



*Welcome to St. Athanasius the Great
Byzantine Catholic Church*

*“Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Christu!”
“Glory to Him Forever! Slava Naviki 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.

***“Christ is Born! Glorify Him!”
“Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho!”***

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 always needed, 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 Friday) for you and/or your family.

Opportunities For Service At St. Athanasius

- Sellers are needed for the Saturday Carmel market to free up those who are baking all week.
- Pierogi pinchers and bakers are always needed (Tues through Friday).
- 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.
- Bags for the food pantry need to be assembled.
- Our worship space needs to be kept maintained; plants watered, candles filled, carpet vacuumed.
- Our social space needs to be kept clean and organized.

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 NEW YEAR			
Sunday	December 31	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 1:00 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon Moleben of Thanksgiving
Monday	January 1	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Matins Divine Liturgy

HOUSE BLESSING

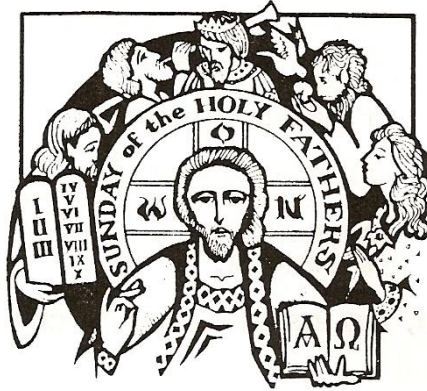
Please sign up to have your house blessed; sign up sheet is at the rear of the church.

Thank you to all the volunteers who donated visibly and invisibly decorations and plants and made time to come and decorate the church. God grant them and their families many happy and blessed years. Mnohaja Lita.

Services for the Week of December 24 – December 31, 2023				
	Day	Time	Service	Readings
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
Monday	December 25 Christmas Birth of Our Lord	8:00 AM 10:00AM	Ukrainian DV Divine Liturgy Christmas Show	Gal 4:4-7 Mt 2:1-12
Tuesday	December 26 Synaxis of the Theotokos	6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy	Heb 2:11-18 Mt 2:13-23
Wednesday	December 27 Stephen Protomartyr	6:00 PM	Divine Liturgy	Acts 6:8-7:5 & 47-60 Mt 21:33-42
Thursday	December 28 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia		No Services	James 1:19-27 Mk 11:27-33
Friday	December 29 Holy Innocents - Martyrs	6:00 PM		James 2:1-13 Mk 12:1-12
Saturday	December 30 Saturday After Christmas	5:00 PM	Vespers & Matins Confession	1 Tim 6:11-16 Mt 12:15-21
Sunday	December 31 Sunday After Christmas David, Joseph, James	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon Moleben of Thanksgiving	Gal 1:11-19 Mt 2:11-23

Financial Report 12-17-2023

Date	Bakery Sales	Building Fund	Candles	Holy Day	Sunday Tithes	Weekly Total
12/17	\$1,737.58		\$78.00		\$445.81	\$2,261.39



*Come,
Lord Jesus!*

**"BEHOLD A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE
AND BEAR A SON, HIS NAME SHALL BE
CALLED EMMANUEL...GOD-WITH-US!"
(Matt 1:23)**

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me One Who will be ruler over Israel, from of old, Whose origins are from ancient times." Micah 5:2

Lord, how thoroughly and clearly the prophet prophesied Your coming. But he did not know that You are not only from "ancient times", but rather, You are beyond time, You are Eternal!

"...men, foolish as they are, thought little of the grace they had received, and turned away from God...What, then, was God to do? What else could He possibly do, being God, but renew His Image in mankind, so that through it men might once more come to know Him? And how could this be done save by the coming of the very Image Himself, our Savior Jesus Christ? Men could not have done it, for they are only made after the Image; nor could angels have done it, for they are not the images of God. The Word of God came in His own Person, because it was He alone, the Image of the Father, Who could recreate man after the Image."

St. Athanasius - "On the Incarnation", Ch 3:11, 13

BRING SOMEONE TO CHRIST FOR CHRISTMAS! - Christmas is a time when we think of coming to church. Do you know someone who isn't coming to church? Invite that person to come to our Church with you on Christmas and every Sunday and Holy Day. Jesus will be happy with the gift!
SO - BRING SOMEONE TO CHRIST...

"The Never-setting Sun is coming from the Virginal womb to enlighten everyone under the sun. Let us meet Him with pure hearts and good works. Let us prepare ourselves now through the Holy Spirit to greet Him who is coming to His People as He Himself had willed. He is being born in Bethlehem so that through His compassion He might bring back all of those who were exiled from life in Paradise". Sunday Vespers - Holy Fathers

Lord, I weep when I read this hymn of praise to Your great love that comes to enlighten and shine upon us and live within us. Truly this is a great wonder

I weep because I do not always come to meet You with a "pure heart and good works". At times I don't even turn to You at all, but rather, to the "works of Your hands". I see the cleverness of the enemy who would use any device and disguise to distract me from hearing and obeying Your call to intimacy with You.

He seems to work harder at the special holy seasons of the year. But Your call is insistent, Your mercy is without limit, and Your power over him cannot be withstood. For this, I thank You.

So now, once again send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen me to prepare worthily for You. Or rather, since He is already within me, give me the awareness of His Presence at each moment in my life. It is so easy for me to get caught up in the everyday distractions (the good and the bad), and forget about Your holy coming in the flesh for all of us. It staggers my mind to think that You came from heaven to earth to bring us from earth to heaven!

In this last week of preparation for Your physical birth into the world You have created, enlighten my heart and mind and spirit. Keep Your face before the eyes of my heart so that I may see Your face in the faces of all You send to me; Your hand in every single event (especially those which seem to be insignificant) of these days. And finally, Lord, let me share Your love with all Your People - a love that is simple, without artifice or deceit, unselfish, courageous, and above all, holy...

Thank You, Lord.



Weekend Divine Services

Saturday: 5 PM Vespers

Sunday: 8:15 AM Matins
10 AM Divine Liturgy

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Danovich, Suzanne Goshorn

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