



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

January 07 through January 17 is a FAST FREE PERIOD!!!

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, Mike Mangan, Luke Tinsley, and Jackie Crimbchin. 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 at some time in the future...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!

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 17 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY; SYNAXIS OF
THE 70 APOSTLES; VENERABLE THEOCTISTUS-ABBOT AT CUCOMO IN SICILY;
MARTYR ZOSIMAS THE HERMIT & MARTYR ATHANASIUS THE
COMMENTARISIUS-ANCHORITES OF CILICIA; VENERABLE AQUILA-DEACON OF
PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Tone 8

1 Timothy 4:5-8; Romans 8:8-14
Mark 1:1-8; Luke 10:1-15

MONDAY, JANUARY 18 EVE OF THEOPHANY—STRICT FAST DAY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY; AFTERFEAST OF
THEOPHANY; VENERABLE THEODOSIUS THE GREAT—THE CENOBIARCH**

Tone 1
Ephesians 4:7-13
Matthew 4:12-17

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT ATHANASIUS THE GREAT & SAINT
CYRIL-ARCHBISHOPS OF ALEXANDRIA; VENERABLE MARCIAN OF CYRRHUS IN
SYRIA-MONK

Tone 2
Colossians 3:12-16
Luke 18:18-27

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 17 JANUARY 2016

33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY;
SYNAXIS OF THE 70 APOSTLES; VENERABLE THEOCTISTUS-ABBOT
AT CUCOMO IN SICILY; MARTYR ZOSIMAS THE HERMIT & MARTYR
ATHANASIUS THE COMMENTARISIUS-ANCHORITES OF CILICIA;
VENERABLE AQUILA-DEACON OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

TROPARION—TONE 8

Thou didst descent from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings!
Our Lord, our Life and Resurrection, Glory to Thee

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

KONTAKION—TONE 8

By rising from the tomb,
Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,
And the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead,
O greatly Merciful One!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 8

READER: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

PEOPLE: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

READER: In Judah, God is known; His name is great in Israel!

PEOPLE: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

READER: Pray and make your vows.

PEOPLE: Before the Lord our God!

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 8

Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with psalms.

Second part of the interview with Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica:

Fr. Thaddeus: "The grace radiates, it is felt. Lay people have it, man! There was a man from Bosnia, the capital city, Banja Luka. A young man would come many times. He prayed with Jesus prayer long time... I told him it would be like that until his thought was not captured by anything in this world. As soon as you are captured, whatever it may be, you will hear the heart stops praying. Your heart prays without your will. You talk but you constantly hear it. When you get free grace, you cannot describe it with words. Only the one who received free grace can understand it."



Christ is Born! Христос Народжується!

Blessed Nativity of Christ to you and your family!

May this glorious Feast be an occasion for us to recommit ourselves to the Lord and become instruments of peace and healing in this broken world. May Christ the King, and Redeemer of our souls, sustain you and your loved ones on this Holy Day and throughout the New Year!

*With prayers,
+Daniel*



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. - John 1:1



Christ is Born!

Archimandrite 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 Epistle of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad



Eminent brother-archpastors, father-concelebrants, God-loving monastics, beloved in the Lord brothers and sisters, parishioners and worshipers of our churches, scattered throughout the world:

I extend to you my heartfelt greetings on this grace-filled feast day of the Nativity of Christ, when the Omnipotent God, Creator and Master of the heavens and the earth, became a living Person, One of us, born a helpless Infant in the small Judean village of Bethlehem!

Why did God descend from Heaven to earth and become a man, incarnate of the Most-Blessed Virgin Mary? In order to restore and renew our fallen, profoundly damaged human nature, which was distorted by sin.

From the moment of the Incarnation of the Son of God, Who became man, mankind must no longer despair of achieving eternal salvation, no matter how gravely sinful it has been before God, no matter how disgraced by lawless acts and sinfulness. Through repentance, through active striving for the Kingdom of Heaven, and through deep faith in the mercy of God, each of us returns to the embrace of our Heavenly Father, Who will console and grant us tranquility through His own grace and peace.

Our sorrows have multiplied, complicating our lives on earth, but it is obvious that we are also offered consolation, for there is joy even amid troubles. This Divine consolation is a quiet, serene joy which abounds in every believing soul, a joy that no one and nothing can take away from us, which no sorrow can darken, for *"great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh"* (I Tim. 3:16).

"Where is there peace on earth?" asked the Righteous John of Kronstadt. He answers the question himself: *"The Divine peace proclaimed by the angels is present in the Church and was given to it by the Price of Peace, Christ."* Let us heed the compunctionate angelic song, sung on the eve of the Nativity of Christ above Bethlehem: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men"* (Luke 2:14). This angelic song must embolden and console us. It declares to us the joy of God's love, the blessed union of Heaven and earth, emergent holiness and deliverance from the oppression of sin with its anger and hatred. How can we not rejoice and find consolation in our spirit as we ponder the eternal mercy of God, which we are granted within the Church? It is no wonder that the Heavenly Hosts declared glory to Heaven and peace to earth and to man, the blessed hope of receiving endless salvation, uncorrupted joy and bliss.

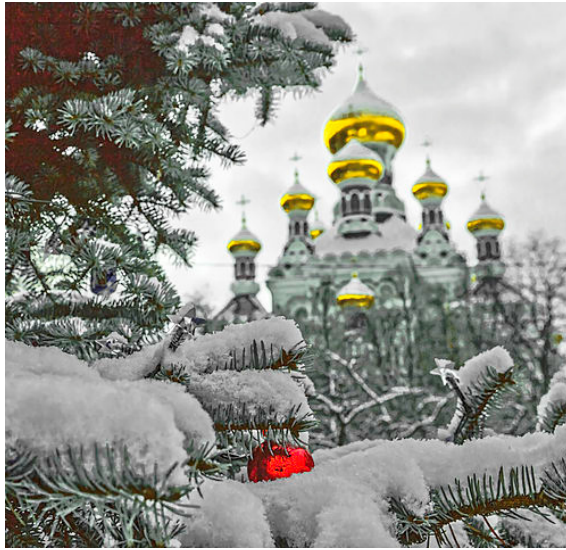
Actively striving for this blessedness, let us give ourselves over to the service of God and neighbor during these festive days, attending the churches of God and undertaking deeds of love and mercy, reading Holy Scripture and spiritually beneficial literature. Let our parishes joyfully celebrate these holy days as a family and as friends, receiving edification in the Church, strengthening and supporting each other in our service to God, the Church and mankind!

I wish you all a joyous holiday and happy New Year!

With love in the Lord,

+HILARION

Metropolitan of Eastern America & New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad
Nativity of Christ 2015/2016



Christmas Message of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia



In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

(1 Jn 4:9)

Your Eminences the archpastors, esteemed fathers, all-honourable monks and nuns, dear brothers and sisters!

It is with a heart overflowing with joy in the Son of God who has come in the flesh that I address all of you and congratulate you on the radiant and life-bearing feast of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Lk 2:14). In glorifying from year to year the ineffable benevolence shown to us by the Saviour, we, as once the shepherds of Bethlehem who heard from the angel the “great joy, which shall be to all people” (Lk 2:10), hasten with spiritual eyes to see the Messiah, whose coming was foretold by the glorious prophets and awaited by a great multitude of men and women.

Thus, the desire, as the prophet Haggai puts it, of all nations (Hag 2:7) “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (Phil 2:7). The Lord of the universe selects for himself not an imperial palace, not a dwelling of the

rulers of this world, not a mansion of the rich and highly placed. No room is even found for him at an inn. The Son of God is born in a cave for cattle, while his cradle is a manger for the feeding of animals.

“What, then, is poorer than the cave and humbler than the swaddling clothes in which the richness of the Godhead has shone forth?” Having chosen for the Mystery of our salvation utmost poverty (*Hypakoe* for the feast), Christ consciously rejects the values which are considered important in our world: power, wealth, fame, noble birth and social status. He offers to us another law of life, the law of humility and love, which vanquishes pride and enmity. It is by this law that human frailty, united with the grace of God, becomes the force which cannot be countered by those who possess power and might in this world. The power of God manifests itself not in earthly majesty and worldly comfort, but in simplicity and humility of heart.

As St. Seraphim of Sarov puts it, “the Lord seeks out a heart that is overflowing with love of God and neighbour. This is the altar upon which he loves to ascend... ‘Son, give me thine heart,’ he says, ‘and the rest I shall give to you,’ for the kingdom of God can be contained within the human heart (*Conversation on the Goal of the Christian Life*). The Lord is not disdainful of the poor and homeless, he does not despise those who have little money and unglamorous jobs, and even more so he does not hold in contempt those who are physically disabled or seriously ill. None of these things in themselves put a distance between the human person and God, and therefore should not lead one into being downcast or become a cause for destructive despair. The Saviour seeks us out. “My son, my daughter, give me thine heart, – he exhorts us (Prov 23:26).

The wondrous feast of the Nativity reminds us of the need to follow unceasingly Christ “who has come so that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly” (Jn 10:10), and who is the one true path and unchanging truth and genuine life (cf. Jn 14:6). And may we not be afraid of the difficulties that we inevitably encounter, and may none of us be broken by the trials that befall our lot, for God is with us! God is with us, and from our life fear disappears. God is with us, and we find peace of soul and joy. God is with us, and with steadfast hope in him we shall accomplish our earthly journey.

In following Christ, the human person goes against the elements of this world. He does not submit to the temptations he encounters, and he

determinedly tramples down the barriers of sin that stand in his way. Indeed, it is sin that draws us away from God and genuinely renders our lives harsh. It is sin that, in eclipsing the light of the Divine love, plunges us into many and varied afflictions and hardens our heart towards other people. Sin, though, is vanquished only by the grace of the Holy Spirit, which is given to us through the Church. The power of God which we receive transforms our inner world and helps us in accordance with the Lord's will to change the outer world. And thus those who have in one way or another have fallen away from Church unity lose, like a tree that has dried up, the ability to offer truly good fruits.

I would like today to say a special word to the people of Ukraine. The fratricidal conflict which has arisen in the land of Ukraine should never divide the Church's children by sowing enmity within peoples' hearts. The true Christian cannot hate his neighbours or those afar. "Ye have heard, – the Lord says to those who hear him, – that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:43-45). May these words of the Saviour become a guiding force in our lives and may evil and hatred towards others never find a place in our hearts.

I call upon all the children of the multinational Russian Orthodox Church to pray fervently for the speedy cessation of hostilities in Ukraine, for the healing of wounds both physical and spiritual that war has caused people. Let us in church and at home sincerely beseech this of God; let us pray also for those Christians who live far from our lands and who are suffering as a result of armed conflicts.

On this light-bearing night of the Nativity and the following holy days let us praise and exalt our Saviour and Lord who, in his great love for humanity, deigned to come into the world. Like the biblical Magi, let us offer to the divine Infant Christ our gifts: instead of gold – our sincere love; instead of frankincense – our ardent prayer; instead of myrrh – a kind and caring disposition towards our neighbours and those afar.

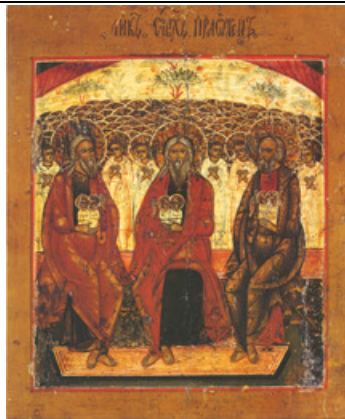
Once more I congratulate you all, my beloved, on the radiant feast of the Nativity, and on the forthcoming New Year I prayerfully wish you the abundant mercies and compassion of the greatly compassionate Lord Jesus. Amen.

**+ KIRILL
PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUS**

Moscow, The Nativity of Christ, 2015

Hermitage of the Holy Cross www.holycross-hermitage.com 304.849.4726

"The feast of Nativity is a feast of peace. The Lord brings us peace, the peace of man with God. He brings peace to the turbulent soul and the ailing conscience. He is the only one who can grant peace and serenity to a person's heart." —Archimandrite Raphael Karelin



Holy Forefathers - F38

++ "As the Days of Heaven" ++

When Christ Our God was born on Earth, all the promises of the Holy Prophets began to be fulfilled as they were revealed in His Life and His Death, and in His Resurrection and Ascension, for they all spoke of Him Who was to come: Emmanuel-- God with us. All time, all life, all love, and all meaning stream out from Him to all Creation and to us for He is the source of every good thing, and the Saviour of our souls.

Often we think of Heaven as a different place and a different time, but since God was born in time, then Eternity also intersects and makes time full and blessed when we turn our hearts and minds to Him and His Kingdom already present, for where He is, there is Heaven in all of its fullness. The Days of Heaven are upon us, and we can touch them, be aware of them, and live in them, for the Lord said "seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto to you." Let us make these Holy Seasons of

Christ's Nativity to His Holy Theophany holy, holy, holy, for God is right here and right now with us. May He open our inner eyes and heart to see with love His abiding presence, and then let us worship Him with the Father and the Holy Spirit unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Monastics at St. Isaac of Syria Skete
and at the Convent of St. Silouan
and the Faithful at St. Nicholas Church
and the Staff at Orthodox Byzantine Icons
and St. Isaac's Bookstore.