

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Cantor: Julia Revilak and Family
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Emanuel Revilak

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, December 11: 10:20am Rosary, 10:45am Third Hour, 11am Divine Liturgy for the deceased George Bacasa by Gerald and Alexandria Bacasa
2pm Archeparchial Christmas Concert with refreshments and basket raffle to follow in the parish hall. Free admission.

Monday, December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas
11am Confession via Campus Ministry
4-4:45pm Confession, 5pm Great Vespers, 6pm Divine Liturgy for the deceased Andrew Dupnak by Mary Anne Meredith
There will be a noon Divine Liturgy today at St. Pius X in Carrick.

Please note: Father Michael will be visiting his family Dec.13-19.

Sunday, December 18: 10:20am Rosary, 10:45am Third Hour, 11am Divine Liturgy for the deceased Mykola and Maria Durkacz, by Gerald and Alexandria Bacasa

Confessions are available before Divine Liturgy. All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the request form in the back of church and leave it in the sacristy.

PLEASE NOTE: Evening College Ministry Divine Liturgies are on hiatus for the winter break. They will resume in January. All are welcome to attend any of the regularly scheduled Liturgies at local Byzantine churches.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The vigil Divine Liturgy will be at St. Pius X in Carrick 12/24 at 5:30pm with Confessions and carols prior.

December 25th ~ Christmas Day

8:30am ~ Matins and Procession with the Infant Christ to the Manger

10am ~ Festal Divine Liturgy

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY... The gospel's account of The Great Banquet presents the invitation whereby Jesus calls us to participate in the forthcoming event of His holy birth. Like the ancients remembered today, we also anticipate His coming anew. We must heed the advice given to the Colossians to put aside "old ways" in order to be part of the Messiah's new Kingdom.

Important note regarding Liturgy intentions: If you are requesting a Divine Liturgy for the deceased, please note if the date requested is the anniversary of their death. This will help schedule the Liturgy as accurately as possible, and will let Father know which setting to use. Thank you.

ARCHEPARCHIAL CHOIR CONCERT AND BASKET RAFFLE: The archeparchial choir will hold its annual Christmas concert at Holy Spirit **TODAY**, Sunday, December 11 at 2pm. We will also be hosting a basket raffle to benefit the parish, and there will be food and other items for sale as well. Thank you for your support!

EPISTLE: Colossians 3: 4-11

Brethren: When Christ our life appears, then you shall appear with him in glory. Put to death whatever in your nature is rooted in earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires, and that lust which is idolatry. These are the sins which provoke God's wrath. Your own conduct was once of this sort when these sins were your very life. You must put that aside now: all the anger and quick temper, the malice, the insults, the foul language. Stop lying to one another. What you have done is put aside your old self with its past deeds and put on a new man, one who grows in knowledge as he is formed anew in the image of his Creator. There is no Greek or Jew here circumcised or uncircumcised, foreigner, Scythian, slave, or freeman. Rather, Christ is everything in all of you.

~~~~~As we more proximately prepare ourselves for the observance of the Lord's holy nativity, the Church addresses us with this message from the Holy Apostle Paul's letter addressed to the Christians at Colossae. They are exhorted to live new spiritual lives by the power given to them by the risen Jesus, Who was born into this life on earth in order to achieve salvation for all mankind. Paul tells the Colossians to put aside the "old man" and everything represented by him, for they now have a different existence as a "new person," who is transformed through Jesus Christ. This same INVITATION to become "new men" is extended by the Lord to all peoples even to this day. Thus, there are no longer Jews or gentiles; foreigners or barbarians; blacks or whites; slaves or freemen. To the genuine Christian, Jesus is ALL that matters! We must accept God's invitation to become His "new people." Only then are we worthy to receive His Son Jesus, the Messiah, Who will be born anew to us in a few short days. What is our response to God's invitation?

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

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 Evangelist Luke's account of the Parable of the Great Banquet is presented to us today for our gospel meditation as we commemorate all of the patriarchs and holy people of the Old Testament who awaited the Messiah's coming with expectant hope. This "great banquet" represents the Kingdom of God to which the "Chosen People" had received an Invitation. In the parable, Jesus states that despite the fact that select individuals had been deemed worthy to attend, nonetheless all of these guests began to tender their regrets. Annoyed by such excuses, the master ordered his servants to go out and invite anyone whom they encountered. Since the original guests refused to come, new people would have the opportunity to participate in this magnificent repast. God has invited the entire human race to be a part of His Kingdom. However, not all people accept this invitation. We Christian people, the "Chosen People" of the New Testament, are invited to God's banquet. With the coming anew of His Son, the Messiah, in a few days, God once again extends His invitation to all of us to join with Jesus in establishing His Kingdom – the Church – here on earth. The great banquet hall is prepared for the festivities. What is our reply to God's most gracious invitation?

### **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.

## **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. Fr. Michael offers the Sacrament of Penance 1 hour before most services.

## **AROUND THE ARCHEPARCHY**

**Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery Schedules Philippian Fast Devotion** ~ As we prepare to enter the Philip's Fast-Advent Season, the Pittsburgh Protopresbytery invites the faithful for the celebration of the Emmanuel Moleben reflection, and fellowship as we prepare our hearts for the incarnation of the Lord.. The second celebration of the Emanuel Moleben will take place on Sunday, December 18th at 3:00 pm at St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 105 Kohler Ave. Lyndora, PA. At both celebrations a priest will be available for Holy Confession. After the Divine Service refreshments will be offered. We encourage the faithful to plan to attend these gatherings as we begin our journey toward Bethlehem.

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIES** ~ The BCW is looking for parishioners' favorite Christmas memories. If you have a favorite parish related Christmas memory that you would like shared with the BCW please talk to Father Michael.

**Please pray for the causes of our four Sainly 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 Ave., 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