

# The

# Enlightener

SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH



DECEMBER 2023  
VOL.45 ISSUE 12

## Preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ

The foundation of all things that exist is Christ the God-Man. Therefore, the foundation of our very human existence is found in the coming on earth of the Son of God. Without Christ as the cornerstone of our being, our nature as humans will naturally falter. Christ is not a superficial answer to our problems; rather he is the very life source that our nature as human beings was created to dwell within and synergize with. May we yearn to allow Christ to penetrate our hearts this Nativity season! With love, Fr. Ambrose



# HOLIDAY COOKIE WALK & PIEROGI SALE



**SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 9TH  
10AM-1PM**

**SS. PETER AND PAUL  
ORTHODOX CHURCH  
401 HAMILTON ST.**



## SYNAXIS

@ NOON

TUES, WED, & THURSDAYS @ 12PM  
EASTERN DURING THE NATIVITY FAST  
WE WILL MEET ON ZOOM/PHONE FOR 30  
MINS FOR PRAYER, A SHORT READING,  
AND DISCUSSION.

JOIN US DURING YOUR LUNCH BREAK!

[SSPETERANDPAULSYRACUSE.COM/ZOOM](https://SSPETERANDPAULSYRACUSE.COM/ZOOM)

# DOUBLE DEACON WEEKEND

## TWO ORDINATIONS TO THE DIACONATE

Come and celebrate two ordinations to the diaconate:  
Stephen Turner and Henry John Dotterer.

DAYS	TIME
STEPHEN TURNER WILL BE ORDAINED ON SATURDAY, DEC. 16TH	9AM
HENRY JOHN DOTTERER WILL BE ORDAINED ON SUNDAY, DEC, 17TH	9AM

ANNUAL NATIVITY PLAY  
Sunday, December 17th

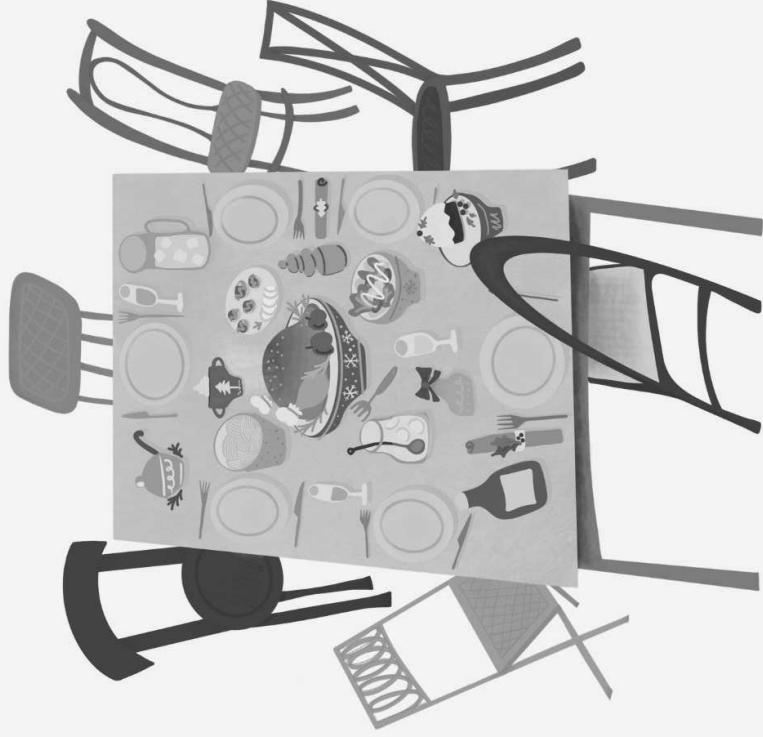


ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL WILL  
BE HERE.

STARTS AFTER  
DIVINE LITURGY

WE INVITE YOU TO

# CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER & CAROLS



SUNDAY | DECEMBER 24TH | 4 PM

LENTEN POTLUCK DINNER.

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL WILL START AT AROUND 5:15PM

# Nativity Feast Day and Festal Meal

## Monday, December 25th

9:30AM DIVINE  
LITURGY  
FOLLOWED BY A  
FESTAL MEAL  
AND SINGING OF  
CAROLS

*See you there!*

# ON EXPERIENCING THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST FROM ST. PAISIOS

Christ, with His great love and His great rejoicing shines upon the souls of the faithful with all of His holy feasts, and truly resurrects us, having lifted us up high spiritually. We only must participate and have a spiritual appetite to celebrate spiritually. Then we will feast spiritually and get drunk spiritually from the wine of Paradise that the Saints bring to us to treat us.

For us to experience the feasts, we must have our mind on the holy days, and not of the chores that we have to do for the holy days. Let us know about the events of every holy day, and say the [Jesus] prayer, glorifying God. Thus we will celebrate each feast with great reverence.

We should study and live the divine events continuously. When someone studies the events of every feast, naturally he will be moved, and he will pray with a special piety. Then, during the services, the nous is on the events that we are celebrating, and with reverence we will follow the hymns which are being changed. When the nous is on the divine meanings, man experiences the events, and is thus changed.

-Elder, after the Vigil for Christmas, do we sleep?

It is Christmas, and we are sleeping?! My mother said: "Tonight, only the Jews are sleeping." Do you see, the night that Christ was born, the rulers were sleeping deeply, and the shepherds were "keeping watch". They were protecting their sheep at night, playing the flute. Do you understand? The shepherds who were keeping vigil saw Christ.

-Elder, how was the Cave [where Christ was born]?

It was a cave within a rock and it had a manger, and nothing else. It was a place that a poor man would go and leave his animals. Panagia with Joseph, because all of the rooms were filled and they had nowhere to stay, took refuge in this cave. There was the mule and the calf, who were keeping Christ warm with their breath! Does not the Prophet Isaiah say: "the ox knows its master, and the donkey its owner's manger" (Isaiah 1:3).

-In one of the hymns, Elder, it says that the Most-Holy Theotokos, beholding the newborn Christ, "rejoiced, but also wept". She was pondering: "I nurse You, Who feeds all things, and I hymn You, as my Son and my God? How can I have familiarity with You?"

These are mysteries of God, the very great condescension of God, which we cannot comprehend!

-Elder, how can we experience the event of the Nativity, that, in other words, "Today, Christ is born of the Virgin"?

For us to experience these divine events, the nous must be on the divine meanings. Then, man is changed. "A great and paradoxical wonder is completed today", we chant. If our nous is there, on the "paradoxical", then we will experience the great mystery of the Nativity of Christ.

I pray that your hearts become the Holy Manger, and that the All-Holy Infant of Bethlehem will give you all of His blessings.

Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain, Words Volume VI "Regarding Prayer" (pg. 195-196). Edition of the Holy Hesychasterion "St. John the Theologian", Souroti, Thessaloniki. Amateur translation of text



# December 2023

Note: If this calendar and The Weekly are different, assume The Weekly is the most accurate.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Ridesharing</li> <li>8:45am Holy Confessions</li> <li>9am Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>9:10am 3rd &amp; 6th Hour</li> <li>9:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:15am Agape Meal</li> <li>12:15pm Nativity Play Practi</li> </ul>	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Food Pantry Delivery</li> <li>4:30pm Family Dinner</li> </ul>	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Synaxis</li> <li>6pm Vespers</li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>12pm Synaxis</li> <li>8pm OCF @ SU</li> </ul>	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Synaxis</li> <li>6:30pm Men's Fellowship Nig</li> <li>9pm Panera Pick Up</li> <li>9pm Food Recovery</li> </ul>	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prospora Baking</li> <li>10am Outreach Street Food M</li> </ul>	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3:30pm Foundations</li> <li>5pm Great Vespers</li> <li>5:45pm Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Ridesharing</li> <li>8:45am Holy Confessions</li> <li>9am Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>9:10am 3rd &amp; 6th Hour</li> <li>9:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:15am Agape Meal</li> <li>11:30am Church School Exa</li> </ul>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Food Pantry Delivery</li> </ul>	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Synaxis</li> <li>6pm Great Vespers w/Litya</li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Nicholas of Myra</li> <li>9am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>12pm Synaxis</li> <li>8pm OCF @ SU</li> </ul>	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Synaxis</li> <li>9pm Panera Pick Up</li> <li>9pm Food Recovery</li> </ul>	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Outreach Street Food M</li> <li>6pm Church School Exam Pr</li> </ul>	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Holiday Cookie Walk &amp;</li> <li>5pm Great Vespers</li> <li>5:45pm Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Ridesharing</li> <li>8:45am Holy Confessions</li> <li>9am Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>9:10am 3rd &amp; 6th Hour</li> <li>9:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:15am Agape Meal</li> <li>11:30am Nativity Play Rehea</li> </ul>	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Food Pantry Delivery</li> </ul>	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Synaxis</li> <li>6pm Vespers</li> </ul>	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Herman of Alaska</li> <li>9am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>10:30am Senior Moment Lun</li> <li>8pm OCF @ SU</li> </ul>	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Synaxis</li> <li>9pm Panera Pick Up</li> <li>9pm Food Recovery</li> </ul>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Outreach Street Food M</li> </ul>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Hierarchal Divine Lit</li> <li>11:30am Festal Lunch</li> <li>5pm Great Vespers</li> <li>5:45pm Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Ridesharing</li> <li>8:45am Holy Confessions</li> <li>9am Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>9am Hierarchical Divine Litur</li> <li>9:10am 3rd &amp; 6th Hour</li> <li>11:15am Agape Meal</li> <li>11:30am Nativity Play</li> </ul>	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Food Pantry Delivery</li> <li>4:30pm Family Dinner</li> </ul>	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Synaxis</li> <li>6pm Vespers</li> </ul>	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>12pm Synaxis</li> <li>6pm Vespers</li> <li>8pm OCF @ SU</li> </ul>	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>12pm Synaxis</li> <li>6:30pm Ladies Night</li> <li>9pm Panera Pick Up</li> <li>9pm Food Recovery</li> </ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Outreach Street Food M</li> <li>6pm Royal Hours</li> </ul>	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>5pm Great Vespers</li> <li>5:45pm Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Ridesharing</li> <li>8:45am Holy Confessions</li> <li>9am Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>9:10am 3rd &amp; 6th Hour</li> <li>9:30am Divine Lit. St. John C</li> <li>11am Vespers</li> <li>11:15am Agape Meal</li> <li>4pm Christmas Eve Dinner</li> <li>5:15pm Nativity VIGIL</li> </ul>	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Food Pantry Delivery</li> <li>9:10am Hours</li> <li>9:30am Nativity Festal Liturg</li> </ul>	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Fr. Ambrose and Family Out of Town</li> </ul>	27	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9pm Panera Pick Up</li> <li>9pm Food Recovery</li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Outreach Street Food M</li> </ul>	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm Great Vespers</li> <li>5:45pm Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>
31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Ridesharing</li> <li>8:45am Holy Confessions</li> <li>9am Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>9:10am 3rd &amp; 6th Hour</li> <li>9:30am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>11:15am Agape Meal</li> </ul>	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prospora Baking</li> <li>9am Food Pantry Delivery</li> </ul>	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Vespers</li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Divine Liturgy</li> <li>8pm OCF @ SU</li> </ul>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9pm Panera Pick Up</li> <li>9pm Food Recovery</li> </ul>	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Outreach Street Food M</li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm Great Vespers</li> <li>5:45pm Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>