



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)

## **CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM! CHRISTOS RAZDIETSIA! SLAVITE YEHO!**

**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 Smoly nec, 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 Slaugenhaft, 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, Tom Katona, Chris & Elisa Astorino, Dale & Nancy Burns, Cathy Metrick [Fr. Bob's cousin], Brianna [cancer] & Amanda, and Lauren, Dan, & Daphne Iona... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our January babies: Lindsay Weiser on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Demetra on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Marcy Jones on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Henry Tkacik, Jr. on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Brenna Scott on the 29<sup>th</sup>, Kristin Scott on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Kayla Weiser on the 29<sup>th</sup>! May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless their families and friends...**

**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**

## \*\*\*\*\*Holy Supper Downstairs after Service\*\*\*\*\*

## *Tone 6*

## Galatians 1:11-19

## Matthew 2:13-23

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Rose Zalenchak, Stephen Kuzman, Timothy Stutchell, Cecilia Pysh, Nicholas Vetrosky, Robert Rohal, Gary Atutes, Thomas Bryan, Pearl Hanczar, John Hanczar, Helen Pytlak, Mary Blitskan, Marjorie Yarneak, Mary Sharon, Rose Pyrch, Cynthia Mycyk, Frank Barankovich, Mary Krevanich, Katherine Holowaty, Robert Vetrosky, & Father Paul Pyrch —Fr. Bob***

**SUNDAY, January 18, 2026**

**\*\*\*\*\*NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE\*\*\*\*\***

**32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY; THEOPHANY EVE; MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS-BISHOP OF NICOMEDIA; VENERABLE SYNCLETICA OF ALEXANDRIA; PROPHET MICAH; VENERABLE VIRGIN APOLLINARIS OF EGYPT**

*Tone 7*

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Luke 3:1-18

**SUNDAY, January 25  
10:30 AM**

**OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS**

**33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY; AFTERFEAST OF THE THEOPHANY; MARTYR TATIANA OF ROME; MARTYR MERTIUS OF MAURETANIA; MARTYR PERER APSELAMUS; VENERABLE EUPRAXIA OF TABENNA IN EGYPT**

**\* \* \* \* \* Blessing of Waters Downstairs after Service \* \* \* \* \***

*Tone 8*

Ephesians 4:7-13; 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Matthew 4:12-17; Luke 18:35-43

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 11 JANUARY 2026**

**31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY;  
14,000 HOLY INNOCENTS SLAIN BY HEROD AT BETHLEHEM;  
VENERABLE MARCELLUS-ABBOT OF THE MONASTERY OF THE  
UNSLEEPING ONES; VENERABLE THADDEUS-CONFESSOR OF THE  
STUDION; VENERABLE MARK-GRAVE DIGGER, THEOPHIL, & JOAN  
OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; VENERABLE LAURENCE OF CHERNIHIV**

### **INTROIT OF THE LITTLE ENTRANCE**

Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten Thee!

The Lord has sworn and will not change His Mind.

Thou are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God  
Has shone to the world the light of Wisdom!  
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,  
Were taught by a star to adore Thee,  
The Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee,  
The Orient from on high, O Lord, 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 3**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,

And the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!  
Angels, with shepherds, glorify Him!  
The Wise Men journey with the star!  
Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!

### **PROKEIMENON—Tone 8**

**READER:** Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee. Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

**PEOPLE:** **Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee. Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!**

**READER:** Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name! Give glory to His Praise!

**PEOPLE:** **Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee. Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!**

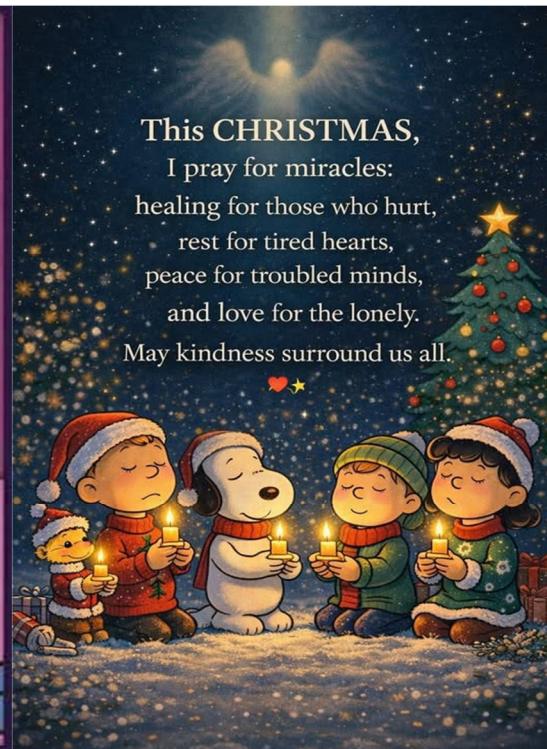
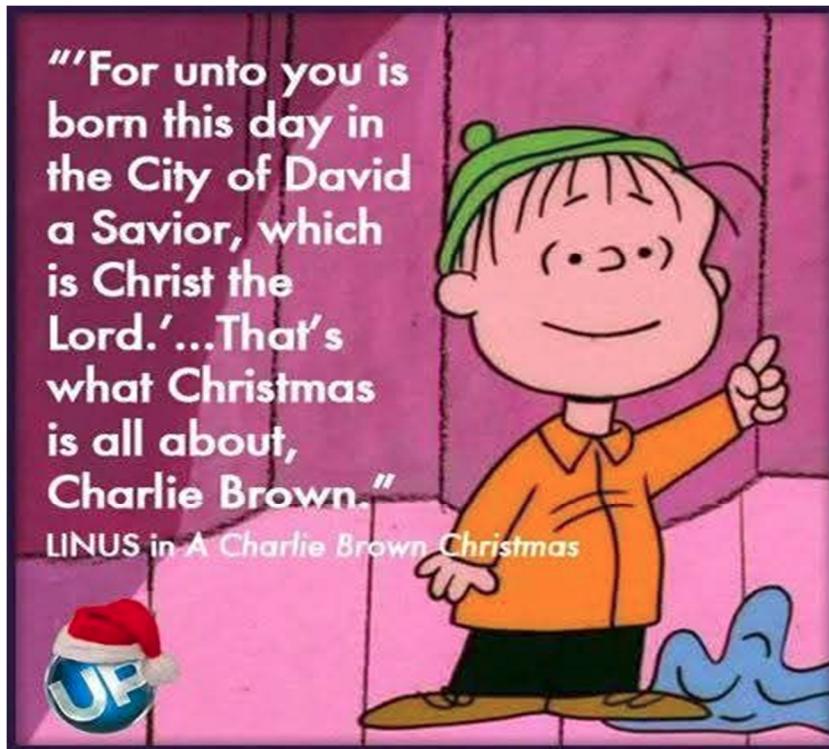
**READER:** Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee.

**PEOPLE:** **Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!**

### **ALLELUIA VERSES—Tone 1**

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge!



## WHY DO ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ON JANUARY 7? SANTA CLAUS-CHRISTMAS-TREE!?

Every year, many people ask the same question: Why do Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on January 7, while most of the world celebrates on December 25? The answer is not about being different or old-fashioned. It is a story about history, faith, and how the Church understands time itself.

### Christmas Is More Than a Birthday

For Christians, Christmas is not simply the birthday of Jesus. It is the moment when God enters human history. The birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem marks the beginning of the healing of the world. God is born as a child—in humility, poverty, and love—showing that salvation comes not through power, but through self-giving.

The Bible does not tell us the exact date of Christ's birth. What mattered to the early Christians was not when it happened, but what it meant. Christmas proclaims the mystery of God becoming man so that humanity may be restored.

### One Feast Became Two

In the earliest centuries of Christianity, believers celebrated Christ's birth and His baptism together on January 6. This feast was called Theophany, meaning "the manifestation of God." Both events revealed who Christ truly is - the Son of God made flesh.

By the fourth century, the Church began to celebrate Christmas separately on December 25. This helped Christians better reflect on the meaning of the Incarnation, while January 6 remained the Feast of Theophany, focused on Christ's baptism and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. The Orthodox Church accepted this separation while keeping the deep spiritual connection between the two feasts.

### Julian and Gregorian Calendars - Why Dates Don't Match

The reason Orthodox Christmas appears "late" has to do with calendars. The ancient Church followed the Julian calendar, which was used throughout the Roman world and by the early Church for centuries. Over time, this calendar drifted slightly from the solar year.

In the sixteenth century, the Gregorian calendar was introduced to "correct" this drift and was adopted in Western Christianity. Today, the Julian calendar is thirteen days behind the Gregorian calendar. That is why December 25 on the Julian calendar falls on January 7 on today's civil calendar. In other words, Orthodox Christians who follow the Julian calendar still celebrate Christmas on December 25—according to the Church's ancient way of measuring time.

### Why the Orthodox Church Kept the Old Calendar

The Orthodox Church did not keep the Julian calendar out of resistance to change, but out of faithfulness. The Church understands time not just as dates on a calendar, but as something sanctified through fasting, prayer, and worship. Changing the calendar affects the entire spiritual rhythm of the Church, and such changes were never agreed upon by all Orthodox Churches together. Continuity was chosen over convenience.

### How the Church Understands Christmas

Orthodox theology teaches that feasts are not random holidays. They are living expressions of faith. Through what theologians call hermeneutics—the interpretation of history through worship—the Church preserves the meaning of each feast. Christmas celebrates the sanctification of the world, the dignity of the human body, and the beginning of salvation.

### Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas, and Christian Tradition

Many modern Christmas customs have Christian roots. Santa Claus is based on Saint Nicholas, a fourth-century bishop known for his generosity and care for the poor. While popular culture transformed his image, the Church remembers the real saint—a man who lived the Gospel through love and charity.

### The Christmas Tree and Its Meaning

The Christmas tree comes from the Christianization of Germanic peoples in Europe. The evergreen tree symbolized eternal life, while its triangular shape came to represent the Holy Trinity. It also reminded Christians of the Tree of Life, restored to humanity through Christ. Christianity did not erase older cultures—it transformed them.

### An Ancient Faith in the Modern World

Orthodox Christianity is ancient, but not outdated. Christmas on January 7 is not a different Christmas—it is the same feast preserved through centuries of unbroken worship. The Orthodox Church continues to celebrate Christmas as it always has, rooted in history, theology, and lived faith.

In the end, Christmas is not about the date on the calendar. It is about light overcoming darkness, hope entering the world, and God drawing near to humanity.

**Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

In Christ,  
Fr. George

## Julian vs. Gregorian Calendars in Genealogy

### Julian

- Introduced in 45 B.C. by Julius Caesar
- Year: about 365.25 days long
- Still used for official purposes in some countries until 20<sup>th</sup> century

### Gregorian

- Introduced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII
- Gradually year: about 365.2425 days long
- Gradually replaced Julian calendar

+10 days   +11 days   +12 days   +13 days

Centuries

1582

1700

1800

1900

Differences difference over centuries (vs. 12 centuries)

### From Father Milorad Orlic

St. Nikolaj Velimirovich writes to the teacher Nikola C.:

### On Why Christ Had to Be Born, and Not Just Appear?

You have asked: why did the Lord Christ have to be born, then grow, then suffer?

Why did he not, immediately, appear from heaven in the guise of a mature man as, according to hellenic mythology, Apollo appeared to men? It is an entirely inappropriate comparison! How can a real man be equated with a phantom, and the true God with an imagined monstrosity?

As high as Heaven is above the Earth, so exalted is the wisdom of God above the reason of men. By the wisdom of The All-Exalted, Christ had to come into the world as a child, then a youth and finally as a mature man, that He be apprehensible to all, and acquire all. Had He never been a child, pale and cold would be His word: "allow the children and do not forbid them to come to me, for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven; and again: "Truly, I say unto you, if you do not repent and become as children, you will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." You are a teacher of children; as a teacher consider—how completely different would be the relationship between yourself and the children if you, let us assume, had never been a child?

Christ could have, undoubtedly, appeared to the world as He would have wished. But had He done so, He could not have been to humanity that which He wished to be: The Teacher and Savior of all, and the ideal for all generations. You are tormented by the thought: the Lord, by His wondrous incarnation increased our understanding of the mystery of His

being. But would not the mystery of His being be all the more greater and incomprehensible, if He had unexpectedly descended amongst men, and had no relational ties to humanity? Would not the world, in that case, speak of Him as of some sort of phantom? In such a case His person, along with His doctrine and sacrifice, would lose all true basis and true meaning. For if a phantom were in question, who of us would listen to and support a phantom?

Further, The Lord had to be born precisely as He was born that, in doing so, He demonstrate the possibility and emphasize the importance of our spiritual (re)birth, which stands at the center of His teaching about man. According to His words: "If you are not born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God. As He was incarnate of the Holy Spirit, and from the All-Pure body of the Virgin Mary, so we also can be spiritually (re)born of the Holy Spirit and in the purity of our souls. The great spiritual fathers of Orthodoxy always have taught—the new birth of a person is contingent upon the virginal purity of their soul. In other words: the soul which is entirely cleansed, of even sinful thoughts, becomes similar to the holy Virgin, and becomes worthy by God's benevolence to become an abode of Christ. If the birth of Christ from the Virgin Mary is difficult for the ordinary mind to contemplate, it is exceptionally beneficial and encouraging for all who desire the spiritual, moral transformation of their being.

Thus, be comforted and give thanks to the eternal Wisdom that the Savior of the human race appeared as He found to be most expedient. And exclaim with the Apostle Paul: O the depths of the riches and wisdom and understanding of God!

And greet the children of your school with childish joy: Christ is born, children!



**Constantly seek acts of mercy, love, and compassion; without these acts, it is impossible to please God. Be a ray of sunshine for**

**everyone! Mercy is above all sacrifice. Schema-Abbot Savva (Ostapenko)**



### **Our Rock**

**Psalm 17/18:2-The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. (KJV)**

The Lord is life's rock providing sure footing to travel the path to the Kingdom. The rock-solid foundation in the Lord remains unyielding during storms in life. Believers are always prepared when secured in the Lord on the rock of salvation. No greater protection exists than to rest on the rock of salvation all of life's days. The rock of salvation exists within and protects the believer's heart, mind, and soul.

**Psalm 27/28:1-Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit. (KJV)**

Life's perspective is precise when the believer focuses on the rock of salvation. Challenges in life are overcome when the believer relies on the Lord for protection. Being perceptive is essential to fully embrace the Lord as the rock of salvation. Willingness to trust in the Lord as one's rock is central to moving forward in life. Failure to place full trust in the Lord as one's rock is perilous to the believer's soul.

**Psalm 30/31:3-For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. (KJV)**

Embracing the Lord as rock and fortress is clearly necessary in seeking salvation. Believer's choices made each day determine if the Lord is the rock guiding life. Guidance for life's path is resolute when the believer looks to God as the rock. The Psalmist attests to the value of believers choosing the Lord as the rock for life. The foundation the person chooses for life determines the ultimate outcome.

***Psalm 41/42:9-I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? (KJV)***

Believers will at times feel alone and very separated from the Lord as their rock. Often believers take wrong paths that seem like quicksand and endanger the soul. Holding onto the Lord as rock during the days of life leads to the Eternal Kingdom. Benefit exists in considering the Psalmist's thoughts on the Lord as thier rock. Reading the Psalms faithfully keeps the believer united and grounded in the Lord.

***Psalm 60/61:2-From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. (KJV)***

When the believer has departed far from the Lord, return is always very possible. Hope is constantly present to return to the firm foundation existing in the Lord. Believers need not languish in circumstances that are damaging to the soul. The Lord hearkens to the voice of individuals crying out for their salvation. The Lord's outstretched hand grasps and leads the believer to heavenly heights.

*Holy Martyr Eustratius, Holy Hieromartyr Gabriel and Nicodemus of Serbia.  
December 13/26, 2025. Father Rodney Torbic*

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Imagine that the world is a circle, that God is the center, and that the radii are the different ways human beings live. When those who wish to come closer to God walk towards the center of the circle, they come closer to one another at the same time as to God. The closer they come to God, the closer they come to one another. And the closer they come to one another, the closer they come to God. — St. Dorotheus of Gaza

**UPCOMING SERVICES SCHEDULE**

**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**

**\*\*\*MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 GREAT LENT BEGINS\*\*\***

**SUNDAY, MARCH 01 NO SERVICE**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 09 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16 NO SERVICE**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30 NO SERVICE**