



*Welcome to St. Athanasius the Great  
Byzantine Catholic Church*

*“Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Christu!”  
“Glory to Him Forever! Slava Naviki Bohu!”*

We welcome all to the Divine Services at our parish. Our restrooms are in the Dormition Hall behind the Rectory next door. On Sundays, after Divine Liturgy, our potluck luncheon is open to everyone, especially our guests. Come join us for fellowship.

***“Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!”***

### **Need to request an appointment with Father?**

Father is available for confession or spiritual direction by appointment, and he welcomes you to contact him whenever you need him.

### **Prayers for the sick or other intentions:**

If you have a special intention for the sick, birthdays, deceased, need to request a Liturgy or other service to be offered for someone please give a note, text or call Father at 216-532-6364.

### **Opportunities to Help with Fundraising...we are called into service**

At this time, our parish is unable to exist without fundraising initiatives. Our most successful venture over the years has proved to be the traditional pierogi and European baked goods made in our commercial kitchen and sold at the various local Farmers' Market venues. **Volunteers are always needed to help with the baking and selling.** Cleaning the work areas and equipment are also welcomed opportunities to serve (can be an evening after work). **You are always needed, even if it is for a couple of hours.**

***Please contact John Danovich, (317) 538-7444, to schedule a workable day and time (Tuesday through Friday) for you and/or your family.***

### **Opportunities For Service At St. Athanasius**

- **Sellers are needed for the Saturday Carmel market to free up those who are baking all week.**
- **Pierogi pinchers and bakers are always needed (Tues through Friday).**
- **Eco-friendly birdfeeders were donated, and “kits” need to be put together to sell out of the hall and on Market Wagon.**
- **Pumpkins need to be processed into puree while they are still fresh.**
- **Bags for the food pantry need to be assembled.**
- **Our worship space needs to be kept maintained; plants watered, candles filled, carpet vacuumed.**
- **Our social space needs to be kept clean and organized.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **ELEVENTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT February 16-18, 2024**

The Beatitudes: The Way of Life  
 Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, Fremont, OH  
 Retreat Master: Fr. Lukas Mitro  
 Further info contact Susan A. Gallagher 419-626-0375 or e-mail  
[www.womenretreat2024@yahoo.com](mailto:www.womenretreat2024@yahoo.com)

### **THIRD ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT March 15-17, 2024**

From Fallen Passions to Apatheia: Pursuing the Virtuous Life  
 Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, Fremont, Ohio  
 Retreat Master: Father Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA.  
 Contact Karl Busam for further information 419-626-6811 or e-mail  
[karl.busam.77@gmail.com](mailto:karl.busam.77@gmail.com)

### **STEWARDSHIP APPEAL**

Please consider making a sacrificial gift to this year's Appeal that reflects the importance of the Church in your life and in the lives of those close to you. The Eparchy needs your support. Your gift will make a positive difference, such as: Development of Parishes, Vocations and Seminarian Education, The Works of the Apostolate and Retired Priests of the Eparchy.

### **HOUSE BLESSING**

Please sign up to have your house blessed; sign up sheet is at the rear of the church.

Thank you to all the volunteers who donated visibly and invisibly decorations and plants and made time to come and decorate the church. God grant them and their families many happy and blessed years. Mnohaja Lita.

Thank you to all in the Christmas Show on the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. May God grant you many years for all the rehearsals and costume preparations.

The financial report for 12-24-23 will be available in an upcoming bulletin.

<b>Services for the Week of December 31, 2023 – January 7, 2024</b>				
	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 31 Sunday After Christmas David, Joseph, James</b>	<b>8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon Moleben of Thanksgiving</b>	<b>Gal 1:11-19 Mt 2:11-23</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 1 New Year Circumcision of Lord; Feast St. Basil the Great</b>	<b>8:15 AM 10:00AM</b>	<b>Matins Divine Liturgy &amp; Mirovanije</b>	<b>Col 2:8-12 Heb 7:26-8:2 Lk 2:20-21, 40-52 Lk 6:17-23</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 2 Sylvester Pope</b>		<b>No Services</b>	<b>1 Tim 3:14-4:5 Mt 3:1-11</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 3 Malachi Prophet</b>		<b>No Services</b>	<b>2 Tim 4:5-8 Mk 1:1-8</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 4 Synaxis of the 70 Apostles</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Royal Hours</b>	<b>Rom 8:8-14 Lk 10:1-15</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>January 5 Vigil of Theophany</b>	<b>5:00 PM  7:00 PM</b>	<b>Vespers with Divine Liturgy, Great Blessing of Water Great Compline</b>	<b>1 Cor 9:19-27 Lk 3:1-17</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 6 Theophany of Our Lord</b>	<b>8:15 AM 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Matins Divine Liturgy Mirovanije Vespers Blessing of Homes</b>	<b>Titus 2:11-14 &amp; 3:4-7 Mt 3:13-17</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 7 Sunday After Theophany</b>	<b>8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 12:15 PM 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon ECF Ukrainian DV</b>	<b>Eph 4:7-13 Mt 4:12-17</b>

## Sunday After Christmas

**"::FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN; UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN!" (Isaiah 9:6)  
"I assure you, brothers, the gospel I preached to you...came by a revelation from Jesus Christ" (Gal. 1:11,12)**

"...the angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command: 'Get up, take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt...Herod is searching for the Child to destroy Him (Matt 2:13).

The attempt on the life of the child Jesus is as much a part of the gospel as the glorious account of His birth. We believers cannot be neutral about the Lord. Let us seek Him like the Wise Men - to give Him worship, honor and glory!

It is always a joy to celebrate this Holy Feast of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus. His coming has a way of making things seem right, of making us be right! And it is not the spirit of Christmas that makes it so. Rather, is the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit! It is EMMANUEL - GOD-WITH-US! AND SO WE GIVE THANKS!

And before I forget...now, TODAY is a good time for me and all of our Parish Family to THANK! Those of our Parish Family who do that something extra for the rest of us. Day after day, week after week, we take the efforts of so many others for granted ... those who come daily to Liturgy to pray for all, the singers and the servers, the readers and the ushers, those who teach our children and those who clean our church, the caretakers of the cemetery and grounds, those who take care of our Social activities and those who visit the sick, the officers of the Council and those who help them...and all who do that little extra, that perhaps only God knows - to make our St. Stephen Church a holy place of faith, worship and love. Let us be known as the first Christians: "SEE HOW THEY LOVE ONE ANOTHER!"

**"BEHOLD A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED EMMANUEL •• GOD-WITH-US!" (Matt 1:23)**

"Christ is Born!...Christ has come from the heavens, Receive Him!" Indeed Christ has come from heaven not to be born in a cave but rather, to be born in our hearts. My prayer for You is that all of you would receive Him as your most precious gift at this Holy Time and Glorify Him Forever!

We welcome with great joy the Birth of Our Lord Jesus into our midst. The Eternal God becomes that which He was not - a man - to reveal Himself and the Father to us and to send upon us the Holy Spirit!

O LORD, WE THANK YOU THAT YOU ARE OUR GREAT GIFT!"

I behold a new and wondrous mystery. My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing...Bethlehem this day resembles heaven, hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of Justice. And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields...This day He Who is, is born; and He Who is, becomes what He was not. For when He was God, He became man; not departing from the Godhead that is His.

This day He Who was ineffably begotten of the Father, was for me born of the Virgin, in a way no tongue can tell...And His heavenly generation is true, and His generation here on earth is true. What shall I say! And how shall I describe this birth to you? For this wonder fills me with astonishment. The Ancient of Days has become an infant. For He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His Spirit...He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit, that He may save me.

Come then let us observe the Feast...For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness is diffused and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been implanted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men speak with angels.

And why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things join together. Though He was God, He became Man; not denying Himself to be God. He did not become God. He was God. He became flesh so that He Whom heaven did not contain, a manger this day would receive.

*From a Christmas Morning Homily of St. John Chrysostom*



**Weekend Divine Services**

**Saturday:** 5 PM Vespers

**Sunday:** 8:15 AM Matins  
10 AM Divine Liturgy

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