

**December 11, 2016**

**Sunday of the Forefathers**

## **From the Desk of the Pastor**

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**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

I love old newspaper clippings from bygone eras. I found one from 1904 written by a man named Henry Van Dyk and I thought that in the lead up to Christmas you might enjoy his sound advice. If you decide to take up his advice, then there are some activities we need help with around here in our own parish in preparation for Christmas. Visiting the shut-ins is a big act of love and mercy, and please make a point of visiting someone who cannot get out of their home. Helping this coming week with our pyrohi work is also something you might consider. Praying for the growth of our parish is another. Giving to the needy is another option. Here at Holy Trinity we support a handicapped woman in Ukraine every month (Natalya), we try to support a parish priest in Ukraine when help is needed, and every few months we send support a needy parish in rural Nigeria, whose pastor is known by myself. The love of other as exemplified by Christ's coming among us is lived out when we support these above ministries. I hope you enjoy this article (below) from 1904.

**In Christ,**

**Jason, priest and sinner**

It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day. The mere marking of times and seasons when men agree to stop work and make merry together is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps us to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity. But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day; and that is keeping Christmas!

Are you willing to forget what you have done for others, and remember what others have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and think of what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, your duties in the middle distance and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground to see that your fellow men are as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place against where

you can sow a few seeds of happiness — are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas!

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of the little children, to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will more light and less smoke, and carry it in front, so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, and keep the gate open — are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas!

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world — stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death — and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem two thousand years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas! If you can keep it for one day, why not always?

### **New Things Happening at Holy Trinity:**

- **Reminder:** This weekend we'll be taking a special collection for Patriarch Sviatoslav in Ukraine. These funds enable young men to become priests and allow our church there to live out the corporal & spiritual works of mercy.
  - **Do you want “brownie points” with God?** How about visiting our shut-ins and those on our prayer list? With Christmas coming many people develop feelings of isolation and depression because they are alone. This is a time of year when a special effort needs to be made to help others, especially by starting at home with our own parishioners. Yet, the demands of Christmas time and the blessing of houses in the New Year take your parish priest's time away from visiting shut-ins. This weekly commitment will cover December and January. “What you do to the least of these.”
  - **A Christmas Wreath Raffle** is underway with wreaths beautifully created by **Pam Steranka Naddeo**. **Tickets** are 3 Tickets for \$5 or 1 Ticket for \$2. *The Raffle ends Friday, Dec.16<sup>th</sup>*. The 1st winner: Large Wreath, 2<sup>nd</sup> winner: Medium Wreath & 3rd winner: Table Centerpiece. Tickets are available during the Pyrohi Marathon 9am-4pm in the church hall.
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- **2017 Church Offering Envelopes for Adults and children** are available in the church vestibule. Please pick up your box. 2017 Calendars are on their way!

- **Christmas Divine Liturgy Schedule:**

**Confession:** Fri. Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> Noon – 3pm, & 7pm, also on Sat. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 9am-Noon

**Christmas Eve:** Matins at 9am, Vigil Service at 4pm

**Christmas Day:** 10am Divine Liturgy

- **Save the Dates: May 26 to June 16, 2017** for volunteering in Ukraine with the Sisters of St. Basil in their ministry to Ukraine's needy. For an application, and additional information contact Sr. Ann Laszok OSBM at [srannl@aol.com](mailto:srannl@aol.com) or 412-260-1607.



**Prayer List:** Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list. If you don't have a prayer list, contact the office and we'll send you one. **Keep in your prayers:** Anastasia Chruszcz, Stephanya Borszcz, Pauline Danesky, Alice Haritan, Luba and Peter Hlutkowsky, Daniel Holowaty, John Maslany, Helen Novak, Joe Popivchak, Mary Simek, Tillie Volanski, Donald Schultz, Dr. Justine Perhosky, James Holdcroft, Rich Hurey, Theodore Hritzko, John Yenchik, Frances Ingram and John Mosur.

**Spiritually Adopt a Priest Program.** Our priests are indispensable. They give their lives to their saving mission of Christ and His church. It is our duty to pray for our priests. And so we are officially starting our "Adopt a Priest Program." We will send interested parishioners a prayer card with the specific name of a priest, bishop or seminarian for whom to pray. And each year thereafter, at the beginning of our church year, September 1<sup>st</sup>, we will send a different priest to include in your prayers. **To participate, please e-mail your name and address to: [spirituallyadoptapriest@gmail.com](mailto:spirituallyadoptapriest@gmail.com).** Indicate your preference for an English or Ukrainian prayer card. Thank you for interceding on behalf of our priests.

ПРОГРАМА ДУХОВНОЇ ПІДТРИМКИ СВЯЩЕНИКІВ  
Наші священики незамінні. Вони присвятили своє життя для спасительної місії Христа і Його Церкви. Наш обов'язок молитися за наших священиків. І тому ми офіційно починаємо програму духовної підтримки священиків. Ми направимо зацікавленим парафіянам молитовну картку з ім'ям певного священика, єпископа або семінариста, за кого слід молитися. Щороку на початку нашого церковного року, 1 вересня, ми будемо посилати Вам ім'я іншого священика, щоб додати його до Ваших молитов. Для участі надішліть будь-ласка своє ім'я та адресу на електронну пошту: [spirituallyadoptapriest@gmail.com](mailto:spirituallyadoptapriest@gmail.com). Складаємо щиру подяку від імені наших священиків за Вашу турботу.



**HTUCC Poinsettias for Christmas** offering envelopes are in the church vestibule. \$22 for a 10 inch (we ordered 8) and \$15 for an 8 inch (we ordered 36). You can drop your envelope in the collection basket. **Deadline: This Wed., December 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Christmas Cards** are on sale to raise money for Holy Trinity's general fund. Cost: \$16 for a pack of 15 beautiful. HTUCC will profit \$8 per pack. Inside message: *Behold a mighty wonder! In Bethlehem, in a manger of dumb beasts, a young Child is born who is the eternal God! Glorify Him!* To purchase the cards: Call the rectory or send an email: to [holytrinitycarnegie@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitycarnegie@gmail.com). **Only 11 packs remain!**



**Christmas Bread** orders must be in by this **Fri. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>** or until the maximum baking number is reached. Plain: \$8 and Raisin: \$8.50. Call the Rectory: 412-279-4652 or Pyrohi Kitchen: 412-276-9897. Please indicate which day you will be picking up your bread, either Tues, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 2-6pm or Wed. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 4-6pm.

**Christmas Caroling** at Holy Trinity parishioner's homes by our Youth Group will take place on **Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>** (predominately English) 6pm-10pm and on **Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** (predominately Ukrainian) 6pm - 10pm. ***Please call the rectory if you would like the carolers to come to your home!*** 412-279-4652. The Christmas Caroling is a big fundraiser for our Youth Group, so any donations are gratefully accepted.



**Christmas Day Open House and Dinner** will take place at Church of the Atonement (618 Washington Ave, Carnegie) on Sunday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm. Local delivery for Shut-ins. Please your delivery order now by calling 412-276-0366. Accepting orders until Wed., Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. No charge for dinner or local delivery. If you are alone or looking for fellowship, join us. Have fun! We welcome everyone!

**Hospice Volunteers Needed**-at Anova Hospice Palliative Care (17 McKean Ave. Charleroi, 15022 for patients that live in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties. Volunteers visit with patients to chat, or play cards and you choose the times you volunteer. For more information, call 724-483-3812 or [mmagisketreadwell@anovahomehealth.com](mailto:mmagisketreadwell@anovahomehealth.com).

**Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church** is also in need of gently used or new clothing for children, youth and adults for their upcoming St. Martin's Closet on **December 17<sup>th</sup>**. This clothing is for anyone from the community to come and choose what clothing they would like to take home.

Do you need Estate Planning, Last Will and Testament, Living Will? If so, consider giving John Sembrat a call. His number is: 412-260-8605

**The Church** was a Mother to you in Life, providing for your Spiritual Needs: Please Remember the Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma in your Last Will and Testament. The wording to do this is as follows: “I give and bequeath to the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of St. Josaphat in Parma, located in Parma, Ohio, \_\_\_% of the residue of my estate [or: the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_].”

**Vital Stats for Sunday Dec 4<sup>th</sup>:** \$2,816 was offered in the collection with another \$119.10 for candles, \$292 for Utilities, \$107 for the Eparchy, \$2 for Priest’s Retirement, \$2 for Entrance of the Theotokos, \$7 for Thanksgiving Day, \$52 for St. Nicholas Social, \$13 for the Natalia Protynyak in Ukraine Fund, \$10 for prosphora, \$100 from the Heritage Clothing Project and \$377 from the Bread Project, all for a grand total of \$3,897.10. Many blessings to all of our contributors whose sacrificial giving is known by God.

**Lector Schedule:**

- Saturday, Dec. 17 at 4pm: Mary Reabe
- Sunday, Dec. 18 at 8:30am: Serhiy Chovnyk
- Sunday, Dec. 18 at 11am: Sophia Charron

**What’s happening in our parish this week....**

Sat. *The holy martyrs Mennas, Hermogenes and Eugraphus*  
 12/10  
 4:00pm Divine Liturgy for the repose of Donna Popivchak Angle requested by Rebecca Zaletski JC  
 ....also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Msgr. Seminack requested by Tanya & Lubi Chubko IS

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Sun **Sunday of the Forefather: *Our venerable father Daniel***  
 12/11  
 8:30am Divine Liturgy for the repose of Pete Wheat requested by Mark Clark IS  
 11:00am Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish JC  
 ....also Divine Liturgy for the birthday of the late Nick Koss requested by his wife Esther IS

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Mon. *Our venerable father Bishop Spiridion*  
 12/12 \_\_\_\_\_ No Liturgies this week \_\_\_\_\_

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Tues. *The holy martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius and others*  
 12/13 \_\_\_\_\_

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Wed. *The holy martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius and others*  
 12/14 \_\_\_\_\_

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| Thurs.<br>12/15 | <i>The holy priest-martyr Eleutherius and his mother, Anthia</i>   |    |
| Fri.<br>12/16   | <i>The holy prophet Haggai</i>   |    |
| Sat.<br>12/17   | <i>The holy prophet Daniel &amp; Ananiah, Azariah, &amp; Mishael</i>   |    |
| 4:00pm          | Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish  | JC |
|                 | ....also Divine Liturgy to mark the 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the late Dennis Daniels requested by his wife Jean & Family | IS |
| Sun<br>12/18    | <i>The holy martyr Sebastian and his companions</i>  |    |
| 8:30am          | Divine Liturgy to mark the 15 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the late Margaret Lendl requested by Arlene Esterburg               | IS |
| 11:00am         | Divine Liturgy for the repose of George & Catherine Mishtal requested by Stephen P. Zaletski                                   | IS |
|                 | ....also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Bishop Seminack requested by Eleanor Patross   | JC |



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Peter Colaizzi  
Eric Hanzel  
Yuriy Pavlyshyn  
Kathy Sembrat  
Steve Neczypir  
Matthew Klim

Oleg Mykhayliv  
Walter Kalyn  
David Moss  
Russ Zorey  
Faith Markle  
Euphemia Medwig

Pat Johnson  
Terry Styran  
Helen Moskal  
Jennifer Styran  
Martha Charron

**Pyrohi Volunteers are NEEDED!!!**  
**Christmas Pyrohi Marathon**  
**This Monday - Friday**  
*Any Time* between our work hours!!!  
**Work Hours: Thurs & Fri.**  
**7:30 - 11am**

