



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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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, Casi [cancer], and Lauren & Dan... 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 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 29 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
27TH 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
28TH 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

MONDAY, January 06 NATIVITY EVE—STRICT FAST DAY

TUESDAY, January 07 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

**SUNDAY, January 12 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY; SUNDAY
BEFORE THEOPHANY; VIRGIN-MARTYR ANYSIA AT THESSALONICA;
MARTYR ZOTICUS OF CONSTANTINOPLE; APOSTLE TIMON THE DEACON;
MARTYR PHILOTERUS OF NICOMEDIA; VENERABLE THEODORA-NUN OF**

**CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA; VENERABLE THEODORA OF
CONSTANTINOPLE**

Tone 4
2 Timothy 4:5-8
Mark 1:1-8

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 29 DECEMBER 2024

**27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY
FOREFATHERS; PROPHET HAGGAI; MARTYR MARINUS OF ROME;
BLESSED EMPRESS THEOPHANIA OF BYZANTIUM**

Troparion—Tone 2

Thou didst justify the Forefathers by faith,
when of old through them Thou didst betroth Thyself to the Church of the
nations.

The Saints rejoice in the glorious fruit of their seed,
even in her who bore Thee seedlessly.

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 2

An image made with hands you would not worship, O thrice blessed three;
but protected by the ineffable Essence you were glorified in your ordeal by
fire.

From the midst of the devouring flames you called upon God, crying:
Hasten, O compassionate One,
in Thy mercy come to our aid,/ for if Thou wilt Thou canst.

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!



That I am a monk and you are a
layman is of no importance ...
rather that we are both in the
light of the Holy Spirit ...
Acquire peace, and thousands
around you will be saved.

St. Seraphim of Sarov

The Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Luke 10:25-37

And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is

written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. (KJV)

God's Holy Church is currently in the Nativity Fast. Now is the time to prepare the heart, mind and soul for the coming Feast of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Fast provides believers the opportunity and the incentive to carefully examine the heart, mind and soul. Reviewing and assessing personal goals and values has a part in the Nativity Fast.

The world focuses on the commercialization of Christmas. The world offers entertainment and paths that lead far from the Kingdom of God and eternal life.

Worldly celebrations often have nothing to do with Jesus Christ's birth.

Jesus Christ taking on human flesh changed the world forever. The Nativity Fast is a time for renewal in Jesus Christ. The Feast of the Nativity is the acknowledgment and celebration of God being with us.

Daily life challenges believers with the threats of war on the world stage and the commonplace of violence everywhere in daily life. The authentic search for peace is only with the Prince of Peace, the Embodiment of Peace, Jesus Christ.

The Nativity Fast is the path to travel to the Feast of the Nativity. The love of God is uncovered and revealed in the path to the Feast of the Nativity.

God's love is within each heart, mind and soul.

God's presence is in each relationship founded in Christ. God's Holy Church opens the doors to the Heavenly Kingdom. Believers with eyes to see will recognize Christ in each person in daily life.

The Gospel for today defines the path to eternal life. Believers are called to demonstrate compassion to the suffering people we meet in daily life. Believers are not to turn a blind eye and have a cold heart for those who suffer.

Suffering is everywhere in our midst. Our neighbor next door is suffering with an illness or is lonely. Our co-worker is struggling with a family member who is mentally ill or is fighting alcoholism or drug addiction.

We have friends who are struggling financially due to unexpected events. We know people who have been victims of violent crime. Our eyes will see people along the road who are homeless.

During the Nativity Fast we are challenged to take the initiative to grow in Christ. We are to reach out beyond our comfort zones to help the people nearby in need.

Our relationships reveal if we are really Christians deep in our heart, mind, and soul. The way we view and treat people in daily life is the proof whether Jesus Christ lives within and fills our heart, mind, and soul.

We confess Jesus Christ as King and as God at Holy Baptism. The proof of our belief is lived out in daily life. We all will stand before Christ at the Last Judgment. What will Christ say at the Last Judgement about our actions?

Today is an opportunity to invest in the Kingdom of God. Now is the time to be sure to travel the path to the Heavenly Kingdom. This is the moment to help the suffering people we see with our eyes nearby.

The Samaritan in the present Gospel did not talk about love of neighbor. The Samaritan in the Gospel proved by his actions that he loved his neighbor. Christians are called to prove by their actions their love of their neighbors.

Streets in our cities are filled with homeless people. Where is the resolve to address the homelessness? Tons of money is spent on war and war related expenses. Where are the sincere steps for peace?

God's Holy Church is where to put life in perspective. The Church offers the path to God's Kingdom and eternal life. Each person decides freely whether to travel the road to peace, the Kingdom of God and eternal life.

The Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Prophet Habakkuk; St. Urosh, King of Serbia; Venerable Joannicius of Devich. December 2/15, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

He who does not understand God's judgments walks on a ridge like a knife-edge and is easily unbalanced by every puff of wind. When praised, he exults; when criticized, he feels bitter. When he feasts, he makes a pig of himself; and when he suffers hardship, he moans and groans. When he understands, he shows off; and when he does not understand, he pretends that he does. When rich, he is boastful; and when in poverty, he plays the hypocrite. Gorged, he grows brazen; and when he fasts, he becomes arrogant. He quarrels with those who reprove him; and those who forgive him he regards as fools. *St Mark the Ascetic, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.142*



Fr Dave Urban

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Yesterday [December 16th] we started singing the Nativity Canon as we prepare for the Nativity of our Lord, this canon speaks to our souls. There are many references to the Old Testament as the world prepared for the coming of the Messiah. Let's prepare our souls for His Nativity.

The Canon of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Ode 1: Christ is born, glorify him! Christ comes from heaven, meet Him! Christ is an earth, be exalted! O all the earth, sing to the Lord, and sing praises in gladness, all people, for He has been glorified.

Ode 3: To the Son Who was begotten of the Father without change before all ages, and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin, to Christ our God, let us cry aloud: You have raised up our horn, holy are You, O Lord!

Ode 4: Rod of the root of Jesse, and flower that blossomed from his stem, O Christ, You have sprung forth from the Virgin. From the mountain overshadowed by the forest You came, made flesh for her that knew not wedlock, O God not formed from matter. Glory to Your power O Lord!

Ode 5: As You are God of Peace and Father of mercies, You have sent to us Your Angel of Great Counsel, granting unto us peace. So are we guided towards the light of the knowledge of God. And watching by night, we glorify You, O Lover of mankind.

Ode 6: The sea monster spat forth Jonah as it had received him, like a babe from the womb: while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh: came forth from her yet kept her undefiled. For being Himself not subject to decay. He preserved His Mother free from harm.

Ode 7: Scorning the impious decree, the three children brought up together in godliness feared not the threat of fire: but standing in the midst of the flame they sang: "O God of our fathers, blessed are You!"

Ode 8: The furnace moist with dew was the image of a wonder past nature. For it burned not the children whom it had received, even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which It had descended. Therefore in praise, let us sing: let the whole creation bless the Lord, and exalt Him above all forever.

Ode 9: I behold a strange and wonderful mystery. The cave has become heaven, the throne of the Cherubim, the Virgin. The manger a noble place where lies Christ our God Who cannot be contained. Let us praise Him in song and magnify You!

Raising our minds to God does not mean rolling up the pupils of our eyes in our heads and trying to see something. Neither does it mean thinking about or imagining God, for that is already a descent to the level of the active consciousness, to deliberately create images in the mind is only to create more distraction. *Hieromonk Damascene (Christensen)*, Christ the Eternal Tao p.310

**He is mistaken,
who thinks that
the fast consists
only in abstinence
from food.
True fasting is
departing from evil.**

Saint John Chrysostom



Brotherhood of St Dionysius the Ascetic