



## Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

714 Westmoreland Avenue

PO Box 3

Slickville, PA 15684-0003

[724] 468-5581

[www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org)

Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor

23 Station Street

Carnegie, PA 15106-3014

[412] 279-5640 home

[412] 956-6626 cell

### SAINT PHILIPS'S FAST—ADVENT—PILIPKIVA—NATIVITY FAST

**ON THE MEND:** Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father John Harvey, 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 George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, 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, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, George Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Jean Stutchell, Esther Holupka, Wanda Mefford, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Betty O'Masta, Julie Eiler, Vince Ferro, 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, 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, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], Mel & Charlotte Malik, David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Susan "Billie" Mason, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Donald Griffey, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [child with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Chris, Pastor Ed Bowen, David Hiles, Karen Johnson, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Susan Bertram, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Fred DeNorscia, Sandi Anderson, Donald Uebing, Sabrina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Barbara McDougall, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Virginia Catherine Pynch, Susan Lucas, Manny Lopez, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Judi Danser, Mira Filipovic, Lynn, Jacqueline, Irma Opacic, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Debby Novak, Jeff Jones, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Margaret Thurston [Evelyn's sister], Donna Cacioppo [Evelyn's niece], Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Greg Schwing, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Stella Rossi, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, 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 in your prayers—our dear 'Little Father' Emilian**, who returned to Romania to undergo surgery for back pain. This particular procedure is not offered here in the United States. He asked for our prayers and expressed his thanks for the love and fellowship he has shared with the Holy Ghost Parish Family. He said he looks forward to returning to us pain-free in the springtime...may God watch over him and heal him...Fr. Bob

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: All Christians and the others in the Middle East who are suffering during this time of great tragedy and unrest. May God watch over and keep them safe! Lord have mercy!**

**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 21 NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE—FR. BOB OUT OF TOWN  
28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; VENERABLE PATAPOUS OF THEBES; HOLY  
APOSTLES SOSTHENES, APOLLOS, CEPHAS, TYCHICUS, EPAPHRODITUS,  
CAESAR, & ONESIPHORUS OF THE 70; HOLY 362 MARTYRS OF AFRICA—  
MARTYRED BY THE ARIANS & MARTYR ANTHUSA-AT ROME; MARTYR VICTORIA;  
MARTYR ANTHUSA AT ROME**

*Tone 3*

Colossians 1:12-18

Luke 17:12-19

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE—FR. BOB IN LIGONIER  
29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HIEROMARTYR ELEUTHERIUS-BISHOP OF  
ILLYRIA, HIS MOTHER MARTYR ANTHIA, & MARTYR CORIVUS THE EPARCH;  
VENERABLE PAUL OF MOUNT LATROS; MARTRY ELEUTHERIUS AT  
CONSTANTINOPLE; VENERABLE PARDUS-HERMIT OF PALESTINE; SAINT  
STEPHEN THE CONFESSOR-ARCHBISHOP OF SUROZH IN CRIMEA**

*Tone 4*

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 4:16-24

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 04 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM  
30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY; FOREFEAST  
OF THE NATIVITY; HOLY GREATMARTYR ANASTASIA OF ROME-ALLEVIATRIX-  
OF-CAPTIVES AND HER TEACHER MARYT CHRUSOGONUS, MARTYRS THEODOTA,  
EVODIAS, EUTYCHIANUS, & OTHERS**

**HOLY SUPPER IMMEDIATELY AFTER DIVINE LITURGY**

*Tone 5*

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Matthew 1:1-25

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Steve Kuzman & Nicholas Vetosky—Fr. Bob***

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 21 DECEMBER 2014**

**28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; VENERABLE PATAPOUS OF THEBES; HOLY APOSTLES SOSTHENES, APOLLOS, CEPHAS, TYCHICUS, EPAPHRODITUS, CAESAR, & ONESIPHORUS OF THE 70; HOLY 362 MARTYRS OF AFRICA—MARTYRED BY THE ARIANS & MARTYR ANTHUSA-AT ROME; MARTYR VICTORIA; MARTYR ANTHUSA AT ROME**

### **TROPARION—TONE 3**

Let the Heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!  
He has trampled down death by death!  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
And has granted 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 3**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One!  
Leading us from the gates of death.  
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
With the prophets and patriarchs  
They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 3**

**READER:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King,  
sing praises!

**PEOPLE:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our  
King, sing praises!

**READER:** Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of  
joy!

**PEOPLE:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our  
King, sing praises!

**READER:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises!

**PEOPLE:** Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

**ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 3**

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!

# Within My Power

★ I am not a Very Important Man, as importance is commonly rated. I do not have great wealth, control a big business, or occupy a position of great honor or authority.

Yet I may someday mould destiny. For it is within my power to become the most important man in the world in the life of a boy. And every boy is a potential atom bomb in human history.

A humble citizen like myself might have been the Scoutmaster of a Troop in which an undersized unhappy Austrian lad by the name of Adolph might have found a joyous boyhood, full of the ideals of brotherhood, goodwill, and kindness. And the world would have been different.

A humble citizen like myself might have been the organizer of a Scout Troop in which a Russian boy called Joe might have learned the lessons of democratic cooperation.

These men would never have known that they had averted world tragedy, yet actually they would have been among the most important men who ever lived.

All about me are boys. They are the makers of history, the builders of tomorrow. If I can have some part in guiding them up the trail of Scouting, on to the high road of noble character and constructive citizenship, I may prove to be the most important man in their lives, the most important man in my community.

A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different, because I was important in the life of a boy.

— Forest Witcraft



## **Life's Difficulties are Always Beneficial for Us!**

*St. John Chrysostom.*

Every temptation, every sorrow, every demonic assault can prove to be of great benefit for us, if we are careful and patient. The invisible enemy (the devil) pounced on Job with fierce rage and malice. But did he harm him in the end? Not at all! On the contrary, he helped Job acquire greater holiness and more glory.

When we are alert and vigilant, the devil cannot harm us. Rather, he can unintentionally help us to increase in virtue. Observe what takes place when someone blows on a fire: initially, it seems as though he is blowing it out; ultimately, however, not only does he not put out the fire, but he actually intensifies it.

Without problems, without adversities, without illnesses, without sorrows, what would man do? He would indulge in pleasure and drunkenness, he would roll in the mire of sin, and he would completely forget about God and His holy commandments. Conversely, life's fears, uncertainties, sorrows, and trials keep him attentive, serve as lessons of philosophy, and act as exercises for his soul.

Just as a goldsmith places gold in the furnace and lets it remain in the fire until it is purified, similarly, God allows our souls to remain in the furnace of hardships until they acquire purity.

If you have committed murder, adultery, or some other grievous ("mortal") sin that precludes you from the Kingdom of Heaven, then you should be sorrowful and cry. If however, with the grace of God, you have done no such thing, why do you become distraught and grumble at the first sight of difficulty? God did not give us the feeling of sorrow to be used untimely and injudiciously, but when necessary and beneficial. We should be sorrowful not when others harm us, but when we harm others; not when we are wronged, but when we wrong others; not when we ourselves feel pain, but when we cause pain to others. This is what our Creator has ordered. We, however, do the opposite. We hurt others without the slightest remorse or feeling of guilt. But when others hurt us, we become upset, unhappy, and discouraged—sometimes we even feel like ending our lives.

We must understand once and for all: for the Christian, there are only two causes of sadness. The first is when he opposes God and acts contrary to His holy will; the second, when he sees his fellow man disregarding God's will.

Let us learn, therefore, to be men of wisdom and to honor Christ as he desires. For a person being honored finds greatest pleasure in the honor he desires, not in the honor we think best. Peter thought he was honoring Christ when he refused to let him wash his feet; but what Peter wanted was not truly an honor, quite the opposite! Give him the honor prescribed in his law by giving your riches to the poor. For God does not want golden vessels but golden hearts.

In Christ,  
Fr. George Livanos

The Story of the Magi is not simply a cute part of Christmas, but it represents central characters who model a path of faith and stewardship worthy of imitation. They offer an example of a sincere search for God using the intellectual gifts they possessed; a willingness to overcome any obstacles or challenging inconveniences in their journey towards God; and the witness of offering the best they had once they encounter the Christ Child. *Fr. Luke Veronis*



ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE  
ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE IN AMERICA

St. Nicholas Ground Zero: Symbol of Faith from Ashes  
*by Archon Nicholas Gage*

Once firmly established in the United States, the major religious denominations in America took action to proclaim their presence by each building a great house of worship in a major thoroughfare in the country's most significant urban center -- New York City.

The Episcopalians, the American version of the Church of England, made the first imprint with the construction of St. Paul's Chapel on lower Broadway in 1766 and went on to erect the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the enormous Romanesque edifice on Morningside Heights, beginning in 1892. Not to be absent from the heart of the city, a decade



later they built St. Bartholomew's Church, a magnificent Byzantine-inspired basilica, on Park Avenue and 52nd St.

The Catholics chose the same general area but on Fifth Avenue between 50th and 51st Street to announce their presence when they began the construction of St. Patrick's Cathedral, their imposing Gothic temple, in 1910 across from what would later become Rockefeller Center.

The Rockefellers were Baptists and were not about to let their denomination go unrepresented once they made their vast fortune, so in 1926 they financed the construction of the tallest religious structure in America, Riverside Church, on Morningside Heights overlooking the Hudson River.

The Jews made their statement in 1958 with the construction of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, 12 blocks up from St. Patrick's.

We Greek Orthodox have taken our time to make our presence felt in the Big Apple, content with our modest Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, some distance from the city's nerve centers on 74th St., between Second and First Avenues. Over the years, many Greek-American leaders have talked about buying or building a cathedral on Park or Fifth Avenues, now that we have made so much progress in America and achieved the second highest per capita income of any ethnic group. But the talk never went anywhere.

Now, a terrible national tragedy has given us the opportunity to create a great shrine for our faith, and a spiritual memorial to all those who perished on 9/11.

The Church of St. Nicholas that will be built at the heart of Ground Zero replacing the one destroyed on 9/11 will make the most stirring statement that any house of worship has made in the United States in a long time. It will tell America in brilliant visual images what we are, where we come from, and where we are going.

Selecting Santiago Calatrava to design the church was an inspired choice, for he is able to capture in his designs the past and the future in such imaginative ways as to astound both the eye and the mind. There is a small bridge in Athens that he designed over a roadway halfway between the city center and Aghia Paraskevi that at first looks like futuristic spaceship ready to take off from its launching pad but then seems to take the form of an ancient Greek trireme gliding over the Aegean.

A fusion of the past and the future is what characterizes the new St. Nicholas Church. Calatrava has taken his inspiration from some of the great churches in Constantinople in creating his design. The shallow dome will have 40 ribs as does the dome of the Hagia Sophia, and alternating bands of stone at the corners will echo the walls of the Church of the Holy Savior in Chora. But the church will also be constructed in such a way as to create an ethereal effect reminiscent of the more mystical scenes of 2001: A

Space Odyssey. This will be achieved by fusing the exterior stone cladding with glass that in the evening hours will create a luminous aura and make the whole church appear to glow from within.

Most of all, St. Nicholas Church will have something entirely its own -- what Laurence Durrell called "spirit of place." The original church, a neighborhood parish built in 1916, was completely buried by the collapse of the South Tower of the World Trade Center on 9/11, the only place of worship destroyed in the terrorist attack. The new church will be built on a platform 25 feet above street level at the end of an open space that will include a non-denominational bereavement center for rest and meditation, a shrine that will attract pilgrims of all beliefs from all over America and the world.

The church and the park area it will crown will become a national destination that some 10 million people are expected to visit every year. That will make St. Nicholas Church at Ground Zero one of the most popular sites in New York City, attracting twice as many visitors as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, for example, and many times more than other churches in the area, including the most majestic cathedrals.

A terrible tragedy has brought us the opportunity to leave our mark on our new-found land and to do it in a way that is worthy of our faith, fitting to the memory of all those who perished on 9/11, and mindful of the promise of Jesus when he said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."

*Nicholas Gage is a journalist, film producer, and author of seven books including Eleni and Greek Fire.*

### ***Today's Zaman reports on 'Who is the pope, who is the ecumenical patriarch?'***

Today's Zaman recently reported on 'Who is the pope, who is the ecumenical patriarch?' by Orhan Kemal Cengiz. Cengiz, a lawyer, human rights defender and newspaper columnist, was a featured speaker at the Order of Saint Andrew's 2nd International Conference on Religious Freedom in Berlin, Germany in December 2013.

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Who is the pope, who is the ecumenical patriarch?

*by Orhan Kemal Cengiz*

If you do not know Turkey, you may get the impression that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his government have huge admiration for the pope but are allergic to the ecumenical patriarch. Namely, you may be very confused how and why the Turkish government differentiates so

tremendously in its treatment of the religious leaders of the Orthodox and Catholic sects of Christianity.

In Turkey the pope was treated like he is one of the most important statesmen in the world. Erdogan met him at the gates of his palace after waiting there impatiently for a long time. We saw pictures of how Erdogan happily extended his forehead to be kissed by the pope.

While the religious leader of the Catholics was welcomed like that, the religious leader of the other sect of Christianity, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, is being regarded somehow as a figure whose counterpart in Turkey is the district governor of Eyup, to which the patriarchate is considered to be attached.

President Erdogan and the Justice and Development Party (AK Party), who treated the pope as if he is the president of the United States, refuse to recognize the ecumenical character of the Greek Orthodox Church in İstanbul. They say it is just the Greek Orthodox Church, namely that the patriarchate only represents a handful of Orthodox Christians in İstanbul.

President Erdogan and the AK Party, who are very respectful of the pope, do not even allow the reopening of the Halki Theological School, from which many of the ecumenical patriarchs graduated. They say they will open the school on the condition that a mosque is opened in Athens. They easily overlook the fact that a school and a church are not counterparts to each other and that there is no such thing as "reciprocity" in the field of human rights. The Halki Theological School has nothing to do with a mosque in Athens.

So, the question remains wide open. Why did the same government that treated the pope with so much respect put the ecumenical patriarch in such a difficult position? Why does the Turkish government differentiate so much in its treatment of different sects of Christianity?

And, ironically, if you ask the members of the AK Party how the Orthodox differ from the Catholics, most probably very few of them would be able to answer your question in a satisfactory manner. Therefore, we can say this discriminatory treatment of different sects of Christianity has nothing to do with theological matters.

The AK Party is just demonstrating the old state reflexes that regard the ecumenical patriarchate and religious minorities of this country as a threat.

And I believe there is another part of this story. Like individuals who have low self-esteem, states and societies only pay respect to those who are distant from them, who are outsiders and so on. The pope is from another country; he is a foreigner, whereas the ecumenical patriarch is from Turkey and is someone living in our district.

I believe one day Turkey will treat the ecumenical patriarch as it treats the pope now -- when this country has real confidence, when there is real self-esteem, and when there is real freedom of religion in this country.

**“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 which He made in the beginning.”**

*(Troparion of the Pre-feast of the Nativity)*



**“Make ready, O Bethlehem, for Eden is opened. Prepare, O Ephratha, for Adam and Eve are renewed. Salvation enters the world and the curse is destroyed. Make ready, O hearts of righteous men. Instead of myrrh, bring songs as an offering of wisdom. Receive salvation and immortality for your bodies and souls. Behold, the Master who lies in a manger urges us to complete our spiritual songs. Let us cry to Him without ceasing: O Lord, Glory to Thee!”**

*(Vespers of the fourth day of the Pre-feast of the Nativity)*

**As you travel to visit relatives and friends over the next few weeks, please remember the reason for the season—that Christ our Savior was born as a baby in Bethlehem of Judea to open the Gates of Heaven for all who truly follow Him! God Bless you—and be safe on your travels! Love, Fr. Bob, Pani Gina, Alex, Matt, and the entire Slickville Parish Family!**