



The Saint Stephen Church Parish Bulletin

1344 White Oak Bottom Road,
Toms River, NJ, 08755

Reverend Volodymyr Popyk – Pastor of Parish

LITURGIES:

SATURDAY-5:00pm, SUNDAY- 9:00 am English; 10:30 am Ukrainian
Rectory Phone 732-505-6053, Fax 732-505-6295

Phone for ordering pyrohy 732-505-6293

Pastor's cell: 609-372-7161

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Christmas- Birth of our Lord: Epistle: Gal. 4, 4-7 * Go.: Mt. 2, 1-12* Tropars of the Nativity of the Lord

Saturday, December 24 10:00pm **Great Compline and Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr.- Eng.). Myrovania**
(Надвечір'я Різдва Христового)

Sunday, December 25 Різдво Господа нашого Ісуса Христа — **Christmas of our Lord Jesus Christ**
9:00 am **Christmas Divine Liturgy (Eng.). Special intention. Myrovania**
10:00am PRAYING on the ROSARY for peace in Ukraine and the World
10:30am **Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr.). Blessing All Parishioners. Мирвання**

Monday, December 26 “**Synaxis of Theotokos**” - **Собор Пресвятої Богородиці**
9:30am Divine Liturgy (Ukr.- Eng.). Myrovania

Tuesday, December 27 “**St. Stephen Protomartyr**” - **Первомученика Архидиякона Степана**
9:30am Peter and Olha Schmaida by Joan Ratajczik (Ukr.- Eng.). Myrovania

Wednesday, December 28 Day off.

Thursday, December 29 Day off.

Friday, December 30 Day off.

Saturday, December 31 “**Saturday after Christmas**” - **Субота по Різдві Христовому**
4:00pm + Lidia Muraschuk by Maria Onyszkewycz

Circumcision of our Lord- St. Basil: Ep.: Col. 2, 8-12 * Go.: Luke 2, 20-21; 40-52 * Tropar of Circumcision

Sunday, January 1 “**Circumcision of our Lord – St. Basil**” - **Новий Рік. Найменування ГНІХ. Св.Василія**

9:00 am Blessing All Parishioners. **Myrovania**

10:00am PRAYING on the ROSARY for peace in Ukraine and the World

10:30am Здоров'я Руслана, Іванки, Софії, Віти Килиман і Дмитра Холошнюк від Іванки. **Мирвання**

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Rectory Office Hours: Parishioners can contact Father at any time, especially in an emergency. **Mondays – Day Off.**

Church Membership: All Faithful are welcome to our Church. Ukrainian Catholics, Roman Catholics and Orthodox people can pray with us. We would love to see at our Church non-Catholics and unaffiliated people. Everyone can come to Jesus and He can give to all His Blessing and Salvation. Come and worship with us our Lord. If some of the visitors will feel that our Church is a home of prayer and spiritual life, this person can become a Christian and member of our parish. We appreciate all contributions for the Church to cover expenses of our Parish. You can use your envelopes.

Baptisms: All people can become Christians. That is the will of God. Children can become Christians through free will of the parents. According to our Ukrainian-Byzantine custom we give Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion in one service. For adults there is needed catechetical preparation. Please contact the Pastor and make an appointment.

First Penance and Solemn First Holy Communion: Every adult Baptized has to receive Penance at least once a year. Children after the age of 8 have to receive First Penance and Holy Communion according to Church's Law. Catechetical classes are available in our parish. Please sign your child up for classes at least one year before the day of the event.

Confession is available 30 min. before every Liturgy & other times by request of the Priest.

Marriages All couples contemplating marriage are required to attend counseling sessions. Please contact Father as soon as you make plans to wed.

Anointing of the Sick/Innances Home-bound If you are home-bound and would like Father to visit you, please call the office to make sure your name is on the list. Responsibility of the family is to inform the pastor on time, especially of an emergency.

FUNERAL- Have your funeral director contact the rectory immediately after the death to make proper funeral arrangements.

Sanctuary Lamp - You can dedicate the Sanctuary Lamp in memory of a loved one or in honor/thanksgiving by using the special offering envelope with the date you have chosen. Drop off the dedication and your donation of \$20 into the Sunday collection basket. Names needed.

Church Flowers- Can be sponsored weekly. Parishioners can sponsor these flowers in memory of a loved one, or for any occasion. Anyone interested in sponsoring flowers, please call the rectory.

LITURGY REQUEST- Please make Divine Liturgy intentions for your loved ones. Weekdays are available to serve the Divine Liturgy. The family has the choice to pick a time of service of the Divine Liturgy on week days.

BINGO INFORMATION- Every Tuesday we have Bingo at our parish hall. The income of Bingo can help cover our expenses of the mortgage for the new church.

ROSARY SOCIETY- Our Parish has a very spiritual group called the Rosary Society. The group keeps the will of the Holy Mother of God pray on the Rosary every day.

RELIGION EDUCATION- To be educated in the religious life, our parish will have Catechetical classes every Sunday for children at 10:00am. Teacher Sandy provides the classes of Catechism for Sundays. Father Volodymyr provides Catechism for children on Saturdays at 12.30pm and classes for adult parishioners and visitors on Sundays during “Coffee hour” time at 12:00pm in parish hall.

UKRAINIAN “NADIYA DANCE SCHOOL” – Dance classes are provided by choreographer Nadiya Lemega in our parish hall every Thursday at 6:30pm. All children are welcome! Please call the Rectory.

COLLECTION -\$1,406; Thank You for generous Donations!

*******ANNOUNCEMENTS*******

Merry Christmas: As Pastor of this wonderful parish, I want to thank you for the gift you are to us. May your family share in the many blessings of Christ this Christmas. As we rejoice together may we be keenly aware of our call to love God with all our hearts and to love one another. Love is the best Christmas gift that we can give. During this season of giving, we ask you to consider a year-end, tax deductible gift to help us maintain our new beautiful church. I thank you for your continued stewardship. My prayer for each of you is that you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love at Christmas time and always. May choicest blessings be yours this Holy Christmas Day and may abundant graces enrich your days throughout the coming year. Merry Christmas!

З нагоди Різдва Христового, в день найбільшої радості, прийміть дорогі моєму серцю парафіяни, сердечні побажання Веселих Різдвяних Свят і Щасливого Нового Року. Із Різдвом Христовим вас вітаю від себе та своєї сім'ї! Христос Рождається! Славте Його!

RENTING OF THE HALL: Our parish hall is available for renting. Six hours of rent will cost \$800 for non-parishioners and \$700 for parishioners. For more information and to sign a rental agreement please call Father Volodymyr at 732-505-6053. **Просимо винаймати на рент наш зал для ваших веселих подій!**

COFFEE HOUR: We welcome all parishioners to participate in the Coffee Hour at our parish hall after all Liturgies on Sundays. If you would like to offer cakes please contact Oksana Powzaniuk 732-255-6549. Запрошуємо всіх на дружнє спілкування за чашкою гарячої кави! Запрошуємо!

The Parish Outreach – Парафіяльна допомога для кожного. In our Parish we have an independent group of volunteers. The group, known as THE PARISH OUTREACH, has as its mission to provide assistance and/or companionship for our parishioners who have a need of such. Offer includes providing transportation to/from our church for services, visiting the home-bound, visiting those who are laid up in a hospital or rehab. Please contact George Shevchuk 732-905-0507 or Olga or Gerry Tchir 732-364-6838 or outreach@ststephenchurch.us.

ШКОЛА УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ТАНЦІВ – “Nadiya Ukrainian Dance School” :

При нашій парафії діє школа Українських танців для дітей та молоді. Заняття відбуваються що четверга, о 6.30 год.вечора. Танцями провадить хореограф Надія Лемега. Просимо записувати своїх дітей в класи танців (732) 778-9367. Сердечно запрошуємо всіх дітей різного віку. Welcome!

MAKE SHAWLS: The Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. Stephen Church, newly formed, is looking for volunteers who can knit or crochet. Every Wednesday we make them at our parish hall from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Welcome All! For more information call Johanna Hnedak 732-279-6625

CHARITABLE DONATIONS: If you are 70½ or older and have an individual retirement account (IRA) from which you must take a required minimum distribution, please consider making a qualified charitable contribution to St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church. Since these IRA charitable rollover gifts do not need to be reported as taxable income, they can provide a tax break for you and a benefit to our Church. To qualify for a tax benefit for 2016, all IRA Rollover charitable donations must be made by Dec. 31st. Please consult your attorney or financial adviser before proceeding.

“SCHOLARSHIP of ST. STEPHEN PARISH”: A Scholarship of \$500.00 from our Parish to high school graduating students. To receive this, graduating students would have to visit our parish every Sunday and be active in the parish at least 3-4 years before graduation.

PARISH UKRAINIAN SCHOOL: Parish Ukrainian School is open. The School Days are Saturdays from 9:00am to 12.30pm. The children will participate in this school and teacher Maria Ivanus leads these classes. Children of all ages are invited. All children have to be registered. **Запрошуємо до Української Школи всіх дітей різного віку!**

FOR SPONSORS: Our parish is asking for donations to buy 8 new icons for our new church. We have space on the walls on the left and right sides of the church. These icons will have the same size and style as other icons that we have at the church. This icons we will buy in Greece for \$3,000 plus \$300 shipping. For this time we have two sponsors that can offer \$1,500. We need extra \$1,800. If you would like make a donation please contact father!

THANK YOU: Дякуємо сердечно пані Марії Іванус за провадження нашою Українською Школою. Дякуємо п. Марії за приготування дітей для виступу на Святі Св. Миколая. Дякуємо всім Батькам за чудових дітей і підтримку. Дякую п. Нусі і п. Наталії за смачні миколайчики-тісточки які вони спекли для діточок. Дякую кожному за підтримку та вашу присутність. Дякую п. Марті Сибик за печення просфор для Літургій та на Святвечір.

Thank you so much for Johanna Hnedak and other ladies for preparing nice shawls for people. We hope that warmth from our good work and hearts will make life of others much warmer and better. May our Lord bless all and grant all good health for many happy years! Многая Літа всім!

Save a Day: On Sunday, January 29 at 12:00pm , we will have “PROSFORA” lunch in our parish. We will have presentation of “VERTEP” from Trenton, NJ. Parishioners are Welcome!

Presentation: On Sunday, January 8 at 12:00pm we will have presentation of Holy Icons of Holy Martyrs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church (1941-1972). This presentation will be provided by Sr. Elizabeth (Vepruk) St. Basil Order. All are welcome! Запрошуємо на презентацію ікон і автобіографії Блаженних Мучеників УГКЦ.

Christmas Carols: We have idea to sing carols by visiting homes of our parishioners. We are looking for people that can sing carols as one carol group. If this carol group will be formed, then we will sing carols through appointments with our parishioners. Please contact Gerry Tchir for moor information: 732-941-2503

Choir practicing: Every Sunday at 9:30am we have choir rehearsals. All choir members and all interested are welcome. Our choir needs you support if you have a talent to sing.

Meeting: On Wednesday, January 4 at 6:00pm the Fund-Raising Group will have a meeting in preparation for “Prosfora”.

Liturgical changes: Starting Saturday, December 31, Divine Liturgy for Saturdays will be served at 4:00pm (not 5:00pm) for winter time (through March). Many older parishioners cannot drive cars at night time. This change will give possibility for more people come to church.

On Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve day – there will be no Divine Liturgy at 5:00pm. All parishioners as one parish spiritual family come to church and together celebrate Christmas – Birth of our Lord Jesus at 10:00pm. All are Welcome!

Christmas Schedule – Різдвяна відправа на Різдво Христове за старим стилем буде в суботу, 7 січня о 10:00 годині ранку в Українській мові. Запрошуємо всіх на святкування Різдва разом із Україною та Родинами.

Theophany visits: Who would like their home blessed after the feast of Theophany (Йордану) please sign up with your name and address, and Pastor will visit you by an appointment time. Хто бажає поблагословити свій Дім після Йордану прошу записатися на список для відвідин Отцем Володимиром. Лист стоятиме в притворі Церкви. Відвідини проведитимуться по узгодженні часу із господарем дому.

Christmas---a season of joy and cheer...	This Christmas Season...
Visions of Santa and his reindeer...	Cultivate a welcoming heart.
Children playing in the snow...	A heart that is gentle, warm, kind...
Laughing---their faces all aglow...	A smile a kind word for thous alone...
Presents nestling beneath a brightly-lit tree...	A warm embrace for thous with an empty home...
Children---cheery---wide-eyed with glee...	

Most of all...	This Christmas Season...
Christmas is a season of the heart.	Make room in your heart for the New-Born Babe.
A time to turn our thoughts to others...	Open your heart big and wide,
To those whose lives have come apart...	Welcome the Christ Child inside.
To the sick---the home bound---the lonely...	

Do you have a space for them within	(“Make a room in your heart” by Lidia Bargiuk, Christmas 2016)
Or are you like the keeper at the inn...	
Who would not let Mary and Joseph stay...	
Whose cold heart sent them away?	