



### Offering Envelopes available

The **Offering Envelopes** for 2018 are now available at the Candle Desk. **Wall Calendars** will be available as soon as they arrive

### 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.

### 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 finishing up the **Houseblessing 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

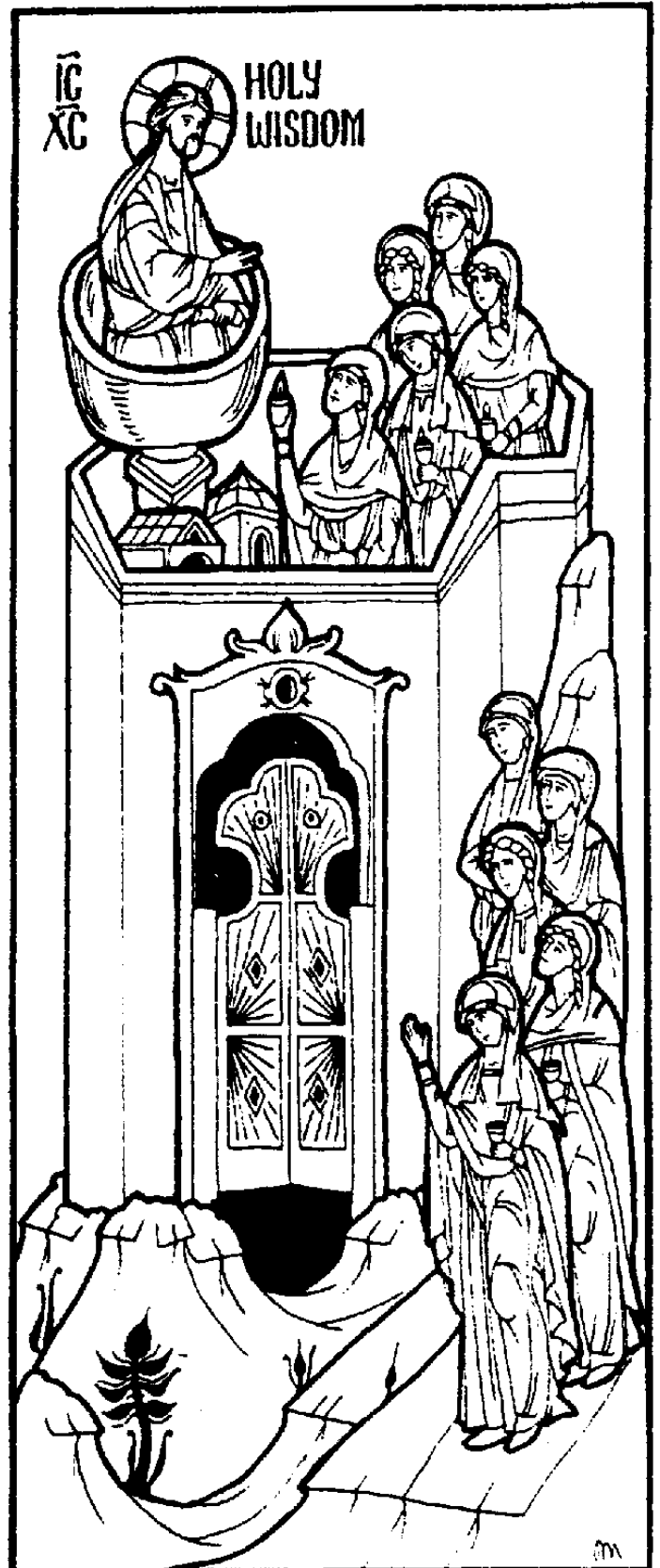
The *Orthodox Women's Council's* annual drive for **Pajamas for Kids** (*infants to 18-year-olds*) is continuing through March. (Please note, sweat pants will work for the 18-year-olds).

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!



**Colossians 3:4-12**

Brethren, when Christ, our life, appears, then you too shall appear in glory. Put to death whatever in your members is of the earth: immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, covetousness, which is a form of idol-worship. Because of these passions, God's wrath comes upon the sons of disobedience and you yourselves once walked in them when they were your way of life. But now, you too put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, abusive language and foul-mouthed utterances. Do not lie to one another. Strip off the old man with his deeds and put on the new, one that is being renewed towards perfect knowledge according to his Creator's image. Here there is no Gentile and Jew, no circumcised and uncircumcised, no Barbarian and Scythian, no slave and freeman, but Christ is all things, and in all.

**Luke 14:16-24**

The LORD told this parable: "A certain man gave a great supper, and he invited many. And he sent his servant at supper time to tell those invited to come, for everything is now ready. And they all with one accord began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; please hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am on my way to try them; please hold me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' And the servant returned, and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, and the crippled, and the lame, and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Sir, your order has been carried out, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and make them come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you that none of those who were invited shall taste of my supper. For many are called but few are chosen.'"

**Kolosianëve 3:4-12**

Vëllezër: Kur të shfaqet Krishti, jeta jonë, atëherë edhe ju bashkë me të do të shfaqeni në lavdi. Bëni pra të vdekura pjesët e trupit tuaj që janë mbi dhe, imoralitetin, ndyrësinë morale, epshin, lakminë e keqe dhe pangopësinë, që është idhujtari, gjëra për të cilat vjen zemërimi i Perëndisë përmbi të bijtë e pabindjes. Në këto edhe ju ecët dikur, kur rronit në to. Po tani hidhini tej edhe ju të gjitha këto, mërinë, zemërimin, ligësinë, blasfeminë, fjalët e ndyra prej gojës suaj. Mos i thoni gënjeshtër njëri-tjetrit, pasi zhveshët njeriun e vjetër bashkë me punët e tij, edhe veshët të riun që përtërihet në njohje sipas shembëllesës së atij që e ka krijuar; ku s'ka Grek e Judeas, rrethprerje e parrethprerje, barbar, Skit, shërbëtor, të lirë, por të gjitha e mbi të gjitha është Krishti.

**Llukait 14:16-24**

ZOTI u tha këtë paravoli: "Një njeri bëri një darkë të madhe dhe ftoi shumë. Edhe në kohën e darkës dërgoi shërbëtorin e tij që t'u thoshte atyre që ishin ftuar. Ejani, se tani të gjitha janë gati. Por të gjithë zunë si prej një mendjeje të hiqeshin mënjane. I pari i tha: 'Bleva një arë dhe kam nevojë të dal e ta shoh; të lutem të më kesh të hequr nga darka.' Edhe një tjetër tha: 'Bleva pesë pendë qe dhe po shkoj t'i provoj; të lutem, të më kesh të hequr nga darka.' Edhe një tjetër tha: 'Mora grua dhe prandaj nuk mund të vij.' Edhe ai shërbëtori erdhi dhe ia tregoi të zotit këto. Atëherë i zoti i shtëpisë u zemërua, e i tha shërbëtorit të tij: 'Dil shpejt nëpër rrugët e nëpër udhët e qytetit, dhe sill këtu brenda të varfërit e të paralizuarit e të çalët e të verbërit.' Edhe shërbëtori tha: 'Zotni, u bë siç urdhërova, po ende ka vend.' Edhe zotëria i tha shërbëtorit: 'Dil nëpër udhët e nëpër gardhet dhe nxiti të hyjnë, që të mbushet shtëpia ime. Sepse po ju them juve, se asnjë nga ata njerëzit që qenë ftuar nuk do të provojë darkën time.'"