

# SS. PETER AND PAUL

Lorain, OH | [www.OrthodoxLorain.org](http://www.OrthodoxLorain.org) | (440) 277-6266

Rev. Joseph McCartney, Rector

Cell Phone: (440) 668 - 2209 ~ Email: [frjosephmccartney@gmail.com](mailto:frjosephmccartney@gmail.com) ~ Home Phone: (440) 654-2831

**Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 1:1-25**  
**Epistle Reading ~ Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40**  
***Eve of the Nativity of Christ***

*This Week at a Glance*

## **Mon, Dec. 25th**

9:00 am - The Hours  
 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy for  
 the Feast of the Nativity

## **Sat, Dec. 30th**

6:00 pm - Vespers

## **Sun, Dec. 31st**

9:00 am - The Hours  
 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

## **Christmas Eve Service**

Based on majority consensus, we will have the Christmas Eve Service immediately after coffee hour. This is due to Christmas Eve being a Sunday and knowing many would not come back later in the day. This allows us to honor the Holy day and have time to prepare our Christmas Eve Holy Suppers.

## **Gospel Meditation**

Every year before Christmas we read the genealogy of Christ from St. Matthew's Gospels, and for years I asked myself, why? Why have we got to read all these names that mean so little to us, if anything at all? And then I became more perceptive of what they convey to us.

For one thing, they are the people to whose family the Lord Jesus Christ belongs through His humanity. They all are relatives of His, and this should be enough for us to find their names deeply moving: Christ is of their blood, Christ is of their family. Each of them, thinking of the Mother of God can say, 'She is a child of our family', and of Christ, 'He also is a child of our family, although He is our God, our Saviour, the very Divine Presence in our midst'. Furthermore, some names stand out: names of Saints, heroes of the spirit, and names of sinners.

So let us reflect on this genealogy, let us next time we come to hear it receive it with a spark in our eyes, with a warm feeling in our hearts; but this will be possible only to the extent to which Christ becomes more and more real to us and when it is in Him, through Him that we discover them all - real, living, our own and God's own. Amen.

*- Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh*

To our parishioners,

We are so thankful for another amazing year at Sts Peter and Paul .  
 We are truly blessed to be here with all of you and we can't thank you enough for all of the hard work and dedication you show each year.

Wishing you all a blessed Nativity and New year!

With love in Christ,  
 Fr Joseph & Matushka Maura

