

**Українська Католицька
Церква Св.Родина**

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**Holy Family Ukrainian
Catholic Church**

225 N. 4th St., Lindenhurst, NY 11757

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Trustees: Silvia Smith (516) 712 - 5526

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Choir Director: Iryna Popovych 943-3348

Nataliya Popovici – **English cantor**

Advisor: Gloria Tolopka (631) 667-6483

Web Page: www.holyfamilyucc.com

Sunday Divine Liturgies: 9:00 am - English / 10:15 am - Ukrainian

Weekday Divine Liturgies: 8:00 am or 9:00 am or 7:00 pm

Holy Days Liturgy: 9:00 am or Previous Day at 7:00 pm

No. 50/17

CHURCH BULLETIN – ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

December 24, 2017 / Грудень 24, 2017

DIVINE LITURGIES SCHEDULE:

December 24, 2017, Sunday of the Holy Fathers – Christmas Eve. *The Holy Venerable Martyr Eugenia.*

Tone 4: Epistle: Hebrews 11:9–10;17-23;32-40./ **Gospel:** Matthew 1:1– 25.

9:00 am – Pro Populo - English.

10:15 am – (God’s Blessing upon Mychaylo Moskalyuk & Family, req. Nadiya Moskalyuk) - Ukrainian.

Sanctuary Candle: *This week Sanctuary Candle is lit in ☩ Memory of All Deceased Members of the Sowirka Family (☩Theodora, ☩Gregory, ☩Joseph), req. Marta Skrypczka*

Sunday, December 24th - Vigil of the Nativity (Christmas Eve)

10:00 p.m. – Great Compline with Lytia (“God is with us”) – E./U.

11:00 p.m. – Divine Liturgy for Christmas - English

Monday, December 25, 2017 – The Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: Holy Day of Obligation

9:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy – English

10:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy - Ukrainian

- Myrovannia, anointing with blessed oil and distribution of blessed Prospora after each Divine Liturgy.

Tuesday, December 26, 2017 – Commemoration of the Holy and Just Joseph, Spouse of Mary (Holy Family) - Patron of the Church.

8:45 a.m. – Panakhyda in Memoriam ☩ Metropolitan Joseph Shmondiuk

9:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy and Small Blessing of water – Eng.

- Myrovannia, anointing with blessed oil and distribution of blessed Prospora after Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, December 27, 2017 – The Holy Protomartyr Stephen.

9:00 a.m. – Good health for Gloria Tolopka, req. Nataliya Popovici

Thursday, December 28, 2017 – 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia.

9:00 a.m. – Special Intention, req. Mendyuk Family

Friday, December 29, 2017 – Holy Innocents Martyrs.

9:00 a.m. – Special Intention, req. Mendyuk Family

Saturday after Christmas, December 30, 2017 – Anysia Venerable Martyr.

1:00 p.m. - The Holy Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Eucharist) for Dennis Kaplun

5:00 p.m. – Thanksgiving to God and to the Blessed Virgin Mary for all blessing received this year by all of our parishioners.

6:00 p.m. – Vespers (Вечірня)

December 31, 2017, Sunday after Christmas. *Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete.*

9:00 am – Pro Populo - English.

10:15 am – (God’s Blessing upon Mychailo Shafranski & Family; Fr. Popovici & Family; Stepan Shustak & Family; Nadiya Danyliuk and her Family, req. Maria Shafranski and Halyna Shustak) - Ukrainian.

Confessions: Can be heard by appointment daily and on Sundays before or after the Divine Liturgy.

Baptism and Chrismation: By appointment. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics.

Marriage: Please contact the Pastor at least six (6) months in advance.

Attendance at pre - Cana is required.

Ukrainian Culture School will be held **Every Saturday from 9:15 am until**

1:35 p.m. For more information please call the Rector or contact the Director, Mr. Roman Vaskiv at (631) 225 -1203 or visit our Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HFUkrainianSchool>.

Ukrainian Cultural Dances for children ages 5 to 12 are provided by Mr.

Gregory Momot and Khrystyna Momot of Paramus, NJ, every Saturday, by groups: ages (5 – 9) 1:40 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.; ages (10 – 14) 2:25 p.m. – 3:55p.m.; ages (15 – 19) 3:55 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.

Religious Education: Classes for religious education will resume on September 18, 2017 and will be held every Monday from 5:00 p.m. until 5:55 p.m./6:00 p.m. – 6:55 p.m. Please contact the rectory for further information.

Ministry to the Sick: Rev. Popovici will make visits to the sick on the first Friday of the month. It is the responsibility of an immediate family member to kindly notify Rev. Popovici at the Rectory office about any sick or aged individual who is hospitalized or confined at home or in a nursing home, and he will gladly visit and administer the sacraments. In case of emergencies please call any time.

Pray the Rosary: The Apostleship of Prayer requests members and parishioners pray the Rosary on the **First Sunday** of each month, beginning 20 minutes before Divine Liturgy. The Rosary Society requests members and parishioners pray the Rosary on the **Third Sunday** of the Month beginning at 10:00 a.m. before Ukrainian Divine Liturgy.

Mothers in Prayer: Next prayer group will be held on **January 5, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.**

St. Joseph’s Men’s Prayer: group will be held every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

Rectory Office Hours: **Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm;** Evenings by appointment. **Attention: Monday** is a free day for the priest. In case of an emergency, please call at any time.

Divine Liturgy: Dear Parishioners! Remember your faith; please come every Sunday and Holy Days to Church.

Divine Liturgy for Children: Special Divine Liturgy (English/Ukrainian language) for family/children will be held today **Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 12:00 Noon.** All parents are requested to bring their children to church to celebrate the Holy Divine Liturgy.

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Notices should be phoned in or brought to the Parish Office **NO LATER** than 12:00 noon on the Friday prior to the Sunday of publication.

Bequests: In making out your will, kindly remember your church. Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church of Lindenhurst, N.Y. is our legal title.

New Parishioners: Welcome to Holy Family Church! To all who are tired and need rest, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are friendless and need friendship, to all who are discouraged and need hope, to all who are hopeless and need sheltering love, to all who sin and need a Savior, this Church opens wide its doors in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please stop by the Rectory to introduce yourselves and register. We look forward to meeting you.

Change in address or telephone? Parishioners, kindly provide the rectory with your new address and telephone numbers as soon as possible.

Parishioners and guests: after each Divine Liturgy, coffee, rolls, & cakes are served in the Parish Center for a donation of \$3.00 per person.

Sunday Collection – December 17, 2017. Sale of cakes - \$500.00

"Give to the Most High as He has given to you, generously, for the Lord is one who always repays, and He will give back to you sevenfold." (Sir. 35: 9 – 10).

Candles: \$142, Tetrapod/Prospora: \$73, Refund: \$15, Immac. Concept. : \$10, Annual support: \$100, Flowers: \$25, Pyrohy: \$18, Coffee: \$100, Christmas: \$70, **Pledge: \$145.00, Sunday Offering: \$1,204.00, Total - \$2,402.00.**

Dear Parishioners: Sincere thanks for the offerings made on Sunday, December 17, 2017. May God bless you all for your generosity.

Our Prayer: Please remember all those parishioners who are ill or elderly within your families. They are part of our parish and need to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Communion. To schedule a visit by the priest, please call the rectory for an appointment.

Attention: To all who celebrate their birthday during the months of December, our best wishes and many happy healthy years! Mnohaya Lita and God's Blessing.

Our Church News:

1. Upcoming events:

A. NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE, "ZABAVA" – 2017/2018

Sponsored by Our Parish, Sunday, December 31, 2017 starts at 9:00 p.m. Live music provided by band "Zemlyaky". More information is attached to our Church bulletin.

B. January 2018 collections: The next free will donations will be collected on Sunday, January 21st, 2018 after both Divine Liturgies.

3. We wish to express our sincere thanks to:

A. the ladies of our parish who did a great job baking for our fund raiser these past two Sundays. Through their diligent work many cakes were baked and donated for sale. The following ladies were instrumental in making our sale a success this past Sunday: Mrs. Nancy Baransky, Ms. Sandy Motekew, Mrs. Oleksandra Herych, Mrs. Oksana Vladychak, Mrs. Olena Suhorovska, Mrs. Maria Shafranski (has donated \$80.00 to cover some of the ingredients for the baking the cakes), Mrs. Nataliya Popovici and Mrs. Iryna Gereta. \$500.00 was raised.

B. An Anonymous donor who has donated \$300.00 for the needs of our Church.

C. Mr. Martin Smith who offered his skills and labor on Saturday December 16, 2018 to run new gas lines for the the new double stove in our parish kitchen.

D. all our Parishioners who participated in the second voluntary collection this past Sunday (Regular Church cleaning). The total amount collected was **\$240.00.**

E. M/M Pavlo & Kasia Tupyckak and friends who raised \$1,585.00 for the Christmas needs of a family in our parish.

F. the Board of Directors of Self Reliance FCU (NY) for their generous gift in the amount of \$1,000.00 as a Christmas Donation to our Church.

G. M/M Slawomir & Helen Samilo who for many years, including this year, has taken it upon herself the chore of ordering all of the flower arrangements and plants to beautify our church for Christmas; Also Mrs. Helen Samilo who voluntarily baked Prospora which was blessed last Sunday and was distributed to our parishioners after both Divine Liturgies and will be used in our home at the beginning of our our Christmas Eve dinner.

May God bless all those who volunteered or made donations and may He reward you with His choicest Blessings.

4. In case of an emergency, at any time, whenever someone is in the hospital, seriously ill, or confined at home, please notify the parish office if it is the wish of the sick person or of his/her family that I should visit or administer the Holy Sacraments. I cannot visit a person who is ill without a request from the person or from their immediate family.

5. At year's end, Holy Family Church is happy to renew a warm welcome to all those who registered as new parish members. Please join me in welcoming them to our family in Christ Jesus.

Christmas Donation: Dear Parishioners! We appreciate your generous donations to support and beautify our Church. As we share gifts with our families, we should plan a special gift for our Church during Advent (Philip's Fast). May God bless, protect and keep you in good health during this time and the New Year.

Dear Parishioners: In light of world events, let us pray more every day for God's forgiveness and mercy and for His guidance.

End the Year with a Spirit of Thanksgiving

In each of the 7 glimpses of heaven given in the book of Revelation, we see the inhabitants of heaven continuously praising God with a loud voice - sometimes as loud as thunder and as the noise of roaring rivers. This is the atmosphere of heaven - one of continual praise, without any complaints or demands. And this is the atmosphere that the Holy Spirit desires to bring into our hearts, our homes and our churches as well. It is thus that Satan will be driven away from all these places. I read of a fiery brother (who lived in the last century) who used to frequently praise God with loud 'Hallelujahs'. One day, one of the staid, dead Christians around him, who was irritated by this spirit of praise, asked him what the brother would do if God finally sent him to hell. To this the brother replied, "If I go to hell, I will keep on shouting 'Hallelujah' and the praises of God there, until the Devil tells me to get out of Hell, lest I infect others in hell with the spirit of praise!" No, there is no place in Hell for those who have a spirit of praise! The ones who go to Hell are those who are full of complaints and demands against others. They were like that when they were on the earth and they carry that evil nature with them when they leave the earth too. Satan has paralysed the vast majority of Christians, and made them ineffective in spiritual warfare against him, because he has succeeded in getting them infected with the spirit of murmuring and complaining against their brothers and sisters, against their relatives and neighbours, against their circumstances, and even against God Himself.

We overcome Satan, when we obey the following exhortations:

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which indeed you were called in ONE BODY; and be thankful" (Col.3:15).

"I urge that thanksgivings be made FOR ALL MEN" (1 Tim.2:1).

"Always give thanks FOR ALL THINGS in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father" (Eph.5:20).

We are exhorted first of all to be thankful for all whom God has called into Christ's Body. If the choice had been left to us, we might not have called many of those whom God has called - especially those who belong to some other group than ours!! But God's wisdom being higher than ours, even as the heavens are higher than the earth, He obviously had a different opinion about them than we have. And if we are wise, we will re-align our thinking in line with God's.

Once we have learned to be thankful for our brothers and sisters in Christ's Body, we can then learn to give thanks for all men and then for all our circumstances. We know that our Heavenly Father sovereignly controls all circumstances. If we really believe this, we will certainly praise God at all times, and thus prove that our kingdom is of heaven and not of this world. Then Satan will lose his power over us. Only then will we be able to wage an effective warfare against him.

There is a wonderful word written in Revelation 12:8 that no place was found in heaven for Satan and his demons. This is how it must be in our lives too - in our hearts, in our homes, and in our churches. **SATAN AND HIS HOSTS MUST FIND NO PLACE IN ANY OF THESE PLACES.**

On the Second Coming of Christ

As we approach the end of the ecclesiastical year, our Mother, the Holy Church, reminds us of our Lord Jesus Christ's Second Coming in glory to judge the living and the dead. For example, In Mt 24:30, 31, He says, *"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."* Later in the same Gospel account, our Lord says, *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats"* (Mt 25:31–33).

I. The End of the World is Not New

Since the First Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ through His Incarnation, the world has waited for His Second Coming, which, as we pray in the Divine Liturgy, shall be "from the heavens and full of glory." Our Lord Jesus Christ promised His followers that He would return in the Gospel:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know" (John 14:1–4). The Holy Scriptures identify for us several characteristics of our Lord's Second Coming. First, our Lord will come suddenly as He promised: *"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame"* (Revelation 16:15). Also, St. Peter witnessed to our Lord's sudden return when he wrote, *"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up"* (2 Peter 3:10).

Second, antichrists will deceive many people, even the righteous (see Mt. 24:24; Mk. 13:22; 1 Jn. 2:18, 4:3; 2 Jn. 7). Third, there will be wars and rumors of wars accompanied by natural disasters and persecution (Lk. 21:12; Mt. 24:6; Mk. 13:7). Fourth, the last Antichrist will come (Rev. 13:11-18). Lastly, Satan and the Antichrist will be overcome by the power of Christ (Rev. 19:19-20:3).

With all of these signs in mind, the Christian anticipates the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Church helps us keep the judgment in our minds through the reading of Apostle and Gospel in our Liturgical Services. In the First Hour, for example, which we should read every morning at 6:00 a.m. or when we wake up, we are reminded that God will judge us on our relationships with others in Psalm 14, which says: O Lord, who shall abide in Your dwelling place? And who can rest upon Your holy mountain? It is he who walks blamelessly, doing righteousness, speaking truth in his heart, he who has not spoken deceitfully with his tongue, neither has done evil to his friend, nor taking up a reproach

against his neighbors...He gives oath to his friend and does not turn away from him...He who does these things shall not stumble forever. ALLELUIA.

When we pray this diligently from our heart every morning, we remember that God will judge us for our relationships with others. At the very end of the day, our Church reminds us of our Lord's Second Coming and the final judgment in the 9th Hour, which we should read at 9:00 p.m. every night or when we go to sleep. The Church reminds us of the Final Judgment before we go to sleep each day, because sleep is like a miniature of death. We go to sleep not knowing whether we expect to wake up and so we keep watch as long as possible before bed in prayer and supplication, remembering the Final Judgment and contemplating our deeds throughout the day. And when God, in His mercy and compassion, allows us to wake up and have a new day, a new beginning, we immediately call upon Him whenever we wake up by praying to give thanks to Him for this new chance.

So, the Final Judgment is not something that we commemorate only when the media highlights it, but rather, it is something that we must bring to remembrance throughout every day of our lives.

II. Who is the Antichrist?

Historically, there have been many attempts to identify the Antichrist who will lead the world to the Last Day of Judgment. At almost every stage of human history, people found a figure who they associated with the Antichrist. For some, the Antichrist is a heretical religious leader; for others, he is a political figure who rules the entire earth. Yet others believe the Antichrist is not necessarily a person, but something intangible, like the Internet or a political system.

The preoccupation with the identity and coming of the Antichrist throughout history — and even to the present day — reveals an attitude that is wholly inconsistent with Christianity. When we think of the end of the world, the identity of the Antichrist should not be as important to us as the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ will return. We cannot forget that the faithful Christians in the Early Church greeted each other with St. Paul's words from the end of his first epistle to the Corinthians, saying, "Maranatha," which means, "O Lord, come!" Through our participation in the Mysteries of the Church, we constantly feel Christ's presence with us and have communion with Him. If we really feel this, we should have no feeling other than pure joy at His Second Coming, when we will live with Him for eternity. This is because the end of the world for the Christian is a liberation. We will all be freed from the power of evil, from sin, from death, and from all of the suffering and tribulation associated with those things. St. Paul described the effect beautifully:

"For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:52–54).

III. Christ will be our Judge

Christ teaches us, therefore, that He is the Final Judge of human

history. How many of us have actually thought about what this means? It is good for us to reflect on what it means for our Lord Jesus Christ to stand as our Judge.

It means, essentially, that Christ, Who created time from nothing at the beginning of the world, and Who entered time and became one of us through His Incarnation, will be our Judge. An actual human being, a Carpenter from Nazareth, will judge each and every other human being in the world that has existed, that exists now, and that will ever exist. As St. Paul said to the Greeks who were worshipping at a temple dedicated to the Unknown God, "He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:31). St. Paul is speaking here, of course, about how God the Father entrusted the judgment in the Last Day to His Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who was perfect in His Divinity as God and perfect in His humanity as Man without change, mingling, or alteration.

For many, this is a difficult concept to accept, especially to non-Christians. It is not uncommon to find people in the world today who reject this idea that Jesus Christ will be the final and universal Judge of all mankind. People in the world today, and especially those who live according to the ways of the world, have a hard time accepting the concept that they are going to be judged at all. The reason for this is that Satan and his legion of demons have done a thorough job in confusing men about the moral standard with which they will be judged. We are taught today that there is no universal moral standard that applies to all mankind. Instead, this world discusses the different values of different people and learn how we must respect and honor these values even when they come into conflict with the Gospel. Sadly, right is no longer right and wrong is no longer wrong; there is no universal moral standard which is followed.

The reality is that there *universal moral standard does exist*: it is Christ, His teachings, and the way He established for us. That is why He stands as the universal Judge of all mankind in the end. Let us all be very clear on this point: we are all going to be judged by exactly the same standard, which is Christ. It doesn't matter if we have accepted a different standard in our lives. It will not make a difference whether a person is a Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Protestant, atheist or otherwise. All of us will be judged by exactly the same standard, which is Christ and His teachings in the Gospel. Therefore, one of the Gospel reading reminds us that we will all be judged and that Christ, not the different standard and moral value systems in the world today, will be our Judge.

IV. Conclusion

As we react to the increased focus on the end of the world in today's society, let us not forget that we are not called to be like everyone else — we are called to be God's own presence shining in the world through us. So, before the end comes let us reflect Christ's light so that we may hear His sweet words on the Day of Judgment, "*Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*" (Matthew 25:34).

Crucify to our own sins.

Epistle of St Paul to Galatians 6:11-18: Again and again we hear the phrase about being crucified to the world, and the world being crucified to us. And, again and again, this phrase might not make too much sense to us. Crucified to the world?

Christ talks about denying ourselves, taking up our cross and

following Him. St Paul mentions today being crucified **with** Christ and being crucified to the world by the Cross. This means, basically, rejecting and denying the world. But what is so bad about the world that we have to reject it? What is meant by the "world"?

In the book of Genesis, in the first chapter, as God is creating our world and the whole universe, at the end of each day of creation, it is said that "God saw that it was **good**."

"And God saw that the light was good...day one. God saw that all the plants were good...day three. God saw that sun and moon were good...day four..." You get the point. Everything that was created was good, and it was good not simply because God liked it, but because it was good in and of itself. By nature everything was good. Everything was meant to be good, including the human beings. But, exercising the free will that we all have, the first-created people fell into sin and through sin they let death into this world, and with death came badness, and some of the things that were meant to be good became bad. While we are not responsible for the ancestral sin, we do live in its aftermath. And we do misuse some of the things that are meant to be good, in a bad way. When we talk about rejecting and denying the world, we are not talking about bad people — we love, just like Jesus did, both good and bad. And we are not talking about isolating ourselves from everything in the world. Again, God created everything to be good, it's bad only because we make it so. One of the opportunities we have is to show the world that Christ is good. If we isolate ourselves from the world, we won't be able to do this. The world that we are to reject is everything that distracts us from Christ. First and foremost, this is our inner world, our life of sin, **our** passions and temptations. We reject them, we crucify them, because there is nothing good in them. We crucify our all too human self-praise and pride, they lead nowhere.

This doesn't mean that we should have no self-esteem. If we are going to be proud of something, let's be proud of the Cross of Christ, which has always been considered shameful and scandalous to the world. We also reject and crucify hate and immorality, again, anything and everything that distracts us from Christ. I could go on and on with more examples, but I think you get the point. One important thing to remember — there is only one person we can influence and change — ourselves. Before we go looking outside for what distracts us from following Christ, let's first look inside. I am sure we can find a lot of bad things that need fixing, a lot of bad things that need to become good again. Death came into the world through sin, but through the Cross Christ brought in life and salvation. When we crucify ourselves to the world, we put ourselves on the path of salvation. Every time we sin, we see that we're greater sinners than we ever imagined. But God knew when you prayed you would never do it again that you would. Yet He still went to the cross. As He comes to us, over and over again, as we continue to sin, we realize God is more faithful than we ever dare dream. You don't have to live in fear of not persevering. God is faithful. There is a way for us to be confident and sure that we're going to make it to the end. It's not found in our ability to never fall away, but in His ability to come to you over and over again to keep you. And we can say with St Paul that we bear in our bodies the marks of the Lord Jesus, and it is no longer we who live, but He lives in us. **Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.** (Jude 1:24-25).