

# Христос Раждається! Славте Його! Christ is born! Glorify Him!



We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors, and pray that your participation in the Divine Liturgy will be enriching and meaningful.

## December 31, 2017 ~ Sunday after Christmas

Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph, Spouse of the Mother of God; David the King; and James, Brother of the Lord in the Flesh

Epistle ~ Galatians 1: 11-19      Gospel ~ Matthew 2: 13-23  
See insert for troparia and special texts

## Focus on the GOSPEL

**W**e hear in today's Gospel about what took place once the Magi had departed after paying homage to the new-born King. For Joseph, it must have been quite unsettling. Through the angel of the Lord, God provided direction, but the future for Joseph and his little family was indeed an uncertain place because God did not tell Joseph everything. So, the family fled to Egypt and remained there until, in time, an angel instructed Joseph to return to Israel. However, he was again uncertain where to make his home as the angel did not tell him where to do so. Yet even in the midst of his uncertainty, he made the right choice when he chose to settle in Nazareth, accomplishing the fulfillment of what was said through the Prophets. God did not give him a 'playbook' with special instructions, but simply trusted Joseph to be the earthly father of His only-begotten Son. Yes, Joseph lived with uncertainty, but did the best he could to be obedient to God.

~ condensed from a sermon by D. Greg Ebie



**CHRIST IS BORN!** Dear Brothers and Sisters: I hope that all of you have celebrated the Nativity of our Lord well, and in the Spirit of Christmas. Now, let me say the second part of these wishes....and Happy New Year! May this coming New Year bring upon you and your families new blessings, new joy and new hope! Thank you for your greetings, prayers, cards and material support of your generosity!  
**Yours, Father Stepan**

## Liturgical Services for This Week

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 a.m. ~ Circumcision of Our Lord & St. Basil the Great

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

4:15 p.m. ~ Great Water Blessing

5:00 p.m. ~ **Theophany of Our Lord**

(major parts will be sung)

Epistle Reader: Linda Douglas



### Sunday, January 7

10:00 a.m. ~ **Sunday after the Theophany of Our Lord**

Epistle Reader: Michael Watral

## Your Return Gift to God

### DECEMBER 23/24 & CHRISTMAS

Envelopes: \$1,500.<sup>00</sup>      Mission Fund: \$41.<sup>25</sup>

Special Projects: \$20.<sup>00</sup>      Flowers for Christmas: \$30.<sup>00</sup>

The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas): \$3,691.<sup>30</sup>

*Thank you for your generosity ~ Щиро Вам дякуємо!*

December's Mission Collection is designated for St. Andrew's **Dew Drop Inn**, a safe and welcoming place where hungry people can come to eat with no questions asked.

## HOLY CROSS PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



We welcome **Freya Rose Heikkila**, daughter of Kelly and Kristen (née Ibey) Heikkila into our Christian family, who received the Holy Sacrament of Baptism in the Byzantine Rite on December 27. May the light of the newborn King, our Lord Jesus Christ, shine over Freya all the days of her life and grant her and her family many happy and blessed years ~ Многая і благая літа!

We send our prayers and condolences to **Alice and Ted Trush and family** on the passing of Alice's mother †**Jennie Wilchynski** on Wednesday, December 27 after a brief illness. Funeral services will take place at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3; prayers will be offered on Tuesday, January 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Blake Funeral Chapel. May our Lord accept †Jennie into His heavenly kingdom, grant her rest among the saints, and may her memory be everlasting ~ Вічна її пам'ять.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to **Dr. Don Lysak and wife Mary Ann** on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 29. May our Lord send His Holy Spirit upon them and strengthen the commitment implanted in their hearts on the day of their joining, and continue to grant them good health, happiness, long life and many more happy and blessed years together ~ Многая і благая літа!



Every year at this time, Christmas carolling has taken place. This season, however, due to issues with availability and scheduling, carolling has been arranged for 'Ukrainian Christmas', **Sunday, January 7**. If you wish to have the carollers come and sing, please sign the sheet on the table in the narthex at your earliest convenience, so we can have an idea whether or not to carry on with this tradition. And if you'd like to participate, please speak with Murray Salomon, Dr. Jennifer Swerdlyk, or Andrika Warywoda. We will likely meet in the church hall around 1 p.m. that day, but will firm up the time as the date gets closer.





## ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

Our next scheduled bingo at Superior Shores is a matinée on **Thursday, January 11**. Volunteers should be present at the bingo hall no later than 12 noon.

The next bingo training session will take place at Superior Shores on **Sunday, January 14** from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. We **still** need a few more members to do so. All parishioners are also welcome to take the training and help at bingos. *Thank you for your cooperation and support.*

The deadline for submissions for the next edition of *The Plentiful Harvester* is **Friday, January 19, 2018**.

There will be no regular monthly meeting in January. We will reconvene on **Sunday, February 4, 2018** at our annual 'Super Bowl' meeting. Until then, we wish all members a Happy and Blessed New Year!

### HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

**Winter Break:** Happy New Year! Regular afternoon activities are cancelled during 'cold' January and will resume on **Thursday, February 8, 2018** at the usual time when new members are welcome to join. Come check us out ~ you'll be glad you did!



A bus to Grand Portage is planned for **January 17, 2018**. To reserve a seat, please contact Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805) at your earliest convenience. This is a **free** service. Non-members (18 years and up) are invited also. The more, the merrier, so call up a few friends as well!

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**'Mini-Monster Bingo' - Sunday, December 31** at Superior Shores Gaming Centre, 435 Memorial Avenue, 6:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (Doors open at 4 p.m.) Tickets limited; \$60 per person (18 years and over). Featuring elevated jackpots including a \$3,000 final full card, plus 3 swag bags and gift card random raffles - over \$10,000 in guaranteed prizes. Help ring in the New Year while supporting local charities!

**Malanka - New Year's Eve Ukrainian Style - Saturday, January 13, 2018** at the Royal Canadian Slovak Legion, presented by Zorya Ukrainian Dance Association. Symposium @ 6 p.m.; Dinner @ 7 p.m. Entertainment by the Zorya Dancers. Live music by Danny Johnson and 21 Gun Fun. Advanced tickets only. Featuring 'Kolomeyka', 50/50 draw, and late night snack. See the poster in the narthex for more information or call Alice at 577-2100.

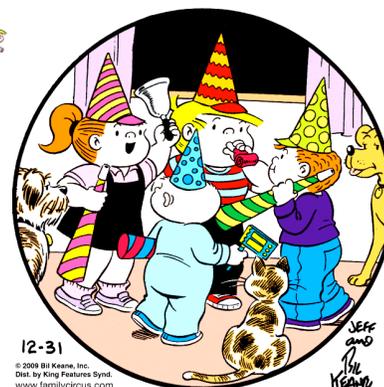
**"Malanka ~ A New Year's Celebration"** presented by the League of Ukrainian Canadians and Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group on **Saturday, January 27, 2018** at the Port Arthur Polish Hall, 102 S. Court St. Live music with featured band "Zirka" from Toronto. For tickets, call Doug Chorkawy at 621-1593 or Hanya Cvornjek at 344-3136. Get yours early to avoid disappointment. *Забавляймо разом!*



*Бажаємо Вам "Щасливого Ногово Поку!"  
Wishing everyone a "Happy New Year!"*

## Words of Comfort and Reassurance

*"God can bring peace to your past,  
purpose to your present,  
and hope to your future."*

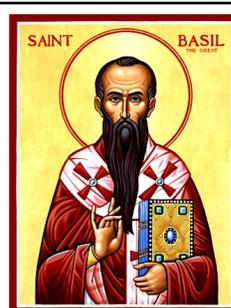


One distinguishing characteristic of the *Family Circus* comic strip is the frequent use of Christian imagery and themes, ranging from generic references to God to Jeffy daydreaming about Jesus at the grocery store. Keane stated that the religious content reflects his own upbringing and family traditions. Keane was Roman Catholic, and in past cartoons the children have been shown attending Catholic schools with sisters as teachers and attending Catholic church services. Keane was a frequent contributor to his high school newspaper, *The Good News*, at Northeast Catholic High School for Boys in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he graduated in 1940. Some of his comics with scenes in Billy's bedroom depict an NC pennant hanging on the wall, a tribute to his alma mater and his Catholic education. Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org](http://www.en.wikipedia.org)

12-31

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[www.familycircus.com](http://www.familycircus.com)

**"Mommy says we get to have midnight at 9 o'clock!"**



On the first of January, the beginning of the civil year, our Church celebrates the memory of the death of one of the greatest and most outstanding Fathers of the Church and doctors of the faith and of monastic legislators, St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea, Cappodocia, of Asia Minor (329-379). His person is in every respect extraordinary, noble, illustrious and worthy of praise. He was not only an aristocrat by birth, but also an aristocrat in spirit, character, learning and holiness. The mark of his deep faith, heroic love of God and neighbour, learning and holiness is stamped on the entire Church of Christ, on the monastic life in the East and on our people.

The French author, Jean Rivier, in his book *"St. Basil, Bishop of Caesarea"* says of him, "St. Basil is one of the most illustrious and renowned figures of the ancient Greek Church. His contemporaries had already conferred upon him the title 'the Great'...he is an ascetic by calling and a man of action by nature...His rule became the code of monastic life in the East, as did the rule of St. Benedict in the West...He is an ascetic, bishop, orator, theologian and scholar. He, without the least doubt, is the most perfect representative of the Church of his times...His life was in complete harmony with his learning, or to put it more clearly, his learning was nothing else than a reflection of his life."

Small wonder then, that the holy Church justifiably gave him the title 'the Great'. He is truly 'Great' especially in three areas of his life: as a great archbishop of the Church, as a great legislator of monastic life, and as a man of great holiness.



# How Herod Tried to Steal the First Christmas

Most of you have read Dr. Seuss' story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The Grinch hated Christmas and made up a plan to spoil the joy of Christmas in Who-ville. His plan was to dress up as Santa Claus and go into Who-ville and steal all of their Christmas presents, their Christmas trees, and even the food for their Christmas dinner.

The story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is not a true story, but there is a true story of another "Grinch" who tried to steal the first Christmas. This "Grinch" was a king by the name of Herod.

After Jesus was born, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked where they could find the child who had been born to be the king of the Jews. "We have seen His star in the sky and want to worship Him," they said. When Herod heard about this, he told the men that when they found the child, they should come back and tell him where the child was so that he could worship Him, too. The truth

is, Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus, he wanted to kill Him. Why? Perhaps his heart was too small! Herod was so selfish that he was afraid Jesus would become more popular than he was and perhaps even take over his kingdom.

Well, Herod's plan to kill Jesus didn't work. After the wise men found Jesus and gave Him gifts, an angel told them about Herod's plan and they went back home without telling Herod where they had found Jesus. An angel also appeared to Joseph and warned him of Herod's plan and told him to take Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt where they would be safe.

And so, we see that since the very first Christmas, Grinches have been trying to steal the joy of Christmas. There may be some "Grinches" that are trying to steal your Christmas joy. It will never work -- unless your heart is too small. Make sure that your heart is big enough to share the love and joy of Christmas with everyone you meet -- not just at Christmastime -- but all year long.

Source: [www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com)

Lord, make 2018 a very happy year for all of us individually here at Holy Cross.

Not by shielding us from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening us to bear it if it comes.

Not by taking hardship from us, but by taking all cowardice and fear from our hearts as we meet hardships.

Not by making our paths easy, but by making us sturdy enough to tread any path.

Not by granting unbroken sunshine, but by keeping our faces bright even in the shadows.

Not by making our lives always pleasant, but by showing us where others and your cause need us most and by making us zealous to be there and to help...

We pray also Lord You will bless us as a local congregation,

Not with great numbers of people who come looking for entertaining activities and services . . .

But with abundant opportunities to teach Your word and do Your work here in this area in all sincerity and truth.

Nor do we pray that you will make our name great as a local church, but that through us Your great name will be magnified.

Father, make our year a happy one! — In Jesus' name, Amen!



*Благослови, Боже, нам на новий рік,  
Щоби був щасливий кожний чоловік,  
Щоби нам в здоровлю пили дні життя,  
Щоби всі славили і любили Тя.*

*Сину Божий, Христе, зроджений для нас,  
Дай нам для спасення, зачати той час,  
Щоби ми гріхівся всяких стерегли,  
В згоді і любови жити всі могли.*

*Благослови рік той, Мати Пресвята,  
Щоби ся родили пшениці, жита,  
Щоби ми не знали голоду, війни  
Від огня і нужди нас охорони.*

*Так з тим новим роком, Господа просім,  
А Бог допоможе певно людям всім  
І Пречиста Мати нашого краю  
Дай нам вік щасливий і любов свою.*



*Bless us, God our Father, in the coming year,  
Grant that we may prosper as Your children dear,  
Grant us many blessings, health throughout our days  
As we bring You glory, honour, love and praise.*

*Son of God, dear Jesus born to us, we pray  
Help us start this new year following Your way,  
Guide us in Your holiness, free from guile and sin  
So to live in peace and harmony within.*

*O most holy Mother, bless us with Your grace,  
With abundant harvest, humbly we embrace.  
Grant us Your protection from all evil foe.  
Hunger and misfortune, may we never know.*

*And so, Lord, we ask You as the year begins,  
For God's holy blessings; turn us from our sins.  
Grant to us salvation, watching from above,  
With Your most pure Mother, guide us with Your love.*