

DECEMBER 15, 2024

## BULLETIN – FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

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Father's office hours: 9 am-3 pm, Mon.-Thurs. or by appt. ♦ (805) 708-6066 ♦ [frchristopherdillon@gmail.com](mailto:frchristopherdillon@gmail.com)

Bulletin Submissions Deadline – **10 am Wed.** ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org>

**Ss Peter & Paul Mission:** preserve, practice, and proclaim the Gospel of our Lord, God, & Savior Jesus Christ in order to glorify God in the parish and wider community.

### *This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul – December 16-22, 2024*

12/17 Tu 6:00 am – Divine Liturgy – Prophet  
Daniel & Three Holy Youths

12/18 Wd 6:00 pm – Vespers  
7:00 pm – Parish Council

12/19 Th 7:00 am – Men's Reading Group  
10:00 am – Koffee w/Khouria

12/21 Sa 10:00 am – Adult Choir rehearsal  
5:30 pm – Learn Byzantine Tones  
6:00 pm – Great Vespers & Compline

12/22 Su 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy – Sunday  
before the Nativity (Genealogy)  
10:20 am – Church School  
Adult Choir rehearsal

*Looking Ahead—*

### FEAST OF NATIVITY

#### *December 24 – Prefeast of the Nativity*

\*\*9:00 am Royal Hours, followed by Typika and Vesperal Divine Liturgy

#### *December 25 – Feast of the Nativity of Christ*

\*\*8:00 am Nativity services, followed by Christmas Breakfast

#### *Christmas Breakfast*

\*\*Bring a prepared sweet bread, egg dish, or meat to share

\*\*Enjoy church provided cider

December 26 *No Men's Reading Group*

December 27 *Morning Divine Liturgy*

December 29 *Adult Choir rehearsal; Youth Choir practice*

December 31 *Akathist to the Theotokos for healing*

January 1 *Morning Divine Liturgy*

### *Many Years – Birthday*

*Ezra Hofschneider* December 20

*Kh. Suzanne Washburn* December 21

### *Many Years – Anniversary*

*Jack & Monica Zweers* December 16

*Dave & Linda Matthews* December 18

### NATIVITY FAST

*December 13-24*

- As the Feast of our Lord's Nativity approaches, we increase our preparation by increasing our fasting.
- We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, oil, and wine during this period.
- On Saturday, Sunday, and certain feast days, wine and oil are allowed.
- As always, we prepare to receive Holy Communion with a complete fast from food and drink, unless medically necessary, and with the blessing of your father confessor.

### *Adult Choir rehearsal today*

### COFFEE HOUR HELP NEEDED

December 29 is the fifth Sunday of the month, and we don't have a dedicated team for that date. We need a few individuals or families that would host that coffee hour so that our regular team leaders can have a break after Nativity. Contact Sarah Steiger at (831) 588-7526 for more information.

### TRAVELING MERCIES & ANNOINTING WITH OIL

If you plan to travel or are ill, please request a blessing or anointing with oil before travel and at the beginning of your illness.

**Friday, December 27 @ 8:00 am**  
**Divine Liturgy – St. Stephen the Protomartyr**

### PARISH COUNCIL

All are welcome at the Parish Council meeting, Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00pm in the parish hall.

**Tuesday, December 17 @ 6:00 am**  
**Divine Liturgy – Prophet Daniel & Three Holy Youths**

**Community Dinner**  
**Sunday, December 29**  
**2:00 pm**

Join us for the feast, help prepare and serve the food, clean up afterwards, contribute funds; any and all help is greatly appreciated. For more information and to volunteer, contact Keidi Lewis at (831) 588-9575.

**Youth Choir rehearsal**  
**Sunday, December 29**

**DONATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE & BUILDING**

Please designate cash or check donations for regular church maintenance as "Maintenance Fund. Designate cash or check donations for long term building projects as "Building Fund." This helps keep church bookkeeping straight.

***Akathist to the Theotokos for healing***  
***Tuesday, December 31 @ 10:00 am***

**IN APPRECIATION**

Thank you to Keidi Lewis, Amy Nicholas, Kh. Claire, Teen Soyo, and all who helped move chairs back and forth to the church barn, set up for the St. Nicholas celebration, and brought cookies to share. Thank you to Fr. Christopher, Peter Dillon, Caleb Hofschneider, Darlene Johnson, and the Youth Choir who helped with Christmas carols and special music. Thank you to our special guest. Pray for us St. Nicholas, you who are good, good, good!

Feast of  
Circumcision of Christ  
& St. Basil the Great  
8:00 am Divine Liturgy  
January 1, 2025

Friday, January 3 @ 8:00 am  
Royal Hours & Typika for Theophany

**GOOD WORKS FOR ADVENT**

***Valley Churches United Canned Food Drive:*** Bring cans of food and leave in the VCM barrel on the north side of the parish hall.

***Alms:*** Almsgiving is above and beyond our tithe and is an important part of Orthodox piety.

***IOCC:*** Donations of money

***Food For Hungry People:*** This is especially good for children because they see how to practice almsgiving, in this case for hungry people at home and around the world. This is our archdiocese sponsored charity. FFHP boxes are in the narthex, so take one home today. **When the fast is over, return the loaded box to the Narthex for collection.**

**Coming to Communion**

We all know that receiving the body and blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist is a holy sacrament that should be done with reverence and humility. But what does that look like?

In addition to preparing ourselves with prayer, fasting, and a recent confession, there are a few ways we, who are unworthy, should approach the chalice.

+We stand in the presence of Christ. While the clergy are receiving, while we wait for our turn, and while others are receiving after us, it is proper to stand in reverence while the hymns are sung.

+We do not need to cross ourselves before or after receiving the Holy Eucharist. Receiving the body and blood of Christ is the greatest blessing we can receive. When we cross ourselves, we ask God's blessing on ourselves. It is unnecessary to bless ourselves before or after receiving the greatest blessing of the Holy Eucharist. There is also a danger of hitting the chalice with our hand and spilling the holy gifts. Simply come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.

+When you approach the chalice, it is a good practice to say your baptismal name, even if the priest knows it. Sometimes the multitude of names is overwhelming for the clergy.

+If you are not prepared to receive Communion, please approach the chalice as usual and say "Father Bless."

+After the dismissal, post-communion Prayers of Thanksgiving are read. All are welcome and encouraged to stay for these prayers. If you are not staying to pray, please take conversation outside so as not to disturb those who are praying.

+Fr. Christopher