



CHRIST THE SAVIOUR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America • Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

5501 Old Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17109

WWW.CTSHBG.ORG • office “at” ctshbg.org

ARCHBISHOP MARK (Maymon)

V. Rev. Stephen Vernak, *Pastor*

Rt. Rev. Daniel Kovalak, *Attached*

Dn. John Shingara, *Attached*

Rdr. Christopher Rakowski, *Choir Director*

Dr. David Pawlusch, *Parish Council President*

John Dotsey, *Treasurer*

OUR “WHY” - To experience and share Christ's love so that everyone we encounter finds healing, purpose, and eternal life.



And let us consider one another in order
to stir up love and good works. *Hebrews 10:24*



SUNDAY DECEMBER 24, 2023

29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — TONE 4. **Eve of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity.** Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her Martyrs Philip, her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia. Ven. Nicholas the Monk, of Bulgaria.

SCHEDULE: STRICT FAST. Hours – 9:10am; Divine Liturgy – 9:30am; Fellowship; Nativity Compline & Matins – 7:30pm

Readers: 3rd Hour: **Arun Gopinath** • 6th Hour: **Michelle w/Meera**

Epistle: **Manny Lopez** • **Post-Communion:** **Janice Zuro**

Welcome Dn. Seraphim & M. Elena Robertson
and their children Lucy, Helen, John, and Juliana
from St. Tikhon Seminary

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Interested in learning more? Please visit our parish website (www.ctshbg.org), email ([pastor “at” ctshbg.org](mailto:pastor@ctshbg.org)) or call (717) 652-1825 our priest, **Fr. Stephen Vernak**.

HYMNS & READINGS

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone IV — When the women-disciples-of-the-Lord learnt, from the angel, the joyous message of Thy resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and, elatedly, told the apostles: ‘Death is overthrown; Christ God is risen, granting, unto the world, great mercy’.

Troparion, Tone II — Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest: and the prophet Daniel appeared, a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep; so, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Kontakion, Tone I — Rejoice, O Bethlehem; prepare thyself, O Ephra-tha: the lamb is on her way to give birth to the chief shepherd she carries in her womb; the God-bearing fore-fathers will rejoice, beholding Him; and, with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Kontakion, Tone III — Today, the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the eternal Word: hear the glad tidings; and rejoice, O universe; glorify, with the angels and the shepherds, the eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child.

PROKEIMENON - Tone IV: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! (*Holy Fathers Verse: For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!*)

EPISTLE: (*Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40*) Brethren, by faith Abraham dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. ²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. ²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command. ³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle,

turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

ALLELUIA VERSES: *We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. • For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us.*

GOSPEL: *(Luke 14:16-24) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: ² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. ⁴ Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. ⁵ Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. ⁷ Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. ⁸ Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. ⁹ Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. ¹⁰ Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. ¹¹ Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. ¹² And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. ¹³ Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. ¹⁴ Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. ¹⁵ Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. ¹⁶ And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. ¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall*

call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

COMMUNION HYMN: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! *Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Dec 25, Mon: NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. Hours – 9:40am; Divine Liturgy – 10am

Dec 26, Tue: SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS. Divine Liturgy – 9:30am;
Potluck

Dec 27, Wed: ST. STEPHEN. Divine Liturgy – 10am @St. Stephen Cathedral, Philadelphia; Vespers – 6:30pm;

Dec 28, Thu: Lunch Bunch – 12:30pm @ Leeds Eisenhower Blvd.

Dec 29, Fri: Annual Parish Nativity Open House Social – 5:30pm; Dinner 6:30pm

Dec 30 Sat: Vespers – 5pm; Confession

Dec 31, Sun: SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY, Hours – 9:10am; Divine Liturgy – 9:30am; Memorial Litiya – 11:30am; Fellowship; Vespers – 12:30pm (Circumcision)

Readers: 3rd Hour: **Arun Gopinath** • 6th Hour: **Michelle w/Meera**

Epistle: **John Dotsey** • *Post-Communion:* **Mary White**

PARISH NEWS

Notes from the Parish Council: The council approved donations to seminarian family, the Diocese of Alaska, Gettysburg Mission, Paxton Ministries, American Red Cross, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Bethesda Mission, the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, FOCUS North America, the American Foundation for Children with AIDS, and Morning Star; **Approved** repairs to two doors on the church hall basements; Agenda and projected budget for the next year; Clergy renewal plan to be presented at the annual meeting. **Announcement:** If you’re interested in serving as an auditor, see Fr. Stephen, John Dotsey, or Eleanor Herman.

Annual Parish Family Nativity Open House: Will be held on **Fri, Dec 29th** with a social at 5:30pm & dinner at 6:30pm. *All are Welcome!*

Lunch Bunch: All are welcome to join us on **Thurs, Dec 28th** at 12:30 at *Leeds, 750 Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg, PA 17111*. RSVP to Kathy Pankiw

Hershey Bear Game Tickets: Great Christmas gifts! Tickets to see the Hershey Bears vs Toronto Marlies on **Sun, Jan 28th** at 5:00pm, ticket price is \$20 & can be purchased from John Dotsey & limited availability.

Trivia Night: Will be held on **Tue Jan 9th** at 7pm with a social at 6:30pm. Any questions see or call Jay or Sheri Africa

7-Day Votive: 2024 list is currently available in the office, it is a first come/serve & the votive is \$10.00

St. Jerome Book (Quarterly) Club: New Book - *The Whole Counsel of God* by Fr. Stephen DeYoung. Copies available in the parish bookstore soon. Discussion - **Sun, Jan 14 (2024) at 1pm**. Questions? See Joe McClure.

Dinner/Dance: St. Stephen's OCF, Chapter #82 of the FOCA ("O" Club in Philadelphia) invites you to the semi-formal 85th Novogodny (New Year's) Ball featuring the Kauriga Orchestra in Trevoise, PA on **Sun Jan 14** (MLK Weekend). Information: ask Dimitri Ressetar or e-mail Andre Cox at novogodnyball@gmail.com

Fellowship Hour: All parishioners are asked to host a week by coordinating with the other families to decide on a menu. *Plan on approximately 150 parishioners.* **Look for email reminders for any updates to the schedule.** Contact **Christine Velott** with any questions

Dec 24*:	Hadginske, Jekel, Leader, & Pawlush families
Dec 31:	Herman, Martin, Reba, & Wood families
Jan 7:	Gewiss, Velott, Hisiro, & White families

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Names will be listed for 2 weeks unless requested.

NEWLY DEPARTED [40TH DAY]: **Nancy Rekus** (Dotty Fedetz's friend)- Dec 20 [1/28]; **Josephine Battista** (sister-in-law of Libby) - Dec 5 [1/13]; **Ap. Michael Oleksa** - Nov 29 [1/07]; **Barbara Kobal** (aunt of Chet) - Nov 25 [1/03]; **David Dugan** - Nov 24 [1/02]; **Gary** (cousin of Donna Bretz) - Nov 22 [12/31];

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEPARTED: **Olga Evans**, Dec 25 -30th; **Betty Rodak**, aunt of +Barbara Norato, Dec 25 -9th; **John Solovey**, Dec 26 -55th; **Jean Anderson**, aunt of Debbie Hisiro, Dec 26 - 8th; **Dr. Michael Ressetar**, Dec 26 - 24th; **John Carter**, M. Anna's grandfather, Dec 26 - 18th; **MaryAnn English**, Dec 26 - 16th; **Margaret Spaseff**, Dec 26 - 16th; **Vida Kodi**, Bishop Mitrophan's mother, Dec 26 -18th; **Hiymanot Dessalegn**, sister of Tigist, Dec 26 - 7th; **Olga Hudebenko Peck**, cousin of Mat. Theodora, Dec 27 -13th; **Herbert H. Bent**, Sue Mioff's father, Dec 27- 39th; **Tsgay Andemichael**, brother of Sebhatu Andemichael, Dec 27 - 19th; **Stanley Wilga**, uncle of Bob Drozd, Dec 27 - 8th; **Sophie Mehalko**, Dec 29 -21st; **Dean Lebo**, Dec 29 - 18th; **Carolyn Bacha**, sister-in-law of Cathi Kemp & Lydia Mantle, Dec 29 - 2nd; **Steven Bortniak**, Dec 30 -31st; **Julia Lubecki**, mother of Chet, Dec 30 - 29th; **Walt O'Shinski**, Dotty Fedetz's brother-in-law, Dec 30 -13th;

AILING - PARISHIONERS: FAMILY/FRIENDS: Samantha, Suzanne, & Natalie (friend, family & godchild of E. Herman); **Michael** (father-in-law of C. Velott); **Fadia** (W. Botros' mother); **Blaise** (Nora & Jennifer's brother); **Lori** (sister-in-law of J. & N. Schilling); **David** (friend of C. Kemp); **Tais** (cousin of C. Kemp & L. Mantle & niece of D. Fedetz); **Gregory** (brother of K. Kuchwara); **Presbyteria Marina Lillian Thornburg** (Nora's Goddaughter); **Lois** (mother of J. Dunnevant); **Reba** (mother of S. Africa & L. Files); **Walt & Jerry "David"** (friends of B. Keener); **Thalia, & Colton**, (aunt & cousin of Donna Bretz); **Barry** (L. Kalenevitch's brother); **Brandon** (family of J. Koach); **Dustin** (family of Rdr. Leo); **Child Julia; Melvin, & Frank** (D. Martins brother & friend); **Kay, Richard, & Anya** (aunt & friends of K. Leader); **Seraphima & John** (friend & brother of J. Barn's coworker); **Joyce** (mother of J. Reba); **Bob, Dennis Patrick** (nephew of D. Bupp); **Louise Bare**; **Edward** (Fr. Timothy Hojnicky's father); **May** (cousin of E. Saraff); **Carl** (brother of S. Demchak); **Isabella; Christine Perrin; Melanie & Alex** (friend & uncle of C. Yerke); **Alexandra, & Tamara** (B. Kuchta's family); **Bp. Matthias Moriak; Adley** (child of N. Somple's friend); **Aiden** (nephew of S. Hanna); **Robin** (son-in-law of E. Files); **Fred** (cousin of the Kormushoff's); **Maria** (friend of the Cain's); **Grace** (D. Fedetz sister-in-law); **Tom** (friend of D. Bupp & Kushlans); **M. Olga Klembara** (Larissa & Anita's aunt); **Joan, & Kim** (friends of the J. & A. Cole); **Hannes & Anne** (family of R. Rieck); **Pastor Charles, Mary, Peter, & Edwin**, (family & friends of the Leer's); **Pat, Owen, Paul, Steve, & Barry** (Hisiro family & friends); **Elle** (friend of J. McGreevy); **John** (brother of J. Krut); **Pam, Dan & Nina** (friends of D. Bupp); **Igumen David (Lewis); Neal** (D. Pawlush's brother); **James** (brother of M. Koviloff); **Grace, Karen, Lois, & Rich** (J. Mamay's sisters & friends); **Joan Therese & Dori** (mother & niece of N. Lubecki & J. Lewis); **Lynn** (Himes daughter-in-law); **Deana, Sandy, & Kelly** (friends of DiFlorio's); **Shirley** (L. Pawlush's mother); **child Joshua; M. Lisa Weremedic** (wife of Fr. James); **Janice & Emil** (J. Zuro & G. Leer's aunt & uncle); **child Fynn; Patty** (friend of K. Pankiw); **Mitchel** (Jean Dotsey's nephew); **Linda** (M. Sharon's mother); **Ap. Michael & M. Valeria Hatrak; Jacob** (brother of Pat Drebot); **Wendy** (M. Deamer's mother); **Mona** (sister of Ab. Mark); **Mary** (mother of S. Kellachow); **Mary & Nicholas** (family & friends of the Kuchta's); **Victoria, Erin & David** (friends of L. Smith); **Flora** (T. Gault's mother); **Vera** (Ressetar's family); **Bernadine, Lonnie & Fred** (Osuch family); **Mike, Jessica's & their families; Jonathan, Paul, Adam, Bev, Alynda, Tina, Mark, Jenny, Marilyn, Alicia, Shelby, & Jim** (family & friends of the Kushlans); **James, his father, Thelma, Shari, Darrell, Justo, Alexa, Thomas, Leida, Jesus, Marsha, Alexander, Anastasia, John, Brian, Timothy, Jessica, Saulo, Theodore, & Tanya**, (Lopez friends & family);

HEALTH & WELL-BEING: Those suffering from natural disasters. All victims of Sickness, Terror, War, Violence, Racism, Injustice & Civil Strife; Metropolitan Paul & Archbishop John of Aleppo *held hostage by Syrian Terrorists, for the suffering people of Israel, Palestine, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ukraine, Haiti & Afghanistan, especially our citizens & soldiers who are in harms way*; **PARISHIONERS:** Katherine Kuchwara; Selamawit Ghebremichael; Christopher Preciado; Frank Bifano; Michael Zuro; Bill Dupkanick; Bahliby Kidane; John Coles; Carl Hisiro; Rebecca Brown; John Yerke; Elizabeth; Eli Mioff; Ann & Gerald Cole; M. Theodora Ressetar; Charlene Dardaris; Johnna;

Terry Drebot; Patricia Drebot; Lazarus (Manny) & Samantha Lopez; ;
 Gail (Brigit) Goss; Mary Ellen Osuch; Natalie Treece; Evan M.; Tony
 Onufer; Ita (Stephanie) Snyder; John "Jack" Sweikert; Joseph Sembrot;
 Birikit & Hannah Zerat; Jeanne Zane; Teklu & Pazion Ogbamichael;
 Katherine Kudelko; M. Ap. Daniel & M. Myra Kovalak; Joseph (Moe) &
 Ruth Mazurek; Lazarus (Jonathan) Dunnavent; Kathryn Kellachow; Sue
 Wolfe; Daniel Bretz; Robin Kuzupas; Larry Lewis HOME-BOUND/CARE
FACILITIES: Rita; Nicholas Demopoulos; Millicent Russell; EXPECTANT
MOTHER(S): Cathy Platt; Monica (Jekel) Chilbert; Chicory (Snyder)
 Biers; Brittany Kemp; M. Tatiana Rutz; Elva Lubecki; Emma Demopou-
 los; Jamie; *and the children to be born of them*; COLLEGE STUDENTS: Tseday
 Afrassa; Eden Araya; Adriel Armstrong; Olivia Drozd; Grace & Evelyn
 Firestine; Jacob Herman; Shawn Jacob; Sophia Kellachow; Rdr. Vladi-
 mer Kellachow; Faniel Kesete; Flimon Kesete; Matthew Mikita; Zachary
 Matthews; Otilia Murariu; Molly Pylypciw; Rachel Reba; John Romain;
 Melat Tesfay; Siem Tesfay; Sophia Vernak; Jessica Williams; Cassandra
 Zart; Ashley; David, Dave; Peter; Wessam; MILITARY: Alexander; Valery;
 Conrad; Shawn; Benjamin; Rdr. Vladimir; Abel; Jacob; Gabriel; Mat-
 thew; David; Michael; Peter; Sean; Ian, Zachary; Josiah; Owen FAMILY
& FRIENDS: Michelle (friend of Marie Reba); Maria (friend of M. Theodora);
 David (brother of Larissa & Anita); John, Vera, Stan, Joe & Kandi (family &
 friend of Libby); Shenia (sister of N. Schilling); Ron (cousin of Donna Bretz);
 Bill (C. Yerke's father); Jesse & Amelia (grandchildren of C. Dardaris); Chris-
 tine (sister in law of the DiFlorio's); Steve G. (friend of J. McGreevy); Stacy &
 Mia (B. Keener's friends); Tony (K. Hertzler's husband); Ronald; Una; Jean
 & Robert (aunt & friend of Rdr. Leo); Anne (sister-in-law of R. Rieck);
 Mitchell, Deborah, Michael, Emily, Ezra (S. Kellachow's family); George,
 Matthew, Ed, George, & Terry (family & friends of J. Mamay); Kalei (family
 of K. Leader); Vicki, Ken, Ron, & Scott (friends of the Pankiw's); Jackie,
 Bruce, Shirley, Charlie, Connie, Helen, Rob & Jody (family & friends of
 the Mallick's); Cindy, Michael, & Kyle, (friends of B. Lenker); M. Natasha
 Lazor, Cindy, & Linda, (friends of M. Myra); Rosalie; David & Dawn
 (cousins of Chet); Alexandra; Masha, Ethan & Wesley (M. Cameron's fami-
 ly/friend); Nancy & family (Snyder's friends); Ryan, Stacey, Bryan, Curt,
 Thomas, Andrew, Priest Demetrius Nicoloudakis, Megan, Jacob & fami-
 ly, Georgia, Maria, Blake, Keisha, Dimitrios, child Evangelia, Kyle,
 Martha, Emma, Nicholas, Jack, Samuel, Christian, Theodore, Steve,
 John, Alexandra, Juan, Isaac, Daniel, Judy, Luke, Johnny, Leticia, Jim,
 Paul, Samuel, Faye, Jon, child Landon (family/friends of the Lopez's); MIS-
SIONARIES: Jesse & Juanita Brandow (Guatemala); SEMINARIANS: Dn. Kyril
 & M. Olivia (STS); Dn. Seraphim & Elena Robertson *and* family (STS);
 Rdr. Nathan & Rebecca Jekel *and* family (SVS) CATECHUMEN(S): John
 Romain; Joseph Middelkoop; Rudelle Kerests; Richard & Corina Hall;
 Lydia Hall; Adriel Armstrong; Daniel Nuemann

MANY YEARS!

Please submit names and dates to office "at" ctsbbg.org

ANNIVERSARIES: Doug & Barbara Cain – Dec 24;

BIRTHDAYS: Richard Hall – Dec 24; Jacob Fedetz - Dec 25; Michael Mikita –Dec 26; Grace Firestine – Dec 27; Meera Gopinath - Dec 27; Samuel Girmasion –Dec 28; Abbie Nester –Dec 28; Larry Lewis –Dec 30; Bana Habtay –Dec 30; Samantha Lopez –Dec 30;

CANDLE OFFERINGS

To donate, please see a vestryperson

7 Day Votive is offered for the Health & Salvation of **CTS Parish**

1 Decorated Candle is offered in Memory of **Nancy Rekus**, friend of Dorothy Fedetz



NOVEMBER 2023 - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	MONTH		YEAR		YTD OVER/ UNDER BUDGET
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	
Income	45,305.17	28,540.00	487,806.09	405,226.00	82,580.09
Expenses	38,463.21	28,089.00	467,451.32	415,289.00	52,162.32
Net	6,841.96	451.00	20,354.77	(10,063.00)	30,417.77

NOVEMBER 2023 - STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY

	MONTH	YEAR
Tithes/Stewardship	36,230.51	363,463.63
Operating Expenses <i>(excl. fundraising)</i>	31,517.95	414,071.55
Net	4,712.56	(50,607.92)
Tithe as a % of Operating Expenses	115%	88%

RESSETAR MEMORORIAL BELL FUND

Current: \$12,000

Goal: \$66,000