



## 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.

**Happy Birthday to our January babies:** Evelyn Burlack on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Lyndsey Weiser on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Demetra [Mother Alexandra's friend] on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Marcy Nezolyk Jones on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Brenna Scott on the 29<sup>th</sup>, Kristin Tkacik Scott on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Kayla Weiser on the 29<sup>th</sup>. May God grant them Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! God Bless!

**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!**

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 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***

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 06 NATIVITY EVE—STRICT FAST DAY**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 07 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM  
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

Galatians 4:4-7

Matthew 2:1-12

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM  
31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY; AFTERFEAST  
OF THE NATIVITY; 14,000 HOLY INNOCENTS SLAIN BY HEROD; VENERABLE  
MARCELLUS OF THE MONASTERY OF THE UNSLEEPING ONES; VENERABLE**

**THADDEUS-CONFESSOR OF THE STUDIO; VENERABLE MARK THE GRAVE  
DIGGER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; VENERABLE LAURENCE OF CHERNIHIV**

*Tone 6*

Galatians 1:11-19

Matthew 2: 13-23

***Parastas in Blessed Memory of Steve Kuzman—John & Debbie Pauncic***

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM  
32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY; MARTYRS  
TEHOPEMPTUS-BISHOP OF NICOMEDIA; VENERABLE SYNCLETICA OF  
ALEXANDRIA; PROPHET MICAH; VENERABOE VIRGIN APOLLINARIS OF EGYPT  
THEOPHANY EVE—STRICT FAST DAY**

*Tone 7*

2 Timothy 4:4-8

Mark 1:1-8

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 04 JANUARY 2015**

**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**

### **TROPARION—TONE 5**

Let the faithful praise and worship the Word,  
Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit;  
Born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
To endure death,  
And to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,  
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### **KONTAKION—TONE 5**

Thou didst descend into Hell, O my Savior,  
Shattering its gates as almighty;  
Resurrecting the dead as Creator,  
And destroying the sting of death.  
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse,  
O Lover of Man,  
And we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 5**

**READER:** Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

**PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.**

**READER:** Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

**PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.**

**READER:** Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us...

**PEOPLE: From this generation forever.**

### **ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 5**

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever, and my truth will be prepared in the heavens.

### **PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX HIERARCHS BEYOND THE BORDERS OF UKRAINE**

**Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ 2014/2015**

To the Venerable Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Beyond the Borders of Ukraine and to our Brothers and Sisters of the Faith in Ukraine:

**Beloved brothers and sisters: CHRIST IS BORN!**

***"Do not be afraid..."***

These are the words of the angel to the shepherds when he announces that a Savior has been born for us. "Do not be afraid" is also the greeting the angel gave to Zechariah in announcing the birth of John the Baptist and to the Mother of God in announcing the birth of Jesus. Finally, the Lord in His own words often tells people not to be afraid: "Fear is useless; what is needed is trust."

There are many reasons for us to be afraid this sacred time of the Nativity of our Lord. The atrocities of the world have displaced countless people and devastated many homes and homelands. The unspeakable tragedy in our ancestral Ukraine has left us reeling in the face of evil. It is in this context that we, the bishops of the Holy Church address you this sacred Nativity season. We must stand together in the Love of the newborn Christ Child to face the suffering world around us. It is good that we are together and that we hear words of hope in the midst of fear. It is understandable that we are afraid, but in the midst of so much tragedy,

together we place our trust in the God, Who never abandons us during such times.

At the glorious celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we warmly greet and embrace all the children, young adults, adults and seniors of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church throughout the world. We want you to know that with full trust in God's promise, our love and prayers as your Spiritual Fathers encompass you during this Nativity Holy Day when you gather for worship and fellowship with friends and family.

The Nativity of Christ is the Feast of Light. On Christmas Eve, the glory of the Lord enveloped the shepherds with the pure light from heaven and they were filled with great fear as the angel of the Lord gave them the Good News of the birth of the Savior. The God-Child born at Bethlehem is the Word of God made flesh, the true Light that enlightens all who are born into this world.

The Nativity of Christ is the Feast of Peace. The angels from heaven proclaimed it so as they announced the birth of the Son of God and sang in the very first Christmas carol: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth." Every Nativity season, the words "Sleep in heavenly peace" are sung in our churches, in our homes, in the streets and at Bethlehem.

The Nativity of Christ is the Feast of Love. It is a mystery for which we need eyes wide-open and a hearts renewed to adore Love Incarnate. We are compelled to share that Love with love our brothers and sisters, especially those who suffer most the consequences of disaster and economic crisis, those who suffer loneliness, pain and infirmity. Remember, the Nativity experience cannot exist when we block or ignore such Love. Our Lord reminds us that only those who know and share that Love with hearts like those of a child can fully understand and live the Nativity experience. Those who enclose themselves in selfishness will go through the Nativity Feast without comprehending and celebrating it in their hearts and in their lives.

A Child – born for us! Light! Peace! Love! These are the images we treasure during this holy season. Yet, even as He lies in the manger we can already foresee the impending suffering of the Cross in the senseless slaughter of the Holy Innocents to appease the vanity of the ruling Herod. Are the evil Herods of today any different? In spite of what was to come, that Child grew and matured into the One Who would save our souls. Our lives are a mix of good and evil, of joy and sorrow, of hope and despair, of happiness and pain. As we look upon this Child with awe, we are very much aware of the slaughter of children today who never get a chance to live! This Child causes us to fall down in worship, praise and thanksgiving; the

holy innocents of our own time cause us to question the values of a world where one person's choice trumps another person's life!

The Nativity of Jesus Christ is a time to rejoice and give thanks for the gift and blessings of life. It is also a time to be generous toward others who may not be so blessed – so that the life of each and of all might be nurtured and supported. Together we turn to the Author of Life in profound gratitude. May your prayer, worship and acts of charity to those in need at this Nativity celebration lead you to a profound encounter with Christ that you, perhaps, never considered possible! It is the power of giving one's "self" away – as did Jesus Christ, Who is and always has been One with God the Father and the Holy Spirit gave of Him "self" – that transforms us as the human creation, that transfigures each of us as individuals of that creation and brings us closer to true unity with God.

Beloved clergy, brothers and sisters in Christ, we send you our sincere Nativity Lord greetings and we pray that the Light, Peace and Love of that first Nativity shine in your lives and through you into the lives of all who cross your path, for when we bear witness to that Light, Peace and Love, we are on the path leading to the realization of what we were created for and to our ultimate goal for eternity

May you have a loving and holy Nativity and a blessed New Year in our Lord!

*With prayers and hierarchical blessings,*

† YURIJ, Metropolitan

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† ANTONY, Metropolitan

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Locum Tenens of the 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

† ANDRIY, Bishop

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† DANIEL, Bishop

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

FROM THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Prot. No. 1377

**+ BARTHOLOMEW**

By God's Mercy 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

**Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord,**

"Christ is descending from the heavens; let us meet Him!"

God has appeared on earth and, at the same time, we have seen **the perfect man** together with the inconceivable **value of the human person**. Today especially, we experience the condition of humanity after the fall, as we daily affirm with the Psalmist that "all have gone stray, they are all alike corrupt; there is none that does good – no, not one!" (Psalm 13.3; Rom. 3.12-13)

Before the incarnation of Christ, humanity could never imagine the inconceivable value of the human person, which was weakened and distorted after the fall. Only the most illumined people could perceive, even before the time of Christ, the value of the human person and the response to the Psalmist's question: "What is man that God would remember him?" (Psalm 8.5), which they proclaimed in the Psalmist's words: "You have made man a little lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor." (Psalm 8.6)

It is this supreme value of the human person that the divine-human Lord revealed. And since that time, we each year have heard repeated declarations on the same subject by states, governments and social groups as well international treaties about respecting the human person and human rights.

We witness with great surprise the constantly repeated "drama of Bethlehem." It is a drama because it is no longer a joyous event when we ignore the Son and Word of God born in a manger, when humanity as His creation is not respected as a "divine image."

Our holy Orthodox Church and its theology teach us that humanity and the human body deserve the utmost respect because they were united to God in the incarnate Lord. Therefore, all of us are obliged to intensify our efforts for the supreme value of the human person to be respected by everyone.

It is with great sorrow and deep regret that the Ecumenical Patriarchate follows the ongoing and increasing waves of violence and brutality, which continue to plague various regions of our planet and especially the entire Middle East, and in particular the native Christians there, often in the name of religion. We will never cease to declare to all from this Sacred Center of Orthodoxy – to our brother Primates of the Orthodox and other Christian Churches, the leaders and representatives of other religions, the heads of state and every person of good will



everywhere, but above all to our fellow human beings that, whether motivated or not by others, place their own lives at risk in order to deprive others of their lives; for they, too, are created by God – that there can be no form of true and genuine religiosity or spirituality without love toward the human person. Any ideological, social or religious expression that either despises humanity created in the image of God or else teaches and permits the death of our fellow human beings, especially in the savage and primitive ways that we see, surely has nothing to do with the God of love.

Dear brothers and sisters, as we turn our attention to the situation prevailing in our world today, we condemn the tragic events stemming from hatred of other religions and enmity toward people, which we witness so frighteningly close to us as we hear and see the terror so readily through social media. In response, we offer as the only powerful antidote to contemporary violence the "ultimate poverty" of God, which always acts as love and which surprised the wise men and the entire world. This is the mystical power of God, the mystical power of the Orthodox Church, and the mystical power of the Christian faith. **This is the power that conquers and overcomes every form of violence and evil through love.**

This is our humble assessment of world affairs this Christmas. We pray that everyone may experience the joy of utmost respect for the human person, of our fellow human being. We also pray for the cessation of every form of violence, which can only be overcome through the love promoted and provided by the "angel of great counsel," the "prince of peace," our Savior Christ.

May the grace, boundless mercy and goodwill of the newly-born and incarnate Lord of glory, peace and love be with you all.

Christmas 2014

Your fervent supplicant to God,

**+ BARTHOLOMEW**

**Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch**

**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA**

8-10 East 79th St. New York, NY 10075-0106 Tel: (212) 570-3530 Fax: (212) 774-0237

Web: <http://www.goarch.org> - Email: [communications@goarch.org](mailto:communications@goarch.org)

**Protocol Number 239/14**

**December 25, 2014—The Nativity of Christ**

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given...* (Isaiah 9:6)

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,**

This holy and blessed Feast of the Nativity of our Lord is a very joyous day that brings us together in worship and praise of our Creator and Redeemer. Today the eternal God enters our humanity for our deliverance from sin, evil and death. Today the infinite wisdom of God is revealed in the birth of the Savior, and the truth of His divine will is made known. Today an enduring promise of peace is established by an infant who is the *Prince of Peace* and whose name *Emmanuel* means *God is with us*. On this day His great love for us is shown as *the Word became flesh and dwelt among us* (John 1:14).

The Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ is a revelation of truth. Today, the brilliance of divine wisdom, the glory of the Lord, and the hope of the Gospel of salvation are revealed. The ancient promise made to Adam and Eve, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and to so many others is fulfilled. All that was foretold by the Prophets has happened. God has become man so that we can be redeemed and restored to blessed communion and abundant life with Him.

The Incarnation is also a revelation of true and eternal peace. Through the birth of Christ, the path of our reconciliation with God is visible. The turmoil caused by sin and despair is met with the calm of the coming of the Prince of Peace. The Theotokos and Joseph find comfort in the eyes of the infant Lord. The shepherds hear the holy angels proclaim *Peace on earth!* The Magi find assurance in the miraculous sign that leads them to Bethlehem and to the One who fulfills all things.

The Incarnation of Christ is a revelation of love. In offering Himself for our sakes, He becomes the greatest gift. The light of grace reveals God's compassion for His creation, and the power of grace visible in the child affirms that healing has come. In the newness of life, He has come to lead us from death to life. In the beauty of a child, not by overwhelming force or temporal might, the power of God's love for us brings unspeakable joy and unquenchable hope!

Our celebration on this glorious Feast of the Nativity affirms this revelation and offers a witness of its power in our lives. Our worship and praise of the Incarnate Lord offers a vibrant witness of truth in a world filled with confusion and deception. Into the darkness and hopelessness that many have found, we proclaim the divine wisdom that guides us to the meaning of our existence and to the true life for which we have been created. Our hearts are filled with peace which we share with others, for our hope has been renewed by our trust in God. We live in the assurance of eternal blessings, and we invite others to come and see all that He has done for us. Finally, our gatherings in parishes and homes, each day and every moment of our lives are filled with His love. As He revealed His great

love for us in the birth of our Lord, we reveal divine grace through our faith, our acts of kindness and service, and our generosity to others especially those in need. Our compassion, which leads us to give glory to God in the highest, will lead others to the King of kings, to our Savior who is Christ the Lord!

May you and your communities and families be filled with joy and peace on this blessed Feast as you celebrate the revelation of God in the birth of Christ. While you live in the midst of tremendous challenges and needs, may you also affirm that you live in the presence of our Lord who guides you in sharing the grace and truth that will lead others to Him and to abundance of life.

With paternal love in Christ,

†DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America



*Nativity (Detail) -CF806*

### **++“And the Word Was Made Flesh, and Dwelt Among Us”++**

There are many philosophies and religions in the world, each trying to explain the meaning of life and how we can relate to both this world and then the mysteries beyond. Yet only in Christianity expressed in an orthodox manner do we see God—the Infinite and Absolute—as a Person Who comes to live with us in sympathy and love, having shared with us fully our human nature. He is not far, He is close. He is not looking down, He is right here turning our hearts upward. He is the Lord of Life, yet a little Child—Someone near and dear, and so most approachable. God is with us: Emmanuel. We are not just His children, but His brothers and sisters too as we all share in the seed of Adam. He is in the cave of our hearts, and we are made in His Image. Let us come inside now in love toward this most sacred cave in Bethlehem, as He is ever born anew, to worship Him and take up His life in us. May we humbly then, as the beloved Evangelist John says, behold “...*His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*” (John 1:14) Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

The Monks of St. Isaac of Syria Skete  
and the Nuns of the Convent of St. Silouan  
and the Faithful of St. Nicholas Church  
and the Staff of Orthodox Byzantine Icons and St. Isaac’s Bookstore.

**We will celebrate our Nativity Eve Holy Supper immediately after church today—please join us downstairs for prayer and fellowship.**

**Remember that Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> is Christmas Eve—a strict fast day.**

**We will hold our Nativity Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to join us as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in human form.**