



## Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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## 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 Smolynec, 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

Luciow, 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 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, 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 Zeliszczuk, 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.

**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 18 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM  
26<sup>TH</sup> 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

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 OBEDNITZA—DOWNSTAIRS IN CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS;**  
**SAINT SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER OF TREMITHON; HIEROMARTYR**  
**ALEXANDER-BISHOP OF JERUSALEM; MARTYR SYNESIUS OF ROME**

*Tone 2*

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 14:16-24

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 01 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM**  
**28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY;**  
**HIEROMARTYR BONIFACE**

*Tone 3*

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

Matthew 1:1-25

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

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 18 DECEMBER 2016**

**26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED;**  
**MARTYR ANASTASIAS, SAINT KARION, & HIS SON SAINT**  
**ZACHARIAH OF EGYPT**

### **Troparion of St Sabbas the Sanctified Tone 1**

Sanctified from youth, O righteous Sabbas,

Thou wast a summit of righteousness equal to the Angels.

Thou didst lead a heavenly life, and guide thy flock to godliness by word  
and deed.

And they cry to thee with faith:

Glory to Him Who has strengthened thee; glory to Him Who has crowned  
thee;

Glory to Him Who through thee works healings for all.

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

### **Kontakion of St Sabbas the Sanctified Tone 8**

Thou wast offered to God from childhood as a blameless sacrifice,  
as one dedicated to Him before birth, O blessed Sabbas,  
thou adornment of the righteous and blessed dweller in the desert.  
Wherefore I cry to thee: Rejoice.

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 1**

**READER:** Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

**PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.**

**READER:** Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

**PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.**

**READER:** Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

**PEOPLE: As we have set our hope on Thee.**

### **ALLELUIA VERSES**

God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.

He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever!

Abbot of the Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos, Archimandrite Ephraim believes that the spiritual experience is necessary to spread via the Internet.

"In our monastery came from Hollywood actor Jackson Jonathan. I asked him how he became Orthodox. He told me that he very much was helped by the Internet. On the other hand, thanks to the Internet, Christians, who departed from God, come, come back to God, find themselves and found their place in this world. There are people who were on the verge of absolute frustration and, after listening to speeches on the Internet, found the necessary spiritual strength, found hope, and now are developing spiritually," - said elder Ephraim.

According to him, the Word of God must have a strong and powerful presence on the network.

"The majority of people today are disoriented, fall constantly in deadlock in this era and only God's Word can soothe the person to inform him, to assure him of the possibility of eternal life, God's Word is transmitted via the Internet, can carry a healing function for the person..," - Said the abbot of the Athos monastery.

"The legacy and wisdom of the Holy Fathers with their remarkable texts should be used as much as possible with the most modern and optimal way. Digitization, categorization of the Fathers will enable Internet

users to locate texts, information on topics that interest them. Furthermore, digitization and promotion via web -Page Word of God, especially the teachings of the holy fathers and the elders of the XX century will bring spiritual benefit to our contemporaries "- emphasizes Archimandrite Ephraim.

"Elder Ephraim Katunaksky said." Oh, what a pity that it was not possible to record the statements of Elder Joseph "We understand that it is really important when the speech uttered by people who have experienced, gained personal experience in the invisible spiritual war said St. Paisius. "Record all the spiritual, which ye hear, and the experience that you have heard from others, because there will be a time when this experience will be exhausted, and you will have a spiritual deficit", "- said the elder of Athos. (source Ukraine Mt. Athos)

### **Why "Lord, have mercy" is repeated 12 and 40 times**

During church services, the short prayer, "Lord, have mercy" is read twelve times, and sometimes forty times. This short prayer has deep meaning. In the words of St. Simeon of Thessalonica, "Lord, have mercy" is read twelve times "for every twelve o'clock and midnight, we have to sanctify and purify."

With regard to forty times, "Lord, have mercy," the Saint said: "Lord, have mercy" is read forty times for the sanctification of the time of our lives. This title of the 365 days of the year, as evidenced by forty days in Lent. "Lord, have mercy" sung forty times on any given day and hour to get rid of our sins. " (source pemptusia)

### **The Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Luke 10:25-37**

*And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as*

*he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.(KJV)*

The Lord Jesus Christ tells us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness(Mt.6:33). The Holy Gospel proclaimed at each Divine Liturgy is nourishment for the journey to the Kingdom of God.

The proclamation of the Holy Gospel is instruction for seeking the Kingdom of God. Discipline and concentration are necessary. The heart, the mind and soul are to be receptive to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Each person coming to the Holy Divine Liturgy benefits from concentrating on the Lord Jesus Christ. Cares and concerns of the world are to be set aside as we enter into the experience with Christ.

Christ speaks directly to each person in the Divine Liturgy. Christ is present to be experienced in the Divine Liturgy. In the current Gospel, Christ provides specific directions for eternal life.

The lawyer in the current Gospel posed the question to Christ as to what he must do to inherit eternal life. Complete love of God and love of neighbor as love of self were mentioned.

The healing actions of the Samaritan are the instructive example in the current Gospel. Believers are to be attentive to the suffering in their midst. Believers are to take action to alleviate suffering.

Christ is the greatest of all healers. Christ is receptive to sufferers turning to Him. Each person receptive to Christ benefits from Christ's healing power. Each person helping the suffering person in their midst shares Christ's healing power.

Christ's love benefits every person. Believers conscious of Christ's love are to share it with great joy. Recently an Orthodox Archbishop encouraged attentive believers to share their experiences of Christ's healing power.

When Christ heals us of our sufferings we show our gratefulness to Him by living in ways pleasing to Him. Abiding by Christ's teachings and example bring us into conformity with Christ.

Everything done in this earthly life is to be motivated and measured by seeking first the Kingdom of God. All that is not in compliance with Christ is to be cast aside.

The Nativity Fast creates a consciousness among believers to seek first the Kingdom of God. The Nativity Fast directs the mind to Christ and Christ taking on human flesh.

At the feast of the Nativity church choirs proclaim with great joy: "God is with us!" God is always with us. Too often we are not attentive to the presence and healing power of God.

Too often our minds are not sufficiently focused on God. Too often we seek goals other than the Kingdom of God. Too often we ignore the suffering in our midst.

In the current Gospel the priest and Levite passed by the injured man along the road. They did not stop to render help. The Samaritan took time to help the injured man and to provide for his care.

Christ instructed the lawyer in the current Gospel to act as did the Samaritan. Christ teaches attentive believers to act as did the Samaritan. Each person decides daily whether he or she will abide by Christ's teaching.

This land is full of people who are suffering. Our communities and neighborhoods are full of suffering people. Do we take time and make the effort to help their healing as did the Samaritan?

Christ is to be followed completely. When we become aware of suffering we are to help as best we can. The current Gospel is proclaimed by the Church each year reminding believers to help those that are suffering.

All suffering is not external. Let us be mindful of our neighbors suffering internally because of illness, trauma or tragedy in their lives. Let us be attentive as Christ is attentive to internal hurts as well as external.

*St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. The Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. November 28/December 11, 2016. Ven. Stephen, Martyr. St. Hristo, Martyr. Father Rodney Torbic*

With the words of the Cherubic Hymn "that we may receive the King of All" the celebrant priest and all others serving are being transformed into Nicodemus and Joseph from Arimathea, who realize the unnauling and the burial of the all-immaculate and most undefiled Body of Jesus. The faithful



on the other hand, represent the Myrrh-bearing women and John the Evangelist.

According to the ancient liturgical rubrics the "Aer" was not placed either on the deacon's or the priest's shoulders, but two deacons, one on the right and one on the left, would hold it over the priest who was carrying the Precious Gifts, spread up high, like sepulchre. Thus, it is called by St. Symeon the Thessalonican the "Aer" "Epitaphion". During that era, representation from the Passion, the Unnailling and the Lord's Burial were embroidered with a golden thread on the "Aer".

When the priest places the Precious Gifts on the Holy Table he recites the troparion: "The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thine immaculate Body from the tree, wrapped It in pure linen and spices and, sorrowing, placed it in a new tomb."

The Beautiful Gate immediately closes. The closing of the Gate signifies the stone, with which the guards secured and sealed the Tomb of the Lord, something that unfortunately has been abolished.

(Experiences during the Divine Liturgy)

There are several miraculous icons of St Nicholas in Ukraine, especially that of St Nicholas the Drenched of St Sophia Cathedral – now kept somewhere in New York City, according to some accounts. St Nicholas is a patron against drowning and any icon of St Nicholas saving people from drowning or where his icon has a small boat placed near it is called "St Nicholas the Drenched." This title is taken from a miraculous recovery of a child presumed drowned in the Dnipro River where the child was found sleeping on the altar before the icon of St Nicholas, both of which were drenched with water." (wiki)

### **A story of St. Nicholas**

***Mother Christophora told the story by the late Mother Abbess Benedicta, from Romania, of the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, PA.***

***This story of St. Nicholas was told to her as a child:***

There was once a young couple who were so poor they had to sell their household goods in order to survive. Finally, they had to sell their icons. One special icon was of St. Nicholas. The one who bought it was a big Turk, whom they told the icon only needed candles and oil to be satisfied. The big

Turk thought it would be good to have an icon to protect his house, while he went out to get drunk (he liked to drink).

So he bought it and went to the bar at night and told his friends his house was being watched by an icon and that he didn't have to lock his doors any more. His friends smiled at each other, decided to teach him that icons have no power and while he was drinking, they went to his house and stole some valuable things out of it. Returning that night to his house, the man saw that he had been robbed. He went over to the icon and said: "St. Nicholas, I payed good money for you and you did not protect my house. Didn't I give you enough oil in your lamp? I'll give you another candle." So he lit another candle and poured more oil.

The next night he went out to drink again (he liked being drunk). The friends saw him and asked how St. Nicholas had protected his house. He answered that he hadn't given the icon enough candles and oil at first and now that he had, all would be "ok". So the friends, while the Turk was drinking slipped out and robbed his house again. The Turk came home and again accused the saint of not doing his duty and set out more candles. The next night, while drinking with his friends, some of them decided to penetrate his house and steal the icon itself. They penetrated his house.

The first one reached out to take the icon of St. Nicholas from the wall but his hands stuck to it and he couldn't move. The second tried to pull him away but he couldn't move also once he touched his friend. There were four friends and they were all stuck to the icon. When the Turk came home he found his friends in the act of stealing. They were afraid and they told the Turk they would give back what they had stolen and more. But he beat them for a whole day. And he finally got tired and said: "St. Nicholas, I am tired of beating my friends. Let them go. They promised to give back what they took and more."

So the icon let them go and they fell on the floor and they brought back what they had stolen and more. And the Turk became a Christian.

### **Life and Words of Elder Porphyry**

Once, when I visited the Elder Porphyry, he told me: "The devil is a person, so God respects his freedom."

This I could not imagine. The fact that God respects the freedom of the angels who did not sin, respects the freedom of people who sin and repent -

that's understandable. But that He respected the freedom of the unclean demons who sin and do not repent - it was beyond my comprehension. To what limit the love of God respects the freedom of rational creatures? Maybe there are no limits? How, then, there is the mysterious intervention of God's love, which the Elder so confidently spoke of? This is a mystery, so it is difficult to comprehend. And since it is a mystery, it is better to accept this intervention, rather than with curiosity to go deep into useless research on how and why it happens. It is enough to know that this is a matter of love.

If you have a cell phone, please be sure that your number and carrier are on the form that Alex is using to make an emergency notification list. This will be used in case of an emergency or weather situation when church will be cancelled. SAFETY of our parishioners is our primary concern! Thanks in advance for your cooperation, and God Bless! Alex and Fr. Bob

**Martyr Zacchaeus the Deacon of Caesarea in Palestine  
Commemorated on Nov. 18/Dec. 1**

The Holy Martyrs Zacchaeus, Deacon of Gadara, and Alphaeus, Reader of Caesarea, suffered under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Among those arrested during the most fierce persecution against Christians was Saint Zacchaeus, a deacon of the Gadara church, who openly confessed his faith and did not renounce Christ under torture.

The Diocletian persecution was so fierce that many did not endure, and frightened of the tortures, they agreed to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Saint Alphaeus, a reader of the church of Caesarea, zealous for the glory of God, approached a crowd of those fallen away from Christ on their way to offer pagan sacrifice. He urged them not to defile themselves with the impious sacrifices.

They arrested Saint Alphaeus and after tortures and torments they shackled him together with Saint Zacchaeus. They threw the martyrs into prison for the night, where they prayed continually, supporting one another in their resolve to endure all the sufferings for the name of Christ and thereby gain eternal life. The next morning, the holy Martyrs Zacchaeus and Alphaeus were beheaded for confessing Christ.

**UPDATE ON SLICKVILLE TICKET WINNERS:**

We have now had several winners—you may be next!

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. Any left over money will be divided among the three churches and the volunteer fire department!

More details on the Centennial will be forthcoming—please check the Centennial website for more information:

<http://slickville100.com>