



Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church
A parish of the Orthodox Church in America
Rectory: 98 W. 28th Street, Bayonne, N.J. 07002
Telephone: (201) 436-3244

Rector: V. Rev. W. Sophrony Royer

Choir Director: Mr. Yuriy Galkin

DECEMBER 25, 2022 / NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
*** DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT ***

FIRST ANTIPHON

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord. **(Refrain)**

They are sought out according to His will. **(Refrain)**

Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. **(Refrain)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **(Refrain)**

SECOND ANTIPHON

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

His descendants will be mighty in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed. **(Refrain)**

Glorious and wealth are in His house and His righteousness endures forever. **(Refrain)**

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate, and righteous. **(Refrain)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

- *Choir sings "O Only-Begotten Son and Immortal Word of God ..."*

THIRD ANTIPHON

Reader: v. The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand."

FESTAL TROPARION IN TONE FOUR

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shone to the world the light of wisdom! / For by it, those who worshipped the stars, / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of Righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

v. "Until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool!"

- *Choir sings festal troparion*

v. The Lord will send Thee the scepter of power from Zion: "Rule in the midst of Thine enemies!"

- *Choir sings festal troparion*

v. With Thee is dominion on the day of Thy power, in the radiance of holiness.

ENTRANCE VERSE

Priest: Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord has sworn, and will not change His mind: "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.

- *Choir sings festal troparion*

- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

FESTAL KONTAKION IN TONE THREE

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. / Angels with shepherds glorify Him; / The Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

ANTI-TRISAGION

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!

PROKEIMENON IN TONE EIGHT

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!
v. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise!

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

ALLELUIA IN TONE ONE

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*v. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.
v. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.*

THE GOSPEL

The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:1-12)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’” Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

FESTAL MEGALYNARION

Instead of “It is truly meet...,” we sing:

Magnify, O my soul, the all-immaculate Virgin Theotokos, more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery: / heaven — the cave; / the Cherubic throne—the Virgin; / the manger—the place where Christ lay: / the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

COMMUNION HYMNS

The Lord has sent redemption to His people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Altar Vigils offered by John & Helen Wanko in memory of June Bianchini (anniversary of birth).

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:30 AM (Monday) – Divine Liturgy [*Synaxis of Virgin Mary*]

9:30 AM (Tuesday) – Divine Liturgy [*Protomartyr Stephen*]

5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers w. Lity

9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

PARISH & LOCAL EVENTS

(1) The Carpathian Club invites all our parishioners and visitors to a Christmas Social in their club hall (directly behind the church) after today's Divine Liturgy.

(2) Our parish is collecting cans of soup and other non-perishable foods for donation to a local food pantry. A bin for placing the donated food items will remain in the church until February 12, 2023. Please make sure that items donated are not past the expiration date, and thank you for co-operating in this project!

(3) Looking for a “last-minute” Christmas gift for your cleaning person, hair dresser, handyman, tutor, etc.? It's still not too late! The ShopRite, Stop & Shop, and Acme gifts cards, available for purchase in the church, might be just what's needed.

(4) Fr. Sophrony will bless homes on January 6-7, 2023. A sign-up sheet for house blessings is in the church vestibule – please sign up, or call the Rectory at 201-436-3233, by January 5, 2022. If you require a change in schedule, or cancellation, after you've signed up, please call the Rectory.

(5) We collected \$200 for the Alaskan clergy over the last two Sundays—thank you for the generosity of everyone who contributed! Merry Christmas!

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM! ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЕТСЯ! ПРОСЛАВЛЯЙТЕ ЙОГО!
Ο ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΓΕΝΝΑΤΑΙ! ΔΟΞΑΣΤΕ ΤΟΝ! ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЕТСЯ! СЛАВЬТЕ ЕГО!**

“He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy. He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.”

~ St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)