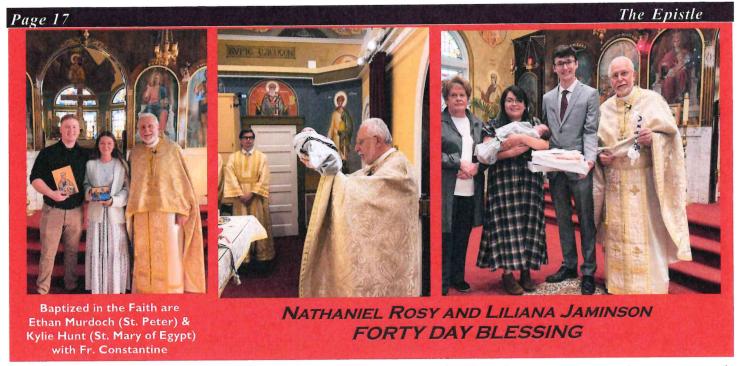
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THE BAPTISM OF MARK SCHOENROCK NOVEMBER 1, 2025, GODFATHER EVAN MYERS, WITH PARENTS IAN & CHAYLA SCHOENROCK AND DAUGHTERS OLIVIA & PHOEBE





On the fortieth day, the mother and baby come to the church. The priest meets them at the entrance and prays special prayers of thanksgiving for the safe delivery of the child and for the spiritual and physical health of both mother and infant.

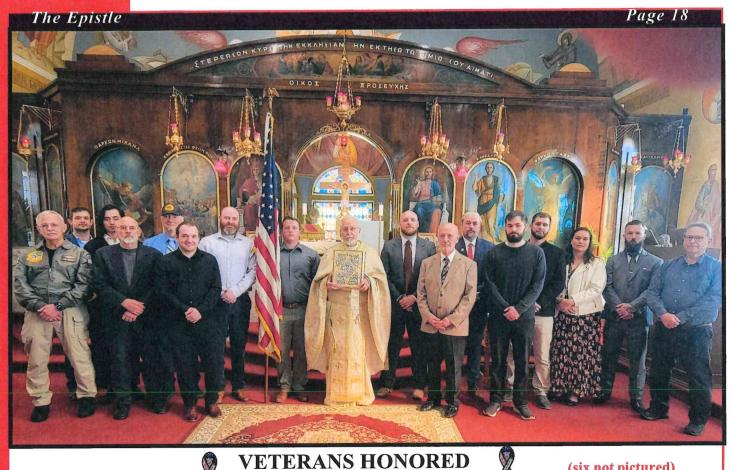
The 40-day blessing reminds us that all life is a gift from God and that from the very beginning, a child is brought into the life and love of the Church. It is also a time for the family and parish community to give thanks for the new life and to ask God's continued protection and grace upon the child and parents.



Through Chrismation, the newly baptized person receives "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 8:14–17), just as the Apostles received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

The priest anoints the Catechumen with Holy Chrism—a sacred oil consecrated by the bishop—on the forehead, eyes, nostrils, lips, ears, chest, and hands.. As he anoints, he says each time: "The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen." This anointing is the <u>visible sign that the Holy Spirit</u> now dwells in the believer, giving strength to live as a member of Christ's Body, the Church.

Through Chrismation, the person becomes a full member of the Orthodox Church, able to participate in the Eucharist and all the sacraments. It is through the grace of the Holy Spirit that we grow in faith, bear spiritual fruit, and live as witnesses to Christ in the world.



Brian Carroll, U.S. Navy, GSCS, Senior Chief Ailaine Carroll, U.S. Navy, GSEC, Chief

Clarence Close, U.S. Army, Specialist 5th Class

Ben Danielson, U.S. Marine Corps, Lance Corporal

David Harmer, U.S. Navy, Enlisted 5

Dean Harris, U.S. Army, Infantry, Captain

Tom Hugie, U.S. Army, Enlisted 6

Derek Hyde, U.S. Army, Specialist

Sean Koehler, U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant

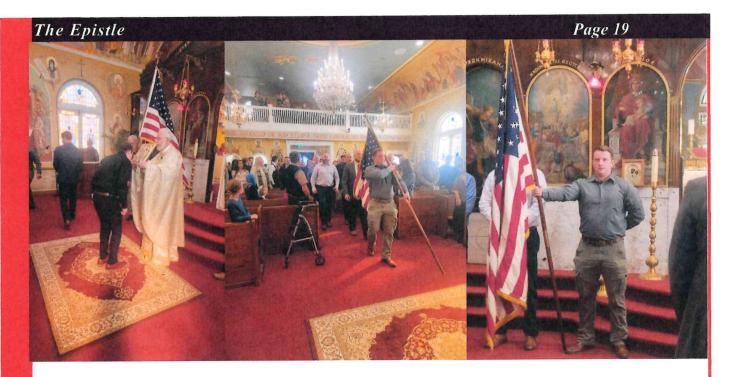
Randall Lillie, U.S. Army, NCO Sergeant

Tyler Laudenklos, U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant

(six not pictured)

Cyrus N. Morales, U. S. Navy, Interior Communication Electrician, E4 Evan Myers, U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant Jake Nyenhuis, U.S. Marine Corps, Corporal Sam Paloukos, U.S. Air Force, Sergeant Gabriel Paull, U.S. Army, Infantry, Sergeant Tyler Sands, U.S. Army, Enlisted 5, Sergeant Karl Schulze, U.S. Army, Specialist George Papadopoulos, U.S. Air Force John Speck, U.S. Navy, Commander Ryan Smith, U.S. Air Force, Enlisted 5, **Staff Sergeant**

Nikko Yanase, U.S. Marine Corps, Infantry, Corporal



GYRO AND PASTRY FALL FEST "HUGE"SUCCESS!

The Ladies Philoptochos Ministry sponsored a Fall Fest Fundraiser

Days ahead of the event the ladies were busy preparing the pastries of Baklava, Kourabiethes and Koulourakia. then packaging them in assorted trays for sale. The onions and tomatoes were also cut, getting ready for the gyros. They prepared more then last year and they still sold out everything. We also thank members of the parish who came buy to support their fundraiser. Much of the funds will go toward assisting local non for profit organizations.

The following volunteers helped make this fundraiser the most successful ever:

Goldie Homan, Tressa Rockwood, Sophie McCurry, Betty Katsilometes, Hala & Gassan Dib,
Jacob Denton, Kim Sims, Ashley Tarasau, Yolanda Riech, Svitlana Hoskin, Ron Sims,
Vicky Fullmer, Angela Fullmer, Lisa Gentry, Anne Marie Schultz, Benjamine Barnhart,
Scott Rockwood, and Philip Homan.



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PREPARING FOR THE NATIVITY

The preparation for the Nativity is a beautiful and spiritually rich time. Here are the key ways to prepare during this holy season:

+The Nativity Fast (Advent)

We're currently in the 40-day fast that began November 15th and continues until December 25th. This involves abstaining from meat, dairy, eggs, and often wine and oil (though fish is typically allowed on certain days). The fast isn't merely dietary—it's

meant to help us focus spiritually and create space for prayer and repentance.

+Increased Prayer Life

This is a time to deepen your prayer rule. Many Orthodox Christians add special Advent prayers, read the Gospel accounts of Christ's birth more meditatively. The beautiful hymns of this season, especially those anticipating the Incarnation, can nourish your soul.

+Regular Church Attendance

The Church's liturgical life during Advent prepares us corporately for the feast. Many Orthodox Christians make confession during Advent to spiritually cleanse themselves before the great feast.

+Almsgiving and Acts of Mercy

Following the spirit of the Incarnation—God's ultimate act of love—increase your charitable giving and acts of kindness. Visit the sick, help those in need, and show Christ's love practically, also offer something from the <u>Parish Giving Tree</u>.

+Spiritual Reading and Reflection

Read the prophetic passages foretelling the Messiah, the Church Fathers' writings on the Incarnation, and meditate on the profound mystery that God became man for our salvation.

Read prophecies of Christ's birth (Isaiah, Micah, etc.) and Gospel accounts of the Nativity (Matthew 1–2, Luke 1–2). Also spiritual books or writings of the Church Fathers (e.g. St. Ephrem's hymns on the Nativity or St. John Chrysostom's homilies) are also helpful.

