

The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us.

Human being have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned – this God continues to work through the same melange. If it

was a challenge to recognize in the last part of Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS



Icon of the Holy Ancestors

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

4250 Harewood Road NE Washington, DC 20017

Phone: 202-526-3737

E-mail: ucnsholyfamily@gmail.com

Webpage: www.ucns-holyfamily.org

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL: 202-262-5040

Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens – Administrator

Father Mykola Dziurakh – Parochial Vicar

Sunday – December 21, 2025

**Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever + Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки
Христос Рождается! Славимо Його! ✨ Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

Confessions are available before the Divine Liturgies

All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>

Saturday December 20 5:30 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday December 21 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday Before Christmas – The Ancestors Confessions-Сповідь (+John Fedack from Ruth) (For the Parish)
Wednesday December 24 4:30 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve - Навечір'я Різдва (Vocations) (For the Parish)
Thursday December 25 10:30 a.m.	Christmas Day - Різдво Ісуса Христа (Deceased Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Religious)
Friday December 26 10:00 a.m.	Synaxis of the Mother of God (+Marion Bartoszyk from Stephen Stecura)
Saturday December 27 10:00 a.m.	St. Stephen (+Ross Chomiak from Family)
Sunday December 28 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday After Christmas (Special Intention Mike and Rose Wilson from Family) (For the Parish)

ST. PHILIP'S FAST – PYLYPIVKA 2025 (NOV 15 – DEC 24)

In preparation for Christmas and the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, our church observes the spiritual journey of the pre-Christmas Fast. Please prepare to worthily celebrate the Birth of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a voluntary fast period. Please observe it as you are able to best prepare yourself for Christmas – Good Deeds, Volunteering, Confession, Fasting.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAST

We are reminded that we are called to abstain from meat products on Christmas Eve. Dairy products are permitted.

ST. PHILIP'S FAST CHARITY PROJECT 2025

Please bring new unwrapped baby items to donate to the Front Royal Pregnancy Center. We invite everyone to purchase and donate **NEW, UNOPENED BABY ITEMS**. The pregnancy center will accept anything that could be used by babies and mothers, Diapers (Sizes: Newborn, 4, and 5) • Changing Wipes • Baby Formula (8 or 12 oz. cans) Similac Sensitive Powder Formula, Similac Advance Powdered Formula • Sippy Cups & Baby Bottles (8-9 oz.) • 3-in-1 Convertible Car Seats • New Infant Carrier Car Seats (for up to 35 lbs.) **PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 4, 2026.**

PRAYER LIST

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Valarie Balthis, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Terry Boyle, Taisia Bullard, Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Robert Dulaine, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Myroslava Futey, Lilian Garland, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Vanessa Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Boris Hlynsky, Daniel Horeczko, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyj, Nila Iwaskiw, Sarah Kelt, LTJG Lydia Kowalskyj USN, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Melissa Martin, Paul Marynowych, Irene Nagurney, Michele Pretka Litvak, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Ivanna Richardson, Roman Rusynko, Chris Saboe, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Teresa Sherwood, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Rose Wilson, Fr. George Worschak, and Paul Yarrish.** If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.

Christmas Eve Wednesday December 24

4:30 p.m. Children's procession and Divine Liturgy for Christmas

(All are Welcome and Families are encouraged to attend) (Eng.)

10:00 p.m. *Z namy Boh* and Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr. and Eng.)

Середа 24 грудня Навечір'я Різдва ГНІХ – Святвечір

4:30 пополудні Процесійна хода дітей та Різдвяна Божественна Літургія (анг.)

10:00 вечора – *З нами Бог* та Божественна Літургія – Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса Христа

(укр. та анг.)

Christmas Day Thursday December 25

10:30 a.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr. and Eng.)

Четвер 25 грудня Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса Христа

10:30 ранку – Божественна Літургія – Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса Христа (укр. та анг.)

We wish all of you a Joyous and Blessed Christmas.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Христос Рождается! Славимо Його!

Fr. Robert and Fr. Mykola