

JANUARY 12, 2020



The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants [Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3].

After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos [Luke 1:31-33, 2:21]. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics had taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured [Colossians 2:11-12]. Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century.

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus [Savior] on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world [Matthew 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Philippians 2:9-10].

These two events -- the Lord's Circumcision and Naming -- remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" [Colossians 2:11]. The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

The Scripture Readings Epistle - Galatians 1:11-19 Gospel - Matthew 2:13-23

SERVICE- Tuesday, January 14th - The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

VISITS-Milanka Pavlovic at home/Robin Lapceovich at Brighton Rehab/ Mary Ulinski, Mary 'Cookie' Loverich and Bob Sparcie at Beaver Meadows

A Huge Thank You- to all who donated to "*Hristos se Rodi - Od Srca*" and "*Let's Warm Up Their Hearts*" projects! As well as all of the other Fellowship Fundraisers in November and December!

Upcoming event -Sunday, January 26th - Saint Sava Celebration with Luncheon to be served after the Program!

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE- The Communication Committee invites all St. Elijah members and visitors to access and manage their contact information, church involvement and so much more in our NEW and secure online member directory. Please scan the QR with your mobile device to learn how to sign up or visit our church website <https://StElijahAliquippa.com>



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Jan. 14th – The Circumcision of Our Lord, St. Basil,	Divine Liturgy	9:30 a.m.
Jan. 18th - Holy Cross Day - Blessing of Water	Divine Liturgy	9:00 a.m.
Jan. 19th- Epiphany - Blessing of Water	Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.
Jan. 20th - St. John the Baptist	Divine Liturgy	9:30 a.m.
Jan. 26th -St. Sava Program and Lunch	Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.
Jan. 27th - St. Sava Day	Divine Liturgy	9:30 a.m.

ST. ELIJAH CHOIR'S 18th ANNUAL BOWLING "BALL" fundraiser will be held on Saturday, February 22nd 2020 at Sheffield Lanes at 1:30 p.m.

Please pick-up a form and send it in ASAP space is limited to 20 Teams!

