

Previously, parishes were assessed based on the total number of members reported to the Diocese, but that is no longer proving to be affordable or efficient and in some cases leaving parishes with a larger burden to shoulder than is equitable. The assembly, in trying to equalize the Cathedraticum so that it can be equally affordable for all parishes within the archdiocese, determined that assessing parishes on their membership was not the way to go. The task that the assembly had was how to equalize the equitability between parishes within the archdiocese.

To that end the assembly rejected the former system and adopted one that is based on yearly total parish income, while at the same time recognizing that there are some provisos where income from certain sources should be deducted, thus reducing the income figure for that year. More on these deduction categories will follow.

In the past our parish has levied an assessment (or dues) amount for each parishioner, and payment of individual assessments/dues was part of the basis for determining membership. Going forward, church membership will not be counted as if one is a member as if they were a member of a club. The church is not a club but a church which is essentially supported by those people who claim ownership of their church as being their spiritual home, and support it by their weekly contributions each and every Sunday, plus other donations made throughout the year.

A special parish meeting will take place after Liturgy on a date to be determined to further explain our plan for achieving financial stability for the future of St. Andrew Orthodox Church.

This change may seem seismic, but it is really not. Yes it is a change where we get away from asking parishioners to pay their "dues"...but based on the new method of determining our parish's monthly assessed Cathedraticum payment to the archdiocese, we anticipate that it will prove beneficial to our church

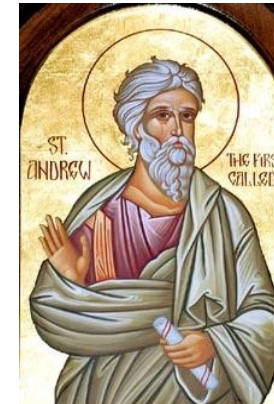
Very Rev. Archpriest (Andrew) Keith W. Lowe, M.Div.,
Locum

Saint Andrew Orthodox Church

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December 17, 2017

**28th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Forefathers - Tone 3**

Times of Services

Dec	17	Sun	10:00	Divine Liturgy
	24	Sun		Christmas Eve
			10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
			5:30 PM	Compline & Matins for the Nativity of Christ
	25	Mon		The Nativity of Christ (Christmas)
			10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
	31	Sun	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
				2018
Jan	6	Sat		Holy Theophany
			9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

Times of Services (Con't)

Sat	6	Sat	(con't)	The Great Blessing of the Waters [following <i>Divine Liturgy</i>]
			5:30 PM	Vespers
	7	Sun	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
	14	Sun	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
	20	Sat	5:30 PM	Vespers
	21	Sun	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
	28	Sun	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy

Poinsettias

Sunday, December 17, 2017, is the cut-off for ordering Poinsettias. Please see Susan, the president of the Sisterhood of the Altar.

Poinsettia Facts

10 Interesting Facts about Poinsettias

No flower says Christmas like the beautiful poinsettia. Learn a few facts about this traditional Christmas plant.

Poinsettias are part of the Euphorbiaceae or Spurge family. Botanically, the plant is known as *Euphorbia pulcherrima*.

Many plants in the Euphorbiaceae family ooze a milky sap. Some people with latex allergies have had a skin reaction (most likely to the sap) after touching the leaves. For pets, the poinsettia sap may cause mild irritation or nausea. Probably best to keep pets away from the plant, especially puppies and kittens.

Poinsettias are not poisonous. A study at Ohio State University showed that a 50-pound child would have to eat more than 500 leaves to have any harmful effect. Plus poinsettia leaves have an awful taste. You might want to keep your pets from snacking on poinsettia leaves. Eating the leaves can cause vomiting and diarrhoea.

The showy coloured parts of poinsettias that most people think of as the flowers are actually coloured bracts (modified leaves).

Poinsettias have also been called the lobster flower and the flame-leaf flower, due

to the red colour.

Joel Roberts Poinsett introduced the poinsettia plant to the United States from Mexico. Poinsett was a botanist, physician and the first United States Ambassador to Mexico.

In Mexico the poinsettia is a perennial shrub that will grow 10-15 feet tall.

There are more than 100 varieties of poinsettias available today. Poinsettias come in colours like the traditional red, white, pink, burgundy, marbled and speckled.

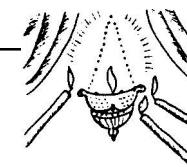
The Paul Ecke Ranch in California grows over 70% of all Poinsettias purchased in the United States and does about 50% of the world-wide sales of Poinsettias.

December 12th is Poinsettia Day, which marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett in 1851

From: <http://extension.illinois.edu/poinsettia/facts.cfm>

Festal Candles

December (Gold [Christmas])
In memory of George Milich given by Bill Milich



Future Events/Meetings (2018)

Jan 4 Thu 6:30 PM Parish Council meeting

From the Pastor

Last Sunday the Parish President, Andrew Skero Jr., mentioned that the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania adopted at its last annual assembly changes to the way the Archdiocese would be assessing the Cathedralium.



The Cathedralium is the sum levied against parishes for the support of the Bishop and the maintenance of the diocese.