



+ УКРАЇНСЬКА ГРЕКО-КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВ. ЙОСАФАТА  
ST. JOSAPHAT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Бюлетень – Bulletin

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**Pastor:** Reverend Father Volodymyr Kushnir – Cell phone: 773-979-4737

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December 12, 2021

## Sunday of the Holy Forefathers; Our Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus (337-61)

Tone 4

### Schedule of Sunday & Weekday Services

#### 12.12.21 – Неділя святих Праотців

9:30 a.m. - Вервиця і сповідь

10:00 a.m. - Служба Божа

#### 12.19.21 – Неділя перед Різдвом

Христовим Ісуса Христа

9:30 a.m. - Вервиця і сповідь

10:00 a.m. - Служба Божа

#### 12.12.21 – Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

9:30 a.m. – Rosary & Reconciliation

10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

#### 12.19.21 – Sunday before the Nativity of Jesus Christ

9:30 a.m. – Rosary & Reconciliation

10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

### Парафіяльні Оголошення

1. Святковий обід та програма до дня святого Миколая відбудеться в неділю 19-го грудня після Служби Божої.
2. Запрошуємо долучатись усіх бажаючих для приготування вареників. Просимо приходити у четвер вранці для підготовки продуктів і у п'ятницю для ліплення.
3. Ласкаво запрошуємо всіх відвідувачів загостити до нас на каву і солодке у церковному залі після Святої Літургії.

### Parish Announcements

1. St. Nicholas potluck dinner and party will be Sunday, December 19, 2021 following Divine Liturgy.
2. We need additional volunteers for our pyrohy ministry, especially in the food preparation area (Thursday morning) and in the cooking area (Friday).
3. A warm welcome to all our visitors today. We invite you to join us for coffee following our Liturgy.

## 19 Little-Remembered Facts About St. Nicholas, Part 2

**7.** The three gold balls at a pawn brokers' shops echo this compassionate act. St. Nicholas is considered the patron saint of pawnbrokers. **8.** St. Nicholas's compassion for the poor, marginalized and, in particular, children, and especially providing aid anonymously to those in greatest need, became so legendary that it never faded over the centuries, but inspired others, and was imitated especially around Christmas in many countries. He got to be Santa Claus by a corruption of the Dutch referring to him as “Sinterklaas.” The Dutch brought “Sinterklaas” with them to North America in 1621 when they founded New Amsterdam on the tip of Manhattan. English speaking settlers later corrupted the name, which evolved into “Santa Claus.” **9.** St. Nicholas is sometimes referred to as the “boy bishop” because he was consecrated Bishop of Myra at the age of 30. **10.** He was one of the 318 bishops participating in the Council of Nicaea, the First Ecumenical Council of the Church, in A.D. 325. The main purpose was to resolve confusion over the nature of the Son in his relationship to the Father caused by the Arian heresy. The Council of Nicaea formulated the Nicene Creed which outlines basic Christian belief that the Son is “consubstantial” with the Father — the Creed we pray at Sunday Mass to this day. **11.** Sometimes Nicholas was not hidden or anonymous in helping the afflicted and those suffering unjustly. There are records of him intervening to save three men falsely condemned to be executed by a corrupt magistrate who accepted a bribe. Fearlessly, Nicholas walked up to the executioner and grabbed the sword from his hand. Hence, he was a protector of the innocent. **12.** The inspiration of St. Nicholas led French nuns during the Middle Ages to start the tradition of bringing anonymous gifts under the cover of night to needy families and their children on Dec. 5, St. Nicholas Eve. The next morning, the poor families would wake to discover food, clothing, food treats and some modest money assistance. When they tried to find out who their benefactor was, the answer was, “It must have been St. Nicholas.” St. Nicholas's act of anonymously delivering three bags of gold coins long ago became an annual tradition that spread rapidly throughout Christian Europe. Since the beloved bishop Nicholas was the Patron Saint of Children, the gifts weren't limited to the poor, but included good girls and boys. **13.** Oranges, a popular treat as a stocking filler even in North America into the later part of the 20th century, was traditionally given by Sinterklaas to children in Holland. Oranges recall the three round purses containing gold coins St. Nicholas threw into the window of the destitute family on 3 consecutive nights to deliver them from poverty. **14.** The same event was recalled in the chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil that were given to children and still can be seen today in North America. **15.** Candy canes have been a staple in America and are associated Santa Claus. They really derive from the crozier, the bishop's staff, of Sinterklaas, or St. Nicholas. **16.** St. Nicholas spent seven long, hard years, tortured and imprisoned for his faith in Christ under the Diocletian Persecution, until the first Christian emperor, Constantine issued the Edict of Milan in A.D. 313 that gave religious liberty to all Christians. **17.** The Emperor of Constantinople's niece Princess Theophano is considered by historians to be the person most responsible for bringing St. Nicholas to the heart of the Western Roman Empire. She brought a mosaic icon of St. Nicholas for her future husband, Emperor Otto II, as a wedding gift when they were married by Pope John XIII on Apr. 14, 972, in old Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome. The holy icon of St. Nicholas that she brought with her for the gift is now kept at St. Johann Baptist Church in Burtscheid, Aachen, Germany. **18.** Also remember: first, while the “Christmas Spirit is commonly associated with St. Nicholas, Christians should recognize that the Spirit of Christmas is actually the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity: the Holy Spirit. Because a humble maiden in Nazareth was open to the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14); a reality that was proclaimed by “a multitude of the heavenly host” (Lk. 2:13) on that first Christmas.” **19.** Second, “Faith-filled ‘St. Nicholases’ and ‘Santa Clauses’ must be open to the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit in order that God may take on a human nature within each one of us who have been ‘clothed with Christ’ (Galatians 3:27) at Baptism: ‘No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us’ ( 1 John 4:12).

*Prepare for the coming of the Christ Child!*



## Prayer list of the sick or aged parishioners & friends of the parish

Georgia Sosnowski, Olga Wasylowsky, Stephanie Babij, Myroslava Iwachiw,  
Finbarr Jones, Teodozia Shyika Lucyk, Irene Karpinec, Nadia Kusznir,  
John Lackhouse, Howard Vaughn and young Samuel Rocha.

Remember those who have suffered due to Covid 19 –  
the ill and deceased, healthcare workers and all those who lost jobs or income.

If you know of someone who should be on this list, please let me know the name of the individual.

Our intercessory prayer for the sick and aged is truly helpful and comforting.

Father Volodymyr would like to visit our sick and elderly parishioners, especially those who cannot be  
with us for liturgies. Please call him at 773-979-4737 to let him know who would like a visit.

О. Володимир бажає відвідати хворих та старших парафіян, які не можуть  
приходити до церкви. Просимо повідомити його за номером 773-979-4737.

### ***Sunday Collections for December 5, 2021:***

**Envelopes: \$460.00**

**Andrew's Pence-Collection for Church in Ukraine: \$20.00**

**Candles: \$122.00   Loose Cash: \$81.00   Church Donation: \$2000   TOTAL: \$2,683.00**

*Please mail your donations to: St. Josaphat, 8624 White Oak Ave, Munster IN 46321. THANK YOU!*

### ***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

Ἡ ΠΑΡΑΒΟΛὴ τοῦ Μεγάλου Δεῖπνου



Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast