



# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## Happy New Year! God Bless us all in this New Year!

Gelukkige Nuwejaar!	E Glëckliches Nëies!	سعيد عام	Sretna Nova Godina!
Šťastný Nový Rok!	Godt Nyttår!	Head Uut Aastat!	Onnellista Uutta Vuotta!
Bonne Année!	<b>ἡγιασμένης ἑξῆς ἡμετέρας</b>		Ein Gutes Neues Jahr!
Boldog Új Évet!	Ath bhliain faoi mhaise!		Buon Anno!
Felix sit annus novus!	Laimīgu Jauno Gadu!	ose:rase	Laimingu Naujuju Metu!
Godt nyttår!	Szczęśliwego nowego roku!	Feliz ano novo!	La multǵi ani!
С Новым Годом!	Bliadhna mhath ur!	Срећна нова година!	Gesælig Niw Gear!
Manigong bagong taon!	Iniya puthandu na!	Vazhthukkal	স্বাস্থ্যবৈধম 3 Новим роком!
Chúc Mừng Năm Mới	Blwyddyn newydd dda!	Kamgan Ukudigaa!	新年快樂!
Καλή χρονιά!	新年おめでとうございます!		Faoi mhaise duit

கிறிஸ்துமஸ் மற்றும் இனிய புத்தாண்டு வாழ்த்துக்கள்

**January 1, 2012 Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ** Divine Liturgy 9:30 am  
**Sunday of the Holy Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, Brother of the Lord**  
**Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (+379)**

**Civil New Year: Moleben asking God's Blessing on the New Year — after Divine Liturgy**

January 5	Eve of Theophany – Great Blessing of Water	Great Blessing of Water	7:00 pm
January 6	Friday <b>EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST</b>	Liturgy	9:30 am
January 7	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
January 8	Sunday after Epiphany	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

**Saints of the Day:** Great-martyr Barbara and Martyr Juliana at Heliopolis in Syria (306). Venerable John Damascene (760). New Hieromartyrs Priests Alexis, John, Alexander and Nicholas, Deacon Basil and with him 10 Martyrs (1918). New Hieromartyr Priest Demetrius, Virgin-martyrs Ecaterine and Cyra (1937). New Hieromartyr Damascene, Bishop of Glukhov (1935) and his father Priest Nicholas (Tsedrik). Venerable John, Bishop of Polybotum (716). Saint Gennadius, Archbishop of Novgorod (1504). New Hieromartyr Seraphim, Bishop of Phanar. Martyrs Christodula and Chistodulus. Saint Beoc, Abbot of Lough Derg (5 c). Saint Abbess Connat, Virgin (590), Saint Abbot Cuan (6 c). Saint Elvan and Saint Mydwyn (2 c). Saint Fanchea of Rossory, Virgin (585). Saint Maelrhys (6 c).

**Please remember in your prayers:** Nettie, Maria, Michael, Mother Raphaela, John, Hilda, James, JoAnne, Ada, Priest Sergius, Louellen, Nancy, Rea, Archpriest Jason, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Jim, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Archpriest Vincent, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of daughter Julie Anne were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Mary Lee Leszczuk.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Annamae Witiak, Bill Genzano, Matushka Naomi Takahashi, Tina Rhodes and Greg Polk were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Archbishop ANTONY (UOC-USA), Matushka Patricia, Tanya and Travis Saverino were offered December 25 at Liturgy at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of John and Vera Prawlocki, Frank Prawlocki, Anna and Walter Jovorosky, Walter Jovorosky, Jr, Mary and Frank Gromadzky, Anna and Wasil Prawlocki, Lubov and John Stehnach were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Sonia Buttino.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of uncle John Kurap and cousin Paul Udics were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Father John Udics

### A word, "This Christmas night" from Saint Isaac the Syrian.

This Christmas night, peace was bestowed upon the whole world; so let no one threaten.

This is the night of the Most Gentle One; let no one be cruel. This is the night of the Most Humble One; let no one be proud. Now is the day of joy; let us not revenge.

Now is the day of goodwill; let us not be mean.

In this day of peace let us not be conquered by anger.

Today the Beautiful One impoverished Himself for our sake; so you rich ones, invite the poor to your table.

Today we received a gift for which we did not ask; so let us give alms to those who implore us and beg. This present day's fast opens the heavenly door to our prayers. Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness.

Now the Divine Being took upon Himself the seal of humanity, in order for humanity to be decorated by the seal of Divinity.

**THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.** The eighth day following His birth, the Divine Child was presented in the Temple and circumcised according to the Law existing in Israel since the time of Abraham. On this occasion, He was given the name Jesus, which the Archangel Gabriel announced to the All-Holy Virgin Mary. The Old Testament circumcision was the proto-type of the New Testament baptism. The circumcision of our Lord shows that He received upon Himself the true body of man and not just seemingly, as was later taught of Him by heretics. Our Lord was also circumcised because He wanted to fulfill the entire Law which He Himself gave through the prophets and forefathers. In fulfilling the written Law, He replaced it with Baptism in His Holy Church as was proclaimed by the Apostle Paul: "For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation" (Galatians 6:15). (In the cycle of the liturgical calendar of the Church, this Feast of the Lord's Circumcision has neither a Forefeast nor an Antefeast).

**SAINT BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA** was born during the reign of Emperor Constantine. While still unbaptized, Basil spent fifteen years in Athens where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all other secular sciences of that time. His colleagues at that time were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years he was baptized in the river Jordan along with Euvlios his former teacher. He was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for almost ten years and completed his earthly life fifty years after his birth. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a religious zealot, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. Basil fully deserved the title "Great." In liturgical services, he is referred to as the "bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful and with its stinger pricks the heretics." Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, apologetical, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him. This Divine Liturgy is celebrated ten times throughout the year: the First of January, his feast day; on the eve of the Nativity of our Lord; on the eve of the Epiphany of our Lord; all Sundays of the Honorable Fast [Lenten Season], except Palm Sunday; on Great and Holy Thursday and on Great and Holy Saturday. Saint Basil died peacefully on January 1, 379 A.D., and was translated into the Kingdom of Christ.

**A word from the desert.** Then M recounted a story of a saintly Orthodox bishop who was approached by a beggar. His deacon was about to turn him away, but the bishop told him to give him some money. The deacon objected, saying much the same sort of things that M's friend had – 'you know he'll just spend it in debauchery, or some such' – but the bishop insisted. After the beggar left, the bishop told him, Yes, the beggar might spend that money on sin, but that is the beggar's sin. But for the bishop to refuse him what he asked, that would be the bishop's sin. We're not called to judge. We're called to be obedient.

A parallel story about Metropolitan Leonty (Turkevich): when the headquarters of the Orthodox Church in America were at the "Pro-Cathedral" in the Bowery in New York, many down-and-outers would ask for funds. The Metropolitan's kellenik made similar objections, to which Metropolitan Leonty said, "Yes, you're right – but I don't know which beggar is Christ."

**HOMILY About how we should depart from evil and do good** by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha

*"Turn from evil, and do good" (Psalm 34:15)*

With these words are expressed all our effort by which we should labor here on earth and in the earth, i.e., on this material earth and in this physical body. Therefore, of what then should our labor consist? To achieve two habits: First, to avoid evil and Second, to do good. Concerning that which is good and that which is evil, our conscience tells us incompletely and unclearly because our conscience is darkened by sin; but the teaching of Christ tells us completely and clearly that which is good and that which is evil.

Brethren, what does our Lord ask of us? He asks, that as our altars are always facing the east, so should our souls also be turned toward good. To leave evil behind us; to leave evil in the shadow; to leave evil in the abyss of oblivion; to leave evil in the darkness of the past, that we, from year to year, from day to day, extend ourselves toward good: to think about good; to yearn for good; to speak about good; to do good. The Lord is seeking builders and not destroyers. For whoever builds good, with that alone, he destroys evil. However, he who turns away from destroying evil, quickly forgets how to build good and is transformed into an evildoer. The apostle of Christ teaches us, "Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good" (Romans 12:9). Hate evil but do not hate the man who commits evil for he is sick. If you can, heal the sick person but do not kill him with your hatred. Adhere to good and only good; for good is from God; for God is the treasury of all good.

O Good and All-good Lord, teach us to avoid evil and to do good for the sake of Your glory and for the sake of our salvation.

#### **FOR YOUR CALENDARS**

- January 8** The Sisterhood will hold a meeting for the election of officers
- January 9** House Blessing by arrangement
- January 22** Deadline for reports for the Annual Report
- January 29** General Parish Meeting and Election of Council Officers