



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor

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NATIVITY FAST—SAINT PHILIP'S FAST

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Metropolitan Constantine, 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 Michael Mihalick [MS], Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Anthony Dimitri, Father Cuthbert Jack, Father Elias Warnke, Evelyn Burlack, Joshua Agosto and his family, Harley Katarina Rahuba, Mike Holupka, Eva Malesnick, Helen Likar, Stella Peanoske, Joe Nezolyk, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Maria Balo, Linda Mechtly, Mary Mochnick, Mildred Manolovich, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Glen Lucas Burlack, Bernie Vangrin, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Stella Cherepko, Sam Wadrose, Cameron [a boy in Matt's class], Faith—an 7-year-old girl with rheumatoid arthritis, Isabella Olivia Lindgren—a 4-year-old with a brain tumor, Dillon, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Nick Malec [Maxine's brother], Erin, Jim Markovich, Jeff Walewski [thyroid cancer], Carol [Lotinski] Rose, Michael Miller, Dave May, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Alverta, Gary Zurasky, Michael Horvath, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Michael Miller, 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, Robert McKivitz, Marjorie Pershing, Tom Marriott, Joe Farkas, Liz Obradovich, Liz, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Peter Natishan, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Brandi Thomas, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Peter & Karen Special, Amy Boe, Doris Artman, Maureen Sams, Nancy Barylak, Shirley Tkacik, Carol Kowalcheck, Martin Golofski, Joe Paouncic, Anthony Yerace, Joanne Brodrick, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier [3-year-old with cancer], Diane Waryanka, Nathan Forbeck, Joseph Baloga, Andy

Torick, Sarah Doyle, Carmella Berardesca, Samuel Peters, Jean Stutchell, Joe Paouncic, Bonnie Blair [Pani Gina's mother], Charles & Esther Holupka, Jill Paha, Wanda Mefford, and Daria Masur. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, Homer Paul Kline, and Steve Ostaffy. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

REMINDER: There will be no service in Slickville on Sunday, December 13, 2009—Father Bob, Pani Gina, Alex, and Matt will be attending Pani Gina's nephews' baptism in Petrolia. Please plan to attend one of the area Orthodox Churches—see the list in the Directory or in the bulletin insert. Have a safe week and God Bless! Fr. Bob

2010 Envelopes are now available downstairs in the church hall. PLEASE NOTE—your number may be different from this year's envelopes! Please put your name on the new envelopes when you start using them AFTER January 1, 2010! Any questions—please see Fr. Bob.

Please remember James John Logue George Senita, & John Kirkowski assigned to Iraq, Matthew Machak, Tonia Dec, Michael Repasky, 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 Seventh Grade and Matt's Fifth Grade collections. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP! Love, *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, December 13 NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE

27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY AND ALL-PRAISED APOSTLE ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED, SAINT FRUMENTIUS-ARCHBISHOP OF ABYSSINIA

Tone 2

Ephesians 6:10-17, I Corinthians 4:9-16

Luke 13:10-17, John 1:35-51

Sunday, December 20

Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SAINT AMBROSE-BISHOP OF MILAN, MARTYR ATENDODORUS OF MESOPOTAMIA, VENERABLE PAUL THE OBEDIENT, VENERABLE JOHN THE FASTER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA, VENERABLE NILUS-MONK OF STOLOBENSK, VENERABLE ANTHONY-ABBOT OF SIYA MONASTERY, VENERABLE GREGORY THE SILENT OF MOUNT ATHOS

Tone 3

Colossians 1:12-18

Luke 17:12-19

Litany in Blessed Memory of Helen Pytlak—Darlene Santia

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Nicholas & Catherine Behun—Behun Family

Sunday, December 27

Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM

29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

MARTYRS THYRSUS, LEUCIUS, & CALLINICUS OF APOLLONIA, MARTYRS APOLLONIA, PHILEMON, ARIANUS, & THEOCTYCHUS OF ALEXANDRIA

Tone 4

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 14:16-24

Litany in Blessed Memory of Sam Kerr—Evelyn Burlack

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Joseph Yakim, Eva P. Thompson, & John Pendlyshok—Ollie

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 13 DECEMBER 2009

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY AND ALL-PRAISED APOSTLE ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED

SAINT FRUMENTIUS-ARCHBISHOP OF ABYSSINIA

TROPARION—TONE 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
All the powers of heaven cried out:
O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

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

KONTAKION—TONE 2

Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior,
Seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam,
Beheld this and rejoiced with Thee!
And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 2

READER: The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my
salvation.

PEOPLE: **The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my
salvation.**

READER: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.

PEOPLE: The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

READER: The Lord is my strength and my song.

PEOPLE: He has become my salvation.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 2

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Save the king, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

NEIGHBORING ORTHODOX PARISHES

Saint Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
Ashland Avenue Extension
Greensburg, PA 15601
office: 1-724-834-1311
Very Rev. Father John Nosal
1-724-837-5113
frjno@comcast.net

Holy Virgin [POKROVA] Ukrainian Orthodox Church
1701 Kenneth Avenue
Arnold, PA 15068
office: 1-724-335-3965

Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church
1150 Leishman Avenue
New Kensington, PA 15068-9988
office: 1-724-335-9988
Rev. Father Joel Gilliam
home: 1-724-377-0520
cell: 1-724-448-5302

Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church [OCA]
150 Elmtree Road

New Kensington, PA 15068-4636
rectory: 1-724-337-8162
Very Rev. Father Paul Ziatyk

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church
2110 Haymaker Road
Monroeville, PA 15146
hall: 1-412-372-9895
Very Rev. Father Dragoljub Malich
1-412-372-4454

Holy Ascension Serbian Orthodox Church
24 North Third Street
Youngwood, PA 15697
office: 1-724-925-6353
Rev. Father Miladin Blagojevic

Saint Stephen Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church
1520 Susan Drive
Latrobe, PA 15650
office: 1-724-539-1109
Rev. Father Nicholas Ferencz
1-724-537-2651

Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church [OCA]
31 Semore Street,
Black Lick, PA 15716
office: 1-724-248-7140
Very Rev. Archimandrite Pitirim {Stehnach}
1-724-248-3822

THE THREE TREES

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods.

They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, 'Someday I hope to be a great treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with an intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty.'

Then the second tree said, 'Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take Kings and Queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. People will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull.'

Finally the third tree said, 'I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest Tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill, look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me.'

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, 'This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter,' and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree the woodsman said, 'This looks like a strong tree. I will be able to sell it to the shipyard.' The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the men said, 'I don't need anything special from my tree, I'll take this one,' and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for.

The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying Kings had come to an end.

The third tree was cut into large pieces, and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams.

Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and he stood and said 'Peace' and the

storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, God will give you great gifts.

Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined...

We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His Ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.