Icon of the Holy Forefathers

December 13, 2020

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

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 13  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tone 3</th>
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| **Sunday of the Forefathers**  
Col 3:4-11  
Lk 14:16-24  |
| 8:30 AM Confession  
9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy  
(for the Intention of the Parishioners)  
11:00 AM: Divine Liturgy  
Philip's Fast/Philipkova through December 24th. |
| Monday  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 14</th>
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| Thyrsus and Others  
Martyrs  
Heb 3:5-11 & 17-19  
Mk 8:11-21 |
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<tbody>
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| Tuesday  
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<tr>
<th>December 15</th>
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| Eleutherius  
Bishop - Martyr  
Heb 4:1-13  
Mk 8:22-26 |
| Wednesday  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>December 16</th>
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| Haggai - Prophet  
Heb 5:11-6:8  
Mk 8:30-34 |
| 6:00 PM: Emmanuel Moleben |
| Thursday  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>December 17</th>
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| Daniel - Great Prophet  
Heb 7:1-6  
Mk 9:10-16 |
| Friday  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>December 18</th>
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</table>
| Sebastian and Others  
Martyrs  
Heb 7:18-25  
Mk 9:33-41 |
| Saturday  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>December 19</th>
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</table>
| **Saturday Before Christmas**  
Boniface - Martyr  
Gal 3:8-12  
Lk 13:18-29 |
| 8:00 AM-12:00 PM: Eritrean Orthodox Divine Liturgy  
4:00 PM: St. Nicholas Mission Divine Liturgy |
| SUNDAY  
| December 20  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tone 4</th>
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| **Sunday before Christmas of the Ancestors**  
Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40  
Mt 1:1-25 |
| 8:30 AM Confession  
9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy  
(for the Intention of the Parishioners) |

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.
SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS  
December 13, 2020

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

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!  
GLORY FOREVER!

SLAVONIC:  
SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU!  
SLAVA NA VIKI!

Please remember in your prayers:

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; Fr. Mark and family; Fr. Vasyl and family.

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

+Luke Morgan, +Natalie and John Morgan,  
+Rev. Fr. Richard Rohrer, +Gloria Shuey

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

THE NATIVITY FAST OR PHILIP'S FAST/PHILIPKOVA

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 helped with the new driveway and lighting. 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)

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>OFFERTORY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>$1,928.84</td>
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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>Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 6-11</td>
<td>G. Tsakanikas</td>
<td>Dec 27-Jan 1</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 13-18</td>
<td>Kingery</td>
<td>Jan 3-8</td>
<td>Lorraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 20-23</td>
<td>A. Taylor</td>
<td>Jan 10-15</td>
<td>Rose</td>
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ST. NICHOLAS MARKET

Our grounds look so nice thanks to many hands working to spread mulch, blow away leaves, and festively decorate. Our thanks to the landscape contractor who made the new driveway and to all who helped make it happen by removing shrubs, plants and other objects in the way. So many participated in making this virtual market a reality from the website builders, all who monitored orders, retail fulfillment, Baba's Kitchen cooks and bakers, cookie bakers at home, decorators and everyone who helped to make this new venture a success. Your participation and support are appreciated beyond measure. The Market committee will share information soon regarding the outcome of this endeavor.
A MESSAGE FROM FATHER VASYL FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

What can a state dinner or royal banquet tell us about God's kingdom? One of the most beautiful images of heaven in the scriptures is the royal banquet and wedding celebration given by the King. We, in fact, have been invited to the most important banquet of all! The last book in the bible ends with an invitation to the wedding feast of the Lamb and his Bride, the church: The Spirit and the Bride say, Come! Jesus' parable takes an unexpected twist when the invited guests make excuses. Why is this the case? A king or great lord normally sent out invitations well in advance to his subjects, so they would have plenty of time to prepare for coming to the banquet. How insulting for the invited guests to then refuse when the time for celebrating came! They made light of the King's request because they put their own interests above his.

Jesus probes the reasons why people make excuses to God's great invitation. The first excuse allows the claims of one's business to take precedence over God's claim. Do you allow your work to totally absorb you and to keep you from the thought of God? The second excuse allows other goods or possessions to come before God. Does television or other diversions crowd out time for God in prayer and worship? The third excuse puts home and family ahead of God. God never meant for our home and relationships to be used selfishly. We serve God best when we invite him into our work and homes and when we share our possessions with others. The second part of the story focuses on those who had no claim on the king and who would never have considered getting such an invitation. The poor, maimed, blind, and lame represent the outcasts of society -- those who can make no claim on the King. There is even ample room at the feast of God for outsiders from the highways and hedges -- the gentiles. This is certainly an invitation of grace -- undeserved, unmerited favor and kindness! But this invitation also contains a warning for those who refuse it or who approach the wedding feast unworthily.

Grace is a free gift, but it is also an awesome responsibility. Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life.

God invites each of us to his banquet that we may share in his joy. Are you ready to feast at the Lord's banquet table? Lord, you withhold no good thing from us and you lavish us with the treasures of heaven. Help me to seek your kingdom first and to lay aside anything that might hinder me from doing your will.

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 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.
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 миrollя. You can visit this link: https://m.facebook.com/HogarritoSanNicolas/. The translation feature of Facebook is not great, but the smiles on the children will not require translation.

If you are visiting the hall, please take an envelope from the tree and return it with your gift to 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.