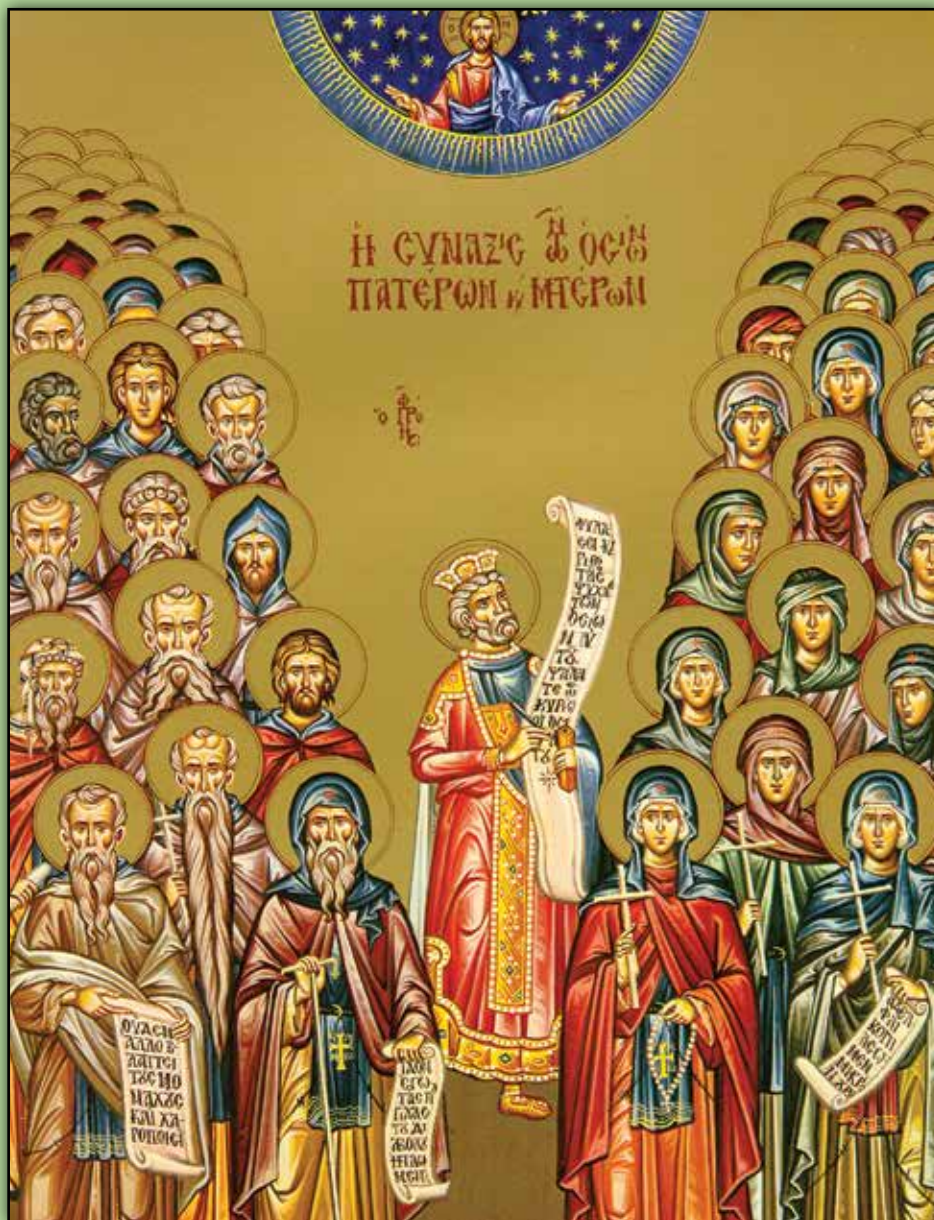


SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS



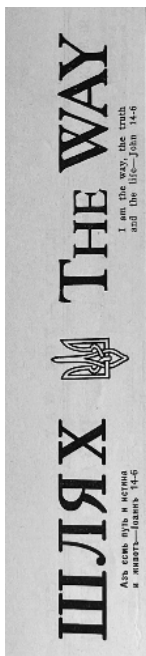
Icon of the Holy Ancestors

December 18, 2022: Sunday Before Christmas

Epistle: Heb. 11: 9-10 7 17-23 & 32-40

Gospel: Mt. 1: 1-25

Mon., Dec. 19	9:00	+ Christine Danylak (Leo Danylak)
Tues., Dec. 20	10:00	Funeral: + Mildred Klapatch
Wed., Dec. 21	9:00	Morris Kashuba (Perry Family)
Thurs., Dec. 22	9:00	+ Anna Mae Krisanda (Michaelene Davis)
Fri., Dec. 23	9:00	Special Intention
Sat., Dec. 24	Christmas Eve No Morning Divine Liturgy; No Confessions 10:00 pm Christmas Divine Liturgy For Vocations	
Sun., Dec. 25	Christmas Day 10:30 Christmas Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners	



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life in our Archeparchy!**

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COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!

We all know family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, or school friends, who are Catholic and no longer attend the Divine Liturgy. Christmas is a great time to invite them to come home to the Church. Think about it, pray about it, and invite someone to come to Church with you during the Christmas Season. There is always a chance that you will be rejected or your invitation will fall on deaf ears. Just re-

member that Jesus experienced the same kind of reception and He did not give up. So if your invitation receives no response or a negative one, just wait a few weeks and ask again. In the meantime, pray for that person, but don't give up on them no matter how long it takes. It is hard to persevere and it is hard to be rejected, but just be patient and kind and trust in the Lord.

CHRISTMAS STEWARDSHIP

During this Christmas season we think about giving and receiving gifts. But as Christians we are called to be stewards, and stewardship goes beyond just giving objects. It entails giving gifts of the heart, mind and soul, as well as our time, talent and treasure. This year let us help ourselves and our children and grandchildren to understand what it means to be wise stewards of Jesus and His Good News for the world. Google the word "Steward or stew-

ardship" and come to understand what the word "steward" really means. Many times we use words in conversation but not know what they really mean. Part of being faithful followers of Jesus means we continue to educate ourselves spiritually. In order to be good stewards, we must first have the message of hope and love and faith to give, we can't give what we don't have. May God made man inspire us to grow in knowledge and faith!

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.

TREES AND POINSETTIAS

The Christmas tree tradition was started in Germany in the late 1400s. At that time a popular theatrical performance, the Paradise Play, depicted the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise and was represented by a fir tree hung with apples. Soon the tree was placed in the homes of Christians, who interpreted it as a symbol of the coming Savior. The apples were replaced with small white wafers representing the Holy Eucharist or Communion. Later the wafers were

replaced by pieces of pastry cut into shapes of stars, angels, hearts, flowers and bells.

Pennsylvania Germans claim to have brought the Christmas tree custom to America. The first Christmas tree is recorded under the date December 20, 1821, in the diary of a Matthew Zahm of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The first known exhibition of a Christmas tree was held in York, Pennsylvania, in 1830. Early trees were decorated with fruits, nuts, popcorn, toys and

candles. Today more than 80 percent of American families buy and decorate a tree at Christmas.

The tradition of poinsettias in churches and homes at Christmas traces back to a village in Mexico. According to the legend, it was a custom for villagers to place gifts before the Nativity scene at the church on Christmas Eve. A small boy, too poor to give anything, knelt to pray in the snow outside. On the ground where he knelt, the legend says, a beautiful plant with scarlet leaves grew immediately.

The boy took it into the church and presented it as his gift to the Christ Child. Mexicans call the colorful plant Flor de la Noche Buena (Flower of the Holy Night), and it is thought to resemble the Star of Bethlehem. The poinsettia plant is named after Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States ambassador to Mexico and an accomplished amateur botanist. He discovered the beautiful plant there in 1828 and brought it to the United States, where it was named in his honor.

THE OTHER TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Prayer is not a “spare wheel” that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a “steering wheel” that directs the right path throughout.
2. A car’s WINDSHIELD is so large and the Rear View Mirror is so small! Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes a few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary.
5. If going well, enjoy it. They will not last forever. If they are going wrong, don’t worry, they can’t last long either.
5. Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are a Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don’t forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a base of God!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, “Relax, sweetheart, it’s just a bend, not the end!”

7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems, HE has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing your eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your soul!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them. When you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's peace.

PROPERLY RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

When approaching to receive Holy Communion, do not be afraid to approach the Priest. Father's arms are only so long and when you stand too far away, it is difficult to distribute Holy Communion.

We also remind everyone to tilt your head back and open your mouth WIDE. Please keep your tongue in your mouth. Please do not bite down on the communion spoon. There is no need to say anything since the priest says the prayer. There is no need to say AMEN as is done in the

Roman Catholic Church.

For those faithful who are a little unsteady on your feet, please feel free to use the first pew in front of the icon of the Mother of God. We don't want anybody to get hurt. Father will come up and give you Communion.

Now finally, a little about the red Communion Cloth. Simply lift it up to your chin. The purpose of the Communion Cloth is to help prevent accidents.

OUR CONDOLENCES

In your Christian Charity, please remember + **Micky Klapatch** who fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, December 14th. + Micky will

be buried from St. Cyril's on Tuesday, December 20th. May her memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

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.

2023 CHURCH CALENDARS

The 2023 Church Calendars are available in back of the Church.

The Calendars are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

2022 CHURCH DUES

With the end of 2022 quickly approaching, we offer this gentle reminder to make sure that your 2022 Parish Dues are paid. Also, we remind our Parish Family Members

that at a Parish Meeting in February 2020, it was decided that beginning 2021, Parish Dues would increase to \$50.00 per adult per year. This is less than \$1.00 per week.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of December 2022 is

Team #4: Ron Barkofsky, and Joe Smagula.

Sunday Collection for Dec. 10 & 11, 2022: \$

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us. Human being have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned – this God continues to work through the same melange. If it was a challenge to recognize in the last part of

Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

Father Raymond E. Brown, S.S.