



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

714 Westmoreland Avenue

PO Box 3

Slickville, PA 15684-0003

[724] 468-5581

www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org

Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor

23 Station Street

Carnegie, PA 15106-3014

[412] 279-5640 home

[412] 956-6626 cell

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

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 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, 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, Shirley Tkacik, Sabrina Sudol, 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 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 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 SYNNADE; 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

January 7th to January 17th is a FAST FREE PERIOD!

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

**Wednesday, January 18
PM**

Grand Compline & Great Blessing of Waters 6:30

THEOPHANY EVE—STRICT FAST DAY

Thursday, January 19

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, January 22

Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM

**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY;
AFTERFEAST OF THEOPHANY; MARTYR POLYEUCTUS OF MLITENE IN ARMENIA;
PROPHET SHEMAIAH; SAINT PETER-BISHOP OF SEBASTE IN ARMENIA & BROTHER
OF SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT & SAINT GREGORY OF NYSSA; SAINT EUSTRATIUS
THE WONDERWORKER OF TARSUS**

Tone 7

Ephesians 4:7-13

Matthew 4:12-17

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 08 JANUARY 2012

**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 STUDIOON
MONASTERY ON MOUNT ATHOS**

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.

Bishop Nikolai Velimirovich, The Prologue from Ohrid
© Serbian Orthodox Church Diocese of Western America

December 25/January 7

1. The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son (Galatians 4:4) to save the human race. And when nine months were fulfilled from the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel had appeared to the Most-holy Virgin in Nazareth, saying, Rejoice, thou that art highly favored . behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son

(Luke 1:28, 31), at that time there went forth a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the people of the Roman Empire should be taxed. In accordance with this decree, everyone had to go to his own town and be registered. That is why the righteous Joseph came with the Most-holy Virgin to Bethlehem, the city of David, for they were both of the royal lineage of David. Since many people descended on this small town for the census, Joseph and Mary were unable to find lodging in any house, and they sought shelter in a cave which shepherds used as a sheepfold. In this cave-on the night between Saturday and Sunday, on the 25th of December-the Most-holy Virgin gave birth to the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. Giving birth to Him without pain just as He was conceived without sin by the Holy Spirit and not by man, she herself wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, worshiped Him as God, and laid Him in a manger. Then the righteous Joseph drew near and worshiped Him as the Divine Fruit of the Virgin's womb. Then the shepherds came in from the fields, directed by an angel of God, and worshiped Him as the Messiah and Savior. The shepherds heard a multitude of God's angels singing: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men (Luke 2:14). At that time three wise men arrived from the east, led by a wondrous star, bearing their gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. They worshiped Him as the King of kings, and offered Him their gifts (Matthew 2). Thus entered the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when Herod, a foreigner, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind, which could not be performed by His servants. To Him be eternal glory and praise! Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

Out of burning love, Thou didst come down from heaven; From eternal beauty, Thou didst descend into monstrous pain; From eternal light, Thou didst descend into the thick darkness of evil.

Thou didst extend Thy holy hand to those choked in sin.

Heaven was amazed, the earth quaked.

Welcome, O Christ! O ye peoples, rejoice!

Out of burning love, by which Thou didst create the world, As a slave Thou didst debase Thyself to loose the enslaved, To restore the house that Adam destroyed, To enlighten the darkened, to unloose sinners.

Love that knows not fear or humiliation- Welcome, O Christ! The Master of Salvation!

Out of burning love, O King of all beauty, Thou didst leave the radiance of the beautiful Cherubim, Thou didst descend into the cave of human life, To despairing men, with a torch and peace.

How to contain Thee?-The earth became frightened.

Welcome, O Christ! Heaven bears Thee up!

The most beautiful Virgin for a long time hoped in Thee.

The earth raises her to Thee, that through her Thou wilt descend From the lofty throne, from the heavenly city, To bring health, to release man from sin.

O Holy Virgin, Golden Censer-

To thee be glory and praise, O Mother full of grace!

REFLECTION

The Lord Jesus, born in Bethlehem, was first worshiped by shepherds and wise men (astrologers) from the east-the simplest and the wisest of this world.

Even today, those who most sincerely worship the Lord Jesus as God and Savior are the simplest and the wisest of this world. Perverted simplicity and half-learned wisdom were always the enemies of Christ's divinity and His Gospel. But who were these wise men from the east? This question was especially studied by St. Dimitri of Rostov. He claims that they were kings of certain smaller regions or individual towns in Persia, Arabia and Egypt. At the same time, they were erudite in the knowledge of astronomy. This wondrous star appeared to them, which announced the birth of the New King.

According to St. Dimitri, this star appeared to them nine months before the birth of the Lord Jesus, i.e., at the time of His conception by the Most-holy Theotokos. They spent nine months in studying this star, in preparing for the journey and in traveling. They arrived in Bethlehem shortly after the birth of the Savior of the world. One of them was called Melchior. He was old, with long white hair and beard. He offered the Lord the gift of gold. The second was called Caspar, of ruddy face, young and beardless. He offered the Lord the gift of frankincense. The third was called Balthasar, of dark complexion and a very heavy beard. He offered the Lord the gift of myrrh.

After their deaths, their bodies were taken to Constantinople, from Constantinople to Milan, and from Milan to Cologne. It can be added that these three wise men were representatives of the three main races of men that descended from Noah's three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. The Persian represented the Japhethites, the Arabian represented the Semites, and the Egyptian represented the Hamites. Thus it can be said that, through these three, the whole human race worshiped the Incarnate Lord and God.

CONTEMPLATION

Contemplate the beauty of the soul of the Most-holy Theotokos:

1. How her soul was radiant and immaculate; 2. How her soul was filled with peace from faith and hope in God; 3. How her soul was filled with the sweet-smelling fragrance of prayer.

HOMILY: on the birth of the Lord, the Son of God

I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world (John 16:28). The only-begotten Son of God, brethren, begotten in eternity of the Father without a mother, was born in time of a mother without a father. That first begetting is an unfathomable mystery of the Holy Trinity in eternity, and the second is the unfathomable mystery of God's power and love for mankind in time. The greatest mystery in time corresponds to the greatest mystery in eternity. Without entering into this greatest mystery with the small taper of our understanding, let us be content, brethren, with the knowledge that our salvation had its origin not from man or from earth, but from the greatest heights of the divine invisible world. So great is God's mercy, and so great is the dignity of man, that the Son of God Himself came down from eternity into time, from heaven to earth, from the throne of glory to the shepherd's cave, solely to save mankind, to cleanse men from sin and to return them to Paradise. I came forth from the Father, where I had everything, and am come into the world, which cannot give Me anything. The Lord was born in a cave to show that the whole world is one dark cave, which He alone can illumine. The Lord was born in Bethlehem- and Bethlehem means ``the House of Bread''-to show that He is the only Bread of Life worthy of true men.

O Lord Jesus, the Pre-eternal Son of the Living God and the Son of the Virgin Mary, enlighten us and nourish us with Thyself.

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

I, too, will proclaim the greatness of this day: the Immaterial become incarnate, the Word is made flesh, the invisible makes itself seen, the intangible can be touched, the timeless has a beginning, the Son of God becomes the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, always the same, yesterday, today and forever... This is the solemnity we are celebrating today: the arrival of God among us, so that we might go to God, or more precisely, return to Him... Revere the Nativity which releases you from the chains of evil. Honor this tiny Bethlehem which restores Paradise to you. Venerate this crib; because of it you who were deprived of meaning (logos) are fed by the divine Meaning, the divine Logos Himself. *St. Gregory the Theologian*

Truly tremendous is the mystery connected with you, O Virgin Mother, spiritual throne, glorified and made worthy of God! You have brought forth, before the eyes of those in heaven and earth, a preeminent wonder... Blessed are you among the generations of women, O you most blessed by God, for by you the earth has been filled with that divine glory of God. *St. Methodios of Olympus*

Believe, too, that the Only-Begotten Son of God came down from heaven to earth for our sins, taking on the passable human nature of ours, and being born of the Holy Virgin and the Holy Spirit, His incarnation taking place, not in appearance or fantasy, but in truth. He did not pass through the Virgin as a channel, but was truly made flesh from her. *St. Cyril of Jerusalem*

Christ is born, glorify ye Him. Christ from heaven, go ye out to meet Him. Christ on earth, be ye exalted. Sing unto the Lord all the whole earth; and that I may join both in one word: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for Him—Who is of heaven and then of earth. Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy: with trembling, because of your sins; with joy, because of your hope. *St. Gregory the Theologian*

The Massacre of the 14,000 Holy Innocent Infants

Commemorated by the Holy Church on 29 December
by Archimandrite Nektarios Serfes in Boise, Idaho
article first appeared on 12/18/2000

"Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremias the prophet, saying, 'In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted because they are not!'" (Mt. 2:17-18; Jer. 31:15, KJV)

Beloved friends in Christ our Lord,

Christ is Born!

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints!

Humbly by the grace and the joy of our Lord's Holy Nativity, I greet you with His joy and peace each one of you. Nothing has been so joyfully proclaimed then the birth of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ! For it is Christ our true God that we live and are spiritually comforted.

The holiness of our Lord's Great Nativity can be a means for us all to look at our own spiritual lives, and ask ourselves the vital question: what kind of a true Christian life are we living at this time?

Seeing that we are Orthodox Christians by Baptism, let us fulfill the grace that has been poured out upon us every day of our lives remembering that each and every one of us are indeed precious in the sight of our Lord. And, as we are precious in Christ our Lord, so, too, are those who are with child, and those who are about to give birth.

How precious is the child within the womb of a mother who spiritually prepares herself for the birth, who knows that the birth will be blessed within our Holy Orthodox Church as is the custom after forty days. Both the mother and the new-born child are brought to the Holy Orthodox Church, and prayers are read over both of them on their entrance into the Holy Church. After this entrance, the days ahead are a time of preparation for the Holy Baptism of the newly-born child, a child so precious to our Lord God, and to the Holy Orthodox Christian community, that a Godfather and Godmother are provided to be the witnesses of this Holy Baptism, and to help assist in teaching the child the Holy Orthodox Faith throughout his or her life.

Every woman who bears a child always exults in the joy of the birth, as well as in the joy of having a living mind, heart, and soul within their womb. We must realize that within the Holy Orthodox Church and its teachings there is a clear direction against abortion. This teaching is not something new in the Eastern Orthodox Church, as it evident that in the first three centuries of the early Church, the Orthodox holy Fathers spoke frequently against abortion.

The Holy Rachel wept unceasingly when King Herod had ordered his soldiers in both Bethlehem and Judea to have all the children massacred, from the newly born up to the age of two years old. Ever since this appalling, unlawful act of the massacre of the 14,000 Holy Innocent Infants, it seems that the loving Holy Rachel has not stopped weeping to this very hour, as we continue to see abortions being performed in America and in other countries around the world, often with the approval of local governments. The Orthodox Church cries out against this act of abortion. But is it not true that our ears remain often remain closed as we are afraid of the truth? We

are allowing death to happen, murder, before our eyes! Death of an innocent child!

The weeping for all martyred children by Rachel has not ceased today! It seems that this holy mother and woman continues to weep! Every time we hear about another abortion Rachel weeps again!

The idea of reacting against abortion should not cause us to act in a cruel manner, like throwing stones at the places of abortion, or violently attacking those who perform abortions. This is not the way we should react as true Christians: what we need to do is to proclaim the truth that every soul created by our Lord God is precious in His sight. No child should be aborted within any society, in any place where life exists on this earth. We can only wonder how long our Lord God Himself will allow us to persist in our weakness in allowing the act of abortion to continue to take place? Let us pray, pray, and pray again for the newly-born precious children and those waiting to be born!

Let us-I humbly cry to you-commemorate this day of prayer of the Massacre of the 14,000 Holy Innocent Infants, in Bethlehem, and Judea and reflect on this day spiritually in God-loving prayer, that we are opposed to these acts of abortion continuing in this country and every place where life exists. And at the same time let us humbly weep, with Rachel, for all the innocent precious children who have been aborted. Let us piously and humbly help the Holy Rachel as she weeps for these innocent children, and at the same time realize that within the womb of the mother there is a precious spark of life that can bring us everlasting joy! Joy in Christ, and joy for us all! Speak to any father or mother who has just had a child, and see how joyful in their eyes and hearts is this precious child!

Lord, have mercy and blessings for all newly born children!

Holy Innocent Infants of Bethlehem & Judea,

Pray unto God for us!

Holy Innocent Children, Pray unto God for us!

GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!

Ortho Thought: From the **Didache** (i.e., the teaching of the Twelve Apostles)

"The second commandment of the teaching: You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not seduce boys. You shall not commit fornication. You shall not steal. You shall not practice magic. You shall not use potions. You shall not procure [an] abortion, nor destroy a newborn child," (*Didache* 2:1-2 [A.D. 70]).

The Lord has given us a sign 'as deep as Sheol and as high as heaven,' such as we should not have dared to hope for. How could we have expected to see a Virgin with Child, and to see in this Child a 'God with us' (Isaiah 7: 11

& 14) Who would descend into the depths of the earth to seek for the lost sheep, meaning the creature He had fashioned, and then ascend again to present to His Father humanity thus regained? *St. Irenaeus of Lyons*

How could the human race go to God if God had not come to us? How should we free ourselves from our birth into death if we had not been born again according to faith by a new birth generously given by God, thanks to that which came about from the Virgin's womb? *St. Irenaeus of Lyons*

My dearest friends, a pure life and fearless faith in God are powerful weapons against the demons. Believe me, for I have experience with this. Night-time devotions and the prayers, fasting and gentleness of those who live rightly, terrify satan. He is afraid of these devoted ones because of their voluntary poverty, their lack of vanity, their humility, their compassion, their control over anger, and particularly because of their pure love for Christ. That foulest serpent knows that it is at God's command that he lies beneath the footsteps of the just. *St. Anthony of Egypt*

For every humble person is gentle, and every gentle person is invariably humble. A person is humble when he knows that his very being is on loan to him. *St. Maximos the Confessor*