

## SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



*Icon of the Flight into Egypt -- Matthew 2:13-23*

### *The Flight into Egypt of the Holy Family*

Egypt is situated to the southwest of Judea, and is distant from Bethlehem perhaps about 60 miles. It was at this time a Roman province. There were many Jews there, who had a temple and synagogues (see the notes at Isaiah 19:18), and Joseph, therefore, would be among his own countrymen, and yet beyond the reach of Herod.

The jurisdiction of Herod extended only to the River Sihon, or "river of Egypt," and, of course, beyond that Joseph was safe from his designs. For a description

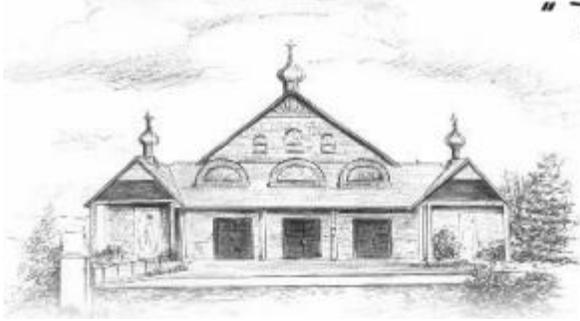
of Egypt, see the notes at Isaiah 19. It is remarkable that this is the only time in which our Saviour was out of Palestine, and that this was in the land where the children of Israel had suffered so much and so long under the oppression of the Egyptian kings. The very land which was the land of bondage and groaning for the Jews, became now the land of refuge and safety for the new-born King of Judea.

God can overturn nations and kingdoms, so that those whom he loves shall be safe anywhere.

# St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

8111 Brecksville Road ✂ Brecksville, Ohio 44141

"The Byzz Line"



"Living the Word of Christ Together"

**Pastor:** Father Bruce Riebe

**Deacon:** Bill Fredrick

**Office Administrator:** Michele Wiltshire

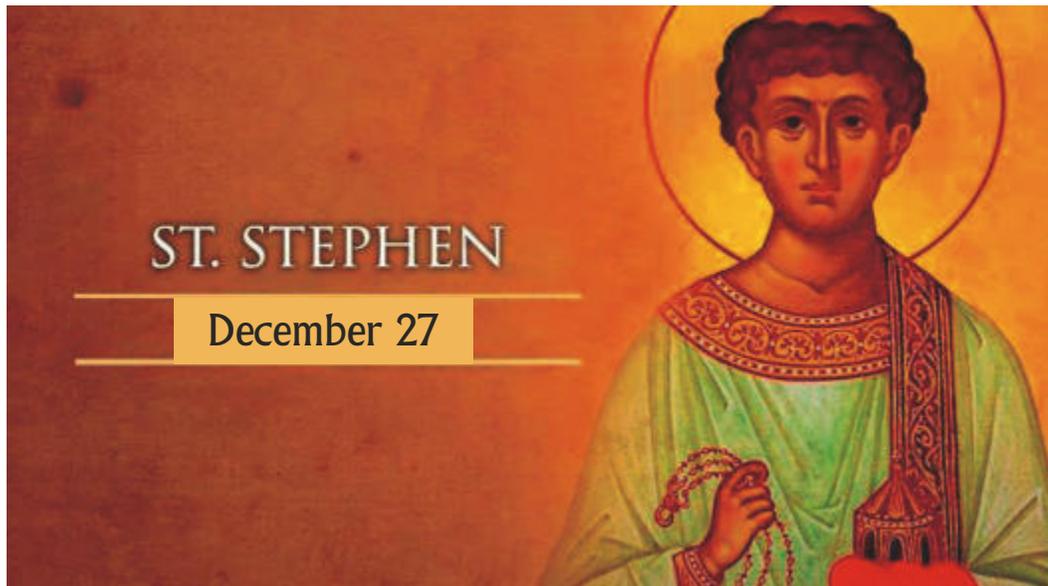
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Friday we celebrated the birth of our eternal King. Today, we celebrate the triumphant suffering of his soldier. Friday our King, clothed in his robe of flesh, left his place in the virgin's womb and graciously visited the world. Today, his soldier leaves the tabernacle of his own body and goes triumphantly to heaven.

The love that brought Christ from heaven to earth raised Stephen from earth to heaven; shown first in the King, it later shone forth in his soldier. His love for his neighbor made him pray for those who were stoning him. Love inspired him to reprove those who erred, to make them amend; love led him to pray for those who stoned him to save them from punishment.

Love, indeed is the source of all good things. It is an impregnable defense, and the way that leads to heaven. He who walks in love can neither go astray nor be afraid. Love guides him, protects him and brings him to the journey's end.

December 27, 2020

# Christ is Born!

## Liturgy Schedule

Monday December 28  
Tuesday December 29  
Wednesday December 30  
Thursday December 31  
Friday January 1

Saturday January 2  
Sunday January 3

January 1 10:00 a.m.  
January 2 4:00 p.m.  
January 3 10:30 a.m.

**No Liturgy**

**No Liturgy**

**No Liturgy**

**No Liturgy**

**Solemn Holyday: Circumcision**

10:00 a.m. †**Anne Doane** by Kathy Strobel

4:00 p.m. †**Helen Bobco** by Judy Weitzel

10:30 a.m. Intention of the Parishioners

**Altar Servers**

M. & T. Ebert

M. & T. Ebert

T. Macik & G. Dudick

**Lectors**

D. Doane

T. Martinek

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10**



The church looks beautiful! (As usual!) I want to thank those who took part in the decorating. I know we weren't able to accommodate everyone in the church itself for this great Feast. Thanks to those who watched the closed-circuit broadcast in the hall for your understanding (and to those who opted for their cars). The ushers had a challenging job this year in terms of maximizing the number of people in church. I thank them for doing their best. Special appreciation this year to our "broadcast team" who week in and week out have been seeing to it that the liturgy is live-streamed and archived on our website and Facebook page. I know a lot of people tuned in for the Christmas Services.

As we get set to turn the page on a new year, we will continue to offer the various choices for attending the Divine Liturgy at St. Joe's. I am hoping that as the vaccine is more readily available we'll start seeing some of the folks who have been away.

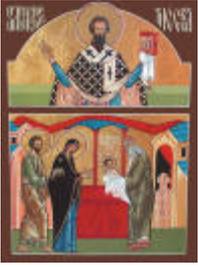
I want to personally thank everyone who remembered me at Christmas, be it with a card, gift or bakery item. Your kindness is humbling!

May the year 2021 be one that returns our world to a sense of normalcy! Let this be our fervent prayer! And may HE grant us all peace, health and happiness!

## Father on Vacation

**Father** is on vacation in the Chicago area. He'll be returning on New Year's Eve. In case of an emergency, contact **Fr. Marek Visnovsky at 440-783-2051.**

## Circumcision of Our Lord



**Friday** is not only the start of a New Year, but also a **Solemn Holyday**. We commemorate **Our Lord's Circumcision** on the 8th day. The liturgy will be celebrated at **10:00 a.m.** Ring in 2021 with the reception of the Eucharist! (Please call if you're planning on listening from your car as we will make sure we have an alternate Communion station set-up.)

## Our Sympathy

**Stephanie Jaryga** was buried this past week at the age of 94. She has been on our monthly Communion visitation list and most recently resided at East Park Care Center in Brook Park. Parish sympathies are extended to her son **Jeff (Lori)** and family. In blessed repose grant rest O Lord to Your Handmaid Stephanie and may her memory be eternal!



In the Spirit of St. Nicholas, the **Greek Catholic Union (GCU)** presented each Byzantine Catholic Church in the United States a check in the amount of \$1,000.00. (Noting that parishes have been impacted by the Pandemic.) We are grateful for this fine act of charity!

## ECF Classes

**ECF classes** will resume on **January 10** at **9:00**.



The next **ByzanTEEN** gathering is tonight (**Sunday**), **5:00**, in the Activity Center.

## Help Needed

The Christmas decorations will be coming down after **next Sunday's liturgy**. Volunteers are always needed. (Just hang around after church is over.)



## House Blessing

Because of the Pandemic, **Father** will not be blessing homes this year. It's only the second time in his twenty seven years at St. Joe's that this has happened. (The other being in 2015 after his knee surgery.) He will surely resume this venerable custom next year with visits to parishioners living in cities East of I-77. (Last year folks in the outlying areas were accommodated. In 2022 homes west of I-77 will be included on the route.

## Your Weekly Offering

Because of an early bulletin deadline the offering report for December 20 will be listed next week.

## Donation Envelopes/Calendars

We once again thank **John Hopko** at the **Hopko Funeral Home** for sponsoring the 2021 liturgical calendar. Pick one up along with your 2021 box of envelopes in the vestibule. If you are interested in e-giving, call **Michele Wiltshire (440-526-0016)** and she'll help get you set up. If you have been attending and would like to formally join the parish (recommended) sign the list on the table with the envelopes.

## Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp will burn during the month of January in memory of **Michael/Margaret Pinchot**.

## Lector Schedules

New lector schedules are available in the mail slot and on our website. Anyone interested in getting trained for this ministry should contact **Father**.

## Daily Prayer Guide



If you didn't pick up "Do Something Beautiful for God" on Christmas, make sure you take a copy when you grab your bulletin next weekend. This is a daily prayer guide containing the essential teachings of St. Theresa of Calcutta. (The books were donated courtesy of the Ladies' Auxiliary and a personal benefactor.)

## Please Pray

Please remember all the sick/suffering in your prayers, especially **Mary Jane Shaver** (Parma); **Mary Lou Yanachik** (University); **Diane Balasz** (Parkside Villa; rehab) and **Bea Chrusic** (home).

Parish "thanks" to the ECF children/staff for last **Sunday's "Christmas Program."** The decorated letters spelling "JESUS" are hanging from the choir loft banister.



## *Help Us Enter the New Year*

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly,  
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,  
mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power.  
May we walk gently. May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently,  
aware that you have endowed every creature and plant,  
every person and habitat with beauty and purpose.  
May we regard the world with tenderness. May we honor rather than destroy.

Help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream,  
remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come.  
May we welcome your lavish love.

In this new year, May the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead.

— *Vinita Hampton Wright*



- 3 Kathryn Krasnicki
- 8 Miriam Masters
- 11 Nicole Lesnick
- 15 Kathryn/James Krasnicki (A)
- 16 Phil Costantino
- 18 Julia Lesnick
- 24 Mary Jane Shaver
- 25 Marianna Masters
- 27 Max Masters
- 30 Lisa Macik

### PARISH INFORMATION

**ACTIVITY CENTER & HALL RESERVATIONS:** 440-526-0016

**CONFESSIONS:** One half hour before liturgies for fifteen minutes and by request

**MEN'S CLUB:** 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**LADIES' AUXILIARY:** 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**A-OK CLUB:** 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**COFFEE SOCIAL:** Every Sunday after liturgy

**EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF) CLASSES:** Sundays 9:00 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

**BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE:** Tuesday noon

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