



December 15 2019
SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS

Parish Schedule

- Dec 14 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**
+George Yarosik req by David Yarosik
- Dec 15 (Sun) SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS**
Children's ECF 9:00am
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
+Carl Magdic req by Family & Friends
Cookies with St. Nicholas 12:00noon
- Dec 17 (Tue) Divine Liturgy 8:30am**
+Mary Soltis req by Michael & Arlene Dzura
- Dec 19 (Thu) Divine Liturgy 8:30am**
+Nicholas & Elizabeth Petro
- Dec 21 (Sat) Divine Liturgy 5:00pm**
+Mary Soltis req by Kathy & Rick Forsyth
- Dec 22 (Sun) SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS**
SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS
No Children's ECF
Divine Liturgy 10:30am
+Maria Rusinko req by Dan & Monica Gaffney

Our Tithe to our Parish - December 8 - \$2,152.00

Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.



Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Jude Bodnar, Steve Fekete, Kevin Ianni, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr, Sue Sabol, Ruth Seech, Debby Vasko



The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of Dec 15 thru Dec 21 for *+George Yarosik req by son David.*

GCU SCHOLARSHIP

GCU is now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 GCU Scholarship Awards. All applications must be completed online. Applicants must be a GCU member as of December 31, 2018 with a permanent life insurance certificate or annuity with a balance of \$2,00.00 or more, to be considered for the award. Scholarship available include:



National Scholarship award for college students who will have completed at least one semester of college by December 31, 2019;

Academic Performance Scholarship for previous National Scholarship awardees that maintain a 3.3 cumulative GPA or higher;

Athletic Scholarship for high school seniors (*one male and one female winner*). For more information, please email: info@GCUusa.com.

Christmas Parish Collection

In honor of the upcoming birthday celebration of Jesus, our parish will be collecting gift cards for Beverly's Birthdays.

Beverly's Birthdays is a local nonprofit organization, based in Irwin, that provides birthday cheer for homeless children and families with financial difficulties.

They are currently experiencing a shortage of items for teens. Since this age group has very specific requests it is easier to donate gift cards to places like Target, Wal-Mart, Five Below or iTunes. If you would like to participate but aren't able to get a gift card, you could put a cash donation in a envelope and a gift card will be purchased for you. (Just drop the envelope in the collection basket.)

There will be two collection boxes in the back of the church beginning on December 15 for the gift cards. Our collection will run through January 5th.

PARISH PIROHY PROJECT



Once again we owe a debt of sincere gratitude for all those who lent their hands and hearts to another successful December Pirohy Project. The time passed quickly, many stories were shared, a few lies were told (*what else can the guys in the kitchen do!!!*), a few new faces brought their joy and enthusiasm, some delicious lunches quickly disappeared and loads of work were accomplished.

Now it's time for a break until the Great Fast season. Many thanks again to all!

LOOKING AHEAD

As we all make our plans for the Christmas season, we need to be aware of the liturgical schedule of our parish for this great feast.

21-22 Dec	<i>Our Normal Weekend Schedule</i>	
24 Dec	<i>Holy Supper with our Families and loved ones</i> Vespers & Divine Liturgy for Christmas	8:00 pm
25 Dec	FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD – CHRISTMAS Divine Liturgy	10:30 am
26 Dec	SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS Divine Liturgy	7:00 pm
27 Dec	FEAST OF ST STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR Divine Liturgy	7:00pm



SUNDAY OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS OF CHRIST

On this second Sunday before the celebration of the Birth of Christ, we remember the Holy Ancestors who came before Christ and who prepared the way for his coming.



Today, we remember especially the great *patriarchs*, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Out of all the descendants of those scattered at the tower of Babel, God chose one man, ABRAHAM, and called him to leave his country for a new homeland that would be shown to him. Abraham was given the *promise ... to possess a land ... to become a great nation ... and to be a blessing to the people of the earth.*

But there was a major obstacle in Abraham's life: he had no son and heir. Yet God remained faithful to his promise, and in their old age, Abraham and his wife Sarah were given a child, Isaac.

(You can read more about Abraham in the Book Genesis, beginning with chapter 12.)

The birth of ISAAC, can be read in Genesis, chapter 21. Isaac's wife, Rebecca, bore twin sons, ESAU and JACOB. Already they jostled in womb for supremacy ... much as they would later in life. Even though Esau was born first (and thus had the right to be his father's heir) ... his brother Jacob tricked him out of his birthright ... and later tricked his father into given him the blessing that was supposed to be given to

Esau. *(The birth of Esau and Jacob, along with the trickery of Jacob, can be read in Genesis, Chapter 25-27.)*

These patriarchs, chosen by God to fulfill his plan ... yet still struggling and sinful people ... anchor us deeply in human experience ... and help us to believe that our God works through the very ordinary people and events of life ... and through these very ordinary folks, God works extraordinary wonders.