

December 22, 2019

Ephesians 6: 10 - 17

Luke 17: 12 - 19

Upcoming Services:

Sat. Dec. 28, 5:00 pm. - Great Vespers

Sun. Dec. 29, 9:00 am. - Divine Liturgy, Hours at 8:45

Sat. Jan. 4, 5:00 pm. - Great Vespers

Sun. Jan. 5, 9:30 am. - Hierarchical Liturgy, Hours at 8:45

Mon. Jan. 6, 6:30 pm. - Nativity Eve dinner, Caroling & Compline Service

Tues. Jan. 7, 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy for Nativity of Christ

December Vespers: Vespers will be starting at 5pm in December

St. Spyridon the Wonderworker and Bishop of Tremithus (Dec. 25):

Saint Spyridon of Tremithus was born towards the end of the third century on the island of Cyprus. He was a shepherd, and had a wife and children. He was devoted to the needs of his neighbors and the homeless, for which the Lord rewarded him the gift of wonderworking. The saint cared for his flock with great love. Through his prayers, drought was replaced by abundant rains, and incessant rains were replaced by fair weather. He healed those who were incurably sick, and cast out demons.

After the death of his wife he was made Bishop of Tremithus, Cyprus. The saint did not alter his lifestyle after becoming bishop, but combined pastoral service with deeds of charity. It was his custom to distribute one part of the gathered harvest to the destitute, and another portion to those having need while in debt. He did not take a portion for himself, but simply showed them the entrance to his storeroom, where each could take as much as was needed, and could later pay it back in the same way, without records or accountings.

At the First Ecumenical Council the saint disputed a Greek philosopher on Arian heresy, and won him over to Christianity by remarkable discourse and display. Depicting the unity of the Holy Trinity, he took a brick in hand and squeezed it. Fire shot up from it, water dripped down from it, and dust remained in hand. "There is only one brick," Saint Spyridon said, "but it is composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are three persons, but only one God."

The gift of wonderworking, granted to him by God, was abundant. Through a word of the saint the dead were awakened, the elements of nature tamed, and idols smashed. Once he went into an empty church, ordered the lamps and candles be lit, and then began the service. After saying, "Peace be unto all," both he and the deacon heard from above the resounding of a great multitude of voices saying, "and with your spirit." To each petition of the litanies the invisible choir sang out, "Lord have mercy." People who lived nearby hastened towards the melodic litany. But when they entered the church, they were astonished to see no one was there but the bishop and some servers, and no longer did they hear any music.

Reader Schedule:
Sun Dec. 22 - Kurtis Lauser
Sun Dec. 29 - James Hamer
Sun. Jan. 5 - Wesley Hatch
Sun. Jan. 12 - Greg Kuzmenchuk

Birthdays:

December 23- Elizabeth Hershey

Upcoming Events:

Thur. Jan. 2 - 6:30pm Change altar cloths

Mon. Jan. 6 - Nativity Eve dinner & Service

Fri. Jan. 10 - 8:00am Potato prep. for Pierogies

Sat. Jan. 11 - 8:30am Pierogie making

Sat. Jan. 11 - Game night, following Vespers

Sun. Jan. 26 - Annual Parish meeting

Mon, Jan.6 -6:30 pm. Nativity Eve Dinner in the church hall . Please sign up in advance to bring a fasting dish, and indicate the number of family & friends attending. Caroling in the church at 7:30 pm, Compline Service at 8 pm.

Sun, Jan. 27 -Annual Parish Mtg. following coffee hour. The names of nominees for board positions and agenda items to be discussed must be submitted, in writing, to the executive board prior to their Tuesday, Jan. 21 evening meeting.

Notices:

The Nativity Fast (Pylypivka) / Advent) runs until the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord on Monday, January 6. As in Great Lent, you should establish for yourself a rule of fasting and stick to it. It is often said that the Nativity Fast is so much more difficult because of the nature of society around us (and being on the Old Calendar, the false thought of celebrating 'two Christmases'). We can enjoy the season with our extended family & friends and still keep the spirit of the Fast. Everyone should try, at a minimum, to keep Monday, Wednesday & Friday as fast days, no matter what is happening on the 'new calendar.' If you have questions, please talk with Father Nick. Prepare the Manger of your Soul for the coming of the new borne Messiah!

Anniversaries:

None this month.

Notices:

Metropolitan Antony

The Metropolitan will be visiting Holy Ghost on Jan. 5 for Hierarchical Liturgy.

Christmas Flowers

St. Anastasia Sisterhood is collecting funds for poinsettias. Envelopes are included in your stewardship packet.

2020 Orthodox Calendars

The 2020 Orthodox calendars are available for church members at the book store, courtesy of the Wentz Funeral Home.

Coffee Hour Hosts

We need families to host our Coffee Hour
Dec. 22 - Hume / Teijaro
Dec. 29 - Open

Food for Sale

There are food items available:
Pierogis - Sweet potato - \$8 / box
Pierogis - Sauerkraut or mushroom \$8 / box
Halushki - noodles & cabbage - \$7 / quart
Rolls, - Pumpkin, Apple, Apricot \$13 / roll
Smoked Kielbasa - \$7 / ring
Borscht soup \$7 / quart

December Charity

Chester County Food Bank

For bulletin additions contact Wesley Hatch by Friday 6 pm

Prayer Corner:

For the Health of: Metropolitan Antony, Joe Domsohn Sr., Olga Ward, Linda Gindin, Toby Seip, Erin Bove, Richard Ziegler, Sandy Knisley, & Karen