



## 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, Yvonne Christy, Myron Spak, 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.**

**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

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Helen Likar—40 Days—Fr. Bob***

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

**Sunday, January 02                      Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom                      10:30 AM**

**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY**

**HIEROMARTYR IGNATIUS THE GOD-BEARER-BISHOP OF ANTIOCH; SAINT PHILOGONIUS-BISHOP OF ANTIOCH; SAINT DANIEL II-ARCHBISHOP OF THE SERBS; SAINT IGNATIUS-ARCHIMANDRITE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

*Tone 7*

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

Matthew 1:1-25

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Stephen Kuzman & Nicholas Vitosky—Fr. Bob***

**Thursday, January 06**

**Grand Compline for Nativity & Holy Supper 6:00 PM  
STRICT FAST DAY**

**Friday, January 07**

**OBEDNITZA 10:30 AM  
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

**\*\*\*\*\*NO FAST FROM JANUARY 7 TO JANUARY 17\*\*\*\*\***

**Sunday, January 09**

**Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM  
THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY  
PROTOMARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN; SAINT THEODORE GRAPTUS [THE  
BRANDED] OF PALESINT & BITHYNIA-CONFESSOR; SAINT THEOPHANES THE  
CONFESSOR & HYMNOGRAPHER; SAINT THEODORE-ARCHBISHOP OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE**

*Tone 8*

Galatians 1:11-19

Matthew 2:13-23

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Constantine Hanczar—40 Days—Fr. Bob  
Parastas in Blessed Memory of Steve Kuzman—Debbie & John Pauncic***

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 26 DECEMBER 2010**

**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**

### **TROPARION—TONE 6**

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord who didst rise from the dead: 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 6**

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,  
Raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His might hand,  
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.  
He is the Savior of all,  
The Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all!

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 6**

**READER:** O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

**PEOPLE: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.**

**READER:** To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

**PEOPLE: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.**

**READER:** O Lord, save Thy people.

**PEOPLE: And bless Thine inheritance.**

### **ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 6**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

He will say to the Lord: My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in whom I trust.

### **St. Barbara—December 3/16**

*The History of our Church is full of examples of individuals who dedicated their lives to God.*

One such heroine, named Barbara, lived in the city of Heliopolis in the beginning of the third century. She was a lovely and intelligent girl and the daughter of Dioscorus, who was a wealthy nobleman and a pagan. In his zeal to protect his young daughter, Dioscorus built a magnificent tower for her to live in and to keep her safe. He spared no expense, providing her with every material luxury, but forbade her to have friends and even speak to anyone without his permission. Barbara was a bright and intelligent girl who was obedient to her father's wishes and remained in the tower, without complaint, even during his frequent business trips. Dioscorus' intentions were simple - he wanted to surround his daughter with the greatest comforts; he surrounded her with attendants, who he would have instruct her on how to worship the pagan gods. he felt that by keeping her secluded from the world, she was sure to grow up and be a pagan worshiper.

One day, before leaving on one of his many business trip, Dioscorus decided to build a bathhouse for Barbara next to her tower. He drew up plans and left strict instructions for the builders to follow. Dioscorus' business however, kept him away for an unusually long time, so that the

workers were over half finished with the bathhouse and he had still not returned home. It was around this time that Barbara came down from her tower to inspect the new structure. She noticed that it only had two windows, and thought to herself that the pool would have more light if there were three windows in the bathhouse and she instructed the workers to create a third window. Remembering Dioscorus's stern instructions, the workers were afraid to deviate from the plans, but Barbara assured them that she would assume full responsibility for the change. The workers, aware of the love that Dioscorus had for his only daughter, agreed and placed a third window in the bathhouse.

One day, when the construction was nearly completed, Barbara stood by the pool facing the east she said, "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit," and she miraculously drew the sign of the cross in the marble wall of the bathhouse with her finger. She then returned to her tower where she spent her time fasting and praying.

When Dioscorus finally arrived home he immediately noticed the additional (third) window in the bathhouse and became very angry. He entered the bathhouse, to inspect it further, and then noticed the large cross, carved on the marble wall. He became furious. He quickly went to the workers and demanded to know who gave them permission to make changes to the bathhouse. The workers, cowering in the face of such anger, replied that Barbara instructed them to add the third window and then drew the cross on the marble wall with her finger.

Dioscorus immediately sought out his daughter and demanded to know why she had deviated from his strict instructions. In a furious rage he cursed her for disobeying him and insisted on knowing the meaning behind the additional window. Barbara responded in a very loving way to her father that indeed the three windows represented the three Lights which guide everyone who comes into the world. Barbara then proceeded to explain and confess her faith in the Holy Trinity.

Upon hearing Barbara's confession of faith, Dioscorus became furious! His plan of keeping his daughter in darkness had failed! Even though she had no 'human' teacher to bring her to the knowledge of God's existence, Barbara's mind, heart and soul were opened by the grace of God to feel His presence. Secretly, she was able to meet with some Christians who told her about Christ and His teachings. Convinced of the Truth concerning Jesus, she became a Christian whose love for God inspired all who heard of her.

Blinded by his fury, Dioscorus delivered Barbara to Marcian, the Roman prefect, to torture her until she denied Christ. Young Barbara was stripped and struck with whips and clubs until she was standing in a pool of her own blood. To increase the pain, the soldiers rubbed vinegar into her

wounds. Through all this, Barbara stood firm in her faith and would not deny Christ.

She was then thrown into prison and ordered to return the following day. While in her cell, Barbara knelt in prayer to ask God to continue to grant her the strength that she needed to remain faithful, and as she prayed her heart was filled with heavenly joy and her wounds were completely healed. In a nearby cell, was another pious young lady named Juliana, who because of her own faith in Christ, was also imprisoned. Upon witnessing the miraculous healing of Barbara, Juliana praised God and promised to endure what ever terrible tortures that were facing her because of her faith.

The next day, Barbara was brought in front of Marcian. He was amazed to see that her wounds had healed and demanded her to deny Christ. Her refusal angered the prefect, who ordered her body to be hung on a stake and ripped with iron claws. The soldiers then burned her wounds with hot irons and beat her head with spiked clubs. Yet through it all, Barbara found consolation in prayer.

Juliana witnessed Barbara's tortures and wept bitterly over her inability to assist her. When Marcian saw this, he ordered that Juliana be brought forward and tortured in an effort to have her renounce her faith in Christ. Juliana refused and the horrible beatings resumed and continued for several hours while the young ladies stood praying and chanting hymns. Their refusal to renounce their faith only further frustrated Marcian and he ordered that the two girls be taken out of the city and killed!

When Dioscorus, who was watching the his daughter's torture, heard Marcian pronounce the sentence, he offered to execute Saint Barbara himself with his own sword. Saint Barbara and Saint Juliana were then led out of the city to a mountainside where they were beheaded – Saint Barbara, by her father and Saint Juliana by an executioner. As the two men hurried down the mountainside, a great bolt of lightning came from heaven striking Dioscorus and killing him, another bolt killed Juliana's executioner. When the cowardly Marcian heard of these events, he became so paralyzed by fear that he died of fright.

Saint Barbara gained her crown of martyrdom on December 4, 306 and joined her true Father in Heaven. Through her intercessions, O Lord, Have Mercy on Us.

From the sayings of Fr. Matthew the Poor—"The mystery of resurrection as a tangible reality of faith was like a heavenly glorious light which, when it entered the hearts of the disciples, transferred all the humiliating and painful sorrows of the cross into honor, triumph, and glory. Death became redemption, the grave turned from the pit of death into the fountain of life."

"Blessed is he who is not attached to anything transitory or corruptible. Blessed is the intellect that transcends all sensible objects and ceaselessly delights in divine beauty. If you make provision for the desires of the flesh (cf. Rom. 13:14) and bear a grudge against your neighbor on account of something transitory, you worship the creature instead of the Creator." -*St. Maximos the Confessor*

If you receive no comfort from prayer, know that it is preparing for you divine consolation and sweetness in due time: **With patience I waited patiently for the Lord, and He was attentive unto me**, (Ps. 39:1). *An Elder's Counsels to Christians Living in the World*

A word from the desert: Think about people in a way that will profit you: so that you sorrow for the lost, feel pain for those gone astray, suffer for those in pain, pray for sinners, and in the case of the good, entreat God to preserve them. *John the Solitary, 5th century*