Root of Jesse Icon - Christ's Family Tree

December 20, 2020

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS - OF THE ANCESTORS

Saints Cyril and Methodius
Byzantine Catholic Church

2510 Piney Plains Road
Cary, NC 27518-6870
919-239-4877

Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sokolovych
Parochial Administrator
908-404-0777

Sunday
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
(If unable to attend in person, our Divine Liturgy is streamed via our Facebook page.)

E-Mail: sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com
Web Site: sscyrilmethodius.org
**SUNDAY**  
**December 20**  
**Tone 4**  

| Sunday before Christmas of the Ancestors | 8:30 AM Confession  
| Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40  
| Mt 1:1-25 | 9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy (for the Intention of the Parishioners)  

**Monday**  
**December 21**  

| Juliana  
| Martyr  
| Heb 8:7-13  
| Mk 9:42-10:1 |  

**Tuesday**  
**December 22**  

| Anastasia - Great Martyr |  
| Heb 9:8-10 & 15-23  
| Mk 10:2-12 |

**Wednesday**  
**December 23**  

| Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete | 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM Confession  
| Heb 10:1-18  
| Mk 10:11-16 |

**Thursday**  
**December 24**  

| Vigil of Christmas Royal Hours | 11:00 AM St. Nicholas Mission Divine Liturgy  
| Heb1:1-12  
| Lk 2:1-20  
| 4:00 PM - Vesperal Divine Liturgy  
| 9:00 PM - Divine Liturgy |

**Friday**  
**December 25**  

| Christmas - Birth of Our Lord | OBLIGATION  
| Gal 4:4-7  
| Mt 2:1-12 | 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy |

**Saturday**  
**December 26**  

| Synaxis of the Theotokos | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM: Coptic Orthodox Divine Liturgy  
| Heb 2:11-18  
| Mt 2:13-23 | 4:00 PM: St. Nicholas Mission Divine Liturgy |

**SUNDAY**  
**December 27**  
**Tone 5**  

| Sunday after Christmas  
| Memory of David, Joseph & James Stephen - Protomartyr | 8:30 AM Confession  
| Gal 1:11-19; Mt 2:13-23 | 9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy (for the Intention of the Parishioners)  
| 11:00 AM: Divine Liturgy |

Call the parish office (919-239-4877) to make an appointment or to speak with Fr. Vasyl (908-404-0777).

**SSCM CHURCH/HALL SCHEDULE**

The St. Nicholas Mission celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church every Saturday at 4:00 PM.

The Eritrean Orthodox celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.

The Coptic Orthodox celebrate their Divine Liturgy in our church from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will be meeting the second Tuesday of every month. If you have any questions or concerns you would like addressed at the next meeting, please contact one of the members: Mike Carpenter, Marie Taylor, Paul Tooley, Lance Morgan, Dan Pope, Lou Gigliotti and Mike Sapsara.
If you are new to our area or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not a home for you, we warmly invite you to become part of our parish family.

If you wish to register with our parish, please email Michelle Rubush at sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com

The pandemic, the return be measured out to you.”

Please remember in your prayers:
David Hoover; Chris (Tsakanikas’ family member); Cameron Shuey; Dale Blair; Elizabeth Macario; Maradith Sapsara Robohn; Bernadette’s parents and aunts: Andrew, Etta, Martha and Yolonda; Jerry Kingery; Father Mark and family; Father Vasyl and family.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of our faithful departed:

In Blessed Repose, Grant O Lord, Eternal Rest to the Soul of Your Departed Servants and may their Memory be Eternal.

The annual St. Nicholas Tree is in the church hall. Continuing our well established tradition, this tree is set up during Philip’s Fast to collect money to benefit an orphanage in Ukraine and to provide a gift to the family of Father Iouri Koslovskii. You may remember that Father Iouri and his wife Oksana are long-time friends of our parish. They and their children are now serving at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, where difficult times have been made worse by the pandemic. The orphanage is St. Nicholas’s Village of Mercy, a remarkable organization where dedicated nuns provide a loving home to children whose parents are either deceased or otherwise unable to provide what they need. In years past, our parish donation was critical to them making ends meet during the winter months. If you wish to follow the orphanage on Facebook, you can search for: Містечко Милосердя Святого Миколая. You can visit this link: https://m.facebook.com/HogarctoSanNicolas/. The translation feature of Facebook is not great, but the smiles on the children will not require translation.

In our Byzantine Churches, we prepare for the Nativity of Jesus Christ with a fast period called Philip’s Fast beginning on November 15th through December 24th. This can be a challenging one because of the time of year. Our preparation includes not only fasting but also increased prayer and almsgiving. Please refer to our website, sscyrilmethodius.org, for a wealth of information and guidelines to help you navigate this time and prepare for the birth of Our Savior!

In spite of the pandemic, the maintenance of our church continues and bills still must be paid. Thanks to all who continue to serve our church with their time, talent, and treasure. May God bless you abundantly!

“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” (Luke 6:38)

DATE        OFFERTORY
December 13  $1,385.00

You honor God and our Church by continuing to tithe each week. A collection basket is under the Tetrapod for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation or donate online via Tithely or our website.

CHURCH CLEANING
O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides.” Psalm 26:8

If you would like to help, please contact Joe Deaton or Michelle Rubush. We need to have enough volunteers so no one is cleaning more than once every three months. Volunteers may do the cleaning anytime during the week when the church is not in use. Thank you to our current volunteers!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>A. Taylor</th>
<th>Jan 3-8</th>
<th>Jan 10-15</th>
<th>Lorraine</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 20-23</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 27-Jan 1</td>
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If you are visiting the hall, please take an envelope from the collection basket. If you would prefer to use Tithely, be sure to make your additional donation clearly earmarked for “Ukraine” or “orphanage.” You may also give your contribution to Dan Pope, who is organizing the St. Nicholas Tree. Donations will be collected through the end of the year with the goal of sending our gift by the Julian Calendar Christmas which is January 7.

The calendar Christmas which is January 7. 2020. 2021. If you wish to register with our parish, please email Michelle Rubush at sscyrilmethodius@gmail.com

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THE NATIVITY FAST OR PHILIP’S FAST/PHILIPOVKA

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Dear Parishioners,

Christos Razdajetsja!

The year 2020 has been very different from all the years we have experienced. We have been tested but we will continue to meet the test. We need the Lord in each other now more than anytime I can remember in my lifetime. We want this Christmas to center on Christ and bring together our church family, though we are gathering differently now than ever before. I am grateful for those who continue their contributions to our church. I am most grateful for those who now come to the Divine Liturgy.

Jesus said, "I have come so that you may have life and have it more bountifully." Giving us life is the first purpose for which Jesus came into the world. The second purpose is that the life promised by Christ is a source of joy and hope. By His coming, the promise of our salvation has been achieved: "We have been delivered from the slavery of sin." We are now children of God, and we will then never wander in darkness, but always in the source of Light: Jesus Christ himself.

My dear brothers and sisters, let the joy of Christmas penetrate our hearts and souls so that we may change our lives to become peacemakers, love others as we love ourselves, and love God above all things.

May Our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families, and loved ones at this blessed time of hope and grace.

May Mary, the Mother of the Child Christ Jesus, and our Mother, watch over you and our beloved parish always.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Father Vasyl

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**A HOMILY FROM FATHER VASYL FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**

How well do you know your spiritual heritage? Genealogies are very important. They give us our roots and help us to understand our heritage. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus traces his lineage from Abraham, the father of God's chosen people, through the line of David, King of Israel. Jesus the Messiah is the direct descent of Abraham and David, and the rightful heir to David's throne. God in his mercy fulfilled his promises to Abraham and to David that he would send a Savior and a King to rule over the house of Israel and to deliver them from their enemies.

When Jacob blessed his sons he foretold that Judah would receive the promise of royalty which we see fulfilled in David (Gen. 49:10). We can also see in this blessing a foreshadowing of God's fulfillment in raising up his anointed King, Jesus the Messiah. Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He is the hope not only for the people of the Old Covenant but for all nations as well. He is the Savior of the world. In him we receive adoption into a royal priesthood and holy nation as sons and daughters of the living God (see 1 Peter 1:9).

Do you recognize your spiritual genealogy and do you accept God as your Father and Jesus as the sovereign King and Lord of your life? "Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Messiah and Savior of the world, the hope of Israel and the hope of the nations. Be the ruler of my heart and the king of my home. May there be nothing in my life that is not under your kingship."

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**A FACE MASK COVERING MOUTH AND NOSE MUST BE WORN DURING DIVINE LITURGY, WHICH SHOULD BE REMOVED BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION.**

Parishioners who are considered “high risk,” and more vulnerable to the virus should consider not attending Liturgy in the church and continue to participate via Facebook.

- Parishioners are dispensed from attending Divine Liturgy on Sunday and Holy Days.
- Please bring your own mask as the church has a limited number available.

- Social distancing (six feet) of people not living in the same household should be followed. A family living together can sit in the same area.
- Please refrain from physical contact.
- Please sanitize hands when entering and leaving church.
- There will be no Agape meal in the hall after Liturgy; please do not bring food.
- Please maintain social distancing after Liturgy.
- A collection basket is under the Tetrapod for your weekly donation. You may also mail in your donation or donate online via our website or Tithely.
- As you approach Fr. Vasyl for communion, please state your name.
GUIDELINES FOR THE HALL DURING LITURGY:

- Follow the same guidelines as if you were in Church. Please remember to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing.
- A caddy of hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies is on the metal countertop. Please sanitize hands when entering and leaving the hall.
- Please spray and wipe down all chairs and tables used during Liturgy.
- After cleaning and spraying chairs, please return them to the stacked positions.
- Please sweep floor if necessary.
- Heaters, lights and fans should be in the off position.
- Ensure door lock is engaged.

Christmas Word Search

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