

### *Invited to the Banquet*

It is written in the Gospel: The Master sent out his servants to call them who wish to come, inviting them: “My banquet is ready.” But those who were called began to excuse themselves, one saying: “I bought some yoke of oxen.” Another: “I have married” (Luke 14:16ff). You see, he was ready who called, but the invited refused. They themselves were alone responsible in the way they answered.

Thus, so great is the dignity of Christians. Consider, the Lord has prepared for them the Kingdom and has called them to enter, but they have refused.

Concerning the gift that Christians will receive by way of their inheritance, one could rightly say that if anyone, from the time of Adam’s creation to the end of the world, should battle against Satan and put up with afflictions, it would be nothing in comparison to the glory which he is to obtain. For he will reign forever together with Christ. Glory to Him who so loved such a person that He gave himself and His grace and entrusted himself to Him. Glory to His greatness!

*Pseudo-Macarius*

### SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS



*Icon of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:16-24)*

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 Mykola Dziurakh – Parochial Vicar

**Sunday – December 14, 2025**

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

**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/>**

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| <b>Saturday December 13</b><br><b>5:30 p.m.</b>                    | <b>Great Vespers</b>  |
| <b>Sunday December 14</b><br><b>9:00 a.m.</b><br><b>11:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Sunday of the Holy Forefathers</b><br>(For the Parish)<br>(+Bohdan and +Chrystyna from the Kulchycky Family) |
| <b>Wednesday December 17</b><br><b>9:00 a.m.</b>                   | (+Lucille Tymm from A.M. Gogniat)   |
| <b>Thursday December 18</b><br><b>9:00 a.m.</b>                    | (+Theresa Caryk from the Futey Family)  |
| <b>Friday December 19</b><br><b>9:00 a.m.</b>                      | (+Wasył Bodnaruk from Lesia)  |
| <b>Saturday December 20</b><br><b>5:30 p.m.</b>                    | <b>Great Vespers</b>  |
| <b>Sunday December 21</b><br><b>9:00 a.m.</b><br><b>11:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Sunday Before Christmas – The Ancestors</b><br>(+John Fedack from Ruth)<br>(For the Parish)                  |

**FIRST CONFESSION 2026 PREPARATION**

Preparation for First Confession has begun and will last longer than it has in the past. Classes will still be held on Sundays. As is the tradition in our parish, First Confession will be celebrated on Lazarus Saturday (March 28, 2026). Please contact Olya Mulvey at [olya.kroytor@gmail.com](mailto:olya.kroytor@gmail.com) to learn more. All children must attend Divine Liturgy with their families on a weekly basis during their preparation. The FALL SEMESTER class schedule is as follows: December 14.

**ST. PHILIP’S FAST – PYLYPIVKA 2025 (NOV 15 – DEC 24)**

In preparation for Christmas and the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, our church observes the spiritual journey of the pre-Christmas Fast. Please prepare to worthily celebrate the Birth of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a voluntary fast period. Please observe it as you are able to best prepare yourself for Christmas – Good Deeds, Volunteering, Confession, Fasting.

**ST. PHILIP’S FAST CHARITY PROJECT 2025**

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, 4, and 5) • Changing Wipes • Baby Formula (8 or 12 oz. cans) Similac Sensitive Powder Formula, Similac Advance Powdered Formula • Sippy Cups & Baby Bottles (8-9 oz.) • 3-in-1 Convertible Car Seats • New Infant Carrier Car Seats (for up to 35 lbs.) **PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 4, 2026.**

**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, Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Robert Dulaine, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Myroslava Futey, Lilian Garland, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmanskyy, Vanessa Hetmanskyy, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Boris Hlynsky, Daniel Horeczko, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyy, Nila Iwaskiw, Sarah Kelt, LTJG Lydia Kowalskyj USN, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Melissa Martin, Paul Marynowych, Irene Nagurney, Michele Pretka Litvak, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Ivanna Richardson, Roman Rusynko, Chris Saboe, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Teresa Sherwood, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Rose Wilson, Fr. George Worschak, and 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.

***Christmas Eve Wednesday December 24***

**4:30 p.m.** Children’s procession and Divine Liturgy for Christmas

(All are Welcome and Families are encouraged to attend) (Eng.)

**10:00 p.m.** *Z namy Boh* and Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr. and Eng.)

***Середа 24 грудня Навечір’я Різдва ГНІХ – Святвечір***

**4:30 пополудні** Процесійна хода дітей та Різдвяна Божественна Літургія (анг.)

**10:00 вечора** – *З нами Бог* та Божественна Літургія – Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса Христа

(укр. та анг.)

***Christmas Day Thursday December 25***

**10:30 a.m.** Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr. and Eng.)

***Четвер 25 грудня Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса Христа***

**10:30 ранку** – Божественна Літургія – Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса Христа (укр. та анг.)