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**\*\*\*\*\*NATIVITY FAST—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 Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Father George Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, 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 & Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynech, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father Steve Hutnick [COVID-19], Father Victor Wronskyj [COVID-19], Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Fr. Volodymyr Muzychka [COVID-19], Father Harry Linsinbigler [COVID-19], Archimandrite Raphael [COVID-19], 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 Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Yvonne Christy, Father Deacon

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], 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, 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, 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, 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, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Father Joe Uzar—newly ordained, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko [triple by-pass], John, Kris & Kait, Jeff & Mary Jane Double [COVID-19], Terri Crosby-Vega [COVID-19], Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Mike, Amy, Nathan, & Ben Forbeck [COVID-19], David Salazar, Ann Zurasky [knee replacement], James Mary, Barb Bookser, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Carolyn Strittmatter, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Candace Irvin, Dollie Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [infant], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Pani Cathy Danczak, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob's cousin, car accident], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], Donna [dementia] & Darla, Linda Snow, Zack Blair [Pani Gina's nephew], Greg & Mary Lou Sheakley [Pani Gina's cousins—COVID], the McKenna family, David Gazella, Brian & Michele Cannone, Robert & Eleanor Rodrigues & family, Don Menagon [COVID-19]. Emily [Father Bob's neighbor—cancer], 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 Weiser on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Marcy Jones on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Henry "Jack" Tkacik III on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; Brenna Scott on the 29<sup>th</sup>, Kristin Tkacik 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 them all!**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is NOTHING 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 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.***

**SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE**

**SUNDAY, January 02                      OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS                      10:30 AM**  
**28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS; HIEROMARTYR IGNATIUS THE GOD-BEARER OF ANTIOCH; SAINT PHILOGONIUS-BISHOP OF ANTIOCH; SAINT DANIEL II-ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA; VENERABLE IGNATIUS-ARCHIMANDRITE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

*Tone 3*

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

Matthew 1:1-25

***Litany for the Departed: Rose Zalenchak, Stephen Kuzman, Timothy Stutchell, Cecilia Pysh, Nicholas Vetosky, Robert Rohal, & Gary Atutes—Fr. Bob***

**FRIDAY, January 07                      OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS                      10:30 AM**  
**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**  
**\*\*\*\*\*PAGE 221 IN THE BLACK DIVINE LITURGY BOOKS\*\*\*\*\***

**SUNDAY, January 09                      OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS                      10:30 AM**  
**29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY; HOLY RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, & JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD; HOLY PROTOMARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN; VENERABLE THEODORE GRAPTUS OF PALESTINE & BITHYNIA-CONFESSOR; SAINT THEODORE-ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

*Tone 4*

Galatians 1:11-19; Acts 6:18-15, 7:1-5, 47-6-

Matthew 2:13-23; Matthew 21:33-42

**SUNDAY, January 16**                      **OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS**                      **10:30 AM**  
**30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY; FOREFEAST OF**  
**THEOPHANY; PROPHET MALACHIAS; MARTYR GORDIUS AT CAESAREA IN**  
**CAPPADOCIA**

*Tone 5*

2 Timothy 4:5-8

Mark 1:1-8

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 02 JANUARY 2022**

**28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY; SUNDAY OF**  
**THE HOLY FATHERS; HIEROMARTYR IGNATIUS THE GOD-BEARER OF**  
**ANTIOCH; SAINT PHILOGONIUS-BISHOP OF ANTIOCH; SAINT DANIEL II-**  
**ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA; VENERABLE IGNATIUS-ARCHIMANDRITE OF**  
**PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

### **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!

### **The politics of Christmas**

Jonathan Tobias Columnist Dec 15, 2021

It's been hustle and bustle this week, what with two Albemarle Chorale Christmas Concerts, Christmas choir rehearsals and two very, very big (and successful!) days of the Candlelight Christmas Tour.

Here I am, writing away in the glow of the gaily decorated Christmas Tree in the "Living Room of Edenton" in the Barker House, conversing with Mr. Madison (who says Hello).

In this most wonderful time of the year, we usually keep politics and economics at arm's length, deferring these cranky subjects to a later time when we have to do things we'd rather not do.

But Christmas is, at heart, essentially these things.

The Archangel Gabriel thought so. This is what he said to the Virgin Mary when he announced that Christmas was going to happen: "And He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1.32-33).

Just as we sing in the carol, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing": "Glory to the Newborn King."

That is a political statement. The Child lying in the Manger is the King for all the ages. And frankly, this is the only "politics" and "economics" that Christianity really knows.

Christianity has only had one king. Anything else, in history, was anything less.

We've had our kings and emperors. And, unfortunately, we've suffered tyrants and despots, dictators, and führers (and a lot of obnoxious pretenders). But they were never the real thing.

The King of the Kingdom of God institutes a politics and economics that rise above our partisan squabbles of Republicans and Democrats, progressives and conservatives, capitalists, and socialists. The ideologies of nationalism and racism, authoritarianism, and modernism (along with anti-modernism) are all alien to the Kingdom of God.

This King (of the Kingdom of God) sure isn't Wall Street. Against the common economic sense of always looking out for the bottom line, this King

says "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20.35). And "Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the Kingdom of God" (Luke 6.20).

And this King sure isn't self-promoting and power-mad. He is not brash, or vulgar, or arrogant, or domineering, or violent. As the center and model of all humanity, He simply cannot be inhumane, ever. He's a different kind of King, with a radically different kind of power and politics. He thought of Himself as a Servant, not as a boss or brand. He was willing to put Himself down so that others (like all of us) might be lifted up.

Unlike the Strong Men of the world, this King was willing to pay the ultimate price for His people.

And alone, as the only True King, He rose for them and gave life to them.

Of all the stories that circulate in the Christmas season, it is Charles Dickens' short story, "A Christmas Carol," that best reflects the politics and economics of Christmas. The Scrooginess of Scrooge lay precisely in the dark ways of the world—violence in politics, and domination in economics.

Scrooge was invited by the Ghosts of Christmas to give up his Scrooginess. To give freely. To forgive. To love. To give himself away. To put down his ego for the sake of Joy and the Feast.

And he does, because he drops his own lesser, defective politics and economics and adopts that of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Prince of Peace.

Back at the Barker House on this Saturday morning, I've seen streams of people hustling and bustling in holiday cheer. I even had one nice lady ask me if she needed a candle for the Candlelight Tour: I told her that the luminaries will take care of that.

I've seen generosity in the key of life and joy. I've seen the definition of splendor in fourteen homes along the Tour. I've seen our town's Christmas Parade, children with shining faces of expectation.

In this most wonderful time of the year, the tightfisted economics of the cranky Scrooge is overcome.

Welcome to the politics of joy and grace, the neverending rule of the Prince of Peace.

Glory to the Newborn King.

*Father Jonathan Tobias is a resident of Edenton and can be reached via email at [janotec77@gmail.com](mailto:janotec77@gmail.com).*

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**Some thoughts on Saint Nicholas Day:**

**The Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost** Luke 12:16-21

*And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. (KJV)*

**St. Nicholas Luke 6:17-23**

*And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets. (KJV)*

God is good and merciful, kind and loving. As we prepare for the Feast of the Nativity, it is necessary to be mindful of the fragility of life and the importance of laying up treasures in heaven.

The rich man in today's Gospel was concerned about his material wealth and not his soul. He wanted to continue to accumulate material goods. Sharing his wealth with the needy was not a consideration.

Suddenly, the rich man's soul was to be required of him. His material goods would do him no good. The material goods would go to others and his selfishness and greed would be to his detriment.

St. Nicholas, whose feast is being celebrated today, is known for his goodness and kindness. The Lord speaks to the hearts and minds of the attentive on this day.

Being kind and loving as the Lord is the constant challenge of believers.

The Nativity Fast is a time of preparation and transformation. Believers are to ready the self to welcome the New-Born Christ Child. All that is not of Christ is to be removed from the self during this fast period.



The Lord Jesus Christ aids believers through prayer and fasting to become transformed. Charitable giving from the heart facilitates the process of transformation.

Purity of heart, mind and soul is a primary goal of the Nativity Fast. Christ feels welcome in the believer's life when Christ is the primary interest. When the believer's life is cluttered with the world, Christ is clearly not welcome.

The commercialism in today's world draws the attention of the less than vigilant and focused-believer. Greed and excess material accumulation is evident in today's world.

While hunger seems to have increased in recent years, larger homes and estates as well as storage units seem to be on the increase among the wealthy and well-to-do.

Now is the time to examine the heart, mind and soul and determine the primary interest or interests in life. The heart-felt question to ask is whether we identify with the rich man in the current Gospel or charitable St. Nicholas?

Do we identify with the rich man seeking to have greater storage space for our goods? Do we lay up treasures in heaven with the current goods, possessions, and talents we have?

Is our home modest in size? Is our car modest in size? Do we have an overabundance of clothing while others go wanting? What percentage of our income goes to charity?

Today is the day to focus on the state of the soul. Focusing on the soul has a place every day of life. We never know the last moment of life. The end may come suddenly and unexpectedly.

While most people live decades of life, the exact length of each life is not known. Each person must care for the soul at all times and in all places. Only when Christ is first and foremost in life are we ready and prepared for the unexpected.

The Nativity Fast is proceeding with certainty to conclusion. The time remaining is an opportunity to invest in the Kingdom of God. Serious believers welcome the days of the Nativity Fast.

Thank God for the Gospel lessons at each Divine Liturgy to speak to the heart, mind and soul. Thank God for the constant love, goodness and mercy spurring change within each believer.

God does not seek persons to perish in sin. God wants each person to repent and love the Lord with all the heart, mind, and soul. Love of God includes love of neighbor when it is sincere and real love.

Use the remaining time of the Nativity Fast to love the Lord God. Use the time to repent and reject from life all that is not of Christ. Keep each neighbor and Christ in mind during the remaining days of life.



## Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling

[www.westmorelandcleanways.org](http://www.westmorelandcleanways.org)



May your holiday season be blessed with love, peace and happiness.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,  
The Westmoreland Cleanways Staff

The holidays can be a contradictory time. A time to enjoy with family and friends while also stressing about decorations, presents, and cookies. It is a time to look towards the future while also reminiscing about the past year. Its also a time of giving, while at the same time making more garbage than at any other time of the year. Confusing, right? With a few helpful waste management tips, Westmoreland Cleanways is here to help, well at least with the last point of making less waste. Its a two for one, making less waste, while giving the gift of protecting the environment at the same time.



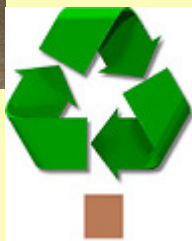
Keep wrapping supplies simple. Most wrapping paper and bags (minus the string handles) can be placed in curbside recycling bins. However, gift bags and wrapping paper with glitter, metallic foil wrapping paper, and cellophane wrapping paper are not recyclable. Bows and ribbon are also not accepted for recycling. They are what people in the business call tanglers, material that gets tangled in the machinery at the MRF. Tanglers must be cut out by

hand, halting production, damaging equipment, and creating dangerous working conditions. Therefore, when wrapping, choose a ribbon that can be reused the following year or composted in your backyard bin.



cleaned full, we can

After the



Cookie and popcorn metal tins can be recycled in curbside recycling bins as long as they are 5 gallons or smaller. Just make sure they are out of all food and paper. If your recycling bin is too also accept the tins at our Recycling Center.

holiday season, recycle your live Christmas tree by

dropping it off at [one of many drop off sites throughout the County](#). The trees will be chipped into mulch by participating municipalities and used to beautify community parks.

Proper disposal of a real tree is beneficial to the environment. In most cases, real trees thrown away with the garbage end up taking up space in a landfill. However necessary landfills are, they are designed as a storage facility for garbage, not a site for decomposition. Therefore, the trees will take many more years to rot than they would in nature, and release methane gas in the process. However, recycling your live Christmas tree returns it to nature. The trees will be chipped into mulch and used to beautify community parks, eventually decomposing into valuable humus to nourish and renew the soil.

**[All locations](#) require that trees are completely bare of decorations when dropped off. This includes all ornaments, hooks, lights, and any tree bags or wrappings used to transport the tree to the drop-off site.**

Don't forget about our [Recycling Center](#). Much of your holiday waste—cardboard, paper, [polystyrene](#) (block foam and food grade foam such as foam take out containers), cans, and glass bottles can be dropped off at the center for recycling. We also accept Christmas lights and electronics such as TVs, computers and old gaming systems.

**Besides wishing you a Merry Christmas, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the year. Be it [membership dues](#), donations, or visits to the center, the amount of material collected through the center this year, is impressive. We could not have done it without the support of our members.**

#### **2021 a year in review**

- Had over 14,000 visitors to the center
- Shipped out for proper disposal:
  - Over 1 million pounds of TVs
  - 243,000 pounds of e-waste
  - 130,000 lbs. of cardboard
  - 192,000 lbs. of books
  - 43,000 lbs. of other paper
  - 75,000 lbs. of glass
  - Nearly 10,000 tires
  - 11,180 lbs. of lead acid batteries
  - 1,033 Freon appliances
- After working with Cleanways for 23 years, Ellen Keefe retired as Executive Director at the end of September and Mike Skapura has taken over the position
- Despite COVID restricts we were able to have 47 education programs, reaching over 1,500 youth and adults of the County.
- Participated in a West Nile Virus tire collection, and Unity Township cleanup day
- Established and apiary on the grounds

- Hosted 3 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events with 507 households participating dropping off 61,900 pounds of HHW.  
(Note: Due to a raise in disposal costs, as of January 1, 2022 car and light truck tires prices will increase to \$4 off rim, and \$5 on rim)

**Warmest wishes this holiday season,**  
Mike Skapura, Executive Director  
Natalie Reese, Program Director  
Mike Rahuba, Recycling Ctr. Manager

## **NATIVITY ENCYCLICAL by Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia**



Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, my brethren, He is born of the Virgin Mary, who in His hand holds the whole of creation. The holy hymn-writer reminds us that the chapter of our salvation is unique and repetitive, using the term “today.” That is, a present-tense since the historical event of the Nativity of Christ does not disappear in the distant past, but is experienced in the Church as always-present grace and is revived in the life of every believer. Thus, it becomes a vital event that seals and transforms our lives. The Church invites us all to become eyewitnesses of the Birth of the Savior, which took place “during the time of King Herod” (Mt 2: 1).

This grace and the highest honor that was given to us are not only a spiritual privilege, but also a reminder that we must be renewed in the supernatural event of the Divine Incarnation and offer to our Creator our whole existence. Realizing the greatness of God’s extreme condescension to all of us, we must also acknowledge that the modern way of life and the dizzying speeds we live in often paralyze our spiritual powers. Modern life, ignoring God, therefore ignores man as well. That is why many self-appointed “saviors” take advantage of the spiritual weakness of modern man, and promise a new life and a new paradise without Christ!

Thus, man often proves to be poor in his wealth and weak in his supposed power. After all, this reminds us of the difficult situation that humanity has been in for the last two years, as it is plagued by the Covid-19 pandemic, which confirms to all of us every day how small and weak we are in the face of a deadly virus.

Our Church, feeling again the sorrows, trials, and sufferings of modern man, addresses *to all without exception* the optimism of the Gospel, the invitation of the Incarnate Word. [Italics ours.]

Inviting all of you to experience together again this year the miracle of the Nativity, with humility and heartbreak, let us glorify with one mouth and with one heart the name of Jesus Christ.

I wholeheartedly wish you a prosperous and spiritually fruitful New Year!

✠ Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia

Source: [Orthodox Times](#)

*Metropolitan Cleopas (Strongylis) was elected as ruling hierarch of the Metropolis of Sweden and All Scandinavia of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in May 2014. He holds a PhD (1994) from the University of Thessaloniki and is best known for his work on St. Nectarios of Pentapolis. He was born in Athens on August 20, 1966.*