

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

## **ADVENT—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: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yurij, Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, 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 Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Father George Livanos, Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, 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, 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 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, 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, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, 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, 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 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, 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 Slaugenhaupt, 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, 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, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak-Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy

Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Bill Boretsky, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Steven—Harry Batch's cousin, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik's Cousin, Stella McKeag, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Micky Delans [COVID-19], Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Dolores Wachnowsky, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Deacon Joe Uzar—vocations, Tim—surgery, Archimandrite Raphael—COVID-19, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko [triple by-pass], John, Kris& Kait, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JANUARY BABIES: Lindsey Weisner on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Demetra on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Marcy Jones on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Brenna Scott on the 29<sup>th</sup>, Kristin Scott on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Kayla Weiser on the 29<sup>th</sup>! May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is <u>NOTHING</u> to keep us from praying...for each other, for our family and friends, and most of all for the first responders—EMTs, nurses, doctors, firefighters, police officers, and members of our military who keep us safe. Be well, and be SAFE!!! God Bless!

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>** *FREE!*

<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 <u>CALL FATHER BOB</u> at [412] 279-5640.

SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE SUNDAY, JANUARY 03, 2021 **OBEDNITZA-UPSTAIRS!!!** 10:30 AM **30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY; SUNDAY OF THE** HOLY FATHERS; VIRGIN-MARTYR JULIANA OF NICOMEDIA, 500 MEN, & 130 WOMEN WITH HER; MARTYR THEOMISTOCLES OF MYRA Tone 5 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, Gary Atutes, and Cindy Mycyk-Fr. Bob WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06-NATIVITY EVE-STRICT FAST DAY!!! THURSDAY, JANUARY 07 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS!!! 10:30 AM 31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY; AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY; 20,000 MARTYRS OF NICOMEDIA INCLUDING GLYCERIUS, ZENO, THEOPHILUS, & OTHERS; APOSTLE NICANOR THE DEACON Tone 6 Galatians 1:11-19 Matthew 2:13-23 SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS!!! 10:30 AM 32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY; SYNAXIS OF THE 70 APOSTLES; VENERABLE THEOCTISTUS-ABBOT AT CUCOMO IN SICILY; **MARTYR ZOSIMAS THE HERMIT & MARTYR ATHANASIUS THE** COMMENTARISIUS-ANCHORITES OF CILICIA; VENERABLE AQUILA-DEACON OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA Tone 7 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Mark 1:1-8

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 03 JANUARY 2021** 30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS; VIRGIN-MARTYR JULIANA OF NICOMEDIA, 500 MEN, & 130 WOMEN WITH HER; MARTYR THEOMISTOCLES OF MYRA

## **TROPARION-TONE 5**

Let the faithful praise and worship the Word, Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit; Born for our salvation from the Virgin; For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, To endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection! Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## **KONTAKION-TONE 5**

Thou didst descend into Hell, O my Savior, Shattering its gates as almighty; Resurrecting the dead as Creator, And destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, And we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

## **PROKEIMENON-TONE 5**

READER: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

READER: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly. PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

READER: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us...

PEOPLE: From this generation forever.

## **ALLELUIA VERSES-TONE 5**

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever, and my truth will be prepared in the heavens.

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#### **Father George Athanasiou**

Over the past few days, this astrological phenomenon has been the center of attention. A supernova, an alignment of Jupiter and Saturn has caught our attention. Why? For some it is a reminder of the Nativity story, when the Magi followed the star in the east to the place where Christ was born. Some even go further to say that it is a sign from God in such a difficult year and time for our world with the ongoing global pandemic. And some see it as mere coincidence, an act of nature and nothing more. All three, rational and relational understandings of this rare occurrence.

Where am I going with this? Bear with me. Do I see this as the nativity star? Maybe. Do I see it as a sign of hope? Maybe. Do I see it as a mere coincidence? Maybe!

What I do know however, is that I don't need the alignment of the planets and stars to remind me that Christ was born... I don't need a natural phenomenon to remind me that there is hope in this fallen world. Christ was born of a Virgin (a supernatural phenomenon) and brought with Him a promise of redemption. He performed miracles (supernatural phenomena) and ministered to the people who needed Him most (which He continues to this day)... He changes hearts, He answers prayers, etc. And greatest of all, He was crucified, died, was buried, and resurrected on the third day (another supernatural phenomenon).

Today, we are reminded of all these acts of God (supernatural phenomena) in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy...an event outside of time that brings together the earthly and the mystical powers of heaven. It is here where we ask God to once again offer something supernatural, something inexplicable...we offer Him bread and wine, and what does He offer back? His Body and His Blood! A "supernatural" event that we are blessed to witness and participate in weekly (if not even more frequently).

So I ask again...do I need this star to remind me of the powers of God? Do I need this moment to offer me everlasting hope? Do I need the supernatural to affirm my faith? With my whole being, I answer this with a resounding "NO!"

You stood for hours, staring into the cloudy sky, trying to see this natural phenomenon. Come to church! Come and see the true mysteries of God at work. "Taste and see that the Lord is good." What you will find at the church will change you forever and fill you with the hope necessary to face any challenge that this year or any other year may bring.

Wishing you all a blessed Nativity!

#### <u>Relationships</u>

#### Proverbs 16:7-When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. (KJV)

The personal relationships we develop in life reflect our relationship with God. The extent we love God is manifested in our personal relationships with others. The Holy Scriptures give guidance and contain valuable wisdom for relationships. Believers desiring to have relationships pleasing to the Lord will heed the wisdom. The soul's hunger motivates a person to look to the Holy Scriptures for guidance. Personal relationships can be very complicating and are not all without difficulty. To have a peaceful heart and mind on a daily basis requires peace with the Lord. The contents of the heart and mind affect daily demeanor and personal behavior. Vigilance is necessary to guard against evil thoughts and repel them immediately.

#### **Proverbs 24:17-Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth**: KJV)

Worldly life is filled with complex relationships some of which can be difficult. Christians have a responsibility to be loving and forgiving in daily relationships. Finding joy in the hardships of others is not consistent with Christian ethics. Believers have a responsibility to cleanse the heart and mind of evil thoughts. Prayers for the benefit of others including those considered enemies is proper. Let us learn the practice of love and forgiveness from the Lord God and the saints. With the Lord's help we can begin to improve in our acts of love and forgiveness. Personal improvement is always possible to become more loving and forgiving. Prayers for better relationships overcomes present barriers in the mind and heart.

## **Proverbs 25:21-If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat;** and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: (KJV)

Repentance is the necessary first step in seeking to improve our daily relationships. The desire to become more conforming to the ways of Christ makes a difference. We find guidance, inspiration and example in the life and teachings of the Lord. The saints and martyrs demonstrate love towards others that were harmful to them. God's Holy Church is where we learn the lesson for better personal relationships. Forgiveness is a dominant theme in the Christian life through all the days of life. Forgiveness in relationships is essential in repairing any hurt that has occurred. Charitable actions in tense relationships help to reduce the friction taking place. Apostle Paul is clear in the Epistle to the Corinthians that love never fails. (1Cor. 13:8)

The Conception of the Righteous Anna. December 9/22, 2020. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania Father Rodney Torbic

#### <u>Christmas Day</u> from Father Michael Monachos <monkmichael@yahoo.com>

10. Natures are changed into something new and God becomes man. Not only is divine nature, stable and unmoved, moved towards what is unstable and subject to movement, in order to stop it from being swept away; not only does human nature produce without seed, in a way that is supranatural, the flesh which is brought to perfection by the Logos, in order to prevent it too from being swept away; but a star from the east shone in the day and guided the Magi (**cf. Matt. 2:2-10**) to the place where the Logos became incarnate, in order to show in a mystical way that the inner teaching of the Law and the prophets is superior to the senses and guides the Gentiles towards the supreme light of spiritual knowledge. For clearly the inner teaching of the Law and the prophets, when contemplated devoutly like a star, leads to knowledge of the incarnate Logos those who freely respond to the call of grace. [V2} 167 St. Maximos the Confessor Various Texts on Theology, the divine economy, Virtue and vice

51. So long as we are learning the basic principles of bodily discipline, watching ourselves carefully when we taste food, or touch things, or gaze at beautiful objects, or listen to music, or smell fragrances, we are under guardians and trustees; for we are still infants, even though we are also heirs and lords of all that belongs to the Father. But when the time of such training is over and we have attained dispassion, the Logos is born within us as a result of our purity of mind, and He submits to the law of the Spirit, so that He may redeem us who are under the law of the will of the flesh and may grant us the status of sonship. When this has taken place, the Spirit cries in our hearts, 'Abba! Father!', making this status known to us and revealing to us our intimate communion with the Father. And He abides in us and converses with us as sons and heirs of God through Christ, free from

servitude to the senses (**cf. Gal. 4:1-6**). [V4] 155 Nikitas Stithatos On Spiritual Knowledge, Love and the Perfection of Living

4. If, as the Psalmist says, 'All the glory of the king's daughter is within' (Ps. 45:13. LXX), how shall we seek it somewhere without? And if, as St Paul says, 'God has sent forth His Spirit into our hearts, crying: "Abba Father" ' (**cf. Gal. 4:6**). how shall we not pray in union with the Spirit that is in our hearts? And if, as the Lord of the prophets and the apostles says, 'The kingdom of heaven is within us' (cf. Luke 17:21), how shall we not find ourselves outside the kingdom of heaven if we strive to alienate our intellect from what lies within us? 'An upright heart', says Solomon, 'seeks conscious awareness' (cf. Prov. 27:21. LXX), the awareness or perception which he elsewhere calls noetic and divine (cf. Prov. 2:5. LXX). It is to such awareness that the fathers urge all of us when they say: 'A noetic intellect assuredly acquires noetic awareness. Let us never cease from seeking for this, which is both in us and not in us.'' [V4] 335 St. Gregory Palamas In Defense of those who Devoutly Practice the Live of Stillness

156. A heart that has been completely emptied of mental images gives birth to divine, mysterious intellections that sport within it like fish and dolphins in a calm sea. The sea is fanned by a soft wind, the heart's depth by the Holy Spirit. 'And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying: "Abba, Father" ' **(Gal. 4:6)**. [V1] 190 St. Hesychios the Priest On Watchfulness and Holiness, written for Theodoulos

77. So long as the soul advances 'from strength to strength' (Ps. 84:7) and 'from glory to glory' (2 Cor. 3:18), that is, so long as it advances from one degree of virtue to a greater degree and from one level of spiritual knowledge to a higher level, it remains a 'sojourner', one who has no permanent home, as in the saying, 'My soul has long been a sojourner' (Ps. 120:6. LXX). For great is the distance and many are the levels of knowledge through which the soul must pass before it reaches 'the place of the miraculous tabernacle, the house of God itself, with the voice of exultation and thanksgiving, and the sound of feasting' (Ps. 42:4. LXX). It advances continually from one hymn of praise to another, from one level of divine contemplation to another, full of joy and thankfulness for what it has already seen. For all those who have received the Spirit of grace into their hearts celebrate in this festive manner, crying 'Abba, Father' (**Gal. 4:6**). [V2] 157 St. Maximos the Confessor Two Hundred Texts Written for Thalassios 2<sup>nd</sup> Century

78. 'The place of the miraculous tabernacle' is a dispassionate and untroubled state of virtue in which the Logos of God adorns the soul like a tabernacle with the varied beauties of the virtues. 'The house of God' is spiritual knowledge compounded of many different forms of contemplation when God dwells in a soul, filling it from the bowl of wisdom. 'Exultation' is the soul's leap of joy at the riches of the virtues. 'Thanksgiving' is gratitude for the bountiful outpouring of wisdom. 'The sound of feasting' is the unceasing mystical hymn of glory, which exultation and thanksgiving combine to form.

What took place bodily in the case of the Virgin Mary occurs in every soul spiritually giving birth to Christ. Gregory of Nyssa, *On Virginity* 2.2

The divine Logos, who once for all was born in the flesh, always in His compassion desires to be born in spirit in those who desire Him. Maximos the Confessor, *First Century on Various texts* 8 (*Philokalia*, 2:165)

Just as God, the Word of the Father, entered into the Virgin's womb, even so do we receive the Word in us, as a kind of seed. ... We do not, of course, conceive Him bodily, as did the Theotokos, but in a way which is at once spiritual and substantial, and thus the One Whom the pure Virgin conceived we possess in our hearts ... when, that is, our souls are virginal and pure. St. Symeon the New Theologian, *First Ethical Discourse* 10 (Golitzin, 1:55-56)

**Metropolitan Savas Zembillas** was happy to receive this message from a clergy friend in England: "Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia (right) underwent a successful procedure to implant a heart pacemaker and is already showing signs of greater vitality and better colour. We hope his health will continue to improve. He continues to rest and recuperate, and wants to express his thanks for the prayers of all and to give his blessing."



Got empty boxes laying around? Retailers such as Amazon are teaming up with local charities to use empty shipping boxes to get rid of the clutter filling homes. After removing your order from your shipping box, fill it with clothes, etc. you want to donate, and visit GiveBackBox.com to print a free shipping label. The box can be dropped off with USPS or picked up. You can also print a receipt for tax use.





### AN UPDATE with SOME THOUGHTS and COMMENTS:

Hello, everybody! I hope everyone is staying SAFE and WELL while we are in quarantine mode at Holy Ghost.

As I prepare this, we have 4 people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in our extended church family. Two are regular attendees, one comes as much as his health allows, and the last is the spouse of one of the regulars.

After discussions with His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel, and His Eminence, Metropolitan Antony, the decision was made to put into effect the 14-day-quarrantine after a positive test result...which we have done for the past 3 weeks. Timing on these things is everything when we are trying to keep everyone safe.

With the celebration of Christmas looming, I would encourage everyone to use good judgment when deciding how to observe New Year's Day with your family. Family and friends are amazingly important to us as human beings, so I won't tell you NOT to get together. I will ask you, very passionately, to think about the risks to everyone who does assemble—in your house or someone else's.

We have been extremely lucky to avoid anyone contracting this virus for 10 months, although it has hit us with a fury we cannot imagine.

Plans to celebrate Nativity and our annual Holy Supper are not final, but I will do my best to get information out as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, please use common sense and observe the guidelines from the PA Department of Health and CDC as we await the arrival of the vaccine. As of this bulletin, both EMT Matt and Pani Gina have received it!

May God watch over each of you...Stay SAFE!!! God Bless! Fr. Bob