



## Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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### CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

**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, Father Tom Hopko, 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 Strozh [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, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Stella Rossi, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Carol Mensing's Family, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Lucas Burlack, Suzanne Segeleon, 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!**

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 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  
BLESSING OF WATERS AFTER DIVINE LITURGY**

*Tone 7*

2 Timothy 4:4-8

Mark 1:1-8

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19 THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM  
33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY; AFTERFEAST OF  
THEOPHANY; MARTYR TATIANA OF ROME; MARTYR MERTIUS OF MAURETANIA;  
MARTYR PETER APSELAMUS; VENERABLE EUPRAXIA 1 OF TABENNA IN EGYPT**

*Tone 8*

Ephesians 4:7-13; 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Matthew 4:12-17; Luke 19:1-10

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 01 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM  
SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE; SAINT MACARIUS THE GREAT  
OF EGYPT; VIRGIN-MARTYR EUPHRASIA OF NICOMEDIA; VENERABLE  
MACARIUS OF ALEXANDRIA; SAINT ARSENIUS-ARCHBISHOP OF KERKYRA  
[CORFU]; VENERABLE MACARIUS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; VENERABLE  
MACARIUS-DEACON OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

*Tone 1*

2 Timothy 3:10-15

Luke 18:10-14

*Litany in Blessed Memory of Milton G. Chicka, Daniel Pysh, Sara Chicka, Nickolai Pivtroaiko, Mary Lokie, Ann Cherepko Mazok, & Roy Wyke—Fr. Bob*

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 18 JANUARY 2014**

**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**

**BLESSING OF WATERS AFTER DIVINE LITURGY**

### **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 for the Eve of the Theophany—Tone 4**

The river Jordan was once turned back by Elisha's mantle when Elijah was taken up,  
and the waters were divided hither and thither.  
The watery path became dry for him as a type of baptism  
whereby we cross the flowing stream of life.  
Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

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

### **Kontakion of the Eve—Tone 4**

The Lord cried to John in the running waters of Jordan:  
Be not afraid to baptize Me,  
for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

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!

## **5 Things You Didn't Know about Orthodox Christmas** By [Seraphim Danckaert](#) in [The Sounding](#) Jan 06, 2015



A recent article from CBC/Radio-Canada, titled "[5 Things You Didn't Know about Orthodox Christmas](#)," highlighted the Christmas traditions of a Ukrainian Orthodox Christian family in Canada. The article's list of five traditions provides a succinct overview of some of Orthodoxy's most popular ecclesial and cultural practices for Christmastide.

The [article](#) observes:

For many people, Christmas is over.

But that's not the case for the Drozdovskyy family. They are Ukrainian-Canadian and are celebrating Orthodox Christmas on January 6 and 7.

"It's very important for Ukrainian families, for sure. I remember when I was small and lived in the Soviet Union, it was a different situation. We can't celebrate like we celebrate now," Liudmyla Drozdovskyy said.

The holiday kicks off on January 6 with a holy meal. Here are a few more Drozdovskyy's traditions they share with other Orthodox people:

**The 40-day Nativity Fast.** The Drozdovskyy family fasts from meat and dairy for 40 days before Orthodox Christmas. They break their fast on January 7. Liudmyla fasts from all food and drink, except for water on January 6 until dinner time.

**The holy meal is vegetarian.** It consists of 12 meat-free dishes, including perogies, cabbage rolls, beets, borscht, and potatoes. The 12 dishes represent Jesus's twelve apostles.

**White tablecloth on the holy dinner table.** The table is set with an extra place for the spirits of family members that have passed on.

**Under the table cloth,** the Drozdovskyy's place three things: A bunch of wheat to signify a rich harvest, garlic to ward off evil spirits, and a bit of sugar as a wish for a sweet life.

**The family gives away treats,** including apples, cookies, candies, and chocolate to neighbours after dinner on Orthodox Christmas Eve.

How do you celebrate Christmas in your region of the world?

Via Fr. Gregory Long

*FYI - from Juliana Thetford, Fr. Tom Hopko's daughter:*

Dear Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, Family and Friends,  
Christ is in our Midst! Blessed Theophany season!

Thank you, to each and every one of you, for your ongoing love, prayers, and concern for our father Fr. Thomas Hopko. As many of you know, he has had several serious health concerns during recent years. The most serious medical issue by far is his diagnosis with congestive heart failure (CHF) due to the fact that he has senile systemic amyloidosis. Simply put, the deposits of a protein-like material called amyloid in the heart cause stiffening of the heart muscle. Therefore it cannot work as efficiently as usual, and heart failure ensues.

On Theophany (January 6), my mother took my father to the ER as the list of symptoms he was experiencing was an indication of heart failure issues. The result of his blood test showed hyponatremia (a potentially very

serious condition that occurs when the level of sodium in your blood is abnormally low). Indeed, he was in serious condition, and it was extremely timely that he was brought to the hospital. On the Sunday after Theophany, he was released back home, having been told that although his vital signs were all good (blood pressure, oxygen level, kidney function, plus now his sodium level), and he himself looked rather well considering everything, he had a heart that was decidedly affected by amyloidosis, and in critical condition, with markedly reduced function. The team of doctors reviewed Dad's case, and in addition to continuing his medication with some adjustments, they prescribed the use of a 24-hour defibrillator vest which Dad started wearing immediately. He will also have home health care and monitoring, which we are very grateful for.

So, as you can see, although the decline of Fr. Thomas' heart function has been gradual, it is now at a stage that is definitely more critical and will require more rest and a quiet daily routine that supports his well-being in the best way possible. This naturally will result in a more reclusive existence, which for someone who has been as involved and busy as he has, will definitely be a change. He and my mother know that all of you dear ones are praying, supporting, and loving both of them. They are immensely grateful and touched. While my father will be unable to talk on the phone, have visitors or respond to emails much, please know that you are in his thoughts and prayers.

I will be sending out periodic updates. Please feel free to forward this email and share this information with anyone who might like to receive it. Also, you may contact me via email any time! Thank you!

Of course you can always send a card or note to my parents at:

Fr Thomas and Anne Hopko

3042 Creek Lane

Ellwood City PA 16117

On behalf of our whole family, most especially my siblings Fr. John Hopko, Katya Mandell, Masha Solak, and Alexandra Sedor, thank you all for your love and support, as well as your understanding and continued prayers. God bless you and yours!

With love in Christ,

Juliana Hopko Thetford

## **1999 Nativity Message of Patriarch Pavle (+11/15/2009)**



*"So what is to be done now, in the new century and new millennium? We pose this question to ourselves. We pose this question to our brothers throughout the world who care about us. The future is hidden and unknown. There are many roads before us, but they are not all the right roads. Some of them lead to destruction. But the future which lies before us is not simply something we must await, but it is a road we, first of all, must construct. We are responsible for our future no less than for our past. It is revealed to us as a possibility which we must responsibly and consciously create. And overshadowing the future is the same question we have already asked -- For or against Christ? If the Lord has not revealed the near future to us, leaving it up to us to create it, He has revealed to us the final and ultimate truth: that no matter what, He will triumph. He revealed that good is far stronger than evil, and that every triumph of evil is temporary and illusory. The weeds and the wheat grow together, but only until the harvest. For or against Christ -- this is the question that will determine both our future and the future of all nations. As we gather here today around the Divine Infant Christ celebrating His birth, we hope and we pray to Him that He will be reborn in our hearts, in our neighbors, in our people and our country, and in the hearts of all people and nations."*

***Peace from God—Christ is Born!***

**Given at the Serbian Patriarchate in Belgrade at Christmas, 1999.  
Your intercessor before the cradle of the Divine Infant: Archbishop  
of Pec, Metropolitan of Belgrade-Karlovci and Serbian Patriarch**

**PAVLE**





## ***Christ is Born!***

Bishop George, Igumen Seraphim and the brotherhood of the Hermitage of the Holy Cross greet everyone on this feast of the Nativity of our Lord! May God bless you all and grant you a blessed New Year!



*Christmas Message of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus Kirill to the Archpastors, Pastors, Monastics and All the Faithful Children of the Russian Orthodox Church*



**Your Graces the archpastors, venerable fathers, all-honourable monks and nuns, dear brothers and sisters!**

On this holy night I address all of you living in different countries, cities and villages, yet making up the One Russian Orthodox Church, and from the bottom of my heart I congratulate you on the world-saving feast of the Nativity of Christ. I send you my heartfelt greetings, my dear ones, and prayerfully wish that we all be filled with spiritual joy in participating in this great festivity and enjoy the banquet of faith as sons and daughters of God and friends of Christ (Jn 15:15).

Today, as we contemplate the mystery of the incarnation of God, we strive to understand what the meaning of this event is that happened two thousand years ago in Bethlehem and what relationship it has to us and our contemporaries.

St. Paul writes: ' But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons' (Gal 4:4-5). But what preceded this fullness of time? The entire history of the human race before the Nativity of Christ in essence is the history of the search for God when the best minds tried to understand who is the source

of the supernatural power which affects every human person in one way or another in life.

On their path for searching for God, people, in endeavouring to find the truth, have stumbled into all sorts of errors. Yet, neither man's primitive fear before terrifying natural phenomena, nor the deification of the natural elements, idols and at times himself, nor even those rare insights which illumined the pagan philosophers, have brought people to God. And when 'the world by wisdom knew not God' (1 Cor 1:21), he deigned to come down to people. With our spiritual eyes we contemplate the 'great mystery of godliness': the Creator is likened to creation, he assumes human nature, endures humiliation, dies on the cross and rises again. All of this transcends human understanding and is a miracle which reveals the fullness of the Revelation of God of himself to people.

Christ is born and the world has found hope, Christ is born and love reigns forever, Christ is born and the heavens have bowed down to the earth, Christ is born and the star of Bethlehem shows the true way to God, Christ is born and let no one believe in the triumph of evil, for we are 'saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God' (Eph 2:8).

The prophet Isaiah awaited and foresaw the coming of the Messiah, and exclaimed: 'God is with us' (Is 8:10). His divinely inspired words are even today a source of ineffable joy for millions of Christians. Once born in Bethlehem, the Lord is born in our hearts and abides with us if we remain faithful to him and the Church that he has founded. He is with us when we accomplish good deeds. He is with us when we help our neighbours. He is with us when we are compassionate and sympathetic. He is with us when we reconcile enemies. He is with us when we forgive and remember not evil. He is with us when we pray and participate in the Church's sacraments, more so in the sacrament of Thanksgiving, the Eucharist.

The feast of the Nativity of Christ speaks to us of that which is most important; we are called to learn how to love God and serve him, our Saviour, the one who has granted this salvation to all nations and for all times, who extends his embrace to each one of us. In acquiring the skill of worshipping God and reverentially standing in his presence, we at the same time learn how to serve our neighbour as well by manifesting 'faith which worketh by love' (Gal 5:6).

We have only to add a little – to respond to the action of the saving grace of God through our obedience, through our trust in the words of the Lord, through our desire to fulfill his commandments. If we master this great truth, then much will be transformed not only within ourselves but around us. We will be able to set priorities on our values, we can peacefully, calmly and assuredly go along the path of life mapped out for us, rendering praise and thanksgiving to God.

In order to attain this spiritual state, we must be Orthodox people not only by opinion polls but according to our deepest convictions and way of life, as our pious ancestors were ardent believers and people who loved God. Among these a special place is occupied by the baptizer of Rus, the Holy and Equal-to-the-Apostles Grand Prince Vladimir, the thousandth anniversary of whose demise we shall commemorate this year. It is thanks to him that we are the bearers of the lofty estate of Christian and in total comprise the single family of Orthodox brotherly peoples of historical Rus. Thus it was, is and shall be. And no temporary troubles and trials, no external forces can tear asunder these centuries-old spiritual and cultural ties of the inheritors of the baptismal font of Kiev.

In these holy days of the Nativity the prayers of the fullness of the Church and my own fervent prayer are for peace in the country of Ukraine. Irrespective of where her children live and of their political views and preferences, the Russian Orthodox Church fulfills her responsible mission which was placed upon her by Christ (Mt 5:9). She has done and continues to do all that is possible to reconcile people and help them overcome the consequences of enmity.

At the bottom of all conflict, hatred and division is sin. According to St. Justin Popović, sin 'exploits all its power to accomplish one thing: to render the human person godless and inhuman' (St. Justin Popović, *Philosophical Abysses*). And we see in what infernal state the human person at times abides when he has lost the dignity granted to him by the Creator.

Yet the Church in the name of God, tirelessly proclaiming to people the 'great joy' (Lk 2:10) of the birth of the Saviour, calls upon each dweller on earth to believe and transform himself for the better. She offers to us the way of ascent: from seeking out God to the knowledge of God, from the knowledge of God to communion with God, and from communion with God to becoming like God. St. Athanasius the Great, who lived in Alexandria in

the fourth century, expressed the purpose of the coming into the world of the Saviour in these amazing words: 'God became man so that man may become god,' yet not according to his nature but according to divine grace. The centuries-old experience of the Church testifies that genuine transfiguration, theosis, is accomplished through the action of grace by means of the voluntary co-operation between God and the human person. And it is attained through labour, in obedience to the Creator, and not through accepting the diabolic temptation of the serpent who intimated to our ancestors that they should taste of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and immediately become 'as gods' (Gen. 3:5). Every person who lives according to faith knows that it is fidelity to God that deters him from evil deeds and thoughts, that it is faith which inspires him to spiritual feats and labours to the glory of God and for the good of our neighbours.

In congratulating you all on the great feast of the Nativity of Christ and the New Year I would like to wish you from the bottom of my heart good health, peace, prosperity and abundant succour from on high in following our Lord and Saviour without stumbling.

'But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.' (1 Pet 5:10-11)

+ KIRILL PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA  
Moscow The Nativity of Christ 2014/2015

**CALENDAR REMINDERS:** The 2015 Church Wall Calendars are downstairs—please take one for home, as the fasting periods and holy days are listed on it. Also, Debbie Paouncic, our First Lady, has All Saints Calendars for sale—\$25 each...several of our parishioners won on last year's calendars! Thank you for your support of the camp.

**IMPORTANT NOTE—SAVE THE DATE—We will have a special meeting of the parish membership on**

**Sunday, February 01, after Liturgy, to talk about the finances and the future of our parish. Please plan to attend and bring along any ideas you might have to help us! Thank you and God Bless you all!**