

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.

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS**



Icon of the Holy Ancestors

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens – Administrator

Father Andrii Chornopyskyi – Parochial Vicar

Sunday – December 24, 2023

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

Confessions are available before the Divine Liturgies

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

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

Sunday December 24 **10:30 a.m.**	Sunday Before Christmas (For the Parish)
Sunday December 24 4:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve - The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ Christmas Divine Liturgy – English (For Vocations) Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr. and Eng.) (For the Parish)
Monday December 25 10:30 a.m.	Christmas Day - The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ Christmas Divine Liturgy – (Ukr. and Eng.) (+Bishops, +Priests, +Deacons and +Religious of the Archeparchy)
Tuesday December 26 6:00 p.m.	Synaxis of the Mother of God/ St. Stephen the Proto-Martyr (Health of Woch Family from Anna)
Sunday December 31 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday After Christmas (For the Parish) (+Iryna and +Volodymyr Tetiuk from the Sukhin Family)
Monday January 1 10:30 a.m.	New Year’s Day Circumcision and St. Basil (+Stefania and +Volodymyr Choma from Family)

IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER +FRANK KARASINSKI IN YOUR PRAYERS

+Frank Karasinski, 80, of Glen Dale, MD, passed away on December 14. His funeral service was celebrated on Thursday, December 21. Please remember +Frank, and his wife, Janet, and family that mourns him in your prayers. May his memory be Eternal – Vichnaya Yomu Pamyat!

FIRST CONFESSION CLASSES TO BEGIN SUNDAY JANUARY 14

We will soon start our parish catechism classes for those children intending to make First Confession in 2024. Classes will be held on Sunday between the English and Ukrainian liturgies (approx. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM), beginning on January 14. First Confession will be celebrated on Lazarus Saturday (March 23, 2024). No class will be held on February 18. All children must be attending Divine Liturgy. If you have children of First Confession age in your family, we ask you to please contact Olya Kroytor Mulvey by email at olya.kroytor@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS EVE FAST

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

ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023

Copies of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia Annual Report are available in the vestibule of the Church for those who did not receive one in the mail.

ST. PHILIP’S FAST CHARITY PROJECT 2023

Please bring new unwrapped baby items 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, Diapers (Sizes: Newborn, 3, 4, and 5), Changing Wipes, Baby Formula (8 or 12 oz. cans), Similac Sensitive Powder Formula, Similac Pro-Advance Powdered Formula, Similac Total Comfort Powdered Formula, Enfamil Gentlease Infant Formula Powder, Baby Shampoo, Boy’s Summer & Winter Clothing (New or Gently Used) (Sizes: Newborn to 3T), Girl’s Summer & Winter Clothing (New or Gently Used) (Sizes: 6 months to 3T), Boy’s Winter Jackets (Sizes: 3 months to 3T), Infant Car Seats, Parenting Books (New or Gently Used) “What to Expect When You’re Expecting” “Mayo Clinic Guide to a Healthy Pregnancy” **PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 7, 2024.**

Prayer List

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Valarie Balthis, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Terry Boyle, Taisia Bullard, Olena Chalupa, Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Lilian Garland, Alice Gogniat, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Vanessa Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Daniel Horeczko, Boris Hlynsky, Nila Iwaskiw, Frank Karasinski, Sarah Kelt, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Michael Joseph Little, Paul Marynowych, Fr. Roman Mirchuk, Michele Pretka Litvar, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Thomas Nagurney, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Michael Sharr, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Helen Lefcheck Torre, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Anne Woroniak, Rose Wilson, Jennifer Wilson, Paul Yarrish.** 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.

We wish all of you a Joyous and Blessed Christmas.

Our 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 2024!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Христос Рождається! Славимо Його!

Fr. Robert and Fr. Andrii

Sunday January 7 Parish Christmas Dinner-Prosfora

10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Only

Prosfora – Christmas Dinner \$15 adults \$5 college students \$0 youth (0-18)