

THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS



Icon of Daniel and the Three Holy Youths -- December 17th

# ***SUNDAY OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS OF CHRIST***

***DECEMBER 14, 2008***

*Tone 6*

*SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 21, 2008*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15	8:30 AM LITURGY	✠ ANNA PASICHNY (8 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY); REQ: MARIA HUGHES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17	10:30 AM CONFESSIONS FOLLOWED BY HOLY MYSTERY OF ANOINTING AT 6:00 PM PENANCE SERVICE (ALSO AT HOLY ANGELS)	HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20	8:30 LITURGY	SPECIAL INTENTION
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21</b>	<b>8:00 AM LITURGY</b> <b>10:00 AM LITURGY</b>	<b>SPECIAL INTENTION</b> <b>FOR ALL PARISHIONERS</b>

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## **Welcome Bishop Richard!**

We welcome with great joy our Father and Bishop Richard on the occasion of his pastoral visitation of our parish. May God bless him and keep him safe in his travels in the service of the body of Christ.

### ***“Open Wide Your Hearts!” – Share 2008***

“The gift you have received give as a gift.” (Matthew 10:8) Please support **Share 2008 Ukrainian Catholic Appeal**. If you haven’t received the mailing from our Bishop, there are extra envelopes in the back of the church.

### ***Прощора – Prospora Baking***

Next Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, everyone – especially the youth – is invited to help bake prospora to be distributed to all our families at the December 21<sup>st</sup> Divine Liturgy. We will begin at 4:00PM and end with Vespers around 6:00 PM.

### ***Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale***

Next Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> will be our annual pre-Christmas Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale. This will take place after each Liturgy

***Thank you to all the wonderful helpers who made St. Nicholas' visit such a beautiful celebration!***

### ***Let's go Caroling!***

Between December 25 and February 2 we will be organizing visits to our parishioners, shut-ins, and nursing homes. If you are interested in participating or you would like to be visited or you know of someone who would like to be visited, please contact Xenia Moore or Fr. James.

### ***Church Decorating***

Please come on Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM to help decorate the Church for the feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

*Sunday Collection: December 7, 2008:*

<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>\$724.00</b>
<b><u>Second Collection:</u></b>	<b><u>\$38.00</u></b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$762.00</b>

**This Wednesday**

Fr. Robert Pipta will be away this Wednesday to participate in the funeral of Bishop ✕ George (Kuzma) of blessed memory, and has asked me to substitute for two services at Holy Angels at 2235 Galahad Road, San Diego, California 92123. 10:30 AM Confessions followed by the Holy Mystery of Anointing; 6:00 PM Penance service. All our parishioners are invited to attend

**Prayers For Those Serving In The Military**

Let us especially remember in our prayers those family members and friends who are actively serving our country in the Armed Forces. Please submit any names of those you would like remembered in the Liturgies to Fr. James.

***Christmas Cards***

Ukrainian Christmas Cards are for sale in the Church Hall. Please see Mary Kitt to purchase.

***Your Prayers Please!***

Please remember in your prayers those people of our parish who are in hospitals, care homes and those who are not able to join us actively in our community. Remember especially the following: Susie Boyko, Sonia Cronin, Bohdanchik James, Lesya Loznycky, Ken McDonald, Sophia Skop, and Ariadna Wall. Please let Fr. James know if there is anyone who should be added to this list.



**2008 Liturgical Schedule for Nativity**

***Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord***

*Wednesday, December 24, 2008*

- **10:00 AM**  
Royal Hours
- **10:00 PM**  
«3 Hama Boz!» Great Complines and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Feast

***Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Savior  
Jesus Christ***

*Thursday, December 25, 2008*

- **10:00 AM**  
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

## WILL WE BE CHOSEN?

Today, we hear the parable of the king who invites many guests to a banquet. But, many of the invited guests said they could not attend. The king's friends said that they had other plans. Others greeted the king's servants with ridicule and threats, even killing some of them. Then, the king instructed his servants to invite everyone they met on the street to the banquet. The hall was filled with guests but one man who came was not dressed appropriately and he was severely punished.

We find this parable in various forms in all of the Gospels. Jesus Christ wants to bring our attention to the fact that God calls all of us, always and everywhere. He calls us to prayer, to the Divine Liturgy, to Holy Communion. But, often, He hears in reply: "No, I can't come. I have other things I need to do." Thus, life passes in this manner for many people. We all know that people love to procrastinate, putting things off and not facing their obligations, especially those matters relating to the state of their soul. This cowardly behavior on the part of a sinner can lead him or her to a tragic end, for what will he or she take with them into eternity if, here on earth, they did not respond to God's call.

The fate that met the man who was not dressed up for the banquet seems unusual in a parable, but it is commonplace in human life. Here was a man, walking down the street with no thought that, in a few seconds, he would find himself attending a wedding in the king's palace. Each person here on earth follows his or her own path in life, not knowing when it will end. This man did not think about proper party attire, but, at that time in history, it was considered an insult to the king and the other guests to be inappropriately attired. For us, this attire is God's shining grace which we receive at the time of our Baptism. We have an obligation to live our whole life in God's grace. This means keeping the Commandments. It is a privilege to be a Christian, a most valuable gift from Heaven. We must keep this grace, this shining baptismal attire of our soul, at any cost. We worry about physical beauty and beautiful clothing, but, unfortunately, we often forget about the beauty of the soul. Our soul will be shining and pure only when we cast off pride, hate and avoid passing judgment on each other, when we go to Holy Confession frequently and sincerely repent and ask God's forgiveness for our sins and our sinfulness.

The Lord calls to us: "*Come to Me all of you who are weary and overburdened...*" Who among us is not weary and overburdened by one thing or another? But, not everyone comes and the Lord says sadly: "*Many are called, but few are chosen.*" Each of us can be chosen. It all depends on us.

## ЧИ БУДЕМО ВИБРАНІ?

Сьогодні ми чули притчу про царя, що влаштував бенкет, покликавши багато гостей. Але багато хто відмовився прийти. Друзі цього царя сказали, що мають власні справи. А інші зустріли слуг царя з насмішками і погрозами, а навіть декого вбили. Тоді цар сказав слугам кликати всіх, кого зустрінуть по дорогах. Світлиці були повні гостей, але один чоловік прийшов без весільної одежі і був жорстоко покараний.

Ця притча зустрічається нам у різних викладах у всіх Євангеліях. Отже, Ісус Христос хоче звернути нашу увагу на те, що Господь кличе нас усіх, кличе завжди і всюди. Кличе до молитви, до Святої Літургії, до Святого Причастя. Але часто чує у відповідь: „Ні, я не можу прийти, у мене є інші справи”. І так для декого минає все життя. Відома річ, що люди люблять відкладати свої справи і обов'язки, а зокрема ті, що належать до стану душі. Легкодушність грішника може привести його до трагічного кінця, бо з чим перейде у вічність, якщо ніколи, тут на землі, не відгукнувся на заклик Божий.

Доля, яка спіткала чоловіка, що не мав весільної одежі, дивна в притчі, але є звичайною в людському житті. Ішов собі чоловік дорогою і не думав, що за хвилину опиниться в царських палатах на весіллі. Так і ми, люди, ходимо у цьому житті „своїми дорогами” і не знаємо коли вона закінчиться. Цей чоловік не потурбувався про достойний весільний одяг, що вважалося у той час великою зневагою для царя і присутніх гостей. Для нас цей одяг - є освячуючою Божою ласкою, яку ми дістаємо в часі нашого Хрищення. Ми маємо обов'язок все життя прожити в Божій ласці. А це означає - зберігати Заповіді Господні. Бути християнином - це привілей, це щастя, це найцінніший дар Неба. Отже, ми мусимо за всяку ціну зберігати цю ласку - світлу хресну одіж нашої душі. Ми турбуємося про красу тіла і гарний одяг, та, на жаль, дуже часто збуваємо про красу душі. А душа наша буде світлою і чистою тоді, коли ми відкинемо гордість, гнів і осудження один одного, коли ми часто будемо приступати до Святої Тайни Сповіді і щиро каятися і перепрошувати Бога за свої гріхи і прогрішення.

Господь кличе: „*Прийдіть до Мене всі струджені і обтяжені...*”. А хто з нас не струджений, хто не обтяжений тим чи іншим? Та не всі приходять і Господь говорить сумно: „*Багато покликаних, та мало вибраних*”. Кожен із нас може бути вибраним, це від нього самого залежить.



***Українська Католицька Парафія Матері Божої Неустаючої Помочі***

Церква Святого Пророка й Предтечи Йоана Хрестителя  
Святиня Святого Миколая, Архієпископа Мір Лікійського, Чудотворця

***Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help***

Church of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer John  
Shrine of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycea

4400 Palm Avenue  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

**Website:** [stjohnthebaptizer.org](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org)

**Папox:** о. Яків Бенькстон  
**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston  
frjames@mac.com  
Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

***The Holy Prophet Daniel and Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael***

**I**n the Book of Daniel, named after its young hero and not from its author who is actually unknown, Daniel is presented as Judahite of noble family. Daniel with other Jews is taken into exile and into the service of the household of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and instructed in the wisdom of the Chaldeans. Along with Daniel were three other youths, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. “The chief chamberlain changed their names: Daniel to Belteshazzar, Hananiah to Shadrach, Mishael to Meshach, and Azariah to Abednego” (Daniel 1:9). Their refusal, as Jews, to eat unclean food resulted in their looking fatter and fairer than their associates who ate the foods prepared by the king’s kitchen. Thereafter, Daniel, still a young man, interpreted that mysterious image seen by Nebuchadnezzar in a dream, an image that was composed of different metals, but was shattered and ground to dust by a certain stone which had been hewn out of a mountain without the hand of man. As for the Three Children, Ananias, Misael, and Azarias, since they refused to offer adoration of Nebuchadnezzar’s image, they were cast into the furnace of fire. They were preserved unharmed amidst the flames – even their hair was untouched – by the descent of the Angel of the Lord, that is, the Son of God. The three young men are: symbolic of the mystery of the Holy Trinity; represent the victory of faith over death; and, represent the new burning bush, the fire of the divine presence that does not consume. The three young men were not alone in the furnace – “... and the fourth looks like a son of God.” These last words shed light on human suffering. The Son of God Himself is always there with us in the midst of the furnace.