

# **WELCOME TO THE GOD-LOVING & GOD-PROTECTED PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL'S!**

*A parish of the UOC-USA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate*  
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www.StMichaelUOC.org | Fr. Borislav Kroner

*“Each one shall give what he has decided in his own mind, not Grudgingly or because he is made to - for God loves a cheerful giver.” - II Cor. 9:7*

**December 17, 2017**

## **SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Tone 3

Epistle: Col. 1:12-18; Gospel: Lk. 17:12-19

**9:00AM** Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**6:00PM** Great Vespers

**Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**

Tone 4

Epistle: Col. 3:4-11; Gospel: Lk. 14:16-24

**9:00AM** Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00PM** Great Vespers

**Sunday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of the Holy Fathers**

Tone 5

Epistle: Heb. 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40; Gospel: Mat. 1:1-25

**9:00AM** Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve**

**TBA** Great Compline

**Sunday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> – Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ**

Epistle: Gal. 4:4-7; Gospel: Mt. 2:1-12

**9:00AM** Divine Liturgy

*Remember: even when you are absent, expenses continue.*

## **PARISH NEWS**

A hearty welcome to our guests and visitors. Please join us in the church hall after the Divine Liturgy for coffee and fellowship.

A special THANK YOU goes out to all those who helped make our Christmas Concert and our annual Cookie Walk a success. Thank you! Дякую!

### **Sunday Soup Sales!**

For the next few Sundays members of the Sr. UOL will begin sponsoring a Sunday Soup Sale Fundraisers during Coffee Hours with proceeds going toward specific charities.

*Suggested minimum donation of \$3 per bowl. (or take some home for \$5 a container) Soup will be sold at the kitchen window*

Our first effort will be to assist a young woman from a neighbor parish (St. Stanislaus) named Sabina Piorkowski. Sabina was born with Diastrophic Dysplasia (a form of dwarfism) and needs assistance in purchasing a special wheelchair van so that she can be more independent getting to college and doctor's appointments on her own.

**OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP:** Please donate in the collection basket at the end of Divine Liturgy. Please give generously! Thank you! Дякую!

***Christmas Pine Arrangements created by Mary Ann Grintchenko will be available for pick up today, Sunday Dec. 17th.***

We now have a **"Kitchen Giving Tree"** that will allow all parishioners (young and old alike—because what child doesn't like to be part of things)?, to help. We have an **"item of the month"** donation box in both the vestibule and the church hall.

**The item of the month for December: Carnation Brand Evaporated Milk**

**Are you in the midst of your Fall/Winter cleaning?? Save your stuff for us!** Items can be brought to the church basement during coffee hour. Please, do not bring electronic devices (tv, computers and similar items). ***We will accept items for the Flea Market until Spring.*** Thank you! Дякую!

**If you have any ideas** for fund raisers for the church, please let a council member know! And a reminder, please consider our scrip program for gift cards is an

excellent way for the church to benefit from your gift card purchases!! See Val Sternadore for more info.

## **UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

**Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> - St. Nicholas Day Children's Celebration**

**Thursday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> - Theophany Eve Dinner**

**Friday, Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Ladies Sodality's Lenten Kitchen**

**Saturday, Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Cookie Walk**

## **KITCHEN WORK SESSIONS 2018**

**Friday, January 12, 2018, 7:30AM prepare 30# cabbage  
6:00PM - make cabbage balls**

**Monday, January 15, 7:30Am -- make vareneky**

**Tuesday, February 6, 7:30Am - fried Perohe, 2 batches (28# potatoes)**

**Wednesday, February 7, 7:30Am - fried Perohe , 2 batches (28# potatoes)**

**Monday, Feb 12, 7:30Am - peel and mash 75# potatoes, make potato balls**

**Tuesday, Feb 13, 7:30Am - potato vareneky**

**Monday, Feb 19, 7:30Am - peel and mash 75# potatoes, make potato balls**

**Tuesday, Feb 20, 7:30Am - potato vareneky**

**Monday, March 12, 7:30Am - steam 180# cabbage**

**Tuesday, March 13, 7:30Am - assemble holubtsi**

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE NATIVITY FAST**

*(November 15 / 28 through December 24 / January 6)*

The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a *joyous* fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ. That is the reason it is less strict than other fasting periods. The fast is divided into two periods.

*The 1st period is November 15th / 28th through December 19th / January 1st* when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Similarly, fish, wine, and oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays.

***The 2nd period is December 20th / January 2nd through December 24th / January 6th*** when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday during this period.

### ***The Purpose of Fasting***

The purpose of fasting is to focus on the things that are above, the Kingdom of God. It is a means of putting on virtue in reality, here and now. Through it we are freed from dependence on worldly things. We fast faithfully and in secret, not judging others, and not holding ourselves up as an example.

- Fasting in itself is not a means of pleasing God. Fasting is not a punishment for our sins. Nor is fasting a means of suffering and pain to be undertaken as some kind of atonement. Christ already redeemed us on His Cross. Salvation is a gift from God that is not bought by our hunger or thirst.
- We fast to be delivered from carnal passions so that God's gift of Salvation may bear fruit in us.
- We fast and turn our eyes toward God in His Holy Church. Fasting and prayer go together.
- Fasting is not irrelevant. Fasting is not obsolete, and it is not something for someone else. Fasting is from God, for us, right here and right now.
- Most of all, we should not devour each other. We ask God to "set a watch and keep the door of our lips."

### ***Do Not Fast***

- between ***January 7 and January 18*** (even on Wednesdays and Fridays);
- if you are pregnant or nursing a newborn;
- during serious illness;
- without prayer;
- without alms-giving;
- according to your own will without guidance from your spiritual father.