



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Metropolitan Constantine, Patriarch Pavle, Bishop Robert, Father Peter Natishan, Father Gerald Olszewski, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Dragan Filipović, Father Elias Katras, Father Stevo Rocknage, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father John Monronko, Father Michael Mihalick [MS], Ollie Pendylshok, Walt & Evelyn Burlack, Joshua Agosto and his family, Harley Katarina Rahuba, Mike and Hilda Holupka, Eva Malesnick, Helen Likar, Stella Peanoske, Joe Nezolyk, Nick Behun, Terry Reinhart, Bernie O'Masta, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Maria Balo, Linda Mechtly, Mary Mochnick, Mary Pekich, Mildred Manolovich, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Sandy Gamble, Glen Lucas Burlack, Bernie Vangrin, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Stella Cherepko, Sam Wadrose, Khoruia Joanne Abdalah, Cameron [a boy in Matt's class], Faith—a 6-year-old girl with rheumatoid arthritis, Isabella Olivia Lindgren—a 2-year-old with a brain tumor, Dillon, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Nick Malec [Maxine's brother], Erin, Jimmy Fennel [7th Grader], Jim Markovich, Jeff Walewski [thyroid cancer], Carol [Lotinski] Rose, Michael Miller, Dave May, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Alverta, Margaret Mueller, Gary Zurasky, Michael Horvath, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Rita Very & family, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Mildred Walters, Michael Miller, Mike Pelchar [Liz's brother], Jim Logue—throat cancer, Liz Stumpf, Ester Tylavsky, Ed Jamison, Theodore Nixon, Charles Johnson, Amy Forbeck, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Gloria Prymak [Liz's niece], Robert Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, Sabrina, George & Mika Rocknage, Elizabeth Mitchell, Sherry Rock, and Daria Masur. **ARNOLD:** Stefania Lucci, Kay Tomson, Ann Ostaffy, Steve Sakal, Homer Paul Kline, and Steve Ostaffy. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Slickville BREAKFAST CLUB will assemble after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 24, 2008. We understand there is a great demand for **SCRAMBLED EGGS!** Please see Liz, John, or Pani Gina for more information!

Please remember James John Logue, recently assigned to Iraq, and ALL American servicemen and women in the Middle East in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American servicemen and women—and bring them all home safely!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR “BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION” AND CAMPBELL’S SOUP LABELS TO CHURCH. There is a shoebox in the basement for Alex’s Fifth Grade and Matt’s Third Grade collections. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP! *Alex and Matt*

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please call Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

Schedule of Services

Sunday, February 10	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
37TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY—VENERABLE EPHREM THE SYRIAN, VENERABLE PALLADIUS THE ASCETIC, VENERABLE ISAAC THE SYRIAN-BISHOP OF NINEVEH, VENERABLE EPHREM-BISHOP OF PEREYASLAV OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA, COMMEMORATION OF ALL DECEASED WHO DIED IN TIMES OF PERSECUTION FOR THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST		
<i>Tone 4</i>		
I Timothy 4:9-15		
Luke 19:1-10		
<i>Litany in Blessed Memory of Claudia Gradicheck & George Horvath—Mike Horvath</i>		
Thursday, February 14	Ecumenical Service	7:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church—Pastor Carl Jones Speaking		
Sunday, February 17	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE—VENERABLE ISIDORE OF PELUSIUM-MONK, MARTYR JADORUS, HIEROMARTYR ABRAMIUS-BISHOP OF ARBELA IN ASSYRIA, VENERABLE NICHOLAS THE CONFESSOR-ABBOT OF THE STUDIO, SAINT GEORGE VSEVOLODOVYCH-GREAT-PRINCE OF VLADIMIR, SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF HIRENOPOLIS, NEW-MARTYR JOSEPH OF ALEPPO		
<i>Tone 5</i>		
II Timothy 2:11-19		
Luke 18:2-8		
Thursday, February 21	Ecumenical Service	7:00 PM
Saint Sylvester Roman Catholic Church—Pastor Linda Steward Speaking		
Sunday, February 24	Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON—HIEROMARTYR BLAISE-BISHOP OF SEBASTE, SAINT DEMETRIUS-MONK & WONDERWORKER OF PRILUKI-VOLGDA, PRINCE VSEVOLOD-WONDERWORKER OF PSKOV, RIGHTEOUS THEODORA-EMPRESS OF CONSTANTINOPLE—ESTABLISHER OF THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY ICONS		

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 10 FEBRUARY 2008

37TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY

**VENERABLE EPHREM THE SYRIAN, VENERABLE PALLADIUS THE
ASCETIC, VENERABLE ISAAD THE SYRIAN-BISHOP OF NINEVEH,
VENERABLE EPHREM-BISHOP OF PEREYASLAV OF PERCHEVSKY
LAVRA, COMMEMORATION OF ALL DECEASED WHO DIED IN
TIMES OF PERSECUTION FOR THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST**

TROPARION—TONE 4

When the women disciples of the Lord
Learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection;
They cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles:
Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,
Granting the world great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 4

My Savior and Redeemer,
As God rose from the tomb
And delivered the earthborn from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of Hell,
And as Master, He has risen on the third day!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 4

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made
them all.

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou
made them all.

READER: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou
made them all.

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works!

PEOPLE: In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 4

Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.

You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

Russian Epiphany

Russians are convinced that women can wash away wrinkles with holy water that was blessed on Orthodox Epiphany (celebrated January 19 in accordance with the Julian calendar).

The Epiphany is one of the most highly esteemed holidays in Russia. It commemorates the day when John the Baptist christened the 30 year old Jesus Christ in the Jordan River nearly 2,000 years ago. The sacrament of Baptism is derived from this occasion.

According to the findings of an international group of scholars that undertook archaeological digs in the Holy Land, the event took place on the Eastern Shore of the river, now the Jordanian village of Wadi Harar.

Russians believe that holy water blessed on Epiphany has special healing qualities and administer it to heal spiritual ailments. Many Russians store the water at home as a relic for the year and it is customary to drink a little in the mornings on an empty stomach. Priests recommend that the holy water be sprinkled on food products and other household goods.

In addition to believers, many atheists acknowledge the healing powers of the blessed water, the extremely long lines of people with bottles and jugs that form outside church doors on the eve of Epiphany bear witness to this phenomenon.

Russia has traditionally celebrated Epiphany solemnly and extensively. It was customary to carve a hole in the ice and to call it "Jordania" in memory of the river in which Christ was baptized. On the feast day, clergy lead a procession to these holes or to wells and bless the water, even in the biting cold. Some courageous people immerse themselves in the icy water. Today this tradition has been revived, many natural springs are once again being blessed, and many people seeking a cure for their ailments are once again bathing in these waters.

Orthodox believers claim that the collected water does not spoil for an entire year and in so doing surmounts the laws of nature. The words of a prayer, "Laws of nature are conquered" are said repeatedly throughout the holiday service. On the day after the holiday all water sources lose their special quality.

Orthodox faithful believe that the physical characteristics of the holy water cannot be explained scientifically. They hold that the characteristics of the water cannot be explained rationally. Christians believe that the holy water of Epiphany bears witness to the unworldly nature of the Church, even in this world it is a part of the Heavenly Kingdom.

The feast day of the Epiphany was always considered to be the most favorable day for young women to have their fortune revealed to them, in particular the identity of their betrothed. According to folklore, the "heavens open" on the eve of Epiphany and whatsoever one prays for will come to pass.

The famous Epiphany frosts are approaching; in Russia they have been considered the harshest of the year. According to the farmer's almanac there are many signs tied to this day. Russians believe that if it snows on Epiphany then the wheat and honey harvest will be plentiful and if the eve of Epiphany is starlit, then the berry crop will be good.

"CRIME PREVENTION TIP OF THE WEEK—February 1, 2008

Identity Theft

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America, affecting half a million new victims each year. Identity theft or identity fraud is the taking of a victim's identity to obtain credit or credit cards from banks and retailers. Criminals can also steal money from the victims existing accounts, apply for loans, establish accounts with utility companies, rent an apartment, file bankruptcy, or obtain a job using the victim's name. Over the past 5 years, the Carnegie Police Department has noticed a 54% increase in identity theft/fraud reported cases from a low of 12 in 2003, to 26 reported cases in 2007.

To make identify theft/fraud work, criminals need to obtain certain information from you such as your social security number, birthday and other identifying information such as your address and your phone number. With that information and a fake driver license, they can apply in person for instant credit or through the mail posing as you. Criminals, known as "dumpster divers" can get this information through material you may have thrown away in the garbage such as utility bills, credit card slips and other documents.

Below are some tips to help prevent you from becoming a victim of identity theft/fraud.

- Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail, or over the internet unless you have initiated the contact or know who you are dealing with. Identify thieves will pose as bank representatives, internet service providers and even government officials in order to get you to reveal identifying information to them.
- Shred all documents, including pre-approved credit applications received in your name, insurance forms, bank checks and statements you are discarding, and other financial information.
- Do not use your mother's maiden name, your birthday, or the last 4 digits on your social security card or a similar series of numbers as a password for anything. It is too easy to figure out.
- Minimize the identification information and the number of cards you carry. Do not carry your social security card, birth certificate or passport unless necessary.
- Make a list of all your credit card account information and bank account numbers with customer service phone numbers and keep it in a safe place.
- Do not put your credit card number on the internet unless it is encrypted on a secure site.
- Pay attention to billing cycles. Follow up with creditors if bills don't arrive on time. A missing credit card bill could mean an identity thief has taken over your credit card account and changed your billing address.
- Cancel all credit cards that you have not used in the last 6-months. Open credit is a prime target.
- Order your credit report at least twice a year. Reports can be obtained from all three major sources: Equifax, Experian or TranUnion.

To illustrate how sophisticated criminals have become, I am going to relate to you a true occurrence:

Right before Christmas in 2006, someone walked into the stockroom of a retail establishment at a local mall and stole the Manager's purse. Inside the purse were 2 debit cards, several credit cards, 2 checkbooks, driver license, social security card and various other personal identification cards. Shortly after the theft of the purse, the Manager received a phone call at her store from a person who identified themselves as an investigator for the bank where one of her debit cards was issued. The investigator told her that they were currently "tracking" the unauthorized debit purchases at various stores in the area, and that they were working with the local police in trying to catch the person. The investigator also stated that he needed her PIN number for the debit card to authorize the continuance of the investigation and to verify certain information critical to the investigation. Believing that she was helping with the investigation, and naturally upset and not thinking straight over the theft of her purse, she supplied the investigator with her PIN number. Shortly thereafter, it was discovered that the person who said they were an investigator

was not, and was really part of the elaborate scheme to steal debit/credit cards and make fraudulent purchases and withdraws from bank accounts. Before the debit and credit cards and checkbooks could be cancelled, several thousand dollars of merchandise was fraudulently charged to her accounts, and withdrawn from her bank accounts.

It is obvious that this was a well planned crime that involved multiple people. As it turned out, the people involved in this crime were responsible for multiple similar crimes, and were the subject of an extensive criminal investigation. We are all susceptible to this sort of crime and need to be vigilant.

Chief Jeffrey C. Harbin
179th Session FBINA
Carnegie Police Department