

## HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz, M. Div.

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Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

**December 15, 2024**

**Sunday of Our Forefathers**

### Schedule of Divine Services

**Sunday, Dec. 15: Sunday of the Forefathers**

10:25am Rosary, 10:45am 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour, 11am Divine Liturgy

IMO Michael Dubnansky by his brother & sister Mark Dubnansky & Sandy Anderson

**Monday, Dec. 16: 7pm Readers Emmanuel Moleben**

**Saturday, Dec. 21: 5-5:45pm Confessions, 6pm Great Vespers**

**Sunday, Dec. 22: Sunday Before Christmas – Sunday of the Ancestors**

10:25am Rosary, 10:45am 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour, 11am Divine Liturgy

IMO Amalia Patnilak & William Carr 4th & 36th anniversary by niece & daughter-in-law Theresa Carr

All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out a request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael.

**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:** If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. Matins is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

**EMMANUEL MOLEBEN:** During the season of Philipovka, the Daily Vespers Service on Monday's will be replaced with this special prayer service to help us prepare for the upcoming feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. All our encouraged to participate.

**FR. MICHAEL AWAY DEC. 12-20:** visiting family for Christmas. Please pray for him & his family during their travels.

**HOLY MYSTERY OF PENANCE: CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS:** As we ready ourselves for the forthcoming Christmas holidays, let us now approach the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation and fulfill our solemn duty to make a complete and worthy confession. Then, with renewed faith and spiritual vitality, we will be able to receive with exhilarating anticipation the Infant Jesus of Bethlehem in the Divine Eucharist during this sacred nativity season.

**DECORATING OF CHURCH:** We are currently preparing the church for the festive Christmas season, and it is looking beautiful. Please see Cathy Warhola on how you can help with this project.

**COLLECTIONS FOR TERESA'S TABLE:** This year we are supporting Teresa's Table, a ministry that provides meals and soup for those in need. To make a donation, see Mary D.

**BYZANTINE ARCHEPARCHIAL CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** Next Sunday, Dec. 22 at 2pm at St Elias in Munhall. A cookie reception will follow the concert.

**ICONS AVAILABLE:** There are several blessed icons in the church hall, there is no charge to take these home, though a free will offering for the benefit of the parish is welcome.

**PARISH MEETING, SUNDAY, JAN 12 – SAVE THE DATE:** Please plan to attend this meeting, which will provide updates on the state of the parish, as well as discuss plans for the coming year.

**JUBILEE ITALY PILGRIMAGE 2025 w/ARCHBISHOP SKURLA:** An 11 day pilgrimage through Italy (May 5-15, 2025) is being planned through the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh. The cost is \$4,829 per person and reservations/payment are due by Dec. 26, 2024. For full details visit

<https://stmarybccnyc.org/files/brochure/italy-Jubilee-2025-Metropolitan-Church-of-Pittsburgh.pdf>

**ON-LINE GIVING IS HERE!** If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



**EPISTLE: Colossians 3: 4-11**

When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory. Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly, immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Because of these the wrath of God is coming [upon the disobedient]. By these you too once conducted yourselves, when you lived in that way. But now you must put them all away: anger, fury, malice, slander, and obscene language out of your mouths. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all.

**GOSPEL: Luke 14: 16-24**

He replied to him, “A man gave a great dinner to which he invited many. When the time for the dinner came, he dispatched his servant to say to those invited, ‘Come, everything is now ready.’ But one by one, they all began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, ‘I have purchased a field and must go to examine it; I ask you, consider me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have purchased five yoke of oxen and am on my way to evaluate them; I ask you, consider me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have just married a woman, and therefore I cannot come.’ The servant went and reported this to his master. Then the master of the house in a rage commanded his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in here the poor and the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ The servant reported, ‘Sir, your orders have been carried out and still there is room.’ The master then ordered the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedgerows and make people come in that my home may be filled. For, I tell you, none of those men who were invited will taste my dinner.’”

**THE HOLY FOREFATHERS ARE BEING COMMEMORATED TODAY**

The Byzantine Catholic Church sets aside two Sundays in special preparation for the Holy Nativity Feast. On this second Sunday before Christmas, which is called the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of the Old Testament, we remember all of the righteous people of the Old Covenant who were kinsmen of the promised Messiah from the nation of Israel and who waited with persevering hope for His eventual coming. The theme for this Sunday centers about the invitation that God extends to His "Chosen People" to participate in the Kingdom of His Son, the Messiah – Jesus Christ. We thus recall all of the Old Testament leaders of Israel who guided the Chosen People, preaching to them and foretelling the long-awaited Redeemer. These include all of the patriarchs, judges, and kings who served God faithfully by shepherding His people and all of the prophets, including the Holy Precursor John the Baptist, whose task was to usher in and identify God's promised Deliverer. Jesus did not come to destroy the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them by perfecting the work of all who had preceded Him and had announced His coming. All of these ancients continued to hope for that redemption which was pledged by God. This commemoration of them, therefore, should create in us a renewed expectation for the Messiah (Jesus) Who is about to be newly born for us again this year.

**PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS:** Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: **Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira**, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

**PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS:** **Saints Cyril and Methodius**, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen