



### Community Christmas Card

Today is the last day to make contributions for our annual **Community Christmas Card**.

If you have not yet submitted yours, forms are available at the Candle Desk.

### New Year's Eve Dance

There will be a **New Year's Eve Dance** in the Church Hall on New Year's Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 per person.

Contact *Nardi Tollkuçi* (203-895-4263) or *Aida Kalapo* (203-685-7231) for information and tickets.

### LaBache Scholarship Recipients

We congratulate the following young people who are receiving scholarships from the *Thomas and Katherine LaBache Scholarship Fund*:

- *Jonathan Avila*
- *Kristen Babich*
- *Hope Caliendo*
- *Timothy Coughlin*
- *George Goetz*
- *Jacqueline Goetz*
- *Kristina Tollkuçi*

*Many Years!*

*Për Shumë Vjet!*

### The Nativity Fast

We are now in the **Nativity Fast**, which lasts through the Divine Liturgy of Christmas Day. During this time, Orthodox Christians fast and pray in preparation for the Feast.

According to the Tradition of the Church, we observe this Fast by abstaining from meat (including poultry and eggs), dairy, olive oil and wine. On Wednesdays and Fridays, we also abstain from fish. While many people relax these rules, particularly until after Thanksgiving, it is important that we do as much as we can, so that we can properly prepare ourselves spiritually for the Great Feast of our LORD's Nativity.

### Looking ahead

Father Dennis is beginning to work on the **House-blessing Schedule** for 2018. If you know someone who would like to be added to or taken off the list, please let him know as soon as possible.

### General Parish Meeting scheduled

There will be a **General Parish Membership Meeting** on Sunday, January 14, 2018. We will be electing Parish Council members and discussing important needs of our parish community.

Please plan to attend.

### News from the Women's Council

The *Orthodox Women's Council's* annual drive for **Pajamas for Kids** (*infants to 18-year-olds*) is continuing through March. (Please note, sweat pants will work for the 18-year-olds).

If you would like to contribute *new* pajamas, a container is located in the Church Hall. Thank you for your participation.

### Charity Collection

This month, our **Charity Collection** will benefit the **Trumbull Food Pantry**, which assists needy persons in our area.

Please be generous!



**Ephesians 6:10-17**

Brethren, be strengthened in the LORD and in the might of His power. Put on God's armor that you may be able to stand against the devil's wiles. For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness on high. Therefore take up God's armor that you may be able to resist on the evil day and stand perfect in all things. Stand, therefore, wearing the belt of truth, and the breastplate of holiness, and with your feet shod in the readiness of the Good News of peace, and in all things take up the shield of faith with which you will be able to put out all the flaming darts of the most-wicked one. And take for yourselves the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, that is, God's Word.

**Luke 17:12-19**

At that time, as Jesus was entering a certain village, there met Him ten lepers, who stood far off and lifted up their voice, crying, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" And when He saw them He said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And it happened, as they were on their way, that they were made clean. But one of them, seeing that he was made clean, returned, with a loud voice glorifying God, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks; and he was a Samaritan. But Jesus spoke to him and said, "Were not the ten made clean? But where are the nine? Has no one been found to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to Him, "Arise, go on your way, for your faith has saved you."

**Efesianëve 6:10-17**

Vëllezër, forcohuni në ZOTIN dhe në pushtetin e fuqisë së tij. Vishni gjithë armët e Perëndisë, që të mundeni t'u qëndroni kundër mjeshtërive të djallit; sepse lufta jonë nuk është kundër gjaku dhe mishi, po kundër autoriteteve, kundër pushteteve, kundër mbretërve të errësirës së kësaj jete, kundër shpirtave të së keqes në qielloret. Prandaj merrni me vete gjithë armët e Perëndisë, që të mund të qëndroni kundër në ditën e keqe, dhe si t'i keni bërë gati të gjitha, të qëndroni më këmbë. Qëndroni pra, më këmbë të ngjeshur në brezin tuaj me të vërtetën, dhe të veshur me parzmoren e drejtësisë, edhe me këmbë të mbathura me gatishmërinë për ungjillin e paqes, duke marrë mbi të gjitha mburojën e besimit, me të cilin do të mund të shuani gjithë shigjetat e zjarra të të ligut. Edhe merrni përkrenaren e shpëtimit, dhe thikën e Shpirtit, që është fjala e Perëndisë.

**Llukait 17:12-19**

Në atë kohë, kur po hynte Jisui në një fshat, takuan me të dhjetë burra leprozë, të cilët qëndruan nga larg. Edhe ata ngritën zërin, duke thënë: "Jisu, Mjeshtër, përdëllena". Edhe ai kur i pa, u tha atyre: "Shkoni e rrëfeni veten tuaj tek priftërinjtë". Edhe ata duke shkuar u pastruan. Edhe një nga ata, kur pa se u shërua, u kthye duke lavdëruar Perëndinë me zë të madh, edhe ra përmbys në këmbët e tij, dhe e falënderoi; dhe ai ishte Samaritan. Edhe Jisui u përgjigj e tha: "A nuk u pastruan të dhjetët? Po të nëntët ku janë? Nuk u gjendën të tjerë të kthehen që t'i japin lavdi Perëndisë, veç ky prej tjetër kombi?" Edhe i tha: "Ngrihu, e shko; besimi yt të shpëtoi."