

December 29, 2019

Colossians 3: 4 - 11

Luke 14: 16 - 24

Upcoming Services:

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

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

Sun. Jan. 5, 9:00 am. - Divine 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

Sat. Jan. 11, 5:00 pm. - Great Vespers

Sun. Jan. 12, 9:00 am. - Divine Liturgy, Hours at 8:45

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

Great Martyr Anastasia:

The Great Martyr Anastasia was Roman by birth, her father a pagan, but her mother secretly Christian. After her mother's death her father gave Anastasia in marriage to a pagan named Publius, but feigning illness, she preserved her virginity. Clothing herself in the garb of a beggar, and accompanied by only a servant, she visited the prisons. She fed, doctored and often ransomed captives who were suffering for their faith in Christ. When her servant told Publius about everything, he subjected his wife to a beating and locked her up at home. Anastasia then began to correspond secretly with Chrysogonus, who encouraged Anastasia to be patient, to cleave to the Cross of Christ, and to accept the Lord's will. He also foretold the impending death of her husband Publius in the sea, who did indeed drown subsequently. After the death of her husband, St. Anastasia began to distribute her property to the poor.

Following St. Chrysogonus' martyrdom, Anastasia went from city to city ministering in the medical arts to Christian captives far and wide, healing their wounds and relieving their suffering, obtaining the name, "Deliverer from Potions" (Pharmakolytria), since she had healed many from potions and poisons. She had a faithful helper, the young widow Theodota, in the prisons, but both were eventually arrested.

After unsuccessful attempts to persuade St. Anastasia to offer sacrifice to idols, she was handed over to the pagan priest Ulpian in Rome. The unsavory pagan offered her the choice between jewelry and fine clothing versus fearsome tools of torture, but Anastasia refused the riches and chose the torture. Ulpian gave her three days to reconsider, during which time he tried to seduce her, but as soon as he touched her he became blind. His head ached so severely that he screamed like a madman, but on the way to the temple of idols for help, he fell down dead.

St. Anastasia, set free, once again returned to the care of imprisoned Christians with Theodota, until caught and condemned to death by starvation. She remained in prison without food for sixty days. Seeing that hunger caused St. Anastasia no harm whatsoever, the judge sentenced her to drowning together with other prisoners.

The prisoners were put into a boat and cast out to sea, but St. Theodota appeared to the captives and steered the ship to shore. When they reached dry land, 120 men believed in Christ, were baptized by Sts. Anastasia and Eutychianus, and received a martyr's crown. St. Anastasia was stretched between four pillars and burned alive, and a woman named Apollinaria buried her body, unharmed by the fire, in the garden outside her house.

Reader Schedule:
Sun Dec. 29 - James Hamer
Sun. Jan. 5 - Wesley Hatch
Sun. Jan. 12 - Greg Kuzmenchuk
Sun. Jan. 19 - Cynthia Neff

Birthdays:

December 29 - David Neff

January 1 - Katie Thomas

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

Tue, Jan. 21 - 7:00 pm Executive Board Mtg

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. 26 -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 by January 19.

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 has postponed his visit to Holy Ghost until his back surgery is healed.

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

Foods for Sale

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: Carlo Bentley, Joe Domsohn Sr., Olga Ward, Linda Gindin, Toby Seip, Erin Bove, Richard Ziegler, Sandy Knisley, & Karen