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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, 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 4year-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 Luciow, 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, Carl & Margaret Reed, Theodore Demopoulos, Jillian Bowman [10-year old with cancer], Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Evan Elliott, Donna & Walter McCrackin, and Daria Masur. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. 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 Debbie Paouncic's class. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP!

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE <u>ALWAYS</u> <u>FREE!</u>

<u>Communion Fasting:</u> 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 <u>CALL FATHER BOB</u> at [412] 279-5640.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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; VENERABLE AMFILOHIJE OF POCHAIV

> *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

Friday, January 6

Grand Compline for the Nativity of Christ 6:30 PM Followed by Holy Supper STRICT FAST DAY!

Saturday, January 7 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Festal Tone Galatians 4:4-7 Matthew 2:1-12

January 7th through January 17th is FAST FREE! January 18th is a STRICT FAST DAY!

Sunday, January 8 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY; AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY; SYNAXIS OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS, RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, HOLY RIGHTEOUS DAVID THE KING, & JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD; HIEROMARTYR EUTHYMIUS-BISHOP OF SARDIS; SAINT CONSTANTINE-MONK OF SYNNADA; SAINT EVARISTUS OF THE STUDION MONASTERY ON MOUNT ATHOS

> Tone 5 Galatians 1:11-19 Matthew 2:13-23

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

Sunday, January 15 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY; FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY; SAINT SYLVESTER-POPE OF ROME; HIEROMARTYR THEOGENES-BISHOP OF PARIUM ON THE HELLESPONT; SAINT SYLVESTER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

> *Tone 6* I Timothy 4:5-8 Mark 1:1-8

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Stella & John Cherepko—the Cherepko family

BULLETIN INSERT FOR O1 JANUARY 2012 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; VENERABLE AMFILOHIJE OF POCHAIV

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.

Troparion for the Sunday before the Nativity—Tone 2

Great are the achievements of faith!

In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water, the Three Holy Children rejoiced.

And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep.

By their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion for the Sunday before the Nativity—Tone 1

O Bethlehem, rejoice! Make ready, Ephratha!

The ewe is hastening to give birth to the Great Shepherd Whom she carries in her womb.

The Godbearing Fathers rejoice at seeing Him,

and the Shepherds praise the Virgin who suckles Him.

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.

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA CONSITORY OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS PRESS RELEASE

2011 Winter Mission Team Leaves to Visit the Children of Ukrainian Orphanage!

Five people were commissioned as Missionaries of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA during the afternoon payer service at the chapel of the Consistory Offices of the UOC of the USA in South Bound Brook, NJ on December 20, 2011. His Eminence Archbishop Antony, the President of the Consistory of the Church, in the presence of the members and workers of the Consistory, faculty and seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary led the Commissioning Moleben service, calling upon His Grace Bishop Daniel, spiritual father of the Winter Mission Team, Very Rev. Fr. John and Pani-matka Ann Haluszczak of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Pittsburgh, PA, Olga Coffee [sic] of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring, MD and Catherine Bucharev of Harrisburg, PA to give a gift of their presence to the children of Znamianka orphanage in Kirovohrad region of Ukraine, as the Team travels to the Church-sponsored orphanage to bring a spirit of Holy Wonderworker Nicholas and Nativity of our Lord season into the lives of over 100 orphans. The Archbishop stated: "All who take upon themselves the name of Christ are called into ministries of love and service by the example of Christ. As these Mission Team members of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA begin their work with the orphans, we pray for the blessings of God upon their endeavors. We recognize them as ambassadors of our Church in ministry with the children of the orphanages and dedicate them to service in the name of our Savior. Through our prayers we will be united with them in their work. May God richly bless their labors."

Following the prayer service, His Grace Bishop Daniel led the orientation for the Mission Team. The bishop spoke of the task that is set before the missionaries: "to open their hearts to the unknown experience and to expect nothing but love, while offering the love of Christ to those that are in need." His Grace stated that people often ask, 'Why would you do this Mission Trip? Why would you go to Ukrainian orphanages and spend your own money to go and work with handicapped children?' The answer is quite simple - we need to understand, when you know Christ, this is what you do. You share the love and compassion of Christ with the world, and Ukrainian orphanages that are at times forgotten by the world are the very part of that world.

Each year thousands of people of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA are blessed to witness the Church's work with the orphan's in Ukraine. Some of them feel a nudge to do something that benefits someone else. Others are looking for adventure and personal growth. They have a desire to see, experience and discover their Holy Orthodox Faith in new and meaningful ways. Adventure is a way to learn from others and explore what God is doing around the world. When we perceive God working among us and become a part of His mission, we find adventure. The adventure is a result of the mission. On these Mission Trips to Ukrainian Orphanages we love the adventure; however, it is never about the adventure. The mission of Christ's love comes first."

Following the orientation, the Team spent several hours preparing the suitcases with medical equipment, toys, and various "play" costumes, which were collected by the parishes of the Church throughout the United Sates of America and shipped to Metropolia Center for the final shipment to Ukrainian orphanages. It is with fifteen suitcases of donations and gifts that this year's Winter Mission Team is leaving the United States for Znamianka orphanage in Kirovohrad region of Ukraine.

We ask our readers and the entire Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA to remember the servants of God – the Missionaries of our Holy Church – His Grace Bishop Daniel, Rev. John and Pani-matka Ann Haluszczak, Olga Coffee [sic] and Catherine Bucharev in their daily prayers. The Mission Team will remain in Ukraine until December 30, 2011.



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!



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of

America

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ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE Patriarchal Christmas Encyclical

Prot. No. 1192

+ B A R T H O L O M E W

By the Mercy of God Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch To the Plenitude of the Church Grace, Peace and Mercy from our Savior Born in Bethlehem

"Christ is born again and the Angels sing once more: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among all."" (Luke 2.14-15)

Beloved brothers and sisters, children in the Lord,

The angels chant these three majestic proclamations and yet the great majority of human beings, although celebrating the feast of Christmas, cannot perceive the significance of the angelic song, instead asking themselves whether God is truly glorified today or why God should even be glorified; where can one discern on earth the peace that is announced, and why should contemporary humanity live with good will?

It is because, in reality, most people do not glorify God – either in their deeds or through their words. Many of them doubt the very existence of God and God's presence in their lives. There are also many people that attribute responsibility to God for the misfortunate occurrences in their lives. However, those who grumble against God err profoundly, since evil does not derive from Him. On the contrary, the loving incarnation of the divine Son and Word, together with the consequent events of His Crucifixion and Resurrection, reshape the human person to its former beauty, granting eternal life and the peace that surpasses all understanding, while rendering human beings co-heirs of the heavenly kingdom. This act of divine condescension, though embracing the ultimate humiliation, is in itself capable of glorifying humanity. Thus, even if many people fail to glorify God in their hearts, nevertheless glory is rendered – by all creation and all things that take place among humans – unto Him who dwells in the highest. We too, then, gratefully cry out with the Angels, "Glory to God in the highest," for the immensity of His works and the incomprehensibility of His love for us.

Yet people also query the second angelic proclamation: "And on earth peace." How can we speak of peace on earth when almost half of the planet finds itself either in the act of or in preparation for war? The sweet tone of the angelic proclamation regarding "peace on earth" is of course primarily a divine pledge that, if people adhere to the way indicated by the new-born Child, they will acquire internal peace and peaceful coexistence. But, alas, most people are moved and drawn by the cymbals of war, ignoring the sound of the pledge for peace on earth. We are not referring here to those who passionately support the use of weapons, but especially to those who transform gentle competition to unequal conflict, seeking the annihilation of any opposition. In this respect, war is experienced as reality among members of rival social groups and parties of all kinds – whether racial, political, partisan, financial, ideological, religious, athletic or any other kind, where the intense mindset of members is converted into militant rather than peaceful. However, this does not refute the truth proclaimed by the Angels, that – through the Nativity of Christ and the acceptance of His teachings – peace will indeed prevail on earth. Christ came bearing peace; and if His peace does not prevail in the world, then responsibility lies with those who fail to accept and embrace this peace, not with the God who grants it.

Since this is the stance of contemporary humanity in light of the peace offered by God, it is hardly surprising that good will is rare among people. The good intention of God toward humanity is assured, just as the favorable consequences of divine love are in principle apparent for all human beings and particularly tangible for all those who accept the angelic proclamations in practice. By contrast, for those who reject these proclamations and are given to exploiting and abusing others, the consequences are experienced as a crisis of stress and anxiety, as a crisis of economy and meaning, and finally as existential uncertainty.

Beloved brothers and sisters, children in the Lord,

All the proclamations of the Angels during the birth of the Lord are realities that exist and are experienced today in fullness by those who believe in Jesus Christ as the Divine-Human Savior of the world. Let us begin from this year to live Christmas in a way that pleases God, the giver of all good things, so that we might experience in our hearts the transcendent peace and the loving good will of God toward us. Let us render ourselves as loving human beings in our relationship to God and other people, becoming sharing persons rather than selfish individuals. Let us remove the masks that estrange and divide us from God and His human image, our fellow human being. And let us fulfill our destiny in the likeness of God by practicing our faith in Him. Let us, too, proclaim the angelic song to humankind, which is suffering terribly and cannot discover Peace and Good Will through its conventional ways. The only way of overcoming war and all forms of crisis, such as the financial one that plagues our world, is our Lord Jesus Christ, who assured us that His is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Therefore, we glorify God in the highest and Jesus Christ who condescended to dwell among us. And we proclaim with the Angels that Peace is accessible and truly exists on earth and within our hearts because we have been reconciled to God through His good will to assume flesh by His birth in the manger.

So let us experience the joy of the Nativity of Jesus Christ and the foretaste of all the benefits announced by the threefold proclamation of the Angels. Amen.

At the Phanar, Christmas 2011 + **Bartholomew of Constantinople** Fervent supplicant for all before God

Nativity Epistle of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Hierarchs Beyond the Borders of Ukraine

To the Venerable and Christ-loving clergy and laity of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Europe, South America, the United States of America, and in Ukraine

Dear and beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord!

Christ is Born!

Into a restless and darkened world appeared the shining light of the Bethlehem star, - the star which announced the incarnation of Him Who would illuminate the darkness and calm the sea of restlessness by His peace. Into the silence of the night comes the majestic chant of the Angels heralding god's greatest manifestations of love towards mankind, - a love which sends His only Begotten Son to the earth. God Himself, so long silent to the restless and darkened world, answers at last! Christ is Born! God is with us! Man can never cease to marvel, - can never cease to reconcile to our human intellect – only by faith, - for the mind is staggered by the implications of the very God, the very Creator, made man! In the manger Child God took a form that we could see and understand as the Way. By His examples, - of His ministry, - in His teachings the way became evident! The Way summed up in the chant of the Angels as they proclaimed: "Peace to men of good will!" The Way becomes His Peace which He gives to all who baptized in Christ, in order to be filled with the desire of good will towards others.

The birth of Jesus Christ was the unique event in the history of the world. It happened only once! The Word was made flesh! And year after year we commemorate this event with hymns and carols of the manifestation of God's love towards mankind. However, to commemorate is not simply an act of remembrance in an event of the past, for it is also there to bring that past event into our present lives and apply it positively. Thus, Christ is Born and we remember that night whenever His light entered into the world of darkness; God is with us, for that light of His life guides and sustains us presently and uninterruptedly. God is with us, His peace resides within stables of our souls, - His way permeates our very lives.

Christ is Born, yes an event of the past, - yes, an event which is continually acting in the souls of those who receive the new born Christ-

Child. The past becomes the present moment of life. The word was made flesh and is dwelling among us!

Beloved: it is the easiest thing to fence Christ in the walls of the church building, - to confine Him, to shut Him in the deepest and smallest sanctuary of our hearts, limiting Him to be the Sunday morning segment of our lives. Here, confined, the Word will not become flesh! The Word will not act to a hungry and thirsty world for peace. Christmas is upon us and it must remind us that God is here, that He dwells within us! And wherever man grieve, wherever men are hurt or flesh is bruised, wherever a children are in hunger or men are in need, - there we must be, as carriers of the newly born Christ-Child, - there, the Word must become flesh in the name of God and for "Peace on earth, good will towards others". Then, and only then, can Christmas have meaning in our lives. Then, and only then, we can proclaim Christ is Born and God is with us!

May the Word become flesh and dwell amongst us all, guiding our lives throughout coming New Year by His love and with His Peace. It is the prayer of your hierarchs that you experience the most blessed and holy Christmas Season and a New Year filled with the blessings from above.

> Christ is Born! Glorify Him! The Nativity of Christ 2011/2012 With Archpastoral Blessings,

+ Constantine Metropolitan – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and in Diaspora + Yurij Metropolitan - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada + Antony Archbishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA +Ioan Archbishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora + Jeremiah Archbishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church, South America Eparchy + Ilarion Bishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada + Andrii Bishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada + Daniel Bishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

At the appearance of thoughts that arouse you to judge your neighbor for some offense that he has done to you, when the storm of thoughts is blown to gale force and rushes for revenge, then compare your state of sorrow with the former state of sorrow of the Savior of the world. He, the Angel of Great Counsel, the Son of God, who was without sin, magnanimously endured the very greatest sorrows. How much more so, then, must we endure grievous circumstances, we who are sinful people and deserving of chastisement. *Elder Leonid of Optina*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

On behalf of our parish Board of Directors, the members of our Sisterhood of Saint Olga, and all our parish family, we wish you and you families a most Joyful and Blessed Nativity celebration.

We sometimes get overwhelmed by the commercialism and hectic pace that has completely overtaken this holy and peaceful time of year. Society has taken what was God's and has made it a profit center! Please remember the "reason for the season" with love for one another and for God.

Join us in prayer on Friday, January 6, 2012, at 6:30 PM. Break bread afterwards as we pray for each other and for God's greatest Gift. Come again on Saturday, January 7, 2012, at 10:30 AM, to give thanks to God for His Only-Begotten Son.

"Love one another as I have loved YOU!" May His Grace and His Love fill us all this very special season! God Bless you all!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Fr. Bob, Pani Gina, Alexander, Matthew, and Stancy Popichak The Parish Board of Directors, Saint Olga Sisterhood The Holy Ghost Parish Family