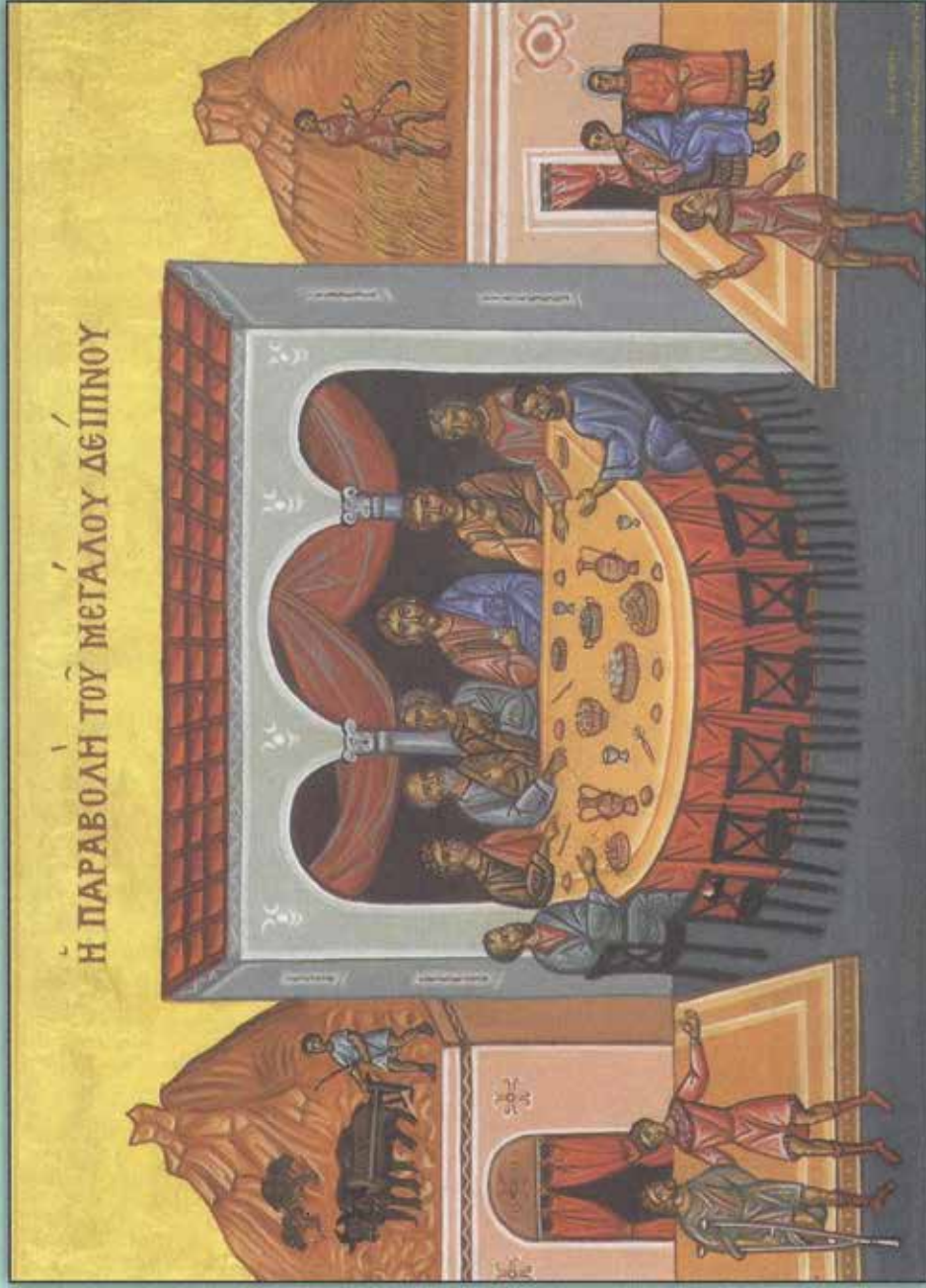


SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Ἡ ΠΑΡΑΒΟΛΗ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΔΕΙΠΝΟΥ



Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast

December 16, 2018:		Sunday of the Forefathers	
Epistle: Col. 3: 4-11		Gospel: Lk. 14: 16-24	
Mon., Dec. 17	8:00	+ Ann & Jacob Jablonski (Daughter Gloria)	
Tues., Dec. 18	10:00	Funeral: + Lubov Tinsley	
Wed., Dec. 19	8:00	+ John Krenitsky (Diane Krenitsky Szewczyk)	
Thurs., Dec. 20	8:00	+ Debra Altier (Parents)	
Fri., Dec. 21	8:00	+ Michael Russen (Jack & Joan Russen)	
Sat., Dec. 22	No Morning Divine Liturgy		
	10:30	Confessions	
	2:00	Confessions	
	4:00 pm	+ Gene & Joan Turko & Gene Jr. (Children)	
Sun., Dec. 23	9:00	+ Mary & Patrick Marcinko (Family)	
	11:30	For Our Parishioners	

Spirit of Christmas

It was the evening of December 24, 1944 -- and three American soldiers, one badly wounded, had become lost in a snow-covered Ardennes forest.

They had wandered for three days, unable to find their unit. If they didn't find shelter soon, the one injured soldier would surely die...

These three American soldiers eventually stumbled upon a small shack in the middle of the woods. They knocked on the door.

When Elisabeth Vincken and her

12-year-old son Fritz heard the knock on the door, they were struck with fear. Elisabeth cracked the door open, and was shocked to see three enemy soldiers on her doorstep.

But seeing the injured soldier, Frau Vincken had compassion on these three boys and welcomed them inside.

Frau Vincken didn't have much -- a single chicken was all the food she had left. But having compassion on the war weary soldiers she offered them all she had.

As the chicken was roasting in the oven, there was another unexpected knock on the door. Her son went to open the door, thinking there were more American soldiers who were lost.

But this time, the four soldiers standing outside the cottage were not American -- they were German!

The punishment for harboring enemy soldiers was death.

Elisabeth, fearing for her life, pushed past Fritz and stepped outside.

The four German soldiers explained that they were lost and hungry, and asked if they could spend Christmas Eve in her home.

Elisabeth told them they were welcome to share what little food she had, but warned that she had other "guests." The German soldiers sternly asked if they were Americans.

Frau Vincken nodded. "Es ist Heiligabend und hier wird nicht geschossen," she said. "It is the Holy Night and there will be no shooting here."

She told the German soldiers to leave their weapons outside and then invited them into the cabin. The tension in the air was thick as the German and American soldiers stared at each other.

But what happened next is truly a Christmas miracle.

One of the German soldiers, a former medical student, noticed the badly injured American soldier. The German had compassion on his enemy and offered to tend his wounds.

That simple act of kindness broke the tension. The American soldiers began to strike up a polite conversation using what little German they knew.

Frau Vincken finished preparing supper and motioned for everyone to sit around the table. As they said grace, the exhausted and forlorn soldiers forgot all about the war -- if only for a moment. Several of the soldiers -- both American and German -- had tears in their eyes as they ate their humble Christmas dinner.

That evening, these bitter enemies declared an informal truce as the spirit of Christmas filled Frau Vincken's tiny shack.

The next morning, the German soldiers provided directions to the American front lines -- and even gave the Americans a compass. They shook hands, thanked Frau Vincken for her hospitality, and went their separate ways.

With carnage all around them, the Spirit of Christmas proved to be a more powerful force than the hatred of war.

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.

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.

Thank You for St. Nicholas

Father Nestor and our Parish Family extend a heartfelt thank you to Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra for his recent visit. Members of this year's Heavenly Court included: Altar Boys ~ Brett Lowe, Brennin Marcinko, Patrick Marcinko, Tyler Muchinsky. Ukrainian Youth: Gabriella Dennis, Nathan Dennis, Olivia Musacchio. Angel of Ancestry~ Ann Victoria Nasevitch. Angel of Love, The Spirit

of Christmas ~ Lauren Lowe. A special thank you to all those who helped to prepare for this grand event: Fr. Nestor, Mr. Billy Krenitsky of QUINNS MARKET, Anne, Mr. Beckage, Mrs. Borowski, Cathy, Elisa, John, Mara, Narrator Joseph Nasevitch, Tammy, Pat and, our Photographer, Eugene Maslar, and everyone who has ever told the story of Saint Nicholas.

Tis the Season to say Thanks.

We wish to thank all the Parishioners who volunteered their time to decorate our Church for the Christmas Season. It was a task that took two days to complete, because we were short of volunteers on Sunday. The decorating of the 10 trees , the iconostas, vestibule, and windows was completed on Monday

Special thanks to Lauren Telep, Michaelene Davis, Michael Hermanovitch, Dorothy Zinsky, Marlene Zelno, Paul Mizerak, Frank Lesnefsky, Nick Chaykosky, Julie Harris, Jackie Hunt, Glenda Marcinko, John and Janet Melnick, and Jane and Molly Granza. Our Church looks beautiful for this Holy Season.

Update on the Rummage Sale, 2018-2019

We had a very successful Rummage Sale in 2018. After the Sale, merchandise was donated to various non-profit organizations and people in need. The School Gym still has items left and we are planning on having

a "Spring Clearance" Sale. The sale in March 2019 will feature ½ off on furniture and special pricing on the rest of the merchandise.

With the help of God and many volunteers, we have scheduled the 9th

Annual Fund raiser Rummage Sale for September 20, 21, 22, 2019. Mark your calendars

Christmas Confessions

Christmas Confessions will continue next Saturday, December 22nd. This will be the last opportunity for Confessions before Christmas. There will be two priests hearing Confessions both at 10:30 am and at 2:00 pm.

2018 Parish Dues

With the end of 2018 quickly approaching, we offer this gentle reminder to make sure that your 2018 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 per year. There is no increased planned for 2019.

2019 Church Calendars

The 2019 Church Calendars are available in the Vestibule of the Church. The calendars are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

Christmas Gift to Your Church

During these days of Philip's Fast (Advent), we travel with the Holy Family on their way to Bethlehem, where Mary will soon give birth to the greatest gift in the history of humanity -- the Gift of Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten Son of God. The Three Wise Men will bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Our Newborn Savior. What will be your special gift to Jesus on the occasion of his birth this Christmas? Will you more generously remember His Church -- Saints Cyril and Methodius, here on River St. in Olyphant?

As Jesus was born in poverty and was dependent on others for His needs, so too is your church dependent on you to help meet its many needs. It is only through your generous financial support that we are able to plan ministries and programs, and keep ahead with our bills, repairs, maintenance, and improvements to our buildings and property here at St. Cyril and Methodius Church. With

great sensitivity to how difficult the current economic circumstances have been for so many, we still hope and

pray that you will be able to find it in your heart to remember our Parish in your Christmas gift giving this year.

Festival of Christmas Carols

The annual festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 3:00 pm at our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in

Philadelphia. All are invited to attend this annual celebration to praise our new-born King and our Lord Jesus Christ at this Christmas time.

The Way

Did you know *The Way*, our archeparchial newspaper is available for FREE through the internet? Our newspaper is published twice a month in both an English language version and a Ukrainian language version. To receive this online newspaper, simply send your email address

to : ukrarcap.org. You may also share *The Way* with family and friends by sending their email addresses to: ukrarcap.org. All parishioners are encouraged to receive and read *The Way*, the Catholic newspaper of our Philadelphia Archeparchy.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of December 2018 is Team

#4: Ed Stecco, Joe Smagula and Ronald Barkofsky.

Sunday Collection for December 1 & 2, 2018: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for December 22 & 23, 2018

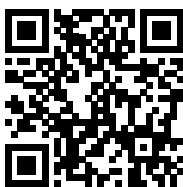
	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Samuel Sczesniak -- Brett Lowe	Bill Vervan
9:00 am	Patrick Marcinko -- Nicholas Chylak	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Thomas Radle -- Brian Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com



E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

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?