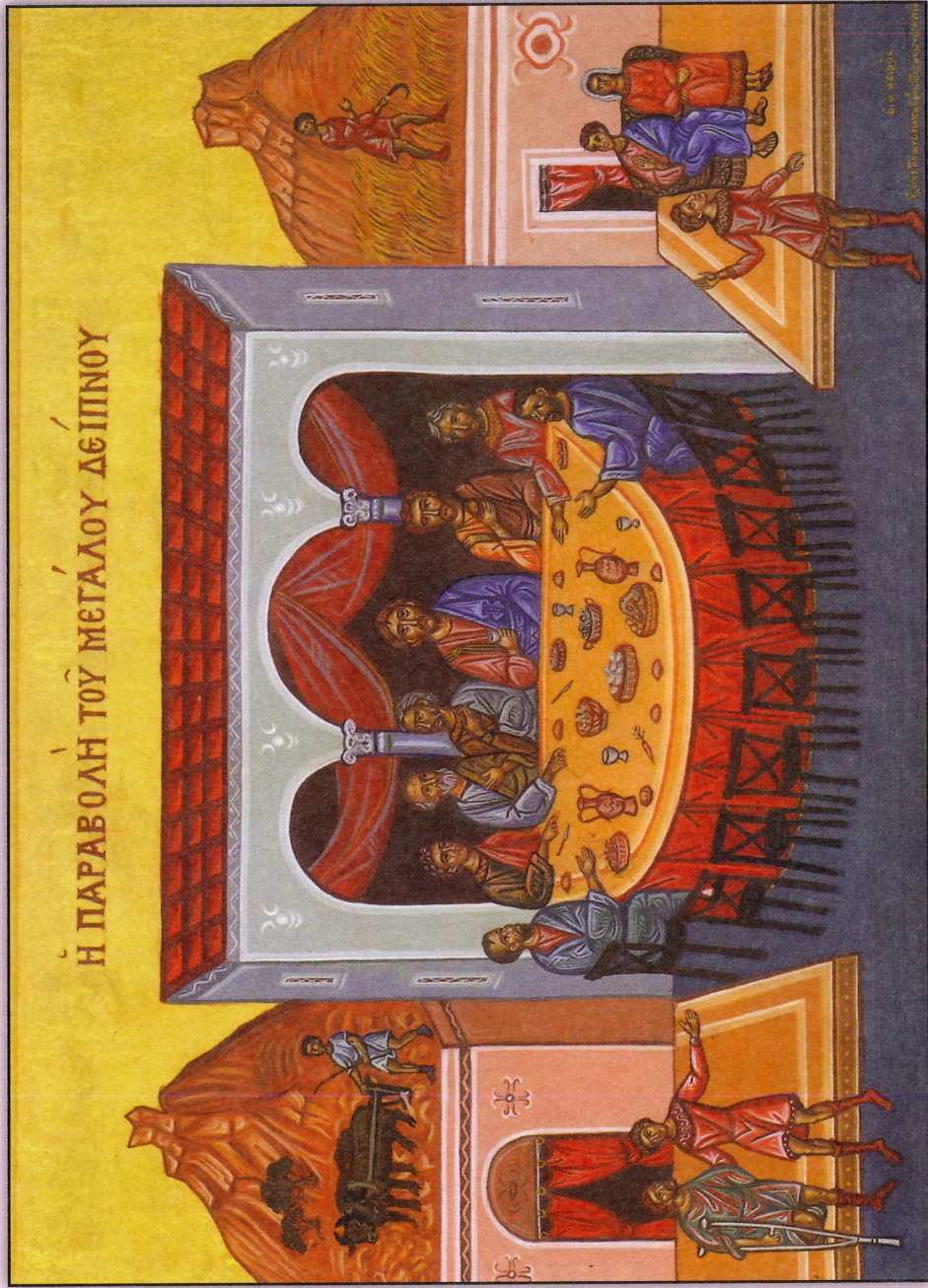


SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS



*Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast (Luke 14:16-24)*

## **December 13, 2020 – SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS**

*Tropar, Kontakion, Prokimenon, Alleluia Tone 3 - Col 3:4-11; Lk 14:16-24*

### **Sat. Dec. 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our venerable father, Spiridon, wonderworker (+347)**

4:00 pm Great Vespers (Livestream)  
5:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

### **Sun. Dec. 13 Sunday of the Forefathers**

8:00 am Matins (Livestream)  
9:00 am Rosary – (Livestream)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Livestream)  
11:00 am Divine Liturgy (Livestream)  
3:00 pm Vespers (Livestream)

### **Mon. Dec. 14 St. Thrysus, St. Leucius, St. Philemon, St. Appollonius, St. Arianus and St. Callinicus, Martyrs (+303)**

8:00 am Matins on the Day of Alleluia (Livestream)  
5:00 pm Vespers (Livestream)

### **Tues. Dec. 15 St. Eleutherius, Bishop-Martyr (+120)**

8:30 am Divine Liturgy with School Children (at St. Mary Church)  
5:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

### **Wed. Dec. 16 St. Haggai, Prophet**

8:00 am Matins on the Day of Alleluia (Livestream)  
5:00 pm Vespers (Livestream)

### **Thur. Dec. 17 St. Daniel and the Three Youghs**

8:00 am Matins (Livestream)  
8:30 am Divine Liturgy (Livestream)  
5:00 pm Vespers (Livestream)

### **Fri. Dec. 18 St. Sebastian and St. Companions (+292)**

8:00 am Matins on the Day of Alleluia (Livestream)  
5:00 pm Vespers (Livestream)

### **Sat. Dec. 19 St. Boniface, Martyr (+290) – Saturday Before Christmas**

8:00 am Matins (Livestream)  
8:30 am Slavonic Divine Liturgy (Livestream)  
4:00 pm Great Vespers (Livestream)  
5:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

### **Sun. Dec. 20 Sunday Before Christmas – Of The Ancestors**

8:00 am Matins (Livestream)  
9:00 am Rosary – (Livestream)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Livestream)  
11:00 am Divine Liturgy (Livestream)  
3:00 pm Vespers (Livestream)

Watch the livestream at [www.parma.org](http://www.parma.org) or [www.logos.tv](http://www.logos.tv) or YouTube LOGOS TV - PARMA  
If you know of someone that does not have access to the internet, reach out to them by phone to keep them informed with updates and encourage them to continue their daily prayer at home.

**MASK REQUIRED IN CHURCH BUILDINGS:** Masks are mandatory for anyone attending Divine Liturgies. (Exceptions are those with health issues that prohibit wearing a mask and children ten and under.) We ask that you cooperate with this request. If you are uncomfortable wearing a mask or simply “uncomfortable” being inside the church we continue to provide the services on livestream for you to watch from home ([www.parma.org](http://www.parma.org) or [www.logos.tv](http://www.logos.tv) or YouTube LOGOS TV – PARMA).

**The 2020/21 Annual Stewardship Appeal** continues. As we continue in this season of preparation for the Nativity, let us keep focus on the coming Feast of the Incarnation and the great gift the Father has given us in His Son, Jesus. If you have not already made your pledge or donation to the Stewardship Appeal, please visit [parma.org/2021appeal](http://parma.org/2021appeal) and consider a donation to the Eparchy to help financially with the many needs we face. Thank you for your generosity!

**PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY (ALL) :** All are invited to join in as we pray the rosary together before the Sunday, 9:30 am Divine Liturgy each week at the Cathedral. We will pray the rosary together in church as a group. Please plan on joining us, adults and children are encouraged to attend as we will be praying the joyful mysteries!  
Those who are at home may pray along with the Livestream.



**2021 DONATION ENVELOPE BOXES AND CALENDARS (ALL):** 2021 Donation Envelopes for all parishioners of the Cathedral, Holy Spirit, and St. Mary Church will be out and ready for pick up at the Cathedral building in the Bridal Room (located in the back of church near the restrooms) by the weekend of December 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. Liturgical calendars should also be available at that time.



On Saturday, December 19th, at 10:00 a.m. we will be cleaning the Cathedral in preparation for Christmas.....all are welcome to come and assist if able.

**COMBINED PARISH COUNCIL:** Bishop Milan has granted permission to form one advisory council of the three parishes that Fr. Marek currently serves at: Holy Spirit, St. Mary, and the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. The following parishioners have accepted positions on the council and been approved.

Mr. John Jurcisin (Holy Spirit)

Mrs. Kimberly Kocuba (St. Mary)

Mrs. Sue Ann Kochilla (Holy Spirit)

Mrs. Rosemary Trompak (St. Mary)

Mrs. Carol Szucs (Holy Spirit)

Mrs. Mary Veronica (St. Mary)

Mrs. Rita Basalla (Cathedral)

Mr. Alan Bratnick (Cathedral)

Mrs. Sharon Rayokovich (Cathedral)

Please keep each of the council members and Fr. Marek Visnovsky in your prayers!

**SPECIAL COLLECTION:** We will be taking a special collection at liturgy on December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. The Eparchy of Parma is participating in this collection (along with USCCB), since the retired Sisters of St. Basil in Uniontown would benefit from this and they used to work in our Eparchy. They will appreciate the support! You may place your donation in the collection box or send into the parish office, marked for "Religious Retirement" and it will be forwarded to the Eparchy.

Christmas 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The heart of Christmas is Christmas in the heart. We cannot truly experience Christmas unless we have it in our hearts. Experiencing the holiday in our hearts means having Christ at the center of our hearts. This simple reason is why many people cannot truly experience Christmas. They carry everything else in their hearts except for Christ. God does the greatest things in silence. For example, Christ coming to earth and becoming one of us, was the greatest event of the universe, yet it happened quietly in the darkest spot of the Judean desert near Bethlehem. When we want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, let us invite Christ into our hearts, to the darkest spot of our soul. We do not have to be holy in order to invite him, otherwise we would be waiting forever. Let us invite him now as we are, simple, weak, and full of fear. When the desert fathers were experiencing difficulties in their spiritual struggle, and were at the ends of their ropes, they recited the simple words of Psalm 70: ***"Deign, O God, to rescue me; O Lord, make haste to help me."*** God is waiting for our invitation into the darkest, weakest spot of our hearts, our souls, so he can touch it and heal it. Once this happens we will experience the true meaning of Christmas. It seems like a very small thing on the outside, yet it is a great thing on the inside. Why? Because we invite Christ to touch the weak spots of our heart. When he does so, we start seeing our sins and weaknesses, and at that moment we receive the grace to confess them. This is true healing and the true meaning of Christmas, to have Christ in our hearts.

I wish all of you a blessed remainder of the Philip's Fast (Advent), not only as we are expecting Christ, but also as Christ is expecting us, so we can joyfully sing on Christmas Day the Troparion: ***"Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge..."***

Fr. Marek



## **HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - SLAVIC FEST 2020 RAFFLE**

Despite the unusually strange year this has been we were able to bring some joy to eight lucky people on St. Nicholas Sunday, December 6, 2020 for the Slavic Fest 2020 Raffle. The raffle was held after the 11:00 am liturgy at the Cathedral of St. John with a very, very, very small crowd (understandably) and Deacon Robert Cripps pulled tickets. Let us congratulate the following winners: ***Lori Surgala, Sharon Rose, Joyce Lukerchine, Rosemary Trompak, Frances Lamparter, Jackie Michko, Nadine Kasick, and Joe Tombazzi.*** Holy Spirit would like to thank all of you who participated in this fundraiser. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

## **Christmas 2020 - Liturgical Schedule**

### **Christmas Eve – Vigil of Christmas**

**(Day of Strict Fast)**

#### **December 24th**

8:00 am - Matins

12 noon - Royal Hours

4:00 pm - Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

9:00 pm - Great Compline with Litija

### **Christmas Day - OBLIGATION**

#### **December 25th**

8:00 am - Festal Matins

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

All services will be held at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist Church and Livestreamed. All parishioners are invited to attend any and all of the church services offered.

**PRAY DAILY** - have a keep able rule of prayer that you do by discipline. Say the Lord's Prayer several times a day. Any time you have an opportunity to say a prayer, take advantage of it. The devil tries to eliminate your prayer since the prayer eliminates the devil.

- For courage to repent (to go to confession) - **St. John Forerunner, pray for us!** (40x)
- For Peace in the World – **Lord, have mercy!** (40 times)
- For Our Children – **Holy Father Nicholas, pray for us!** (40 times)
- For the Sick and Those in Need – **O Most Holy Trinity, save us!** (40 times)
- For Our Parish – **O Most Holy Theotokos, pray for us!** (40 times)
- For the courage to sing in church – **Holy Father Roman, pray for us!** (40 times)
- For the departed – **Psalm 51, 91, 119 (50, 90, 118 in LXX)**
- Jesus Prayer – **“Lord Jesus Christ,\* Son of God,\* have mercy on me\* a sinner!”**



Every evening before you go to bed, simply go through the whole day and think what you have done right or wrong, do the examination of conscience, and ask the good Lord for forgiveness. Make a sign of the cross over the place where you sleep and say: **“Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my soul and body. Do You Yourself bless me, have mercy on me, and grant me life eternal. Amen.”**

#### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE (ALL):**

Parishioners of all 4 parishes (Cathedral, Holy Spirit, St. Mary, St. Nicholas Croatian) may continue to mail their donation envelopes to the Parish Office, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, OH 44129 or simply drop them in the black locked mail box outside the office door. They will then be deposited into the proper church account. ***Please also continue to use your church envelopes when turning in your donations and print your full name on the outside of the envelope, on the line provided. This will help with the recording of your donations in the computer.*** Thank you.

**-OR-**

**ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE (ALL):** Giving made easy! We now offer electronic giving for all with Churches-GivePlus. You can contribute anywhere, anytime right from your computer, smartphone or tablet. Give online by visiting the website <http://stmarybyz.com/> and clicking on the **Give OnLine Link**. Or download the free GivePlus mobile app from the App Store or Google Play.

Giving online is fast, easy and secure. You can set up single donations, recurring donations and how frequently you wish to give. Online giving can be done either by credit card or a bank account. The first time going to the GivePlus application, create your profile; then login, follow the easy to read screens and make your donation.

**OUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS**  
**December 6, 2020**

Cathedral Parish	-	<u>\$ 638.00</u>	<u>\$ 110.00</u>	Online Giving
Holy Spirit Parish	-	<u>\$1,736.00</u>	<u>\$ 210.00</u>	Online Giving
St. Mary's Parish	-	<u>\$3,793.00</u>	<u>\$ 130.00</u>	Online Giving

*Have you remembered Your Church in your Will and/or Trust?  
Thank you and may God reward your generosity!*

**St. Mary Church 250 Club Winner – 12/06/2020**

#49 Matt Stibora - Captain, Mike Stibora

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND CONFINED:** **St. Mary's** – John Krenisky, Kathleen Miller, Mary Ann Ridilla; Ray Yasenchak; Esther Morganosky; John Anitas; Pat Asmondy; Goldie Barvinchak; Pearl Beningo; Mildred Bobick; JoAnn Chaky; Eva Cook; Seleema Corrigan; Sally Csejpes; Lois Deighton; Dolores Furda; Mary Grauel; Ruthann Hodar, Margaret Huges, Rosemary Kennick; Larry Lantz; Barbara Miterko; Eleen Monoc; Carl Panko; Sue Peterchalk; Joseph Popik; Art Pordash; Eleen Reese; David Starling; Isabelle Sweeney; Bob & Mary Zelenka.

**Cathedral** – Theresa Dorony; Phil Nechvatal; Joe Kaltner; Helen Fredericks; Frank Lizanich; Carol Morin.

**Holy Spirit** – Margaret Girman, Samuel Basalla, Jim Neitzel, Elizabeth Loya; George Hapker; Ken Kalas; Ann Yorko; Janice Misch; Richard Onderak; Elizabeth Sheppard; Helen Sawchak; Carol Vasil; Helen Alpine; Andrea Seman; Carol and Richard Bub.

Helen Jeris; Marge Kordic; Walter Badovinac; Mary Ann Zubovich; Michelle Zubovich-Simon.

*Keep Fr. Marek in your prayers as he recovers from Covid*

Call Fr. Bruce Riebe at (440) 526-1818 for **Emergency Sick Call Visits**





St. Mary's Church, 4600 State Rd, Cleveland (SM) Phone: 216.741.7979

[www.stmarybyz.com](http://www.stmarybyz.com)

St. John's Cathedral, 1900 Carlton Rd, Parma (CATH) Phone: 216.661.8658

Holy Spirit Church, 5500 West 54<sup>th</sup> St., Parma (HS) Phone: 440.884.8452

Most Rev. Milan Lach, SJ, Bishop of Parma

Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Marek Visnovsky, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Hnat (St. Mary Parish), Deacon Gregory Loya (Cathedral Parish),

Deacon Robert Cripps (Holy Spirit Parish)

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES held at the Cathedral and Livestream at parma.org:**

Saturday: 7:30 am Matins; 8 am and 5 pm Divine Liturgy; 4 pm Great Vespers

Sunday: 8 am Matins; 9:30 am and 11 am Divine Liturgy; 3 pm Vespers

**HOLY DAY SERVICES:** 7 am Festal Matins; 8 am Divine Liturgy (6 pm Great Vespers with Litija the evening before the holy day)

**DAILY SERVICES:** 7:30 am Matins; 8 am Divine Liturgy; 5 pm Vespers

### *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?