



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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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 Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, 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 Paisius McGrath, Joshua Agosto and his family, 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, 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, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, 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, 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, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipovic, Lynn, Jacqueline, Irma Opacic, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Jeff Jones, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, 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, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Evelyn Felouzis, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Millie Koss Good, Mary Haraczy, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Brenda Jamison, Mike Mangan, and Jackie. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

Pani Gina has All Saints Camp Benefit Calendars for sale for \$25. Please see her if you are interested...

REMINDER: We will celebrate our Nativity Eve Holy Supper—Sviati Vechir—after our service on Sunday, January 3, 2016. This will be a pot-luck FASTING meal. Please prepare a dish to share with about 20 people—Martha Persico has kindly volunteered to coordinate the food—please let her know what dish you will bring or if you have any questions.

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!

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 27 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS THYRSUS, LEUCIUS, &
CALLINICUS; MARTYRS APPOLONIUS, PHILEMON, ARAIANUS, & THEOCTYCHUS
OF ALEXANDRIA**

Tone 5

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 4:16-24

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 03 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY; FOREFEAST
OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST; VIRGIN-MARTYR JULIANA AND WITH HER 500
MEN & 130 WOMEN; MARTYR THEOMISTOCLES OF MYRA IN LYCIA**

*******HOLY SUPPER DOWNSTAIRS AFTER SERVICES*******

Tone 6

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

Matthew 1:1-25

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Stephen Kuzman, Timothy Stuchell, Nicholas
Vetosky, Robert Rohal, & Gary Atutes—Fr. Bob***

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06 NATIVITY EVE—STRICT FAST DAY

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

Galatians 4:4-7

Matthew 2:1-12

January 07 through January 18 is a FAST FREE PERIOD!!!

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY; AFTERFEAST OF
THE NATIVITY; HOLY RIGHTEOUS DAVID THE KING; JAMES THE BROTHER OF
THE LORD; 20,000 MARTYRS OF NICOMEDIA INCLUDING GLYCERIUS, ZENO,
THEOPHILUS, & OTHERS; APOSTLE NICANOR THE DEACON**

Tone 7

Galatians 1:11-19

Matthew 2:13-23

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 27 DECEMBER 2015

**30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS THYRSUS, LEUCIUS, &
CALLINICUS; MARTYRS APPOLONIUS, PHILEMON, ARAIANUS, &
THEOCTYCHUS OF ALEXANDRIA**

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.

Please announce the upcoming Malanka in your Church Bulletin as early as possible.
Please continue through and including January 10th.

2016 Malanka Dance

Please join our Ukrainian Community on Saturday, January 16, 2016 for our Annual Malanka Dance at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club, Carnegie.

Doors and kitchen opens at 7:30pm. Music by Fred Yasnowsky Orchestra from 8:30pm–12:30am. Tickets are \$15 with an early reservation. Early reservations will be taken until Wednesday, January 13th. Without an early reservation, tickets are \$20 at the door for adults. Children and students \$2 at the door. Cash bar–Ukrainian food will be available for purchase.

Debra Walenchok will taking ticket reservations and table reservations. She can be reached via email at dwalench@gmail.com or weekends and evenings at 412.276.4007. Please try and contact Debra in the evening or on the weekend so you can speak with her. You can also stop at Kolos or the Credit Union and reserve a ticket, but you must call Deb for a table reservation.

Thank you,
Kristina Szmul

The Nativity Season and Hospitality

Priest Thaddaeus Hardenbrook

Ever burdened with our American consumerism and capitalism orientation to life (“How much will it cost?” “What’s my time worth?” “How will it affect my finances?”), it seems we often equate our ability to give hospitality with however much we’ve calculated we can spare. When we sense we can spare some change, some time or energy, then we feel able to bear being hospitable. But a quick browse through Scripture and the teaching of the saints confronts that self-absorbed interpretation of

hospitality very quickly; for authentic love is not absent of hospitality. "And above all things have fervent love for one another ... be hospitable to one another" (1 Peter 4:8).

Saint Theodoros the Great (*Philokalia*, Vol. 2, p. 32) instructs us in being hospitable: "When we receive visits from our neighbors, we should not consider this an irksome interruption, lest we cut ourselves off from the law of love.

Nor should we receive them as if we were doing them a favor, but rather as if it is we ourselves who are receiving a favor; therefore, being indebted to them, we should beg them cheerfully to enjoy our hospitality. This is why the Apostle John says: 'My children, let us love not in word or tongue, but in action and truth. And by this we know that we belong to the truth' (1 John 3:18). "True love of neighbor naturally manifests in hospitality.

The mystery of hospitality lies in the unknown good fruit it will bear. The seeds planted by having someone to breakfast, drinking a beer together, or simply sharing time together over good conversation may bear spiritual blessings in ways we will never know. How many of us have been given hope, been encouraged, lifted up from despair, kindled with the love of Christ, inspired, and blessed in so many other ways by a simple act of kindness from another person? Let us remember the words of Christ, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Mt. 25:40). As Elder Anthimos of St. Anne's Skete reminds us, "Do not forget hospitality. You don't know what this hospitality might render. By hospitality, Abraham hosted the Holy Trinity, and Lot entertained angels."

Let's us make practicing hospitality between Thanksgiving and Nativity a priority this year. We can host a gathering, or meal, just coffee and dessert. We can share our lunch at school or work, or simply ask someone how they're doing and open our ears with compassion. Buy a pack of gum and share it with the first person you encounter.

Let's turn off the 'me' for the Nativity fast and turn on the 'we'. In doing so, we become enlightened to truth and real reality. Our neighbor then is no longer an inconvenience, an expense, a waste of time, or a drain on our energy or productivity. They are our path to salvation! And every encounter of hospitality becomes an opportunity to experience Christ. "And

while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, 'Have you any food here?' So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence" (Lk. 24:41).

Whatever we've got, let's share it!

The Nativity shows us that the Lord never imposes

Vatican City, 18 December 2015 (VIS) – This morning in the Paul VI Hall Pope Francis received seven hundred people from the Bavarian municipalities of Hirschau, Schanaittenbach and Freudenberg, who donated the Christmas tree adorning St. Peter's Square this year, and representatives from the Italian province of Trento who, along with the archdiocese, created the Nativity display. The decorations on the tree are from the Lene Thun Foundation of Bolzano and, as the Holy Father commented, represent the dreams of the children who decorated it, whom he thanked.

"These wishes that we carry in our heart are now in the most suitable place, because they are close to the child of Bethlehem: they are entrusted to Him, He Who came to live in our midst. Indeed, Jesus did not simply appear on earth, and did not dedicate just a little of His time to us, but rather came to share our life and to receive our desires, as He wanted and still wants to live here, along with us and for us. Our world, which at Christmas became His world, is important to Him. The creche reminds us of this: God, in his great mercy, descended to us to stay with us".

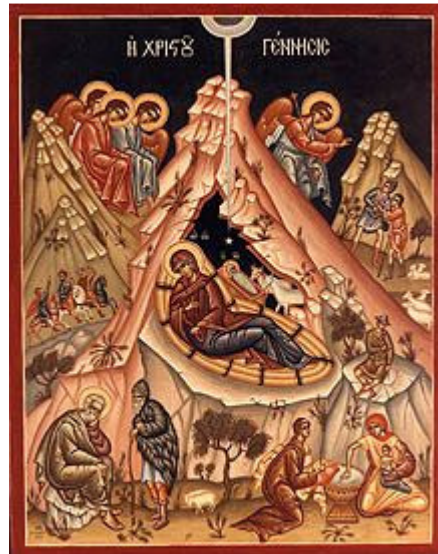
The Nativity also tells us that the Lord "never imposes upon us with force. To save us, He did not change history by performing a grand miracle. Instead, He lived with simplicity, humility and meekness. God does not like the dramatic revolutions of the powerful of history, and does not use a magic wand to change situations. Instead He makes Himself small, He becomes a child, to attract us with love, to touch our hearts with His humble goodness, to draw attention through His poverty to those who worry about accumulating the false treasures of this world".

The Holy Father recalled that this was the intention of St. Francis when he invented the creche – to pay homage to the Child who was born in Bethlehem so as to be able to in some way perceive with the eyes of the

body the hardships He suffered for the lack of the basic necessities for a newborn. Indeed, the scene honours and praises simplicity, poverty and humility. "I invite you, then, to pause before the Nativity scene, for there God's tenderness speaks to us. There we contemplate divine mercy, made flesh so that we gaze tenderly upon it. Above all, it wishes to move our hearts".

In this regard, Francis indicated that in the creche there is a figure who reveals the mystery of the Nativity. "It is a character who performs a good act, stooping to assist an elderly person. He not only looks to God but also imitates Him, as, like God, he inclines mercifully to one in need. May these gifts of yours, which will be lit up this evening, attract the gaze of many and above all revive in our life the true light of Christmas".

Description of the Nativity Icon



A. Pure Virgin Mary larger than any other figures, looks not at her new born, but rather with love and compassion towards her spouse, St. Joseph the Betrothed

B. seeing his affliction and bewilderment over this strange and divine birth he is shown in the left bottom corner conversing with Satan, disguised as an old Shepherd. The posture is of doubt and inner trouble for he wondered if it might be possible that the conception and birth were not by some secret human union

C. back drop of cave is dark, the ox and donkey are not mentioned in Gospels, but is shown in the fulfillment of the words of the Prophet Isaiah: "the Ox knows his owner, and the donkey his Master's crib, but Israel does not know Me, and the people has not regarded Me (Is 1:3)

D. Star coming from Heaven, which led Magi

E. to a place where our Saviour lay

F. Holy Angels are seen both glorifying God and bringing the good tidings of the Lord's birth to the Shepherds

G. The fact that Jewish shepherds and heathen Magi were among the first to worship our Lord shows us the universality of this great event, meant for the salvation of all mankind.

H. Washing of the Lord's scene, has caused controversy, in some churches of the holy monasteries of Mount Athos, it is replaced with bushes or shepherds (Greek Annunciation Cathedral)

The Rock and Sand story:

Two friends who were walking in the desert. At a certain point they had an argument and one of them slapped the other. The one who was slapped was hurt, but without saying anything he wrote on the sand: Today my best friend slapped me. They continued walking until they came upon an oasis where they decided to go for a swim. But the one who was slapped almost drowned and his friend saved his life. When he recovered he wrote on a rock: Today my best friend saved my life. The one who slapped him and then saved his life asked him: "When I slapped you, you wrote on the sand and now you wrote on the rock. Why?..." The other friend replied:

"When someone hurts us, we must write it on sand where the winds of forgiveness can wipe it out. But when someone does

something good to us we must engrave it on rock, where no wind can wipe it out.”

Learn to write the wounds caused by others on sand, and engrave the benefactions done by them on rock. (from Sacred Convent of Holy Angels)

Christmas: encounter Jesus in places of wonder

Vatican City, 20 December 2015 (VIS) – The Holy Father appeared at the window of his study in the Vatican Apostolic Palace at midday today to pray the Angelus with the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square. Among those present there was a large group of children from the Oratories who eagerly awaited the blessing of their figurines of the Baby Jesus for their nativity displays. On the fourth Sunday of Advent the Pope explained that, for celebrate Christmas in a fruitful way, we must stop in places of 'wonder'.

“The first place is the 'other', whom we recognise as our brother or sister, as since the birth of Jesus, every face bears a resemblance to the Son of God, and especially when it is the face of a poor person, because God entered the world in poverty and allowed Himself to be approached first by the poor”. The second place of wonder is history. “Very often we think we see things in the right way, and instead we risk reading things backwards. This happens, for instance, when history seems to us to be determined by the market economy, regulated by finance and business, dominated by the powers that be. The God of Christmas is instead a God who 'shuffles the deck'.

“The third place of wonder is the Church”, he continued. “To look on her with the wonder of faith means considering the Church not merely as a religious institution – which the Church is – but to feel that she is also a mother in whom, despite her warts and wrinkles – there are so many! – the contours of the bride beloved of and purified by Christ the Lord shine through. A Church who knows how to recognise the many signs of faithful love that God continuously sends her. A Church for whom the Lord Jesus will never be a possession to be zealously defended; those who do this are mistaken. The Lord Jesus will always be the One who comes to meet her, Whom she knows to await with trust and joy, giving a voice to the hopes of the world. The Church who calls to the Lord, 'Come Lord Jesus'. The Mother Church whose doors are always open, whose arms are open to welcome

everyone. The Mother Church goes out from her own doors to seek, with a mother's smile, all of those who are far away to bring them to God's mercy. This is the wonder of Christmas”.

He emphasised that “At Christmas, God gives Himself to us fully by giving His one and only Son, Who is all his joy. It is only with the heart of Mary, the humble and poor daughter of Zion, who become the Mother of the Son of the Most High, that we can rejoice and be glad for the great gift of God and for His unexpected surprise. ... The encounter with Jesus will let us too feel this great wonder. But we cannot have this wonder and we cannot meet Jesus, if we do not meet Him in the other, in history and in the Church”, he concluded.

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Pani Gina has All Saints Camp Benefit Calendars for sale for \$25. Please see her if you are interested...

Parish Wall Calendars are available for your use downstairs—four different icons decorate them. Please look over them and take one home for your wall!

We will have envelopes ready for your use today. Due to cost, we will be using undistributed 2015 envelopes in 2016—the dates will be wrong, but the weeks should roughly line up. Please see Father Bob if you have any questions...

If you will be going out for Civil New Year's travels—please be extra careful...we love having every one of our parishioners in church! God Bless!