



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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NATIVITY FAST—SAINT PHILIP'S FAST—ADVENT

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Bishop Robert, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Dragan Filipović, Father Stevo Rocknage, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Cuthbert Jack, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John Nakonachny, Deacon Dennis Lapushanski, Protopresbyter Peter Hotrovich, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Joshua Agosto and his family, Mike Holupka, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Joe Nezolyk, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, 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, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Dave May, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Alverta, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Michael Miller, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Robert Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, George & Mika Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Doris Artman, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, 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, Bob C., Allie— young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—21-year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Woloschak, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Pete Niederberger, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy,

Diane McDaniel, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Tony Butecoff, Carl & Margaret Reed, Theodore Demopoulos, Jillian Bowman, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Doug Smith [Millie Kerr's son-in-law], Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], Mel & Charlotte Malik, Paula Pasquinelli, David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, June Miller, Corey Guich, Monica Salvatore, Glenda Tickerhoof, Robert Vangrin, Juliana Leis, Susan "Billie" Mason, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, LuAnne [Mike Horvath's daughter], Donald Griffey, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [child with cerebral palsy], Thomas Stutzman, Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Jamie Gardner, Patrick, and Daria Masur. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

PRAYER LIST: Please help update our prayer list. If you or someone you know no longer needs to be on the prayer list or if there is someone who needs to be on the list please let Father Bob know. Remember—Prayers are ALWAYS FREE! Thank you!

Please remember 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 ask 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 23 ***NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE*******
**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYR MENAS THE MELODIUS,
HERMOGENES, & EUGRAPHUS OF ALEXANDRIA; MARTYR GEMELLUS OF
PAPALAGONIA; SAINT THOMAS OF BITHYNIA; SAINT JOASAPH OF BILHOROD**

Tone 4

Colossians 3:12-16

Luke 17:12-19

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
**THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS;
HOLY PROPHET DANIEL & 3 HOLY YOUTHS-ANANIAS, AZARIAS, & MISHAEL;
SAINT DANIEL THE CONFESSOR [IN SCHEMA STEPHEN] OF SPAIN & EGYPT**

Tone 5

Colossians 3:4-11; Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Luke 14:16-24; Luke 11:47-12:1

SUNDAY, JANUARY 06 Obednitsa followed by Great Compline 10:30 AM
**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY;
EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST; NUN-MARTYR EUGENIA OF ROME; SAINT
ANTIOCH-MONK OF PALESTINE; SAINT VITIMIONUS OF SCETE**

Tone 6

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40; Hebrews 1:1-12

Matthew 1:1-25; Luke 2:1-20

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Stephen Kuzman & Nicholas Vetosky—Fr. Bob
Parastas in Blessed Memory of John Holupka—Mike Holupka
Holy Supper for Nativity Eve 1:00 PM***

MONDAY, JANUARY 07 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI: MELCHIOR, CASPAR, & BALTHASAR
Page 221 in the black Divine Liturgy Book**

Galatians 4:4-7

Matthew 2:1-12

JANUARY 7 THROUGH JANUARY 18 IS A FAST FREE PERIOD—SVIATKI!

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 23 DECEMBER 2012

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYR
MENAS THE MELODIUS, HERMOGENES, & EUGRAPHUS OF
ALEXANDRIA; MARTYR GEMELLUS OF PAPALAGONIA;
SAINT THOMAS OF BITHYNIA; SAINT JOASAPH OF
BILHOROD**

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.

**UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA
COUNCIL OF BISHOPS
PRESS RELEASE**

Metropolia Center—South Bound Brook—Somerset, NJ

“Oh Lord, Have Mercy Upon Mankind...”

Dearly beloved Clergy, Laity and Monastics of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church,

Once again we find ourselves confronted with the horror of what mankind is capable of—the almost inhuman deeds of man against mankind. It comes just before the time that we will commemorate the Holy Innocents

murdered in Bethlehem at the orders of a malicious ruler—Herod—who sought to protect his obscene rule from the threat of the King of kings—our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Promised One, Who, it was determined, was to be born in the town. Having been “mocked” as he perceived it, by the three kings who failed to return to tell him where the Child was, he ordered that all the male children age two and under in Bethlehem be killed, hoping thus, to prevent the Messiah from rising up to offer the Truth of God’s love for mankind and about the sanctity of life. St. John Chrysostom rhetorically asks of Herod:

“Why are you angered Herod, at being mocked by the wise men? Did you not know that the birth was divine? Did you not summon the chief priests? Did you not gather together the scribes? Did not they bring the prophet also with them into your court of judgment, proclaiming these things from times old? Did you not see how the old things agreed with the new? Did you not hear that a star also ministered to these men? Did you not reverence the zeal of the barbarians? Did you not marvel at their boldness? Were you not horror-struck at the truth of the prophet? Did you not from the former things perceive the very last also? How did you not reason from all these things that this event was not of the craft of the kings, but of a Divine Power, duly dispensing all things? And even if you were deceived by the three kings, what is that to the young children, who have done no wrong?”

When we began to hear the horrific news coming from another small town, Newtown, Connecticut, and the murder of innocents and adults, our fear was that it would be a tragedy beyond belief because some sick mind wanted to make a statement during these Holy Days. Our worst fears have been confirmed. Nearly thirty students and adults have been slaughtered—“having done no wrong”—and our hearts are heavy with pain and we weep as did Rachel of old. We ask the perpetrator of today’s slaughter: “Even if you hated your family, what is that to these young children and their teachers, who have done you no wrong?”

We, along with all our clergy and faithful of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, express our profound sympathy to the parents and family members of those lost. We embrace you with in the Love of God and assure you of our continued prayers that the Almighty encompass you in His Comfort and Mercy.

We appeal to the mass media and beg that the individual or individuals not be “iconized” over the days, weeks and months ahead. An icon is normally a holy depiction of a saintly or heavenly being worthy of emulation in their devotion to and faith in God and for their love of fellow man. But evil can also be “iconized”—placed before society for horrific accomplishments, which defy all the laws of God and of man—very often

denying the sanctity of life—gifted to mankind by our Creator and meant for only goodness. We of the Ukrainian nation are all too familiar with this kind of evil—always remembering the ten million of our brothers and sisters—men, women and children—who perished because of the sick and evil mind of the Herod of new times—Stalin—who also sought to preserve his heinous rule.

We appeal to the mass media and beg that the individual or individuals responsible for today's horrific attack be simply identified and then consigned to anonymity. Why? For the sake of the memory of those he slaughtered. Why? For the sake of the families of those lost. Why? For the sake of the fellow students and teachers of those who perished. Why? For the sake of the family of the one who executed today's horror. Why? So that other individuals, perhaps evil, perhaps sick in mind, body or soul, might not be "inspired" to "go out" in the same way—with their names and pictures published in many ways for months, years, decades or even centuries after they are gone, while their victims are forgotten by the world within weeks.

"Lord, have mercy on us...strengthen the families of all affected by the loss of deeply loved children, teachers, parents and friends, however remotely, as well as each of us whose lives are once more scarred by man's inhumanity to man. Receive the souls of your children who have perished into Your loving embrace and give them rest in a place where there is no more such horror, pain and suffering in the Light of Your Countenance. May their souls rest in eternal happiness and their memory be eternal from generation to generation in Your Heavenly Kingdom."

We direct all our clergy and parishes to pray for the repose of the souls of those lost this day in a Memorial Service – Panakhyda following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, 16 December or on 23 December, and also to pray for their surviving family members, fellow students and teachers during the Litany of Fervent Supplication of the Divine Liturgy on these same days. *In our Lord's all-encompassing Love,*

+ Antony

By the Grace of God, Metropolitan

+ Daniel

By the Grace of God, Bishop

Given this 14th day of December in the year of our Lord 2012



His Eminence Youhanna X (Yaziji), the Metropolitan Archbishop of Western and Central Europe has been elected Patriarch of the Great City-of-God Antioch and all the East.

The Patriarch-elect was elected by the members of the Holy Synod earlier today, December 17, during a special session held at the Balamand Patriarchal Monastery of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos. Born in Syria in 1955, the Patriarch-elect received his primary, secondary and university education in Latakia, Syria graduating with a degree in civil engineering. He earned a degree in theology in 1978 from the St. John of Damascus School of Orthodox of Theology at the Balamand University and a doctorate in theology (emphases in liturgy and Byzantine music) in 1983 from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece. He was tonsured a monk at the Athonite Monastery of St Paul on the Holy Mountain, was ordained to the holy diaconate in 1979 and to the holy priesthood in 1983, and in 1981 became professor of Liturgical Studies at the St. John of Damascus School of Orthodox Theology at the Balamand University. He assumed the position of dean of that theological school from 1988-1991 and again from 2001-2005. He was elected and consecrated to the sacred episcopacy in 1995 with the title Bishop of al-Hosn. He has served as superior of the Monastery of St George al-Humayrah in the Christian Valley (Wadi al-Nasara) in Syria, superior of the Our Lady of Balamand Monastery, and spiritual father to the Convent of the Dormition in Blemmana, Syria. In 2008 he was elected and enthroned as the Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Western and Central Europe. The date of His Beatitude's Enthronement has not yet been announced. *Eis polla eti dhespota!*

Well worth the read.

"Our 14-year-old dog Abbey died last month. The day after she passed away my 4-year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how...much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God

so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so, and she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick.

I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.

Love, Meredith

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help and I recognized her right away.

Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I

love you very much. By the way, I'm easy to find. I am wherever there is love.

Love, God

Hold to patience in your hearts, my friends, and put it into action when the situation calls for it. Don't let any abusive word from your neighbor stir up hatred in you, and don't allow any loss of things that pass away to upset you. If you are steadfast in fearing the loss of those things that last forever, you will never take seriously the loss of those that pass away; if you keep your eyes fixed on the glory of our eternal recompense, you will not resent a temporal injury. You must bear with those who oppose you, but also love those you bear with. Seek an eternal reward in return for your temporal losses. *St. Gregory the Great, Be Friends of God*

A Word to the Youth - from St. John of San Francisco

That most of our youth do not have a daily spiritual discipline, and are in self-imposed exile from their Church

"Today, we have light-minded youths who cease to heed the commandments and suggestions of the Church. They stop studying the Word of God and the teachings of the Holy Church Fathers, and turn their attention to the 'wisdom' of false teachers; thus ruining the better part of their lives. They go to church less frequently, or attend without attention—distracted. There is no time to be pious and practice virtues, since they are too busy attending movies, going to parties, etc. ... In short, they give themselves up to the world more and more each day; and, finally, depart 'into a far country.'"

If you possess love, you feel no jealousy or envy. You are not boastful, carried away by reckless pride. Nor do you put on airs with anyone. Nor do you act shamefully towards your fellow beings. You seek, not simply what is to your own advantage, but what also benefits your fellow beings. You are not quickly provoked by those who are angry with you. *St. Nikitas*

One must not trust one's feelings, since because of his limitedness a man cannot know everything, and therefore his judgment is also relatively limited. Even if you see with your own eyes that someone sins, do not judge, for the eyes also may be deceived. One must in every way flee from judging, and pray in secret for those who have sinned. This form of love is

pleasing to God. Judging is bound up with impudence and is incompatible with true repentance: "To judge is to impudently appropriate to oneself the rank of God." *St. John Climacus*

Examine yourself and strive to adorn it with love, humility, compassion and hope. Seek the regeneration of your soul, enlightened by the voice of the Gospel and helped by God. With fear and love for the Heavenly Father, proceed to sow the seeds of God's word on good soil. Cultivate the talent given by Christ for the salvation of your soul. *St. Raphael of Lesvos*

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*

Dear Bishop Daniel,

Glory to Jesus Christ, Glory Forever!

My husband and I are writing to you to ask for a special favor. Our dear priest, Rev. Fr. Robert Popichak will be celebrating his 15th year as a priest, in December, all served in beautiful downtown Slickville. Father Robert has done an excellent job taking care of our spiritual needs and we are very pleased to have him as our priest. He is loved by all he meets and there are many stories told about his wonderful and caring personality. We hear that you will be visiting all parishes again and we are humbly asking if you would elevate him on your next visit to Slickville? He has never had this spiritual honor bestowed upon him and we think he is *very* deserving. This would not have to be on his anniversary, but on your visit to our parish. We so enjoyed your visit with the seminarians last May and look forward to your return. May God Bless you Vladyka and thank you for your time and spiritual guidance.

In Orthodoxy and Our Love,

John and Debbie Pauncic

President and First Lady of Holy Ghost Parish!

Dear John and Debbie: greetings in our Lord and good evening!

Thank you for your e-mail note and at the same time please forgive me for a delayed response to your e-mail.

It is rarely that I receive such e-mails, requesting to honor the pastor of the parish, following years of his dedicated service in the Vineyard of our Lord. I thank you for loving and caring for the pastor of your parish family. It will be my honor, as a bishop of the Church to fulfill your request and award Fr. Robert with an ecclesiastical award of a gold cross. His elevation will take place at my next visit to your parish; however, it will be following the Nativity season, as I am booked all the way until the end of January.

With prayers,
+Daniel

REMINDER: As you well know, many of our parishioners have indicated that they no longer drive after dark, so they would not be able to attend our Nativity Compline and Holy Supper. As discussed and agreed upon at Coffee Hour, **we will modify our Nativity Eve celebration schedule as follows, for Sunday, January 6, 2012:**

**10:30 AM Obednitsa with Holy Communion
Followed by Great Compline for the Nativity
About 1 PM we will have our Holy Supper**

Monday, January 7, 2012—10:30 AM Nativity Divine Liturgy

Please see Father Bob or John Pauncic with any questions...

NOTE: There will be no services in Slickville on Sunday, December 23, 2012, as Father Bob will be out of town—and out of cell phone contact. Please call John Pauncic if you require the services of an Orthodox priest, and plan to attend one of our sister Orthodox parishes for that day. If you will be visiting relatives or friends who celebrate Christmas on December 25, please enjoy their company and hospitality—and travel and celebrate safely! Please see Fr. Bob if you have any questions!