



The Saint Stephen Church Parish Bulletin

1344 White Oak Bottom Road
Toms River, NJ, 08755

Reverend Volodymyr Popyk – Pastor of Parish

LITURGIES:

SATURDAY-4:00pm, SUNDAY- 9:00 am English; 10:30 am Ukrainian

Rectory Phone 732-505-6053

Phone for ordering pyrohy 732-505-6293

Pastor's cell: 609-372-7161

Email: pastor@ststephenchurch.us

Website: www.ststephenchurch.us

Saturday, December 30 4:00pm + Peter and Olga Schmaida by Joan Ratajczik

Sunday after Christmas – David, Joseph and James – Неділя по Різдві Христовім

December 31 Ep.: Gal. 1, 11-19 Go.: Mt. 2, 13-23 **Tone of Christmas + Sun. after Christmas**

9:00am Blessing all our Parishioners – Благословення парафіян

10:00am Rosary for repentance and peace of the world to God — Молитва на Вервиці

10:30am + Walter Schneider by Marion Woloshyn (40th day)

Monday, January 1 New Year – Circumcision of Lord Jesus – Новий Рік та Найменування ГНІХ

10:00am Divine Liturgy (Eng. - Ukr.). Myrovania.

Tuesday, January 2 no Liturgy

Wednesday, January 3 no Liturgy

Thursday, January 4 9:00am + Ярослав Галько від родини Попик

Friday, January 5 9:00am Thanksgiving for God by Rev. V. Popyk (21 Anniversary of Ordination of Priesthood)

Saturday, January 6 “Theophany of our Lord – Богоявлення Господнє-Хрещення ГНІХ”

10:00am + Bohdan Ohotsky, Raymond Fernandez by Maria Ohotsky (12 Anniv.).

Blessing of the Holy Water – Йорданське освячення води

4:00pm + Teodozia Fedyna by son Osyp Fedyna

Christmas of the Lord Jesus (old Julian calendar) – Різдво Христове (за Юліанським календарем)

January 7 Ep.: Gal. 4, 4-7 Go.: Mt. 2, 1-12 **Antiphons and Tone of Christmas**

9:00am Blessing all and homebound by Marion Woloshyn

10:00am Rosary for repentance and peace of the world to God — Молитва на Вервиці

10:30am Blessing all our Parishioners – Благословення парафіян. Myrovania.

(song “God is with us” will take place before Liturgy)

Rectory Office Hours: In emergency parishioners can contact Father any time. **Mondays-Day Off - office closed.**

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. If any 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 may use your envelopes.

Baptisms: All people can become Christians. Children can become Christians through the 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.

First Penance and Solemn 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 the Church's Law. Catechetical classes are available in our parish. Please sign up your child for classes at least one year before the day of the event.

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

Marriages All couples contemplating marriage are required to attend counseling sessions. Time of six months is needed for all preparations. Please contact Father as soon as you make plans to wed.

Anointing of the Home-bound Due to Illness: 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. It is the family's responsibility 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.

Parish Ukrainian School: Parish Ukrainian school is now open. The school days are Saturdays from 9:30am to 1:00pm. We have three groups of children. The children participate in this school and their teachers Maria Ivanus, Galia Ivanus and Natalia Koshkina lead these classes. Children of all ages are invited. **Запрошуємо до суботньої Української Школи всіх дітей різного віку! (732) 505-6053 or (732) 267-3655**

“SCHOLARSHIP of St. Stephen Parish”: A scholarship of \$500 is available 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 years before graduation.

Bingo information- Every Tuesday, at 7:00pm, we have Bingo at our parish hall. The income from Bingo is helping us to cover our expenses of the mortgage for our new church. **Please come and play bingo!**

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

Religion education- To be educated in the religious life, our parish has Catechetical classes.

The religion classes for adult parishioners and visitors Fr. Volodymyr provides on Sundays during “Coffee hour” time at 12:00pm in the parish hall. On Saturdays at 1:00pm (after Ukrainian school) Father have 30 min. religion classes for children. All are welcome!

Ukrainian “DANCE SCHOOL” – Ukrainian Dance classes will start shortly. All children are welcome! Просимо записувати дітей у Школу Українських танців – (609) 372-7161

The Parish Outreach – Парафіяльна допомога для кожного. In our parish we have an independent group of volunteers. Offer includes providing occasional transportation to/from our church for services, visiting the home-bound, visiting those who are laid up in a hospital or rehab. Please contact Olga or Gerry Tchir 732-364-6838 or George Shevchuk 732-905-0507 or outreach@ststephenchurch.us.

Renting of the Hall: Our parish hall is available for renting. Six hours of rent will cost \$600 for non-parishioners and \$500 for parishioners. For more information and/or 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!

COLLECTIONS - \$6,643. Thank you so much for generous donations! Дякуємо щиро!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank you so much Olga Rabik and Iryna Fedor for the offer of new embroidered linen cloth for church altar and tables. May lord Jesus bless Olga and Iryna for many happy years!

Thank you very much Petro and Stefania Artymovych for the offer of many Christmas flowers for church. These flowers very nicely decorated our church for Christmas days. May Lord bless you richly!

Thank you so much Marta Cybyk for baking prosforas (bread) for Christmas Eve and for Divine Liturgies. Your offer is one of most important for services at church. Thank you, Marta,!

Thank you very much to our teachers of Ukrainian school for all preparations for St. Nicholas Holy Day with the program for children. May Lord bless our school and children!

Thank you so much Luba Bonczek and all bingo workers for offering your time running bingo every Tuesday all these many years. May Jesus gives you his Blessing and guide you all your life. Thank you!

All parishioners have new envelopes for the 2018 year. Please take them home and use for your contributions for the church. They are available at the entrance of the church. If someone is not registered as a parish member please contact Father Volodymyr.

Father Volodymyr is asking parishioners to offer intentions for your Divine Liturgies to serve them at church in 2018 year. For this time Father have no Liturgies to serve on weekdays. Please remember to pray at church for your loved ones.

On Sunday, January 21, 2018 we plan to have "Parish Prosfora". A meeting for all preparations will be held on Thursday, January 11 at 6pm. All new parish councils are invited, and volunteers too!

Religion class for children that speak the Ukrainian language is provided every Saturday at 1:00pm (after Ukrainian school classes). **Religion classes for English-speaking children** are every Saturday at 1:35pm. Father Volodymyr invites all children of the school and all interested children to visit religion classes. Уроки релігії для дітей проводяться щосуботи о 1 год. по полудні (після уроків української школи). Отець Володимир запрошує на ці уроки всіх дітей та батьків. Виховуймо із малку своїх діточок в релігійному дусі. Будьмо свідомими того у що віруємо!

The children's choir meets for rehearsals on Saturdays at 1:15PM after the religion classes. Дитячий хор нашої парафії матиме репетиції кожної суботи після української школи, о 1:15 години.

Happy New Year! Із Новим роком та Різдвом Христовим вітаємо!

Christ is Born! Христос Рождається!

Catechism of the Catholic Church: **The Son of God Became Man**

I. Why did the Word (Son of God) become Flesh (Jesus Christ) ?

456 With the Nicene Creed, we answer by confessing: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man."

457 The Word became flesh for us *in order to save us by reconciling us with God*, who "loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins": "the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world," and "he was revealed to take away sins":⁷⁰ "Sick, our nature demanded to be healed; fallen, to be raised up; dead, to rise again. We had lost the possession of the good; it was necessary for it to be given back to us. Closed in the darkness, it was necessary to bring us the light; captives, we awaited a Savior; prisoners, help; slaves, a liberator.

Are these things minor or insignificant? Did they not move God to descend to human nature and visit it, since humanity was in so miserable and unhappy a state? ⁷¹ (St. Gregory Nyssa)".

458 The Word became flesh *so that thus we might know God's love*:

"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." ⁷² "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." ⁷³

459 The Word became flesh *to be our model of holiness*:

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me." "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." ⁷⁴

On the mountain of the Transfiguration, the Father commands: "Listen to him!"

⁷⁵ Jesus is the model for the Beatitudes and the norm of the new law: "Love one another as I have loved you." ⁷⁶

This love implies an effective offering of oneself, after his example.⁷⁷