-9:00AM**

**SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Volunteers for the Church Flea Market

-Bob & Johanna Longenberger

**SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

†Theodore Bukofski-Wasil & Mary Bukofski





Propers for 10/23 & 10/24 Sunday Liturgies  
SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS  
December 23, 2023



DIVINE LITURGY for PHILLIPS FAST(11/15-12/24)

**ANTIPHON 1**

**[black book; page 12; blue book page 16/17]**

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; sing now to His name, give glory to His praise.

**Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.**

Say unto God, "How awesome are your works! Because of the greatness of Your strength Your enemies will flatter."

**Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.**

Let all the earth worship You and sing to You, let it sing to Your name, O Most High.

**Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.**

**Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.**

**LITTLE EKTENIA 1**

**Priest:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**People:** Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** Remembering our most holy and most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**People:** To you, O Lord.

**Priest prays silently:** Lord, our God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance; protect the fullness of Your Church; sanctify them in return by Your divine power. Do not forsake us who hope in You.

**Priest:** Exclamation: For Yours is the might, and Yours are the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**ANTIPHON 2**

God, be generous to us, and bless us, let the light of Your face shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

**O Son of God, Who has risen from the dead, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.**

May we know Your way on earth, may Your salvation be known to all nations.

**O Son of God, Who has risen from the dead, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.**

May the people praise You, O God; may all the nations glorify You.

**O Son of God, Who has risen from the dead, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.**

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

**Only begotten Son and Word of God,** You are immortal, and You willed for our salvation to be made flesh of the holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, and without change You became man. You were crucified, O Christ our God, and trampled death by death. You are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

## **LITTLE EKTENIA 2**

**Priest:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**People:** Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** Remembering our most holy and most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**People:** To you, O Lord.

**Priest prays silently:** You have given us the grace to pray together in harmony and have promised to grant the requests of two or three who join their voices in Your name. Fulfill now for us, Your servants, these petitions for our benefit. Grant us in this present life the knowledge of Your truth, and in the age to come, bestow eternal life.

**Priest:** Exclamation: For You are a good and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

## **ANTIPHON III**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Savior.

**Son of God, Risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.**

Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.

**Son of God, Risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.**

For God is the great Lord and the great king over all the earth.

**Son of God, Risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.**

## **PRAYER OF THE ENTRANCE**

**Priest prays silently:** Lord, God our Master, Who established in heaven the ranks and armies of angels and archangels for the service of Your glory, grant that as we make our entrance, the holy angels may enter too, serving with us and joining in the praise of your goodness. For all glory, honor and worship befit You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. **Deacon:** Master, bless the holy entrance. **Priest:** Blessed be the entrance of your saints, always, now and forever and ever.

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Stand aright.

**People:** Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

**Son of God, Risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.**

**[in the black book you are on page 17, blue book page 24/25]**

**TROPAR:** Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, and born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

**TROPAR:** Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest, and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and forever and ever. Amen.**

**KONDAK:** Armed by the Being that defies description, you defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth. In the midst of the unbearable flames, you stood and cried out to God: "In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid," for You can do whatever You will.

**PROKIMEN:** Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever. For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us. Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

***A Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (11:9-10,17-23,32-40):***



Brethren, by faith Abraham abode in the land, dwelling in tents, with Isaac and Jacob, the co-heirs of the same promise. For he looked for a city that has foundations; whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered Isaac: and he that had received the promises, offered up his only begotten son; (To whom it was said: In Isaac shall your seed be called.) Accounting that God is able to raise up even from the dead. Whereupon also he received him for a parable. By faith

also of things to come, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and adored the top of his rod. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the going out of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months by his parents; because they saw he was a comely babe, and they feared not the king's edict. And what shall I yet say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barack, Sampson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets: Who by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, put to flight the armies of foreigners: women received their dead raised to life again. But others were racked, not accepting deliverance, that they might find a better resurrection. And others had trial of mockeries and stripes, moreover also of bands and prisons. They were stoned, they were cut asunder, they were tempted, they were put to death by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being in want, distressed, afflicted: of whom the world was not worthy; wandering in deserts, in mountains, and in dens, and in caves of the earth. And all these being approved by the testimony of faith, received not the promise; God providing some better thing for us, that they should not be perfected without us.



**ALLELUIA: (3).** O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days. Alleluia (3 You saved us from our oppressors and put to shame those who hate us. Alleluia (3).

### Gospel of St. Matthew 1:25



The book of the origin of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Judas and his brothers. Judas begot Phares and Zara of Tamar, Phares begot Esron, Esron begot Aram. And Aram begot Aminadab, Aminadab begot Naasson, Naasson begot Salmon. Salmon begot Booz of Rahab. Booz begot Obed of Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, Jesse begot David the King. And David the King begot Solomon of the former wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Roboam, Roboam begot Abia, Abia begot Asa. And Asa begot Josaphat, Josaphat begot Joram, Joram begot Oziah. And Oziah begot Joatham, Joatham begot Achaz, Achaz begot Ezechiah. And Ezechiah begot Manasses, Manasses begot Amon, Amon begot Josiah. And Josiah begot Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the carrying away to Babylon. And after the carrying away to Babylon Jechoniah begot Salathiel. Salathiel begot Zorobabel. And Zorobabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliachim,

Eliachim begot Azor. And Azor begot Sadoc, Sadoc begot Achim, Achim begot Eliud. And Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Mattan, Mattan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the carrying away to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the carrying away to Babylon to Christ fourteen generations. Now the origin of Christ was in this wise. When Mary his mother had been betrothed to Joseph, she was found, before they came together, to be with child by the Holy Spirit. But Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins." Now all this came to pass that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son; and they shall call his name Emmanuel;" which is interpreted, "God with us". So, Joseph, arising from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took unto him his wife. And he did not know her till she brought forth her firstborn son. And he called his name Jesus.



**COMMUNION HYMN:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Petitions & Prayers for Our Parishioners:** Please pray for our Parishioners **Assisted Living:** Mary Hoolick. **At Home:** Geraldine Adamchak; Shirley Kozar, Dolores Miller, Rita Kurtz, Diane Petry, Mary Louise Bailey. **Away:** Leona Kobela. **Prayer Request:** Michelle Miller; Kerri; Ellen Kobela, Fr. Peter Waslo; Sister Evhenia Prusnay MSMG; Mary Oresick; Fr. Paul Wolensky, Pavlyk Motychka (baby in Ukraine with SMA); Joyce Kishbaugh, Ken Weber; Marie Slota; Fr. Gregory Maslak, Angel Ocasio, Elizabeth Biasci, Dolores Jennings, Barnett Kurtz, Mike Oresick., Debbie Schwartz.

**PRAYER FOR A SICK PERSON:** Almighty and eternal God, you are the everlasting health of those who believe in you. Hear us for your sick servant (name) for whom we implore the aid of your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily health, he may give thanks to you in your church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CHURCH NEWS .... Every day is a Holy Day of Opportunity. Pray Always.- Father Daniel Gurovich**

**FATHER WALTER WISHES EVERYONE A HEALTHY, BLESSED & POWERFUL CHRISTMAS!**



**THERE IS A NEED-CAN YOU HELP OUT???** **WYOMING CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIANS FOR HUMAN LIFE: CAN YOU HELP OUT?** Requests Summer/Winter Baby Clothes for girls in Sizes 12 months, 18 months and 24 months. (Gently used or like new clothes will be accepted.) Please leave donations in church basement they will be picked up by the THIRD week of December, as always diapers and wipes are appreciated. Thank you to the parishioners who have donated already!!

**PYROHY FOR SALE:** We have Potato Pyrohy for Sale \$10.00 they are frozen. If you would like to purchase pyrohy, reach out to the rectory 570-735-2262.

**CHURCH ENVELOPES, CALENDARS & 2024 CANDLES:** The church envelopes and calendars are on the table in the back of the church. 2024 Candles are ready!

**VISITING THE SICK & HOMEBOUND:** Father Walter tries to visit the homebound the first Friday of every month. If you know someone who would like to be visited and receive Holy Communion and they were not, please contact Father Walter at the rectory at 570-735-2262.

**PRAYER GROUP MEETING:** The Divine Will Prayer Group will meet in our Parish in the Church Basement. This is an open meeting available to all members of the Parish. The meeting will be at 8:00 AM on Saturday, January 13.

**USVIATOSLAV'S LETTER FOR THE NATIVITY:** Available in the back of the church.

**PRAYERS:** Please keep Father Paul Wolensky in your thoughts and prayers this Christmas Season.

**LITURGY INTENTIONS:** If you are offering a Divine Liturgy for a specific day for your beloved or other intentions for 2024, please make sure you turn it into the rectory in order to make sure that you get the exact time that you would like.

**Most Reverend Archbishops and Metropolitans, God-loving Bishops, Very Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters, in Ukraine and throughout the world**

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Immanuel. (Is. 7:14)*

**Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

### **Beloved in Christ!**

In this time of war, we, the Ukrainian people need a sign, a sign of hope—that God is with us, that God’s life-giving power is stronger than the deadly power of the enemy fighting against us. In the Holy Scriptures, the birth of a child is a sign of hope from God! Today throughout the world the Church proclaims: “But as he [Joseph] considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit... She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us)” (Mt. 1:20, 22–23). Isaiah prophesied about Christ: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Is. 9:6). As often happens with God’s promises, the fulfillment of the prophecy exceeds all human expectations because the Child that is born is not just an ordinary human child but the Son of God! He is the living God present among us. What is now being sent to humankind is not only a sign and symbol of hope – the Lord Himself comes to ensure and fulfill this hope. He comes as a baby in whom is God’s power and might, God’s authentic peace for all humanity, and for Ukraine in particular. The eternal God becomes man, one of us, for all time. So indeed, God is with us!

*Angels rejoice in heaven, and people exalt today,  
and all creatures leap with joy  
because of the birth of the Lord Saviour in Bethlehem;  
for all deceit of idolatry has ceased,  
and Christ reigns forever.*



We must live with the hope of Christ, overcoming all challenges and trials. Even when it seems to us that the world around us is collapsing, when the enemy's deceitful propaganda suggests to us that we have no future, we still hope against hope—because God is with us! The Holy Apostle Paul reminds us: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” ([Heb. 13:8](#)). If we have Christ, we have a future that no one can take away from us. The Almighty God comes into the world even now, this year, in His Nativity, in the body of a defenseless, weak child, to dispel fear before the strong and powerful of this world. God does not force anyone to anything but captivates us with his beauty and light, joy and peace. He appears to us today as a weak and vulnerable baby so that we accept Him, love Him, and tenderly embrace Him—embrace the One who envelops us with His love. How wondrous are God's plans! The Ruler of the world, the Prince of Peace is the Child of God! So, in the Nativity of Christ, we can already see today that our future is not to be feared—it is full of peace, joy, tenderness, grace, and love, as we sing in the carol:

***And the bright star cries out to the world:  
The Messiah brings joy and happiness!  
To Bethlehem hasten all of you now,  
To welcome God in a poor cave!***

God makes Himself dependent on people. He becomes a child so that we, taking up the mission of Mary, His Mother, and Joseph the Betrothed, protect Him from all dangers, all the Herods of this world. We feel the same responsibility today regarding the children of the war in Ukraine. This is the most vulnerable segment of our society, and the trauma of war in children is the most complex. There are millions of women and children among Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons. Among the various types of humanitarian crises are the education and upbringing of children under the constant threat of rockets and bombs, poorly implemented school programs, stolen years of childhood innocence, and freedom from worry. We will protect our children in every way available to us! At the same time, let us remember that their spiritual wounds are healed in love, both in their family and in the family of God's children—in the Church of Christ. Let our church communities be a safe space for children, free from all forms of violence and contempt for human life, because to accept a child in the name of God is to accept the newborn Christ. Dreaming of a bright future for our children, we must understand that for our people true victory is not only the liberation of territories and secured borders. Winning the war means creating a safe spiritual space of hope for the Ukrainian family, unafraid to give birth to children in their native land. Let every Ukrainian child be

for us a sign of hope from God and of our faith in a blessed future. On this joyful day of Christ's Nativity, "let us commend ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God." May all those imprisoned and held captive know that we have not forgotten them and continue to pray for them. May all the wounded and traumatized experience the joy of our Savior's birth and God's healing touch. May the relatives and friends of those who have gone missing without trace never doubt the Lord's closeness to them. With Christ in our hearts, already today let us plan to rebuild all that has been destroyed—both physical and spiritual, so that our brothers and sisters, scattered around the world, do not lose hope of returning home, but, on the contrary, dream of their active participation in the revival of the country. But above all, let all the children of our nation know how much God loves them, and that with God's love even the greatest evil can be overcome. From the bottom of my heart, I impart on you all my fatherly blessing, and wish each of you, from the youngest to the oldest, the authentic joy of the children of God, a tasty kutia, a merry celebration of Christ's Nativity, and a happy, peaceful, and blessed New Year! Christ is born! Glorify Him!

### † SVIATOSLAV

Given in Kyiv

at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ,  
on the day of the Holy Praiseworthy Apostle Andrew the First-called  
the 30th of November in the 2023rd Year of our Lord



### DECEMBER CANDLES

The **Candles on the Tetrapod** are given by Fr. Walter  
in loving memory of the Pasicznyk Family.

The **Altar Candles** are given by Tom & MaryAnn Potsko  
In loving memory of Helen Heylek.

The **Candle Before the Icon table of the Theotokos** is given by  
Geraldine Adamchak In loving memory of Nicholas & Julia Salonski.

The **Candle Before John the Baptist** is given by Fr. Walter  
In loving memory of Ihor Pasicznyk.

The **St. Nicholas Candle** is given by Ed & Mary Schwartz  
For God's Blessings & Health for grandson Zachary.

The **Candle Before the Icon of Jesus Christ** is given  
By Lipowski/Placek Families for Maria Olympia Pasicznyk.