

**SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU!
SLAVA VO V'IKI**



**GLORY TO JESUS CHIRST!
GLORY FOREVER!**

**January 31, 2016
Sunday of Meat Fare**

Please remember in your prayers those confined to home, nursing facility or hospital. *Please pray especially for Brother Gus, OFM, Barbara C., John S, Margaret, Tom K, Deacon Richard, Hiromi, Tammy, Darren, Theresa, Bill, Bernice, Augustina, Fr. Greg and Fr. Jody.* If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please give a written note or email to Fr. Jerome or Deacon Larry. Communion calls are made on the week of the first Friday of each month. Please call the rectory if you or a family member wishes to be visited, either permanently or temporarily. Don't wait until there is a crisis to call. The sacraments should be brought to the sick on a regular basis.

Pirohi making sessions will resume again on Monday, Feb. 1st at 9:00 AM. New volunteers are always welcome to assist in this valuable parish fund raiser. Please consider being a volunteer. Thank You.

St. John Bingo is held every Tuesday night in the church hall. Doors open at 4:30 PM and bingo begins at 6:00 PM. Please patronize our parish bingo and bring a friend!

Aluminum Cans – We are still collecting aluminum cans to help in raising funds for the parish. You can bring the cans in whenever the church is open for Divine Liturgy, or call the rectory to make other arrangements for dropping off cans. Please remember: *aluminum cans only* and please be sure all liquids have been removed.

Good News about Phone Numbers – When I called Verizon to finalize details about the new phone lines, the agent I spoke with was **able to port our current phone numbers** to Verizon service. I do not understand why the first agent was unable to do this, but it was worth asking and waiting almost 90 minutes on the phone for this to go through.

Newly Ordained Priest – Please keep Fr. Lewis Rabayda in your prayers. He was ordained this weekend in Annandale, Virginia, the parish he attended when he heard God call him to the priesthood. You can read his articles in the *Eastern Catholic Life*. Fr. Lewis hails from Summit Hill and his home parish is St. John Byzantine Church in Lansford.



Gospel Reflections: Praying for Our City



Many of you know that I was born and raised in Flint, Michigan, now much in the news for the lead-in-the-water scandal. Democrats are blaming Republicans, and some of the Republicans are pointing to the Democrats involved in bad decisions and poor oversight as well. I've noted in public that there is plenty of blame to go around. In short, this is not a one-person or one-party failure.

But I think that disasters like the failure of thought and responsibility that lead to the scandal in my hometown should make us think about the role we have as regular citizens in small cities like Flint or Hazleton. Everything is made more difficult by the poverty and crime that have grown in both cities. Whether we live in the city proper or live nearby, we do well to remember that our neighbor is the one we see in need (Luke 10:25-37), and that our love is shown in our willingness to act even when it is inconvenient or difficult (Matthew 25:31-46).

We have been trained to push only so far. But sometimes we need to push ourselves (or our government) yet farther. Like most of you, I do not walk among the politicians and large business owners. I have met some of the movers and shakers in the Hazleton area, but rarely had any kind of opportunity for deep conversation. And I'm not sure that I would have the right words to convey my concern about some of the difficulties that we face.

But one thing we can all do is to pray for Hazleton. Whether you live in the city or simply nearby, I ask you please to join me in prayer for the city of Hazleton and the Greater Hazleton region. Let us pray for those in troubled neighborhoods, and for those who are causing the trouble. St Paul tells us that by praying for our enemies – or those who act like our enemies – we heap burning coals on their heads (Romans 12:20). St Ephraim makes the connection: these burning coals from the altar of our prayer are the very real presence of Jesus Christ whom we have received in the Eucharist. By heaping Jesus on our city and our region, we can only be doing good, blessing and assisting toward salvation those who will accept the blessing and mercy of our God and Father, even if for some it feels like burning coals.

This Sunday's Gospel is the Last Judgment. Those who are able to enter the glory of the heavenly kingdom are those who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick and

imprisoned. We serve our city well by addressing these bodily needs, but in faith let us also give the spiritual presence of our Lord through our prayers united in Christ.

—Jerome, ofm

Please remember to return your parish census forms as soon as possible. You may return the forms by placing them in the collection basket. Thank You!

House Blessings 2016: Forms are in the vestibule to sign up to have your house blessed. Fr Jerome and Deacon Larry have a special gift for each family that requests a house blessing. Sign up today! **Census and House Blessing forms may be returned in the collection.**

Parish Calendar

***GCU Greater Hazleton Lodge meets
Sunday January 31 at 1:00 PM in the
Parish Hall***

***Parish Council meeting at 2:00 PM
Sunday January 31 in the Rectory
Conference Room***

***Forgiveness Vespers Sunday February 7 at
3:00 PM***

Prepare for the Great Fast by praying to God for the grace to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. Reconcile with others. **Join us for a pot-luck in the parish hall after vespers.**

Food Sale – On Weeneday, February 10, we will have a food sale in the church hall beginning at 10:00 AM until sold out. Featured will be pirohi, either cooked or frozen, haluski, soup and a bake sale. Parishioners are invited to bring in items for the bake sale.

Moleben to Mary at 7:00 PM on Thursday February 11, at St Mary's Byzantine Church, Hazleton, in celebration of the jubilee year of mercy. The side door to St Mary's Church has been marked as a special door of mercy for our region.

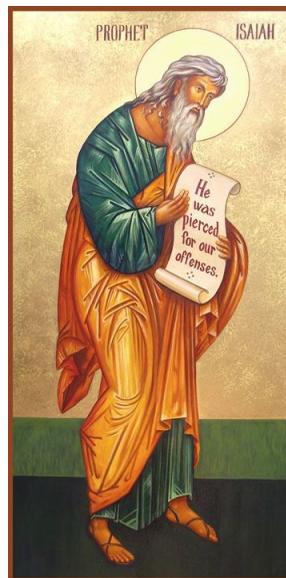
Saturday March 12, 9:00 AM Akathist to the Mother of God (Church). **10-11:30am** "Why, O Lord?" Fr Vasyl Chepelskyy speaks about suffering and the Christian life (Parish Hall). Details on the poster in the vestibule. Please mark this date and time on your calendar.



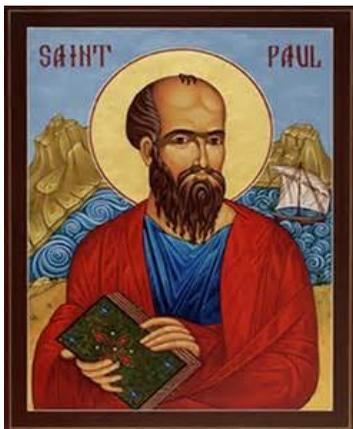
From the Prophet Isaiah

Rise up in splendor! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth,
and thick clouds cover the peoples;
But upon you the Lord shines,
and over you appears His glory.
Nations shall walk by your light,
and kings by your shining radiance.
Raise your eyes and look about,
they all gather and come to you.

Isaiah 60: 1-3



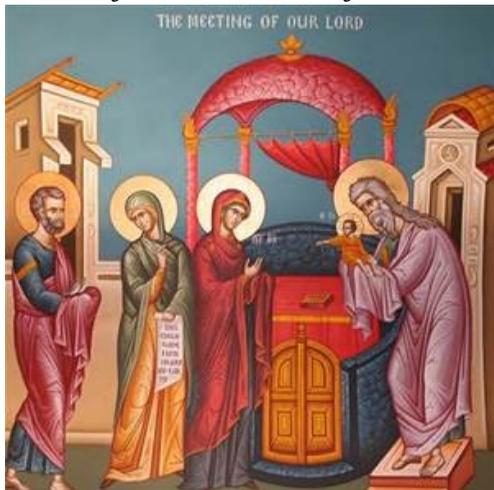
Epistle for the Sunday of Meat Fare – This Sunday we hear St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians (8: 8 thru 9:2). He tells us that eating one kind of food or abstaining from another does nothing to recommend a person to God. St. Paul cautions against putting a stumbling block in the way of the weak. Fasting and abstinence are a way to personal sacrifice to God, a practice we should include in our lives, especially during Lent, the Great Fast. People who have the spirit of Christ within, support their brethren, for when you sin against another person, you sin against Christ. When you wound another person, you are wounding Christ. We should be careful of not doing anything that presents itself as a stumbling block to others. When it comes to fasting we may encourage others while still not making our own fasting public. Fasting from certain foods is a sacrifice we make personally to God and not something we do to seek recognition from others.



Great Fast 2016 – The Great Fast offers opportunities for prayer, discipline and generosity. The weekday schedule will be the same as last year with Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays & Fridays, and Monday, Feb.8th. The other weekdays we

will have Typica at 9:00 AM. See your church calendar for fasting rules which help train our discipline. Please be extra generous with the poor as a sign of God's mercy to the world.

Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord in the Temple – We celebrate this solemn feast on

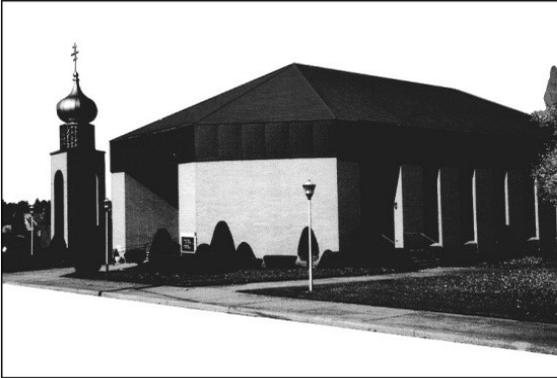
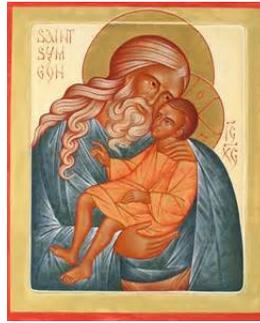


Tuesday, February 2. Forty days after the His birth, Mary and Joseph, according to Jewish law and custom, took their first-born son Jesus to the temple in order to offer sacrifice for the purification of Mary, His mother. Of course, the Theotokos did not need purification, since without defilement, she had given birth to the source of all purity and sanctity. Nevertheless, Mary and Joseph submitted to the precepts of the Law, and, not being wealthy, took only two turtle doves to be offered. Also, Mosaic Law ordained that every first-born son was considered to belong to God. Thus Mary and Joseph were fulfilling the command of God.

Arriving at the temple, they were met by the righteous elder Simeon. A noted scholar and holy man, Simeon had been promised by God that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. By inspiration from above, he went to the temple at the same time that Mary, Joseph and Jesus arrived. Simeon took the infant Jesus into his arms and gave thanks to God saying: “Now master you can dismiss your servant in peace; you have fulfilled your word. For my eyes have witnessed your saving deed for all people to see: a revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people, Israel. (Luke 2:29-32).

Also at the temple was an 84 year old widow, Anna the Prophetess. Upon seeing Jesus, she gave thanks to God and spoke of the child to all in Jerusalem who looked forward to God's plan of salvation.

Troparion of the Feast: Rejoice, Theotokos, Virgin full of grace; for from you has shone forth the Sun of Justice, Christ, our God, enlightening those who are in darkness. Rejoice also, you just elder; you have received in your arms the liberator of our souls, who grants us resurrection .



st john the baptist byzantine catholic church

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Sacramental Mysteries:

Confession (Repentance & Reconciliation) Saturday 3:30-4pm and by appointment.

Baptism, Chrismation, Becoming Byzantine Catholic: Please meet with Fr Jerome or Deacon Larry.

Holy Matrimony (Weddings): Planning must begin at least six months in advance.

No date can be set until all paperwork is in order. Pre-Cana classes held every Spring.

Please contact Fr Jerome or Deacon Larry to set up an initial meeting.

Holy Anointing for Healing: on request in church after Liturgy or call Fr Jerome.

Eucharist: for those unable to attend church, contact Deacon Larry for temporary or on-going visits.