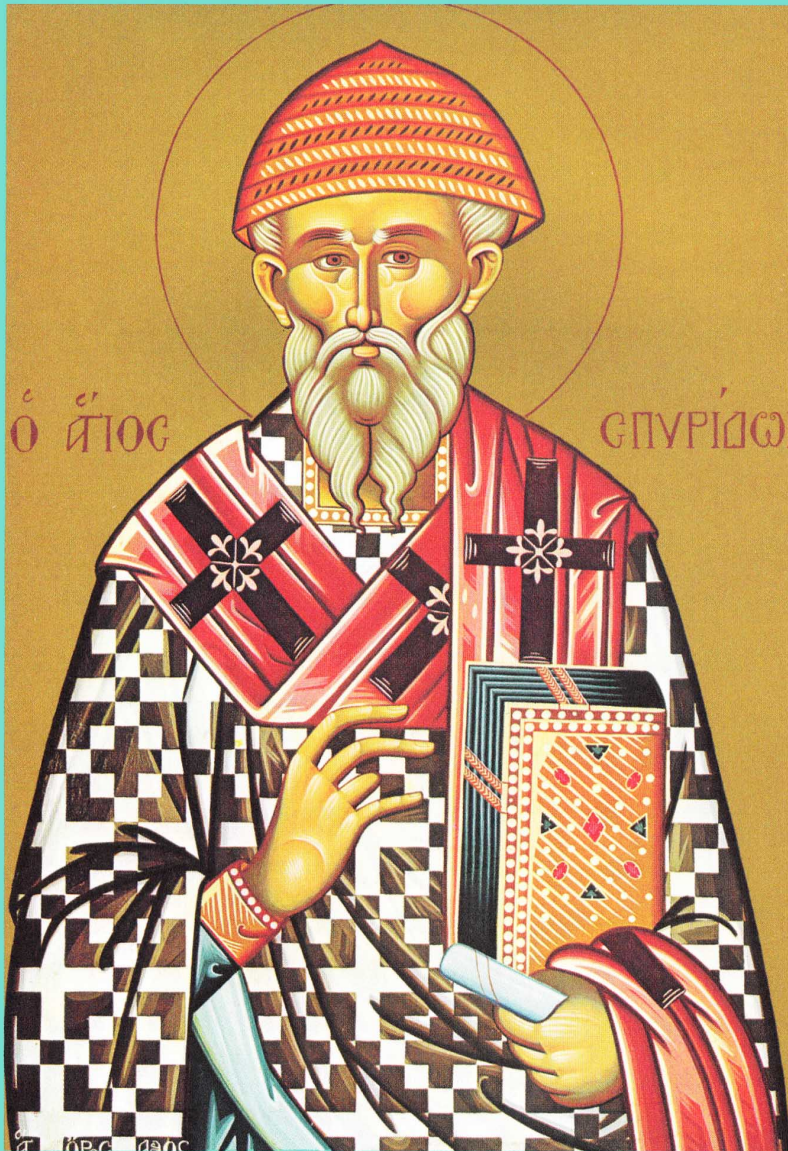


SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS
ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saint Spyridon-- December 12th

December 12, 2010
Sunday of the Holy Ancestors

Tone 4

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13 – DECEMBER 19

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:00 PM GREAT VESPERS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 – SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY – OF THE HOLY FATHERS

9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY

FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

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**Remember in your prayers** ☸☸



Please remember in your prayers those members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, are in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community. Remember especially the following: Katherine Andrus, Sr. Marie Arendes, Susan Avant, Walter & Isabella Bachynsky, Susie Boyko, Sonya Cronin, Helen Davis, Maria Hughes, Natalie, Maria Leskiw, Lesya Loznycky, John Pasichny, Nadia Popov, Orysia Rosul, Peter Rutman, Sonia Shashkewych, and Sophia Skop. Please let Fr. James know if there is anyone else who should be remembered.

***Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale***

Next Sunday, December 19th we will have our annual pre-Christmas Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale. This will take place after Liturgy.

***Church Decorating***

**Date has been changed:** Please come on **Friday, December 17** at 10:00 AM to help decorate the Church for the feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

***Greeting Cards***

Christmas Cards and various other greeting cards are for sale in the Church Hall. Please see Mary Kitt to purchase.

***Remember Those In The Armed Forces***

Let us especially remember in our prayers those family members and friends who are actively serving their countries in the Armed Forces: Mark Belcher, Gratian Fredricks, Carl Haines, Jr., Adrian, Luke and Slavamira Haywas, Oksanna Hirniak, Andrew Hrynkiw, Zenon and Susan Keske, Michael Lopes, Vasyl Lylak, Thomas Orr, Paul Richelmi, Michael Stefanyshyn and Brian Tuthill. Please give any names of those you would like remembered in the *Liturgies* to Fr. James.



***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 Fr. James.

***Varenyky for sale***

Buy your verenyky here. See Mary Kitt. You can pick them up next week, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Don't refuse this invitation!**

Most people like to go to banquets. They may not like the long speeches, but all like the fellowship, the friendliness, and the food. Today's Gospel talks about a man who made a great banquet and invited many people to come. But many refused the invitation and made excuses for not attending. Now who would refuse such an invitation? As a matter of fact, many of us have refused this invitation! Yes, we all have refused His invitation at some point in our lives. We who are Christians have all been invited by Almighty God Himself to His great banquets.

The banquet of God is one for our spirits, not just our bodies. Jesus once said, "A man cannot live on bread alone." He must also feed his spirit. This feasting is on the most pure and most precious Eucharist, Holy Communion. In this supper, we unite ourselves with Christ Himself; He comes down to dwell in us and share our life. At every Divine Liturgy, fifty-two Sundays of the year, the invitation is sounded by Christ through the Deacon: "With the fear of God, faith (and love) approach."

Another banquet that God has prepared is the most glorious and special of all. This is the eternal feast of Heaven, the feast of Eternal Light; this is the endless joy of Christ. You would think that no one would reject this invitation of God's eternal feast! There is room for all. He has not just asked, but pleaded for all to come. Christ is there, preparing a place for us even as we speak. There is a setting

with our nameplate on it, reserved just for us. Yet, believe it or not, some will refuse to come!

Dare we take lightly the invitation of God's feast? Dare we shut our ears when the call comes for Communion, received in a state of preparedness and discerning what one is doing according to St Paul's warning in 1 Corinthians 11:27-32? Dare we receive Communion and then bolt out of church like a bat out of \*\*\*\*, without any words or prayers of gratitude to Him or to His Body, the Church, afterwards? Dare we take His Body and Blood in Holy Communion and then ignore the Body and Blood of Christ which is the very people sitting next to us in the church pew? Dare we take, indeed self-righteously grasp at, the Body and Blood of Christ, which is Holy Communion, even saying "I deserve it because I have no sins", and then separate the Body and Blood of Christ from the Mind of Christ, by believing or teaching others to believe - by our words or example - those very things which Christ could not possibly ever agree with? Dare we refuse to take our rightful place in the life and work of the Church? Dare we refuse to think of eternity that awaits us beyond the grave? We really must re-examine every excuse we offer to the Lord! Really, just do it. And do not wait, do it now, as we prepare for the anniversary of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord.

– Fr. Deacon Michael Levy



***Українська Греко-Католицька Церква  
Святого Йоана Хрестителя  
St. John the Baptizer  
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church***

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**Парох:** о. Яків Бенкстон

[frjames@mac.com](mailto:frjames@mac.com)

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

***From Sheep to Souls***

**S**aint Spyridon of Tremithus was born towards the end of the third century on the island of Cyprus. He was a shepherd, and had a wife and children. He used all his substance for the needs of his neighbors and the homeless, for which the Lord rewarded him with a gift of wonderworking. He healed those who were incurably sick, and cast out demons.

After the death of his wife, during the reign of Constantine the Great (306-337), he was made Bishop of Tremithus, Cyprus. As a bishop, the saint did not alter his manner of life, but cared for his flock with great love. Through his prayer, drought was replaced by abundant rains, and incessant rains were replaced by fair weather. Through his prayers the sick were healed and demons cast out. St Simeon Metaphrastes, the author of his life, likened St Spyridon to the Patriarch Abraham in his hospitality. All the lives of the saint speak of the amazing simplicity and the gift of wonderworking granted him by God. Through a word of the saint the dead were awakened, the elements of nature tamed, the idols smashed. According to the witness of Church historians, St Spyridon participated in the sessions of the First Ecumenical Council in the year 325.

St Spyridon lived his earthly life in righteousness and sanctity, and prayerfully surrendered his soul to the Lord. His relics repose on the island of Corfu (Kerkyra), in a church named after him.