Holy Ghost Orthodox Church



714 Westmoreland Avenue PO Box 3

Slickville, PA 15684-0003 www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org

Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor 23 Station Street Carnegie, PA 15106-3014 [412] 956-6626 cell rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

****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 Yurij, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, 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, Father Christopher Bender, Dr. Christina Nellis, Father Joshua [Anna], Father Justin (Todd) Mokhiber, Pani Cathy Danczak, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, 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, 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, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric

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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, Barbette [cancer] & Scott, Kristin [cancer], Erm Hartmann, Barbara Bookser, Bob Mazzuca, Marko, Taylor, Terri Crosby-Vega, Christine Mohamed & family, Tammy Marsico, Terry & David Hartnett, Jamie Ball, Kay Williams, Hannah Stewart, Jim Wyko—Alex's friend, Dan Losego, Lisa Bruce, Yvette, Barry Bender, Andrew Zelleznick, Byron & Cecilia Scott, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Debbie—HTUCC, 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 & Colton Rosati, Jessica Shirley, Mark [kidney cancer], Steve Milcic, Wilbert Wagner, Bob Wojciechowski, Ashley, Beth, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, Mary & Carl Stepanovich, Susie Fierst, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Kate Rapina & Mother Oksana, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, Steve & Vonnie Gerson, Eva, Pamela & Doug, Nora, Mike & Jane, Mary Ann [Stage 4] cancer] & Lisa, Barbara Gardner & Mark Egleton, Donna Karas & Ross Rawe, Susan [cancer], Rose Marie, Tim Pruss, Donna & Laura Kloock, Chris & Elisa Astorino, and Lauren, Dan, & Daphne Iona... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our December babies: Scot Brunermer on the 14th and Donna Karas on the 18th. May God grant them Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless their families and friends...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is <u>NOTHING</u> 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 <u>ALWAYS</u> <u>FREE!</u>

<u>Communion Fasting:</u> 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 14 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; PROPHET NAHUM; RIGHTEOUS PHILARET THE MERCIFUL OF AMNIA IN ASIA MINOR; MARTYR ANANIAS OF PERSIA

Tone 2
Ephesians 6:10-17
Luke 18:18-27

Litany in Blessed Memory of Thomas Bryan, Pearl Hanczar, John Hanczar, Helen Pytlak, Mary Blitskan, Marjorie Yarmeak, Mary Sharon, Rose Pyrch, Cynthia Mycyk, Frank Barankovich, Mary Krevanich, Katherine Holowaty, Robert Vetosky, & Father Paul Pyrch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, December 21 *****NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE*****

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; VENERABLE PATAPIUS OF THEBES; HOLY
APOSTLES OF THE 70-SOSTHENES, APOLLOS, CEPHAS, TYCHICUS,
EPAPHRODITUS, CAESAR, & ONESIPHORUS; HOLY 362 MARTYRS OF
AFRICA MARTYRED BY THE ARIANS; MARTYR ANTHUSA OF ROME;
MARTYR VICTORIA

Tone 3
Colossians 1:12-18
Luke 17:12-19

SUNDAY, December 28 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HIEROMARTYR ELEUTHERIUS-BISHOP OF ILLYRIA, HIS MOTHER MARTYR ANTHIA, & MARTYR CORIVUS THE EPARCH; VENERABLE PAUL OF MOUNT LATROS; MARTYR ELEUTHERIUS; VENERABLE PARDUS-HERMIT; SAINT STEPHEN THE CONFESSOR-ARCHBISHOP OF SUROZH IN THE CRIMEA

Tone 4

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 14 DECEMBER 2025

27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; PROPHET NAHUM; RIGHTEOUS PHILARET THE MERCIFUL OF AMNIA IN ASIA MINOR; MARTYR ANANIAS OF PERSIA

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!

A layman envied the elder:

"How lucky you are, Father Gabriel! Your time was like this anyway, and you managed everything. But for us, a different era has come."

"What do you say, friend? Come, remember what is written in the Gospel. The master paid equally both the workers he hired in the morning and those he called to work for only one hour, who arrived at the eleventh hour. And you can desire and achieve everything. The Lord will reward you according to your labor."



When you lie, you lie to God; when you steal, you steal from God; when you have hatred for someone, you have hatred for God; when you don't honor your parents, you don't honor God; when you are jealous, you are jealous of God; when you begrudge alms to the poor, you begrudge recompense to God; when you plot evil, you plot it against God; when you work evil, you work evil against God.

St. Nikolaj Velimirovic

Q: Are you a Christian?

A: Ask my neighbor.

When a gentle word of persuasion has no effect, when people are so steeped in evil that they do not yield to any admonishment and continue doing evil, a Christian cannot and should not take refuge in this teaching of the forgiveness of all, sit indifferently with his arms crossed, and apathetically watch as evil abuses good, as it increases and destroys people, his close ones. *Archbishop Averky (Taushev)*, The Struggle for Virtue: Asceticism in a Modern Secular Society p.104

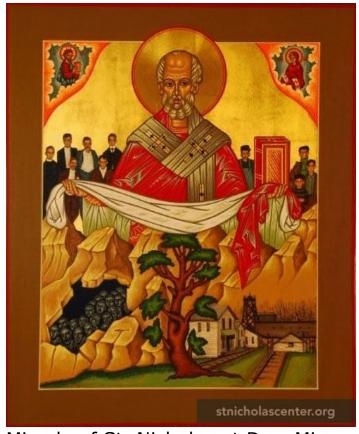
The transition from this life into eternity is a very difficult one. Before we pass on into eternity, we can pray, but afterwards we cannot do anything for ourselves—only our loved ones can help us with their prayers. In whatever state the Lord finds us at the hour of our death, He will judge us according to it. *Elder Thaddeus*

(Strabulovich) of Vitovnica, Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica p.160

Centennial of the Miracle of St. Nicholas—Jacobs Creek

December 19, 2007, the Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra according to the Julian Calendar, marked the 100th anniversary of the Darr Mine Disaster and the Miracle of St. Nicholas in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania. This was Pennsylvania's worst mining disaster and one of the worst in the United States. When the Darr Mine exploded, 239 men and boys lost their lives. Only two escaped.

That day Carpatho-Rusyn miners gave up a day's wage to attend a morning Divine Liturgy, as December 19 is the feast day of St. Nicholas, their <u>patron saint</u>. During the service they heard a terrible rumbling and the ground shook as gas and dust exploded in the mine. Recognizing disaster, everyone rushed to help rescue any survivors.



Miracle of St. Nicholas at Darr Mine Iconographer: Philip Zimmerman *Used by permission*

However, only two men working near the mine entrance were still alive. The poisonous gas, called afterdamp, killed many who survived the explosion itself. Most of the victims were Hungarian and Italian immigrants; seventy-one Hungarians are buried in a mass grave in Olive Cemetery.

Many newspapers, including the New York Times, reported the miraculous events. One Pittsburgh paper stated:

Religious fervor is due to sweep through the Youghiogheny Valley as never before as a consequence of the Darr disaster. Today was a holiday of the <u>Greek Catholic</u> Church, and as such it was observed by many of the men who usually work in the Darr mines. Usually about 400 men toil within the mine. On account of the religious holiday—it was the Feast of St. Nicholas—this number was nearly cut in half, and these, almost two hundred men, who were saved by religious devotion, will certainly be more devout than ever, after the extent of the mine's horror is fully realized.

The men observing the feast day were spared. It is estimated that St. Nicholas prevented the loss of two to three hundred men and boys, some as young as ten. Had they been in the mine, another thousand women and children would have been widowed or orphaned. They would have faced financial ruin as there was little or no assistance from the coal companies nor government agencies (victims' families in Monongah received funeral expenses and \$150).

This was the second miracle of St. Nicholas and miners in 1907. Earlier on December 6, Nicholas' feast day in the Gregorian Calendar, the worst mining disaster in United States history took place in Monongah, West Virginia. Nearly 400 men lost their lives that day. However, 60–100 Italian Roman Catholic and Carpatho-Rusyn Greek Catholic miners were spared as they attended a Roman Catholic St. Nicholas feast day observance. American mines were more dangerous than European mines. Practices outlawed in Europe were still allowed in the US where minors were three to four times more likely to die on the job.

These two disasters did bring change. For the first time self-contained breathing apparatus was used in deep-mine rescue operations in the United States. Within six months the U.S. Geological Survey created the Mine Accidents Division, opening a station to research of mine rescue techniques. Mining fatalities began to drop the next year, never again did so many mine workers lose their lives. In response to the disasters the U.S. Bureau of Mines was established in 1910 to improve the health and safety of those working in the mines.



TO THE MEMORY OF THE MARTYRS
THE DARR MINE DISASTER DEC. 19, 1907
ERECTED BY THE HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN FEDERATION 1909
Photo: American-Hungarian Federation, Permission pending



State Marker

Photo: Kordite Waymarking

Used by permission

After the Darr Mine reopened in 1910, Carpatho-Rusyns on both sides of the Youghiogheny River built churches dedicated to Saint Nicholas in gratitude for his miraculous protection (the area had previously been served by the priest from St. Stephen's in Leisenring). St. Nicholas Orthodox Church was established in Jacobs Creek and, on the other side of the river, St. Nicholas Byzantine (Greek Catholic) Church in Perryopolis. The Darr mine had entrances on both sides of the river.

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Jacobs Creek, was packed for the centennial service on December 19, 2007. The <u>Akathist</u> to St. Nicholas was celebrated by His Eminence <u>Metropolitan</u> Nicholas of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox <u>Diocese</u> of Johnstown, joined by His Eminence Metropolitan Basil of the Byzantine Catholic Archdiocese of Pittsburgh, and other clergy.



Centennial Service, December 19, 2007 St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Jacobs Creek *Photo: Christina Duranko* Used by permission



Centennial Service, December 19, 2007 St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Jacobs Creek Photo: Christina Duranko—Used by permission

The Akathist included two new hymns, (<u>Troparion and Kondtakion</u>), composed for the occasion and a special <u>icon</u> commemorating the event was blessed. It shows St. Nicholas covering all the miners—those saved and those lost—with his outstretched arms and protective stole.

Metropolitan Basil asked the congregation to not simply to honor the miraculous intervention of Saint Nicholas, but to emulate his virtues and faith. He challenged everyone to remember, and to become champions of the weak, the poor, and the oppressed.

A <u>Panachida</u> was sung following the Akathist for the 239 miners whose lives were lost in the disaster. Then the bell tolled for these 239 men and boys.



Darr Mine entrance today *Photo: Kordite* Flickr
Used by permission



Bricked-up Darr Mine entrance *Photo:* American-Hungarian Federation

Permission pending

The Darr Mine Disaster, video from WQED Pittsburgh, 27.33 minutes

Mine Explosion Entombs 250 Men, the New York Times, Dec. 19, 1907

Centennial Tropar & Kondak

The 100th Anniversary of the Miracle of the Intercession of St.

Nicholas—the Saving of More than 250 Carpatho-Rusyn Coal Miners in December 1907

Comprehensive PDF account compiled by Christina Duranko

Links

<u>December 1907 was most disastrous month in US coal history</u>, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, November 28, 2007

<u>1907-2007: The Darr Mine Disaster Commemoration</u>, The American Hungarian Federation

<u>Darr Mine Explosion</u>, Van Meter, Pennsylvania, United States Mine Rescue Association

<u>We Never Forget: Hellraisers Journal</u>, December 27, 2017 "Headlines & Photographs from the Darr Mine Disaster: "The Pittsburgh Press, The Pittsburgh Post, and the Gazette Times, December 20, 21,22, 1907

Adapted with permission from the <u>American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox</u> Diocese of the U.S.A.:

"Centennial of the Miracle of St. Nicholas," St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Jacobs Creek

"Centennial of the Miracle of St. Nicholas" by Fr. Edward Pehanich, *The Church Messenger*

In other words, we do not engage the thoughts, but instead struggle to keep our attention lifted above them, in the stillness of the higher mind. *Hieromonk Damascene (Christensen)*, Christ the Eternal Tao p.309

Carpatho-Rusyn Society

A Saint Nicholas Day Miracle: The fateful day was December 19th, 1907—St. Nicholas Day according to the Julian Calendar. A tragic explosion occurred at the Darr Mines in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania, killing 239 people. Spared from death were the lives of hundreds of Carpatho-Rusyns, and other Eastern Europeans, who had defiantly taken off of work that day in observance of the Feast of their beloved Saint Nicholas, whose intercession they credit with saving their lives. In the aftermath, churches were dedicated to St. Nicholas and icons were commissioned depicting the Saint as the miracle worker of the mines. Below is an icon titled "Saint Nicholas Feast Day 1907 Pass Over Icon" written by Michael Kapeluck and is located at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pennsylvania. To read more, please visit the link below. On behalf of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society: Have a Happy St. Nicholas Day!



Prayer and Worship gradually transform depression and turn it into joy. *Elder Porphyrios,* Wounded by Love: The life and wisdom of Elder Porphyrios

UPCOMING SERVICES SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 04 NO SERVICE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 NO SERVICE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 01 NO SERVICE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 08 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 NO SERVICE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, MARCH 01 NO SERVICE

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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 Yurij, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, 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, Father Christopher Bender, Dr. Christina Nellis, Father Joshua [Anna], Father Justin (Todd) Mokhiber, Pani Cathy Danczak, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, 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, 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, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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], Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Cher Mount, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, 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, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, 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 Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Margie Sekelsky, Fran Fulton, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaugenhaupt, Louis Berceli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, 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, 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, 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, Maria Warholak, Christy, Mariruth, Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, Olivia—girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko, John, Kris, & Kait, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Amy Forbeck, David Salazar, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & Greg Heinen & Jenette Wittik, 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, Barbette [cancer] & Scott, Kristin [cancer], Erm Hartmann, Barbara Bookser, Bob Mazzuca, Marko, Taylor, Terri Crosby-Vega, Christine Mohamed & family, Tammy Marsico, Terry & David Hartnett, Jamie Ball, Kay Williams, Hannah Stewart, Jim Wyko—Alex's friend, Dan Losego, Lisa Bruce, Yvette, Barry Bender, Andrew Zelleznick, Byron & Cecilia Scott, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Debbie—HTUCC, 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 & Colton Rosati, Jessica Shirley, Mark [kidney cancer], Steve Milcic, Wilbert Wagner, Bob Wojciechowski, Ashley, Beth, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, Mary & Carl Stepanovich, Susie Fierst, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Kate Rapina & Mother Oksana, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, Steve & Vonnie Gerson, Eva, Pamela & Doug, Nora, Mike & Jane, Mary Ann [Stage 4] cancer] & Lisa, Barbara Gardner & Mark Egleton, Donna Karas & Ross Rawe, Susan [cancer], Rose Marie, Tim Pruss, Donna & Laura Kloock, Chris & Elisa Astorino, and Lauren, Dan, & Daphne Iona... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our December babies: Scot Brunermer on the 14th and Donna Karas on the 18th. May God grant them Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless their families and friends...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is <u>NOTHING</u> 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 <u>ALWAYS</u> <u>FREE!</u>

<u>Communion Fasting:</u> 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 14 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; PROPHET NAHUM; RIGHTEOUS PHILARET THE MERCIFUL OF AMNIA IN ASIA MINOR; MARTYR ANANIAS OF PERSIA

Tone 2
Ephesians 6:10-17
Luke 18:18-27

Litany in Blessed Memory of Thomas Bryan, Pearl Hanczar, John Hanczar, Helen Pytlak, Mary Blitskan, Marjorie Yarmeak, Mary Sharon, Rose Pyrch, Cynthia Mycyk, Frank Barankovich, Mary Krevanich, Katherine Holowaty, Robert Vetosky, & Father Paul Pyrch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, December 21 *****NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE*****

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; VENERABLE PATAPIUS OF THEBES; HOLY
APOSTLES OF THE 70-SOSTHENES, APOLLOS, CEPHAS, TYCHICUS,
EPAPHRODITUS, CAESAR, & ONESIPHORUS; HOLY 362 MARTYRS OF
AFRICA MARTYRED BY THE ARIANS; MARTYR ANTHUSA OF ROME;
MARTYR VICTORIA

Tone 3
Colossians 1:12-18
Luke 17:12-19

SUNDAY, December 28 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HIEROMARTYR ELEUTHERIUS-BISHOP OF ILLYRIA, HIS MOTHER MARTYR ANTHIA, & MARTYR CORIVUS THE EPARCH; VENERABLE PAUL OF MOUNT LATROS; MARTYR ELEUTHERIUS; VENERABLE PARDUS-HERMIT; SAINT STEPHEN THE CONFESSOR-ARCHBISHOP OF SUROZH IN THE CRIMEA

Tone 4

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 14 DECEMBER 2025

27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; PROPHET NAHUM; RIGHTEOUS PHILARET THE MERCIFUL OF AMNIA IN ASIA MINOR; MARTYR ANANIAS OF PERSIA

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!

A layman envied the elder:

"How lucky you are, Father Gabriel! Your time was like this anyway, and you managed everything. But for us, a different era has come."

"What do you say, friend? Come, remember what is written in the Gospel. The master paid equally both the workers he hired in the morning and those he called to work for only one hour, who arrived at the eleventh hour. And you can desire and achieve everything. The Lord will reward you according to your labor."



When you lie, you lie to God; when you steal, you steal from God; when you have hatred for someone, you have hatred for God; when you don't honor your parents, you don't honor God; when you are jealous, you are jealous of God; when you begrudge alms to the poor, you begrudge recompense to God; when you plot evil, you plot it against God; when you work evil, you work evil against God.

St. Nikolaj Velimirovic

Q: Are you a Christian?

A: Ask my neighbor.

When a gentle word of persuasion has no effect, when people are so steeped in evil that they do not yield to any admonishment and continue doing evil, a Christian cannot and should not take refuge in this teaching of the forgiveness of all, sit indifferently with his arms crossed, and apathetically watch as evil abuses good, as it increases and destroys people, his close ones. *Archbishop Averky (Taushev)*, The Struggle for Virtue: Asceticism in a Modern Secular Society p.104

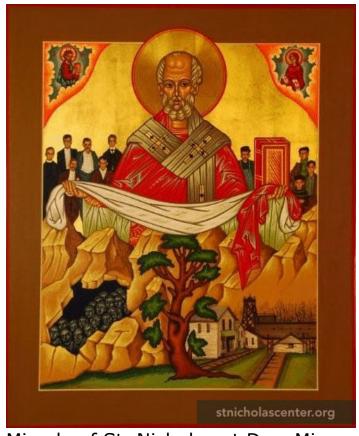
The transition from this life into eternity is a very difficult one. Before we pass on into eternity, we can pray, but afterwards we cannot do anything for ourselves—only our loved ones can help us with their prayers. In whatever state the Lord finds us at the hour of our death, He will judge us according to it. *Elder Thaddeus*

(Strabulovich) of Vitovnica, Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica p.160

Centennial of the Miracle of St. Nicholas—Jacobs Creek

December 19, 2007, the Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra according to the Julian Calendar, marked the 100th anniversary of the Darr Mine Disaster and the Miracle of St. Nicholas in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania. This was Pennsylvania's worst mining disaster and one of the worst in the United States. When the Darr Mine exploded, 239 men and boys lost their lives. Only two escaped.

That day Carpatho-Rusyn miners gave up a day's wage to attend a morning Divine Liturgy, as December 19 is the feast day of St. Nicholas, their <u>patron saint</u>. During the service they heard a terrible rumbling and the ground shook as gas and dust exploded in the mine. Recognizing disaster, everyone rushed to help rescue any survivors.



Miracle of St. Nicholas at Darr Mine Iconographer: Philip Zimmerman *Used by permission*

However, only two men working near the mine entrance were still alive. The poisonous gas, called afterdamp, killed many who survived the explosion itself. Most of the victims were Hungarian and Italian immigrants; seventy-one Hungarians are buried in a mass grave in Olive Cemetery.

Many newspapers, including the New York Times, reported the miraculous events. One Pittsburgh paper stated:

Religious fervor is due to sweep through the Youghiogheny Valley as never before as a consequence of the Darr disaster. Today was a holiday of the <u>Greek Catholic</u> Church, and as such it was observed by many of the men who usually work in the Darr mines. Usually about 400 men toil within the mine. On account of the religious holiday—it was the Feast of St. Nicholas—this number was nearly cut in half, and these, almost two hundred men, who were saved by religious devotion, will certainly be more devout than ever, after the extent of the mine's horror is fully realized.

The men observing the feast day were spared. It is estimated that St. Nicholas prevented the loss of two to three hundred men and boys, some as young as ten. Had they been in the mine, another thousand women and children would have been widowed or orphaned. They would have faced financial ruin as there was little or no assistance from the coal companies nor government agencies (victims' families in Monongah received funeral expenses and \$150).

This was the second miracle of St. Nicholas and miners in 1907. Earlier on December 6, Nicholas' feast day in the Gregorian Calendar, the worst mining disaster in United States history took place in Monongah, West Virginia. Nearly 400 men lost their lives that day. However, 60–100 Italian Roman Catholic and Carpatho-Rusyn Greek Catholic miners were spared as they attended a Roman Catholic St. Nicholas feast day observance. American mines were more dangerous than European mines. Practices outlawed in Europe were still allowed in the US where minors were three to four times more likely to die on the job.

These two disasters did bring change. For the first time self-contained breathing apparatus was used in deep-mine rescue operations in the United States. Within six months the U.S. Geological Survey created the Mine Accidents Division, opening a station to research of mine rescue techniques. Mining fatalities began to drop the next year, never again did so many mine workers lose their lives. In response to the disasters the U.S. Bureau of Mines was established in 1910 to improve the health and safety of those working in the mines.



TO THE MEMORY OF THE MARTYRS
THE DARR MINE DISASTER DEC. 19, 1907
ERECTED BY THE HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN FEDERATION 1909
Photo: American-Hungarian Federation, Permission pending



State Marker

Photo: Kordite Waymarking

Used by permission

After the Darr Mine reopened in 1910, Carpatho-Rusyns on both sides of the Youghiogheny River built churches dedicated to Saint Nicholas in gratitude for his miraculous protection (the area had previously been served by the priest from St. Stephen's in Leisenring). St. Nicholas Orthodox Church was established in Jacobs Creek and, on the other side of the river, St. Nicholas Byzantine (Greek Catholic) Church in Perryopolis. The Darr mine had entrances on both sides of the river.

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Jacobs Creek, was packed for the centennial service on December 19, 2007. The <u>Akathist</u> to St. Nicholas was celebrated by His Eminence <u>Metropolitan</u> Nicholas of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox <u>Diocese</u> of Johnstown, joined by His Eminence Metropolitan Basil of the Byzantine Catholic Archdiocese of Pittsburgh, and other clergy.



Centennial Service, December 19, 2007 St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Jacobs Creek *Photo: Christina Duranko* Used by permission



Centennial Service, December 19, 2007 St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Jacobs Creek Photo: Christina Duranko—Used by permission

The Akathist included two new hymns, (<u>Troparion and Kondtakion</u>), composed for the occasion and a special <u>icon</u> commemorating the event was blessed. It shows St. Nicholas covering all the miners—those saved and those lost—with his outstretched arms and protective stole.

Metropolitan Basil asked the congregation to not simply to honor the miraculous intervention of Saint Nicholas, but to emulate his virtues and faith. He challenged everyone to remember, and to become champions of the weak, the poor, and the oppressed.

A <u>Panachida</u> was sung following the Akathist for the 239 miners whose lives were lost in the disaster. Then the bell tolled for these 239 men and boys.



Darr Mine entrance today *Photo: Kordite* Flickr
Used by permission



Bricked-up Darr Mine entrance *Photo:* American-Hungarian Federation

Permission pending

The Darr Mine Disaster, video from WQED Pittsburgh, 27.33 minutes

Mine Explosion Entombs 250 Men, the New York Times, Dec. 19, 1907

Centennial Tropar & Kondak

The 100th Anniversary of the Miracle of the Intercession of St.

Nicholas—the Saving of More than 250 Carpatho-Rusyn Coal Miners
in December 1907

Comprehensive PDF account compiled by Christina Duranko

Links

<u>December 1907 was most disastrous month in US coal history</u>, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, November 28, 2007

<u>1907-2007: The Darr Mine Disaster Commemoration</u>, The American Hungarian Federation

<u>Darr Mine Explosion</u>, Van Meter, Pennsylvania, United States Mine Rescue Association

<u>We Never Forget: Hellraisers Journal</u>, December 27, 2017 "Headlines & Photographs from the Darr Mine Disaster: "The Pittsburgh Press, The Pittsburgh Post, and the Gazette Times, December 20, 21,22, 1907

Adapted with permission from the <u>American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox</u> Diocese of the U.S.A.:

"Centennial of the Miracle of St. Nicholas," St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Jacobs Creek

"Centennial of the Miracle of St. Nicholas" by Fr. Edward Pehanich, *The Church Messenger*

In other words, we do not engage the thoughts, but instead struggle to keep our attention lifted above them, in the stillness of the higher mind. *Hieromonk Damascene (Christensen)*, Christ the Eternal Tao p.309

Carpatho-Rusyn Society

A Saint Nicholas Day Miracle: The fateful day was December 19th, 1907—St. Nicholas Day according to the Julian Calendar. A tragic explosion occurred at the Darr Mines in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania, killing 239 people. Spared from death were the lives of hundreds of Carpatho-Rusyns, and other Eastern Europeans, who had defiantly taken off of work that day in observance of the Feast of their beloved Saint Nicholas, whose intercession they credit with saving their lives. In the aftermath, churches were dedicated to St. Nicholas and icons were commissioned depicting the Saint as the miracle worker of the mines. Below is an icon titled "Saint Nicholas Feast Day 1907 Pass Over Icon" written by Michael Kapeluck and is located at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pennsylvania. To read more, please visit the link below. On behalf of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society: Have a Happy St. Nicholas Day!



Prayer and Worship gradually transform depression and turn it into joy. *Elder Porphyrios,* Wounded by Love: The life and wisdom of Elder Porphyrios

UPCOMING SERVICES SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 04 NO SERVICE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 NO SERVICE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 01 NO SERVICE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 08 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 NO SERVICE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
SUNDAY, MARCH 01 NO SERVICE