

Bulletin ~ January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD  
AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST – CHRISTMAS



Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
1025 N Belle Vista Ave, Youngstown, Ohio 44509



Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian  
Orthodox Church

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**Ministries:**

Altar Servers

Church Choir

Church School

Adult Education

St. Mary's Sisterhood

Sts. Peter & Paul Brotherhood

Senior UOL Chapter

Junior UOL Chapter

Youth Ministry

Orphanage Mission Ministry

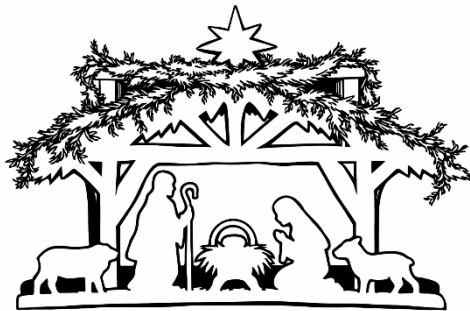
Bingo Team

Fr Mykola Zomchak - Editor

**Website:**

<https://www.stspeterpauluoc.org>

## STS Peter & Paul UOC



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**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD  
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### **CHANGEABLE PARTS OF THE DIVINE LITURGY**

#### **The First Antiphon**

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Your wonders known.

***Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!***

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord. (*Refrain*)

They are sought out according to His will. (*Refrain*)

Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. (*Refrain*)

Glory ....., now and ever. (*Refrain*)

#### **The Second Antiphon**

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

***Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!***

His descendants will be mighty in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed. (*Refrain*)

Glory and wealth are in His house and His righteousness endures forever. (*Refrain*)

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate, and righteous.

*(Refrain)*

Glory .... now and ever. Amen.

*("Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God... ")*



### **The Third Antiphon**

The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand." *(Ps. 109:1a)*

#### **Tone 4 Troparion:**

**Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom!  
For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of  
Righteousness, and to know You, the Orient from on high.// O Lord, glory to You!**

*"Until I make Your enemies Your footstool!" (Ps. 109:1b)*

*Troparion of the Feast*

The Lord will send You the scepter of power from Zion: "Rule in the midst of Your enemies!" *(Ps. 109:2)*

*Troparion of the Feast*

With You is dominion on the day of Your power, in the radiance of holiness.

*Troparion of the Feast*



#### **Entrance Verse**

**Priest:** Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten You. The Lord has sworn, and will not change His mind: "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

#### **Troparion — Tone 4**

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shone to the world the Light of knowledge; / for by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore You, / the Sun of Righteousness,/ and to know You, the Dayspring from on High. / O Lord, glory to You!

#### **Kontakion — Tone 3**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! / Angels with shepherds glorify Him. / The wise men journey with a star, / since for our sake the Pre-Eternal God was born as a young Child.

*(Instead of the Trisagion)*

**As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!**

#### **Tone 8 Prokeimenon**

Let all the earth worship You and praise You; / let it praise Your Name, O Most High!  
*V. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise!*

*\* (Epistle and Gospel readings are on page 6) \**

# CHRISTMAS STORY

*By Fr Mykola Zomchak*

Christmas helps us understand something very important about God — not through arguments or explanations, but through love.

There is a story about a man who did not go to church on Christmas Eve. He was not angry toward faith, just unsure. Christmas did not make much sense to him. His wife went to church with their children, and while she was there, she prayed with all her heart that God would bless her husband with faith and help him truly understand what Christmas is about.

That evening, the man stayed home alone. Outside, the weather was harsh — rain and snow falling together, cold and heavy. As he looked out the window, he noticed birds sitting in a tree, exposed to the storm. He felt compassion for them and worried they would freeze.

He tried to help. He called to them. He put out food. He tried to guide them into his shed, where they would be safe. But the birds did not understand and would not come.

Standing there in the cold, a thought came to him:

“If only I could become one of them — live like they do, speak their language — then I could show them I mean no harm and lead them to safety.”

And in that moment, everything became clear. That is what happened at Christmas.

God did not stay distant. He became one of us. He entered our world, shared our life, spoke our language, and walked our roads — so He could lead us, not by force, but by love.

Later that night, when the wife and children returned home from church, the husband greeted them at the door with tearful eyes. A candle was lit. The Bible was open to the place where it speaks about the birth of Jesus. Without many words, they understood — his heart had been changed.

Christmas is God saying, “I want you to understand.”

It is God saying, “I am with you.”

It is God saying, “Follow Me — I will lead you home.”



On this holy and radiant feast of Christmas, we proclaim a truth that reaches into every human struggle: God has come to be with us. Not from a distance, not with judgment, but in mercy and love. In the quiet of Bethlehem, the eternal God entered our fragile world as a Child, so that no pain, no sorrow, and no weakness would ever be faced alone again.

This message speaks deeply to lives that have known long years, heavy burdens, and silent endurance. Christ is born into every season of life. He is born where strength has faded and where faith has been tested. He comes not to erase your story, but to redeem it.

You have struggled—Christ has come to help you.  
You have grieved—Christ has come to comfort you.  
You have felt weak—Christ has come to strengthen you.  
You have been lonely—Christ has come to stay with you.  
You have prayed in silence—Christ has heard you.  
You have feared the future—Christ has come to give you peace.

The angels proclaimed, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.” This peace is not the absence of hardship, but the presence of God Himself. It is the assurance that love is stronger than suffering, mercy greater than regret, and life stronger than death. The manger already points toward the Cross, and the Cross toward the Resurrection—declaring that even in our final seasons, hope is never lost.

On this sacred day, may the light of Christ shine into every corner of your heart. May it calm what is anxious, heal what is wounded, and lift what feels heavy. May you know, beyond all doubt, that your life is precious, your journey is honored, and your name is held in the heart of God.



It is a profound blessing to walk this holy season with you. I thank God for your lives, your courage, and your faithfulness through all that you have endured.

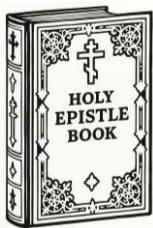
**Christ is Born - Glorify Him! Merry Christmas!**

May His peace, His mercy, and His unfailing love remain with you now and always.

With love and prayers in Christ, Rev. Mykola Zomchak, *pastor*



**The Reading is from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians 4:4-7**



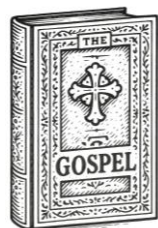
BRETHREN, But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

**Alleluia and Verses Tone 1**

*V. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.*

*V. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*



**The reading is from the Gospel according to St. Matthew 2:1-12**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’” Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

***(Instead of “It is truly meet...,” we sing:)***

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts. I behold a strange, most glorious mystery: heaven—the cave; the cherubic throne—the Virgin; the manger—the place where Christ lay: the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

## MEMORY ETERNAL

### PLEASE PRAY FOR RESTING OF THE SOULS

Mary Bobersky, Walter Duzzny, Dennis Currie, Julian, Vasyl Zomchak, Heather Rhodes, Joe Zemko, Jeff Ulrich, Judy Cebriak, William Zylka, Serhiy, Pat Mamajack, Arlene Hawryluk, Mary C. Moon, Lidiia Zabrodina, Metro Senedak, Eleanor K. Laise, Julian Naumenko.  
Victims of the war in Ukraine.



## PRAYER LIST

### PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING, COMFORT, AND SPIRITUAL PEACE



Metropolitan Anthony, Archbishop Daniel, Patricia Mogish, Denny Lightner, Kevin Finnerty, Alice Dobransky, Jamie Maluk, Alexandr, Missouri, Jane, Sam, Lorenzo, Lori, Christine Kline, Larry, Soldier Ivan, Dolly Mehalco, Stephen Shonn, Thelma Zemko, Artur Bohuslav, Lori Hayda, Shirley Duffy, Michele (Senediak) Caulder, Dobrodiyka Lilya, Sandy, Marilyn O'Leary, Harold Owens, Marianne Carmack, Nicholas Yurchyk, Pauline Witkowsky, Eileen Maluk, Peter Anderson, Albert Auden, Boris & Kathleen Vuksanovich, Kathy Zebel. People Suffering from any Illnesses. Ukrainian people suffering from war.

## Liturgical Schedule & Feast Days

### SERVICE AND FEAST DAY SCHEDULE



\* (*HEARING CONFESSIONS ON SUNDAYS BEFORE LITURGY 8:30AM - 9:15AM*)

- Tuesday, January 6, 6:30PM – Christmas Eve, Great Compline before Nativity, Caroling in Church.
- Wednesday, January 7, 9:30AM – Divine Liturgy,  
**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST - CHRISTMAS.**
- Sunday, January 11, 9:30AM – Divine Liturgy, 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Upcoming dates & events

- January 13 – **Tea & Fellowship with Fr Mykola** at 6pm at Church downstairs
- January 18 – **Fellowship** organized by Erica Shonn in Memory of her father Stephen Shonn



### Welcome to Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church!

Whether you are visiting for the first time or returning, we are truly glad you are here. Our parish, with over a century of history, is more than a church—it is a family.

Rooted in the rich tradition of the Orthodox faith, we gather for worship, celebrate the Sacraments, and support one another in living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

At Sts. Peter & Paul, you will find a welcoming community where you can grow in faith, serve others, and deepen your spiritual life. We invite you to become part of our parish family.

If you would like to learn more, please leave your contact information on the form in the back of the church or call us at 330-799-3830.

Thank you for praying with us today. May God bless you, and we hope to see you again soon.

- In Christ, Fr. Mykola Zomchak, Pastor

