

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS



Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast



Українська Греко-Католицька Церква Парафія Святих Йоакима та Анни
SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Mission Parish of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. All are welcome!

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PARISH CLERGY: Fr Robert Hitchens, Administrator & Fr Andrii Chomopyskyi, Parochial Vicar

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ! СЛАВА НАВІКИ!

Sunday Divine Liturgy in English: 10:30am

Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession): 9:45am

Consult bulletin and social media for weekday and festal Divine Liturgies and services.

The church is open for prayer M-F, 9-5, unless otherwise announced.

**DECEMBER 17, 2023 – SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS (TONE 4);
THE HOLY PROPHET DANIEL, AND THE THREE HOLY YOUTHS
ANANIAS, AZARIAS, AND MISAEL (6TH C. BC)**

GIVING REPORT – Thank you for supporting your parish community! The in-pew collection for Friday, December 8 was \$1,323.01, and Sunday, December 10 was \$353.02. Electronic giving through tithe.ly for the month of November was \$2,399.80.

THANK YOU! Thanks to all who helped make our St Nicholas Potluck a wonderful success! A special thanks to St Nicholas for visiting us! Thank you to SCYTHIAN for sponsoring the day!

NATIVITY (PHILIP'S) FAST (Nov 15-Dec 24) – In the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, this is a voluntary fasting period. Please contribute to our Philip's Fast Project to benefit the Thermal Shelter of Front Royal. Donations are being collected in the parish hall.

FINAL EMBROIDERY EVENING - Tues, Dec 19, 7:00-8:00pm. See bulletin board for info.

WEEKDAY DIVINE LITURGY & CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS – The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Wed, December 20, 6:00pm. *Dec 20. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Priest-Martyr Ignatius the Godbearer.* Fr Robert will be available for Confessions on Dec 20, 4:00-6:00pm and after the Divine Liturgy until 7:15pm.

The Great Feast

This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God-man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the

feast of the birth of our Incarnate Savior Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the great love and care of God for us that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate and enter the world as a child. We have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to leave our own life and receive instead the Life of Christ. We have been invited, chosen by God – will we then accept the invitation and choose Him?

MUSIC PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY – Following the Divine Liturgy on Wed, Dec 20, we'll rehearse some of the special music for the Christmas Vespéral Divine Liturgy and some of the unique Christmas music.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Nancy & Jon Anderson, Julie, Andy Basalla, Yevhenia Borys, Michele Burns, Robert Matthew, Carrie Chuff, Elizabeth Deegan, Clara Anne Duda, Lindsey Fedyk, Katie Flynn, Patricia Fogarty, Lilian Garland, Jerry Gawron, Samuel Gaush, Josie Hacker, Michael Joseph Little, Sarah Kelt, Laura McMahon, Destiny Makins, Vince McLaughlin, Fr Roman Mirchuk, Thomas Pavick, Irene Petrie, Robert & Mary Alice Rice, Betsy Sayre, Truman L Sayre, Jr, CJ & Theresa Sidrow, Amy Smith, Kitty Smith, and Karena Tapsak. *Email prayer requests:* teresafed@hotmail.com.

*We wish all of you a Joyous and Blessed Christmas!
Our prayer for all of us is that the Christ Child, born for the salvation
of all, instill in our hearts the spirit of faith, hope, and love,
now and in the coming New Year of 2024!
Christ is born! Glorify Him!*

Fr. Robert and Fr. Andrii

CHRISTMAS & THEOPHANY SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec 24 – Sunday before Christmas – Sunday of the Holy Fathers, Divine Liturgy, **10:30am**

Sunday, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Vespéral Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great, **4:00pm**

Monday, Dec 25 – The Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, Divine Liturgy, **10:30am**

Tuesday, Dec 26 – Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God, Divine Liturgy, **6:00pm**

Sunday, Dec 31 – Sunday after Christmas, Divine Liturgy, **10:30am**

Monday, Jan 1 – Circumcision of Our Lord & St Basil the Great, Divine Liturgy **10:30am**

Friday, Jan 5 – Holy Theophany of Our Lord, Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Waters, **6:00pm**

Sunday, Jan 7 – Sunday after Theophany & Parish Family Brunch, **10:30am**

Parish Family Christmas Brunch RSVP: <http://tinyurl.com/36ndjdzj>

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers
Use the Typica Psalms and Beatitudes

Troparion, Tone 4: When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel* the glorious news of the resurrection* and cast off the ancestral condemnation,* they proudly told the apostles:* “Death has been plundered!* Christ our God is risen,* granting to the world great mercy.”

Troparion, Tone 2: By faith You justified Your ancestors* and through them in advance You betrothed the Church taken from the nations.* The saints exult in glory,* from their seed comes the blessed fruit, the one who bore You without seed.* By their prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 6: Armed by the Being that defies description,* you defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth.* In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God:* “In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,”* for You can do whatever You will.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4

Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

verse: For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us. (*Daniel 3:26,27*)

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Bothers and Sisters, when Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Alleluia, Tone 4

verse: Moses and Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name.

verse: They called on the Lord and He heard them. (*Psalms 98:6*)

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

The Lord spoke this parable: “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’”

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest (*Psalms 148:1*).* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia. (*Psalms 32:1*)