



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: 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 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, 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, 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, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Sam Bonnell, Cheryl Pomeroy, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, and Ian Brick. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our January babies: Evelyn Burlack on the 1st; Lyndsey Weiser on the 4th; Mother Alexandra's friend Demetra on the 4th; Marcy Jones on the 8th; Brenna Scott on the 29th; Kristin Tkacik Scott on the 29th; and Kayla Weiser on the 29th. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them all!

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 08 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY; SYNAXIS OF
THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS; HIEROMARTYR EUTHEMIUS-BISHOP OF SARDIS;
SAINT CONSTANTINE-MONK OF SYNNAIDA; SAINT EVARISTUS OF THE STUDIO
MONASTERY**

*****PARISH COMMON MEAL DOWNSTAIRS AFTER SERVICES*****

Tone 4

Galatians 1:11-19; Ephesians 6:10-17; Hebrews 2:11-18

Matthew 2:13-23; Luke 18:35-43; Matthew 2:13-23

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 Steve Kuzman, Timothy Stuchell, Nicholas Vetosky, Robert Rohal, Gary Atutes & Pastor Ed Bowen—Fr. Bob

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY; SAINT
SYLVESTER-POPE OF ROME; HIEROMARTYR THEOGENES-BISHOP OF PARIUM
ON THE HELLESPONT; SAINT SYLVESTER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Tone 5

2 Timothy 4:5-8; Colossians 3:12-16; Galatians 5:22-6:2

Mark 1:1-8; Luke 18:18-27; Luke 6:17-23

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY; MARTYR
POLYEUCTUS; PROPHET SHEMAIAH; SAINT PETER-BISHOP OF SEBASTE IN
ARMENIA; SAINT EUSTRATIUS THE WONDERWORKER OF TARSUS; VENERABLE
JONAH OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

*****BLESSING OF WATER AFTER SERVICES*****

Tone 6

Ephesians 4:7-13; Timothy 1:15-17; Galatians 5:22-6:2
Matthew 4:12-17; Matthew 26:14-30; Matthew 11:27-30

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 08 JANUARY 2017

29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY;
SYNAXIS OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS; HIEROMARTYR
EUTHEMIUS-BISHOP OF SARDIS; SAINT CONSTANTINE-MONK OF
SYNNADA; SAINT EVARISTUS OF THE STUDION MONASTERY

PARISH COMMON MEAL DOWNSTAIRS AFTER SERVICES

Troparion of the Feast—Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world as the light of wisdom.
For by it those who worshipped the stars
were taught by a star to adore Thee,
the Sun of Righteousness,
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.
O Lord, 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 of the Synaxis—Tone 6

He that was born before the morning star of Father without mother/ is
today incarnate on earth of thee without father./ A star tells the glad tidings
to the Magi;/ while Angels and Shepherds praise thy seedless childbirth, O
thou who art full of grace.

PROKEIMENON—TONE 4

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made
them all.

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

READER: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works!

PEOPLE: In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 4

Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.

You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

The Monk Euarestes/Evarestus, a native of Galatia, was the son of illustrious parents. From his youth he yearned for the monastic life, and in particular he loved to read the books of Saint Ephraim the Syrian. Having settled into the Studite monastery, he pursued asceticism in strict fasting, vigil and prayer, wearing iron chains. He reposed peacefully to God at age 75 in the year 825.

"The most worth-while thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others." Lord Robert Baden-Powell



ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY
BOOKSTORE & PRESS

Wishing You & Yours a Blessed Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord



Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshiped the stars were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Have a Blessed Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and Happy New Year!

An eye witness account from New York City, on a cold day in December, some years ago; A little boy, about 10-years-old , was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, "My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!

"I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel. By this the the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, you will be more comfortable now."

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her.

"Are you God's wife?"

Hope this put a smile on your face, it sure did mine.

What Do I Want for Christmas This Year?

December 19, 2016 by Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick [5 Comments](#)



It's a question we get asked a lot, and it's a question that gets harder to answer as I get older. I have an Amazon wishlist, of course. But, really, I do know what would make me feel like it was a really *good* Christmas. I know exactly what I want. I'm afraid it's a long list.

Here's what I want:

- I want for Christians to be in church worshipping the Lord, God and Savior Who was born for our sakes to destroy the power of death.
- I want for families to pursue peace and family harmony by making Jesus Christ central in their family schedules.
- I want to pray a lot better and a lot more consistently.
- I want for Christians to stop acting like politics is more important than prayer.
- I want for petty, transient things to stop mattering so much to me and to my country.
- I want for people who say that their faith really matters to them to start acting like it.
- I want for husbands and wives to see that they don't have to solve everything or even feel in love.
- I want for husbands and wives to see that their spouse isn't responsible to make them feel happy.
- I want for husbands and wives to see that they don't even have to be best friends.
- I want for parents to see that their kids aren't responsible to make them feel successful or adequate or appreciated.
- I want for parents to believe that an education in Christian life for their children is their first and only real task as parents.
- I want for pilgrimage to be more critical and more consistent than vacation.
- I want for spiritual life to be "a thing," that is, a thing that people are working on—a project rather than an accessory.
- I want for my spiritual life to be my *biggest* project.
- I want to hear more Christians saying to co-workers, coaches, teachers, friends and family these two sentences together: *I can't. We have church.*
- I want to meet kids who know more about the people in the Bible than the people in a cartoon, a sports team or a video game.
- I want to be automatically kind rather than automatically defensive.
- I want to see church members whose first question is "How can I help?" rather than "You know what we should be doing?"
- I want for the government of my country to stop acting like it can and should fix everything.
- I want for me and my countrymen to stop acting like we can and should fix everything.
- I want for the average annual gift to the church even to rival the average annual cost of cable TV or eating out.
- I want people to see that history, especially Church history, matters.
- I want people to see that doctrine matters and has a real effect on life.
- I want people to see that morality isn't something holding you down but something giving you strength.
- I want prayer to be more about meeting God and less about asking something from God.

- I want people to know that God really does love them just as they are.
- I want people to see that God's love doesn't leave them as they are.
- I want for hope to be understood as something we have in the resurrection of Jesus, not in "the future of our country," any political outcome or personal ambition.
- I want to see myself as a minor character in Jesus' story rather than Him as a minor character in *my* story.
- I want the story of the death-conquering King of Kings to be what defines us more than any other story.

These are some things that I want. I think any one of them would really make my Christmas.

What do you want for Christmas this year?



Susan Schneider December 27 at 6:52am

Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen Commemorated on Dec 27/Jan 9

The Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen was the eldest of the seven deacons, appointed by the Apostles themselves, and therefore he is called "archdeacon." He was the first Christian martyr, and he suffered for Christ when he was about thirty. In the words of Asterias, he was "the starting point of the martyrs, the instructor of suffering for Christ, the foundation of righteous confession, since Stephen was the first to shed his blood for the Gospel."

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Saint Stephen preached Christianity and defeated Jewish teachers of the Law in debate. The Jews maligned Saint Stephen, saying that he had uttered blasphemy against God and against Moses. Saint Stephen came before the Sanhedrin and the High Priest to answer these charges. He gave a fiery speech, in which he recounted the history of the Jewish nation, and denounced the Jews for persecuting the prophets, and also for executing the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ (Acts ch. 7).

During his speech, Saint Stephen suddenly saw the heavens opened and Jesus Christ standing at the right hand of God. The Jews shouted and covered their ears, and rushed at him. They dragged him out of the city and stoned him, but the holy martyr prayed for his murderers. Far off on the heights stood the Mother of God with the holy Apostle John the Theologian, and She prayed fervently for the martyr. Before his death Saint Stephen said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. O Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." Then he joyfully gave up his pure soul to Christ.

The body of the holy Protomartyr Stephen, left to be eaten by beasts, was secretly taken up by the Jewish teacher Gamaliel and his son Habib, who buried Stephen on his estate. They both believed in Christ, and later received holy Baptism.

Saint Stephen is also commemorated on August 2 (Translation of his relics) and on September 15 (Uncovering of his relics in the year 415). (oca)



[Susan Schneider](#) December 26 at 11:55am

Elder Paisios was constantly stressing the importance of pious thinking in spiritual life. He used to say that a single positive thought equals a vigil on Mt. Athos. Once he told the following incident:

"One day someone came to see me, but as I was busy, I told him to wait in the chapel. Later on, when he left the chapel to come into my guestroom, I did not notice that he had forgotten to take his cigarettes and had left them on the chapel's seat. Meanwhile, another guest arrived; he also went into the chapel to wait, until I was free to see him. When I called him in, he asked me"

- "Elder, do you smoke/"
- "No, I said. Why are you asking?"
- "I saw a pack of cigarettes in the chapel, that's why."
- "The person who was there before you must have forgotten them, but I did not notice it."

After he left, a child came to visit me for the first time. He knocked on the door and I immediately asked him what he wanted:

- "I wish to see Elder Paisios. Is he here?"
- "I'm afraid he is not," I replied. "He went to Karyes to buy cigarettes."

The child answered immediately:

- "It does not matter, Father, I will wait for him to come back."

"You see the difference between the two ways of thinking, " said the Elder. "The first person, who found the cigarettes in the chapel, had negative and suspicious thoughts. Whereas the child, even when I told him that Elder Paisios went to buy cigarettes, reacted in the opposite way. He simply said he would wait without asking if the Elder smokes or what he needs the cigarettes for."



The Twenty Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Sunday of the Holy Forefathers—Luke 14:16-24

Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.(KJV)

The Lord Jesus Christ consistently invites individuals to draw near and be nourished. The Lord Jesus Christ invites believers to participate in the great supper.

Individuals always have the opportunity to be in communion with Christ. Choices are often made that keep the person from drawing near to Christ. Too often Christ's invitations are declined.

Individuals often decide to devote their attention to personal matters far from the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ's churches may be nearly empty when athletic stadiums are greatly filled.

Recreational and entertainment arenas are frequently bulging with people. Christ's churches are seldom filled to capacity. If every person that experienced Baptism in God's Holy Church attended regularly, more churches would exist.

If every person prepared each week for Holy Communion, Communion lines would be much larger. If every child in a parish came to church school each Sunday, more class rooms would be necessary across the land.

If every person that once sang in the church choir came each week, choirs would be filling the air with booming voices to the glory of God. Communities are filled with too many people declining Christ's invitations.

It is the rare parish church that is filled to capacity when weekday Divine Liturgies are celebrated for major feasts. Few parish churches are filled with believers for Great Vespers on Saturdays or the eve of great feasts.

Christ offers eternal life. Christ offers His Precious Body and Blood. Christ offers Divine teachings in the Holy Gospel. Christ offers royal invitations that far exceed in value any other invitation.

Many individuals place greater emphasis and value on activities and material possessions of far less worth than experiencing Christ. Countless Orthodox immigrants came to the United States through the years.

Only a small percent of descendants of Orthodox immigrants have remained fervent and faithful Christian believers in God's Holy Church. The need for priests and deacons is constant.

Few men choose to follow Christ into the Holy Priesthood or Holy Diaconate. Few men or women from Orthodox immigrant families to this land have chosen to enter monastic life.

Parishes often struggle to find church school students and teachers willing to attend regularly. The media regularly reports support for local sports teams. Advertisements frequently draw attention to secular music and recreational events.

Parish churches need to experience steady growth. Parish churches regularly offer the experience of the Kingdom of God. Christ's Holy Church is the primary path to eternal life.

Christ's Holy Church provides necessary nourishment for the soul. Christ's Holy Church is where to find peace for the mind and love from God. Christ's Church teaches love of neighbor.

Individuals will at times choose to participate in activities that create divisions among people rather than bringing people together in Christ. Physical fitness centers abound with members at all hours of the day and night.

Personal self-defense centers, gun shows and shooting ranges are well advertised and abound in certain areas. Invitations and advertisements to come to God's Holy Church suffer from lack of acceptance.

Persons willing to fervently follow and adhere to the teachings of Christ are greatly needed if less violence is to prevail. Sufficient numbers of promoters and living examples of Christ's peace are lacking in communities

Government and corporations would have fewer corrupt leaders if Christ's invitations were more readily accepted by individuals in power. Saying "yes" to Christ is a life-long necessity.

Individual lives develop to their fullest with each positive response to Christ. When individuals decline Christ's invitations, the soul is put in peril. Investing in the Kingdom of God increases with each "yes" said to Christ's invitations.

God's Holy Church is very welcoming with love. God's Holy Church offers the atmosphere of peace that passes all understanding. Superb invitations for fullness and joy in life emanate from God's Holy Church.

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. December 12/25.

2016 The Twenty Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. Sunday of the Holy Forefathers.

St.Spiridon, the Miracle Worker. Mothers' Day. Father Rodney Torbic

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>