



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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NATIVITY EVE

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, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Ronald Graham [Evelyn's nephew], Chris, and Daria Masur ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

Happy Birthday to our January babies: Evelyn Burlack on the 1st; Millie Kerr on the 3rd; Lyndsey Weiser on the 4th; Marcy Jones on the 8th; Brenna Scott on the 29th; Kristin Tkacik Scott on the 29th; and Kayla Weiser on the 29th. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'Nohaya Lita!

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, 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 17 IS A FAST FREE PERIOD—SVIATKI!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY;
SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY; SAINT MELANIA THE YOUNGER-NUN OF ROME;
SAINT PETER MOHYLA-METROPOLITAN OF KIEV**

Tone 7

Galatians 1:11-19; I Timothy 4:5-8

Matthew 2:13-23; Mark 1:1-8

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 Grand Compline & Great Blessing of Water 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 Obednitsa for Theophany 10:30 AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY AND
GLORIOUS PROPHET AND FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN; SAINT BRANNOCK
OF BRAUNTON**

Tone 8

Ephesians 4:7-13

Matthew 4:12-17

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 06 JANUARY 2013

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

Troparion for the Eve of the Nativity—Tone 4

When Mary conceived seedlessly

she was registered in Bethlehem with the elder Joseph as being of the seed of David.

The time for birth came and there was no room in the inn;
the cave proved a fair palace for the Queen.

Christ is born to raise up the image that of old had fallen.

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 for the Eve of the Nativity—Tone 3

Today the Virgin is coming to the cave
to give birth to the eternal Word,

Rejoice at the message, O earth;
with the Angels and Shepherds give glory
to Him Who was willing to be seen as a Child
while remaining God throughout all ages.

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.

Vigils and fasts and acts of mercy are the methods advocated by the saints to attain the spiritual life. .. But they must not stand alone, nor must the Christian put his trust in them. Humility must have faith for its principle, and fasting be combined with charity, that is, feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked. *Saint Basil the Great*

Blessed and thrice blessed are those who are considered as bronze in the eyes of others because of sinister declarations made by the ill-willed when, in truth, they are worth twenty-four karat pure gold.

Woe and thrice woe to the bronze that certain people shine in order to fool the world into thinking it is gold.

When the heart becomes like a furnace from the love of God, then it is able to burn away vanity, when placed upon it. Inner peace then exists when man goes through the furnace of trials in this life.

Elder Paisios of Mt. Athos

A Blessed Nativity from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center!

The staff, board, missionaries, and volunteers of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) pray that you have a blessed Nativity. May the hope and joy of Christ's birth be with you throughout the coming year by the prayers of His Most Holy Mother the Theotokos and all the missionary saints. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of those who share these glad tidings with the world! Christ is Born ! Glorify Him!

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Prot. No. 1124

PATRIARCHAL ENCYCLICAL FOR CHRISTMAS

+ BARTHOLOMEW

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

* * *

“Christ is born, glorify Him; Christ is on earth, exalt Him.”

Let us rejoice in gladness for the ineffable condescension of God. The angels precede us singing: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will among all people.”

Yet, on earth we behold and experience wars and threats of wars. Still, the joyful announcement is in no way annulled. Peace has truly come to earth through reconciliation between God and people in the person of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, however, we human beings have not been reconciled, despite God’s sacred will. We retain a hateful disposition for one another. We discriminate against one another by means of fanaticism with regard to religious and political convictions, by means of greed in the acquisition of material goods, and through expansionism in the exercise of political power. These are the reasons why we come into conflict with one another.

With his Decree of Milan issued in 313AD, the enlightened Roman emperor, St. Constantine the Great, instituted freedom in the practice of the Christian faith, alongside freedom in the practice of every other religion. Sadly, with the passing since then of precisely 1700 years, we continue to see religious persecution against Christians and other Christian minorities in various places.

Moreover, economic competition is spreading globally, as is the pursuit of ephemeral profit, which is promoted as a principal target. The gloomy consequences of the overconcentration of wealth in the hands of the few and the financial desolation of the vast human masses are ignored. This disproportion, which is described worldwide as **a financial crisis**, is essentially the product of **a moral crisis**. Nevertheless, humankind is regrettably not attributing the proper significance to this moral crisis. In order to justify this indifference, people invoke the notion of free trade. But free trade is not a license for crime. And criminal conduct is far more than what is recorded in penal codes. It includes what cannot be foreseen by the prescription of statutory laws, such as the confiscation of people’s wealth by supposedly legitimate means. Inasmuch, therefore, as the law cannot be formally imposed, the actions of a minority of citizens are often expressed in an unrestrained manner, provoking disruption in social justice and peace.

From the Ecumenical Patriarchate, then, we have been closely following the “signs of the times,” which everywhere echo the “sounds” of

“war and turmoil” – with “nation rising against nation, dominion against dominion, great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues, alongside dreadful phenomena and heavenly portents.” (Luke 21.10-12) In many ways, we are experiencing what St. Basil wrote about “the two types of love: one is feeling sorrow and concern upon seeing one’s beloved harmed; the other is rejoicing and striving to benefit one’s beloved. Anyone who demonstrates neither of these categories clearly does not love one’s brother or sister. (Basil the Great, *Shorter Rules*, PG31.1200A) This is why, from this sacred See and Center of Orthodoxy, we proclaim the impending new year as the **Year of Global Solidarity**.

It is our hope that in this way we may be able to sensitize sufficient hearts among humankind regarding the immense and extensive problem of poverty and the need to assume the necessary measures to comfort the hungry and misfortunate.

As your spiritual father and church leader, we ask for the support of all persons and governments of good will in order that we may realize the Lord’s **peace on earth** – the peace announced by the angels and granted by the infant Jesus. If we truly desire this peace, which transcends all understanding, we are obliged to pursue it palpably instead of being indifferent to the spiritual and material vulnerability of our brothers and sisters, for whom Christ was born.

Love and peace are the essential features of the Lord’s disciples and of every Christian. So let us encourage one another during this Year of Global Solidarity to make every conscious effort – as individuals and nations – for the reduction of the inhumane consequences created by the vast inequalities as well as the recognition by all people of the rights of the weakest among us in order that everyone may enjoy the essential goods necessary for human life. Thus, we shall indeed witness – at least to the degree that it is humanly possible – the realization of peace on earth.

Together with all of material and spiritual creation, we venerate the nativity of the Son and Word of God from the Virgin Mary, bowing down before the newborn Jesus – our illumination and salvation, our advocate in life – and wondering like the Psalmist “Whom shall we fear? Of whom shall we be afraid?” (Ps. 26.1) as Christians, since “to us is born today a savior” (Luke 2.11), “the Lord of hosts, the king of glory.” (Ps. 23.10)

We hope earnestly and pray fervently that the dawning 2013 will be for everyone a year of global solidarity, freedom, reconciliation, good will, peace and joy. May the pre-eternal Word of the Father, who was born in a manger, who united angels and human beings into one order, establishing peace on earth, grant to all people patience, hope and strength, while blessing the world with the divine gifts of His love. Amen.

At the Phanar, Christmas 2012

Your fervent supplicant before God
+ Bartholomew of Constantinople

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Protocol Number 173/12
December 25, 2012—The Nativity of Christ

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son,
born of a woman...(Galatians 4:4)

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is filled with joyful proclamations of the fulfillment of His promises for redemption and new life. "Today the Virgin gives birth to Him who is above all being." "Today God has come upon the earth, and man gone up to heaven." "Today He who knows no beginning now begins to be, and the Word is made flesh." These words from the hymns of the feast affirm the magnitude of the events in Bethlehem on that day. They also nurture within our hearts the joy, assurance and hope that are offered through the One who became incarnate.

The joy of the Feast of the Nativity is known and experienced through the revelation of God's divine plan for the salvation of humankind. This deep and fulfilling joy was expressed by the Virgin Mary when she praised God for being chosen to be the mother of Christ: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior (Luke 1:46). When the angel appeared to the shepherds announcing the birth of Jesus he proclaimed, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11). We also have received this revelation through the

message of the Gospel and through our experience of the presence of Christ in our midst. On this glorious feast our hearts are filled with ineffable joy.

This great joy we share in celebrating the Nativity of our Lord also strengthens our faith in the promises of God. The witness of the Incarnation is that God is faithful and true. The fulfillment of His promises of redemption were affirmed by Zacharias, the father of Saint John the Baptist, when he proclaimed, "For God has visited and redeemed His people...as He spoke by the mouth of His holy Prophets (Luke 1:68, 70). In his Gospel, Saint Matthew wrote, So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the Prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel (Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 7:14). And in the hymns of this Nativity season we sing, "The revelation of Christ is now made manifest: the preachings of the Prophets have received their fulfillment. The holy sayings of the Prophets have been fulfilled in the city of Bethlehem within a cave" (Vespers and Matins of the Forefeast). On this day all that had been promised by God, all that had been foretold for our salvation, was fulfilled in the birth of Christ.

The joy and assurance that we have in our communion with God on this holy feast engenders within our hearts an enduring hope. Our joy in the fulfillment of His divine plan for our salvation and our assurance through our faith in the truth of the Gospel, give us a firm hope in His promises of eternal life, for the complete restoration of our fellowship with Him, and for the fulfillment of all things. This is a feast of hope because through it we see all that has been accomplished, and we are given a glimpse of what is to come. This Feast of the Nativity of our Lord affirms for each one of us that we can have hope and joy in any of the circumstances and conditions of life—hope in the transformation of our lives through faith and hope in the power of God's love.

On this blessed and holy feast, I offer to each of you my best wishes for a joyful season of worship and fellowship. May your hearts be filled with assurance, joy and hope, and may the peace and mercy of our Lord be with you in the new year.

With paternal love in Christ,

†DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America

Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops
Beyond the Borders of Ukraine

At the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ – 2012

To the Beloved Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Churches beyond the borders of Ukraine and our Ukrainian Orthodox Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine:

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

We greet you, our beloved spiritual children, at the bright and joyful Holy Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Christ – the Savior of the world is today manifested as the Christ-Child to all our earthly families. May the peace and harmony of these magical Nativity Holy Days fill each of our lives! Let us seek joy, solace and assistance in the Bethlehem cave where the “angels sing” and “glorify the newborn Christ-Child”.

From the depth of our hearts and souls we wish you all the warmth, peace and joy offered by the Christ-Child for – as we sing in our ancient Ukrainian Christmas Carols: “God is with us”, a “A new Joy is dawning, it has come with no warning”, for “In Bethlehem this day there is news – the Most Pure Virgin has given birth to a Son”! In all the world where our Ukrainian Orthodox parishes exist – the United States of America, Canada, Europe, South America, Central America, Australia/New Zealand and in Ukraine itself – “Heaven and earth this day triumph, angels and mortals joyfully celebrate” for CHRIST IS BORN!

May the Heavenly Bethlehem Star, which led the Three Kings to the Bethlehem cave, always lead you, dear brothers and sisters, along the path to God’s Truth, to honorable life and work:

God eternal is born this day!
He came to us from heaven,
To save all mankind:
Bringing us comfort.

From the early decades of Christianity, this most ancient Ukrainian Carol echoes throughout our native Ukraine. It informs us that the long-awaited Savior of the world – Jesus Christ, just as the Old Testament prophets heralded, “to save all mankind”. The prophet Daniel even predicted the exact time of the birth of the Messiah – Savior. From the nativity of Jesus Christ, the calendar of history began anew.

The first to worship Christ in Bethlehem were the humble shepherds and then came the Three Kings who brought gifts to the Christ-Child: gold – symbolizing love and devotion, incense, symbolizing prayer and myrrh, symbolizing patience. Let us bring to Almighty, God during these magical Nativity days, the gold of devotion to God’s Law, a censer filled with our piety and holiness of life and the myrrh of courageous patience and struggle for the triumph of God and our national treasures and values.

Truly, “a new joy has dawned” and “In Bethlehem this day there is news – the Most Pure Virgin has given birth to a Son”, “Heaven and earth

this day triumph" for God has so loved mankind, that He became one of us. God warned the Three Kings of Herod's evil and they returned to their nations by another way. Today God reminds us – His people – about the contemporary evil Herods – the creators of evil and sin – provides us with another path – the eternal path to our own true nation – to eternity.

Let us make a firm resolution this day, as did the Three Kings, to never set foot on the road, which leads to an atheistic, spiritless life, void of God's Truth. May the light of the Bethlehem star always guide our life's journey.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

- + YURIJ, Metropolitan – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
- + ANTONY, Metropolitan – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Locum Tenens Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora
- + IOAN, Archbishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora
- + JEREMIAH, Archbishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil and South America
- + ILARION, Bishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
- + ANDRIJ, Bishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
- + DANIEL, Bishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: On behalf of the Parish Board of Directors, Saint Olga Sisterhood, and our family, we bring you the Good Tidings of Great Joy that has echoed throughout the past two millennia: **Christ IS Born! Glorify Him!** We use the present tense because we celebrate the Birth of Our Savior now—He is alive just as when he was born as a tiny baby over two thousand years ago. His humble entrance into the world—the Son of God as a helpless child—should remind us how we are to live our lives—innocent and trusting that GOD IS WITH US—always and forever! The joy of this day should stay with us all the days of our lives—as a constant reminder of God's Love for each of us. May our newly-born Savior smile on you always, and may His Love, Compassion, Grace, and Joy fill your heart this festive season. May God Bless each of you with Good Health, Long Life, Peace, and His Love all the days of your lives!

***In His Love, Father Bob, Pani Gina, Alex, Matt, Stancy,
and the Holy Ghost Parish Family...***