

24th Sunday after Pentecost (9th of Luke)/Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple/Apostles of the Seventy Philemon and Archippus, Martyr Apphia, wife of Philemon and Equal-to-the-Apostles, and Onesimus, disciple of St. Paul

Troparion (TONE 7) Resurrection

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.

To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.

For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,

and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,

to proclaim that Thou art risen,//

granting the world great mercy.

Troparion (TONE 4) Entrance

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,

of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.

The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,

in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.

Let us rejoice and sing to her:

“Rejoice, O Fulfillment//

of the Creator’s dispensation!”

Glory....Kontakion (TONE 7) Resurrection

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,

for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.

Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:

“The Savior has come to those in faith;//

enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Now and ever...Kontakion (TONE 4) Entrance

The most pure Temple of the Savior;

the precious Chamber and Virgin;

the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,

is presented today to the house of the Lord.

She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,

therefore, the angels of God praise her://

“Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

St. Matthew Orthodox Church



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November 22, 2020
24th Sunday After Pentecost

Gospel Reading - Luke 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Epistle Reading - Ephesians 2:14-22

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple.

According to Holy Tradition, the parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God. With their prayers being answered, when the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There, the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and the High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, she quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from her infancy until she was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, she grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.

Church Cleaners.....

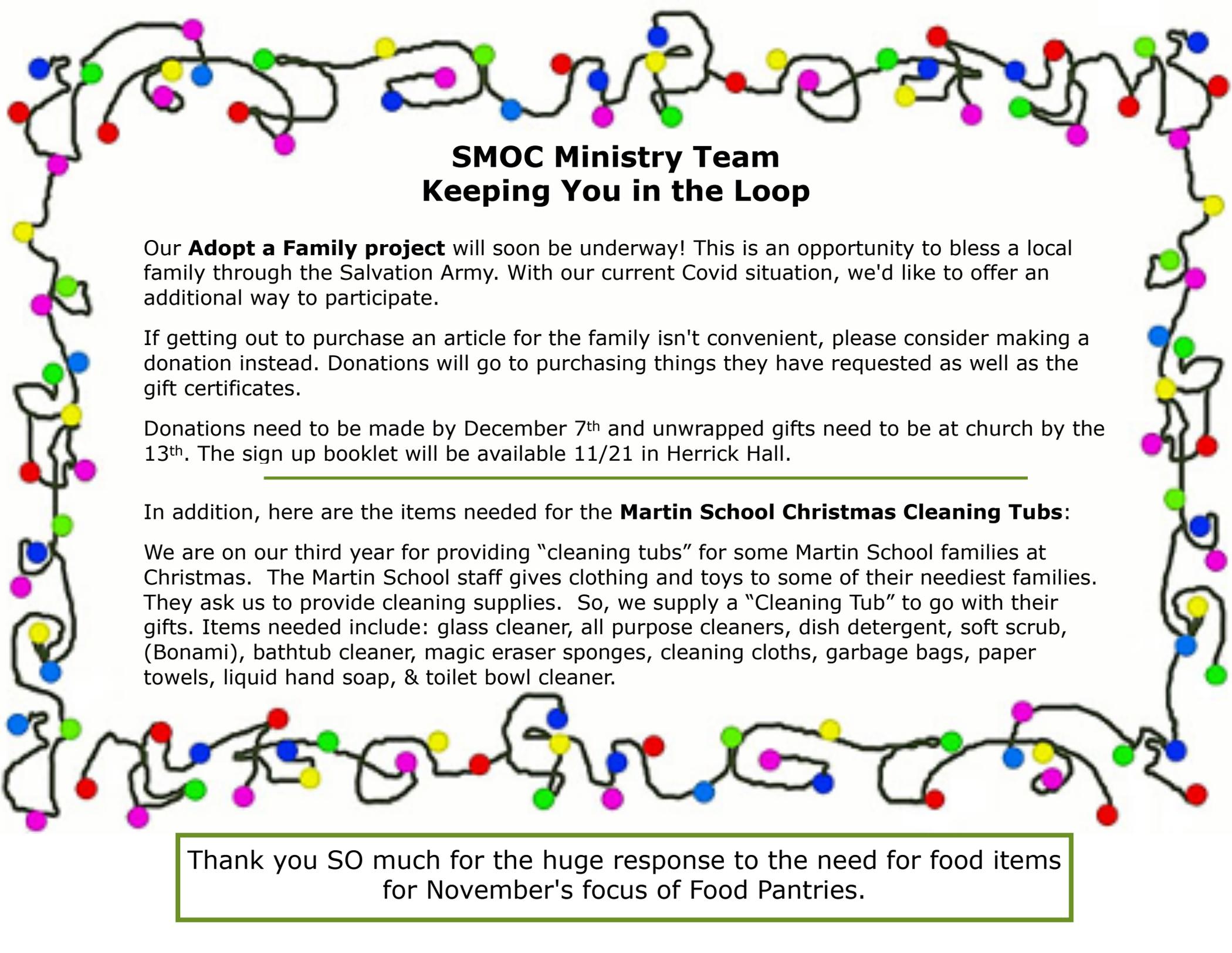
Schahczaenski - Week of November 22, for Sunday, November 29

Parish Activities

26	Nov, Thurs	9:00am	Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy (all welcome - note earlier time)
28	Nov, Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)
29	Nov, Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invitation only)
2	Dec, Wed	6:00pm	Vespers (all welcome)
5	Dec, Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)
6	Dec, Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invitation only)
9	Dec, Wed	6:00pm	Vespers (all welcome)
12	Dec, Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)
13	Dec, Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invitation only)
16	Dec, Wed	6:00pm	Vespers (all welcome)
19	Dec, Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)
20	Dec, Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invitation only)

Nativity Service Schedule

24	Dec, Thurs	9:30am	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil (all welcome)
24	Dec, Thurs	5:00pm	Vigil (all welcome)
25	Dec, Fri	9:30am	The Nativity of Our Lord Divine Liturgy (all welcome)
26	Dec, Sat	5:00pm	Great Vespers (all welcome)
27	Dec, Sun	9:30am	Divine Liturgy (email invitation only)



SMOC Ministry Team Keeping You in the Loop

Our **Adopt a Family project** will soon be underway! This is an opportunity to bless a local family through the Salvation Army. With our current Covid situation, we'd like to offer an additional way to participate.

If getting out to purchase an article for the family isn't convenient, please consider making a donation instead. Donations will go to purchasing things they have requested as well as the gift certificates.

Donations need to be made by December 7th and unwrapped gifts need to be at church by the 13th. The sign up booklet will be available 11/21 in Herrick Hall.

In addition, here are the items needed for the **Martin School Christmas Cleaning Tubs**:

We are on our third year for providing "cleaning tubs" for some Martin School families at Christmas. The Martin School staff gives clothing and toys to some of their neediest families. They ask us to provide cleaning supplies. So, we supply a "Cleaning Tub" to go with their gifts. Items needed include: glass cleaner, all purpose cleaners, dish detergent, soft scrub, (Bonami), bathtub cleaner, magic eraser sponges, cleaning cloths, garbage bags, paper towels, liquid hand soap, & toilet bowl cleaner.

Thank you SO much for the huge response to the need for food items for November's focus of Food Pantries.