



Holy Protection of the Mother of God, Denver

And the Byzantine Catholic Outreach of Fort Collins

Pastor's Reflection

The Winter Pascha

Pascha means Easter, right? The time when we commemorate and celebrate the life-giving Death and Resurrection of Christ. Sometimes, however, we hear the Christmas–Theophany season called the Winter Pascha. Why?

It would be comfortable to celebrate the birth of our Lord as a festival of family love and new life, of light, peace, and joy. It is those things, but the scriptures we read and the commentary provided by our hymnody never let us forget the dark backdrop of sin, ignorance, suffering, and death against which the Light of Christ, who is the true Sun of Righteousness, shines out brightly in the bleak midwinter of this world.

At the feast of the Circumcision, Jesus is already beginning to shed his innocent blood for us. When he steps into the water of the Jordan to receive John's baptism of repentance, he does so as the only one who has nothing to repent of! When Jesus, the sinless Beloved Son of the Father, receives that baptism, he charges it. He sanctifies the waters, binding them to himself so that they can become the sign and instrument of our participation in the death that he will suffer on the Cross, his three-day burial, and his glorious Resurrection.

The Winter Pascha, like the Pascha we celebrate in Spring, is about the Marvelous Exchange whereby the eternal Son of God takes what is ours — our flesh, our sin, and

our death — and gives us what is his — Spirit, forgiveness and sanctification, and his own eternal, divine life.

Christ is born in a cave in Bethlehem! Christ is baptized in the Jordan! Glorify him!

House Blessings

In the days following the Feast of Theophany, it is customary for the parish priest to visit his people's homes and bless them with the Jordan water. If you would like your house blessed this year, use my Calendly page to select an evening that would work for you, and I will be in touch to work out details. -Fr Joel

Fr Joel's Calendly Page: <http://www.calendly.com/frbarstad>

Contact Information

Fr Joel Barstad

Parochial Administrator

Email: frbarstad@ephx.org

Office: 720-910-3084

Mobile: 720-910-3082

Making Appointments with Fr Joel

Text or email works best

Flocknote/Parish Roster

If you haven't joined Flocknote, please do so. Flocknote is our primary way of communicating directly with members and friends of the parish.

Also, ***if you are already receiving Flocknotes*** and would like to be included on the parish roster, please update your contact information, including your mailing address, as we will use this information to update our roster.

Text HPDEN to 84576 or visit us online at holyprotectiondenver.flocknote.com

Calendar

We are experimenting with a new monthly calendar on our website. Instead of a Google calendar, we have a PDF calendar that contains the most current information about liturgical services and other parish events. It can be found at

<https://holyprotection.org/about/calendar/> .

Upcoming

Circumcision of Our Lord Jan 1
Theophany Jan 6
Three Holy Hierarchs Jan 30
Encounter with Simeon Feb 2

Financial Statement

12/27/22

Holy Protection of the Mother of God

Profit & Loss

November 2022

	<u>Nov 22</u>
Parish Income/Expense	
Income	
Collections Income	5,888.08
Investment Income	50.34
Eparchial Appeal Rebate Income	<u>1,767.00</u>
Total Income	<u>7,705.42</u>
Expenses (Regular)	
Parish Admin. & General	1,755.78
Church Operating Costs	1,900.63
Rectory Expenses	<u>494.21</u>
Personnel Expenses	7,017.85
Social Expense	<u>1,775.00</u>
Total Expenses (Regular)	<u>12,943.47</u>
Expenses due to Transitional Period	
Professional Services	<u>3,306.02</u>
Total Expenses due to Transitional Period	<u>3,306.02</u>
Total Expenses	<u>16,249.49</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-8,544.07</u></u>

A note on the Financial Statement: Thank you for your faithful giving! Many Catholics have a vague feeling that they ought to be giving more, but without clear needs and guidelines, it is hard to know how much is reasonable. I look forward to presenting a budget for the parish and its outreach communities, but in the meantime, if you have general questions about our financial condition, please direct them to Fr. Joel. If you have specific questions, please direct them to Melanie at admin@holyprotection.org. -Fr Joel

How Much Should I Be Giving?

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

In this passage, St Paul is writing about a special collection he was gathering from his Gentile churches for the Christians of Jerusalem who were in dire need, but the principles of sowing and reaping, cheerfulness in giving, and abounding in good works of almsgiving are fundamental to the Christian attitude about money. Even the Desert Fathers who had abandoned the world for a life of asceticism were encouraged to do enough manual labor to feed themselves and to have something left over to give to the poor.

The Old Testament principle of giving one-tenth (a tithe) of one's income to support the Temple and its ministers were adopted by later Christians as a reasonable guide and measure for their own support of the work of the Church. Not everyone may be able to afford that much, others can afford much more, but a tithe is a good rule of thumb for most of us. If 10% sounds daunting, you can start with a lower percentage, according to the measure of your faith in God's faithfulness to support you in your needs and in your generosity. As God proves himself faithful to you, you will be ready to increase the percentage you set aside. Whatever amount you decide upon, give half to your parish and half to the poor or other ministries that serve the poor. Whatever amount you decide upon, give it consistently and joyfully, knowing that God will work with you and through you to bless the Church and those around you who are in need. -Fr Joel

Ways to Give

King Soopers Community Rewards - If you haven't already designated Holy Protection as your local charity and you shop at King Soopers, please follow the steps here.

<https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>

We are listed as Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church. Thank you!

AmazonSmile - If you haven't already designated Holy Protection as your charity and you use Amazon, please follow the steps here.

<https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/community/how-to-sign-up-for-amazonmile>

We are listed as Pastor of Holy Protection of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic. Thank you!

Prayer Requests

For those who are sick or in special need of prayer

- Alexis
- Chelsea Wegman
- Kate

Holy Mysteries

Canonical Ascription: Every Catholic is a member not only of the universal Catholic Church, but also of one of the 22 particular, ritual, *sui juris* churches that comprise the Catholic Church. The largest of these churches is the Latin Church. Holy Protection Denver is a parish of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix, which is part of the *sui juris* Byzantine Catholic (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh. The Saints Cyril and Methodius Russian community is part of the Russian Greek Catholic Church.

A person's ascription is generally determined at baptism or by the formal process of transfer from one church *sui juris* to another. A person's canonical ascription can significantly impact the administration of the holy mysteries of initiation and crowning, regardless of where one regularly attends Divine Liturgy and for how long one has done so. Therefore, please allow ample time to address these issues when you request baptism or marriage.

Sacraments of Initiation: Full Byzantine initiation—Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion—is the norm, even for infants, for ascribed members of the Eastern Churches belonging to the Byzantine liturgical family. Latin Catholics baptized as infants normally receive Confirmation and First Communion separately and at a later age. A Byzantine Catholic priest can baptize a person who will be an ascribed member of the Latin Church with the permission of his or her territorial pastor; permission to Chrismate/Confirm, however, comes from the local Latin bishop.

Mystery of Crowning: The Eparchy requires a preparation period of at least six months. For couples both of whom are Latin Catholics, the local archdiocese requires a preparation period of eight months, which will be followed in this parish to allow time for requesting the extra permissions required in such a case. Marriages should not be celebrated during the Fasting Seasons of the Church, but especially not during the Great Fast.

Funerals: Please contact Fr Joel to arrange funerals and other memorial services.

Sick Calls/Anointing/Hospital Visits: Please contact Father Joel directly at 720-910-3082 if you or a family member needs Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick, or a visit at home, a hospital, or a care facility. The Mystery of Holy Anointing will also be offered in the church once during each of the four penitential seasons.

Mystery of Holy Penance: The Mystery of Holy Penance will be celebrated an hour before evening feast day Divine Liturgies and, for now, on Saturday mornings. This service includes

time for individual confessions. Individual confessions may also be scheduled at other times by appointment.

Divine Liturgy: Generally, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, as well as on feast days. For obligatory and solemn feasts, a Vigil Divine Liturgy will, if possible, be celebrated the evening before the day and a regular Divine Liturgy on the day itself. In addition, the Divine Praises, mainly Matins and Vespers, will be celebrated most weekdays but especially in preparation for Divine Liturgies.

Safe Environment

The Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Eparchy of Phoenix is available to help anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. We will listen to your needs and support you. We will also help you make a formal complaint and arrange a personal meeting with the Bishop or his delegate if desired.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR: Dcn. Michael Hanafin
(cell) (480) 307-5182 -- (email) vac@ephx.org

The Safe Environment Coordinator for the Eparchy of Phoenix is available to answer any inquiries and to receive reports regarding Safe Environment-related observations or concerns.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Sdcn. Paul Kilroy
(office) (602) 861-9778, ext. 204 -- (Cell) (480) 745-0316
(email) sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org

Saints Cyril and Methodius Russian Greek Catholic Community

At St John Francis Regis Chapel, Regis University, Denver, CO 80221



Announcements:

- SCM will be moving out of the Regis University Chapel! Divine Liturgy will be held at Holy Protection of the Mother of God starting on January 29. We are looking to also change the Sunday liturgy time to 12:30pm. We are looking for someone to coordinate a move from our Regis basement storage room into a storage unit.
- Preparation for children's first confession will be on Jan 21, Jan 28, and Feb 4 at 10:00 am at Holy Protection. The first two sessions will be for instruction

and the final session will be for the children's first confessions.

Vespers and book club: Join us each Monday at 7:30 pm on Zoom to pray vespers and learn about faith and spirituality. We are currently reading *Time and Despondency* by Nicole Roccas. Contact Deacon Basil for a copy of the book. Join Zoom Meeting