



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

714 Westmoreland Avenue

PO Box 3

Slickville, PA 15684-0003

[724] 468-5581

www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org

Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor

23 Station Street

Carnegie, PA 15106-3014

[412] 279-5640 home

[412] 956-6626 cell

NATIVITY FAST—SAINT PHILIP'S FAST—PILIPKIVA

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Metropolitan Theodosius [OCA], Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, 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, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smoly nec, Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & 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, 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, 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, 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 Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Irma Opacic, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Jeff Jones, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, 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, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Millie Koss Good, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Mike Mangan, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Michael Pawlyshyn, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczyk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Stella McKeag, Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Michael Woloschak, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Sam Bonnell, Cheryl Pomeroy, Ben Douglas, and Ian Brick.

ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our December Babies: Shirley Tkacik on the 2nd, Scot Brunermer on the 14th, Donna Karas on the 18th, and Jean Stuchell on the 29th. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them all!

In conjunction with Slickville's Centennial Celebration next year, the Centennial Committee is selling tear-off raffle tickets to help finance the celebration and fireworks. Bill Kuznik is the keeper of the tickets which cost \$2 and are sold every week. Please see Bill if you are interested or with any questions. We have a list of winning numbers in the bulletin insert! 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, DECEMBER 04 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; ENTRY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO
THE TEMPLE**

Tone 7

Ephesians 2:14-22; Hebrews 9:1-7

Luke 12:16-21; Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Litany in Blessed Memory of Donna Cacioppo [Evelyn's niece], Walter, & Victor Burlack—Evelyn

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYR STEPHEN THE NEW OF MOUNT
SAINT AUXENTIUS; MARTYR HIRENARCHUS & 7 WOMEN-MARTYRS AT
SEBASTE; MARTYRS BASIL, STEPHEN, 2 GREGORIES, JOHN (NEAR
CONSTANTINOPLE), ANDREW, PETER, ANNA, & MANY OTHERS**

Tone 8

Ephesians 4:1-6

Luke 13:10-17

Litany in Blessed Memory of Thomas Bryan, John Hanczar, Edward & Helen Pytlak, Mary Blitzkan, Marjorie Yarmeak, Mary Sharon, Rose Pyrch, Frank Barankovich, Mary Krevanich, Katherine Holowaty, & Robert Vetosky—Fr. Bob

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED; MARTYR
ANASTASIAS, SAINT KARION, & HIS SON SAINT ZACHARIAH OF EGYPT**

Tone 1

Ephesians 5:9-19; Galatians 5:22-6:2

Luke 17:12-19; Matthew 11:27-30

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 04 DECEMBER 2016

**24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; ENTRY OF THE MOST HOLY
THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE**

TROPARION—TONE 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,
Of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.
The Virgin appears in the temple of God,
In anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.
Let us rejoice and sing to her:
Rejoice, O Fulfilment of the Creator's dispensation.

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

KONTAKION—TONE 4

The most pure Temple of the Savior;
The precious Chamber and Virgin;

The sacred treasure of the glory of God,
Is presented today to the house of the Lord.
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,
Which the angels do praise.
Truly this woman is the Abode of Heaven!

PROKIEMENON—TONE 3

Reader: My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

People: My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

Reader: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

People: My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

Reader: My soul magnifies the Lord.

People: And my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 8—PSALM 45

Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear.

Before your face, the richest of the people will pray.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES "IT IS MEET"

The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed!

How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

As you are a living Temple of God,

Let no impure hands touch you, O Theotokos!

But let the lips of all believers sing,

Constantly magnifying you in joy with the angelic salutation:

Truly you are above all creatures, O Pure One!

COMMUNION HYMN—PSALM 116

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.



(Monday, November 28)

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." (Mt 5: 6)

This *"hunger and thirst"* is not only a metaphor of "spiritual" desire. Not in our tradition. As those of us on the Older Calendar begin the Nativity Fast today, and those of us on the "New" Calendar begin its third week, I am invited to experience a bit of "hunger" and "thirst" also of the physical kind, by limiting my food-choices and times with the upcoming Nativity in mind. Why? Because my physical hunger and thirst help me, – a being both spiritual and physical, – to align also my spiritual desires with the anticipation of the upcoming feast.

Let me pick up this helpful tool today, of the Nativity Fast, as best I can. Let it slow me down and direct my heart toward Bethlehem, amidst the hustle-and-bustle of this "shopping season." I take a bit of quiet-time with God, that I may re-focus on Him, the one Sun of Righteousness, Who is coming to shine upon our darkness. *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'"* (Is 9: 6)

A Prayer Before Singing from Abbess Thaisia's Letters

O Lord, strengthen me to concentrate attentively on the words I pronounce. Grant that these words may come from the depth of my soul. May the vivifying grace of the Holy Spirit pour into the hearts of the those who hear our song.

May our prayers become a sweet spiritual fragrance that rises before Thee for all mankind, filled with hope and love for Thee. Grant that we who praise Thee may be united by Thy Holy Spirit in a bond of love that with one mouth and one heart we might praise, bless, and worship Thee, the Light above all Lights, the True Life, and the Salvation of our souls. Amen.

Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Archpastoral Message for 2016 Thanksgiving Day

We Offer Praise and Thanksgiving

Once again, our nation pauses to celebrate Thanksgiving. Our tables will be spilling over with food and our homes will resonate with laughter and conversation as we gather to celebrate this special day. Thanksgiving is a quintessentially North American holiday. It is a day when we remember the hardships faced by the first immigrants to this great land, and the gracious kindness with which the native people greeted them. The familiar traditions that surround the origins of Thanksgiving Day when the Native Americans and the settlers of the Plymouth colony came together indicate that gratitude to God was the focus of that first thanksgiving feast. Gratitude to God expressed by those two very different peoples sharing with one another at the same table.

Paradoxically, at a time when we reflect on the richness of the life that God has given us to live, there is a note of profound reality as well. This is inevitably so, as we remember that the benefits that we enjoy now have been paid for by the willing and unwilling sacrifice of so many. We think of the millions who arrived on these shores in shackles to build this nation's wealth. We are reminded of the peoples who occupied these lands for millennia before the arrival of Europeans, the natives who received these "newcomers" warmly, and then paid for their hospitality by losing everything.

As those native people and first immigrants gave hearty thanks to the Creator for the feast that they were about to share, so must we be sharply attentive and grateful to the source of our food – the first Source, of course, being God, the Almighty Creator – Who has always provided the clean water and food we need to survive. Like the pilgrim newcomers, who in order to avoid starvation, became dependent upon the natives and their ability to utilize God's creation to sustain themselves, we must today give thanks to God for those upon whom we depend for our daily nourishment. Never before in all of human history have so many been so completely dependent on others for food and water. Never before in human history have so many been so completely cut off from the land upon which they ultimately depend for their sustenance.

As Orthodox Christians, we affirm the sacredness of all Creation. Consequently, we must never forget that both our food choices and food

production processes have a profound impact on God's beloved Creation. In this season of Thanksgiving, we encourage you to consider the following issues: How does our food get on our table? Where does it come from? Who puts it there? What is the real cost, both short and long term, and who pays the price? And, as importantly, but perhaps less obviously: What is our relationship to the place that feeds us? In the season of abundance, how is that in our country, with its widespread system of food production and distribution, many remain hungry?

In many parishes of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, the pastors and faithful, in particular, many Ukrainian Orthodox League chapters, answer these questions by hosting community Thanksgiving meals or collect food and prepare bountiful baskets for families which are unable to afford such bounty with their own resources. In this manner we become the ones depended upon. What a powerful example of "gratitude in action". This is the expression of love-charity and compassion taught to us by Christ our Lord.

Thanksgiving Day brings families together for a festive meal to enjoy one another's company and love. At those family tables a prayer of gratitude to God is raised, properly including God in the joy of the moment. Our prayer is that more and more of our parishes invite their faithful to gather around the Table of our Lord on this national holiday to give thanks FIRST to God during Divine Liturgy. Though it is not an official ecclesiastical holy day – it is altogether proper to offer gratitude to God that we live in a nation that sets aside such a day for "thanksgiving".

As you gather on Thanksgiving Day, wherever it is you gather and with whomever you gather, we hope you have a great day! We hope you will enjoy the traditions of the day. But be sure to remember that for us – Orthodox Christians, Thanksgiving is more than a Thursday in November. It's more than enjoying turkey, pumpkin pie and football. It is about giving thanks and being a blessing for those around us.

May you all have safe journeys in your comings and your goings this holiday week and may the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with all of you this Thanksgiving Day.

With deep gratitude to God for each of you as our spiritual children,

+Antony, Metropolitan

+Daniel, Archbishop-elect

The Finding of Water at Docheiariou

Docheiariou Monastery is located on the southwest tip of the Athonite promontory, northwest of Xenophontos. It also has a holy fountain named after the Archangels Michael and Gabriel. A miracle brought into existence this well. In the fourteenth century, during the reign of Emperor Andronikos Palaiologos, the monks of the monastery were compelled to fetch water from a distance of three miles. This caused many hardships and even sickness for the brethren. Monk Theodoulos, a builder at the monastery, planned to lay large underground pipes to convey water. Then, on the eve before the work would commence, the two archangels, Michael and Gabriel, appeared to Theodoulos and said, "O man, why dost thou labor and exhaust the monastery in vain? Know this: Water is inside the monastery." As Theodoulos listened, it seemed to him that he rose up and said to them, "I beseech you, show me where it is." Thereupon, they answered, "Come, and we will show thee." Then, the two archangels took him by the hand and brought him to a spot where, today, a well is located.

Arriving at the indicated site, they took up digging tools and began to work. Not much time passed before the archangels offered water to the monk. Theodoulos partook and found the water very sweet. Straightway, he awakened from sleep and called the brethren, saying, "In my sleep, this night, I beheld a vision wherein the two archangels came and showed me where water is located on the monastery grounds. Therefore, let us dig in that place they showed me!"

The brethren rallied and began digging. Forthwith, a vein of water sprung forth. The monks dug deeper, and drinkable water gushed forth. They glorified God and His archangels. The well exists to this day. The water is -well-reputed to be sanctified; and those who drink with faith find healing from sickness.



(Sunday, November 27)

"Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was

bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, 'Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.' And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight (ἀνωρθώθη), and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.'" (Lk 13: 10-14)

This woman had probably been coming to worship at this synagogue for years, but was not "made straight" or "made right" (ἀνωρθώθη, an-ortho-thi) – a word that contains the same "ortho" as "Ortho-dox" (right praise/opinion) and as the liturgical invitation "Orthoi!" (Stand aright! ПрОсти). It was only a personal encounter with the living Lord that could make her "right/straight"; and that encounter had been lacking, apparently, in the kind of worship she had been doing at the synagogue. Why? I'm not entirely sure, but the reaction of the ruler of the synagogue to the woman's healing gives us a clue: Here the external rules of the Sabbath had priority over the whole point of the Sabbath, which is the good of the human being, through his/her encounter with God.

Today let me not miss the point of the church-services of our great Tradition, which is an encounter with the risen Lord. Let me let Him "make me right" as only He can, and as a merely-external "Orthodoxy" can't.

When the evil one cannot defeat us in the unseen warfare

One day I was in a good mood after a remarkable and useful travel with the elders back home. Suddenly, when I was stopping at the traffic light, a motorcycle crashed into me. The bike tipped over, and two people sitting on it were thrown on my car. Horrified, I rushed out and helped the people get up. They did not suffer. The bike was wrecked, my car was also slightly dented.

- Thank you, God, - I cried. - You were helped by the Savior and the Mother of God, and you are not at all affected.

I kissed them both, and after the police made all the necessary paper work, I bade them farewell. Immediately I called my father and told Fr. Porphyry what had happened. The fact that I am terribly shook up, have a dented car, but it is, in fact, all the consequences of the accident.

The elder replied: "Know, my child, that the evil one, when they cannot defeat us in unseen warfare, then starts an external war through various circumstances, as God forbid, to frighten us. Your behavior during accidents and with those two, who crashed into you, was correct. The blessing of God be with you. " (Elder Porphyry)



GRATITUDE CHANGES EVERYTHING

(Thursday, November 24)

"Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness (ὑπομονήν, patience).

And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (Jas 1: 2-4)

To "count it all joy" means to be grateful for everything, the good and the bad. And this is only possible for me in light of faith; Today I can only "see" the good in "various trials" when I have the eyes to see God in the picture, leading me to growth in "steadfastness" or "patience." In light of God's perfection and completeness, in which I make this cross-carrying journey, my perspective changes: Instead of "counting" the insufficiencies of self, in self-pity and ingratitude, I receive His vision of me and everything in my life, as "perfect and complete" in Him, "lacking in nothing." This is not a magic-trick or some other delusion. It is grace, which comes from God, when I connect with Him in gratitude.

So let me "count it all" today, as I celebrate Thanksgiving, in "joy." Let me take a moment to shed the light of gratitude on the ups and downs of: 1. my personal relationships, 2. my physical and spiritual health, 3. my professional capacities, and 4. my financial situation. Glory be to God, Who is walking me through it all in His transformative grace, "lacking in nothing."

The grace of patience is the strongest of all, because it is the foundation for all the other virtues.

Gerontissa Macrina (Vassoulou)

UPDATE ON SLICKVILLE TICKET WINNERS:

We have now had several winners—you may be next! Be sure to check your old tickets as well! There are still FOUR WINNING TICKETS that have not been claimed:

09/09/2016 #295

09/16/2016 #320

10/07/2016 #834

10/28/2016 #948

11/11/2016 #047

11/18/2016 #885

11/25/2016 #330

Check your tickets and contact Bill Kuznik if you have a winning ticket!

Remember, the tickets are the main way to finance the fireworks display for the Slickville Centennial Celebration next August.

More details on the Centennial will be forthcoming—please check the Centennial website for more information: <http://slickville100.com>