

From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Christ,

As we prepare for the great feast of the Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ on December 25th we might notice a theme in the readings every Sunday. Allow me to give you a hint. This theme is summarized in a seven-letter word. Another hint: Merriam Webster defines it as an organized community having a monarchical form of government headed by a king or queen. If you haven't guessed the word yet, it is kingdom. That which the sacred writings are preparing us for is the king and His kingdom. This is great news! It means that when His kingdom comes (ultimately at the end of time) there will be justice, joy and jubilation. This is only positive, there is nothing negative about this.

Well, there is a negative side to it. The negative side is for those who take from the weak and for those who harm the souls of the innocent. The negative side of the coin is for them because all their selfishness and boorishness will be brought to a swift, ruthless end. But even then, the spreading out and invitation into the Kingdom of God is not a negative thing for sinners such as these. It is an opportunity for them to turn a new leaf and get right with the God who has loved them from the beginning of time. There is nothing negative about God's kingdom, except the refusal of some guests who obstinately refuse to attend it.

We who follow Christ, imperfectly but still sincerely with steadfastness and faith, know that His way of life is completely positive. Notice that despite all the false prophets at the time of Christ there is no reference in the Gospels to Jesus saying "so-and-so is not the Way, nor is he the Life." He simply says, "I am the way, the truth and the life...." We, His followers, are like Him. When Jesus was born Joseph and Mary never said they were *against* Herod and where out to take away his throne and give it to Jesus. Herod assumed Jesus was *against* Him, but in reality Jesus Christ is *for* every one of his creatures, *for* their well-being, *for* their eternal salvation.

For these reasons I was amused when I read a story in the press this past week about "Fixer Upper" TV stars, Chip and Joanna Gaines. Their employer, HDTV, is coming under enormous commercial and political pressure to cancel the Gaines' show because it has been "discovered" that they attend a Christian church which believes in

man-woman marriage. For the thought police this is now a sin which cannot be forgiven, a breach of social etiquette which cannot be mended by polite calls of tolerance for their views. They and their pastor have been labelled as anti-gay, anti-love, anti-this, anti-that. How have Chip and Joanna responded to these attacks? They've quoted the Bible: Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE. Their pastor came out and said he's not "anti-anything", he's "pro-people."

When you come under attack for sticking to the Christian faith this is how to do it! Just be honest and loving. State the truth. We Christians are not anti-anything (except the devil). We are pro-God. We are pro-Church. We are pro-creation. We are pro-Bible. We are pro-faith. We are pro-people. We are pro-life. We are pro-family. We are pro-freedom. We are pro-love. We do not stand against anyone, anywhere, anytime. We wish well to those who harm us, we do good to those who hurt us, we help those who hate us.

If, despite all this, people still say we are against them, then that tells you one thing. It tells you what they think of God's invitation to join His kingdom. For those people, they will not be happy until you join in their rebellion. Let this Advent be filled with invitations, not of Christmas cards, but of words and gestures bringing the lost back into the growing ranks of God's kingdom where there is justice, joy and jubilation for all.

In Christ,

Jason, priest and sinner

Quote of the day: "The liturgy of the Eucharist is best understood as a journey or procession. It is the journey of the Church into the dimension of the Kingdom. We use the word 'dimension' because it seems the best way to indicate the manner of our sacramental entrance into the risen life of Christ. Color transparencies 'come alive' when viewed in three dimensions instead of two. The presence of the added dimension allows us to see much better the actual reality of what has been photographed. In very much the same way, though of course any analogy is condemned to fail, our entrance into the presence of Christ is an entrance into a fourth dimension which allows us to see the ultimate reality of life. It is not an escape from the world, rather it is the arrival at a vantage point from which we can see more deeply into the reality of the world."

– **Alexander Schmemmann, For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy**

New Things Happening at Holy Trinity:

- **Vespers and Movie in Church Hall this Thursday at 6:30pm!**
- **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..”
- **St. Andrew’s Pence Collection** will be collected next weekend, **Dec 10th and 11th**. Please use your purple “Special Offering” envelopes and write on the outside “St. Andrew”. Bishop Boydan will forward our collection to Patriarch Sviatoslav to provide him with the financial means to respond to the pressing needs of our church in Ukraine.
- **This Tuesday at 8am** we will have Divine Liturgy on the feast of St. Nicholas, but of even greater significance this Friday is the Maternity of St. Anna. It is also called the Conception of the Most Holy Mother of God by the Righteous Anna. Roman Catholics know it as the Immaculate Conception. There are different ways to call it, but there is an ideal way to celebrate it: attend church. For your convenience, Divine Liturgy will be here at Holy Trinity at 12 pm, Friday, Dec. 9th.
- **2017 Church Offering Envelopes** are now available in the church vestibule. Please pick up your box. Thank you!!! 2017 Calendars are on their way!
- **After Divine Liturgy** at 11am on Sunday we will have our annual St. Nicholas Day celebrations in the church hall. Come out and be a part of it!
- **Remember**, the last day to order pyrohi for Christmas is **THIS FRIDAY, Dec. 9th**. Pick up is **Wed, Thurs. & Fri. Dec 14th, 15th and 16th from 9am – 4pm**. Remember, we will need volunteers during Pyrohi Marathon week, Dec.12-16. Please be generous with your time and come out to help!
- **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 sranl@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 1st, we will send a different priest to include in your prayers. **To participate, please e-mail your name and address to: 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 священники незамінні. Вони присвятили своє життя для спасительної місії Христа і Його Церкви. Наш обов'язок молитися за наших священників. І тому ми офіційно починаємо програму духовної підтримки священників. Ми направимо зацікавленим парафіянам молитовну картку з ім'ям певного священника, єпископа або семінариста, за кого слід молитися. Щороку на початку нашого церковного року, 1 вересня, ми будемо посилати Вам ім'я іншого священника, щоб додати його до Ваших молитов. **Для участі надішліть будь-ласка своє ім'я та адресу на електронну пошту: spirituallyadoptapriest@gmail.com.** Складаємо щиро подяку від імені наших священників за Вашу турботу.

The HTUCC Youth Group will have a joint meeting with the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton & Our Lady of Grace Church Youth Groups, on **Sunday, December 11th** from 12:30 to 1:30pm (immediately after 11:00am Divine Liturgy), at the Carnegie Boys & Girls Club, 630 Washington Ave, Carnegie (next to Holy Trinity). The Meeting Topic will be *The True Meaning of Christmas!* For more information contact Bohdan Mykhailiv [412-726-8309](tel:412-726-8309) or bohdanmykhailiv@yahoo.com.



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: Wed., December 14th.**

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. **Only 14 packs remain!**



Nationality Rooms Christmas Open House at the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh will be **THIS Sunday, December 4th** from 12 Noon-4:00pm. Admission is free. There will be vendors and food sales featuring over 20 Nationality Rooms. The Ukrainian Room will be decorated with a Christmas Eve Theme and will have a table in the commons room featuring Ukrainian Canapes and baked goods. See you there!!

Christmas Caroling at Holy Trinity parishioner's homes by our Youth Group will take place on **Friday, December 30th** (predominately English) 6pm-10pm and on **Friday, January 6th** (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. 25th from 1-3pm. Local delivery for Shut-ins. Please your delivery order now by calling 412-276-0366. Accepting orders until Wed., Dec. 21st. No charge for dinner or local delivery. If you are alone or looking for fellowship, join us. Have fun! We welcome everyone!

The 13th Annual Cookie Walk, sponsored by Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie {Gold Domes}) takes place **NEXT Saturday, December 10th** from 10am-2pm. Most cookie items are sold by the pound. Come and experience the "walk" and start a new family holiday experience! For more information, call Sherri 412-276-2768 or Alexis 724-348-7326 or visit www.orthodoxcarnegie.org. **They are in need of children age 10 and up and youth to help decorate cookies THIS Sunday, Dec. 4th any time from Noon until 4pm.**

Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church is also in need of used children's clothing for their upcoming St. Martin's Closet on December 17th. Further details of this event will be in our next bulletin.

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

Ukrainian Selfreliance Credit Union- Promotional Loan Offer: Between Oct. 1st and Dec. 31st, the credit union is offering “Triple Play” { $\$1,000 * 1\% * 1 \text{ Year}$ }. The monthly payment is \$83.79. Use this for gifts, car repairs, tires, kitchen appliances, home furnishing, payoff bills, etc. Rate is APR-annual percentage rate. Loan is for qualified member with proof of income, credit report & completed loan application. Call for additional information: 412-481-1865

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 Nov. 27th: \$1,403 was offered in the collection with another \$122 for candles, \$10 for Utilities, \$177 for the Eparchy, \$10 for Priest’s Retirement, \$73 for Entrance of the Theotokos, \$345 for Thanksgiving Day, \$1,110 for Special Offering, and \$32 for the Natalia Protynyak in Ukraine Fund, all for a grand total of \$3,282. Many blessings to all of our contributors whose sacrificial giving is known by God.

Lector Schedule:

- Saturday, Dec. 10 at 4pm: Angela Honchar
- Sunday, Dec. 11 at 8:30am: Terry Styran and at 11am: Cantor

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

Sat. *The holy prophet Zephaniah*
12/3

4:00pm Divine Liturgy for the repose of Emily Stecko requested by
Arlene Dorn JC

....also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Kuzbida & Popovich
Families & Stephen Simek requested by Mary Simek IS

7:00pm Vespers Service (led by youth)

Sun *The holy great martyr Barbara*
12/4

8:30am Divine Liturgy for the repose of Ted Konecky requested by the St. Josaphat Society IS

11:00am Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish JC

....also Divine Liturgy for the health of Marko requested by Lyudmyla Kalachuk and Family IS

....followed by the St. Nicholas Party in church hall

Mon. *Our venerable father Sabbas the sanctified*
12/5 The pastor's day off

Tues. **Our Father among the saints, Nicholas of Myra in Lycia**
12/6

8:00am Divine Liturgy for good health for Nicholas Volanski requested by Katherine & MaryAnn Volanski JC

Wed. *Our father among the saints, Ambrose, bishop of Milan*
12/7

8:00am Divine Liturgy for good health for Mary Ann Paluch requested by Barb & Dawn Paluch (OLPH) JC

Thurs. *Pre Feast of the Conception of St. Anne*
12/8

6:30 pm Vespers and surprise movie and popcorn in church hall

Fri. **The Conception by St. Anne**
12/9

12:00pm Divine Liturgy for the repose of "Ted" Theophil Konecky requested by John Kalymon & Family JC

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

Sun *Our venerable father Daniel the stylite*

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



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



Excerpt from *Christ Our Pascha*

Human beings have a natural need for food and drink; food is necessary to support life. However, an excessive desire distorts a natural human need. This leads to the sin of gluttony, wherein food becomes an end in itself. There are various manifestations of this sin. The first of these is *excess in food and drink*. The Holy Fathers taught that food consumed in excess harms the soul. The second manifestation of gluttony is the *quest* for food and drink primarily for pleasure. A lack of self-control in eating and drinking leads to voraciousness in everything else, since one seeks to satiate the hunger and thirst of the soul by over indulging the body. Saint John Cassian notes: "We cannot possibly scorn the gratification of food presented to us, unless the mind is fixed on... the delight of things celestial." (# 759)

Pyrohi Volunteers are NEEDED!!!

Christmas Pyrohi Marathon

December 12th thru 16th

***Any Time* between our work hours!!!**

We'll supply the coffee, snacks & one dozen free pyrohi...You supply the pinches...or if you prefer kitchen duty, dough rolling, pyrohi packing etc. You name it, there's a job for you!!!

Work Hours: Thurs & Fri. 7:30 – 11am

Hours open to the Public: Thurs. 9am - Noon; Fri. 9am - 2pm

