



**Holy Ghost Orthodox Church**  
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## **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 Smoly nec, 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., Allie— young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—21-year-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 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, 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.

If you give something to one in need, let the cheerfulness of your face precede your gift, and comfort his sorrow with kind words. When you do this, by your gifts the gladness of his mind surpasses even the needs of his body. (The Ascetical Homilies of St. Isaac the Syrian)

**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 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**

**28<sup>TH</sup> 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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM  
29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY; SUNDAY OF  
THE HOLY FATHERS; MARTYR SEBASTIAN AT ROME & COMPANIONS; SAINT  
MODESTUS-ARCHBISHOP OF JERUSALEM; VENERABLE FLORUS-BISHOP OF  
AMISUS; VENERABLE MICHAEL THE CONFESSOR OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

*Tone 5*

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

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 17 DECEMBER 2017**

**28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; GREAT-MARTYR BARBARA &  
MARTYR JULIANA AT HELIAPOLIS IN SYRIA; VENERABLE JOHN  
DAMASCENE; VENERABLE JOHN-BISHOP OF POLYBOTUM**

### **TROPARION—TONE 3**

Let the Heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!  
He has trampled down death by death!  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
And has granted the world great mercy!

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

### **KONTAKION—TONE 3**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One!  
Leading us from the gates of death.  
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
With the prophets and patriarchs  
They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 3**

**READER:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King,  
sing praises!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

**READER:** Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

**READER:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

### **ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 3**

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!



YOUR OWN OF YOUR OWN, WE OFFER... (Sunday, September 3)

Priest (quietly): *"Remembering, therefore, this saving commandment and all that has been done for our sake: the Cross, the tomb, the Resurrection on the third day, the Ascension into heaven, the enthronement at the right hand, and the second and glorious coming again..."* (Aloud): *"Your own of Your own (Τὰ σὰ ἐκ τῶν σῶν, Твоя от Твоих) we offer to You, in all and for all."* (Eucharistic Prayer, Byzantine Divine Liturgy)

We "offer" to God what is God's at Divine Liturgy, by 1. Remembering "this saving commandment" (that is, "Take, eat, this is My Body...", and "Drink of this, all of you...", proclaimed by the priest just before the above-quoted words), and 2. Remembering "all that has been done for our sake," including, surprisingly, the future "second and glorious coming again." In faith, the Church "sees" as God "sees," beyond space and time, particularly in His intimate presence to us, and our presence to Him, in the Divine Liturgy.

How and what is it that "we" are "offering" (προσφέρομεν)? First of all, by saying "we," we mean first and foremost Christ Himself, in our midst. He

offers Himself, by the hands and gifts (of bread and wine) of the celebrating Church. Because He is "the One Who both offers and is offered" (ὁ προσφέρων καὶ προσφερόμενος, as it says in the Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn). We also "offer" ourselves, in response to Christ's Self-offering, whenever we bring ourselves wholeheartedly, with all our strengths and weaknesses, into communion with Him; to be "consecrated" in and by Him. That's why the priest will also pray (shortly after the above-quoted words), that the Holy Spirit be sent down "upon us, and upon the gifts here presented." So – when we proclaim that we "offer" to God what is God's, "Your own of Your own," we also mean ourselves. He receives us, along with our gifts, and then returns us and our gifts back to us, consecrated and transfigured in the Holy Spirit. Thank You for that, O Lord. "It is proper and right to worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity One in being and undivided." Amen!

## **THE NATIVITY FAST** Tuesday, November 28, 2017



*"...The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall arise to rule over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust, and his rest shall be glorious." (Is 11: 6-10)*

As those of us on the Older Calendar begin the Nativity Fast (Рождественский пост) today, I am looking at this well-known prophecy from Isaiah. It talks about the coming of the "child" born in Bethlehem, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the consequences of His coming for those who choose to ascend His "holy mountain." There, in His grace, we need not be

afraid of the wolves or the leopards or the lions, either within or outside ourselves, because Christ overcomes the pointless, unwinnable battles of our fallen nature.

This prophecy will only be read in our churches on Christmas Eve, but I am reading it today because it helps nudge me into the specific focus of the Nativity Fast: anticipating the coming of the "child" of the "root of Jesse" (of Jesse, King David's father). That hope-filled, exciting anticipation is what this passage is all about, written in the late-8<sup>th</sup> c. before the birth of our Lord in Bethlehem. It is also what the Nativity Fast is all about.

Today let me embrace the prophetic atmosphere of the Nativity Fast, with its hope-filled, productive "rest" and quiet anticipation. Lord, let me be a bit more present to You today, as we slow down and prepare for Your coming, once again in this fasting-season. *"In him shall the Gentiles trust, and his rest shall be glorious."*

Lara Haluszczak <[lara.haluszczak@gmail.com](mailto:lara.haluszczak@gmail.com)>

Fr. Joe sent this out to the Parish Council today:

An anecdote on today's Gospel lesson on the Rich Man & Lazarus:

There was a monastery in Greece. This monastery was in trouble. The monks were aging. New monks were not coming in. And, most of some of the monks did not like each other. They were always bickering and fighting, complaining about, criticizing and just judging one another.

The abbot got fed up and went to seek advice from a hermit that lived further up the mountain.

When he got there and told the hermit his story, the hermit said, "Please come back in a week and I will tell you what I think." The abbot left and came back in a week. On his return the hermit said, "I have been told that Christ has returned to earth and is living as a monk at your monastery!" The abbot was shocked. He went back and told the monks what he learned and from that day on the monastery started to revive. You see, since nobody knew which one was Christ, they all started to treat each other as if they were Christ and, all of a sudden, things got better and the monastery prospered.

We don't know much about the afterlife. About "bosoms of Abraham" and "lakes of fire" and "uncrossable chasms," but this much we know for certain: a change in perspective can turn an obstacle into a miracle. Sometimes all it takes is a movement towards love, compassion and understanding that will change things for the better. It can even turn hell into heaven. When people ask what makes for a healthy parish, this story

sums it up. When we make a choice to love one another as the Lord has commanded us to do, then He takes care of the rest. By: Father Anthony Hughes

**THANK YOU!** To all of those who have entered our parish church over the past 20 years, my thanks for your thoughts, advice, help, prayers, and especially **LOVE!** You have made my journey as a priest the greatest gift of my life. My family and I love you with all of our hearts. The VERY generous parish gift was unnecessary, but I will use it to further our parish in some way. God Bless you on your journey through Advent—may the Holy Spirit guide and protect you! God Bless!

Love, Father Bob, Pani Gina, Alex, and Matt