



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 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, Archimandrite Lev, Father Taras Naumenko, Father Nestor Kowal, Protodeacon Mykola Dilendorf, Evelyn Burlack, Joshua Agosto and his family, Harley Katarina Rahuba, Mike Holupka, Eva Malesnick, 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 8-year-old girl with rheumatoid arthritis, Isabella Olivia Lindgren—a 4-year-old with a brain tumor, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Jeff Walewski [thyroid cancer], Michael Miller, Dave May, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Alverta, Gary Zurasky, Michael Horvath, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Michael Miller, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Gloria Prymak [Liz's niece], Robert Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, George & Mika Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, 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, Doris Artman, Maureen Sams, Nancy Barylak, Henry & Shirley Tkacik, Martin Golofski, Anthony Yerace, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier [3-year-old with cancer], Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Jean Stutchell, Bonnie Blair [Pani Gina's mother], Charles & Esther Holupka, Wanda Mefford, Lynn (Bush) Gill, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Betty O'Masta, Julie Eiler, Glenn Miller, Vince Ferro, Michael Pawlyshyn, Dorothy

Lednovich, Kristin Batch Vaughn, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Pete Dimperio, Jane Wartinbee, Steven Sheakley [Pani Gina's cousin], Carmen Talmonti, Matthew—20-year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuzniak, Michael Woloschak, Michael Pryhodzenko, Joseph Mollica, Sonia Luciw, Nellie Patsko, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Donna Tickerhoof, David Buchholz, 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.

Please remember James John Logue George Senita, John Kirkowski, Matthew Machak, Michael Repasky, and ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American service men 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 Eighth Grade and Matt’s Sixth 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 12                      Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom                      10:30 AM**  
**TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—NATIVITY FAST**  
**MARTYRS PARAMON & 370 MARTYRS IN BITHYNIA; MARTYR PHILUMENUS OF ANCYRA & WITH HIM MARTYRS VALERIAN & PHAEDRUS; VENERABLE ACACIUS OF SINAI—MENTIONED IN THE LADDER; HIEROMARTYR ABIBUS-BISHOP OF NEKRESSI IN GEORGIA; VENERABLE NECTARIUS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; SAINT DIONYSIUS-BISHOP OF CORINTH; VENERABLE PITIRIM OF EGYPT-DISCIPLE OF VENERABLE ANTHONY THE GREAT**

*Tone 4*

I Timothy 1:15-17

Luke 13:10-17

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Jim Logue—Fr. Bob***  
***Parastas in Blessed Memory of Victor & Walter Burlack—Evelyn***

**Sunday, December 19                      Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom                      10:30 AM**

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—NATIVITY FAST  
SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER—BISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA  
BLESSED MAXIMUS-METROPOLITAN OF KIEV**

*Tone 5*

Hebrews 13:17-21

Luke 6:17-23

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

**Sunday, December 26                      Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom                      10:30 AM**

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS**

**MARTYRS EUSTRATIUS, AUXENTIUS, EUGENE, MARDARIUS, & ORESTES AT  
SEBASTE; VIRGIN-MARTYR LUCY OF SYRACUSE; VENERABLE ARSENIUS OF  
LATROS; SAINT GABRIEL-ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA; VENERABLE MARDARIUS THE  
RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

*Tone 6*

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 14:16-24

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 12 DECEMBER 2010**

**TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—NATIVITY FAST  
MARTYRS PARAMON & 370 MARTYRS IN BITHYNIA; MARTYR  
PHILUMENUS OF ANCYRA & WITH HIM MARTYRS VALERIAN &  
PHAEDRUS; VENERABLE ACACIUS OF SINAI—MENTIONED IN  
THE LADDER; HIEROMARTYR ABIBUS-BISHOP OF NEKRESSI IN  
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SAINT DIONYSIUS-BISHOP OF CORINTH; VENERABLE PITIRIM  
OF EGYPT-DISCIPLE OF VENERABLE ANTHONY THE GREAT**

### **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.

One day the all-wise (St. John the Almsgiver) heard of a generous giver and so he sent for him privately and said jokingly, "How is it that you became so generous? Was it natural to you, or did you put constraint upon yourself?" Some to whom he put this same question stood shamefacedly before him and would not answer, whilst others would tell him their story.

One man whom the Saint questioned answered as follows: "As a fact, master, I neither give anything nor do any good; but the little I do give and do from that which comes to me through Christ and your prayers I came to do in this way. Formerly I was very hardhearted and unsympathetic and one day I lost money and was reduced to poverty. Then my reason began to say to me: "Truly, if you had been charitable, God would not have forsaken you." And thereupon I decided to give five copper coins a day to the poor. But when I started giving them Satan immediately checked me by saying: 'Those copper coins would really have been enough to buy a bath-ticket or vegetables for your family.'" Then I felt at once as if I were taking the money out of my children's mouth and so I gave nothing.

'But I noticed I was being mastered by this vice, so said to my slave: "I want you to steal five copper coins daily without my noticing it, and give them in charity." For I am a moneychanger, master.

'My slave, worthy fellow, began by stealing ten coppers, and occasionally even a silver coin. As he noticed that we were being blessed, he began to steal gold coins too, and give them away.

'One day I was expressing my astonishment at God's blessings to us, I said to him: "Those five copper coins, boy, have greatly benefited us. So now I want you to give ten." At that the slave said to me with a smile:

"Yes, be thankful for my thefts, since but for them we should not even have bread to eat today. However if there can be a just thief, I am he!" And then he told me that he had given silver and even gold coins.

So it was through his faith, master, that I grew accustomed to giving with all my heart.'

The holy Patriarch was much edified by this story and said: 'Truly I have read many stories in the lives of the fathers, but I have never heard anything like this!'

*Leontius, Life of St. John the Almsgiver 38*

In death the soul that has come to know God through the Holy Spirit experiences a measure of dread when the angels bring her before the Lord, since while living in the world she was guilty of sin. But when the soul beholds the Lord, she rejoices in His meek and merciful countenance, and the Lord in the abundance of His gentleness and love remembereth not her sins. One glance at the Lord, and love of Him will take up its abode in the soul, and from love of God and the sweetness of the Holy Spirit she will be completely transformed. *St. Silouan the Athonite*

The next day, once again the populace (of Neocaesarea in Pontus) was on his (St. Gregory the Wonderworker's) doorstep, along with their wives and children and the aged and those on whom the spirits or some other misfortune had laid some bodily affliction. In their midst, that man measured out what was suitable to the needs of each person in the assemblage, through the power of the Spirit: preaching, jointly examining, admonishing, teaching and healing. For he won over the greatest number to his preaching because what they saw coincided with what they heard, and the tokens of divine power shone upon him through the divine power through both. His words confirmed what they heard; the miracles of healing astonishingly confirmed what they saw. The griever was comforted, youth made wise, the aged ministered to by appropriate words. Slaves were taught to be loyal to their masters; the powerful, to be kind to the lowly; the poor, that virtue alone is wealth and the winning of it is within everyone's reach; and the man fortunate in his riches was properly admonished that he should consider himself not the master but the steward of his possessions. To women he dispensed what was profitable to them; to children, what suited their age; to parents, what was proper. At that time, then, all were astonished, both those in the city and roundabout, by the apostolic miracles. Everything he said and did they believed to be the work of divine power; nor did they rate any court more authoritative in disputes

about earthly matters, but every judgment and every tangled situation was made straight through his counsel.

Gregory of Nyssa, "Life of St. Gregory Thaumaturgus (the Wonderworker)" 922-924, St. Gregory Thaumaturgus (ca. 213 – ca. 270 AD), commemorated 17/30 November

It also happened that a woman of the same locality (Salzburg, Austria) who had suffered from a long sickness, lay half dead, and the funeral was already prepared. Her relatives, in mournful silence, buried funeral laments under the voice of faith, and placed the body that was almost exhausted by the illness at the doorstep of the saintly man's monastery (St. Severinus, mid 5th century). The man of God, seeing the entrance blocked by the bed, said to them, "What is it that you have decided to do?" They answered, "That by your prayers the dead should be given back to life."

Then he said with tears, "Why do demand a great thing of a lowly man? I know I am utterly unworthy. If I could only find pardon for my sins!" And they, "We believe that she will revive if you pray." Then St. Severinus at once threw himself down on the ground in prayer, with tears, and the woman immediately arose. He addressed her thus: "Do not attribute any of these things to my own doing. It is the fervor of your faith that has deserved this grace, and this has happened in many places and among many races in order that it may be made known that there is one God, who works miracles in heaven and on earth, who raises the damned to salvation and restores the dead to life." The woman who had recovered her health, after three days, resumed work in the fields with her own hands, as was the custom of the province.

*Eugippius, Life of St. Severinus, 14*

### **TACKLE POVERTY WITH TROY AND THEODORA POLAMALU!**

FOCUS North America  
GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

As you may know, the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh has been working with FOCUS [Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve] North America to bring to Pittsburgh a local center for us to do charitable outreach to some of Pittsburgh's people in need. We have several work committees that are investigating potential 'needs to be addressed,' interviewing potential leaders, and investigating means of fund-

raising. To kick off this local ministry, we are asking each parish to fill a Christmas stocking to help us realize our goals.

Please consider passing the stocking at a Liturgy or hanging the stocking in your vestibule. Once collected, funds should be sent to FOCUS North America, PO Box 871578, Kansas City, MO 64187-1578.

Please contact me at 412-672-1872 for further information on how you can help FOCUS succeed! Thank you in advance for your support!

Your servant in Christ,  
*Fr. Stevan Rocknage*

Fr. Stevan Rocknage  
President, Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh

*NOTE: Our stocking is hanging in the hall downstairs between the coffee pot and Christmas tree!*