



ST. MARY'S HOLY DORMITION

DECEMBER 15TH, 2024
25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Scripture Readings

Colossians 3:4-11 (Epistle)

Brethren, 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)

The Lord said this parable: "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."

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

- December 21st - Great Vespers (5 PM)
- December 22nd -
Chrismation for Pat Roberts (9 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"A monk said to St. Sisoës: "I would like to preserve my heart but I cannot." The elder responded: "How can we preserve the heart when the gate to our heart--the tongue--stands open?"

- St. Nikolaj Velimirovi

"Sinful they are, but love the sinners and pity them."

- St. John of Kronstadt

WEEKLY JOKES

The Egyptians were great builders. Up to a point.

My wife asked me to pass her the lipstick, but I accidentally gave her the glue stick. She still isn't talking to me.

What do you call a greedy elf? Elfish.

How does Santa keep track of all the fireplaces he's visited? He keeps a log!

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Coffee Hour: 12/15 – Potluck | 12/22 – Christmas Potluck

Church Cleanup: 12/15 – No One | 12/22 – No One

Please sign up to clean the Church and Coffee Hour.

Slavic Fest Food for Sale

We have some leftover boxes of Kielbasa for sale (\$50). Please pick it up in the Hall and leave a check or cash with the Office.

Freezer Fridge in Office

We need to get rid of the freezer in the office and if anyone would like to take it, it's yours. There is no cost for this but you can certainly leave a donation to the Church.

December Parish Council (Today)

Helping Fr. Stephen and Family move (December 22nd)

It is a sad time but with us moving, we will need help loading some of the bigger items into our storage pods. If you are available after the Christmas concert to help, we would really appreciate it. We will also be loading it throughout the coming weeks so if you would like to come over and help load some boxes and bins, we will certainly be grateful. Thank you!

Upcoming Christmas Service Times

Christmas Vigil (24th): 4 PM | Christmas Liturgy (25th): 9 AM

Sunday of the Forefathers

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "By your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to your seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.

Singing in the service for this day "the god-pleasing life" of the Old Testament righteous men, the Holy Church thus represents our intellectual look at the whole universe of great virtues, such as: the God-loving gentleness and meekness of the first martyr in the world, Abel, the holy zeal for the glorification of the name of God, Enos, the high divine thinking and the fear of God, Enoch, the firmness in faith and piety, Noah among the general depravity of his contemporary world, the wonderful faith and obedience to the word of God, Abraham, filial obedience, Isaac up to the preparation to be offered as a burnt offering according to the command of God, the kind domestic bravery, Sarah, the penetrating maternal love, Rebecca, the mild humility, Jacob who earned the rage of Laban and Esau, the holy chastity, Joseph who was more than ready to suffer and die, rather than to sin before God, the unhampered invincible patience in the sufferings and misfortunes, Job, the meek, wise leadership, Moses and Samuel, the inspiring courage through faith, Joshua son of Nun, Barak, and Gideon, the high self-sacrificing love for their country and people, Judith and Esther, the plaintive and contrite repentance, David and Manasseh, the ascetic and divinely intellectual life, Elijah and Elisha, the zeal for the glory of God of the holy prophets, the unhampered invincible dedication to the law of God and usual patriotism of the three youths in Babylon and the rest of the good deeds of all the other Old Testament men we celebrate, "of whom the world was not worthy" (Hebrews 11:38). According to the teaching of St. Gregory the Theologian, each of these virtues stand by themselves «as a special way to salvation, and undoubtedly results in any one of the everlasting and blessed abodes; for as the generations of life are various, so are the abodes of God are many (John 14:2), and in them are divided and are assigned to everyone according to his worthiness. Therefore let one fulfill his virtue, one to another, the other of the many, and whoever, if it is possible, and in everything; only let everyone go without stopping, let everyone strive forward and follow steadily in the steps of the good leaders, who directly leads a path for him, and makes his way through the narrow gate (Matthew 7:14) to lead to the heights of the blessed heaven».

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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:

Clergy: Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, Met. Isaiah, Fr. Dennis, Fr. Matthew

Community: Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Litsa, child Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, Alicia, Iryland, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Michael, Jill, Beverly, Lee, Carol, April, Madalyn, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, McKenzie, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jeanie, Jetlyn, Earnie, Cathy, Jim, Anna, Chris, Cindy, Nate, Ryan, Dusty, Micah, Margret, Darrell, child Kylie, Jennifer, Kayla, Kelly, Terri, Kyle, Matti, Scott, Roger, Catherine, James, Kim, Victor, Austin, Leilah, Jillian, infant Brooklyn, Gerhard, Pina, Mat. Jeanne, Brad

Those with child: Lily, Alisha, Amber, Anna, Hannah, Cassi, Abigail, Kelly, Brittany, Lauren

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

And all of those who are suffering throughout our community and the world who are in need of prayers.

And for the building up of all of our churches, including St. John's in Colorado Springs and all missions throughout the USA.

Departed:

Abp. Peter, Mat. Marie, Medrick, Norma, Ray, Gabe, child Grayson

Youth:

Youth Christmas Concert (22nd)