

- The ***MYSTERY OF HOLY REPENTANCE*** will be celebrated **after the Divine Liturgy** on the **10th, 11th, and 17th**. Booklets for the Mystery of Holy Repentance according to the Byzantine Rite are located on the tables in the Narthex. Copies will also be provided in the Confessional. Confessions will also be heard before the icon of Christ on the Iconostasis for those who wish to do so.
- We will celebrate the **Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord with the Service of Great Compline (8:30 pm)** followed by a brief carol fest of traditional Eastern and Western hymns before the celebration of the **Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom (10:00 pm)**.



~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

- **CHILDREN'S LIBRARY:** Father is beginning to build a collection of spiritual books for the young children of the parish. Please feel free to stop at the rectory to look at the materials already at hand and see what may be appropriate for the age of your child / children. Books may be signed out for a two week period and may be renewed for an additional week if necessary.
- To prepare the church for the Christmas Season, we will be giving it a good cleaning on **Saturday, Dec. 17 at 9:00**. Anyone may help. Bring your supplies & elbow grease.
- **The Parish Christmas Play & Dinner, catered by Chef Dato's Restaurant & Catering, will be held Sunday, Dec. 18th immediately after the Divine Liturgy,. There is NO cost to our parishioners.** Use the Sign-Up Sheet to list how many from your family are attending. We will again have a 50/50 drawing and a Raffle. Any parishioner may contribute something to the Raffle. As in the past, the play will be presented **BEFORE** the meal. We, therefore, ask that the children dress for the presentation as soon as they arrive. Adults may serve themselves to the hors d'oeuvres and purchase their tickets. When dinner is over, we will pull the numbers for the Raffle. Then St. Nicholas will distribute gifts.
- **The Christmas Memory Poinsettias will be published once again this year in honor of the dearly departed.** Using the special envelope marked Christmas Trees & Altar Flowers, please write your name on it & the name of your departed loved one. Include **\$15** for each flower. Then just drop it into the collection basket.
- **Thank You Very Much! / Danke Sehr** to Marlene Spirko, Susan Mihalko, and Mary Ann Kontir for donating cakes to our bingo this past week.
- **~~Special Thank You~~** to Dave & Stella Cholock for purchasing and installing the dusk to dawn light on the outside of the church and outside lighting for the centre.
- **THANK YOU** is also extended to master carpenter John Regalla for making the beautiful wooden stand that we blessed today. It will be placed behind the Holy Table to elevate the cross behind the candelabra.



~ Christmas - The Feast of the Nativity ~

The feasts of the Nativity and the Theophany take place during wintertime in the Northern Hemisphere, when the days are darkest and the nights long. The Church distinguishes these two feasts with a special round of services:

- A **day of strict fast**, with the service of the Royal Hours,
- A **vigil service** in the afternoon or early evening, consisting of Vespers and the Divine Liturgy,
- A **night-time service** of Great Compline with Litija, followed by Matins,
- The celebration of the Divine Liturgy on the **morning of the feast**.



But the Church's ancient tradition that Saturday and Sunday must never be days of fasting leads to variations in the arrangement of the Christmas services. [The insert in this week's bulletin] attempts to explain these variations, which (if stated without explanation) can cause confusion.

*Taken, and slightly adapted, from the Metropolitan Cantor Institute
of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.*