

Saint Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

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Saints Peter and Saint Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

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SUNDAY – December 25, 2016 – **Christmas – Birth of Our Lord**

9:30 a.m.— Divine Liturgy – **For the People of the Parish**

TODAY'S READINGS: Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 Gospel: Matt 2:1-12

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH: Thanks to all who attended our Christmas Brunch. Thanks to Lori Grobelny for setting up the venue at the last minute. Also, to James and Ann Burkart for their many gifts. And to the Trustees Steve Labos, Bill Labos, and John Dulina for helping to host the event. Many thanks for your flexibility.

MUSEUM OR PARISH: Pope Saint John XXIII said about the Catholic Church “We are not on earth to guard a museum, but to tend a blooming garden full of life.” I ask that you help me renew our parishes. The only way to do that is pick up the phone to friends and family, especially those that we saw last year at the 100th Anniversary dinner, those we saw at the Parish Christmas Parties, those that we have not seen since, and ask them to join us at least once a month to keep our parishes alive. If they could make the trip for dinner celebrations, they can make the effort for the greatest dinner celebration---the Holy Eucharist. If not, we will become a Museum and not a Garden. As stated previously, we do not need anyone's money, but we need everyone's attendance to worship the Father.

REMEMBER OUR ARMED FORCES: Most especially the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services, the Most Reverend Timothy Broglio and his Priests and Deacons. Also those parishioners currently serving in the military--- Airman First Class **Rose Rella**, Senior Airman **Maria Rella**, Petty Officer Second Class **Erin Wimmer**, 1st Lieutenant **Tammy Rella**, and our parish priest, Chaplain (Captain) **Francis Rella** who is currently serving on Active Duty. Also, remember the Veterans of our parishes who served in every armed conflict since World War I, especially **George Sabornick**, **James Burkhart**, and **Steven Labos**.

SUNDAY – December 25, 2016 – **Christmas – Birth of Our Lord**

11:00 a.m.— Divine Liturgy – **For the People of the Parish**

The SANCTUARY LAMP burns this week for **the People of the Parish PLEASE PRAY** for the sick, **Josephine Abate** at Monmouth County Care Center, **Anne Kucharski** at Regency, and **Susan Lakat** at the Independence Manor in Flemington, **Carol Timko** at Bridgeway Care Center, and **Elizabeth Bessenyi** at Somerset Hills Assisted Living. Also, pray for our Trustee **Mary Kucek**, and parishioners **Veronica Szegesky**, **Concetta Rella**, mother of **Father Rella** and **Marie Mangano**.

SUNDAY EVENING DIVINE LITURGY: Divine Liturgy will be celebrated weekly at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church located at 15 East 26th Street Bayonne, NJ 07002, **Sunday at 4 p.m.** Moleban will be celebrated following the Divine Liturgy

PASTORAL MESSAGE: Please invite your family, friends, and love ones to Church during the Nativity Season. Sometimes people are just waiting to be asked. Recently we have been living in a society where diverse views are unacceptable. Unless you agree what is posted on Social Media or what's on pseudo news networks, people stop calling you friend. Jesus was friend to all. He healed the chosen people as well as tax collectors, thieves, people of ill-repute, and Roman Soldiers with pagan beliefs. Diversity only works if we allow others to think, express themselves, and accept what we can accept, just like in any family. Remember, the Holy Spirit is All Powerful. Our God who walked this earth only ignored people who used Religion and political views to oppress others.

PARISH RENEWAL: Ministry is not a “money maker,” it's a “money taker.” Some things in life are not supposed to earn money. God has blessed with an abundance. When we cast our bread upon the waters today, it is always found in the future. Always be ready to do a good turn even if you don't receive a reward.

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION: As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy when we receive Holy Communion. Roman Catholics also fulfill their Sunday Obligation by attending and receiving Holy Communion in a Byzantine Catholic Parish since we are in Full Communion with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, and the Apostolic See of Rome. If this the first time you are receiving in the Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church, the Priest will say a blessing and give you the Sacred Eucharist with a spoon from the Holy Chalice. There is no need for a response of Amen. “Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. However, per Roman Catholic discipline, “the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches.”_

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Francis Rella, Administrator Mr. Robert Kondrk, Cantor

Ms. Lori Grobelny, Office Assistant Mr. John Dulina, Custodian