

Welcome to St. Athanasíus the Great Byzantíne Catholic Church "Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Christu!" "Glory to Him Forever! Slava Navíkí Bohu!"

We welcome all to the Divine Services at our parish. Our restrooms are in the Dormition Hall behind the Rectory next door. On Sundays, after Divine Liturgy, our potluck luncheon is open to everyone, especially our guests. Come join us for fellowship.

THE PHILLIP'S FAST IS ONGOING THROUGH DEC 24

All those between the ages of 15 and 60, in good health, not pregnant or lactating are expected to observe this fast. Fasting includes abstaining from animal products on Wednesdays and Fridays. Everyone can abstain from something like television, social media, video gaming and spend that time in prayer, service and alms giving.

Need to request an appointment with Father?

Father is available for confession or spiritual direction by appointment, and he welcomes you to contact him whenever you need him.

Prayers for the sick or other intentions:

If you have a special intention for the sick, birthdays, deceased, need to request a Liturgy or other service to be offered for someone please give a note, text or call Father at 216-532-6364.

Opportunities to Help with Fundraising....we are called into service

At this time, our parish is unable to exist without fundraising initiatives. Our most successful venture over the years has proved to be the traditional pierogi and European baked goods made in our commercial kitchen and sold at the various local Farmers' Market venues. Volunteers are always needed to help with the baking and selling. Cleaning the work areas and equipment are also welcomed opportunities to serve (can be an evening after work). You are needed NOW, before and during the holiday demand, even if it is for a couple of hours.

Please contact John Danovich, (317) 538-7444, to schedule a workable day and time (Tuesday through Saturday) for you and/or your family.

Between now and Christmas we have increased demand for pierogi and baked goods at the Carmel's Winter Market, Market Wagon, Online Sales and Hall Sales

Sellers are needed for the Saturday Carmel market to free up those who are baking all week (Tues through Sat). Volunteers are also needed to package and mail out online and call-in orders.

- Cookies that sell well at this time of year need to be made.
- Eco-friendly birdfeeders were donated, and "kits" need to be put together to sell out of the hall and on Market Wagon.

Pumpkins need to be processed into puree while they are still fresh.

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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ELEVENTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT February 16-18, 2024

The Beatitudes: The Way of Life

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, Fremont, OH

Retreat Master: Fr. Lukas Mitro

Further info contact Susan A. Gallagher 419-626-0375 or e-mail

www.womenretreat2024@yahoo.com

THIRD ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT March 15-17, 2024

From Fallen Passions to Apatheia: Pursuing the Virtuous Life

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, Fremont, Ohio Retreat Master: Father Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA.

Contact Karl Busam for further information 419-626-6811 or e-mail

karl.busam.77@gmail.com

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS							
Friday	December 22	9:00 AM	Royal Hours				
Saturday	December 23	5:00 PM	Vespers & Matins				
Sunday	December 24	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy				
	Christmas Eve	3:00 PM	Vespers				
		4:30 PM	Holy Supper				
		6:00 PM	Great Compline &				
			Matins				
Monday	December 25	8:00 AM	Ukrainian Divine Liturgy				
	Christmas	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy				
			Christmas Show				
Tuesday	December 26	6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy				
	Synaxis of Theotokos						
Wednesday	December 27	6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy				
Stephen Protomartyr							
	SCHEDULE FOR NEW YEAR						
Sunday	December 31	8:15 AM	Matins				
		10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy				
			Luncheon				
		1:00 PM	Moleben of				
			Thanksgiving				
Monday	January 1	8:00 AM	Matins				
		10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy				

Services for the Week of December 17 - December 24, 2023						
Day		Time	Service	Readings		
Sunday	December 17 Sunday of the Holy Forefathers	8:15 AM 10:00 AM	Matins Divine Liturgy	Col 3:4-11 Lk 14:16-24		
Monday	December 18 Sebastian and Others - Martyrs	6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy and Youth meeting	Heb 8:7-13 Mk 9:42-10:1		
Tuesday	December 19 Boniface - Martyr		No Services	Heb 9:8-10 & 15-23 Mk 10:2-12		
Wednesday	December 20 Ignatius Bishop - Martyr	6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy	Heb 10:1-18 Mk 10:11-16		
Thursday	December 21 Juliana - Martyr		No Services	Heb 10:35-11:7 Mk 10:17-27		
Friday	December 22 Anastasia - Great Martyr	9:00 AM	Royal Hours			
Saturday	December 23 Saturday before Christmas	5:00 PM	Vespers & Matins Confession	Gal 3:8-12 Lk 13:18-29		
Sunday	December 24 Sunday Before Christmas - Of the Ancestors	10:00 AM 3:00 PM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy Vespers Holy Supper Great Compline & Matins	Heb 11:9-10 & 32-40 Mt 1:1-25 Heb 1:1-12 Lk 2:1-20		

Financial Report 12-10-2023

Date	Bakery Sales	Building Fund	Candles	Holy Day	Sunday Tithes	Weekly Total
12/10	\$1,021.08			\$50.00	\$1,511.77	\$2,582.85

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Colossians 3:4-11

4 When Christ who is our life appears, you will also appear with Him in glory. 5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you also once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you must also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge of according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

DO NOT LIE TO ONE ANOTHER, SINCE YOU HAVE PUT OFF THE OLD MAN WITH HIS DEEDS

You shall destroy all those who utter a lie (Ps. 5:7). The mouth that speaks a lie will slay the soul (Wis. 1:11).

Forasmuch as all sins arise through love of pleasure or avarice or vainglory, and we can say that lying has its roots in these three vices: a man has to avoid blame and humiliation to fulfill his own desires or to gain something... And in the end no one believes him when he speaks the truth... A man whose very life is a lie is one who is licentious and pretends to be temperate, or a miser who speaks of almsgiving and compassion, or ostentatious and goes in raptures over poverty, not wanting to acquire the virtue he praises... 'the devil changes himself into an angel of light' (II Cor. 11:14)... the man whose very life is a lie: he is not a simple but a two – faced man; he is one thing on the inside and another on the outside.

St. Dorotheos of Gaza. *Discourses*, IX. On Falsehood. B# of 45, PP. 160 – 162.

Luke 14:16-24

16 Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, 17 "and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' 18 "But they all

with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' 19 "And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' 20 "Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." 21 "So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of this city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' 22 "and the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' 23 "Then the master said to the servant, 'And go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may it be filled. 24 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper."

THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT SUPPER

This parable... proclaims beforehand both the casting out of the Jews, and the calling of the Gentiles, and it indicates together with this also the strictness of the life required, and how great the punishment appointed for the careless... And when were they bidden? By all the prophets; by John [the Baptist] again; for he would pass all on to Christ, saying 'He must increase, I must decrease' (John 3: 30); by the Son Himself again, 'Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you' (Matt. 11:28) and again, 'if any man thirsts, let him come unto Me and drink' (John 7: 37). But not by words only, by actions also He bade them, after his ascension by Peter, and those with him. 'For He who wrought effectually in Peter,' it is said, 'to the apostleship of the circumcision, was mighty also in me towards the Gentiles,' (Gal. 2: 8)... And yet the calling was of grace. Why then does He take a strict account? Because although to be called and to be cleansed was a grace, yet, when called and clothed in clean garments, to continue keeping them so, this is this is of the diligence of those who are called.

St. John Chrysostom. Homily LXIX on Matthew XXII, 1, 2. B# 54, PP. 421, 423.



Weekend Divine Services

Saturday: 5 PM Vespers
Sunday: 8:15 AM Matins
10 AM Divine Liturgy

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Cantors: Brian Goshorn, John Danovich, Suzanne Goshorn Business Manager: John Danovich

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