

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 Mykola Dziurakh – Parochial Vicar

Sunday – December 22, 2024

Христос Родиться! Славімо 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/>

Saturday December 21 5:30 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday December 22 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday Before Christmas (For the Parish) (+Janina Mrzygocka from Anna Mac)
Tuesday December 24 4:30 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve (For Vocations) (For the Parish)
Wednesday December 25 10:30 a.m.	Christmas Day (+Bishops, +Priests, +Deacons, and +Religious of the Archeparchy)
Thursday December 26 9:00 a.m.	Synaxis of the Mother of God (+Marion Bartoszyk from Stephen Stecura)
Friday December 27 9:00 a.m.	St. Stephen (+Ed Wisniak from Friends)
Saturday December 28 5:30 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday December 29 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday After Christmas (Special Intention from Larissa Curtis) (For the Parish)

FIRST CONFESSION CLASSES TO BEGIN SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

We will soon start our preparation classes for children intending to make their First Confession in 2025. Classes will be held on Sundays between the English and Ukrainian liturgies (approx. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM), beginning on January 26. First Confessions will be celebrated on Lazarus Saturday (April 12, 2025). No class will be held on February 16 (President's Day weekend). All children must attend Divine Liturgy with their families on a weekly basis during their preparation for the sacrament. If you have children of First Confession age in your family (age 7+), please contact Olya Mulvey by email at olya.kroytor@gmail.com to register or learn more.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAST

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

ST. PHILIP'S FAST CHARITY PROJECT 2024

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: 3, 4, and 5) & Changing Wipes, Baby Formula (8 or 12 oz. cans), Similac Sensitive Powder Formula, Similac Pro-Advance Powdered Formula, Enfamil Neuropro Gentle Infant Formula Powder, Baby Lotion, Diaper Rash Cream, Play Pens, Strollers, Baby Blankets, Sippy Cups & Baby Bottles (8-9 oz.), 3-in-1 Convertible Car Seats, New Infant Carrier Car Seats (for up to 35 lbs.)

PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 5, 2025.

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, Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Ferne Fisanich, Myroslava Futey, Lilian Garland, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Vanessa Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Daniel Horeczko, Boris Hlynsky, Nila Iwaskiw, Sarah Kelt, LTJG Lydia Kowalskyj USN, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Michael Joseph Little, Melissa Martin, Paul Marynowych, Michele Pretka Litvak, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell,, Teresa Sherwood, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Anne Woroniak, Rose Wilson, Fr. George Worschak, and 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.

Christmas – 2024 – Різдво

Christmas Eve Tuesday December 24

4:30 p.m. Children's procession and Divine Liturgy for Christmas

(All are Welcome and Families are encouraged to attend) (Eng.)

10:00 p.m. *Z namy Boh* and Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr. and Eng.)

Вівторок 24 грудня Навечір'я Різдва ГНІХ – Святвечір

4:30 пополудні Процесійна хода дітей та Різдвяна Божественна Літургія (анг.)

10:00 вечора – *З нами Бог* та Божественна Літургія – Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса

Христа (укр. та анг.)

Christmas Day Wednesday December 25

10:30 a.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr. and Eng.)

Середа 25 грудня Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса Христа

10:30 ранку – Божественна Літургія – Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса Христа (укр. та анг.)

We wish all of you a Joyous and Blessed Christmas.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Христос Родиться! Славімо Його!

Fr. Robert and Fr. Mykola