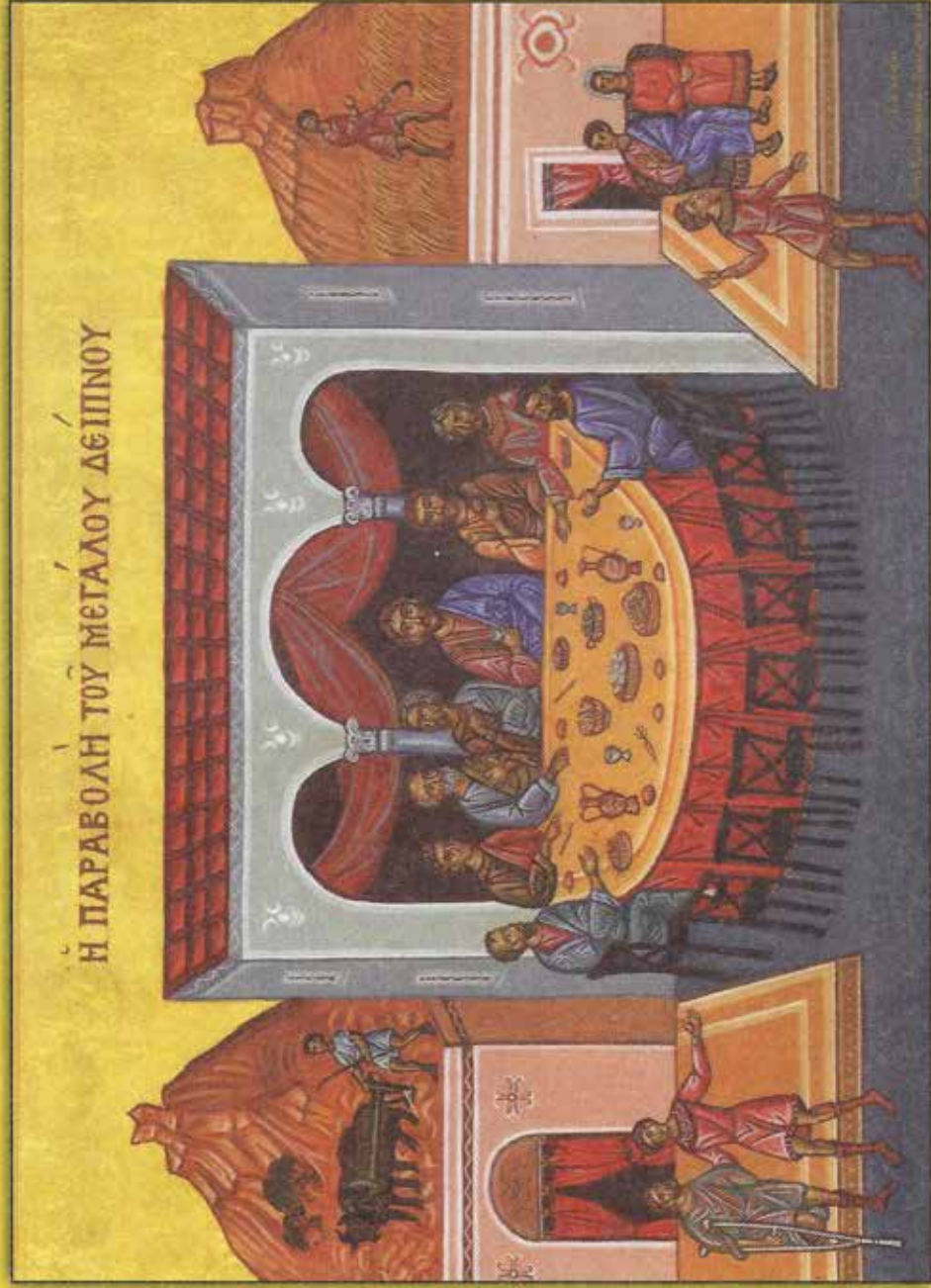


SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Ἡ ΠΑΡΑΒΟΛΗ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΔΕΙΠΝΟΥ



*Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast*

## **December 15, 2019: Sunday of the Forefathers**

Epistle: Col. 3: 4-11

Gospel: Lk. 14: 16-24

**Mon., Dec. 16** 8:00 + Evelyn Cheplick (Stephen Cheplick)

**Tues., Dec. 17** 8:00 + Patrick Marcinko, Jr. (Sue Mazzoni)

**Wed., Dec. 18** 8:00 + Mary Vladika (Marion Kanuik)

**Thurs., Dec. 19** 8:00 + Jeffrey Marcinko (Jerry & Penny Kowalski)

**Fri., Dec. 20** 8:00 + Deborah Altier (Family)

**Sat., Dec. 21** **No Morning Divine Liturgy**

10:30 Confessions

2:00 pm Confessions

4:00 pm + George Kohut (Family)

**Sun., Dec. 22** 9:00 + Mary & Patrick Marcinko (Children)

11:30 For Our Parishioners

## **Christmas Schedule**

### **Tues., December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)**

9:00 pm Compline

10:00 pm Divine Liturgy for Christmas

### **Wed., December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day)**

10:00 am Divine Liturgy for Christmas

*Sung by St. Cyril's Choir*

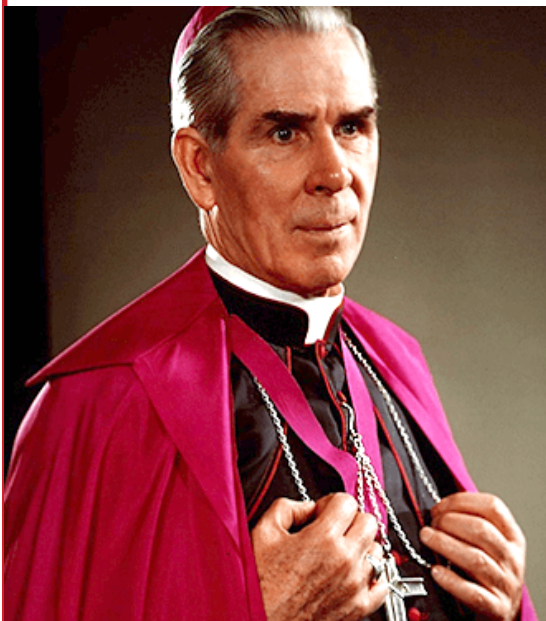
### **Thurs., December 26<sup>th</sup> (Synaxis of the Mother of God)**

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

### **Fri., December 27<sup>th</sup> (Feast of St. Stephen)**

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

## PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF THE VENERABLE ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN



**H**eavenly Father, source of all holiness, You raise up within the Church in every age men and women who serve with heroic love and dedication. You have blessed Your Church through the life and ministry of Your faithful servant, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. He has written and spoken well of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, and was a true instrument of the Holy Spirit in touching the hearts of countless people. If it be according to Your Will, for the honor and glory of the Most Holy Trinity and for the salvation of souls, we ask You to move the Church to proclaim him a saint. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### 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.

## WORDS OF WISDOM

God is a good worker, but he loves to be helped. *Basque proverb.*

Give me the courage not to give up what I think is right, even though I think it is hopeless. *Admiral Chester Nimitz*

You cannot always have happiness, but you can always give happiness. *Unknown*

The Lord's Prayer may be committed to memory quickly, but it is slowly learned by the heart. *F.D. Maurice*

The future starts today, not tomorrow. *St. John Paul the Great*

To change and to improve are two different things. *Raymond Carver, author*

Jesus came not to eradicate suffering, but to fill it with his presence. *Paul Claudel*

Experience is not what happens to you,

it is what you do with what happens to you. *Aldous Huxley, author*

Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, only with what you are expecting to give, which is everything. *Katherine Hepburn, actress*

Sorrow can take care of itself, but to get the true benefit of joy, one must share it. *Mark Twain, author*

Today is very fashionable to talk about the poor. Unfortunately, it is not fashionable to talk with them. *St. Teresa of Calcutta*

Sin is not hurtful because it is forbidden, but is forbidden because it is hurtful. *Benjamin Franklin*

## CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Christmas Confessions will be held again on Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be the last opportunity for Confessions before

Christmas. There will be two priests hearing Confessions at 10:30 am and at 2:00 pm.

## '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 which took two days to complete,

because we were short of volunteers on Sunday. Our Church looks beautiful for this Holy Season. Thank you to all of our "Angels."

## 2019 PARISH DUES

With the end of 2019 quickly approaching, we offer this gentle reminder to make sure

that your 2019 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 2020.

## **2020 CHURCH CALENDARS**

The 2020 Church Calendars are available in the back 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.

## **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 every-

where, 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.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG**

You are invited to join Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Parish for their 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Carol Sing Along in the church on North River St. in Wilkes-Barre, next Sunday, December 15, 2019 starting at 2 pm. Join in the singing of some very sacred, joyful and inspiring

Christmas Carols. Afterwards, please join us in the lower church hall for a Christmas Fellowship Social. Please bring a friend or family member, and share the joy of Christmas with them, as we all prepare to welcome the Newborn Son of God into our hearts and homes.

## **ARCHIEPARCHIAL RAFFLE DRAWING**

The Archbishop's Chancery informs us that the School Raffle Drawing will be held on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. For

those interested, it will be streamlined on FACEBOOK on the archieparchial page.

## **FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

The annual Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 3:00 pm at our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

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

## **COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM**

The Collection Processing Team for the month of December 2019 is Team #4:

Ron Barkofsky & Joe Smagula.

## **Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for December 21 & 22, 2019**

	<b>Altar Boys</b>	<b>Lectors</b>
4:00 pm	Nicholas Borowski -- Nathan Dennis	Michael Shumek
9:00 am	Patrick Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Jordan Radle -- Thomas Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

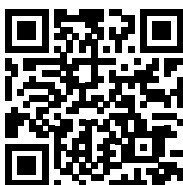
## Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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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?