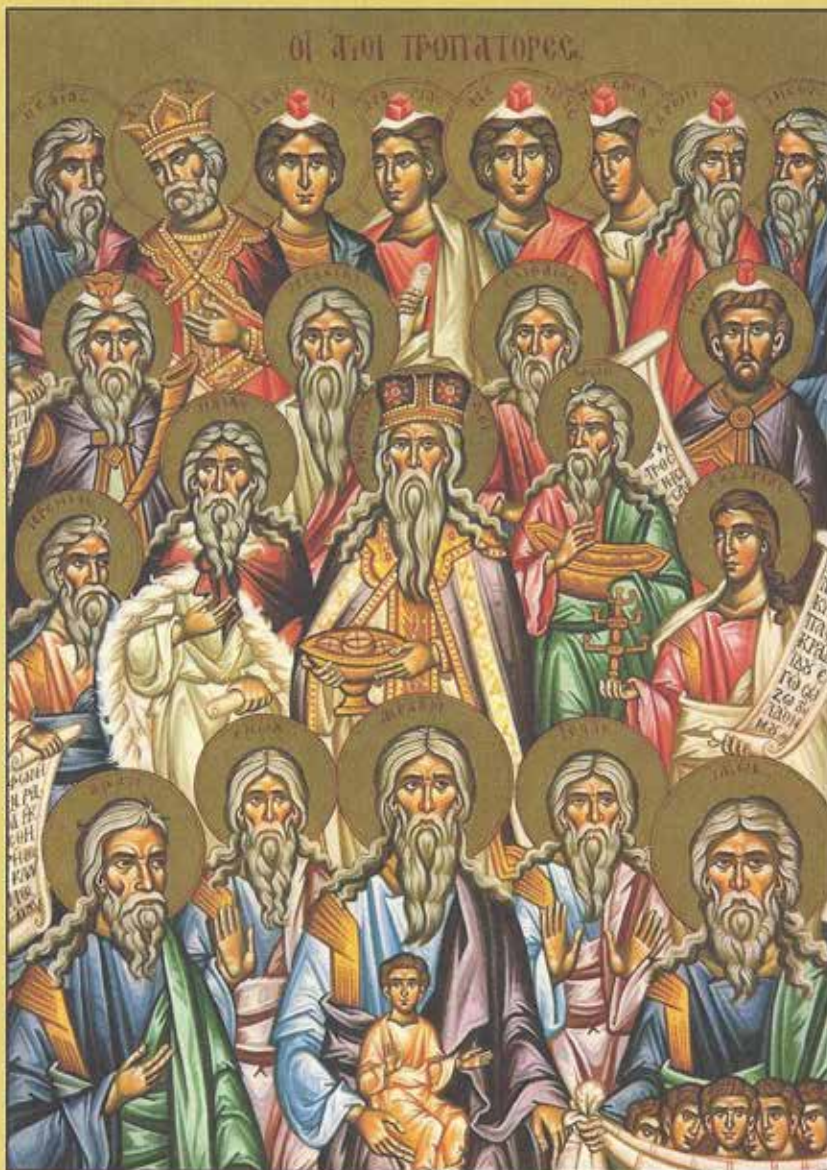


SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS



Icon of the Sunday of the Forefathers

Dec. 17, 2017: Sunday of the Forefathers	
Epistle: Col. 3: 4-11	Gospel: Lk. 14: 16-24
Mon., Dec. 18	8:00 + Ann Jablonski (Florence Jezuit)
Tues., Dec. 19	8:00 + Gene Turko Jr. (Parents & Siblings)
Wed., Dec. 20	8:00 + Debra Altier (Parents Fred & Shirley Jacobs)
Thurs., Dec. 21	8:00 + Mildred Gazella (Suvack Family)
Fri., Dec. 22	8:00 + Bill Davis (Michaelene Davis)
Sat., Dec. 23	9:00 Special Intention; Baptism of Bloom Baby 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Michael Clark (Sharon Sembrat)
Sun., Dec. 24	Christmas Eve 9:00 + Patrick & Mary Marcinko (Family) 11:30 + William Trently (Wife Evelyn) 10:00 pm Divine Liturgy for Christmas <i>N.B. Both the 9:00 am and the 11:30 am Divine Liturgies fulfill your Sunday Obligation. The 10:00 pm Divine Liturgy fulfills your Christmas Obligation.</i>
Mon., Dec. 25	Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day 9:00 Christmas Divine Liturgy: For Our Parishioners 11:30 Christmas Divine Liturgy: For Vocations

Q&A

QUESTION: *What is Incarnation, that word is often used in our church during Christmas season?*

ANSWER: INCARNATION refers to Jesus Christ coming “in

the flesh”. The eternal Son of God the Father assumed to Himself a complete human nature from the Virgin Mary. He was (and is) one divine Person, fully possessing from

God the Father the entirety of the divine nature, and in His coming in the flesh fully possessing a human nature from the Virgin Mary. By His Incarnation, the Son forever possesses two natures in His one Person. The Son of God, limitless in His divine nature, voluntarily and willingly accepted limitation in His humanity in which He experienced hunger, thirst, fatigue -- and ultimately, death.

The Incarnation is indispensable to Christianity – there is no Christianity without it. The Scriptures record, “... every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God” (I John 4:3). By His Incarnation, the Son of God redeemed human nature, a redemption made accessible to all who are joined to Him in His glorified humanity.

Something to Think About

The following was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS Sunday Morning Commentary. The article is quite long but certainly is worth reading.

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled tress, Christmas trees... I don't feel threatened... I don't feel discriminated against... That's what they are, Christmas trees.

It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, “Merry Christmas” to me. I don't think that they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year.

It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu... If people want a crèche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away. I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God as

we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her: "How could God let something like this happen?" (regarding Hurricane Katrina). Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said: "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

In light of recent events... terrorist attacks, school shootings, etc... I think that it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK.

Then some of you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem. (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves. Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW."

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Are you laughing yet? Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

But, if you discard this thought

process, don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is

in. My Best Regards, Honestly and respectfully.

The Legend of the Candy Cane

Every year as Christmas nears, candy canes show up in stores and millions are sold and eaten. While the striped candy is delicious, it is more than just a pretty, tasty treat to enjoy around Christmas. The Legend of the Candy Cane was designed to be a reminder of what Christmas is all about.

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would help us remember who Christmas is really about. So he made a Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth

and sinless nature of Jesus. Hard candy to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God. The candy maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus. It also represented the staff of the "good Shepherd". The candy maker then included red stripes. He used three small stripes and a large red stripe to represent the suffering Christ endured at the end of his life. The candy became known as a Candy Cane - a decoration seen at Christmas time. The meaning has faded, but still gives joy to children young and old, whom Jesus loves and treasures.

From the Chancery : Parish Christmas Schedules

For the convenience of all the faithful, the schedules of parish Christmas services in all the parishes and missions of the Philadelphia Archeparchy have

been posted at the following link: <https://ukrcap.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/2017christmasschedules.pdf>.

Christmas Confessions

Christmas Confessions will be held on Saturday, December 23, 2017. That is the last opportunity for Confessions before Christmas. There will be

several priests hearing Confessions on that Saturday both at 10:30 am and at 2:00 pm.

2017 Parish Dues

With the end of 2017 quickly approaching, we offer this gentle reminder to make sure that your 2017 Parish Dues are paid. Also, we remind

our Parish Family Members that as of January 1, 2011, Parish Dues are now \$25.00 per adult. There is no increased planned for 2018.

Christ Our Pascha

The New Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, *Christ Our Pascha*, is Now Available to Read Online. You can now access and read the online English language version of the Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Christ Our Pascha at: <http://catechism.royaldoors.net/>

catechism/

Every household should use this online text as a resource for family members to grow in knowledge and understanding of their faith and their church. Parents should especially use this text to share and teach the faith with their children.

2018 Church Calendars

The 2018 Church Calendars are available in the Vestibule of the

Church. The calendars are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

Andrew's Pence

The Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) has decided to hold a collection, called Andrew's Pence, to support faithful of UGCC abroad where there is no permanent ecclesiastical structure.

More than 100 years ago Ukrainians started to leave their native land in search of a better life, material welfare, and freedom. Many

settled on another continent, where church buildings of the UGCC are not everywhere, so that the faithful could not attend services in their native Church. Wishing to provide all faithful of the UGCC with spiritual care, the bishops call upon all to support the faithful of the UGCC abroad in prayer and financially, collecting the so-called Andrew's Pence.

According to the Protocol of the

Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, the “Andrew’s Pence” collection is to be taken in all parishes each year in the month of December.

Welcome St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas arrives today at approximately 1:00 pm. Please arrive no later than 12:45 pm to ensure a good seat! St. Nicholas will visit with each child, and there will be treats for children of all ages. Our Religious Education children will welcome St. Nicholas by singing, “O, KTO, KTO,” and, everyone can

sing along with other favorite carols. This is a private Parish event limited to members of the Parish and closest friends. REMINDER to all: There is to be no eating of candy or oranges inside the Church. Please be mindful and pick up any wrappers, etc., before leaving. Thank you. Looking forward to seeing you!

Annual Festival of Christmas Carols

The Annual Festival of Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 3 p.m. at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of

the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia. Choirs from different parishes will participate. Everyone is welcome.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of November 2017 is Team #4: Ed Stecco and Joe Smagula.

Sunday Collection for December 9 & 10, 2017:

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for December 23 & 24, 2017

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Brett Lowe -- Nicholas Borowski	John Sakson
9:00 am	Cole Marcinko -- John Nasevich	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Thomas Radle -- Samuel Sczesniak	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Come and Do Not Delay

Let no one delay in coming to the supper. Let us put aside all idle wicked excuses, and come to supper in which our souls are fed. Let no swelling of pride keep us back, or lift us above ourselves; and neither let unlawful superstition frighten us, or turn us away from God. Let not the delights of the senses keep us from the delights of the soul. Let us come, and let us be feasted. And who have come but the poor and the feeble and the lame and the blind? But the rich have not come there, nor the healthy, who as it were could walk well and see clearly, sure of themselves, and the more arrogant were they, the more endangered.

Let the poor come, for He who invites us, though rich, became poor for our sakes, that by His poverty we might be made rich.

Let the feeble come, for they who are in

health do not need the physician, but they that are ill. Let the lame come. Let the blind come.

Compel them to come in. I have prepared a great supper, a great house: I shall allow no place there to remain empty.

The Gentiles came from the streets and the lanes. Let the heretics come from the hedges; here they will find peace. For they who make hedges are seeking to bring about divisions. Let them be drawn from the hedges; let them be plucked free of the thorns. They refuse to be compelled, and they cling to their hedges. Let us, they say, come in of our will. But this is not what the Lord commanded. Compel them, He says, to come in.

St. Augustine of Hippo

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