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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: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Anastasia [Metropolitan Yuriy's mom], Metropolitan Theodosius [OCA], Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, 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 & Pani Mary Anne 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 Smolynech, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, 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 [Archbishop 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—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, 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], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, 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, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, 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, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, 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, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaughaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam & Gordon Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Marianne Mulroy, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne

Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's cousin], JoAnne & Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat Jennings, Patrick Felice [Melanie's husband] Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Cindy M., Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Pearl Hanczar, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline and Walter Sakol. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

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 29 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; PROPHET HAGGAI; MARTYR MARINUS OF
ROME; BLESSED EMPRESS THEOPHANIA OF BYZANTIUM**

Tone 3

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 14:16-24

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 05 DIVINE LITURGY UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY; TEN HOLY
MARTYRS OF CRETE-THEODULUS, SATURNINUS, EUPORUS, GELASIUS,
EUNICIAN, ZOTICUS, POMPEIUS, BASILIDES, & EVARISTUS; VENERABLE
NIPHON-BISHOP OF CYPRUS; VENERABLE PAUL-BISHOP OF NEO-CAESAREA
HOLY SUPPER DOWNSTAIRS AFTER LITURGY**

Tone 4

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

Matthew 1:1-25

Litany in Blessed Memory of Stephen Kuzman, Timothy Stutchell, Nicholas Vetosky, Robert Rohal, and Gary Atutes—Fr. Bob

MONDAY, JANUARY 06

CHRISTMAS EVE—STRICT FAST DAY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 07

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS

CHRIST

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY; SUNDAY
BEFORE THEOPHANY; HOLY RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH THE BETROTHED; DAVID THE
KING; JAMES THE BROTHER OF OUR LORD; VIRGIN-MARTYR ANYSIA AT
THESSALONICA; MARTYR ZOTICUS OF CONSTANTINOPLE; APOSTLE TIMON THE
DEACON; MARTYR PHILOTERUS OF NICOMEDIA; VENERABLE THEODORA-NUN
OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA; VENERABLE THEODORA OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

Tone 5

Galatians 1:11-19

Matthew 2:13-23

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 29 DECEMBER 2019

**28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; PROPHET HAGGAI; MARTYR
MARINUS OF ROME; BLESSED EMPRESS THEOPHANIA OF
BYZANTIUM**

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!

Metropolitan Antony Hospitalized 18 December 2019

We ask all the clergy and faithful of our Holy Church and beyond to pray for the healing of our beloved Metropolitan Antony who was admitted to hospital for the major surgical procedure. The Metropolitan was experiencing an overwhelming weakness in his entire body and was advised by his physicians to undergo medical surgery on the lumbar region of his spine.

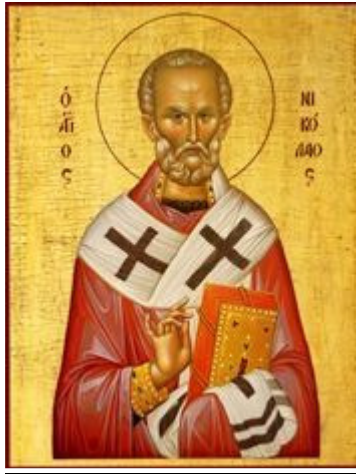
Please pray fervently that as He raised Jairus' daughter from her bed of pain and suffering that our Loving Lord will extend His healing touch upon His servant Metropolitan Antony.

As we are informed, we will provide further information to you about the Metropolitan's healing progress.

+Archbishop Daniel

"O Holy Father, Heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies, who sent Your Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to heal those in illness: visit and heal Your servant, our Metropolitan Antony, granting him release from pain and restoration to health and vigor, that he may give thanks unto You and bless Your holy Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen."

A Mysterious Parcel



This amazing story happened a few years ago when the lay sisters of the Saint Elisabeth Convent Sisterhood (Minsk, Belarus) received a notice from Minsk airport informing that a parcel had arrived for the Convent from the USA. The sisters did not know who had sent it to them and what was inside.

Our sister Natallia drove to the airport to collect the parcel, but they did not give it to her, saying that it had not passed customs control. So that day she returned to the Convent empty-handed.

That was not the end of the story. We received notices three more times. We would go to the airport to collect the parcel, but they would not give it to us. We asked the officials to explain what was in the parcel but there was no answer.

Being tired of these vain attempts to get the parcel and of useless trips to the airport (which, in fact, is much too far from the Convent), we decided to pray before the icon of St Nicholas the Wonderworker, and ask him for help.

In our Convent there is an amazingly beautiful crypt church consecrated in honour of this saint. The sisters went there to celebrate the Akathist to the saint. They asked Saint Nicholas to help us in this situation—honestly, we did not know what to do, whether to laugh or cry.

And the very next day, an airport customs officer called us and asked to come and collect the parcel, saying that everything was in order with it. So we went to the airport and finally got it.

You can imagine our surprise when, on opening the parcel, we saw several small and very gently wrapped bottles with myrrh there. It turned out that one Orthodox monastery in the US houses Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker icon which began streaming myrrh, and our American friends decided to share this precious gift with us.

All our brothers and sisters received a bit of this shrine.

by [Наталья Бунде \(Natallia Bunde\)](#)

The Star of Bethlehem by Stephen Morris

Posted on December 21, 2015



Eastern Orthodox icon of the birth of Christ by St. Andrei Rublev, 15th century. Note that the shepherd speaking with St. Joseph in the lower left is shown in profile, a pose reserved only for this shepherd, the Devil, and for Judas Iscariot and which indicates their interior wickedness and efforts to hide themselves from God. Also, the cave in which Christ is born is painted with the same absolute black pigment—unmixed with any other dark colors, which is more usual—as is the tomb of Christ or the abyss of Hell, into which the Divine Presence has entered.

“We have seen his star in the East,” the magi told King Herod. “We have come to worship him.”

This news was a surprise to King Herod. He had no idea that a new King of the Jews had been born and had clearly NOT seen the star the magi had. What was the “star” which the magi claimed they had seen and which had told them to come find the newborn King in Judea? Since no one in Jerusalem seems to have seen it, the star could not have been a bright light in the sky or they would have noticed it. Since the Gospel text says that Herod later had all the boys aged two years or younger killed in his attempt to kill the Christ Child, the “star” must have been an astronomical event of some sort rather than a bright light or all the other parents whose children were butchered by Herod’s soldiers would have pointed out the house and said, “No! Not our children—the boy you want is in that house! There!”

Also, the magi evidently had seen the star at least 2 years before and it had taken them that long to travel to Jerusalem.

I remember reading reports in December 1975 (my senior year of high school!) that the "star" was in fact a conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in the constellation Pisces—and that this conjunction occurs once every 800 years! The magi, being astrologers, would have understood this to mean that a great king (Jupiter) who would usher in the End of Days (Saturn) was being born in Judea (Pisces). This conjunction occurred in December 1975, according to these reports, but I was unable to see it as I was not sure exactly where to look in the sky or on which date(s) to look.

In Orthodox icons (such as the one above), the Star of Bethlehem is often depicted not as a bright light but as a dark aureola, a semicircle at the top of the icon, indicating the "divine darkness" or Uncreated Light of Divine grace, with a ray pointing to "the place where the young child lay" (Matt 2:9). Sometimes the faint image of an angel is drawn inside the dark semicircle, pointing the way for the Magi.

<http://www.stephenmorrisauthor.com/star-bethlehem/>