



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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ADVENT/PHILIPKIVA/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 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 Nestor Kowal, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father Silouan Rolando, Hieromonk Vasyl (Janick), Father Gabriel Rochelle, Joshua Agosto and his family, 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, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Stella Cherepko, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren—a 4-year-old with a brain tumor, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Dave May, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Alverta, 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, Liz Obradovich, Liz, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Peter Natishan, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Brandi Thomas, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Doris Artman, Nancy Barylak, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier [4-year-old with cancer], Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Jean Stutchell, 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, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—21-year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuzniak, Michael Woloschak, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Nellie Patsko, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne

Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Pete Niederberger, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Lloyd Sheakley [Pani Gina's uncle], Diane McDaniel, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Tony Butecoff, Carl & Margaret Reed, Theodore Demopoulos, Jillian Bowman [10-year old with cancer], Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Karen & Peter Special, Adam Wilson, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Evan Elliott, and Daria Masur. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

The Lord said, "When you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are useless servants, we have only done what was our duty,'" (Luke 17:10). Thus the kingdom of heaven is not a reward for works, but a gift of grace prepared by the Master for His faithful servants. *St. Hesychius the Priest*

If you see a man pure and humble, that is a great vision. For what is greater than such a vision, to see the invisible God in a visible man? *St. Pachomius the Great*

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 Debbie Paouncic's class. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP!

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 18

Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

10:30 AM

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED;
MARTYR ANASTASIAS; SAINT KARION & HIS SON SAINT ZACHARIAH OF EGYPT**

Tone 2

Ephesians 6:10-17

Luke 17:12-19

Litany in Blessed Memory of Jacob & Katrina Burlack—Evelyn Burlack

Sunday, December 25 NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY
FOREFATHERS; SAINT SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER OF TREMITHON;
HIEROMARTYR ALEXANDER-BISHOP OF JERUSALEM; MARTYR SYNESIUS OF ROME**

Tone 3

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 14:16-24

Sunday, January 1, 2012 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY;
MARTYR BONIFACE AT TARSUS IN CILICIA; MARTYRS ELIAS, PROBUS, & ARES IN
CILICIA; MARTYR POLYUEUCTUS AT CAESAREA IN CAPPODOCIA; MARTYR TIMOTHY
THE DEACON IN MAURETANIA; SAINT BONIFACE THE MERCIFUL-BISHOP OF
FERENTINO; SAINT GREGORY-ARCHBISHOP OF OMIRITS; SAINT ELIAS OF MUROM-
WONDERWORKER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Tone 4

Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Matthew 1:1-25

*Litany in Blessed Memory of Stephen Kuzman & Nicholas Vetosky—Fr. Bob
Parastas in Blessed Memory of John Holupka—Mike Holupka*

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 18 DECEMBER 2011

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT
SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED; MARTYR ANASTASIAS; SAINT
KARION & HIS SON SAINT ZACHARIAH OF EGYPT**

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!

You complain that your life is 'rough and rugged.' But whatever we do is always like that. Where there are men, there are passions, narrow mindedness, selfishness, conceit. Thus it is all the more necessary for us to maintain ourselves at a certain depth, to keep in mind the all-embracing, final goal before us, to destroy in ourselves all that is petty and trivial: then we shall find it easier to suffer all these faults in others. O God, send us patience generosity, meekness. We are all working, not for ourselves, but for God: and therefore all conflicts will be settled, not through our own great efforts, but through God's wisdom.

I have read with compassion and sympathy the list of your spiritual tribulations, and have suffered with you. And yet, I believe in the fundamental goodness of your soul. The fact is, it is very difficult to live according to conscience, and it is very easy to live in the same way as everybody else, just taking things as they come. There is an excellent Russian proverb, "What belongs to God is expensive; what belongs to the devil is cheap." And everyone rushes to buy these cheap goods. How easy it is to live without effort, in the constant cinema show of encounters and conversations, without taking any obligations on oneself, with forcing

oneself to do anything, but just feeding one's conceit, laziness, and frivolity. But I am firmly convinced that deep down in your heart you feel a repulsion for such a life, that you would like to be kind and attentive to everyone, luminous, pure.

Let me give you a little advice: begin each day in the following way (of course, if the necessary conditions exist): first of all, before starting any of the day's work, spend at least half an hour in prayer, reading and reflection. When praying, remember all those who are dear to you, the sick, the dead, and turn to God for help in your inner and exterior difficulties. Then read. It would be well if, besides the Gospels, you read some passages from a spiritual work. Then reflect upon the coming day, represent to yourself all the possible difficulties which are awaiting you, prepare yourself to meet them, and above all, promise yourself every morning not to commit a single action against your conscience. And in the evening, even when already lying in bed, pass in review the day you have just spent, and examining it from the standpoint of this rule. I know how difficult it is, but try; this is the real, direct path to full spiritual amendment...

If the heart is cold and prayer is difficult, we must turn to the Gospels; if this does not help, turn to your favorite Holy Father; each of us should possess a special 'friend' among the saints.

+Fr. Alexander Elchaninov, The Diary of a Russian Priest

Prayer is Answering the Word of God

Isidore said: ` Anyone who wants to be always united to God must pray often and read the Bible often. For in prayer it is we who are speaking to God, but in the readings it is God speaking to us.

` All spiritual progress is based on reading and meditation. What we do not know, we learn in the reading; what we have learned, we preserve by meditation.

` Reading the Bible provides us with a two-fold advantage. It instructs our minds, and introduces us to the love of God by taking our attention off vanities.

` None can understand the meaning of the Bible if they do not acquire familiarity with it through the habit of Bible reading.'

(Isidore lived between 560-636 AD)

Augustine said: ` Nourish your soul with Bible reading. It will prepare a spiritual feast for you.'

(Augustine lived 354-430 AD)

Jerome said: ` Anyone who is assiduous in reading the Word of God becomes weary while reading, but afterwards is happy because the bitter seeds of the reading produce sweet fruits in the soul.

` Let us study while we are on earth that Reality which will stay in our minds also when we are in heaven.'

(Jerome lived between 347-420 AD)

Israeli archaeologists: tiny Christian relic found

Oct 30, 1:27 PM (ET)

By MATTI FRIEDMAN

JERUSALEM (AP) - A tiny, exquisitely made box found on an excavated street in Jerusalem is a token of Christian faith from 1,400 years ago, Israeli archaeologists said Sunday.

The box, carved from the bone of a cow, horse or camel, decorated with a cross on the lid and measuring only 0.8 inches by 0.6 inches (2 centimeter by 1.5 centimeter), was likely carried by a Christian believer around the end of the 6th century A.D, according to Yana Tchekhanovets of the Israel Antiquities Authority, one of the directors of the dig where the box was found.

When the lid is removed, the remains of two portraits are still visible in paint and gold leaf. The figures, a man and a woman, are probably Christian saints and possibly Jesus and the Virgin Mary.

The box was found in an excavation outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City in the remains of a Byzantine-era thoroughfare, she said.

Uncovered two years ago, it was treated by preservation experts and extensively researched before it was unveiled at an archaeological conference last week.

The box is important in part because it offers the first archaeological evidence that the use of icons in the Byzantine period was not limited to church ceremonies, she said.

Part of a similar box was found three decades ago in Jordan, but this is the only well-preserved example to be found so far, she said. Similar icons are still carried today by some Christian believers, especially from the eastern Orthodox churches.

The relic was found in the City of David excavation, a Jerusalem dig named for the biblical monarch believed to have ruled a Jewish kingdom from the site.

The politically sensitive dig is located in what is today the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan, just outside the Old City walls in east Jerusalem, the section of the holy city captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war and claimed by the Palestinians as their capital.

Believe me when I say, I have never been so sure of my heart in peace time as in the times of persecution. For I have confidence that if I should die while suffering for Christ and being strengthened by His mercy, I will find still greater mercy with Him. St. Athanasius the Great

The body, being only the temporal garment of the soul, is perishable, and does not constitute the true life of the man. The true life is the spiritual life. If you rend, if you destroy the man's garment, still he himself remains alive; so also after the slaying, after the death, the corruption of the body, the soul remains alive. Let us then chiefly care for the soul, for its salvation!

St. John of Kronstadt

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)

During this Nativity season we celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring hope, love, and salvation to the world. The staff, board, missionaries, and volunteers of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) pray that you, your family, and your community have a merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year! Please join us in declaring, to all people around the world, Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

REMINDER: THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE NEXT WEEK!

Please enjoy a safe Christmas weekend with family and friends. We will see you back here again on Sunday, January 1, 2012!