



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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SVIATKI—FAST FREE PERIOD THROUGH JANUARY 17

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.

How, then, was He manifested to the world? A star shone forth in heaven above all the other stars. The light from this star was inexpressible, and its uniqueness struck men with astonishment.
St. Ignatius of Antioch, c. AD 107

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, 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 and 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

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
**THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; LEAVETAKING OF THE FEAST OF
THE THEOPHANY; SAINT SAVA OF SERBIA; SAINT NINA, EQUAL-TO-THE-
APOSTLES; SAINT KENTIGERN MUNGO, BISHOP**

Tone 1

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 18:18-27

Krsna Slava in honor of Saint Sava after Divine Liturgy

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 13 JANUARY 2013
**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
LEAVE-TAKING OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

TROPARION—TONE 7

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death!
To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise!
For the Myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy.
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
To proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy!

Troparion of the Feast—Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world as the light of wisdom.
For by it those who worshipped the stars
were taught by a star to adore Thee,
the Sun of Righteousness,
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.
O Lord, glory to Thee.

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

Kontakion of the Feast—Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.
Angels with Shepherds glorify Him,
the wise men journey with the star;
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
For Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers!
Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry:
The Savior has come to those in faith!
Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 7

READER: The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

PEOPLE: The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

READER: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

PEOPLE: The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

READER: The Lord shall give strength to His people!

PEOPLE: The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 7

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High!

To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night!

A Theotokion by Jacob of Serug (451-521), "Homily 1 on the Mother of God"

Rejoice, therefore, and dance for joy; rejoice, and tread upon the serpent's head. Rejoice, full of grace. For the curse has come to an end; corruption is taken away; sadness has passed; happiness is flowering; the blessing ever foretold by the prophets of old has come to pass. You are the one to whom the Holy Spirit referred, speaking through the mouth of Isaiah: 'Behold, the Virgin shall conceive in her womb and bear a son' (Isaiah 7.14). You are that virgin. Rejoice, therefore, O full of grace. You are pleasing to the Fashioner of all things; you are pleasing to the Maker; you are pleasing to the Creator; you are pleasing to Him who delights in the beauty of souls.

You have found a Spouse who will protect your virginity instead of corrupting it; you have found a Spouse who wants to become your Son because of His great love for men. The Lord is with you! He who is everywhere is in you; He is with you, and He comes from you, the Lord in heaven, the Most High in the abyss, the Creator of all, Creator above the cherubim, Charioteer above the seraphim, Son in the womb of the Father, Only-begotten in your womb, the Lord--He alone knows how--entirely everywhere and entirely in you. Blessed are you among women!

Abba Poemen said to Abba Joseph, "Tell me how to become a monk." He said, "If you want to find rest here below, and hereafter, in all circumstances say, 'Who am I?' and do not judge anyone."

Prepare, O Bethlehem,
For Eden has been opened to all.
Adorn yourself, O Ephratha,

For the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave.
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the fruit divine;
If we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.
Christ is coming to restore the image He made in the beginning.
Troparion of the Forefeast of the Nativity

Dear Readers,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

If you live in New Zealand or Australia or surrounding islands, Christmas Day is being celebrated on the Gregorian calendar this day. If you live in the United States, this is Christmas Eve Day for those who follow the Gregorian calendar. If you are following the Julian calendar, the Feast of Christ's Holy Nativity is not far off. For all those who love Christ anywhere in the world, whatever location or following either calendar—holy joy to each and every one during this very special season of the year!

This morning I had opportunity to open the Book of Akathists, volume II which is published by Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, New York. The monastery publishes two volumes of akathists, all of which are beautiful and meaningful.

The second volume has an Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ which I prayed this morning. I looked for it on the NET, wondering if it had been made available "out there," but did not come across it. I would encourage everyone to consider buying this volume of akathists as it is very rich in content. One thing that impressed me was the closing prayer for the Akathist to the Nativity of Christ which follows:

Prayer to Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ

On the Day of His Holy Nativity

O great and unapproachable God, unoriginate Father, Son Who art equally without beginning, and Spirit Who art equally eternal, Who givest being to things which were not in existence, Who savest the perishing, Who givest life to the dead, Who doest what Thou willest among the hosts of heaven and in Thine earthly habitation, and directest all according to Thy wondrous providence! Incline Thine ear from the heights of Thy holiness, and accept from us, Thy lowly and unworthy servants, to whom Thou hast revealed Thy great salvation from misfortunes and plague, these grateful supplications, confessions and glorifications, which we offer to Thee with heart and mouth. For Thou has not dealt with us according to our iniquities, O Lord, neither hast Thou rewarded us according to our sins. Thou didst say of old

to the children of Israel that if they would not act to keep Thy words and all Thy commandments, Thou wouldst bring against them a nation of unashamed countenance, which would assail them in their cities until the walls thereof were broken. And we have come to realize that this dread sentence hath been directed against us and our fathers as well. For failing to fear Thy threat and paying no heed to Thy loving-kindness, we have forsaken the path of Thy righteousness and walked in the will of our own hearts, and have made no attempt to hold Thee, the God of men's understanding and hearts, in our mind. Moreover, treating the traditions of our fathers as of no import, we have abandoned Thee for others. For these reasons, grievous ill fortune overtook us, as it did the children of Israel of old, and because we paid no heed to their lessons, mindless and savage-minded foes have come against us. But do Thou, O compassionate and merciful Lord God, Who art long-suffering, greatly merciful and true, Who maintainest justice and workest mercy among the thousands, Who takest away iniquities, injustices and sins, having abandoned us for a little time, have mercy upon us according to Thy great mercy, and having visited our unrighteousness with the rod, as a compassionate father doth his children, so do Thou spare us. For thou hast looked down on our tribulation, and upon our entreaties which, trusting not in our own righteousness, but upon Thy many compassions, we cast at Thy feet O Lord; and Thou hast shown us the back of our ungodly adversaries, for melting away before the face of Thy Christ, Thine enemies have vanished like smoke, and those who love Thee shine forth like the rising of the sun in their power. We have seen, O Lord, we have seen, and in us all nations have seen, that Thou art God, and there is none other besides Thee. Thou slayest and makest to live, Thou smites and healest, and there is no one who can deliver from Thy hand. Wherefore, our heart hath been established in our Lord, our horn hath been lifted up in our God, and we have been gladdened in Thy salvation. We thank Thee, O Lord, that, chastising us, Thou has chastened us but a little, lest Thou give us over utterly unto death. Grant, O Lord, that we may hold the memory of this, Thy glorious visitation, firmly and continually within us, that made steadfast in Thee by filial fear, faith and love and protected by Thy might, we may ever, as we do today, hymn and glorify Thy holy name. Confirm Thy blessing also upon our civil authorities, that Thy good Spirit may continually rest upon them. In our land grant holiness unto pastors, judgment and justice to those who govern, peace and

tranquility to the people, efficacy to the laws and advancement to the Faith. O Lord of all loving-kindness, extend Thy mercy unto those who know Thee; and reveal Thyself even unto those who seek Thee not; turn the hearts even of our enemies unto Thee; and make Thyself known to all nations and people in Thy true Christ: that from the rising of the sun, even unto the setting thereof, all nations may with one heart cry out to Thee with a voice of rejoicing: Glory to Thee, the God and Saviour of all, unto the ages of ages! Amen.

May each of joy find peace and joy in the celebration of our Lord's Holy Nativity this year.

Presbytera Candace



The icon above the altar in the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem

A holiday card to the industry, 2012

Have a Merry Sir Isaac Newton's Birthday and enjoy the perihelion. If you're more traditional and less nerdy, have a Happy Chanukwansamas instead.

12/24/2012

This week's Great Quotation: **"Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic."**

Source unknown

This week in InfoWorld's Advice Line:

Twitter, the curmudgeons complain, is worthless, because how can you write anything worth reading in just 140 characters?

Samuel F. B. Morse could have answered. He sent the first telegram in the United States in 1838.

A century and a half ago, sending a tweet-length telegram would have cost about \$150 in inflation-adjusted dollars. Senders and receivers considered messages that length valuable enough to warrant the price.

The problem with Twitter isn't the technology. It's plenitude. This, not the medium itself, is what encourages so much uninteresting chaff that finding the few tweets worth reading is so difficult.

My unpublished opus, Lewis' Laws, contained an entry about plenitude. It said, "The ability of software to be slow will always outstrip the ability of hardware to be fast."

Have too much of anything and we waste it. It's why, for example, we have spam. With direct mail, the cost of each additional recipient is high enough to matter, so senders carefully prune their lists to reach only those with encouraging characteristics. Spammers have no reason to care.

Faced with abundance, there's little incentive to be frugal, whether the abundance comes in the form of memory, computing cycles, or toothpaste.

Yes, toothpaste. Don't try to fool anyone. When you open a new tube, you squirt more toothpaste onto your brush than you do when the tube is nearly empty. What's true of toothpaste is true of everything else, too.

It's in the nature of long division that when we have something in abundance, the value of each bit of it is, to us, tiny.

So if Larry Ellison, or Bill Gates, or Warren Buffet were to accidentally drop a dollar bill when a stiff breeze was blowing, none of them would expend the time and energy necessary to chase it down.

But were a homeless man to accidentally drop the exact same thing, he'd run after it as if his life depended on it.

Plenitude is, I think, half the reason so many Americans are so angry so often. The other half is plenitude's flip side -- that luxury isn't absolute, it's comparative. Luxury, that is, is something I have that you don't have. If we both have it, it isn't a luxury any more, whether it's a Lexus, a Rolex, or beef Wellington.

Why are we angry? We all have so much that we devalue it, and because someone else (the detestable "they") has it too, it's worth even less.

Encouraged by the shouting heads on the various cable news outlets (most long-ago stopped being talking heads), we ignore what we have, which is everything we need, most of what we want, and a lot of what we desire besides. Instead, we pay attention to what they have that they don't deserve.

If we're poor (which in America means being far better off than people in much of the rest of the world), what we have doesn't matter because everyone else is living in what is, by our standards, luxury.

If we're wealthy, which in America means a lifestyle that's literally unimaginable to much of the rest of the world, we resent poor Americans, who receive goods and services they don't have to pay for because we foot the bill instead, though all the taxes collected from us.

In my first "Holiday Card to the Industry" back in 1996 I imagined King Arthur traveling in time to visit us. He discovered that, compared to

how he lived in Camelot, the average IT professional is much, much better off. We are, it concluded, wealthier than ancient kings.

In spite of the various economic bumps and bruises we've experienced on the road that's taken us from 1996 to the present, this hasn't changed. Everyone reading these words lives a more luxurious life, in nearly every respect, than any medieval monarch ever did.

And on average, most of us in most of the world have more power than the average person did who lived anywhere on earth since history started. We each have one vote to cast, which is one more vote than most of our historical predecessors.

So here's a happy thought for what's supposed to be a happy season: To be less angry...to enjoy our lot in life more than we do right now...all we have to do is remember that luxury isn't absolute, it's comparative. Then we just have to choose who to compare ourselves to.

You can choose Bill Gates, if you like. Me? I'm choosing Philip II (*sic.*), King of Spain when Columbus sailed. Compared to him I'm living in luxury's lap. And a comfortable lap it is.

In reply to my request to reprint this:

Of course, and thanks very much for the compliment. Please wish your parishioners the best of the season from me.

- Bob

Robert D. Lewis, President

Bob Lewis is president of IT Catalysts, Inc. (www.itcatalysts.com) an independent consultancy specializing in helping businesses improve their ability to achieve designed, planned business change...which can only happen with effective IT organizations that are strategically integrated into the enterprise. Contact him at rdlewis@itcatalysts.com

A spiritual father-confessor named Benjamin, when a person had come to him for confession was talking about others and criticizing his brothers, would send the "penitent" away until he could correct himself and change his attitude.

The most simple monk, Elder David, would tell his visitors about this kind of criticism: "Be careful, do not say one person does this and the other does that. If you do so, you lose Christ's grace. Even if you see a person acting like an ass, do not criticize. Love your neighbor as you would your own self. This is what Christ tells us to do." *from An Athonite Gerontikon*

Someone asked Abba Paisius, "What should I do about my soul, because it is insensitive and does not fear God? He said to him, "Go, and find a man who fears God, and live near him. He will teach you, too, to fear God."

Venerable Paisius the Great, commemorated 19 June/02 July

A brother asked Abba Rufus, "What is interior peace, and what use is it?" The old man said, "Interior peace means to remain sitting in one's cell with fear and knowledge of God, holding far off the remembrance of wrongs suffered and pride of spirit. Such interior peace brings forth all the virtues, preserves the monk from the burning darts of the enemy, and does not allow him to be wounded by them. Yes, brother, acquire it. Keep in mind your future death, remembering that you do not know at what hour the thief will come. Likewise be watchful over your soul."

What was God to do in the face of this de-humanising of mankind—this universal hiding of the knowledge of Himself by the wiles of the evil spirits? Was He to keep silence before so great a wrong and let men go on being thus deceived and kept in ignorance of Himself? ...What, then, was God to do? What else could He possibly do, being God, but renew His Image in mankind, so that through it men might once more come to know Him? And how could this be done except by the coming of the very Image Himself, our Savior Jesus Christ?

Saint Athanasius of Alexandria, On the Incarnation of the Word, 13

When we pray continually*, God will enlighten us as to what we must do in each situation, even the most difficult. God will speak in our heart, He will find ways. Of course, we can combine prayer with fasting. That is, when we are faced with a serious problem or dilemma, we should approach it with much prayer and fasting. That's how I have dealt with things often.

Elder Porphyrios, Wounded by Love, pg. 130

***referring to the prayer of the heart, known as the Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."**