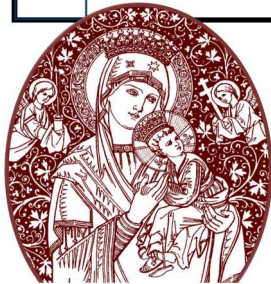


Eight days after his birth, Jesus was circumcised and named, in keeping with the Law of Moses: When the eighth day arrived for his circumcision, the name Jesus was given the child, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

The Church remembers and meditates on these events each year on January 1 - the feast of the Circumcision of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. During this feast, we also recall the childhood of our Lord, the "hidden years" from his infancy until the beginning of his public ministry. According to the Law of the Old Testament, as given to Moses, each male child was to be circumcised on the eighth day from birth. This was considered both a mark "in the flesh" of belonging to the covenant that God made with the people of Israel, and also a ritual purification. Among other peoples of the ancient world, circumcision was done at puberty; the circumcision of infants under the Old Covenant made it clear that the entire life of the Jew belonged to God. Even then, it was commonly known that the "inward circumcision" of pure conduct and intent was even more important than the "outward circumcision." According to the Fathers, Christ underwent circumcision for two reasons. In doing so, He kept the Law given by God perfectly, including this rite that incorporated a child into Israel; by doing this, He also "emptied himself" to become just like one of us, even though He was in need of no purification of any kind. Our covenant with God, the new covenant in Jesus Christ, involves a circumcision even more complete than that of the Old Testament: it requires "the complete submission of our flesh and all its desires to God". It is this inward circumcision that is spoken of in the Great Commandment: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart..."

This day is also a feast of the Name of Jesus, since it was on this day that that name was given to Him - "the name that is above every other name." Believers are encouraged to invoke this name throughout their lives - a name in which so many miracles have been done - and the use of the Jesus Prayer ("Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner") is a precious tradition in the Christian East.



Rev. Fr Andriy Kelt, Pastor
 Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Balistreri
 Fr. Deacon Christopher Bellock
 Fr. Deacon Anthony Dragani, PhD.
 814.948.9193

Anyone wishing to be a member of the parish, contact Fr. Andriy

Immaculate Conception - St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church 3711 Campbell Avenue Northern Cambria, PA 15714	Holy Protection of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church 560 Cambria Avenue PO Box 194 Revloc, PA 15948-0194	Immaculate Conception - St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church 2024 20th Street Altoona, PA 16601
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Welcome to Our Parish



Our Weekly Bulletin

Divine Liturgies and Services for the Week		
Sunday, Dec 31	Sunday after the Theophany	Charles Lutak from Stephen Lutak
Jan 1	No Liturgy	
Jan 2	No Liturgy	
Jan 3	No Liturgy	
Jan 4	No Liturgy	
Jan 5	No Liturgy	
Jan 6	No Liturgy	
Sunday, Jan 7	Sunday after the Theophany	Mary Catherine Hoover

If you are looking for a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and are looking for a home, you are welcome to be part of our kid friendly family in Christ. You have found your way home.

A Prayer for the Coming New Year

O Lord our God, You are the Alpha and the Omega,
the Beginning and the End, the Creator of time, existing before time and outside of time,
the same yesterday, today and forever.

You are the Pantocrator, the absolute Ruler
who exercises sovereign authority over the entire universe and its laws.
You are not limited by any natural events and occurrences, or by our action or inaction.

The world is not driven by blind forces,
but is governed wisely and lovingly by Your divine Providence.

You, O King and Master of the world, govern by Your almighty will
the world You created as a captain governs his ship.

We have nothing to be afraid of, as long as You are at the rudder.
The very elements of nature obey You. Nothing happens by chance.
What happens to us does not happen at random. Not a single hair from our heads
falls to the ground without Your powerful will.
We are in Your hands. What we are, whatever good we have in us,
comes from You, the source of every goodness.

We ask You humbly, our Savior, as we enter this New Year of our salvation, to bless us all;
to bless our endeavors, and everything we do.

We ask You, O Lord, to bless the time You give us,
that we may pass this new year of Your grace and the lifespan You have given us
in repentance, forgiveness, patience, tolerance, peace, the fight against our passions,
the practicing of the virtues, in doing Your will, not ours, and in accepting it cheerfully,
without groaning or complaint.

Grant us, O Father Almighty, sincere faithfulness, wakeful preparedness and active witness,
to be strong and grow in faith and love for You, and work diligently
for the establishment of Your Kingdom, a Kingdom of peace and justice.
Instill in us the longing for the establishment of Your heavenly Kingdom,
a Kingdom of everlasting life, peace and joy.

We also beseech You, O Lord, to bless the entire world, and all Nations.
Guide them to You, that they may come to know You, the only true God,
and to do Your Holy Will. And protect, O Lord, Your Holy Church,
everywhere, so that with one voice and one heart we may all praise and glorify
Your most Holy and magnificent Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

PARISH NEWS

Weekly Collection - December 24 & 25, 2023 - \$2,165.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Relief for Ukraine - Amount collected to date \$6,483.00.

Saturdays with Jesus - Catechism classes will be January 13th
Adults 10:00-12:00 and Children 2:00-3:30.

Blessing of Water - Water will be blessed on Sunday, January 7 following the Divine Liturgy.

Blessing Homes - Father Andriy will bless homes in the Ebensburg/Cambria and Jackson Twp.
Areas on January 14 following the Sunday Liturgy.

Please see Father Andriy if you would like to schedule a different day or
if you live in another area and would like him to come and bless your house.

Christmas Dinner - We will be sharing of annual Christmas Dinner on Jan 7 following
the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert.

Happy 1st Anniversary to Ryan and Rachel
May God grant them good health, long life and many happy years!
Многая і благая літа!

Prayer List

Parishioners: Millie & Steve Deskevich, Connie Butkus, Kathy Ott, Sarah Kelt, Gary Maurer,
the Lutak family, Jeremiah Hunt, Margaret Reighard.

Friends of the Parish: Jennifer Maurer, Breanna Borlie, Tom and Kris,
Richard Shonk, Ryder McDermitt, Steve Helsel, Patricia Dragani, Eugene,
Kevin Rogers, Darla Tishok, the Williams family, Patty Hunt, Kevin Blem,
Linda Kusmierski. *To add or remove a name, place your request in the collection basket.*

Why We Love Animals

My dog, Shadow, is smart as a whip, but she sheds like crazy. One day Shadow brought me a tuft of her black fur. I thought, I wonder where she found that? But I rewarded her with a treat and put the fur in the trash. Later, she traded a second clump of fur for a treat. When she brought me another one, I realized it looked familiar. Sure enough, there was no fur in the trash. Shadow was trading the same tuft for treats. She knew she was busted and innocently put her head on her paws and fell asleep.

Whenever we ask our cat, "Where is Sadie?", she hides behind the curtains. We act like we're trying to find her, and she is completely silent. When we "find" her, she pounces and slaps us, only to run away and hide behind some other curtains. If we don't try to find her, she makes a tiny noise for us to keep trying.