



St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church

2410 - 4th Ave. Watervliet, NY 12189 Tel: 518-273-6752

Web: www.cerkva.com E-mail: office@cerkva.com

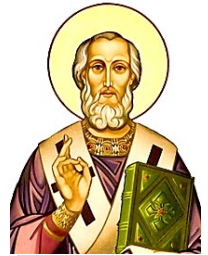
Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/cerkvaNY>

Pastor: Rev. Mikhaïl Myshchuk

Deacon: Rev. Deacon Thomas Gutch

Trustees: Nicholas Fil & Irene Skaliĵ

Cantor - Olesia Verzole



Dec 15, 2024

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ! СЛАВА НА ВІКИ!

Tone 3

facebook

www.facebook.com/cerkvaNY

You Tube

www.youtube.com/@st.nicholaschurchukrainian5207

Divine Liturgies Dec 15, 2024

Sun	9:00 AM	- За всіх парафіян - For all parishioners	(in UKR)	
	10:30 AM	- Rosary	(in ENG)	
	11:00 AM	- For living and deceased members of Storonsky & Felack fam.	(in ENG)	Legacy Liturgy
Mon	9:00 AM	- For the health of Olga Zendran		By J. Chakonas
	10:00 AM	- OMPHS Meeting		
Tue	9:00 AM	+ Bernadette Drabik & deceased members of her family		By J. Chakonas
Wed	9:00 AM	+ Luba & Ivan and deceased members of Mokey and Danyliw families		By the friends
Thu	9:00 AM	+ Jesse B. Crandall Jr		By Crandall family
Fri	9:00 AM	+ GERALYNN SCHMIDT		By J. Chakonas
Sat	9:00 AM	- For the health of William Keniry		By J. Chakonas
3:00 - 5:30 PM Confessions Before Christmas with visiting clergy				
5:00 PM - Vespers				
Sun	8:30-12:00 PM	Confessions Before Christmas with vising clergy		
	9:00 AM	- За всіх парафіян - For all parishioners	(in UKR)	
	10:30 AM	- Rosary	(in ENG)	
	11:00 AM	+ Kathleen Kenedy	(in ENG)	By B. Zavisky

Readings of the week are :

Sun	Col 3:4-11	Lk 14:16-24
Mon	Heb 11:17-23; 27-31	Mk 9:42-10:1
Tue	Heb 12:25-26; 13:22-25	Mk 10:2-12
Wed	Jam 1:1-8	Mk 10:11-16
Thu	Jam 1:1-18	Mk 10:17-27
Fri	Jam 2:1-13	Mk 10:23-32
Sat	Gal 3:8-12	Lk 13:18-29
Sun	Heb 11:9-10; 17-23; 32-40	Mt 1:1-25

The Saints of the week are:

Sun	H.P.-M. Eleutherius; V.F. Paul of Latra; H.F. Stephen the C.
Mon	H.P. Haggai (Aggee) (6th c. BC)
Tue	H. P. Daniel, the Three H. Youths, Ananiah, Azaraih & Mishael
Wed	H.M. Sebastian Et Al
Thu	H.M. Boniface
Fri	H.P.-M. Ignatius the Godbearer
Sat	H.M. Juliana of Nicomedia
Sun	H.G.-M. Anastasia (Sun before Nativity)

Ushers

	1 Liturgy	2 Liturgy
Dec 15	J.Urusky, J.Seneta, I.Seneta	K. Fazioli, J. Fazioli
Dec 22	L.Dryansky, V.Kushnir, A.Serdyuk	T. Lee, C. Lee

Epistle Readers

1 Liturgy	2 Liturgy
A. Labyak	R. Paylo
T. Myshchuk	I. Skaliĵ

Liturgical Singing

	Opening Song	Closing Song
Dec 15	We Are Gathered - (pg 1)	O spomahaj nas - (pg 38)
Dec 22	Come Now To Us - (pg 10)	Immaculate Mary- (pg 44)



1. **Parish Membership** – anyone interested in becoming a registered member, please call the Church Office at 273-6752 via e-mail: office@cerkva.com, or speak with Fr. Mikhail.
2. **Christmas Confessions** - on **Saturday, Dec. 21 (from 3:00 – 5:30 PM) & Sunday, December 22th (from 8:30-12:00 PM)**. **Very Rev. Bohdan Tymchyshyn** is invited to help. Note: The Holy Sacrament of Confession is a great God's gift to us. Plan your time accordingly and prepare yourself properly to receive it worthily for the forgiveness of your sins for life everlasting.
3. **Thank you – Pyrohy Sale Workers** - for all your hard work in preparing the sale and once again making it a great success. Thank you those of you who have volunteered for the first time, and to those who have been volunteering "forever". Thank you to all who have made donations of money, food, items and decorations. May God bless you all! It's great honor to be a member of such a wonderful parish community.

4. **Meetings:**
 - **OMPHS – will be on Mon. Dec 16, 2024 in the church hall at 10:00 am.**
5. **Epistle Reading Schedule for 2025** – is being prepared. If you want to know more information about this ministry or be placed on the list, contact our cantor Olesia Verzole or Fr. Mikhail.
6. **Thank you** – St. Nicholas Day was a great success. Our sincere gratitude goes to all parishioners of St. Nicholas parish and especially to I. Skiliy, D. Felak, O. Myshchuk to the teachers and students of Capital District Saturday School of Ukrainian Studies and to all who helped to make this Feast Day a memorable one. May God through the prayers of St. Nicholas bless you.

7. **Christmas Loaf** – Next Sunday we will bless and distribute the Christmas Loaf. We will share it during Christmas Eve Supper, "Sviati Vechir". You are invited to take one loaf per family & divide it at the time of Christmas Eve so that each member will participate in that one bread. 
8. **Receiving Holy Communion** - Please come forward, tilt your head backward slightly, and open your mouth wide (do not stick out your tongue, and do not say "Amen"). After receiving the Holy Eucharist, close your mouth, consume the Holy Eucharist, and return to your place.
9. **Bequests** - making out your will, kindly remember **St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church**.
10. **Usher / Money Counter Schedule for 2025** – will be completed soon. We welcome new volunteers; no experience is required. Please contact Irene Skalij 518-326-0067 or Nicholas Fil (518-785-7596) if you wish to be added to this schedule. Those wishing to be removed or reassigned to another ministry, please let us know.
11. **New Offering Envelopes** If you do not have offering envelopes, drop us a note with your information in the collection basket. Parishioners who have reached adulthood and/or finished school let us know so that we can prepare your personal offering envelopes for next year. Parents may remind them. ☺

12. **The End of 2024 Year** - As we approach the end of the year, you may wish to review your offering envelopes to see if you postponed or overlooked any that you want to make up before the books are closed on December 31, 2024.
13. **CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** - The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 99, Watervliet will be Christmas caroling on December 28th and 29th. All proceeds are designated to support our "Keep Ukraine Warm" campaign to aid children enduring the harsh winter power blackouts due to bombings targeted at Ukraine's power grids. We will be reaching out to set up times to visit your home with some holiday cheer.

14. Patronize our Advertisers - on the back of our weekly bulletin are the names of those who advertise with us. We ask that you please patronize these generous people. We wish that God may grant them many successful years in their profession.

15. Cemetery- The purchase of a cemetery plot is a privilege reserved for our parishioners. For detailed information please contact the church office at 518-273-6752.

16. Our Visitors and Guests - welcome you to our liturgical worship. May our Lord grant us with one voice and one heart to glorify and sing the praises of His honored and magnificent Name. We invite all Catholics in good standing with the Church to partake in the Holy Communion. Orthodox Faithful may also receive Holy Communion (Canon 671). We ask people of all other denominations and religions to abstain of coming forward, but wait. You will receive a blessing with the Holy Gifts at the end of the Holy Communion. With any questions about our faith and worship services, please kindly seek Fr. Dc. T. Gutch or Fr. Mikhail Myshchuk.



17. Sacrament of Matrimony - Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months before the proposed date to allow ample time for preparation. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church.

Dear Friends

Our cross-community Aid-to-Ukraine team, representing local Ukrainian organizations and churches spearheaded by local branch of UCCA, is again organizing MALANKA fundraising event with all proceeds going to aid people of Ukraine. It is a great opportunity to combine our Ukrainian traditions with a noble cause

WHEN: Saturday, January 18, 6pm-12am

WHERE: Ukrainian-American Cultural Center,
402 25th St, Watervliet, NY

TICKETS:

- \$120 - adults 21+, \$60 - teens 16-20, \$30 - kids 6-15 years old. You are welcome to pay more if wishing to donate more
- No physical tickets will be distributed - we will have a list with assigned seats
- If you have a preference to sit with someone, please let us know when purchasing tickets and we will try to accommodate

HOW TO PAY:

- online payments via QR code on the poster or <https://givebutter.com/ucaalbany-donate2> (convenience fee applies)
- cash/check payments - please contact Viktor Holovashchenko at viktor.holova@gmail.com or 518-207-5688 for the reservations
- checks are payable to "UCCA Capital District" can be mailed to 402 25th St, Watervliet, NY 12189
- Payment must be submitted online or be in Viktor's possession no later than Monday, January 13 to guarantee your seat
- Seats are limited so please submit your reservation and payment as soon as possible
- Tax deduction letter is provided automatically if paying online. In other cases, it will be provided upon request

Thank you for your generosity!

Dance the Night Away
for the noble cause to aid Ukraine

MALANKA

Saturday, January 18, 2025
6:00PM-12:00
Ukrainian-American Cultural Center
402 25th St, Watervliet, NY

Cocktail Hour
open bar (wine & beer)
(6:00pm-7:00pm)






Buffet Dinner
(cash bar after 7:00pm)

TICKETS*
Adults 21+ \$120
Teens 16-20 \$60
Children 6-15 \$30
online @ QR code or contact Viktor
viktor.holova@gmail.com / 518-207-5688

Ukraine Ukrainians

*tickets are non-refundable



1. **Реєстрація** – Вітаємо гостей до нашої Церкви. Ласкаво просимо усіх бажаючих стати членами парафії, повідомити церковний офіс 273-6752 / office@cerkva.com.
2. **Різдвяна сповідь** – у суботу 21-го грудня від 3:00-5:30 по полудні та неділю 22 грудня від 8:30 – 12:00 год. Запрошений о. Богдан Тимчишин. Сповідь це великий Божий дарунок для нас. Плануйте заздалегідь та гідно приготуйтеся до Святої Сповіді, щоб отримати відпущення гріхів ваших для вічного життя у Царстві Небеснім. Не пропустіть цієї нагоди.
3. **Різдвяна Просфора** – у наступну неділю просимо взяти просфору із собою до дому та розділити її між членами вашої сім'ї в часі Різдвяної Вечері – „Святого Вечора”. Просимо брати лиш одну просфору на сім'ю. Розділена просфора пригадує нам, що усі ми належимо до однієї сім'ї, хоча є різними кусочками. Споживання від однієї просфори є символом нашого єднання.
4. **Сердечна Подяка** – усім парафіянам та організаторам свята Св. о. Миколая, особливо для І. Скалій, Д. Філяк та О. Мишук, вчителям та учням Української Школи та Садочку, та усім що вклали свою частку у святкування незабутнього парафіяльного празника. Нехай Господь за молитвами св. о Миколая поблагословить вас усіх.
5. **Щирoserдечно Дякуємо Вам** – усім хто пожертвував свій час та доклав зусилля для успішного завершення **Продажу Вареників**. Дякуємо щиро тим хто перший раз прийшов допомогти, і тим хто завжди нам допомагає. Дякуємо тим хто не є членом парафії але відгукнувся на клич допомоги. Нехай Господь Вас усіх благословить за дбайливість та жертвенність.
6. **Сходини церковної орг. «Наша Мати Неустанної Помочі»** – у пон. 16-го грудня о 10 год.
7. **Розклад читання Апостола 2025** – отримати докладнішу інформацію про це служіння та бажаючих читати Св. Апостола просимо звертатись до дяка Олесі Верзол або о. Михайла.
8. **Конверти Пожертв** – ми обновляємо списки імен парафіян на наступний 2025 рік. Тому бажаючих отримати конверти-пожертв просимо подати ваші дані до церковного офісу, зателефонувавши 518-273-6752 або e-mail: office@cerkva.com. Просимо батьків заохочувати дітей, що досягли віку зрілості та закінчили навчання у коледжі, стати повноцінними членами парафії та отримали конверти пожертв.
9. **Фінансовий Рік 2024** – підходить до свого закінчення. Хай кожен перегляне свої конверти пожертв, чи була ми чого не доглянули. І якщо ви ще хотіли б зробити пожертву на будь-яку ціль, то зробіть її ще до закінчення цього року.
10. **Різдвяна Коляда** - Союз Америки, Відділ 99, Watervliet планує іти колядувати **28 і 29 грудня**. Усі виручені кошти спрямовані на підтримку збірки «Збережи Україну теплою», щоб допомогти дітям пережити суворий зимовий час відключення електрики через бомбардування України. Ми наперед зконтактуємось із вами, щоб узгодити час відвідин вашого дому зі святковим настроєм.
11. **Завіщення:** Пам'ятайте про вашу парафіяльну Церкву Св. о. Миколая у вашому заповіті.
12. **У випадку поганої погоди** – в майбутньому у випадку дуже поганої погоди у неділю, відправлятиметься лише одна Служба Божа в укр. і англ. мовах в 11-й год ранку.
13. **Новорічна Маланка** – у суботу 18-го січня від 6-12 год ночі в Українсько-Американському Культурному Центрі у Вотевліт. Ціна квитків: \$120 – за дорослого віком 21+, \$60 – для підлітків та студентів віком від 16-20 років та \$30 – за дітей віком від 6-15 років. Додаткову інформацію та замовлення у Віктора Головащенко viktor.holova@gmail.com or 518-207-5688.



ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH FALL FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE 2024

November 9, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Our goal is to raise funds for three projects:

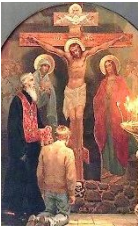
- 1) Bionic prosthesis: Restore mobility of wounded
- 2) Rehabilitation Equipment for Ukraine's wounded defenders
- 3) Assemble 200 IFAKS (Medical Kits) and sent medical supplies.



Donate at: www.cerkva.com

Make checks payable to: St. Nicholas Church
2410 - 4th Ave. Watervliet, NY 12189





Why Do Catholics Confess To A Priest?

The practice of confessing personal sins is as Catholic as the Rosary or a Roman collar. “Why do you confess things to a priest?” people ask. Many Protestants present a starker challenge: “Why do you confess your sins to a *mere man* instead of confessing directly to God?”

In answer to the first question: **We Catholics confess our sins to a priest because that’s the method of forgiveness that Jesus Himself established during His earthly ministry.**

In answer to the second question: **By confessing our sins to Jesus’ minister, we are confessing our sins to God *through* His priest whom He commissioned for this very purpose.**

God Alone Forgives Sins

All Christians recognize—and the Catholic Church teaches—that God alone can forgive sins. “**Only God forgives sins,**” states the Catechism (§1441). The Catechism also says that, [as] the Son of God, Jesus says of himself, “The Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” and exercises this divine power: “Your sins are forgiven.” [Catechism of the Catholic Church, §1441-1442](#)

We see Jesus exercise this authority during His earthly ministry. “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven,” He says to a paralyzed man (Matthew 9:2).

When His fellow Jews are scandalized by this announcement to forgive sin, their scandal is understandable: they believed Jesus to be “a mere man” and were horrified by His claim to have an authority that belonged to God alone. But Jesus answered them: “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, take up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men. *Matt 9:4-8*

Jesus proved His divinity to them—and therefore His ability to forgive sin—by His power over creation, which He demonstrated through miracles of healing or of absolute power (such as walking on water or cutting a violent storm short with a mere command).

Alright. It’s one thing for the Son of God—being God—to forgive sin. What’s all this about Catholic *priests* forgiving sin? Let’s find out.

A Track Record of Divinely-Chosen MEDIATORS

The Old Testament reveals an interesting thing: from the earliest days of God’s interaction with the human beings He created, He has chosen to speak and work through hand-selected persons on behalf of everyone else. God doesn’t *have* to do this. But for His own purposes—which we may find mysterious—He chooses to.

Abraham. Noah. Moses. Isaiah and all the prophets, right up to John the Baptist. The Lord chose to communicate His will *through* them, to bring about His will *through* them, and to perform great works *through* them. They became His mediators.

Now, many Christians become agitated at the word “mediator,” and point to 1 Timothy 2:5: For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...

And we are not denying what St. Paul writes, which is, of course, true. There is one Mediator (capital M) between God and men: Jesus.

Yet in His mercy and unfathomable condescension, Jesus chooses to associate *us* with Himself—and *even* allows us to participate in His mediation. It’s not our mediation—it’s His, graciously extended to us. You might think of us as “lowercase-M” mediators.

For example, when you pray for another person, you are in a real sense mediating on their behalf. St. James writes about this: ...and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. *James 5:16*

Our humble mediation would not exist, nor have any efficacy, without the one true Mediator between God and man—Jesus—who makes it possible. No catechized Catholic denies this.

To be continued..... <https://www.goodcatholic.com/why-do-catholics-confess-to-a-priest/>



**Sunday of the Holy Ancestors; Pr.-Martyr Eleutherius.
Ven. Fr. Paul of Latra (956). Holy Fr. Stephen the
Confessor.**

Troparion, Tone 5: Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word,* co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,* and born of the Virgin for our salvation.* For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death* and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Troparion, Tone 2: By faith, You justified Your ancestors* and through them in advance You betrothed the Church taken from the nations.* The saints exult in glory,* from their seed *comes* the blessed fruit, the one who bore You without seed.* By their prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy on us.

+Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, (6): Armed by the Being that defies description,* you defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth.* In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God:* "In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,"* for You can do whatever You will.

Prokimen (4): Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,* praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

Verse: For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us. (*Daniel 3:26,27*)

Reading of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians (3:4-11): Brothers and Sisters, when Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Alleluia (4): Moses & Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name.

verse: They called on the Lord and He heard them. (*Psalms 98:6*)

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24: Jesus told this parable, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.'" Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest (*Psalms 148:1*).* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous (*Psalms 32:1*).* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.



Неділя святих Праотців. Св. Стефана ісп., асп. Сурозького Св. сщмч. Єлевтерія.

Тропар (г 5): Рівнобезначальне з Отцем і Духом Слово,* що від Діви народилося на спасіння наше,* прослаavimo, вірні, і поклонімся,* бо Воно благозволило тілом зійти на хрест* і смерть перетерпіти, і воскресити померлих* славним воскресінням Своім.

Тропар (г 2): Вірою праотців оправдав ти,* з нарбдів через них ти Церкву наперед заручив.* Хваляться у славі святі,* бо з сімени їх є плід благословенний* - та, що без сімени родила тебе.* Йх молитвами, Христе Боже, помилуй нас.

+Слава Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові. І нині, і повсякчас, і на віки вічні. Амінь.

Кондак (г 6): Рукописаному образу не поклонившись,* але неописаним єством захистившись, триблженні,* в подвизі вогню ви прославилися* і, посеред нестерпного полум'я стоячи, Бога ви призвали:* Поспішишь, о, Щедрий,* і скоро прийди як милостивий нам на поміч,* бо ти можеш, якщо воля твоя.

Прокімен (г 4): Благословен єси, Господи, Боже отців наших,* і хвальне, і прославлене ім'я твоє на віки (Дан 3,26).

Стих: Бо Ти праведний у всьому, що вчинив єси нам. (Дан 3,27).

До Колосян послання св. апостола Павла читання (Кл 3,4-11): Браття і Сестри, коли ж Христос, ваше життя, з'явиться, тоді й ви з ним з'явитесь у славі. Умертвлюйте, отже, ваші земні члени: розпусту, нечистоту, пристрасті, лиху пожадливість, зажерливість - що є ідолопоклонство. За все це падає гнів Божий на неслухняних. Ви самі нещодавно поводитися так само, коли жили в тому. Тепер же відкиньте й ви все те геть від себе: гнів, лютість, злобу, наклеп, сороміцькі слова з ваших уст! Не говоріть неправди одне одному, бо ви з себе скинули стару людину з її ділами й одягнулися в нову, що відновлюється до досконалого спізнання, відповідно до образу свого Творця. Тим то немає грека, ні юдея, ні обрізання, ні необрізання, ні варвара, ні скита, ні невольника, ні вільного, а все й у всьому - Христос.

Ллнлүя (г 4): Мойсей і Арон між єреями його і Самуїл між тими, щопризивають ім'я його.

Стих: Вони Господа прикликали, і Він відповідав їм.

Євангеліє: Лк 14,16-24: Сказав Господь притчу оцю: "Один чоловік справив вечерю велику й запросив багатьох. Під час вечері послав він слугу свого сказати запрошеним: Ідіть, усе готове. Тоді всі вони однаково почали відмовлятися. Перший йому сказав: Поле купив я, мушу піти на нього подивитись; вибач мені, прошу тебе. Другий сказав: П'ять пар волів купив я і йду їх спробувати; прошу тебе, вибач мені. А інший мовив: Я одружився і тому не можу прийти. Повернувся слуга й розповів це панові своєму. Розгнівався тоді господар та й каже до слуги свого: Іди щоскоріш на майдани й вулиці міста й приведи сюди вбогих, калік, сліпих, кульгавих. Пане, - озвався слуга, - сталось, як ти велів, і місця є ще. Сказав пан до слуги: Піди на шляхи та огорожі й наполягай увійти, щоб дім мій наповнився. Кажу бо вам: Ніхто з отих запрошених не покуштує моєї вечері."

Причасний: Хваліте Господа з небес, хваліте Його на висотах (Пс 148,1). * Радуйтеся, праведні, у Господі, правим належить похвала (Пс 32,1). Аلیلүя (х3).

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The Great Feast

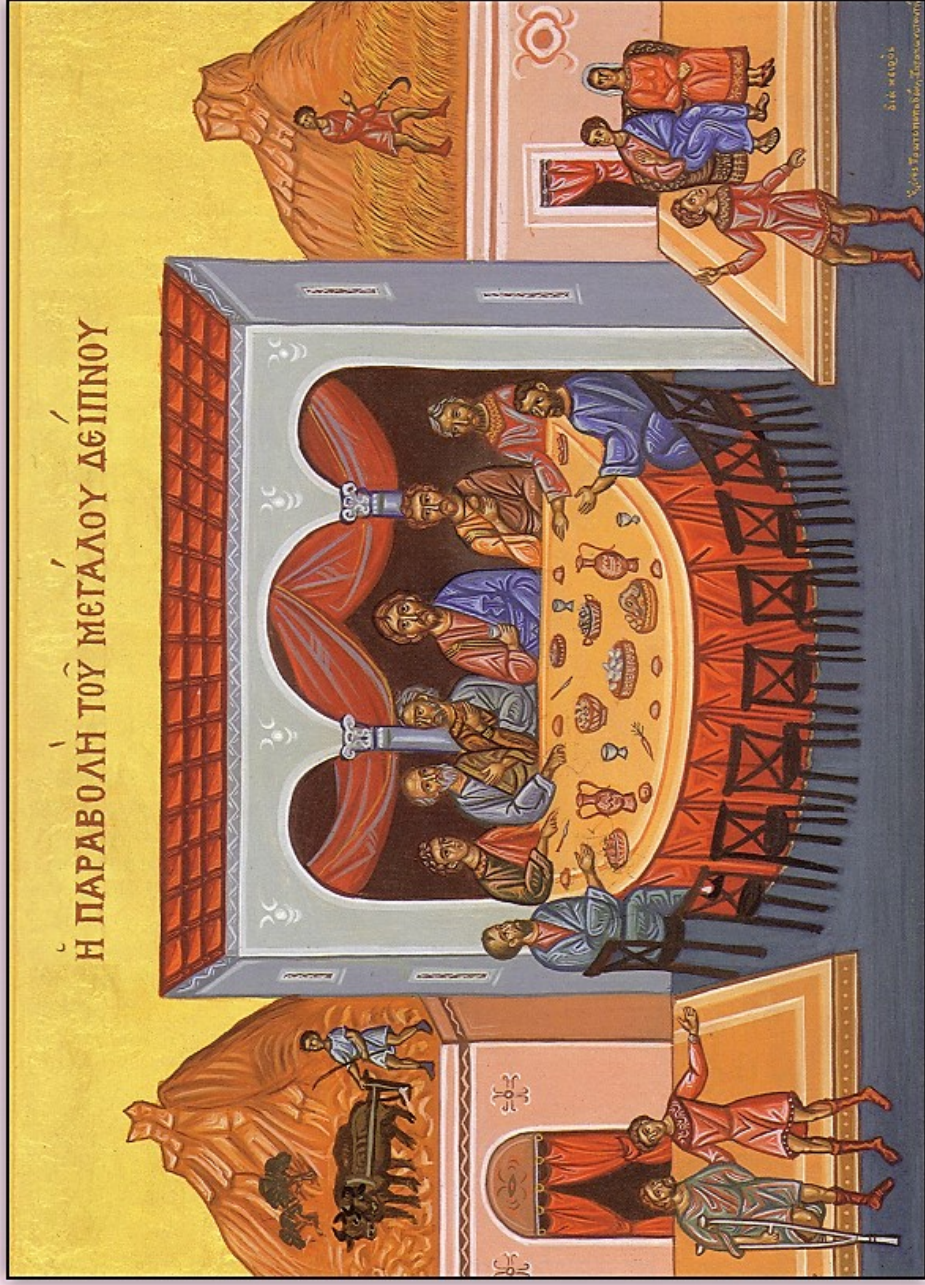
This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God-man Jesus Christ 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 ΠΑΡΑΒΟΛΗ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΔΕΙΠΝΟΥ



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