

*SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS – DAVID, JOSEPH, AND JAMES 12/29/24*

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✨ Jean Ferko (req. by Mike Ferko)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Jean Simkovitch (req. by Andrew Simkovitch & Christine Skidmore)

11:00 AM (E) ✨ Ron Riel (req. by Lisa Mattera)

*CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD/ BASIL, THE GREAT 1/1/25*

Wednesday: 6:30 PM (E) For the Parish Family

*SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY 1/5/25*

Saturday: 6:30 PM (E) ✨ John Hromyak

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Mary Lenk (req. by Paul & Doris Pangratz)

11:00 AM (E) For the Parish Family

#### **OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:**

12/22/24 **\$2510.00**

12/25/24 **\$1432.00**

#### **CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD DECEMBER COLLECTION – Boxed Cake Mix**

*Proverbs 14:31 – “Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God.”*

#### **EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION**

God with Us Eastern Catholic Formation is the official catechetical apostolate of the Eastern Catholic Bishops of the United States. The website address is: [www.godwithusonline.org](http://www.godwithusonline.org) This website now makes available radio podcasts, online lectures, a monthly newsletter, books and other education materials which serve to promote a better understanding of Eastern Catholics and their expression of the Catholic faith in the United States. The resource material on this website is constantly updated or changed to better meet the needs of its users.

**2025 CALENDARS AND OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.**

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*JESUS PRAYER – Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner*

## **CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM! CHRISTOS RAZDAJETSJA! SLAVITE JEHO!**

#### **THIS BULLETIN COVER’S NATIVITY ICON**

We are indeed a part of this Nativity Icon as we share in the amazement of the birth of Jesus two millennia ago which shows all of God’s creations celebrating the birth of Jesus. The choirs of angels give their song. The Heavens give the star to guide the Wise Men. The Wise Men give gold, frankincense and myrrh. The shepherds give their praise. Even the animals share in this joyous occasion. The Earth provides the cave. Humanity gives Mary and Joseph as parents to guide the newborn. We, through faith, can carry out the message of Jesus.

This icon truly is filled with good news and great joy of the Messiah for all: both wise and simple, old and young, healthy and ill, good and evil, man and woman, rich and poor, powerful and powerless, the educated and uneducated. God and humanity share the miracle of the incarnation. Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to all.

#### *The Wise Men*

We are not given too many details about these wise men, only that they came seeking to worship the baby Jesus and that when they saw the star in the East they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy (Matthew 2:10). The fact that they are from the “east” and that they are “wise men” tell us that they were sages or astrologers from a Gentile background. Thus, these wise men are from the Gentiles who were seeking out the Christ child.

Likewise, their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, are not just any type of gift, but point towards or foreshadow Jesus’ death. Myrrh for example was used as an anointment to prepare corpses for burial and was used as a type of expensive perfume. Gold represents wealth and was an appropriate gift for royalty. Frankincense was used for adoration and worship. These gifts point to the purpose of Christ’s birth. Jesus is the royal king, the Lamb of God whose death takes away the sins of the world, and God Himself, the second person of the Holy Trinity.

#### **NON-MATERIAL GIFTS**

Let us be charitable in giving Christmas gifts of consideration, thoughtfulness, tenderness, love and genuine concern. All that we do should be done for the sake of Christ, our Lord. Peace, love, and good will are the true gifts and spirit of Christmas. From gifts wrapped in decorated Christmas paper, we must always think of the Gift of God, wrapped in humble swaddling clothes, lying in a manger in a cave of Bethlehem.

Let us always be mindful of the important fact that God became man. He who is great became small, and He who is powerful became weak, and He who is rich became poor, and He who is Divine became human. He is God with us.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Swaddling clothes – long, narrow bands of cloth wrapped around a newborn baby to restrict excessive movement.