



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

**714 Westmoreland Avenue**

**PO Box 3**

**Slickville, PA 15684-0003**

**[www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org)**

Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor

23 Station Street

Carnegie, PA 15106-3014

[412] 956-6626 cell

[rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu](mailto:rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu)

## **ADVENT/NATIVITY FAST/SAINT PHILIP'S FAST/PYLYPIVKA**

**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 & Pani Judy 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, Father Vasyl Sendeha, Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Father Angelo Artemas, Father John Haluszczak, Dr. Christina Nellis, Father Joshua [Anna], Father Justin (Todd) Mokhiber, Pani Cathy Danczak, Protopresbyter Gerald Ozlanski, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, 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, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Sharon Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Theresa Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita

*& Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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 & family, 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, Byron & Cecilia Scott, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC 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, Mark [kidney cancer], Steve Milcic, Wilbert Wagner, Bob Wojciechowski, Ashley, Beth & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Peter Popichak [Father Bob's cousin], Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, and Lauren & Dan... We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.*

**By blurting out one careless word, he who has tasted prayer often defiles his mind, and then when he stands in prayer he no longer attains his desire as before. St. John Climacus**

**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 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 22 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM  
26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; CONCEPTION OF SAINT ANNA; PROPHETESS ANNA-MOTHER OF PROPHET SAMUEL; SAINT SOPHRONIOS-ARCHBISHOP OF CYPRUS; VENERABLE STEPHEN THE "NEW LIGHT" OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

*Tone 1*

Ephesians 5:8-19; Galatians 4:22-31

Luke 17:12-19; Luke 8 16-21

**SUNDAY, December 29 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM  
27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS; PROPHET HAGGAI; MARTYR MARINUS OF ROME; BLESSED EMPRESS THEOPHANIA OF BYZANTIUM**

*Tone 2*

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 14:16-24

**SUNDAY, January 05, 2025 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM  
28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY; HOLY TEN MARTYRS OF CRETE—THEODULUS, SATURNINUS, EUPORUS, GELASIUS, EUNICIAN, ZOTICUS, POMPEIUS,**

**AGATHOPUS, BASILIDES, & EVARISTUS; VENERABLE NIPHON-BISHOP OF  
CYPRUS; VENERABLE PAUL-BISHOP OF NEO-CAESAREA**

*Tone 3*

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 27-40

Matthew 1:1-25

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 22 DECEMBER 2024**

**26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; CONCEPTION OF SAINT ANNA;  
PROPHETESS ANNA-MOTHER OF PROPHET SAMUEL; SAINT  
SOPHRONIOS-ARCHBISHOP OF CYPRUS; VENERABLE STEPHEN THE  
"NEW LIGHT" OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

### **TROPARION—TONE 1**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;  
While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;  
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,  
Granting life to the world.  
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life:  
Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!  
Glory to Thy Kingdom!  
Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

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**

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with  
Thyself.  
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished!  
Adam exults, O Master!  
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:  
Thou are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 1**

**READER:** Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on  
Thee.

**PEOPLE:** Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our  
hope on Thee.

**READER:** Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

**PEOPLE:** Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our  
hope on Thee.

**READER:** Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

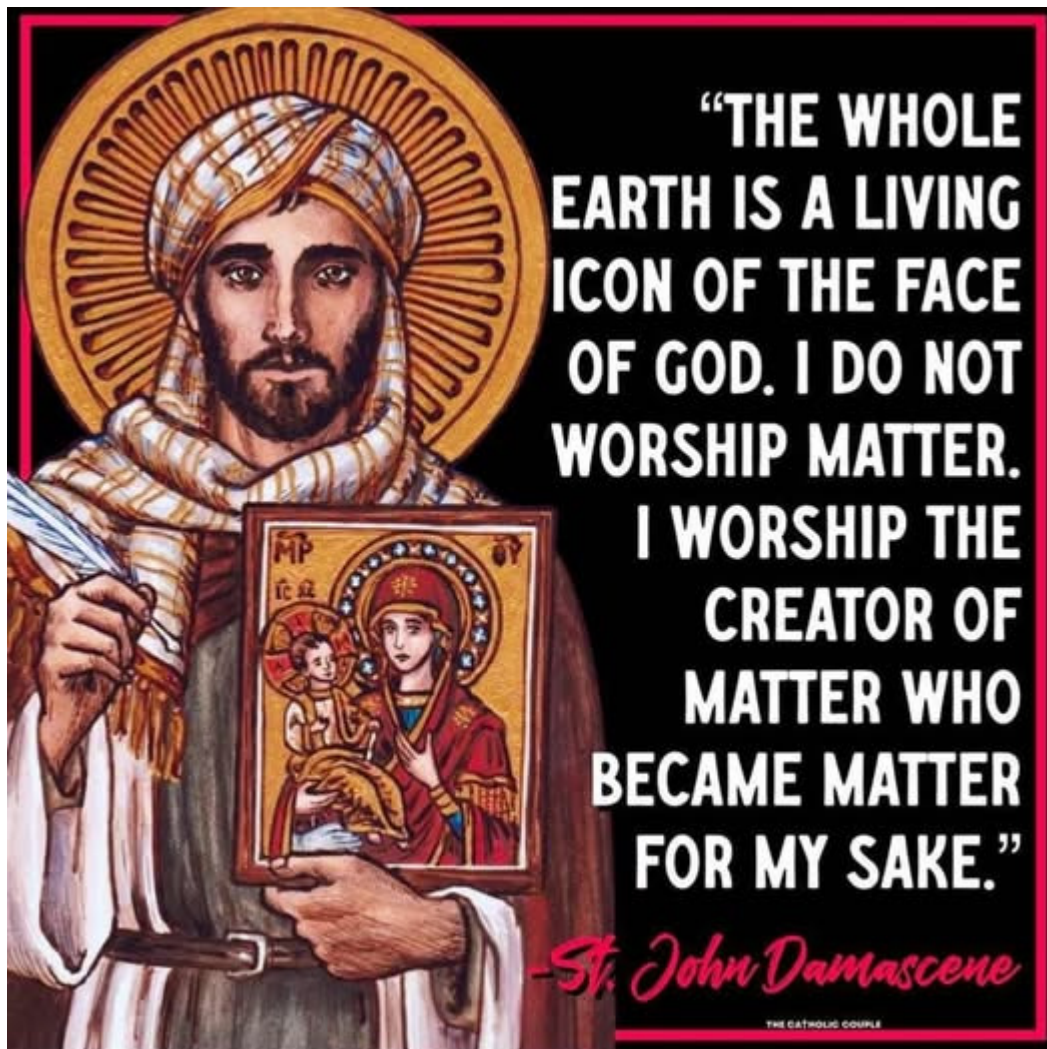
**PEOPLE:** As we have set our hope on Thee.



### **ALLELUIA VERSES**

God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.  
He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ,  
with David and his seed forever!

**For what is denying oneself? He who truly denies himself does not ask, Am I happy? or, Shall I be satisfied? All such questions fall away from you if you truly deny yourself, for by so doing you have also given up your will for either earthly or heavenly happiness. This obstinate will to personal happiness is the cause of unrest and division in your soul. Give it up and work against it: the rest will be given you without effort. *Tito Colliander, Way of the Ascetics p.23***



### **Metropolitan Savas [Zembillas]**

A sampling of the wisdom of St AMBROSE of MILAN, whose memory the Orthodox Church celebrates on December 7/20:

No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.

Feed him who is dying of hunger; if you have not fed him you have killed him.

True repentance is to cease from sin.

In some causes silence is dangerous.

The Church of the Lord is built upon the rock of the apostles among so many dangers in the world; it therefore remains unmoved. The Church's foundation is unshakable and firm against assaults of the raging sea. Waves lash at the Church but do not shatter it. Although the elements of this world constantly beat upon the Church with crashing sounds, the Church possesses the safest harbor of salvation for all in distress. There is a stream which flows down on God's saints like a torrent. There is also a rushing river giving joy to the heart that is at peace and makes for peace.

God by nature is uncompounded, joined to nothing, composed of nothing, to whom nothing happens by accident; but only possessing in His own nature that which is divine, enclosing all things, Himself closed out of nothing, penetrating all things, Himself never penetrable, everywhere complete, everywhere present at the same time, whether in heaven or on earth or in the depths of the sea, incapable of being seen or measured by our senses, to be followed only by faith and venerated in our religion.

The Devil tempts that he may ruin and destroy; God tests that He may crown.

There is no time of life past learning something.

There is nothing evil save that which perverts the mind and shackles the conscience.

If you are at Rome live in the Roman style; if you are elsewhere live as they live elsewhere.

When I go to Rome, I fast on Saturday, but in Milan I do not. Do you also follow the custom of whatever church you attend, if you do not want to give or receive scandal.

*[On DECEMBER 7/20, the Orthodox Church commemorates our Father among the Saints AMBROSE, Bishop of Milan, depicted here in a twelfth-century mosaic from the Capella Palatina in Palermo, Sicily.]*



✠  
I myself am  
nothing; all that  
is good in me is  
accomplished by  
the grace of God.

St. John of Kronstadt

**Patty Martinovich offers:**

**"Breathe in God, and God will rule over your whole being. As you inhale and exhale air with your lungs, so with your thoughts and heart exhale yourself out of yourself, and breathe in the living God. So He will move in you, Victorious, Invincible and He will use**



you as an instrument of His victory over the evil within you and beyond you. Be in me and I will be in you. How is that? Similarly as we are in the air and air in us. God is spirit, and spirit can enter a man when a man opens himself towards God."

*Saint Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic*



**Antioch Patriarchate** بطريكية أنطاكية وسائر المشرق للروم الأرثوذكس

**Statement Issued by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East**

**Damascus, December 9, 2024**

**"God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved."**

**Syria has always been, and continues to be, a country honored by God as the cradle of His divine messages and the land that embraced the footsteps of His messengers and prophets, despite the many historical eras it has endured. Today, it stands at a new crossroads in its history, looking towards a bright future aspired by**

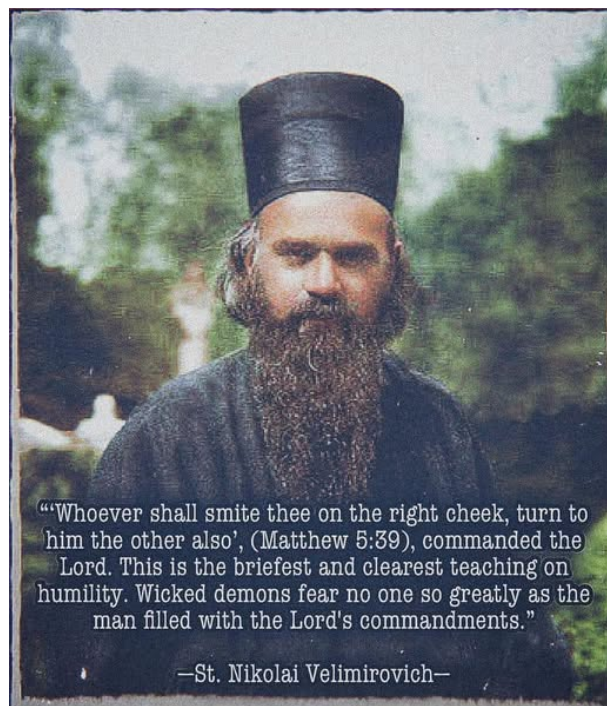
**every Syrian—a future that reflects Syria's identity as a land of civilization and the cradle of history.**

**This phase requires wisdom, solidarity, and concerted efforts. Above all, it demands trust in God and reliance on Him, seeking His mercy and the wisdom of His providence to remain steadfast in the love of the homeland and the preservation of its people's dignity.**

**Accordingly, as a Church deeply rooted in this great East, we are committed to continuing our journey of serving humanity and promoting peace and harmony among people in a country governed by law and democratic institutions.**

**In this critical phase, the Church urges all its parishioners and every Syrian citizen, regardless of ethnic, political, or religious affiliation, to fulfill their national duty by striving for unity, protecting public and private property, fostering safety in their surroundings, exercising self-restraint in the face of challenges, and approaching matters with wisdom and foresight. It calls on everyone to extend a hand to those responsible for the care of this beloved country. The Church also appeals to all concerned people to work toward addressing violations and safeguarding the dignity of every citizen, so we may collectively progress toward a brighter tomorrow.**

**Finally, as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Christ born in a Cave, we lift up our prayers to Him, asking for peace to reign in the land of peace, bringing goodness to all the people of this cherished country.**



**God's blessing comes when we give a blessing.**

Elder Savvas the Philotheusite had told me that during the great famine of 1917, the Iberians, seeing the monastery's storehouses empty, had reduced their hospitality.

In fact, a stingy superior insisted and cut it off completely. Next, Christ would stop all His blessings. Then the Fathers began to starve and complain to Christ and the Virgin Mary that they were not taking care of their monastery.

Unfortunately, they had not realized their mistake. One day, therefore, Christ appeared to the Monastery's Gatekeeper, as a poor man, and asked him for a little bread. The Gatekeeper sadly said to him: We have nothing, my brother, and that is why we have cut off our hospitality. But wait a moment while I bring you this little piece that I have in my cell for myself.

He ran, went to his cell and brought him the bread he had for himself and gave it to him. But he saw the poor man's face shining. After the Poor Man took the bread, he said to the Doorman: *Do you know why this misfortune came to the Monastery? Because you expelled two from the Monastery: the "give" and the "it will be given".*

After that, he disappeared, scattering a light that dazzled the Doorman. The Doorman then lost his mind and, frightened, ran to the Superiors of the Monastery and told them the incident. At first, the Fathers racked their brains to remember which people they expelled. But then they understood that the poor man was Christ and they understood His Gospel words: "Give and it will be given to you".

They immediately repented of their mistake and as soon as they began to give from their surplus to the poor, God's rich blessings arrived.

**When contrition seizes the heart through the action of the wordless Word within it, then man's spirit begins to experience, in some small measure, the life of the Word Himself *Hieromonk Damascene (Christensen)*, Christ the Eternal Tao p.381**

**In order for someone to conquer his passions, he must look only at himself, and not right or left. We must anticipate the passions and weaknesses that sprout up in our soul because if they grow strong, we will not be able to uproot them easily. Every passion that sprouts up needs to be cut down. Much humility is needed for us to progress in the grandeur of God's love. *Gerondissa Makrina (Vassopoulou)*, Words of the Heart p.140**



# 9 interesting facts about

## CHRISTMAS

 BASILICA.RO

Bethlehem means  
'house of bread',  
a symbol of  
the Eucharist

The Magi followed  
the Star for  
over two years

The mystery of the  
Nativity was first  
announced by the angels  
to a group of shepherds



According to  
St John Chrysostom,  
the Star was  
the Archangel Gabriel

Baby Jesus  
was born in a cave

The Magi, Caspar,  
Melchior, Balthazar  
came from different  
countries

Two midwives  
were present,  
Zelomi and Salome  
(Virgin Mary's cousin)

Until the  
fourth  
century,  
the Nativity  
of the Lord  
was celebrated  
together with  
the Epiphany

The Nativity of the  
Lord is described  
in the Gospels  
of Matthew and Luke

**How can there be peace, when people are not reconciled with God? Only when man is reconciled with God can inward and outward peace come. But for us to be reconciled with God, we must first attain awareness, we must repent, we must live in accordance with God's commandments, and then the Grace and peace of God will enter into us, enabling us to also help create peace around us. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.395***