

DECEMBER 8, 2019

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**ON FASTING-** We fast before the Great Feast of the Nativity in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Our Lord’s birth. As in the case of Great Lent, the Nativity Fast is one form of preparation, during which we focus on the coming of the Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

By fasting, we “shift our focus” from ourselves to others, spending less time worrying about what to eat, when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we can gain control over things which we sometimes allow to control us—and for many people, food is a controlling factor. [We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food!] While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Just as we would refrain from eating a lot before going to an expensive restaurant for dinner—if we “ruin our appetite” we will enjoy the restaurant less—so too we fast before the Nativity in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Nativity itself.

During the Nativity Fast, we are called upon to refrain from certain foods and products. At the same time, we are challenged to fast spiritually to the best of our ability and to do so consistently. If we must modify the extent to which we fast physically, it is, of course, possible, but every instance our fasting should be consistent and regular, for Christ does not see fasting as an option, but as a “must.” In Matthew Christ says, “WHEN you fast, do not be like the hypocrites,” not “IF you fast” or “IF YOU CHOOSE to fast.” Source: [www.o.ca.org](http://www.o.ca.org)

**BIBLE READINGS:** Epistle Reading - Ephesians 4:1-6 Gospel Reading - Luke 10:25-37

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**VISITS:** Linda McGeehan, Mary Resanovich, George Vula, Elizabeth Zarnich, John Semanko, Dayna Milich - Heritage Valley Beaver / Ted Belich - Heritage Valley Sewickley

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**FUNERAL:** Give rest O Lord to thy departed servant **Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Zarnich** and make her memory to be eternal. Our deepest sympathies are extended to her family, kumovi and friends. **VJECNAJA PAMJAT!**

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**Vesper Services** are held regularly on Saturdays at 5:30 PM during Advent. **Bible study** following the service. **Confessions** by appointment.

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**ST. ELIJAH CORNERSTONE MEN’S CLUB:** is now taking orders for their **Holiday BBQ Pigs!** \$8 per pound for whole pigs, \$12 per pound for all other orders. All orders must be picked up the morning of **January 6th between 9am and 12:30 pm at the Picnic Grounds.** Call Danielle Milanovich at 724.777.6856 before December 31st to place your order!



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**CHOIR NEWS:** Please see Marlene Volitich following Divine Liturgy to place your PSENICA ORDER. Pick-up will be next Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> following Divine Liturgy along with your Anderson Candy orders.



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**COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE-** The Communication Committee invites all St. Elijah members and visitors to access and manage their contact information, church involvement and so much more in our NEW and secure online member directory. Please scan the QR with your mobile device to learn how to sign up or visit our church website <https://StElijahAliquippa.com>



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**SAVE THE DATES:** Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> Saint Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church - Sunday School and the Mother’s Club are inviting you to the Saint Nicholas Party! Join us for Arts and Crafts, Bible Trivia, Singing, Caroling and much more! Kids of all ages are welcome- Posno Vegetable Soup, coleslaw & pogaca will be available for all to enjoy. Annual Church Assembly is on Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> following the Divine Liturgy in the church hall.

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There will be Beans & Kraut and pogaca available for sale following the Divine Liturgy today,

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**BEAVER COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES:** As in the past, the Advent trees will be adorned with ornaments, with a child’s name and wishes, in the basement of the church. Please look over the tree and select a child that you would like to sponsor this year. Please ensure to keep the tag with the child’s wishes and complete the other tag and leave it under the tree. If you have any questions, please contact Georgette Osman at 724-777-4615 or at [georgette.osman@comcast.net](mailto:georgette.osman@comcast.net). **All gifts must be wrapped and in the church by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** so that we can deliver them to CYS for distribution.

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**The Advent Message from His Grace Bishop IRINEJ will be read today at the end of the Liturgy in place of a regular homily.**