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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, Wanda Mefford, Lynn (Bush) Gill, 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our January babies: Evelyn Burlack on the 1st, Millie Kerr on the 3rd, Lyndsey Weiser on the 4th, Marcy Jones on the 8th, and Brenna Scott, Kristin Tkacik Scott, and Kayla Weiser all on the 29th! May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years!

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, 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

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Hilda Holupka—Mike Holupka
Parastas in Blessed Memory of Steve Kuzman—Debbie & John Paouncic***

Sunday, January 17 Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY
SYNAXIS OF THE 70 APOSTLES; SAINT EUSTATHIUS I-ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA;
VENERABLE AQUILIUS-DEACON OF THE PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 7

I Corinthians 10:1-4

Mark 1:9-11

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 03 JANUARY 2010

**THIRTIETH 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**

TROPARION—TONE 5

Let the faithful praise and worship the Word,
Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit;
Born for our salvation from the Virgin;
For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
To endure death,
And to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection!

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

KONTAKION—TONE 5

Thou didst descend into Hell, O my Savior,
Shattering its gates as almighty;
Resurrecting the dead as Creator,
And destroying the sting of death.
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse,
O Lover of Man,
And we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 5

READER: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation
forever.

**PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation
forever.**

READER: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

**PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation
forever.**

READER: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us...

PEOPLE: From this generation forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 5

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth
from generation to generation.

Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever, and my truth will be prepared in
the heavens.

The Feast of St. Nicholas

We come today to the Feast of St. Nicholas the Great Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia. We come today to commemorate and remember a saint whose good works continue through the centuries to the present.

We come today to pray to St. Nicholas and to give thanks to St. Nicholas. We pray to St. Nicholas to intercede before the Lord God for us as he has done through the ages.

We thank St. Nicholas for the abundant miracles and good works. His good works and miracles cannot be numbered and are known only to God.

Believers place great confidence in St. Nicholas as a saint of God. Believers place great confidence in St. Nicholas as an intercessor before God and as a miracle-worker not bounded contemporary time.

St. Nicholas creates awe due to the goodness he has done. St. Nicholas creates awe due to the light of Christ shining through his life. St. Nicholas creates awe due to his humility and lack of being ostentatious.

God's Holy Church remembers St. Nicholas throughout the year. God's Holy Church holds St. Nicholas as an example for believers of every century to consider and to learn from.

God's Holy Church expects believers to take St. Nicholas seriously. God's Holy Church expects believers to think carefully about St. Nicholas and his life in Christ. Being a Christian is a serious undertaking.

St. Nicholas took Christ seriously. His life reflects seriousness about Christ. His life reflects dedication to Christ and to works pleasing to Christ. When deep in prayer we can contemplate the Christianity of St. Nicholas.

Centuries come and ago. Countless numbers of men and women have lived since the time of St. Nicholas. Countless men and women have been exposed to the Holy Gospel as a result of St. Nicholas.

Countless men and women have become Christians due to St. Nicholas. Countless men and women remain Christians honoring St. Nicholas. The life of St. Nicholas reveals the endurance of the life in Christ.

The life of St. Nicholas demonstrates the value of a single person being completely devoted to Christ. The world is better because of St. Nicholas.
St. Nicholas can inspire believers of every century.

St. Nicholas can motivate believers of every century to intensify their commitment to Christ.
St. Nicholas can motivate believers of every century to remain faithful to Christ.

The joy of the life of Christ is synonymous with St. Nicholas. Through the prayers of St. Nicholas may we manifest the joy of Christ throughout our lives.

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. December 6/19, 2009. St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia. Father Rodney Torbic

PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX BISHOPS BEYOND THE BORDERS OF UKRAINE



To the Venerable Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church beyond the Borders of Ukraine and to our Brothers and Sisters of the Faith in Ukraine:

Peace be with you from the Christ-Child – born of God’s Love for us!

CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM!

“...the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.” (Matthew 2:9)

Once again the light of the Star guides us to Bethlehem! Once again our hearts are lifted up by the angelic choir singing: *“Glory to God in the highest. Peace to men of good will.”*

Again the shepherds have left their fields, the wise men their far-off countries and we, together with them, we fall upon our knees in wonder seeing God descending from Heaven to embrace in His arms a Babe that rests with His Mother in a cave. He has descended the staircase of Heaven to save humanity and to take us up that same staircase for eternity to live with our Creator – our Lord who has revealed Himself unto us. St. Athanasius puts it this way: *“The Word became flesh in order to make man receptive of divinity. He became poor in order that we, through His poverty, might become rich.”*

The world in which we now live would have us turn our gaze away from our Lord’s Nativity – when the fullness of the Divine approached the fullness of humanity – and place our sight upon only that, which is temporal, the material, the physical. Indeed, there are many problems that exist today, for darkness lingers on. But the light of the Bethlehem Star announces once and for all that there is hope, there is salvation, there is the saving grace offered to all who accept the Lord and Master, Who has entered the world to banish all darkness and evil and promises us the Kingdom of Heaven.

Yes, evil continues around us – there are crimes, there are those who would create disunity, there are wars, there are human beings deprived of their humanity and left half-beaten along the roadsides of life. We who have been chosen, who have been selected to the royal priesthood as St. Peter writes, are to be the good Samaritans and by the grace of God, to heal the wounds created by evil — pride, greed, hatred. We are called to reflect the light of the Good News to the world that has been entrusted to us by God Almighty. No period in history has had more need for the Gospel proclamation than the present era, for man has never so willfully rebelled against every precept of his Creator as now! Who looks up to see God descending from Heaven? Who bends an ear to hear the angels sing and the cry of a babe?

The Bethlehem Star guided our ancestors more than a thousand years ago when Ukraine, like other nations, embraced the new-born Christ Child. From the Feast of the Nativity, our ancestors gathered strength of spirit to know victory over evil, persecutions and difficulties of this earthly life! Evidence of this are the magnificent carols that echoed from village to village – carols that embraced the thousands of churches that were erected by our God-loving ancestors.

We who have been graced by God as your hierarchs pray that the new-born Christ child may find His way into all of our souls...may the good that lies in every man’s heart day by day be magnified...may we, like the wise men, offer unto Christ our gold of Faith, our myrrh of Hope, our frankincense of Love which flow from the Divine...may the ever blessed Spirit of our Lord’s

Nativity, its joy, its beauty, its love, its hope and, above all, its abiding faith dwell among us all so that with heartfelt gratitude to Almighty God we shall, indeed, proclaim:

Christ is born! God is with us! Glorify Him!

+Constantine

Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and the Diaspora

+John

Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+Antony

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

+Ioan

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the Diaspora

+Yurij

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+Jeremiah

Archbishop of the South American Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church

+Ilarion

Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+Andriy

Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+Daniel

Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Prot. No. 1237

†BARTHOLOMEW

By God's Grace Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
To the Plenitude of the Church

Grace, peace and mercy from the Savior Christ Born in Bethlehem

Beloved concelebrants and blessed children in the Lord,

Heaven and earth have united Through the birth of Christ.

Today, God has appeared on earth, And man has ascended to heaven.

(Christmas Hymn)

The distance and separation between God and humanity resulting from sin has been abolished with the assumption of the entire human nature by the Only-Begotten Son and Pre-eternal

Word of God. It was God's good will – that is to say, His initiative and will – that the incarnation of His Son should abolish all such distance uniting heaven and earth, as well as creation with its Creator.

During the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos, the Church chanted: "Today is the beginning of God's good will and the proclamation of human salvation." During that feast, through the dedication of the blessed Mary to the temple and her preparation there to become the bearer of the boundless God, the road was paved for the incarnate dispensation of God, which foretold our salvation.

During the feast of the Annunciation, when the divine conception of the Inconceivable occurred through the Holy Spirit within the womb of the Theotokos and divine nature began to coexist with human nature in order that – as St. Athanasius the Great articulated it – "we might become deified," the Church again chanted: "Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the pre-eternal mystery; the Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin." Thus, the "divine good will" welcomed at the Entrance, as well as the salvation commenced and revealed at the Annunciation, are today rendered a tangible reality, as we celebrate the great and holy day of Christmas. Today, "the Word assumes flesh and dwells among us" (John 1.14), while the Angels celebrate the event, chanting: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among humankind." (Luke 2.14)

With the Incarnation of the Divine Word, the salvation of the human race has already potentially occurred. For those who believe in Jesus, live in accordance with this faith, fulfilling His commandments and practicing His teaching, are thereby elevated to become the friends and participants of God! They become "partakers of divine nature" (2 Peter 1.14), gods by grace! This takes place exclusively within the Church, where we are reborn in Christ and adopted by the Father through Holy Baptism and through the holy Sacraments, as well as by cultivation of virtue in order to be filled with divine grace and the Holy Spirit, growing "to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Eph. 4.13) until we reach the level of saying, like St. Paul: "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." (Gal. 2.20) Those who acquire such perfection are not regarded by Christ simply as His friends or brothers, but are recognized by Him as members of His Body. This is why, from the height of the Cross, he would say to His Most Holy Mother about the Evangelist John: "Woman, here is your son," and to John: "Here is your mother." (John 19.26-27) Christmas, therefore, opens wide the door of human "christification" and deification by grace; and for this reason, "the entire creation rejoices in celebration and the heavens delight with us" on this day of significance and salvation." (Hymn of December 28)

With these joyful and hopeful realities before us, from the sacred See of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the Phanar, we extend to you our fervent festive congratulations and wholehearted Patriarch wishes on this central feast of the Christian calendar. We greet all of our beloved faithful throughout the world, the beloved children of the holy Mother Church – clergy of all levels, monastics and laity, pastors and parishioners, and especially those suffering, experiencing sorrow, need or trial. May the pre-eternal Son of God – who was born in a cave and lay in a manger – who for our sake became Son of Man, render all of us worthy of his self-emptying love and of His sacred, venerable incarnate dispensation.

At the Phanar, Christmas 2009

†Bartholomew of Constantinople
Fervent supplicant for all before God

WISHING YOU AND YOURS A BLESSED NATIVITY!

1 CORINTHIANS 13 - - A CHRISTMAS VERSION - By an unknown author.

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love, it profits me nothing. If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

SC priest wins \$100,000 for church in poker game

By SEANNA ADCOX

The Associated Press

Tuesday, December 22, 2009; 5:49 PM

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- A South Carolina priest missed the \$1 million top prize in a poker tournament to be televised this weekend but he won \$100,000 for his church and he hopes his participation gives viewers a "fun twist" on their perceptions of the priesthood.

The Rev. Andrew Trapp said he entered the PokerStars.net Million Dollar Challenge in hopes of putting St. Michael Catholic Church "super close" to its \$5.5 million fundraising goal to build a new facility. He also wanted to strike a public relations blow for priests.

"At the very least, even if I didn't win any prize money, I was hoping it would help people to see that priests can have fun and be normal people and hopefully get a little bit of a fun twist on the image of the priesthood," the assistant pastor said Tuesday.

The top prize went to retired New York Police detective Mike Kosowski. But Trapp won \$100,000, untaxed, in a semifinal round in October for the coastal church's building fund, which has amassed \$4 million after four years of fundraising.

For the final episode, a camera crew filmed a Sunday Mass at the church, about 10 miles southwest of Myrtle Beach, and taped Trapp talking about the need for a new building.

"It's really old. It's too small for our needs, and it's really vulnerable if a hurricane comes," he says in a segment on PokerStars.net.

He adds, "God gave me a gift of playing cards - that interest, that hobby - and I could put it to use to help build our church. That just was really exciting for me."

Congregants will gather Sunday afternoon at the church to watch the final televised round.

The 28-year-old Aiken native said he started playing poker in middle school at family gatherings. But it was in seminary in Columbus, Ohio, that he learned Texas Hold 'Em.

"We just played for fun," he said. "It was just a way to hang out with each other and to enjoy each other's company."

Ordained in July 2007, Trapp is the youngest Catholic priest in the statewide diocese.

"A lot of young people out there, young Catholics, have never seen a young priest," he said, adding that maybe the show will lead others to consider the profession.

Before playing, Trapp got permission from his pastor, who told him to "go for it." The Charleston bishop later gave him permission to be on TV, he said.

Joseph Ohens, executive assistant to the bishop, confirmed Trapp had the bishop's permission.

"He wanted to show the world that priests are human beings like every one of us. ... He wanted to demystify priesthood."

To earn a spot on the poker finals, Trapp had to place among the top 10 in a free Internet tournament involving 10,000 contestants, then submit a two-minute audition video.

Trapp said he knew he would be chosen if he could just earn the right to audition: A poker-playing priest would attract attention and viewers. He played in his priestly attire. Since that's what he's used to wearing, it would've felt weird not to, he said.

PokerStars.net notes Trapp's profession in promoting the show, calling it "a story of biblical proportions." Officials from PokerStars.net did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

Trapp calls it a game show where, instead of answering trivia questions, he plays cards. "This isn't even gambling, so to speak," he said, since everything, including the trips to Los Angeles, was cost-free to him and the church.

Trapp said the Catholic church doesn't see a moral problem with playing cards or games of chance, within reason.

"It's a question of moderation - just like anything else," he said. "We believe it's fine to enjoy a beer or glass of wine, but not to abuse it to get drunk."

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From the sayings of Father Matthew the Poor: "By prayer, the sweet savor of Christ is scented in our words and thoughts. It is even scented in our quietude and silence as well."

Please note our Nativity schedule—weather permitting, of course: Grand Compline at 6 PM on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, followed by our parish Holy Supper. Nativity Obednitsa at 10:30 AM on Thursday, January 7, 2010. Please feel free to invite your neighbors and friends to celebrate with us! Questions?—see Fr. Bob.

On behalf of the Parish Board and the Holy Ghost parish family, we wish you all a most Blessed Nativity and a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Safe New Year. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's birth fill each of you with His Joy and Love. God Bless and Keep you all! In anticipation, "Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Christos Rozdietsia! Slavete Yeho!" Father Bob, Pani Gina, Alexander, Matthew, Stancy, and the Holy Ghost Parish Family