

## SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

### *The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names*

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us. Human being have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned – this God continues to work through the same melange. If it was a challenge to recognize in the last part of

Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

*Father Raymond E. Brown, S.S.*



*Icon of the Holy Ancestors*

**UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

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**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL: 202-262-5040**

**Pastoral Care entrusted to:**

**Father Robert Hitchens      Father Wasyl Kharuk**

**Sunday – December 19, 2021**

**Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки    Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever**

**Христос Рождається! Славимо Його! \* Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

**Our Church is open for Divine Liturgies. We will continue to Livestream our 9:00 a.m. English Divine Liturgy and our 11:30 a.m. Ukrainian Divine Liturgy. The dispensation from attending Sunday Divine Liturgy and Holy Days of Obligation throughout the Archeparchy is still in effect until further notice.**

**All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM**

**Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>**

**OUR CHURCH IS OPEN FOR LITURGIES**

<b>Sunday December 19</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Before Christmas</b> (For the Parish) (+Karlycky Family from Olena Chalupa)
<b>Monday December 20</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b>	(+Wasyl Bodnaruk from Lesia)
<b>Tuesday December 21</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b>	(+John Fedack from Ruth)
<b>Friday December 24</b> <b>4:30 p.m.</b>  <b>10:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Christmas Eve - The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ</b> <b>Christmas Divine Liturgy - English</b> (For Vocations) <b>Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr. and Eng.)</b> (+Bishops, +Priests, +Deacons and +Religious of the Archeparchy)
<b>Saturday December 25</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Christmas Divine Liturgy – Ukrainian</b> (For the Parish)
<b>Sunday December 26</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday After Christmas</b> (For the Parish)

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAST**

We are reminded that we are called to abstain from meat products on Christmas Eve. Dairy products are permitted.

**2022 CHURCH CALENDARS**

Please take a 2022 Church Calendar available in the vestibule. They are free.

**ST. PHILIP’S FAST CHARITY PROJECT 2021**

Please bring a new unwrapped baby item to donate to the Front Royal Pregnancy Center. We invite everyone to purchase and donate **NEW, UNOPENED BABY ITEMS**. The pregnancy center will accept anything that could be used by babies and mothers, including bottles, clothing, strollers, car seats, “pack and plays,” and knitted hats and jackets. But the following items are especially needed:• Diapers (Sizes: Newborn, 4, and 5)• Baby Formula Similac Sensitive Powder Formula (8 or 12 oz. cans) Similac Pro-Advance Powdered Formula (8 or 12 oz. cans) Maternity Clothes Pants and Skirts (Sizes: L and XL) Dresses (Sizes: S, M, L, and XL) **PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 9, 2022.**

**Prayer List**

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Chuck Basile, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Taisia Bullard, Michele Burns, Robert Matthew C., Mary Connors, Jack Davis, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Lilian Garland, Alice Gogniat, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Daniel Horeczko, Nila Iwaskiw, Kateryna Jurach, Oksana K, Sarah Kelt, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Fr. Mykhailo Kuzma, Mr. Marko, Michael Joseph Little, Mark Pidlusky, Michele Pretka Litvar, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Ron#119, Jane O’Shea, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, James Salandro, Maria Sawkiw, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Timothy Stock, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Helen Lefcheck Torre, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Jennifer Wilson.** If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.

**2021 Christmas Schedule at Holy Family**

**Friday December 24 Christmas Eve**

**4:30 p.m. Children’s Divine Liturgy - English**

**10:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy – Ukrainian and English**

**Saturday December 25 Christmas Day**

**10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy – Ukrainian**

**Sunday December 26 Sunday after Christmas**

**10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy – Ukrainian and English**

All Christmas Services are Live Streamed <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>

***I wish all of you a Joyous and Blessed Christmas.***

***My prayer for all of us is that the Christ Child, born for the salvation of all, instill in our hearts the spirit of faith, hope, and love,***

***now and in the coming New Year of 2022!***

***Christ is born! Glorify Him!***

***Христос Рождається! Славимо Його!***

***Fr. Robert***