



# ST. MARY'S HOLY DORMITION

**December 3rd, 2023**  
**PROPHET**  
**ZEPHANIAH**

## Scripture Readings

### Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19

Brethren, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

### Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

At that time, a certain ruler asked Jesus, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

## DEC Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1st - Robert Boyd
- 2nd - Pete Pyatt
- 2nd - Marah Robinson
- 2nd - Meagan Gardner
- 6th - Jeanie Mikita
- 11th - Anya (Boyd) Gazii
- 12th - Mayzie Ann Jackson
- 17th - Tatiana Boyd
- 20th - Lexi Ann Guy
- 27th - Larry Don & Lori Meier
- 29th - Sabrina Lee
- 31st - Natalie Hlatki

## SCHEDULE

Dec 9th - No Vespers - Go to the Parade  
Dec 10th - Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

## WISDOM

If our churches had members with this kind of faithfulness and passion, we would change this world in no time.



## WEEKLY JOKES

*I took a job as the head of Old McDonald's farm. I'm the CIEIO.*

*When my wife and I argue, I always get the last word. They're, "I'm sorry. You're right."*

# WELCOME! IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE!

**Coffee Hour: 12/3 - Fischer | 12/10 - Parish Potluck**

Note: The December 24th Potluck is actually on the 17th when the Nativity Play is going on. There is no Coffee Hour for December 24th.

**Church Cleanup: 12/3 - Meier | 12/10 - No One**

## Sports / Activities Schedules

Fr. Stephen is trying to make as many activities as he can. However, with Zoe's own schedule (gymnastics twice a week and hockey once a week) and not always having schedules for all of the games and such happening with the youth, it has become difficult to properly commit. For example, MaxPreps is accurate only half the time when it comes to the games and they only really ever publish the high school schedules (and sometimes those change without an update to the site) If your kid is in any sport (plays or 4H or anything really - he will watch your kid paint smiley faces on stones if they are into that kinda thing...) please get him a schedule so he can plan and make every effort to attend those events.

## Calhan Christmas Parade (December 9th - Next Saturday)

We will be participating again in the Christmas Parade here in Calhan. The theme: "Classic Christmas Movies". We are going to do a version of the "The Greatest Story Ever Told" with a manger, Jesus in white (for the Ascension), and the empty Cross. However, we are in a bit of a crunch. A few folks have offered to help but ONLY a few. We have a trailer, a couple trees, and a few lights that may or may not work. To be honest, this won't be good enough. We need and must do more. It is vital we ALL step up and get involved with this parade. I understand it is already a busy holiday season and for some this parade may feel odd or some kind of weird obligation (a chore tacked on to everything else happening), but the importance of this event transcends our own personal desires. We live in a world that is increasingly secular. There is a popular meme on Facebook that shows Buffalo Bills Fans sticking it out in the freezing cold for a football game while saying "If our churches had members with this kind of faithfulness and passion, we would change this world in no time." (I've put the meme in the wisdom section of the bulletin this week). There is so much truth to that meme, its not even really that funny. It's sad, really. We can fill a stadium in the freezing cold for a silly game but we struggle to live and preach Christ. So how do we fix that? For a small parish like ours, it seems impossible, but its not. Look back at the history of the Church. The early Christians were not large in number, yet they, in that small number were able to convert the entire Roman Empire. It didn't happen overnight, but their endless focus on preaching the Gospel and witness in the public square was the difference maker. When push came to shove, they put everything on the line for Christ. That spoke volumes to people and is what led to the world being changed. So how does that relate to this parade? Beyond the parade itself, our participation lays the groundwork for future growth. We plant seeds of faith that may not blossom overnight, but has the potential to take root and flourish in the hearts of those around us. In a community like ours, where relationships are built face-to-face, these events hold the power to draw others closer to Christ and His Church. It is so vital we all make EVERY EFFORT to volunteer for this event. Not for us, but for Christ and the Church. We will be meeting up at the Hall at 12 PM to build everything. Tell me what you are bringing. If you cannot help build the float, please be on the float. The parade starts around 6 PM, but line up is at 4:30 PM. Be there. Be involved. Let's show the same level of faithfulness and passion of the Apostles. - Fr. Stephen

## Parish Council (December 10th)

## Adult Class (December 16th) - At Rectory after Vespers

## Nativity Play (December 17th)

## Prophet Zephaniah

The Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah and the Prophetess Oldama. He was from the tribe of Simeon, and was the ninth of the Twelve Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. The prophet lived at the royal court, where he preached repentance and helped King Josiah eliminate idol-worship. He prophesied about the calamities that were to come for the people of Judea and the surrounding regions: Gaza, Ascalon, Crete, and against the Moabites, the Ammonites and the Ninevites.

## The Come and See Challenge:

Have you brought someone NEW this month or brought someone back?

Have you gone to Great Vespers at least once this month?

When was the last time you went to Confession?

## Prayer List

### Living:

Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Alexander, Met. Isaiah, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Dennis, Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Steve Sr, Litsa, Leilani, child Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Natalie, Jeremy, Alicia, Iryland, Patricia, Danny, Christina, Jerry, Roberta, Leonard, Wendy, Judy, Haily and her newborn child AdaLynn, Michael, Beverly, Venette, Lily with child, Abigail with child, Infant Dominic, Jill, Donna, Kalee with child, Joseph, Alisha with child, Jackie, Azrah, Amber with child, Anna with child, infant Piper, Joan, Earnie, Alex, Trisha, Pina, infant Muhammad, Rabia, Troy, Stella, Carol, Ethan, DaeLynn with child

Those who are confined: Casey, Basil, Mark, Johnny, Hannah

### Departed:

Fr. Michael, Kh. Sue, Hamida, Kimberly, Ronald, Monoyara

### Youth:

#### Caroling (December 24th)

Instead of Coffee Hour, we will be getting a group to go caroling at various homes. If you would like to join us, please let Fr. Stephen know.

## St. Ambrose Donations

Bin in the hall. Please donate.

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