



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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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

Pauncic, Bonnie Blair [Pani Gina's mother], Charles & Esther Holupka, Jill Paha, 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.

2010 Church Calendars and 2010 Envelopes are now available downstairs in the church hall. PLEASE NOTE—your envelope 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 27 Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM
29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS
MARTYRS THYRSUS, LEUCIUS, & CALLINICUS OF APOLLONIA, MARTYRS APOLLONIUS, 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

Sunday, January 3 Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM
30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS; VIRGIN-MARTYR JULIANA & 500 MEN & 130 WOMEN WITH HER IN
NICOMEDIA; MARTYR THEMISTOCLES OF MYRA AND LYCIA; REPOSE OF SAINT PETER-METROPOLITAN OF KIEV
& ALL RUS-UKRAINE; REPOSE OF SAINT PHILARET-METROPOLITAN OF KIEV

Tone 5

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Matthew 1:1-25

*Litany in Blessed Memory of Stephen Kuzman & Nicholas Vetosky—Fr. Bob
Parastas in Blessed Memory of Robert Vetosky—Cindy Vetosky & Family*

Wednesday, January 6 **GRAND COMPLINE AND HOLY SUPPER** 6:00 PM

Thursday, January 7 **Obednitza** 10:30 AM
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, January 10 **Divine Liturgy** 10:30 AM
31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY
RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, & JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD; 14,000 HOLY
INNOCENTS OF BETHLEHEM; 20,000 MARTYRS AT NICOMEDIA, INCLUDING ZENO, DOROTHEUS, INDES,
GORGONIUS, PETER EUTHYMIUS, AND THE VIRGINS AGAPE, DOMNA, AND THEOPHILA; APOSTLE OF THE 70
NICANOR; SAINT BABYLAS OF TARSUS IN CILICIA

Tone 6

Galatians 1:11-19

Matthew 2:13-23

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Steve Kuzman—Debbie & John Paouncic

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 27 DECEMBER 2009

TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

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

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!

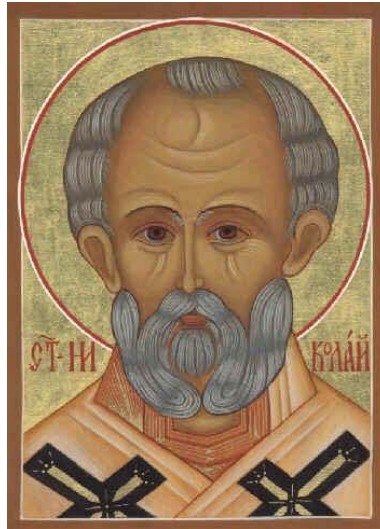
PEOPLE: In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 4

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

You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

**A Miracle Wrought By St. Nicholas in Kiev in The 1920s
St Nicholas saves a young man from being shot.**



It was nearly half a century ago that I first heard of this miracle wrought by St. Nicholas. Never had I chanced to read anything about it in the writings of the Church. I would not want this case of the saintly bishop's help to depart to my grave with me.

During the mid-1940s (I can't recall the exact date), I had to spend the night in the city of Munchen [Munich] in West Germany. The city was in ruins after the war, and I would be forced to spend the night outside. Fortunately, there chanced to be a "Good Samaritan" church-house in the city, and I was provided with its address.

There were two of us in the room. Myself, and a man unknown to me, some 40-45 years of age. We introduced ourselves, each to the other. I do not remember either his name or his surname - and they probably would not have been "real," anyway. We had to sleep on wooden benches and chairs. So, in order to pass the night more quickly, we fell to talking. I can't remember why, but my co-locutor, for some reason or other, asked me whether I was acquainted with the miracle of St. Nicholas that took place in Kiev in the 1920s. I did not know of it, and he related the following tale to me.

In Kiev, at Podol (the northern section of the city), there dwelt an elderly widow with her son and daughter. The old woman dearly loved St. Nicholas and, in all cases of difficulty, would go to his church to pray before the image [obraz] of the saintly bishop [sviatitel'], always receiving consolation and the easing of her misfortune. Her son, seemingly a student, became an officer.

The governments of the city changed frequently: Whites, Reds, a Hetman, a Directory, Poles, Germans, etc. All former officers were arrested on the spot, the old woman's son among them. His sister rushed about from one "department" of the time to another. She ran her legs off, but achieved nothing. But the old woman ran off to St. Nicholas. Long did she pray before his ikon; then she returned home, consoled—the saintly bishop will help. She sat down to have a spot of tea, while her daughter's hands simply fell to her sides. O, woe! her brother had vanished!

The son returned home at dawn of the following day. Famished, beaten, dirty, weary. According to him, a large group of officers under a strong convoy of guards was being led off to Pechersk. This is the hilly section of town, opposite from Podol, by the Kiev-Caves Lavra. There was a large hippodrome there, where horse races were held. Beyond it, there was a grove, and rampart-trenches which had been dug in Peter I's day, as a defense against the Swedes. It was in that grove, by the rampart-trenches, that the shootings took place.

They had come up to the hippodrome when, suddenly, some little old man or other stepped out from around a corner. He approached the convoy-commandant and asked: "Where are you taking them?"

The commandant replied, rudely: "To Dukhonin's H.Q.!" (which meant, in the jargon of the time, "to be shot"). "Go away, old man!" The old man left, but, in doing so, he took the old woman's son by the hand and said: "Let him go. I know him."

Neither the commandant nor the escort-guards replied with even so much as a single word, nor did they hinder him. The little old man led the young fellow out around the corner and, saying, "Go on home to your mother," vanished away somewhere.

The old woman was overjoyed and immediately set off to thank St. Nicholas. The son wanted to do nothing more than to lie down and have a good, long sleep, but his mother took him along with her to the church. He had probably been there on previous occasions, but had been but little interested in anything.

The little old woman led him up to a huge image of the saintly bishop. The son turned ashen-pale and began to tremble. He could only whisper: "Mother, dear, but that's the very same elder who led me to freedom..."

Wondrous is God in His Saints.

Many of the details of this tale were precise and animated. Who had my co-locutor been? Perhaps he had been speaking of himself? I don't know...

– N. P. F. California 1993

[Translated from the Russian text appearing in ~Pravoslavnaya Rus'~ ("Orthodox Rus"), No. 13, 1997 by G. Spruksts, English-language translation copyright (c) 1997.] English-language translation copyright (c) 1997 by the St. Stefan Of Perm Guild, the Russian Cultural Heritage Society and the Translator. Used with permission.

Priest Seraphim Holland 2009. [St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, McKinney, Texas](#)

This article is at: <http://www.orthodox.net/saints/miracle-of-saint-nicholas-kiev-1920s.doc>

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<http://www.orthodox.net/saints/miracle-of-saint-nicholas-kiev-1920s.html>



ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE
ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE IN AMERICA

CBS News reports on 'Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Leader of 300 Million Orthodox Christians, feels "Crucified" and "Second-Class" living in Turkey - "60 Minutes"

12/17/2009

New York, NY - Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the leader of the 300 million-member Orthodox Christian Church, feels "crucified" living in Turkey under a government he says would like to see his nearly 2,000-year-old Patriarchate die out. His All Holiness speaks to Bob Simon for a **60 MINUTES** story to be broadcast **Sunday, Dec. 20 (7:00-8:00 PM, ET/PT)** on the CBS Television Network.

Orthodox Christians trace their roots to the earliest days of Christianity but do not answer to papal authority in Rome.

Bartholomew is, in effect, their pope. The Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey, dates back to Roman times, when the city, then Constantinople, was the center of Christianity. Since then, history has seen the Patriarch and the part of his church in Turkey -- who are Turkish citizens of Greek ancestry -- discriminated against in their traditional homeland inside what has become modern Turkey, where 99 percent of the people are Muslim. One and a half million were expelled in 1923 and another 150,000 left after violent anti-Christian riots in Istanbul in 1955. A population once numbering near two million is now around 4,000.

"It is not [a] crime...to be a minority living in Turkey but we are treated as...second class," Bartholomew tells Simon. "We don't feel that we enjoy our full rights as Turkish citizens." Turkish authorities closed churches, monasteries and schools, including its only orthodox Seminary, the Halki School of Theology. According to Turkish law the only potential successors to Bartholomew must be Turkish born and trained at the Halki. "[The Turkish government] would be happy to see the Patriarchate extinguished or moving abroad, but our belief is that it will never happen," says Bartholomew.



The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians, feels "crucified" and "second-class" living in Turkey. Bob Simon reports, this Sunday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. ET/PT. [Watch the '60 Minutes' video excerpt.](#)



His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and 60 Minutes correspondent Bob Simon, visiting the Halki School of Theology, which was closed by Turkish authorities in 1971. (CBS/Magalie Laguerre- Wilkinson)

Leaving Turkey is not an option for Bartholomew, the 270th Patriarch, because his church was founded there 17 centuries ago. The area, Anatolia, is where the young Christian Church began to grow after its beginnings in the Holy Land near Jerusalem. Right in Istanbul, the Hagia Sophia can be found, the first great church in Christianity; the four gospels of Matthew, Luke, Mark and John were written in Turkey; in the Cappadocia region, hundreds of chapels contain amazing artwork-- probably the oldest Christian art in the world - from the time Rome

was ruled by the Caesars. The oldest continuously operating Christian monastery in the world in the Sinai desert in Egypt. It contains a letter that Muslims do not refute was written by the Prophet, Mohammad; the letter instructs Muslims to protect the Christians in the monastery and to respect their faith throughout the world.

Bartholomew finds the letter ironic. "I have visited the prime minister, many ministers, submitting our problems...asking to help us," he tells Simon. But no help has come his way from the Turkish government, which prides itself on being secular and fears any special treatment for Orthodox Christians could lead to inroads by other religions, especially Islam. The Patriarch is determined to hold his ground. "This is the continuation of Jerusalem and for us an equally holy and sacred land. We prefer to stay here, even crucified sometimes," says Bartholomew. Asked by Simon if he feels crucified, His All Holiness replies, "Yes, I do."

[Source: [CBS News / 60 Minutes](#)]



[View additional photos of the '60 Minutes' Interview on the CBS News website](#)

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle is comprised of Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate who have been honored for their outstanding service to The Orthodox Church by having a Patriarchal title, or "offikion," bestowed upon them by His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Those upon whom this title of the

Mother Church has been conferred are known as "Archons of the Great Church of Christ," and the titles are personally conferred by the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

The Order of St. Andrew's fundamental goal and mission is to promote the religious freedom, wellbeing and advancement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which is headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey.

A TRIP TO SAM'S CLUB

Yesterday I was at my local SAM'S CLUB buying a large bag of Purina dog chow for my loyal pet, Biscuit, the Wonder Dog and was in the checkout line when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog.

What did she think I had, an elephant? So since I'm retired and have little to do, on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Purina Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way that it works is to load your pants pockets with Purina nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again... (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.) Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stepped off a curb to sniff an Irish Setter's butt and a car hit us both. I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard.

Sam's Club won't let me shop there anymore.

Better watch what you ask retired people. They have all the time in the world to think of crazy things to say. Forward this (especially) to all your retired friends.....it will be their Laugh for the day.

e-mailed by Hub Kirkpatrick, Crafton High Class of '59—Tarpon Springs, FL

Some thoughts for Sunday, December 27, 2009:

Selected from Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain

They told us of an old man at Scetis who, when he was ill, longed for some fresh bread. When he heard of it, one of the brothers who was an athlete picked up his sheepskin, put some dry loaves into it, and went off to Egypt to exchange them, and he brought them back to the old man. When he saw they were still warm, they were astonished. The old man refused to eat them, saying, "It is my brother's blood." But the old men persuaded him to eat them, saying, "For the Lord's sake, eat, so that the brother's sacrifice be not in vain," and at this he ate.

From St. Basil the Great (The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers: Second Series Vol. VIII; Eerdmans pg. 212):

"...if, to me, "to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21), truly my words ought to be about Christ, my every thought and deed ought to depend upon His commandments, and my soul to be fashioned after His."

From St. Ambrose (The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers: Second Series Vol. X; Eerdmans pg. 2):

"We must follow the ways of the Lord, and take heed to our own ways, lest they lead us into sin. One can take heed if one is not hasty in speaking. The law says: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God' (Dt. 6:4). It said not: 'Speak,' but 'Hear.' Eve fell because she said to the man what she had not heard from the Lord her God. The first word from God says to you: Hear!"

*Let us not interpret "covetousness" as consisting merely in the lust of what is another's. For even what seems *ours* is another's. For nothing is ours, since all things are God's, to Whom we ourselves belong.*

Tertullian, c. 200 AD

"The man who lives daily with the thought of death is to be admired, and the man who gives himself to it by the hour is surely a saint. And yet not every desire for death is good. A habitual sinner prays humbly for death, but the man who does not want to change his ways may, in sheer despair, actually long for death."

St. John Climacus

From St. Leo the Great (The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers: Second Series Vol. XII; Eerdmans pg. 176):

"We should in all things be renewed in the image of our Lord Jesus Christ Who, remaining 'in the form of God' (Phil. 2:6-7), deigned to 'take the form' of sinful flesh?"

For all our weaknesses, which come from sin, He took on Him without sharing in sin, so that He felt the sensation of hunger and thirst and sleep and fatigue, and grief and weeping, and suffered the fiercest pangs up to the extremity of death, because no one could be loosed from the snares of death, unless He in Whom alone all men's nature was guileless allowed Himself to be slain by the hands of wicked men. And hence our Savior the Son of God provided for all that believe in Him both a mystery and an example, that they might apprehend the one by being born again, and follow the other by imitation."

SOME INFORMATION ON OUR NATIVITY SERVICES:

We will have our Nativity Eve Grand Compline beginning at 6 PM on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, which will be followed by our traditional Holy Supper. If you wish, you can contribute a meatless dish for the dinner—please see Liz or Debbie for more details.

There will be an Obednitsa on Thursday, January 7, 2010, beginning at 10:30 AM.

As always, these are all weather dependent—the safety of our parishioners is paramount!