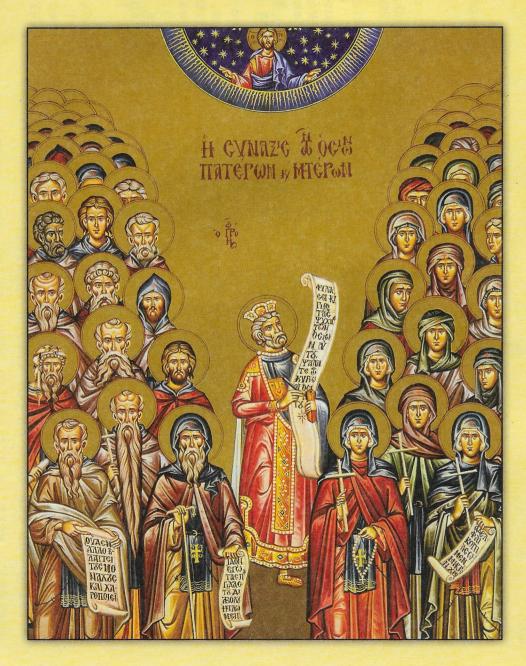
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



Icon of the Holy Ancestors

The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily compre-

thew's audience and for us. Human being have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness. A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned - this God con-

hensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story

in the Old Testament. But that is only one part

of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a se-

quence as well; and the continuing sequence is

what makes the genealogy "good news" for Mat-

tinues to work through the same melange. If it was a challenge to recognize in the last part of Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

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Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khristoo!

Christmas Week Dec. 18-19, 2021

THE HOLY FEAST OF Christmas will be celebrated next weekend in our Parish. On Friday, Dec, 24, we will sing our Great Compline Service at 8:30 pm, followed by the Christmas Liturgy at 9 pm. On Christmas Day, Saturday the 25th, we will sing the Holy Liturgy at 10 am. And on Sunday, the 26th, we will celebrate the Liturgy at the regular time of 9 acm.

WE WILL LIVESTREAM THE Holy Liturgy this Saturday evening at 6 pm. Next weekend we will livestream both the Great Compline and Christmas Liturgy on Friday, Christmas Eve, the 24th. And we will also livestream the Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9 am, the 26th. All livestreaming will be available on the YOUTUBE platform. Please spread the word on this schedule to all your distant and/or elderly or ailing relatives and friends, both near and far this Christmas.

THE FINAL CLASS of the current semester will take place this Sunday at 11 am on Google meet. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 16, 11 am. All of our current students are already enrolled for the new semester. However, new students must register for the new spring semester by filling out the form on our Church website.

ON THURSDAY WE SANG THE burial Liturgy for +Sophie Smoczylo, 90, who was buried next to her late husband Michailo in our cemetery. Surviving Sophie are son John, daughter Stefa, and Sophie's sister Stefania. May the Christmas Infant Jesus now take +Sophie home to Heaven!

WE ARE SO VERY GRATEFUL to all the good and faithful folks who donated funds for the new rectory roof, both in church and by mail. The goodness of so many people is so amazing and appreciated by Father Pastor. One can still make a contribution for this purpose by mail to the above address. Work is all set to begin on the roof Monday morning!

THIS CHRISTMAS we all pray for our dear ailing and elderly folks: Luba Jackson, Tom Newmaster, Pat Pasquale, Alex and Vera Fedorkiw and all the Covid apiients. Perhaps a card, a prayer, a kind thought...?

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, Dec. 18, 6 pm

Sunday, Dec. 19, 9 am

Friday, Dec. 24, 9 pm

Saturday, Dec. 25, 10 am

Sunday, Dec. 26, 9 am

+John Zolomij (Harper, Zolomij Fam.) +Bohdan Tymkiw (Sister Mary Ann)

+Naida, Kulka, Lubinetsky Families)

For all our Faithful, Health and joy

+Peter, Barbara Martinick (Daughters)
+Howard, Edward, and Wowk, Gramley,
Klus, Cummings Families (Joanne C.)

The three young men, great guides of our Faith, rejoiced in a pit of fire for their salvation, even as the Prophet Daniel appeared as a shepherd to the lions. O Christ God, save our souls for their sake, amen. GLORY TO THE FATHER AND...

TODAY'S KONTAK:

You most blessed young men refused to worship the false idols, but became glorious in the test of fire. Armed with hhe test of God's very power, they overcame their fear and gained eternal salvation, amen.

TODAY'S PROKIMEN: Blessed are You, O Lord, our Savior and Redeemer!

Cove, Fr. Fonny