

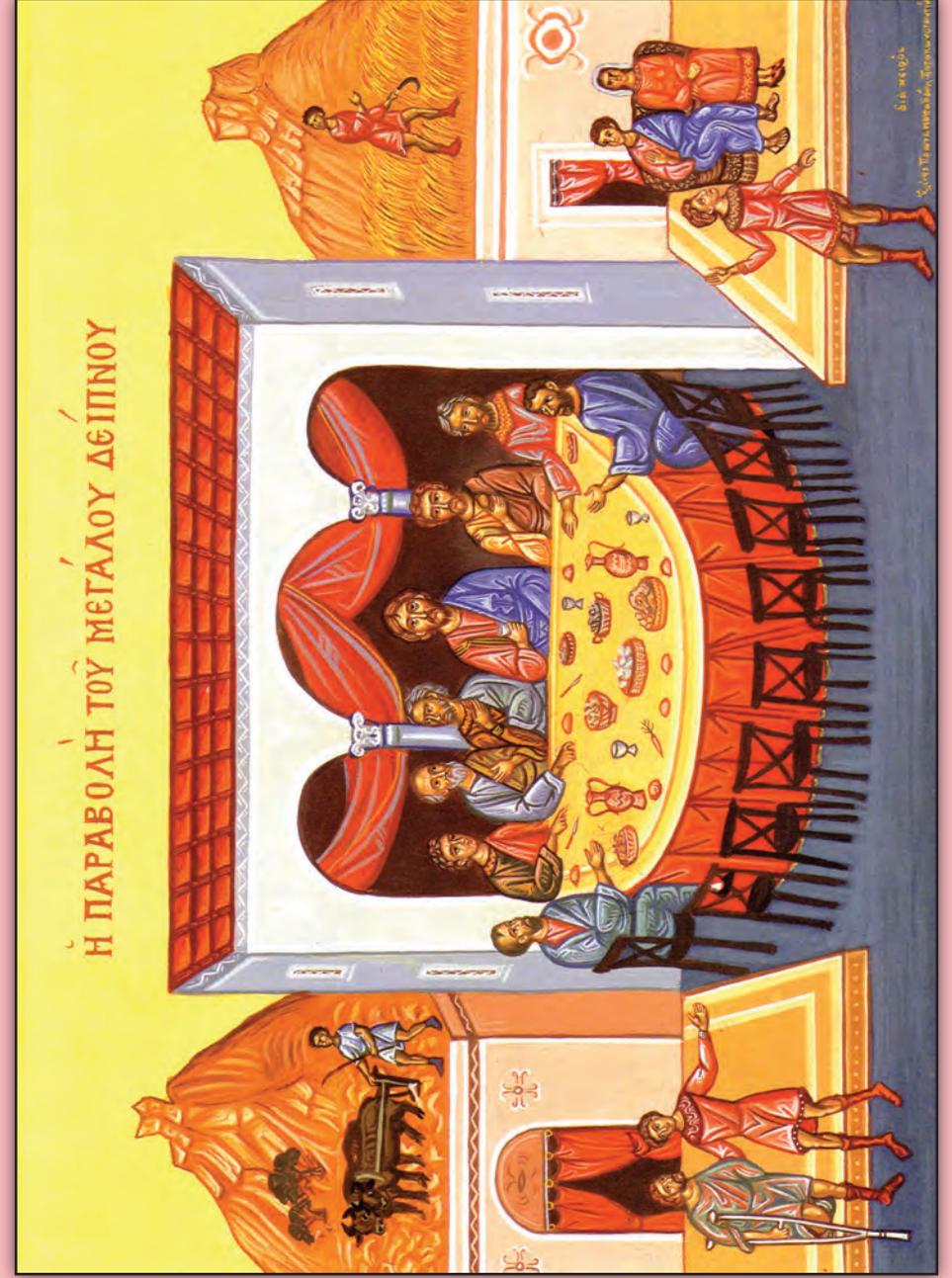
The Great Feast

This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God-man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the

feast of the birth of our Incarnate Savior Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the great love and care of God for us that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate and enter the world as a child. We have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to leave our own life and receive instead the Life of Christ. We have been invited, chosen by God – will we then accept the invitation and choose Him?

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS



Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL: 202-262-5040

Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens – Administrator

Father Andrii Chornopyskyi – Parochial Vicar

Sunday – December 17, 2023

Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever + Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки

Христос Рождається! Славимо Його! * Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Confessions are available before the Divine Liturgies

All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>

Sunday December 17 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Christmas Confessions/Сповідь (+Frank Fisanich from Ferne and Family) (For the Parish)
Wednesday December 20 9:00 a.m.	(+Damian and +Irene Fedoryka from Family)
Thursday December 21 9:00 a.m.	(+John Fedack from Ruth)
Friday December 22 9:00 a.m.	(+Wasyl Bodnaruk from Lesia)
Sunday December 24 **10:30 a.m.**	Sunday Before Christmas (For the Parish)
Sunday December 24 4:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve - The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ Christmas Divine Liturgy – English (For Vocations) Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr. and Eng.) (For the Parish)
Monday December 25 10:30 a.m.	Christmas Day - The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ Christmas Divine Liturgy – (Ukr. and Eng.) (+Bishops, +Priests, +Deacons and +Religious of the Archeparchy)
Tuesday December 26 6:00 p.m.	Synaxis of the Mother of God/ St. Stephen the Proto-Martyr (Health of Woch Family from Anna)

CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS – TODAY DECEMBER 17

Confessions will be heard during both Liturgies **TODAY, DECEMBER 17**. Please avail yourself of the opportunity to prepare for the Birth of Jesus Christ.

FIRST CONFESSION CLASSES TO BEGIN SUNDAY JANUARY 14

We will soon start our parish catechism classes for those children intending to make First Confession in 2024. Classes will be held on Sunday between the English and Ukrainian liturgies (approx. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM), beginning on January 14. First Confession will be celebrated on Lazarus Saturday (March 23, 2024). No class will be held on February 18. All children must be attending Divine Liturgy. If you have children of First Confession age in your family, we ask you to please contact Olya Kroytor Mulvey by email at olya.kroytor@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS EVE FAST

We are reminded that we are called to abstain from meat products on Christmas Eve. Dairy products are permitted.

ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023

Copies of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia Annual Report are available in the vestibule of the Church for those who did not receive one in the mail.

ST. PHILIP’S FAST CHARITY PROJECT 2023

Please bring new unwrapped baby items to donate to the Front Royal Pregnancy Center. We invite everyone to purchase and donate **NEW, UNOPENED BABY ITEMS**. The pregnancy center will accept anything that could be used by babies and mothers, Diapers (Sizes: Newborn, 3, 4, and 5), Changing Wipes, Baby Formula (8 or 12 oz. cans), Similac Sensitive Powder Formula, Similac Pro-Advance Powdered Formula, Similac Total Comfort Powdered Formula, Enfamil Gentlease Infant Formula Powder, Baby Shampoo, Boy’s Summer & Winter Clothing (New or Gently Used) (Sizes: Newborn to 3T), Girl’s Summer & Winter Clothing (New or Gently Used) (Sizes: 6 months to 3T), Boy’s Winter Jackets (Sizes: 3 months to 3T), Infant Car Seats, Parenting Books (New or Gently Used) “What to Expect When You’re Expecting” “Mayo Clinic Guide to a Healthy Pregnancy” **PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 7, 2024.**

Prayer List

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Valarie Balthis, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Terry Boyle, Taisia Bullard, Olena Chalupa, Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Lilian Garland, Alice Gogniat, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmanskyy, Vanessa Hetmanskyy, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Daniel Horeczko, Boris Hlynsky, Nila Iwaskiw, Frank Karasinski, Sarah Kelt, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Michael Joseph Little, Paul Marynowych, Fr. Roman Mirchuk, Michele Pretka Litvar, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Thomas Nagurney, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Michael Sharr, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Helen Lefcheck Torre, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Anne Woroniak, Rose Wilson, Jennifer Wilson, Paul Yarrish.** If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.

We wish all of you a Joyous and Blessed Christmas.

Our prayer for all of us is that the Christ Child, born for the salvation of all, instill in our hearts the spirit of faith, hope, and love,

now and in the coming New Year of 2024!

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Христос Рождається! Славимо Його!

Fr. Robert and Fr. Andrii