

PARISH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Ukrainian-Byzantine Rite



"Catholic" means "Universal"

"Rite" means "One of the twenty-one Eastern Catholic Sister Churches, who are simultaneously in Communion with the Church and Pope in Rome, while living their own distinctly non-Roman (non-Latin), and yet equally Apostolic Tradition (i.e. Theological, Spiritual, Liturgical and Canonical Heritage)."

ЧИТАННЯ ІЗ СВЯТОГО ПИСЬМА:

НИНІ: 2-го грудня, 2007 р.Б.: 27-ма неділя після Зіслання Святого Духа. На Вечірній Літургії: (1) (Друга Книга Мойсея) Вихід 19:1-13; (2) Ісаїя 6:1-12; (3) Єремія 11:1-8; На Утренній Літургії, неділі: (4) від ЛУКИ 24:12-35. На Євхаристійній (Божественній) Літургії: (5) до ЕФЕСЯН 6:10-17; (6) від ЛУКИ 18:18-27. За-амвонна Молитва: св. Івана Золотоустого # 1, або звичайна (тобто св. Василя Великого)

НАСТУПНОЇ НЕДІЛІ: 9-го грудня, 2007 р.Б.: 28-ма неділя після Зіслання Святого Духа. На Вечірній Літургії на Празник Зачаття: (1) (Перша Книга Мойсея) Буття 20:1-17; (2) Єзикиїл 43:27-44:4; (3) Приповідки 9:1-11, На Утренній Літургії, на Празник Зачаття: (4) від ЛУКИ 1:39-49, 56. На Євхаристійній (Божественній) Літургії, неділі: (5) до КОЛОСЯН 1:12-18; (7) від ЛУКИ 17:12-29; На Євхаристійній (Божественній) Літургії, на Празник Зачаття: (6) до ГАЛАТІВ 4:22-31; (8) від ЛУКИ 8:16-21. За-амвонна Молитва: # 64 або # 65.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

TODAY: December 2, 2007 AD: the 27th Sunday after the Descent of the Holy Spirit. At the Vespereal Liturgy, for Sunday: (1) (Second Book

of Moses) **Exodus 19:1-13**; (2) **Isaiah 6:1-12**; (3) **Jeremiah 11:1-8**; **At the Matinal Liturgy, for Sunday**: (4) **Luke 24:12-35**. **At the Eucharistic (Divine) Liturgy for the Eleventh Sunday after the Exaltation**: (5) **Ephesians 6:10-17**; (6) **Luke 18:18-27**. **Amvon Prayer**: St. John Chrysostom # 1: "*What praise or what hymn...*", or the usual one by St. Basil the Great: "*O Lord, you bless those who bless you...*"

NEXT SUNDAY: December 9, 2007 AD: the 28th Sunday after the Descent of the Holy Spirit. At the Vespereal Liturgy, for the FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION BY SAINT ANNE OF THE MOST-HOLY, MOST-PURE, MOST-BLESSED THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN, MARY: (1) (First Book of Moses) **Genesis 20:1-17**; (2) **Ezekiel 43:27-44:4**; (3) **Proverbs** (of King Solomon) 9:1-11; **At the Matinal Liturgy, from the Common for the Mother of God**: (4) **Luke 1:39-49, 56**. **At the Eucharistic (Divine) Liturgy for the Twelfth Sunday after the Exaltation**: (5) **Colossians 1:12-18**; (7) **Luke 17:12-29**. **At the Eucharistic (Divine) Liturgy for the Feast**: (6) **Galatians 4:22-31**; (8) **Luke 8:16-21**. **Amvon Prayer**: # 64 or # 65.

227th SUNDAY after PENTECOST

DECEMBER 1st & 2nd

Tone 2. Matins Gospel 5. Bright vestments. Holy Prophet Habakkuk (Avvakoum) (7th c. BC); our ven. Fr. Athanasius, hermit of the Near Caves of Kyiv (circa 1176); & another ven. Fr. Athanasius, hermit of the Far Caves of Kyiv (13th century); Passing into Eternal Life (1973) of Blessed Ivan Sleziuk, Catacomb Bishop of Ivano-Frankivs'k and Confessor for the Faith.

SATURDAY EVENING (all English)

DECEMBER 1st

5:00 PM +Peter Fedyshin

(Family)

SUNDAY MORNING

DECEMBER 2nd

(50/50 English & Ukrainian with Sermon in English)

8:00 AM +John & Viola Cashi

(Joan Hess)

(50/50 Old Slavonic & Ukrainian / Sermon in Ukrainian)

10:30 AM God's Blessings on our Parishioners

(Fr. Ivan)

WORSHIP SERVICES & PARISH EVENTS IN THIS COMING WEEK

28th MONDAY – dark (red) vestments **DECEMBER 3**

Fasting from meat is encouraged; Holy Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) (635-605 BC); our ven. Fr. Theodulus, former eparch of Constantinople (circa 440); our ven. Fr. John the silent one, bishop of Colonia in Palestine (558).

7:00 PM +Emilia Levy **(Terry Hentosz)**

28th TUESDAY – dark (red) vestments **DECEMBER 4**

Holy & Great-Martyr Barbara & holy martyr Juliana (286-305); Our Ven. Fr. John of Damascus (749); our ven. Fr. & priest-martyr Seraphim, bishop of Phanar.

7:15 am +John & Rose Korenoski **(Matt Nagy & Family)**

28th WEDNESDAY – bright (green) vestments **DECEMBER 5**

Fasting from meat is encouraged; Our Ven. & God-bearing Father Sabbas the "Sanctified", meaning "ordained" because in the early Church not all father-monks were ordained as priests (532); holy martyr Nectarius of Betelia.

There will be NO DIVINE LITURGY on Wednesday morning

7:00 PM – GREAT VESPERS FOR FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS with Blessing of gifts and donations to the poor and needy. St Nicholas will visit with our children on Sunday, Dec. 9 at Generations of Faith at 3:00 pm.

28th THURSDAY – bright (blue) vestments **DECEMBER 6**

HOLY DAY - OUR HOLY FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS: NICHOLAS THE MIRACLEWORKER, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (Traditionally ca. 337)

There is NO DIVINE LITURGY Thursday mornings due to Pyrohi making.

28th FRIDAY – dark (red) vestments **DECEMBER 7**

Fasting from meat is obligatory; Our Holy Fr. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397); passing of our ven. Fr. Antony of Siya, miracleworker (1556); passing of our ven. Fr. Nilus of Stolbensk Lake, miracleworker (1554); our ven. Fr. John, faster of Kyiv Caves, Near Caves (12th cen.) **There will be no Divine liturgy on Friday.**

Choir Practice is scheduled for Friday, December 7th, at 7:30 pm.

28th SATURDAY – dark (red) vestments **DECEMBER 8**
There is NO DIVINE LITURGY on Saturday mornings. Prefeast of the Conception by Saint Anna, when she Conceived the Most Holy Mother of God; Our Ven. Fr. Patapius, hermit of Egypt (7th century); holy apostle Sosthenes, and six others, of the Seventy (1st century); holy 62 priests and 300 laity martyred by Arian heretics in Africa (477). *In the Roman-Latin Rite, the Feast of the Conception by St. Anna was renamed "Immaculate Conception" and moved to December 8. It is the Patronal Feast Day of Roman Catholic Church in the USA.*

SUNDAY MORNINGS: WEEKLY PRAYERS TO THE THEOTOKOS

Do you pray at home, using the personal & devotional prayer form of the Latin/Roman Rite Marian Rosary? You may be interested in knowing that our parish has a group of parishioners who do the same at home. But we also gather for a Communal & Liturgical (Byzantine Rite) contemplation upon these same mysteries, in the Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God, our Heavenly Ladder of Mystical Height. We do this at about 7:15-7:50 on every Sunday morning. Everyone is welcome to join us. **Because of the feast on December 9, the Akathist to Sts. Joachim and Anna will be served on this particular morning instead.**

28th SUNDAY after PENTECOST **DECEMBER 8 & 9**
Tone 3 and Festive. Matins Gospel: Mother of God. Bright vestments. HOLY DAY - FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION BY SAINT ANNA, WHEN SHE CONCEIVED THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD; also, holy prophetess Anna, mother of prophet Samuel (1100 BC); and, veneration of miraculous icon of Theotokos known as "Unexpected Joy".

SATURDAY EVENING (all English) **DECEMBER 8**
5:00 PM +Amelia Makitka **(Margery A. Johnson)**

SUNDAY MORNING **DECEMBER 9**
(50/50 English & Ukrainian with Sermon in English)
8:00 AM God's Blessings on our Parishioners **(Fr. Ivan)**

(50/50 Old Slavonic & Ukrainian / Sermon in Ukrainian)

10:30 AM +Margaret Kowal

(Irene Iwanonkiw)

**3:00 PM - Generations of Faith
with visit of St. Nicholas to our children**

Something to live for!

Fr. Deacon Michael Levy, Doctor of Chemistry – отець диякон, д-р Михайло Лівий

THIRTEENTH Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The young man in today's Gospel was troubled. He had plenty to live on, but he felt that something was missing in his life. *The thing missing was that he had nothing to live for.* This is the error that so many make. We forget the Lord's warning: "Man cannot live by bread alone." Something more is needed besides food, clothing, shelter, cars and entertainment. Yes, God is needed today perhaps more now than ever before!

Now, it's important to have something to live on. But a person needs more than this. Something to live on is not enough. There must be aim, purpose in life, focus. Some will say, a *FAMILY* is worth living for. Yes, this is part of the answer. There are those who claim a *COUNTRY* is worth living for. Yes, it is; we do live in a great country. We all say our *CHURCH* is worth living for. We are the inheritors of a rich spiritual tradition. Let it be said plainly and simply, *ETERNITY* is worth living for. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe we shall one day be with Him for all time. *No matter what else, we must say that GOD is worth living for.* Without Him there is nothing; with Him there is everything. He is the center of life, all life. No matter where life's journey takes us, no matter what difficult mountains we must climb or valleys we must cross, there is God. He is really the only "constant" in our lives, and in fact in the entire world! We might lose family and country and wealth and stature and all else, but still there is God; and He is all things. *God will never walk away from us. But, we can choose to walk away from Him!*

In truth, Christians, then, have so many things to live for! In truth, we should be the happiest, most radiant people on earth. *"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice," is the way St. Paul put it.* We have our families, we have our country, we have our Church, we have Eternity, we have Our Lord, & we have God. We have the awesome privilege of being children of God. Jesus even taught us that we can call His Father, "Our Father" as we pray to Him. We really have so much to live for.

АНДРІЇВ ГРІШ - ANDREW'S PENCE

У кожен неділю грудня можна зложити пожертву на благочинну збірку «Андріїв гріш», щоб допомогти нашому Синодові "огорнути духовною опікою всіх вірних нашої Церкви, хоч би на якому континенті вони перебували і хоч би з яких причин покинули батьківщину, ... забезпечуючи опіку нашим вірним там, де ще немає тривалих структур нашої Церкви." Просимо використати спеціальні конверти із датою 2-го грудня.

On every Sunday of December, please feel free to make your donation for the charitable collection of our Synod of Bishops, known as "Andrew's Pence". It is our desire to envelop all the faithful of our church with their own Church's spiritual care, no matter what continent or for whatever reasons they emigrated from Ukraine. To that effect our Church is collecting funds especially *"TOWARDS SUSTAINING EXARCHATES IN EASTERN UKRAINE AND CLERGY LIVING IN TERRITORIES WITHOUT OFFICIAL CHURCH STRUCTURES."* ***Please use the Green Envelope in your boxed sets for December 2 which is marked "Andrew's Pence". If you wish you can also use a plain envelope but please clearly mark your name on that envelope. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.***

ADVENT (St. Philip's) FAST, in Ukrainian: PILIPEEVKA

As each Christian is called to ongoing repentance and amendment of life, the ancient practice of fasting is to be maintained. Theoretically, the following rules apply to those Catholics who have been baptized in the Ukrainian-Byzantine Catholic Church regardless of which parish one attends. All those from children who have completed their 7th year to adults who have completed their 59th year, must abstain from meat on each and every Friday of the whole year, except for during certain fast-free or "Privileged weeks", or if Friday occurs on a Feast of our Lord or of the Mother of God. Abstaining from meat, in addition to eating only one full meal and a smaller snack, obliges us on Christmas Eve, December 24, and on Theophany Eve, January 5, but only if they do not occur on a Saturday or Sunday because Eastern Christians do not fast or abstain on a Day of Rest (Saturday) or a Day of Celebration (Sunday). The obligation to also abstain from all "dairy foods" (products derived from mammals and birds such as milk, eggs, lard, cheese, etc. and their by-products) on these two eves is traditional, but no longer obligatory. Pregnant and nursing mothers, the ill and infirm, those who work at hard physical labor and the very poor (living on alms) are excused from fasting and abstinence. Traditionally,

during Advent, from November 15 thru December 23, a strict fast was kept on Monday's, Wednesday's, and Friday's with a lesser fast or abstinence on Tuesday's and Thursday's. **The regular breaking of the meatless fasting on Fridays without the guidance of one's Spiritual Director or Father Confessor is a sin and should be confessed before a priest in the Holy Mystery of Repentance-Reconciliation before one dares to proceed to receive Holy Communion. Also, December 20-23 is called the Fore-Feast or Pre-Feast of Christmas, during which time holy day preparations and decorations are normally attended to; we really should refrain from putting up Christmas decorations in and around our homes until this time if it is reasonably possible to do so.** Although in our times the rules for Fasting and wedding receptions have been mitigated, the rules for Prayer and Almsgiving (Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy) continue to oblige all, as it was in ages past. Voluntary penance, prayers for the intentions of the hierarchs of the Church, the Bishop of Rome, the Patriarch (Major Archbishop), the Metropolitan, and the Eparchial Bishop; voluntary offerings to the Church, the seminaries, the Church in Ukraine, self-denial of alcohol, smoking, attendance at entertainment, etc., may be supplementary only with the explicit permission of your Father Confessor. Bread and water alone is a good fast for those who are able to do it without damaging their health. The eparchial bishop can dispense all the faithful of the eparchy as well as any individuals for a good reason from any of these fasting prescriptions. A pastor may also dispense individual parishioners for a good reason. A pastor cannot, however, dispense the entire parish.

The Advent Moleben to Christ Emmanuel will not be served on Wednesday, December 5, instead we will be having a Great Vespers for the Feast of Saint Nicholas, at 7:00 pm. Other dates and times for the Moleben to Christ Emmanuel will be announced later. The next Choir Practice is scheduled for Friday, December 7, at 7:30 PM.

Діла Милосердя для Душі й Духа: (1) грішника навернути, (2) невіжу навчити, (3) у сумніві порадити, (4) сумного потішити, (5) кривду терпеливо зносити, (6) образу з серця прощати, (7) за живих і померлих молитися, наприклад, жертвувати на Парастас, чи Бож. Літургію. *Чи не Найкращий Подарунок це замовити Службу Божу за здоровля ваших рідних і друзів?* Діла Милосердя для Тіла: (1) голодного нагодувати, (2) спраглого напоути, (3) нагого зодягнути, (4) подорожнього в дім прийняти, (5) недужому послужити, (6) в'язня відвідати, (7) померлого похоронити.

Corporal Works of Mercy (in the Early Church, what deacons should model for us): feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the imprisoned, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and burying the

dead. ***Spiritual Works of Mercy (in the Early Church, what priests should model for us):*** counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing sinners, comforting the afflicted, forgiving offences, bearing wrongs patiently, praying for the living and the dead !



INVITATION

We invite all parishioners to the Generations of Faith in our church and church hall at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 9, 2007 A.D.

Refreshments will be served, activities are planned and St. Nicholas will be there.

Please register your child by calling Irene Borodycia at (412) 881-4635

Note: There will be no ECF classes on December 9th due to the Generations of Faith.

ACOLYTE ASSIGNMENTS 5:00 PM — SATURDAYS

Joseph & Michael Levy; Richard Vargo; Richard Sawczak

ACOLYTE ASSIGNMENTS 8:00 AM — SUNDAYS

Abby & Drew Buckholt; Antony Chirovsky; Joseph & Michael Levy

ACOLYTE ASSIGNMENTS 10:30 AM — SUNDAYS

Alex & Andrew Hodowanec; Mark Rad

LECTORS ASSIGNMENTS

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: Ephesians 6:10-17

Saturday, December 1, 2007 – 5:00 PM – Stephanie Casey

Sunday, December 2, 2007 – 8:00 AM – Joan Hess

**28th Sunday and FEAST OF CONCEPTION of the Mother of God:
Colossians 1:12-16 and Galatians 4:22-31**

Saturday, December 8, 2007 – 5:00 PM – Stephanie Vargo

Sunday, December 9, 2007 – 8:00 AM – Irene Borodycia

**2nd SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS: HOLY FORE-FATHERS & FORE-MOTHERS:
Colossians 3:4-11**

Saturday, December 15, 2007 – 5:00 PM – Joanne Giancola

Sunday, December 16, 2007 – 8:00 AM – Joan Hess

**1st SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS: HOLY FATHERS & MOTHERS
Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23 & 32-40**

Saturday, December 22, 2007 – 5:00 PM – Kathy Drapala

Sunday, December 23, 2007 – 8:00 AM – Irene Borodycia

**SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS: Sts. David, Joseph and James:
Galatians 1:11-19**

Saturday, December 29, 2007 – 5:00 PM – Bob Casey

Sunday, December 30, 2007 – 8:00 AM – Joan Hess

NEW PARISH WEB SITE

To see our new parish web site please go to <http://stjohnspittsburgh.com/>

PRO-LIFE MESSAGES

"The common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights ... is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination." (Pope John Paul II, *Apostolic Exhortation*, 1988). *"In this season of Advent waiting, that we may be found worthy of reaching out to women, who are struggling to bring their unborn children to birth, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy."*

PARISHIONERS' PRAYER LIST

Our parish's listing for people IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS who might be suffering illnesses – especially, but not only, if they are unable to attend church services because they are shut-in either at home, or in hospitals and nursing

homes – has been updated. The names we have received at this time are:

Stephen Baranet, Ahafia Berketa, Nicholas Bohonek, Bill & Nancy Borodycia, Frank Cash, Catherine Chiz, Elsie Damas, James & Rose DePalma, Eustenie Dolinski, Maria Drevna, John Dukryn, Fran Gable, Katherine Gradnik, Theresa Hentosz, Steven Hladonik, Vera Holubiak, Helen Hoskowicz, Maria Jacyszyn, Sr. Andrew Kallok, Thomas Kasofsky, Mary Kohut, Helen Kostishack, Julia Kostiuk, Alexander Makitka, Maria Mudrick, Aloisia Mural, Chrystyna Olijnyk, Helen Pergzola, Walter Popatak, Catherine Popiel, Joseph & Ruth Postol, Maria Pyptyk, Sophia Stanko, Katherine Staroschuck, Carol Ann Sulick, Nicholas Swidarski, Anna Szmul, Frances Trageser, Marie Turek, Olga Walko, Olga Walsko, Mary Witkowsky, Julia Woytowich, Joseph & Julia Wuschunowski and Alberta Yanief.

In the future, we would like to print these names in our church bulletin on a regular basis so that everyone may have a chance to keep these people in their prayers. Please submit the information as soon as it becomes available.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2007 – CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

There will be an auxiliary meeting on Saturday, December 1, 2007 in the upper church hall at 6:30 pm (after the Saturday evening Divine Liturgy). Please plan to attend.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2007 – UNWLA ACTIVITIES

On Sunday December 2, 2007, Soyuz Ukrainok (UNWLA) will have a table of pastries and canapes at the University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms Open House at the Cathedral of Learning from 12 noon until 4:00p.m. Also the Ukrainian Nationality Room, located on the 3rd floor of the Cathedral of Learning, will be decorated in a Christmas Eve theme. Admission is free.

FROM NOW UNTIL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007

ST. NICHOLAS PROJECT

Our Church Auxiliary will be collecting clothing items for the homeless. These items will be delivered to Project Safety Net, which operates out of Mercy Hospital. This program was founded by Dr. Withers of Mercy Hospital who makes his rounds on the streets of Pittsburgh and provides medical care for the homeless. As he examines the people, the doctor and his staff deliver clean socks and other clothing items. We will be collecting new socks, hats, gloves and underwear. They also need warm coats, boots, sweatshirts, etc. Thermal clothing and uni-sex items are very useful since they provide items for men and women. Large

sizes of clothing are needed. Father Ivan will bless these items at the Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 5 at 7:00 pm. According to tradition, it was this good saint who gave us the prime example of imitating Our Lord's mercy by his generosity to the poor.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007 – ST. NICHOLAS

Our annual visit from St. Nicholas, the so-called "Mykolayivka", will be held in conjunction with our next Generations of Faith session (see below) on Sunday, December 9, 2007, beginning at 3:00 pm.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

SECOND GENERATIONS OF FAITH SESSION AT OUR PARISH

On Sunday, October 7, 2007, our Parish held its first session within the Generations of Faith Program. Many thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who made this a great benefit for the more than 40 parishioners who attended. The general reaction was, "I thought I already knew what I needed to know, but here I learned so much more about our Church Year and our Twelve Major Feastdays." We look forward to having our **second session on December 9, 2007. The topic will be the meaning of Christmas and a visit from St. Nicholas. Don't miss it!!! OUR PARISH strongly encourages all members of our parish family of all walks of life, and anyone else who is interested from outside of our parish family, to take part in this event. This will be a time for learning, and a time for sharing. Please bring your family and friends (even if they no longer go to our church) as well as your memories. Our Parish will provide the food, the setting and the information, activities, and some special gifts for you to take home.**

Jesus Files Day of Eucharistic Renewal:

The Real Presence of Christ in Our Midst

Friday, December 21, 2007

Providence Villa at 10745 Babcock Blvd. Gibsonia, PA 15044

8:30 AM — Arrival; 9:00 AM — Prayer & Conference with Fr. Deacon Michael Levy;

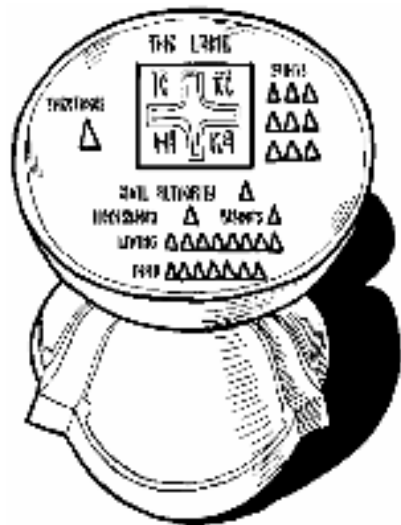
10:30 AM — Brunch; 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM — Quiet time & Meditation in Chapel

1:00 PM — Prayer & Conference with Fr. Ivan Chirovsky

2:30 PM — Quiet time & Confession; 4:00 PM — Discussion;

5:30 PM — Dinner; 7:00 PM — Departure

Cost — only \$25.00



The *Holy Eucharist* is the oldest experience of Christian Worship as well as the most distinctive. *Eucharist* comes from the Greek word which means *thanksgiving*. In a particular sense, the word describes the most important form of the Church's attitude toward all of life. The origin of the Eucharist is traced to the Last Supper at which Christ instructed His disciples to offer bread and wine in His memory. *Christ Himself presented us His Body and Blood at the Last Supper, not symbolically but in complete reality!* This is the most distinctive event of worship because in it the Church gathers to remember and celebrate the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ and, thereby, to participate in the mystery of Salvation. Therefore, the Eucharist is truly the center of the life of the Church and the principal means of spiritual

development, both for the individual Christian and the Church as a whole. Do we realize this? Do we take this for granted? Maybe during this year's preparations for Christmas Day, the Lord wants you to take this time to get re-energized & spend time with your God before the "hectic pace" begins!

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 24-25 - All are invited !

Most likely we all know of family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, or schoolmates, who are Catholic (Latin-Roman and/or Byzantine) and no longer regularly come to Mass (Latin-Roman) or the Divine Liturgy (Byzantine).

Christmas is a great time to invite them to come home to the church. So think about it, pray about it, and invite someone to come to the Liturgies this Christmas. There is always the chance that we can be rejected or our invitation may fall on deaf ears.

Just remember that Jesus often experienced the same kind of "rejection" and He did not give up. So, if your invitation receives no response or a negative one, just wait a few weeks and ask again.

In the meantime, pray for that person, but don't give up on them no matter how long it takes. It is hard to persevere and it is hard to be rejected, but just be patient and kind and trust in the Lord. Remember the Lord's lessons in Luke 15:11-32.

THIS YEAR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD FALLS ON A TUESDAY. SO, ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FAST ON FRIDAY DEC. 21ST OR ON MONDAY, DEC. 24TH? WHICH DAY IS A BLACK FAST (NO MEAT AND NO DAIRY), AND WHICH IS JUST

A SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (NO MEAT ALL DAY, ONE FULL MEAL WITH DAIRY, AND ONE SNACK)?

AND THE ANSWER IS: BOTH DEC. 21ST AND DEC 24TH ARE DAYS OF SIMPLE ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT. THE BLACK FAST ON THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS IS NO LONGER OBLIGATORY. HERE'S WHY:

THE ORIGINAL RULES ON WORSHIP SERVICES according to the *Typikon* used to be, as follows:

If December 25th falls upon any day of the week except Saturday or Sunday: the strict, or black, fast is observed on December 24th. The people gather for the first time for the service of the Royal Hours and Typika-Obeednitsia which is served on the morning of the 24th. After a short break, the First Divine Liturgy, or Eucharist, of Christmas is served. It is made up of the first half of Great Vespers (*Evening Prayer*) and the latter half of the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great, both of the Feast, are served together as one service; the people disperse to their homes in order to partake of the meatless and dairyless "Holy Supper of Holy Eve-*Sviata vechera sviatoho vechora*". Those who were able to, come back to church after supper for a vigil liturgy which is comprised of the Great Compline (*After-Supper Prayer, with Isaiah's Hymn: God is with us*) and Matins-Orthros (*Morning Prayer*). Some went home for the night, others kept vigil in church until the sun came up. On December 25th, the people gather a third time in the morning when the Second Divine Liturgy, or Eucharist, of Christmas of Saint John Chrysostom is served. Afterwards the feasting and celebrations begin in earnest and they last from Christmas Day until January 4, inclusive. There is a general dispensation from all abstinence and fasting; in keeping with the spirit of festal joy, we do not kneel nor do we prostrate to the ground for prayers either at home or at church during this time.

BUT IN THE CURRENT RULES ON FASTING: The rule about the so-called Black Fast or "strict fasting" on December 24th has been abrogated by Articles 474-475 from *The Pastoral Guide of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States of America*, Philadelphia, Pa.-1999; which read as follows:

"§ 474. General rules governing abstinence: 1. Meat is to be understood as including not only the flesh but also those parts of warm-blooded animals that cannot be melted down, e.g. the liver, lungs, blood, gravies, etc. Although it is not the authentic practice of the Tradition, the meat of fish and crustaceans may be eaten, as well of those mammals that live constantly in water, as e.g. whales. 2. Dairy products are to be understood as comprising products derived from

mammals and birds, but not regarded as meat, e.g. cheese, lard, butter, milk, and its by-products, eggs, etc. 3. Fats of plant origin, e.g. those derived from olives, coconuts, seeds of the sunflower and of the pumpkin, may be used. 4. Voluntary penance, prayers for the intentions of the hierarchs of the Church (Bishop of Rome, the Major Archbishop / Patriarch, the Metropolitan, and the Eparchial Bishop), voluntary offerings to the Church, the seminaries, the Church in Ukraine, self-denial of alcohol, smoking, attendance at entertainment, etc., *may be supplementary* only with permission of a confessor. Bread and water alone is a good fast. 5. Priests who possess a pastoral assignment are empowered to grant dispensations or relaxation from the laws of abstinence to individual persons as well as to individual families (but not the entire parish). 6. The following are exempt from abstinence: (1) the poor who live on alms, (2) sick and frail persons, (3) convalescents who are returning to their strength, (4) pregnant women, and mothers who are nursing their children, (5) persons who perform hard labor, (6) children who have not completed their seventh year of age (*from 1994-1999, the Diocesan Statutes of the St. Josaphat Eparchy indicated the age of fourteen*), (7) Persons who have completed their 59th year of age with the permission of their pastor or confessor (*this latter exemption is not automatic*).

§ 475. In virtue of rules enacted by the Synod of Bishops under the presidency of the Major Archbishop (Patriarch) in 1969 the following rules of abstinence oblige in the United States: 1. Abstinence from meat on **all** Fridays of the year, except those which occur in privileged weeks and on holydays of Our Lord and of the Mother of God. 2. Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on the first day of the Great Fast (Lent) and on Good Friday. 3. Abstinence from meat, in addition to eating only one full meal and a smaller snack, milk products being permitted in accordance with local custom: on Christmas Eve, Epiphany (Theophany) Eve, Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14) and Beheading of St. John the Baptist (August 29). 4. During the Great Fast, the faithful may also maintain the tradition of abstaining from meat on Wednesdays.”

THUS, AS FAR AS THE WORSHIP SERVICES ARE CONCERNED,
WE WILL BE PASTORALLY ADAPTING THEM
TO OUR LOCAL CONDITIONS and ABILITIES, as follows:

ROYAL HOURS

This most important Liturgy of the Word teaches us how to meditate properly on the scriptures designated for the Feast of our Lord’s Nativity-Christmas. It has not yet been decided when, or even if, we will be having this service.

**THE OBLIGATION TO GATHER FOR WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS
CAN BE FULFILLED BY ATTENDING EITHER
THE SERVICE AT 9:00 PM ON MONDAY (DEC. 24), OR
THE SERVICE AT 9:30 AM ON TUESDAY (DEC. 25).**

**MONDAY (CHRISTMAS EVE) - DECEMBER 24th
***(DAY OF OBLIGATORY ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT
& VOLUNTARY FASTING)*****

A VIGIL service will begin at 9:00 PM with the first part of VESPERS of Christmas (*which will be heavily shortened*) and continuing (*with no break between the two parts of this one service*) with the Small Ekteniya and Epistle and Gospel Readings and all the rest of the DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil the Great for Christmas. This will be served for God's Blessings upon all of our Parishioners. **NOTE FOR ROMAN (LATIN) RITE CATHOLICS:** the vespers part of this service is not a "prelude to the Mass." That means that it is wrong to come later so as to try and skip it. Rather, the vespers part is an integral part of the Christmas Mass, or actually of the first part of this Mass, which is known in both Latin and Byzantine Rites of the Catholic Church as the "Liturgy of the Word". For Byzantine Catholics this is a special "First Mass of Christmas" to put it into Latin terms of comparison.

TUESDAY MORNING (CHRISTMAS DAY) - DECEMBER 25th

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom will begin at 9:30 AM and will be served for God's Blessings upon all of our Parishioners. **NOTE FOR ROMAN (LATIN) RITE CATHOLICS:** For Byzantine Catholics this is a kind of "Second Mass of Christmas" to put it into Latin terms of comparison.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2008 – SISTERHOOD OF ST. NONNA

The Women's Prayer Group will meet at 10:00 am on January 12 (because January 5 is eve of Theophany) in response to the need to intercede in prayer for the welfare of children and grandchildren, with Father Ivan leading the Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God in her miraculous icon, known as Vospitanie – Воспитание – Vikokhuvatel'ka Ditey – Викохувателька Дітей – Nurturer of Children (venerated on March 5) and also spontaneous prayers as necessary. If you are interested in joining, please call Irene Borodycia at 412-881-4635.

JANUARY 17-20, 2008 – WRITING AN ICON

A contemplative experience offered 4 days with overnite stay, Meals provided and materials included in cost. \$150.00 Materials - \$100.00 Meals & Lodging Each retreat is limited to 8 people. Sister Rosaire Kopczenski will offer a deep transformational experience that is expressed in your "Writing". No artistic talent needed. To register: send name and deposit (non-refundable) of \$50.00 to Tabor House of Prayer, 146 Hawthorne Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15209 or call 412-821-1149 for more information. This is also being offered on March 6-9 and May 1-4 in 2008.

CHURCH AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER

The 2008 ENJOY Coupon book is now available. Our Church Auxiliary is selling the ENJOY coupon books as a fundraiser. Save money on restaurants, cleaners, Shop-n-Save, movies, etc. The cost is \$ 25.00. Call Margie Klimko at 412-431-0430, or Rose Breen at 412-655-9103 to buy your books.

PAINLESS FUNDRAISING FOR OUR CHURCH AUXILIARY

As Christmas approaches, we tend to purchase more food for holiday and holy day feasts. This year, you can save money and help your church at the same time. **GFS Marketplace** is a store that offers a variety of food, cleaning products, paper items, etc. at prices comparable to the discount warehouses--except there is no membership fee and our church gets a rebate on the items that you purchase. There are flyers in the back of the church that describe the program. Also on this flyer is an application for a free membership card and a coupon for \$10.00 off a \$50.00 purchase. The closest GFS Marketplace store is on Route 51 (see map on the flyer). There is also a store in Robinson.

CHURCH AUXILIARY "Candy Sales"

The Church Auxiliary is once again selling Sarris' chocolate bars and chocolate covered pretzels for only \$1.00 each. Normally sales are on Thursdays and Sundays after the Divine Liturgies. If you attend Saturday evening services, please see Margie Klimko or Diane Vargo if you wish to buy some of this delicious candy at a bargain price.

CHARITABLE ENDEAVORS

In addition to buying and collecting clothing items for the homeless, the Church Auxiliary also plans to provide some toys for needy children. If you can bring a new, unwrapped toy to the church by December 5th, it would be greatly appreciated. Collection Baskets for both the toys and the clothing items will be

in the church vestibule. We also need someone to deliver the collected items. If you are willing to help with this, please contact Margie Klimko at 412 431-0430.

PYROHI

Pyrohy sales are held on Thursdays of each week. Spare time on your hands? We need dough makers and especially MEN to help. Last week's gross income was: \$ 2,551.00. (For those who might be confused the word "gross" means BEFORE paying the bills for repairs, food and other supplies). We thank all of our wonderful and hard-working volunteers. May you keep up the great work and may God richly reward all of you. **ATTENTION!!! – Please place your advance orders for Christmas as soon as possible. There will be NO ORDERS TAKEN FROM DECEMBER 11TH UNTIL JANUARY 7TH. Please keep this in mind and mark your calendars.**

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers in memory of a loved one, in thanksgiving for blessings, or to celebrate an occasion, please contact Margie Klimko: 412-431-0430.

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM

For those who have an Internet connection, you may now listen to Byzantine Catholic Radio Programs at home at your own convenience. Go to: <http://www.byzantinecatholic.com/radio.htm>

MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS

All donations collected in this fund will be used to purchase new Liturgical items necessary for services to occur. In the past two years, we acquired new sets of burgundy (Penitential-Lenten) and white (Pascha) vestments for priest, deacon and altar servers, as well as green (Palm Sunday, Pentecost, June and July & certain "venerable" saints like Theodosius, Antony, Sabbas and Apostles' Fast) for altar servers. We also received a set of gold (Ordinary Sundays and Major Feast Days) and blue vestments (Feasts of the Mother of God, August, & certain Polyeleos rank saints: Nicholas, Elijah, John Chrysostom, etc.). A new Gospel Book, Epistle Book, and chalice set are on order as well. As we use these for the greater glory of God please remember that we are far from paying them off. Your generosity, as always, will be greatly appreciated.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM SWIDERSKI:

\$10.00 – Olga Walko and Family

CANDLE SPONSORS

If you would like to sponsor a candle in front of the Mother of God Icon or in front of the Icon

of the Cross of Our Lord, or four lamps at the iconostas icons, or seven lamps in the seven-branched candlestick behind our Altar (Holy Table), for whatever intention you desire, at \$5.00 per week, please see Fr. Ivan or Fr. Deacon Mike.

**IN MEMORY OF MY PARENTS, HAZEL AND STANLEY BARONETT
(Icon of Most-Holy Theotokos):**

\$5.00 – Joyce Baronett

DONATIONS FOR ROOF & POINTING REPAIR FUND

***Note:** Not a few persons made very generous donations using the monthly "Improvements" envelope but without a specific notation that these funds are for Roof & Pointing Repairs. In the future, it will be presumed that such donors wish to remain anonymous.*

Parishioners are advised that major holes and leaks in our roof have been repaired. The missing downspout on the northeastern part of our church has already been replaced, so the leaks in the altar area (sanctuary) should stop. Upon the advice of the roofing companies we need to wait for some serious rain to see if these repairs were adequate or not. We are continuing to collect funds; the cheapest new roof will be circa \$ 250,000, guaranteed not to leak for about five years. Meanwhile, the most expensive roof, circa \$ 650,000, would have a fifty to one hundred year guarantee. We are still far away from making any final decisions.

There was no donation for the roof fund this past week.

NOTE: FUNDS DONATED TO THE ROOF FUND WILL NOT BE USED FOR expenses having to do with the MEMORIAL, or any other, FUND.
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**THE SUMMARY OF SUNDAY COLLECTIONS
For NOVEMBER 24th & 25th, AD 2007**

NON-ENVELOPE WEEKLY SUNDAY OFFERINGS	41.00
ENVELOPE WEEKLY SUNDAY OFFERINGS	1,510.00
MONTHLY FUND FOR REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS & REDEVELOPMENT (First Sunday of every month)	10.00
MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP DUES (Second Sunday)	5.00
MONTHLY UTILITIES & INSURANCE (Third Sunday)	20.00
MONTHLY DIOCESAN COLLECTION (Fourth Sunday)	446.00
WEEKLY CANDLES	123.11
ROOF FUND (see above)	0.00
MEMORIAL FUND (see above)	10.00

11/4 – CANONIZATION OF UKRAINIAN SAINTS	0.00
11/21 – ENTRANCE INTO THE TEMPLE OF THEOTOKOS	107.00
11/22 – THANKSGIVING DAY	218.00
12/2 – CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECORATIONS	5.00
12/9 – CONCEPTION BY ST. ANNA OF THEOTOKOS	4.00
12/25 – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	20.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,519.11

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
 UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 109 S. 7th STREET,
 PITTSBURGH, PA. 15203-1028**

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. John (Ivan) Chirovsky, Pastor
 Fr. Deacon Michael Levy, PH D (Chemistry)
 Cathy Sawchak

PASTOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Father John (Ivan) & Father Deacon Michael
 Irene Borodycia Michael Haritan

Improvements and Redevelopment

Sub-Committee of the PAC

Geoffrey Giancola Yaroslaw Hodowanec
 Raymond Komichak Steve Sawczak

E-MAIL ADDRESS: stjohnucc@comcast.net

PARISH TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Church Office 412-431-2531
 Press NINE, to leave a message
 To speak to an operator: Press ZERO,
 or, if you have a rotary phone, stay on the line
 Church Office Fax 412-431-6404
 Parish Hall & Pyrohi 412-481-5022
 Diocesan Pastoral Ministry Off. 412-481-9778

DIVINE LITURGIES

Mondays (Outside of Lent): usually 7:00 PM
 Other Weekdays, except Saturdays
 (Outside of Lent): usually 7:15 AM
 Saturdays (*Anticipated*): 5:00 PM

Sundays (Pentecost to Labor Day): 9:30 AM
Sundays (Otherwise): 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Holy Day of Obligation:
 Evening before 7:00 PM
 Morning of 9:30 AM

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION

Saturdays: 4:00-4:30 PM & by appointment
Lenten Weekdays: before or after services

MINISTRY TO SICK AND SHUT-INS

Sr. Olga Faryna, OSBM (724) 266-5578

SPIR. DIR. OF BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Fr. John (Ivan) Chirovsky

SPIR. DIR. OF JESUS FILES GROUP

Fr. Deacon Michael Levy (724) 910-0352

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Stephen H. Zinski

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Diane Vargo

BEAUTY OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Margie Klimko

CATECHISTS (2007-2008)

Irene Borodycia Maria Chirovsky Motria Hodowanec

LECTORS

Irene Borodycia Robert Casey Stephanie Casey
David Drapala Kathleen Drapala Joanne Giancola
Joan Hess Mary Ann Kasofsky Stephanie Vargo

BAPTISMS - Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation are normally administered on the Sunday nearest to the 40th day after the birth of the child. Please notify the parish rectory **as soon as you are aware that you are expecting a child**. Sister Ann from the Diocesan Pastoral Ministry Office will conduct special baptismal preparation sessions. **These two sessions are for all expectant parents, the Godparents and grand-parents**. Parents must be registered and active members of the parish. The two sessions will **help you prepare FOR BIRTH and baptism** of your child. It is normal that a saint's name be chosen for the child. **ELIGIBILITY FOR GODPARENT** - One sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, attend Liturgy regularly, receive the Sacraments and fulfill all obligations and financial support to their parish, attested to by their pastor.

MARRIAGES - Arrangements for the Holy Mystery of Crowning are to be made at least six months in advance of the date of marriage by contacting the parish rectory. **Restating the obvious, clearly and loudly: under normal conditions, future Couples are expected to be active members of our parish for at least one year before the date of the marriage and must attend Pre-Marriage instructions with Fr. Deacon Michael Levy**. Marriages will not be celebrated until the normal spiritual requirements have been met to the Church's satisfaction. So, do not send out your invitations until you are absolutely sure of having done so !!! In fact, if the couple continues to choose to ignore the Church after being warned, then Father Pastor reserves the right to cancel the service even as late as 24 hours before the wedding.

CREMATION - Burial is the preferred and traditional Christian funeral practice. Although highly discouraged, cremation is permitted for economic reasons, esp. if it is NOT done for anti-Christian reasons. The cremation should occur after the

funeral services are held in Church, since the presence of ashes in church is strongly discouraged. The ashes are to be buried, with the pastor, or a delegated priest or deacon, performing the usual rite of interment.