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Archpriest John Jillions, Retired – Attached

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Good Morning and Welcome!

December 15, 2024

Sunday of the Forefathers



- Sunday, December 15th* 9:00 a.m. [Divine Liturgy \(In-Person/Virtual - Click for Zoom Link\)](#)
- Wed., December 11th* 6:00 p.m. [Daily Vespers/Adult Education \(Virtual Only – Click for Zoom Link\)](#)
- Saturday, December 21st* 5:00 p.m. [Vespers \(In-Person/Virtual - Click for Zoom Link\)](#)
- Sunday, December 22nd* 9:00 a.m. [Divine Liturgy \(In-Person/Virtual - Click for Zoom Link\)](#)

Welcome

*Welcome to all those visiting All Saints today!
Please join us downstairs for Fellowship after Liturgy!*

Happy Birthday

Eloise Pelkey – December 19th

Thank You

Thank you to all those that brought in lunches last Sunday! 155 lunches were brought to Loaves and Fishes this past Monday. *Thank you* to Gail, Tom and Peter A for delivering the lunches!

Thank you to everyone that donated coats, jackets and sweatshirts. 22 items were collected and delivered to Best Cleaners. All items will be cleaned and the given to the Salvation Army for distribution to those in need. *Thank you* to Mary Beth Stenko for coordinating this effort!

Help Wanted

If you are interested in being a member of the Facilities Committee for the Parish, please see either Greg Belekewicz or Mark Ranstead. *Thank You!*

2025 Stewardship Form

2025 Stewardship Form and Letter were mailed to our membership this past week. Blank forms are available at Church and a link will be available on the Church Website. *Please return completed forms by January 10, 2025*. Any questions, please see Tom Denisky. *Thank you!*

Adult Education

Wednesday Vespers/Adult Education will meet next on December 18th – at which time we will be discussing Chapter 5 of *Acquiring the Mind of Christ* by Archimandrite Sergius.

Theology Café

The next gathering of the *Theology Café* will be January 14th - all are welcome, bring a friend! 7:30 PM at 107 Elizabeth St., Hartford CT. Please RSVP to Amy Hayashida by January 10th. (937-631-5989).

Parish Council

The next meeting of the *Parish Council* will be Tuesday, December 17th beginning at 6:00 p.m. - Zoom meeting.

Words from Father Constantine

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

The following are some of the people commemorated on this day.

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

Isaac

The Righteous Isaac was the second of the Old Testament Patriarchs, and the son of Abraham (Genesis 17:17-22). God tested Abraham to see if he would sacrifice his son (Genesis 22:1-13), and thus Isaac was a type of Christ. He was the husband of Rebecca (Genesis 24:67), and the father of Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:19-26).

Jacob

The Righteous Jacob is mentioned in the book of Genesis, chapters 25-50. He had a dream of a ladder (Genesis 28:12-17). Angels were ascending and descending the ladder, and the Lord was above the ladder (a type of the Mother of God, who united earth to Heaven when she consented to become the mother of the Messiah). Later, Jacob wrestled with God (Genesis 32:22-30), who appeared as a man, and Jacob prevailed. Then the Lord gave him the name Israel and blessed him. Jacob called that place Peniel (The face of God), and said, "I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."

Prophet Solomon

The Prophet-King Solomon (ca. 972 - 932 B.C.) was the son of David and Bathsheba. He succeeded his father as King and reigned for forty years. He built the palace and the Temple at Jerusalem, and was renowned for his wisdom. The Old Testament books of Proverbs, the Song of Songs, and the Wisdom of Solomon are attributed to him. He may have written parts of these books, but much of the material was probably transmitted orally before it was written down. In the Gospels, Christ mentions Solomon by name, citing his glory and wisdom (Matthew 6:29; 12:42).

Fellowship Hour Sign-Up

Hosts and Hostesses needed for Fellowship Hours – please see the clipboard/sign-up sheet at the coffee window – please sign up for a Sunday or two that are convenient for you! Any questions, *please see Monica Kapral. Thank you!*

Church Metrics – Memory Eternal!

Peter Caruk – 12/16/79; Olga Meshenuk – 12/18/03; Teckla Dzamba – 12/21/95

Commemorations

Living:

Margaret, Roger, Daniel, Nicholas, Diane, Susan, Eileen, Mike, Ron

Departed:

Alina, Jozef, Theresa, James, Genevieve, Patrick, Shotiko, Glenn, Andrew, Ann Marie

All Saints Bookstore – December Sale

Beginning next Sunday, December 1st through to Sunday, December 29th all items in the bookstore will be 15% off! If you are looking for a unique gift for someone, please stop by after Liturgy. Any questions, please see Cathy Vargas or Michael Stenko. *Thank you!*

Troparion/Kontakion

Troparion — Tone 2

By faith You justified the Forefathers, / when through them You betrothed Yourself beforehand to the Church of the Gentiles. / The saints boast in glory, / that from their seed there is a glorious fruit: / she who bore You without seed. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Kontakion — Tone 6

(The Original Melody)

You did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed youths, / but shielded by the ineffable Essence, / you were glorified in your trial by fire. / In the midst of the unbearable fire you called upon God, crying: / "Hasten, O compassionate One. / and in Your mercy, come to our aid, / for You can do so if You will."¹

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

<https://www.oca.org/readings/daily/2024/12/15/2>

Gospel according to Luke 14:16-24

<https://www.oca.org/readings/daily/2024/12/15/3>

Outreach Opportunites

Foodshare

There is a basket for donations of nonperishable food items for Foodshare in the “Donations Corner” in the Church Hall! We are also in need of brown bags with handles. Also, please avoid food items in glass containers. *Please remember to thank God for your blessings by helping those in need. God Bless and Thank you!*

Golden Elephant

Golden Elephant Update: She is in need of cleaning supplies, hangers, dog toys, a cat box with liter and gift cards (VISA, grocery stores). *Thank you!*

Reminder - Feed a Friend – Sunday – January 12th

Please put your lunches into refrigerator in the Church Hall (Thank You!)

Help the poor, the hungry, the homeless, and the victims of domestic abuse here in the Greater Hartford region by giving them something that's hard to come by: A Free Lunch! We'll deliver bagged lunches to [Loaves and Fishes](#) in Hartford, beginning today and every second Sunday of each month, who has numerous men, women, and children, who will appreciate the food you provide and the love that you show in making it. This is a great opportunity to get your kids to help and discuss with them the words of Christ: "When I was hungry, you fed me...."

To participate - Make & bring a brown-bag lunch to Church which includes all of the following:

- 1) Sandwich,
- 2) Piece of Fruit
- 3) Bag of Chips/pretzels
- 4) Canned/Bottled Drink &
- 5) Desert (pudding, cookie, etc.)

Important Note: For the purpose of uniformity, please include all/only the items above.

Also PLEASE write type of sandwich (and the presence of any allergens) on bag.

Fifth Sunday of Advent – Wreath Reading

Light Green Candle – which expresses *faith*.

Light Blue Candle – which expresses *hope*.

Light Gold Candle – which expresses *love*.

Light White Candle – which signifies *peace*.

Light Purple Candle – which signifies *repentance*.

The fifth candle reminds us of our need to repent before we can meet the coming Christ. “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.”

Lord, help us make straight the way for You to come to us this Christmas. Grant us Your grace that we may smooth out the ruts of sin and remove the roadblocks of pride. Give us the second baptism, the baptism of tears, that we may return to You and, embraced like the Prodigal Son, be restored to full Sonship. Amen

Please Note

Any photos taken at Church events may be used on the Church website or Facebook page. If you have any questions on this, please see or contact Father Constantine. <https://www.oca.org/files/PDF/official/2018-1024-socialmediaguidelines-clergy-lay-leaders.pdf>

Christmas Tree Snowflakes

Remember a loved one with a Christmas tree snowflake, which will be hung on our parish Christmas tree.

Donations are \$5. You may offer a snowflake *in memory of* or *for the health of* someone. Return this form to the basket in the vestibule or email it to Cathy Vargas at carv58@aol.com. (**Max. 2 names per snowflake**)

In Memory of:

Name to appear on Snowflake _____

Health of:

Name to appear on Snowflake _____

Donation amount _____

Offered by _____

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Have a Blessed Week!