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## **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, Metropolitan Savas, 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 George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, 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, 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, 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 Zeliszcuk, 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, 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 & Jan Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy & Sharon Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Theresa 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, 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], Father Deacon James Rossetti & Diakonissa Kari—ordination!, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry & Shirley [skin cancer] Tkacik, Diane & Arthur Chaklis, Denny Mader, Robert Chicka [cancer], Myra Woodruff [cancer], Zoe Oswalt—Fr. Bob's cousin [cancer], Barbette [cancer] & Scott, Kristin [cancer], Erm Hartmann, Barbara Bookser [cancer], Bob Mazzuca [cancer], Marko, Taylor, Terri Crosby-Vega, Christine Mohamed, Sue Demko, Tammy & Donnie [cancer] Marsico, 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 REVIEW THE NAMES ON THE PRAYER LIST ABOVE AND LET FATHER BOB KNOW ANY NAMES THAT CAN BE REMOVED...**

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE! PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD—AND OUR LIVES!**

**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] 956-6626.**

**SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE**

**SUNDAY, December 18                      OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS                      10:30 AM**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED; MARTYR ANASTASIUS; SAINT KARION & HIS SON SAINT ZACHARIAH OF EGYPT**

*Tone 2*

Ephesians 6:10-17; Galatians 5:22-6:2  
Luke 17:12-19; Matthew 11:27-30

**SUNDAY, December 25                      OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS                      10:30 AM**  
**28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS; SAINT SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER OF TREMITHON, HIEROMARTYR ALEXANDER-BISHOP OF JERUSALEM;; MARTYR SYNESIUS OF ROME**

*Tone 3*

Colossians 3:4-11; Hebrews 13:17-21  
Luke 14:16-24; Luke 6:17-21

**SUNDAY, January 01                      OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS                      10:30 AM**  
**29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS; SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY; BONIFACE AT TARSUS IN CILICIA;; MARTYRS ELIAS, PROBUS, & ;ARES IN CILICIA; MARTYRS POLYEUCTUS & TIMOTHY THE DEACON; SAINT BONIFACE THE MERCIFUL-BISHOP OF FERNETINO; SAINT GREGORY-ARCHBISHOP OF OMIRITS; SAINT ELIAS OF MUROM-WONDERWORKER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; VENERABLE AMFILOHIJE OF POCHAIV**

*Tone 4*

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

Matthew 1:1-25

*Litany in Blessed Memory of Rose Zalenchak, Stephen Kuzman, Timothy Stutchell, Cecilia Pysh, Nicholas Vetosky, Robert Rohal, & Gary Atutes—Fr. Bob*

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 18 DECEMBER 2022**

### **27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED; MARTYR ANASTASIUS; SAINT KARION & HIS SON SAINT ZACHARIAH OF EGYPT**

#### **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!

**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)*

The length of earthly life is uncertain for each individual. The Psalmist says life is normally 70-80 years in length. (Ps.89/90:10) Every breath, each heartbeat, and thought are dependent upon the Lord God.

God's Holy Church proclaims the Gospel for believers to be mindful of the dependency on God for life. Believers are expected to live in ways that reflect

God as the giver of life.

When believers are mindful of God as the giver of life, responsible believers show God gratitude, attention, and glory. Responsible believers keep the focus on God and put earthly life and earthly goods into perspective.

The rich man in the present Gospel gave no thought to God. He focused on the abundance of his material goods. His desire was to keep his large amount of goods and maintain a life of ease.

The rich man wanted to party and have a good time with his life. No mention was made of him giving thanks to God for the abundance of his fruits. No thought is recorded of his interest in sharing his wealth with the less fortunate.

The Gospel has does not record the rich man as donating any portion of his wealth for glory and thanksgiving to God. The rich man's interest in the well-being of his soul appears non-existent.

Unexpectedly, the man's life was going to end. The wealth he accumulated would be of no benefit to him. He had not shown richness towards God. He had not shared his wealth with any neighbors that were needy.

The Lord Jesus Christ said: "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Mt. 6:20)

The present Gospel is a vivid lesson for attentive believers to be mindful of the soul and the fragility of life. Being rich toward God involves giving thanks, glory and honor to God.

Richness toward God includes showing concern and compassion for the needy met during the course of daily life. Jesus said: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Mt.25:40)

During the course of earthly life, every person will meet and come to know of others who might be sick, strangers, needing food or clothing, or having been imprisoned.

The way a person responds to the sick, the suffering, the needy, and imprisoned will affect how the person will be judged when Christ returns. (Mt.25:31-46)

Today a person may be comfortable in his or her wealth.

Today may be the last day of earthly life, and richness toward God may never have been shown. The way life is lived creates the record for the final judgment.

Ignoring gratitude toward God, taking it easy, and failing to share with the less fortunate does not bode well for the final judgment. Abundance given to each person is to be used responsibly in God-pleasing ways.

We know from St. James's Epistle: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17)

Grateful recipients of wealth will acknowledge and give thanks to God. Those appreciative of God's goodness will reflect the appreciation in sharing the abundance with the needy with whom Christ is identified. (Mt. 25:31-46)

Every person has a certain abundance of wealth received from God. The time of daily life is part of the abundance given each person. Responsible recipients of God's wealth take time to thank God in the Church and in daily life.

Many people have an abundance of time and have the opportunity to attend the Divine services of the Church. Attending the Divine services of the Church is a way to thank God and benefit others.

The Church has weekday services that can benefit greatly from improved attendance. Every person has the ability to pray more for themselves and others.

Praying benefits not only the people prayed for but also the person praying.

Giving thanks, glory, and honor to God by attending the Divine services is a way to be rich toward God. Praying for and helping the sick, the suffering, the needy, the stranger, and the imprisoned are ways to be rich toward God.

Responsible recipients of God's wealth give time and effort to the Church and live according to God's commandments. Responsible believers welcome and strive to hear the word of God and keep it. (Lk. 11:28)

*The Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy monk-martyr Stephen the New. Holy Martyr Christo. November 28/December 11, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Father Joseph Cervo contributes:

**Reflection on THE FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS, December 6/19:**



There are a plethora of great stories, historical or not, about St. Nicholas, but what does it have to do with our lives as Christians today? Why should we care about a fourth-century bishop of Asia Minor (today's Turkey), who has been hybridized with the features of an overweight Scandinavian elf? In this season of Advent where we focus on our remembrance of the first coming—the Incarnation of The Word of God—and our preparation for the second coming of Christ, the example of St. Nicholas is very helpful to us.

In the scriptural telling of the events leading up to the Incarnation, we hear Mary's Magnificat and her description of what her son will do. The mighty will be cast down from their thrones, the poor will be raised up, the hungry will be fed, and the rich will be sent away empty. This is the world that God is making. Jesus affirms this in the Beatitudes: Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, and so on. Jesus affirms it again in the gospel passage from Mark that we just heard, where Jesus scolds the disciples for dismissing children—the epitome of poor, meek, and lowly in their society—and instead draws the children near to himself and blesses them.

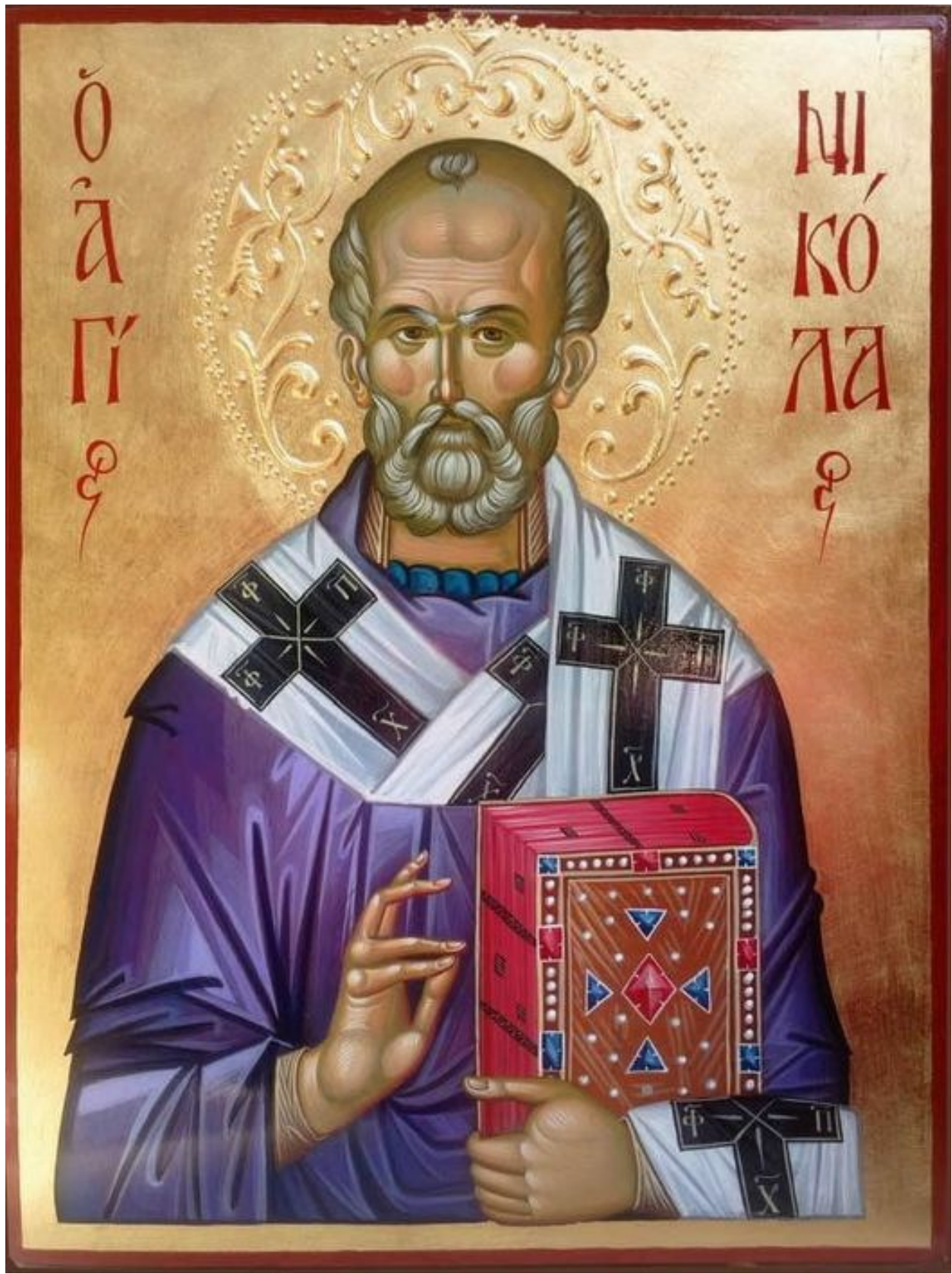
God, in the Incarnation, is making a world where the human order of things is stood on its head. The first are last and the last are first. It begins quietly, with a tiny baby in a manger, but the effect is no less dramatic than the plea of Isaiah that we heard on Sunday morning. "O God, that you would rend the heavens and come down, making mountains tremble and as when fire sets brushwood aflame!" Herod, one of the rich and powerful of the world, trembles in his palace at the birth of Jesus, going to terrible lengths to try to kill him.

The life of St. Nicholas, as we know it, embodies this inverted world through an imitation of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Jesus feeds 5,000 with loaves and fishes; St. Nicholas feeds a city with the emperor's grain. The Lord Jesus blesses little children and raises Lazarus from the dead; St. Nicholas rescues three boys and restores them to life. The Lord supplies the wine for the wedding at Cana; St. Nicholas provides dowries that three young women might have weddings. In each instance, St. Nicholas is a reflection of the light of Christ, a spark of that changing fire from heaven, loving his brothers and sisters in the way that God loves them. He sees people in dire circumstances beyond their own control and takes it upon himself, with God's help, to draw them up to the lives they were created to live.

Not only is St. Nicholas a popular saint with a reputation for being good-natured and bringing candy and toys to small children, but he is the patron of children, prostitutes, repentant thieves, sailors and, interestingly,

students. All people who, in one way or another, embody and represent different kinds of vulnerability and an opportunity to love.

While Santa Claus may be coming to town, an annual event that delights merchants with marketing possibilities. However, for us Christians, St. Nicholas calls us to join him in helping the needy and downtrodden, in visiting the lonely and the imprisoned, in shoveling snow on the walk of the elderly in our neighborhood, in caring for those who are vulnerable, and counted by the world as unimportant and forgettable. And when we join him there, St. Nicholas points to the faces of those we serve and reminds us that in loving one another as God loves us, there we meet God.



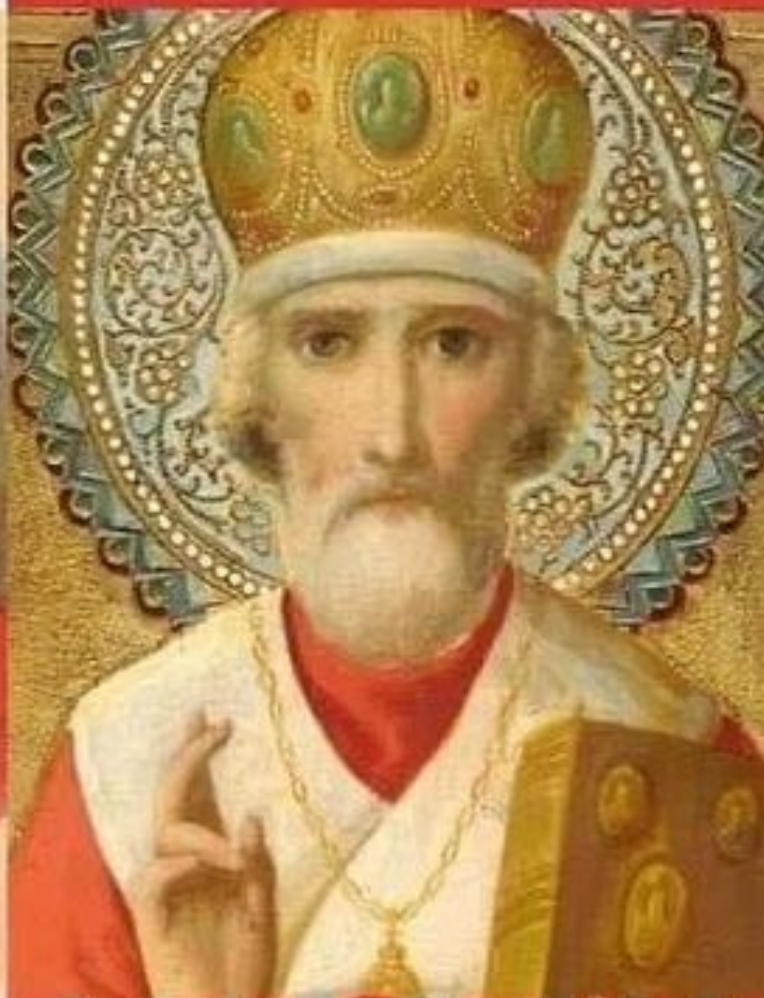
Patty Martinovich also weighs in:

😊 Happy St Nicholas Day! 🍪🍪🍪 May your shoes be filled with goodies and gifts if you left them at the door! And being Serbian and Russian AND

UKRAINIAN! Fr. Bob] here we get another chance on Dec 19th (old calendar)! 🤗

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CHOOSE WISELY

**A quick and sincere THANK YOU for the prayers and well-wishes on the 25-year-anniversary of my ordination to the Holy Priesthood... In my sermon last**

**Sunday, I made sure to say thanks personally to all who attended...but to those who have supported me over the years—through advice, tolerance, suggestions, and even rolling their eyes at my ideas—you all have made it possible to FOLLOW CHRIST...and Slickville folks make it so much easier!**

**25 years ago, I had all the answers, but was scared... Now I realize I have NONE of the answers, but trust God to have them.**

**To His Beatitude, +Metropolitan Constantine of Blessed Memory—thank you for your belief that I could serve a parish of folks without a clue as to how...you said always let God give you the answers! I miss you greatly...and your insight into the human condition.**

**To my Slickvillians—my parish family—you have allowed me to walk WITH you in our journey towards Salvation. Your prayers and support have given me strength and have reinforced my faith in humanity.**

**To Pani Gina, Reader Alex, and EMT Matt—you have given me everything and every reason to be the best person I can be...and it makes my journey in the priesthood a little less stressful**

**I wish you all a peaceful and prayerful fast—whether you call it Advent, Saint Philip's Fast, Nativity Fast, or something else—and the joy of the entry of Christ into the world.**

**God Bless and Keep you all...Always!**

**Love, Father Bob**