

Holy Ghost Orthodox Church 714 Westmoreland Avenue PO Box 3 Slickville, PA 15684-0003 www.holyqhostorthodoxchurch.org Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor 23 Station Street Carnegie, PA 15106-3014 [412] 279-5640 home [412] 956-6626 cell

# NATIVITY FAST/ADVENT/SAINT PHILIP'S FAST

**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, Father Bazyl Zawierucha, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, 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, 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, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allieyoung girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew-21year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, 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], 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, 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 Pyrch, 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, 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, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Cheryl Pomeroy, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Frances Gebet, Sheryl Smith Haraczy, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Bill Baronie, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy

Slaugenhaupt, Louis & Teresa Berceli, Tom Nolan, Noble Wilshaw, and Ian Brick. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

Those who are in hell would want from Christ only one thing: that He give them five minutes of earthly life to repent. We who live on earth have a reserve of time for repentance, whereas the unfortunate deceased can no longer improve their own position, but they are waiting for help from us. We must therefore help them with our prayers. Praying for the reposed, we grant God the "right" to intervene. *St. Paisios of Mt. Athos* 

Did not God advise us to love our enemies and pray for them? Not for them but for us! For as long as we hold grudges we constantly remember how insulted we were. We will not have peace. Love is the most powerful defense ever. No weapons and no power can be measured by love. Everything is defeated with love.

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** <u>ALWAYS</u> <u>FREE!</u>

<u>Communion Fasting</u>: 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 10 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM

### 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; GREAT-MARTYR JAMES THE PERSIAN; VENERABLE PALLADIUS OF THESSALONICA; 17 MONK-MARTYRS IN INDIA; VENERABLE ROMANUS THE WONDERWORKER OF CILICIA

*Tone 2* Ephesians 6:10-17 Luke 13:10-17

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 READER SERVICE DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM 28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; GREAT-MARTYR BARBARA & MARTYR JULIANA AT HELIAPOLIS IN SYRIA; VENERABLE JOHN DAMASCENE; VENERABLE JOHN-BISHOP OF POLYBOTUM

*Tone 3* Colossians 1:12-18; Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 17:12-19; Mark 5:24-34

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM 29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS; VENERABLE DANIEL THE STYLITE OF CONSTANTINOPLE; MARTYR MIRAX OF EGYPT; MARTYR ACEPSIUS & AEITHALAS AT ARBELA IN ASSYRIA; VENERABLE LUKE THE NEW STYLITE OF CHALCEDON; VENERABLE NICON THE DRY OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

*Tone 4* Colossians 3:4-11 Luke 14:16-24

# **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 10 DECEMBER 2017**

27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; GREAT-MARTYR JAMES THE PERSIAN; VENERABLE PALLADIUS OF THESSALONICA; 17 MONK-MARTYRS IN INDIA; VENERABLE ROMANUS THE WONDERWORKER OF CILICIA

## TROPARION-TONE 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, All the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! 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 2

Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior,

Seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, Beheld this and rejoiced with Thee! And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever!

# PROKEIMENON-TONE 2

**READER:** The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

**PEOPLE:** The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

**READER:** The Lord has chastened me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.

**PEOPLE:** The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

**READER:** The Lord is my strength and my song.

**PEOPLE:** He has become my salvation.

# ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 2

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Save the king, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!



*To the Venerable and Christ-loving clergy and laity of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Europe, South America, the United States of America and in Ukraine.* 

May the Grace of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

We are currently living through the Pre-Nativity Fast–also known as Philip's Fast because it begins on 15/28 November, the day following the

Feast of the Holy Apostle Philip and known in the Western Church as Advent. This fast continues to the Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ-the Incarnation–God becoming one of us for no other reason than to prove the depth of His Love for us.

This is a period, which is often not the focus of contemporary Orthodox and non-Orthodox Christians, secularized and smothered in the overcommercialization of the "Xmas" season. The fast is, according to the Church Fathers, a time of mercy, kindness, compassion, self-examination-a time, which challenges us to personal renewal in the Light of Christ's Gospel. It is a sacred season, during which we are called to make a spiritual journey from wherever we are in the world-from the "now" in our parish churches, which we all too often have difficulty seeing beyond-to the City of Bread-Beth-lehem and into a cave, the "Holy of Holies", and to a manger, pre-figuring the Chalice of the Eucharist, in order to bring the gift of ourselves to the Jesus Christ, Who is the Bread of Life.

In ways that we may never fully comprehend, we make this journey like the Magi, like the shepherds. We each bring our gifts and we dedicate them to Christ. These are gifts willingly given for the good of others-the gold, frankincense and myrrh of our parenting, teaching, healing, friendship and compassion-in other words, our Love for one another.

We must live through this fast period and each day of our lives in a prayerful attitude of openness to the empowering and unending Presence of the Loving and Living God. Living an Orthodox Christian life makes heavy demands on us. But, God gives us His strength. The Power, the Love and the Grace of God are always with us-in our "community work", the Liturgy and all other Divine Services, in our private prayer life, in all creation and every single one of His human creatures! That living Presence makes all things new!

Such an attitude of openness, of awe and wonder and joyful expectancy is what it takes to receive the strength to fulfill our life's purpose. Our God is the God of Life and He never stops with a sense of self-satisfaction to say: "We've got it!" It is always a movement on into the future. It is always His Presence with us now, doing some new thing. We may be in the depths of despair and we may feel ourselves caving in, but that is precisely when He moves in and the Light breaks through and the hope and the power and the healing come.

Simply put, our goal during this Pre-Nativity Fast is to mature in Christ, to attain to spiritual quality and excellence in our profession of the Orthodox Christian Faith, to invite Christ Jesus into our very being, to proclaim to an increasingly nominal and apathetic Christian society that, which it would rather not hear: "I bring you tidings of great joy...a Savior is born...He is Christ the Lord!" and He can be found in the hearts and homes of those who proclaim Him by their willingness to "let our light so shine before men, that they might see our good works and give glory to our Father Who is in Heaven" [Matthew 5:16].

We call you all, as our spiritual children, to pray fervently during this season for the leaders of the world we live in today. It is a secularized world full of strife, economic weakness and political instability. Evil often manifests itself in the cleverest of ways during such times. Pray for the maturity of those who lead all our nations and most especially those who lead in Ukraine, that their heart's desire will always be to build a strong nation based on a system of law, peace and justice. Pray that our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church unites and returns to its historical role as the moral conscience of the nation.

May He, Who so loved the world that He sent His Only-Begotten Son to be our Lord and Savior, assist us in our resolve to mature and be nourished by the word of Truth and Life-giving mysteries. May we grow and mature in Faith as Ukrainian Orthodox Christians so that others, having witnessed the Faith manifested in our personal lives and in our parish communities, will be drawn to Christ and like the shepherds of Bethlehem, will glorify and praise God for all that they had seen and heard through us.

Assuring you of our prayers and love and requesting yours, we remain your servants in the Lord,

### *+ Yurij* Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada *+ Antony* Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora *+ Jeremiah* Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, South America Eparchy *+ Daniel*

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

#### + Ilarion

Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

#### + Andrij

Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

When you realize sin in yourself and do not forget it (because if you forget it a little, then you will immediately begin to be proud), if you do not forget it, then you keep yourself humble, and humility helps keep your

heart pure. And do not hide it, do not defend yourself when you are sinful, and repent.

The Holy Apostle Paul was a great persecutor of the Church, but after his conversion he was filled with spiritual gifts, ascended to the third heaven, spoke with the Holy Spirit. He was endowed with great gifts, and yet it was from him that this word came: "I am the first of sinners." Despite the fact that he was forgiven, he did not forget about it. If we observe this custom, then we will observe this humility, as well as the purity and peace of the heart. - *Archimandrite Sofian (Boghiu)* 

# MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS TO HIS HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW I ON THE OCCASION OF THE FEAST OF SAINT ANDREW, PATRON SAINT OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

[Istanbul, 28 November – 1 December 2017]

Though away from Rome on my Pastoral Visit to Myanmar and Bangladesh, I wish to extend my fraternal best wishes to Your Holiness and to the members of the Holy Synod, the clergy, the monks, and all the faithful gathered for the Divine Liturgy in the Patriarchal Church of Saint George for the liturgical commemoration of Saint Andrew the Apostle, brother of Simon Peter and first-called of the Apostles, the patron saint of the Church of Constantinople and of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. When the deacon invites those gathered during the Divine Liturgy to pray "for those who travel by land, sea, and air," I ask you, please, to pray also for me.

The Delegation I have sent is a sign of my spiritual solidarity with your prayer of thanksgiving and praise for all that our Almighty and Merciful God has accomplished through the witness of the Apostle Andrew. In like manner, the Delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate welcomed in Rome last June demonstrated its spiritual closeness to us as we celebrated the wonderful deeds that God, the source of all good, accomplished through the Apostles Peter and Paul, patron saints of the Church of Rome.

The Apostles proclaimed to the ends of the earth, through their words and the sacrifice of their lives, what they themselves had seen, heard and experienced - the Word of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ, who died and rose for our salvation. Making our own this proclamation enables us to enter into communion with the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit, which is the very foundation of the communion that already unites those baptized in the name of the Most Holy Trinity (cf. *1Jn* 1:1-3). Catholics and Orthodox, by professing together the dogmas of the first seven Ecumenical Councils, by believing in the efficacy of the Eucharist and the other sacraments, and by preserving the apostolic succession of the ministry of bishops, experience already a profound closeness with one another (cf. Unitatis Redintegratio, 15). Today, in thanksgiving to the God of love, in obedience to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ and in fidelity to the teaching of the Apostles, we recognize how urgent it is to grow towards full and visible communion.

It is a source of joy to learn that on the eve of the feast of Saint Andrew, during a meeting attended by Your Holiness, the fiftieth anniversary of the visit of Pope Paul VI to the Phanar on 25 July 1967 was commemorated. That historic moment of communion between the Pastors of the Church of Rome and the Church of Constantinople brings to mind the words of Patriarch Athenagoras in welcoming Pope Paul VI to the Patriarchal Church of Saint George, where you are gathered today. I believe that these words can continue to inspire the dialogue between our Churches: "Let us join together what was divided, wherever this is possible, by deeds in which both Churches are involved, giving added strength to the matters of faith and canonical discipline which we have in common. Let us conduct the theological dialogue according to the principle [of] full community in the fundamentals of the faith, liberty both in theological thought, where this is pious and edifying and inspired by the main body of the Fathers, and in variety of local customs, as was favoured by the Church from the beginning" (Tomos Agapis, Vatican-Phanar (1958-1970), pp. 382-383).

I offer my heartfelt gratitude to Your Holiness for the generous and warm hospitality extended by the Metropolis of Leros of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, under the pastoral care of His Eminence Paisios, to the members of the Coordinating Committee of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. I wish to encourage anew this theological dialogue. The consensus reached by Catholics and Orthodox on certain fundamental theological principles regulating the relationship between primacy and synodality in the life of the Church in the first millennium can serve to evaluate, even critically, some theological categories and practices which evolved during the second millennium in conformity with those principles. Such consensus may enable us to envisage a common way of understanding the exercise of the ministry of the Bishop of Rome, in the context of synodality, and at the service of the communion of the Church in the present context. This sensitive task needs to be pursued in an atmosphere of mutual openness and, above all, in obedience to the demands that the Holy Spirit makes of the Church.

Your Holiness, beloved brother in Christ, in recent months I have followed with great interest your participation in significant international events held throughout the world regarding the care of creation, peaceful coexistence among peoples of different cultures and religious traditions, and the presence of Christians in the Middle East. Your Holiness's commitment is a source of inspiration, support, and encouragement for me personally for, as you well know, we share these same concerns. It is my fervent hope that Catholics and Orthodox may promote joint initiatives at the local level with regard to these issues, for there are many contexts in which Orthodox and Catholics can already work together without waiting for the day of full and visible communion.

With the assurance of my continued remembrance in prayer, it is with sentiments of warm affection that I exchange with Your Holiness a fraternal embrace of peace.

# The Order of Saint Andrew Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

8 East 79th St. New York, NY 10075-0106 Tel: (212) 570-3550 Fax: (212) 774-0214 www.archons.org-Email: communications@archons.org

December 4, 2017

# 3rd Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom to spotlight persecution of Christians and impending disappearance of Christianity from the Holy Lands and Middle East

NEW YORK - Open Doors USA, the California-based non-profit that has tracked Christian persecution for the past 25 years, points out that millions of Christians face interrogation, arrest, torture, and/or death because of their religious convictions and cultural or ethnic identification. The U.S. State Department reports that Christians face persecution in more than 60 countries with Pew Research noting that between 2007 and 2014, Christians have been targeted for harassment in more countries than any other religious groups.

As a result, a three-day conference will be held Dec. 4-6 in Washington, D.C., on the "Persecution of Christians in the Holy Lands and the Middle East: Consequences and Solutions." The conference will be sponsored by the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This is the third such conference held by the Archons on religious freedom with the previous sessions held in Brussels, Belgium, in 2010 and Berlin, Germany, in 2013.

Sessions at this year's conference will include the "History of the Christian Church" focusing on the disappearance of Christians from the Christianity's birthplace, "Persecution of Christians and Possible Solutions," "Freedoms of Religion and the Press," and "Sacred Sites and Property Rights." The conference will bring together top government officials, human rights activists, academics, and religious leaders. Among the participants will be His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Bishop Angaelos of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom, Johny Messo, president of the World Council of Arameans (Syriacs), Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., Vice Chair Kristina Arriaga de Bucholz of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and Fox News Chief Religion Correspondent Lauren Green.

While about 30 percent of the world's population identifies as Christian, the International Society for Human Rights notes that 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination are directed at Christians. In parts of the Middle East—Christianity's birthplace—Christian groups have been threatened with extinction with officials, such as then Secretary of State John Kerry, saying in 2016 that groups such as ISIS have committed genocide.

"Christianity is being wiped out from the very lands in which it was born 2,000 years ago," said Dr. Anthony Limberakis, National Commander for the Order of St. Andrew. "By hosting the Third International Conference on Religious Freedom, the Order of St. Andrew aims to shed light on this crisis confronting Christians in the Middle East."

"The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians throughout the world," said Archbishop Demetrios. "This conference provides the context for intensifying our prayers to God for the safety and well-being of all Christians confronted by forces of hatred, religious intolerance and wild fanaticism. Our prayers and actions on behalf of the threatened, oppressed or persecuted Christians are accompanied by our safe and sure faith in our God, a God of love, justice and power who is under all circumstances present in our life."

Open Doors USA also has reported that each year worldwide more than 3,800 Christians are killed for their faith, more than 2,400 Christian churches and properties are destroyed, and more than 9,200 forms of violence are committed against Christians. The non-profit also points out that ten years ago there were nearly one million Christians in Iraq with a large majority in Mosul while today there are just a few dozen Christians left in that city.

For a detailed schedule and a list of speakers: <u>conference.archons.org/schedule</u>

About the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle is made up of Orthodox Christians who have been appointed as Archons, an ancient title dating back to the early Christian Church. The Archons dedicate themselves to the defense and preservation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in the face of persecution, to the Orthodox Christian faith and tradition, to the well-being of the Christian Church and the inalienable rights of the human race wherever they may be violated. The Archons are under the spiritual direction of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. For more information visit www.archons.org

**REMINDER:** There will be a Reader's Service next Sunday beginning at 10:30 AM, as Father Bob and family will not be in Slickville. We will reconvene as usual on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 AM for an Obednitza downstairs in the church hall.

ALSO, we will have our annual Holy Supper pot-luck luncheon in the church hall on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, after our Nativity Divine Liturgy celebrations upstairs. Please bring your favorite dish to share with our parish family. Any questions, please see Father Bob—or Holy Supper questions, please see Pani Gina!