



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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ADVENT/PILIPKIVA/NATIVITY FAST

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Father Bob, 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, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Father Angelo Artemas, Father John Haluszczak, Father Simon & Dr. Christina Nellis, Father Joshua [Anna], Father Justin (Todd) Mokhiber, Pani Cathy Danczak, Protopresbyter Gerald Ozlanski, Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, 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, Gaele 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, 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, 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], 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 & Terri Berceli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, 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, 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, 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,

Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Father Joe Uzar, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko, John, Kris & Kait, Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Amy Forbeck, David Salazar, Kitty Mary, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Alexandra Roberts, Candace Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [infant], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob's cousin], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], Donna [dementia] & Darla, Adam Snow, the McKenna family, David Gazella, Brian & Michele Cannone, Robert Rodrigues & family, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry & Shirley Tkacik, Diane & Arthur Chaklis, Denny Mader, 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 [knee replacement], Christine Mohamed, Sue Demko, Tammy Marsico, Terry & David Hartnett, Jamie Ball, Kay Williams, Hannah Stewart, Jim Wyko—Alex's friend, Dan Losego, Lisa Bruce, Yvette, Barry Bender, Scott McDougall, Andrew Zelleznick, Jill Bailey, Byron & Cecilia Scott, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC [knee], Jackie May, Barbara Morvay, David Salsar, N&O, Randy & Adrienne Kuny, Vince Berardinelli, Mason Martin [Karns City HS QB] & family, Martin Mrvos, Jeff McCoy, Lauren & Sloane Valentina Persico, Alexis & baby Colton Rosati, Jessica Shirley, Steve Milcic, Wilbert Wagner, Bob Wojciechowski, and Jill Morocco. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

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 31 OBEDNTIZA—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS; MARTYR SEBASTIAN OF ROME & COMPANIONS; SAINT MODESTUS-ARCHBISHOP OF JERUSALEM; VENERABLE FLORUS-BISHOP OF AMISUS; VENERABLE MICHAEL THE CONFESSOR AT CONSTANTINOPLE

Tone 5

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

Matthew 1:1-25

Litany in Memory of Catherine Bogacz, Emily Matson & Linda Snow—Fr. Bob

SATURDAY, January 06 NATIVITY EVE—STRICT FAST DAY

SUNDAY, January 07 NATIVITY DIVINE LITURGY—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Tone 6

Galatians 4:4-7

Matthew 2:1-12

SUNDAY, January 14 OBEDNTIZA—SAINT BASIL THE GREAT—UPSTAIRS
10:30 AM

32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY; SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY; JULIAN NEW YEAR'S DAY; CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; SAINT BASIL THE GREAT-ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA; MARTYR BASIL OF ANCYRA; SAINT EMELIA-MOTHER OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

Tone 7

Colossians 2:8-12; Hebrews 7:26-8:2; 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Luke 2:20-21, 40-52; Luke 6:17-23; Mark 1:1-8

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

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 31 DECEMBER 2023

**30TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY;
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS; MARTYR SEBASTIAN OF ROME &
COMPANIONS; SAINT MODESTUS-ARCHBISHOP OF JERUSALEM;
VENERABLE FLORUS-BISHOP OF AMISUS; VENERABLE MICHAEL THE
CONFESSOR AT CONSTANTINOPLE**

Troparion—Tone 2

Great are the achievements of faith!

In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water, the Three Holy Children rejoiced.

And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep.

By their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

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

Kontakion—Tone 1

O Bethlehem, rejoice! Make ready, Ephratha!

The ewe is hastening to give birth to the Great Shepherd Whom she carries in her womb.

The God-bearing Fathers rejoice at seeing Him, and the Shepherds praise the Virgin who suckles Him.

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.

“Do not be ungrateful for what we received this week by thinking about next week.”

St Nektarios - after praying to our Holy Mother the Theotokos for help as the monastery at Aegina was out of money and unable to pay workers wages due in 2 days. Money was gifted to the monastery the very next day, enough to sustain them all for that week. This was at the beginning of World War 1 and many people were starving and suffering in Greece.

One of the nuns had asked: “But what about next week?”

A significant passage in Epictetus's Encheiridion affirms that people are disturbed by their judgments about things and not by the things themselves. This passage, which was ostensibly preserved in the Church by Saint Neilus the Ascetic and repeatedly cited by Aaron Beck, began the first movement in our examination of the counterpoint between patristic and cognitive theories of human emotion and behavior.

Bishop Alexis (Trader), Ancient Christian Wisdom and Aaron Beck's Cognitive Therapy: A Meeting of Minds p.253

Often we are the ones who do injustice to others. It may seem to us at the time that we are doing the right thing, but later it turns out that we were very wrong. We must learn to overcome all these little things with peace, united with the Lord, so that disquiet will not enter us from the outside, and so that we will always have our inner peace.

Elder Thaddeus(Strabulovich) of Vitovnica, Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica p.165

When you are by yourself, then pray: O humble Lord, by your humility, humble me!

Venerable Justin (Popovic) of Chelije in Serbia, Orthodox Faith and Life in Christ p.28

Do not be afraid. The devil does not do what he would like, but only that which God allows him to do. Take a look at the book of Job.

Abbot Nikon Vorobiev, Abbot Nikon Letters to Spiritual Children p.69

Vladika Lazar Puhalo

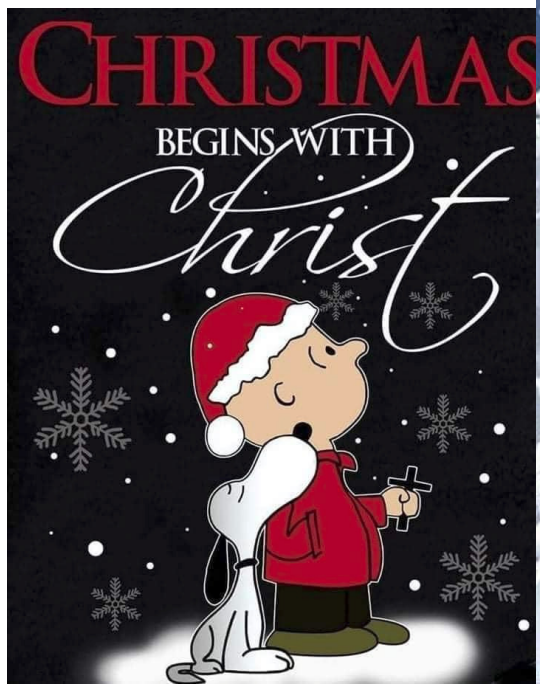
CONTEMPLATION FOR THE NATIVITY FAST:

For me, the most beautiful aspect of the feast, and usually the most overlooked, is that the birth of Christ is the incarnation of God's co-suffering love for mankind. In fact, he did take on the fullness of our humanity,

including its suffering. Christ's birth is a rescue mission to redeem humanity from its alienation from God. At every step of the way, our humanity is involved, and the love of God seeks our participation and cooperation rather than our bondage to law and our robotic submission. We are called to renew our trust and love for God, not to become his puppets. Christ could have created his own human form to inhabit, but he took on our true nature and re-sanctified it—each stage of it, birth, youth and maturity—and so he was born in our likeness. man was created in the image and likeness of God but fell from it. Think for a moment about the incredible humility of God loving us so much that, to redeem us, he took on the lowliness of our image and likeness to redeem and re-sanctify it. It is astonishing to think of it, but God is humble and meek. In the vesting prayers for a bishop, when the place is the Omophorion on his shoulders, he recites the prayer, "Blessed is our God Who has taken our human nature on his shoulders and born it to the cross."

Death is the ultimate mark of our alienation from the source of life. Our redemption begins with the incarnation, but the final defeat of our alienation is Christ's victory over death on our behalf. Man was held in bondage all his lifetime through the fear of death by the one who had the power of death [through sin], namely, Satan. When we were ransomed from the fear of death, we were at the same moment redeemed from the power of Satan. Redeemed from alienation and redeemed from bondage to Satan—that is what redemption means, and at every step, it is manifested through the co-suffering love of God for mankind, and not without the participation of mankind. Love does not demand submission as puppets or robots, but the response of love and trust and a desire to be faithful, even though we never quite make that. In whatever way we fall short, Christ has made up the difference for us, and he has done so while participating in our humanity.

Today we wonder where is the love? During these holy times, especially in preparation for our Lord's Holy Nativity, let us all humbly cry out for peace! Peace and goodwill among all men! What has happened to us as we hear of wars and death before us, as our hearts break to hear of especially about the children. How our Lord must weep today when we ask when shall these wars end? When shall we stop the hatred since hatred was not created, it (was desired) became the breath of war brings destruction, and humanity suffers for decades, I know this well as I have doing missionary work in Kosovo/Metohija. These times are truly for us all to pray to our Lord that we finally will find not only peace within us but also that these wars finally cease in peace. Cry and pray with me!
+Father Archimandrite Nektarios (Serfes), Who loves to pray for you!



***May the dawn of the New Year fill you with
Hope, Dreams, and Joy!
Happy 2024 from the Popichak clan...
Sydney, Alex, Matt, Pani Gina, & Father Bob***