

Invited to the Banquet

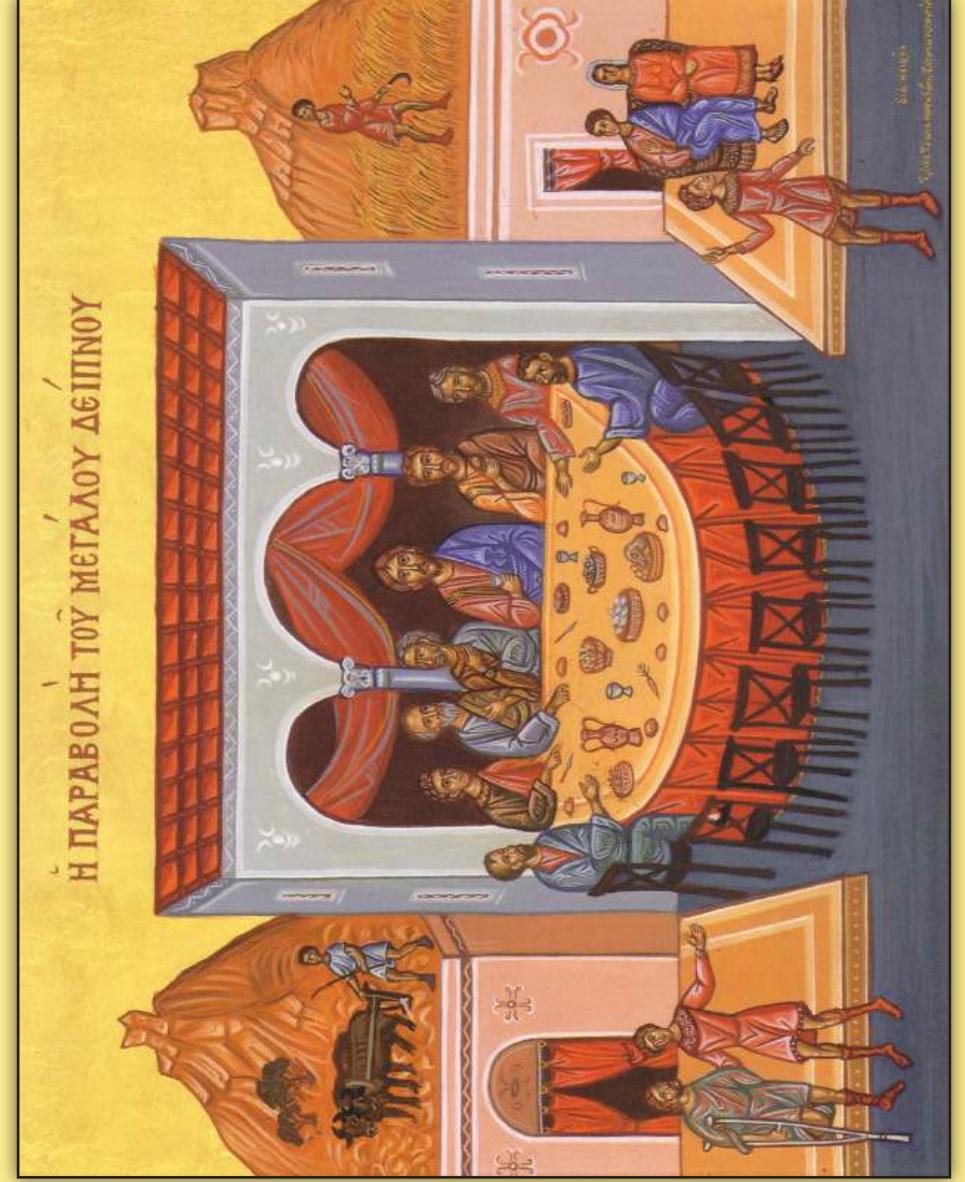
It is written in the Gospel: The Master sent out his servants to call them who wish to come, inviting them: “My banquet is ready.” But those who were called began to excuse themselves, one saying: “I bought some yoke of oxen.” Another: “I have married” (Luke 14:16ff). You see, he was ready who called, but the invited refused. They themselves were alone responsible in the way they answered.

Thus, so great is the dignity of Christians. Consider, the Lord has prepared for them the Kingdom and has called them to enter, but they have refused.

Concerning the gift that Christians will receive by way of their inheritance, one could rightly say that if anyone, from the time of Adam’s creation to the end of the world, should battle against Satan and put up with afflictions, it would be nothing in comparison to the glory which he is to obtain. For he will reign forever together with Christ. Glory to Him who so loved such a person that He gave himself and His grace and entrusted himself to Him. Glory to His greatness!

Pseudo-Macarius

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS



Icon of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:16-24)



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!
 1396 Linden Street, Front Royal, Virginia 22630 • www.ssjoachimandanna.org
 ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com • (540) 551-3591 • In case of emergency: (202) 262-5040
 Connect with us on Facebook and watch our live streams: fb.me/ssjoachimandanna

Fr Robert Hitchens, Administrator Fr Mykola Dziurakh, Parochial Vicar
 Subdeacon Kyle Hayes Subdeacon David Wallace

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever! Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава навіки!

Reader Great Vespers: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 5:00pm
Divine Liturgy in English, Sundays 10:30am
Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession): Sundays, 9:45am

**DECEMBER 14, 2025 – 27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (TONE 2);
 THE HOLY FOREFATHERS OF CHRIST; MARTYRS THYRSOS, LEUKIOS, KALLINIKOS,
 PHILEMON, APOLLONIOS, ARIAN, & THEOTYKHOS**

*The **Nativity Fast (Nov 15-Dec 24)** is a voluntary period of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia. All are encouraged to empty themselves and give to others during this 40-day period so that we might be filled with the joy of His Nativity.*

GIVING REPORT - The in-pew collection for Sunday, Dec 7 was \$2,278, and for Monday, Dec 8 was \$408. *We invite you to continue supporting the ministry of our parish as the baskets are passed on Sundays, or find us on tithe.ly, our e-giving platform. Thank you for your generosity, dedication, & support of our parish!*

2026 giving **envelopes** and liturgical **calendars** are now available in the narthex.

WEEKDAY DIVINE LITURGY - Join us on Wednesday, Dec 17, 6:00pm.

SAINT PHILIP'S FAST PARISH PROJECT - To benefit HARTS (Hope and Rest Temporary Shelter) of Front Royal. Donations collected until December 24: Paper towels,

toilet paper, spray disinfectant, Maxwell House coffee, powdered creamer, powdered iced tea and lemonade, fruit punch, canned soup, Chef Boyardee, canned meats, Cup of Noodles, Little Debbie snacks, cereal boxes/bags (individual not necessary), instant oatmeal packets. Donations can be left in basket in the church hall.

No Reader Great Vespers on Saturday, December 13. There will be Vespers on Saturday, December 27, 5:00pm.

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen 12:3 and 22:18).

**SAVE THE DATES:
 Christmas & Theophany Schedule 2025/2026**

- Wed, Dec 24** – *Eve of the Nativity*, Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St Basil, 4:30pm
- Thurs, Dec 25** – *Nativity of the Lord*, Divine Liturgy, 10:30am
- Fri, Dec 26** – *Post-Feast of the Nativity; Synaxis of the Mother of God*, Divine Liturgy, 6:00pm
- Sun, Dec 28** – *Sunday after the Nativity*, Divine Liturgy, 10:30am
- Wed, Dec 31** – *Circumcision of St Basil*, Divine Liturgy & New Year's Eve Potluck, 6:00pm
- Sun, Jan 4** – *Sunday before the Theophany*, 10:30am
- Tues, Jan 6** – *Theophany of the Lord*, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Waters, 6:00pm
- Sun, Jan 11** – *Sunday after the Theophany*, Divine Liturgy & Parish Christmas Dinner, 10:30am

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Nancy & Jon Anderson, Julie, Lisa Behnke, Alison Bernhoft, Yevhenia Borys, Robert Matthew, Carrie Chuff, Elizabeth Deegan, Clara Anne Duda, Fr Michael Duesterhaus, Robert Dulaine, Pat Fagan, Danylo (Neyko) Fedoryka, Emma Flournoy, Katie Flynn, Lilian Garland, Jerry Gawron, CR Gauth, Samuel Gauth, Josie Hacker, Brigid and Marlena Hess, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyj, Sarah Kelt, Dixie Lane, Catherine Luckey, Destiny Makins, Michael Marshner & Family, Bridget McDonald, Laura McMahan, Vince McLaughlin, Thomas Pavick, Phillip Rexrode, Robert Rice, Chris Saboe, Betsy Sayre, Truman L Sayre, Jr, CJ & Theresa Sidrow, Amy Smith, Karena Tapsak, and Fr George Worschak.
Teresa Fedoryka is our prayer coordinator; please email bulletin prayer requests to ssjoachimandannaucc@gmail.com.

27th Sunday after Pentecost (Tone 2);
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Troparion, Tone 2 (p. 333). When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,* You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.* When You raised the dead from the nether world,* all the powers of heaven cried out:* “O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You!”

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 (p. 352).

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 (p. 742). 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 (p. 344).

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