

DEC. 17 ANNOUNCEMENTS: Parish Council Meeting today

Thanks again to everyone who made Our Christmas bake sale such a **TREMENDOUS** success including Donna Sekulidis and Angie Panzoff (provided lunch) – I forgot to include these two ladies' names last week.

Please sign the Christmas cards on the table in the lobby for those not able to attend church. Two new ones have been added and are on the end of the table - Please sign as they shall be mailed this week.

Our Christmas card "line" is up and receiving your cards to our church family. What a wonderful way to "send" and share your Christmas thoughts and to decorate our church lobby.

Have items for our next garage sale? Please bring next Sunday and leave in the Sunday School Room. Oh yes, please tell either Mary T. or Delphine an item has been left.

DEC. 10 DONATIONS:

FOR HEALTH OF (FHO): FAMILY – TIMPKO FAMILY

FHO: FAMILY – ANGIE PANZOFF

FHO: FAMILY – VALERIE & RODRICK LAZAR

FHO: TRAVIS, WHEELER, SHAFFER, REHN & CHURCH FAMILY – CHERYL TRAVIS

FHO: FAMILY & HAPPY BIRTHDAY LIZ & ANDY – PETE & JANN PETROFF

FHO: FAMILY – COLLEEN PANDOFF

IN HONOR OF (IHO): JANET SHAFFER – CHERYL TRAVIS

IN MEMORY OF (IMO): DENNIS BACASHVA on his Dec. 5 birthday – TOM KABROVICH

IMO: HUSBAND & FATHER – HELEN & SANDRA ARNAUT

IMO: ANNETTE KING – PETE & JANN PETROFF

IMO: my brother JIM – MARY ROLEY

UPCOMING EVENTS:

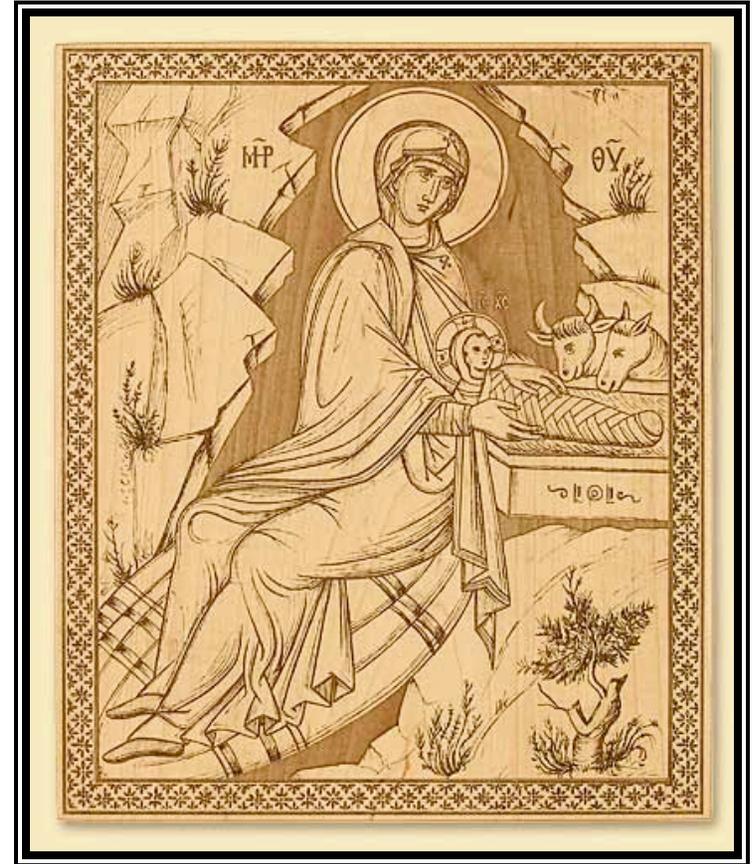
JAN. 7 – Coin Day – a Macedonian tradition – After Divine Liturgy in the coffee room we shall be serving pita –

if you "find" a coin in your piece of pita, YOU will have a year of good luck.

SAINT PAUL ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Rector: Rev. Fr. Robert J. Royer Email-robertjroyer@gmail.com
(810) 919-9485 Website: stpaulorthodoxcathedral.org

Sunday, December 17 - Tone 3
28th Sunday of Pentecost
Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ



**TODAY WE WILL CELEBRATE THE DIVINE LITURGY OF
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

The Sunday of the Holy Forefathers is the Sunday that falls between December 11-17, the second Sunday before the Nativity. The ancestors of Christ according to the flesh are remembered on this Sunday of the Nativity Fast. All the great Fathers and Mothers and Prophets of the Old Testament, starting with Adam, Abraham, the Righteous Sarah, Isaac and Jacob, including Holy Prophet Elias and Daniel, and concluding with Holy Prophet Zechariah (Zachary), Joachim and Anna, Holy Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist and The Theotokos. They lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3, 22:18).

HYMN FOR THE FEAST

Troparion — Tone 2

Through faith You justified the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: / She who bore You without seed. / So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Kontakion — Tone 6

You did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed ones, / but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, / you were glorified in a trial by fire. / From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: / Hasten, O compassionate One! / Speedily come to our aid, / for You are merciful and able to do as You will.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle – Colossians 3:4-11 (*Forefathers*)

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek

and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scyth'ian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel – Luke 14:16-24 (*Forefathers*)

At that time Jesus said, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

PRAYER BEHIND THE AMBON:

O God of the holy and blessed Fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: You are the all-holy, the savior of the martyrs, the boast of the just, and the crown of those who have been well pleasing to you from the beginning of time. Grant that we may remember all your saints and take part in their sufferings. You have allowed your holy athletes, the martyrs, to fight the good fight, to finish the race of godliness, and to keep the faith they confessed.

Give us a part and inheritance, that in imitating them we may be made worthy to share in the good things you have in store for them. Through the prayers and intercession of the pure and holy Theotokos, of the holy and glorious children Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael and of the most blessed prophet Daniel and of all your saints, have mercy on us and be a helper for us. Deem us worthy, after being purified, to venerate the feast of the Birth of Christ our God, by the help of your life-giving Spirit, for to You is due all glory, honor and worship: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.