

St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church, Harrisburg, PA

Living Nativity Icon Pageant

TO TAKE PLACE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23, 2021 @ 6 PM

BE A PART OF DEPICTING THE MIRACLE!



CALLING ALL STUDENTS PRE-K THRU HIGH SCHOOL

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Philipovka (Philip's fast) and our time of preparation before celebrating the Nativity begins soon. Once again, we will have a pageant involving our ECF children and choir.

The younger children will dress up as the various characters from Bethlehem and depict a crèche scene at the front of the church as the congregation is invited to participate in a sing-along of just a few Christmas Kolady (carols). The best part is, there will be no spoken lines for the children to learn, just our traditional Christmas carols. It is a wonderful opportunity for our children to work together as witnesses to the gift of our faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior of the World. This was a moving and beautiful presentation in recent years, so we shall continue with this inspiring tradition, which was definitely missed last year!

This year will be a little different from the past. After some feedback and personal experience, we will be having the Pageant Wednesday, December 22, in conjunction with the final Emmanuel Moleben, beginning at 6 PM and lasting until around 7 PM. It is difficult for many families to celebrate Holy Supper and attend a pageant in conjunction with both Compline and Divine Liturgy on Christmas Eve.

Having the Pageant on Wednesday following our final congregational singing of “Emmanuel, God with us, have mercy on us” and “Come Lord Jesus,” thus moving us into the celebration of the Nativity through their meditation on the Nativity, seems fitting.

Rehearsals:

Participants should be able to attend both rehearsals. This is not a drop-off activity; at least one parent should plan to help children with their costumes and supervision.

- **Wednesday, December 8th at 5:10 PM** ahead of our Patronal Liturgy for St. Ann at 6 PM. This rehearsal will include costume fittings and a run-through.
- **Saturday, December 11 at 10 AM** on the morning of the nut roll sale, after daily liturgy. This rehearsal will be a complete run-through.

Pageant:

- **Wednesday December 23rd arrival by 5:30 PM** for a quick run-through of the pageant. We will begin at 6 PM with the Emmanuel Moleben, father will have an opportunity for a short homily while the children assemble in the vestibule, then we will continue with Living Nativity Icon Pageant, concluding around 7 PM. The children may wear their costumes during the Moleben.

Participation and Preparation:

- **Sign up in the ECF hallway by December 1.** Feel free to contact Angela by phone or text (717) 490-1284 or at UniVitaeHealth@gmail.com or Evangel DiMarco by phone at (717) 829-1212 or at evangelrd@gmail.com should you have any questions.
- **Pray with these songs-** As your family journeys in prayer during this period of preparation, please also consider adding a few of our Ruthenian carols to your routine, particularly those used in the pageant, included with this letter. The choir will practice a few times with the ECF children, but it would be a much richer experience for all of us on Christmas Eve if we are prepared to join in song and worship together.

Thank you so very much for your support and participation. May you and yours be blessed in abundance this holiday season!

Sincerely,

Angela L Sedun & Evangel DiMarco