

Confessions:

Fr. Stephen is available for confessions on Saturday evenings after Vespers or by appointment. Please make an effort to go at least once every 3-6 months. The Nativity Fast is a great time to go in preparation of our Lord's Birth.

Upcoming Events:

Annual Parish Meeting: TBA in January

Nativity Play: On December 23rd after Liturgy, our youth will be performing a play based on the Nativity story. Also, on the day of the play, we will be having a little refreshment afterwards and are looking for volunteers to bring snacks and drinks for the amazing actors and actresses we have. If you can help with this, it is much appreciated. Also we encourage everyone to invite their friends and family to join us for both Liturgy and the Play!

Sunday Choir Rehearsals: The choir will be having a rehearsal every Sunday after Liturgy until Theophany to prepare for both the Nativity and Theophany Feast Days and the songs for the play. Please make every effort to stay after coffee hour for a little while to lend your wonderful singing talents. Thanks!

Special Annoucement:

Special Collection for Fr. Kyle and Family: Thank you to everyone who donated this special cause. It will be a wonderful Christmas for them that they would not have otherwise because of our generous donations. May God Grant Everyone Many Years!

Parish Council Meeting: Our last week's meeting was postponed to today.

Quotes from the Fathers

“Let us glorify God! With the coming of the Son of God in the flesh upon the earth, with His offering Himself up as a sacrifice for the sinful human race, there is given to those who believe the blessing of the Heavenly Father, replacing that curse which had been uttered by God in the beginning; they are adopted and receive the promise of an eternal inheritance of life. To a humanity orphaned by reason of sin, the Heavenly Father returns anew through the mystery of re-birth, that is, through baptism and repentance. People are freed of the tormenting, death-bearing authority of the devil, of the afflictions of sin and of various passions.”

— St. John of Kronstadt, Sermon on Nativity

SUNDAY BULLETIN

16 December 2018

29th Sunday after Pentecost



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Scripture Readings:

Colossians 3:4-11 (Epistle)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Luke 14:16-24 (Gospel)

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.' 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'

Birthdays/Anniversaries - December

Dec 1 - Robert Boyd

Dec 2 - Pete Pyatt

Dec 2 - Marah Robinson

Dec 6 - Jeanie Mikita

Dec 11 - Anya (Boyd) Gazii

Dec 17 - Tetiana Boyd

Dec 20 - Lexi Ann Guy

Dec 27 - Larry Don and Lori Meier

Dec 31 - Natalie Hlatki

This Week at St. Mary's

Great Vespers (Saturday 5:30 PM December 22nd)

Divine Liturgy (Sunday 9:30 AM December 23rd)

Announcements:

Christmas (Nativity) Services

Christmas Vigil will be at 4:00 PM the 24th and Divine Liturgy will be at 9:00 AM Christmas morning.

Carolling

Today at 3:30 PM we will meet back up at the hall to caravan to some of our extended flock's homes and sing some Christmas music. Shiela has organized the route and if you have any questions, please see her. After carolling, we will return to the hall for soup and hot cocoa. Please join us and bring some holiday cheer to those around us.

Pledge Forms for 2019:

In the Narthax are new pledge forms for 2019. Please note that this years forms include some additional information to help every one of us in our commitment to the Church. Please *prayerfully* consider your pledge, then sign and return your form to Fr. Stephen or Lori by **January 6th, 2019**.

House Blessings:

House blessings will begin on January 7th. A sign up list is in the Narthex. If you would like Fr. Stephen to bless your home and/or farm, please sign up, indicating time of day that is normally best for you. If you have a special request, please note that and Father will contact you to arrange his visit.

Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal (December 22nd):

Don't forget that Dress Rehearsal for the Play will be at 3:30 PM before Vespers Next Saturday. Please make every effort to make sure your children are at the church. After rehearsal and right before Vespers, we will be feeding them grilled cheese and tomato soup for dinner. Please invite your friends and family to the play.