

January 8, 2017

Sunday After Theophany

From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A taxi driver was once asked if he enjoyed his work. He replied, “I certainly do. It’s not just the work I enjoy. It’s the people I run into.” If we don’t turn away from dangerous situations bad things can happen to us and to others. Today we see that after His baptism in the Jordan, Christ began his public ministry and his first sermon was as unpopular then as it is today: “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.” Repent means to turn around the direction of one’s life.

Fr. Coniaris does a great job relating the theme of “No U-Turn” signs which we see on the highway to our spiritual life. The “No U-Turn” sign is helpful on highways, for sure, but it is anything but helpful if we apply it to ourselves as we strive to make our way through life. If this “no U-Turn” sign were placed in man’s life so that he could not turn around to change the direction of his life, then history and the Bible would never have been possible.

For example, St Paul made a U-turn on the road to Damascus and changed the direction of his life completely. From Christ’s greatest enemy he became his greatest ambassador. St Peter (the first pope) cursed and denied his Master not once but three times. He made a U-turn and wept bitterly those tears of repentance that brought him back to Christ. Zacchaeus the dishonest tax collector made a U-turn, as did the good thief on the cross just as the curtain of life was closing off. King David, the greatest sinner and the greatest saint of the OT, made a U-turn after committing the double sin of adultery and murder (NB: lust and murder are connected. It’s no coincidence that commandment 6 follows right after commandment 5, just like the hand bone is connected to the wrist bone.)

Now, for you and me living today. Let’s read CS Lewis, who wrote: “We all want progress. But progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turn, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man. There is nothing progressive about being pigheaded and refusing to admit a mistake. And I think if you look at the present state of the world, it is pretty plain that humanity has been making some big mistakes. We are on the wrong road. And if that is so, we must go back. Going back is the quickest way.

What bad habit can I repent of starting today?

In Christ,

Jason, priest and sinner

New Things Happening at Holy Trinity:

● **2017 House blessings are upon us as of January 6th.** If you wish for your home to be blessed this year, I will make my way there before February. If you don't get a visit by then, please call office. If you would rather that your home NOT be blessed this year, please call office and have your house put on the no-visit-list. Thank you!



● **Did you know our parish helps a young mother who chose life for her baby? Here's an update on Natresha and baby Nina from our parishioners Doug & Gabby Blythe:** "Doug and I visited with Natresha & Nina recently and passed along some Christmas gifts. Mother & daughter are doing well, Nina is growing quickly and is very tall for her age, wearing clothing in a size 18 months. She is very happy and silly. Natresha is also doing well and was very appreciative of the gifts they received. Nina had surgery recently to try and repair her right shoulder which isn't moving. She is still having problems but the hope is that physical therapy will help. She does have movement in her right hand so there is hope. But, again she is a happy baby and does not seem phased by her limitations."



● **Beginning next week:** There will be small prosphoras available in the alcove near where confessions are heard. If you have a prayer request for the liturgy you are attending (for someone in need of prayers, for health, for the deceased, for anything), simply write it on the slip of paper provided and place it under a prosphora. Someone will give it to the priest before the reading of the epistle so he will remember to include that intention in his prayers at the altar.

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 щирю подяку від імені наших священників за Вашу турботу.

Men Following Jesus Christ has been asked once again to serve dinners at the Light of Life Rescue Mission (LOLRM) **THIS Monday January 9th**. Please let me know if you &/or your friends are available at that time to help? *Thank you for helping on November 14th*. We need at least seven volunteers to serve dinners (to work approximately from 4:45 p.m. through 6:15 p.m.). Call Deacon Myron at [412-303-9086](tel:412-303-9086) or mjspak@verizon.net.

The annual Malanka Dance will be **Saturday, January 21**, at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club, Carnegie. Doors and kitchen open at 7:30pm. As always from Youngstown, the Fred Yasnowsky Orchestra from 8:30pm-12:30am. Tickets: \$15-early registration until Jan.18th. After that, tickets are \$20 for adults, children and students \$5. Cash Bar – Ukrainian food will be available for purchase. For reservations: call Debra Walenchok at 412-276-4007 on weekends and evenings. The Credit Union and Kolos can take your reservation at \$15, but you must call Deb for a table reservation.



A Pasta Dinner will be sponsored by the Ukrainian American Citizens Club on **Sunday, January 29th** from Noon – 6pm. Adult Tickets are \$10 and children under 12 are \$5. Eat in or Take out. *Please support* the Ukrainian American Citizens Club (302 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie). Thank you.

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 Jan 1st: \$669.30 was offered in the collection with another \$79.20 for candles, \$655 for Christmas, \$40 Special Offering, \$30 for Poinsettias, \$1,306 for Circumcision of Our Lord, \$390 for Initial Offering, \$5 for the Natalia Protynyak in Ukraine Fund, \$10 towards CCD Books, \$20 donation for Youth Group Caroling, and \$75 for church hall rental, all for a grand total of \$3,279.50. Many blessings to all of our contributors whose sacrificial giving is known by God.

Lector Schedule:

- Saturday, January 14 - 4pm: Angela Honchar
- Sunday, January 15 - 8:30am: Serhiy Chovnyk
- Sunday, January 15 - 11am: Cantor

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

Sat. *Synaxis of the holy glorious prophet John the Baptist*
1/7
4:00pm Divine Liturgy for the repose of Stephen & Helen Zaletski requested by Stephen P. Zaletski & Family JC
....also Divine Liturgy to mark the 4th anniversary of the late Mary Stapinski requested by Barbara Stein IS
....followed by **SHCHEDRIY VECHIR** in the church hall

Sun *Our venerable fathers George the Chozebite*
1/8
8:30am Divine Liturgy for the repose of Ted Konecky requested by Zhynyk Bohonok IS
11:00am Divine Liturgy for the people JC
.....also Divine Liturgy for the health of the child, Marko IS
....followed by the Youth Group Meeting-church hall

Mon. *The holy martyr Polyeuctus of Melitene in Armenia*
1/9 The pastor’s day off

Tues. 1/10	<i>The holy father Gregory, bishop of Nyssa</i>	8:00am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Emily Stecko requested by the Sywy Family	JC
Wed. 1/11	<i>Our venerable father Theodosius, founder of monastic life in Palestine</i>	8:00am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Pete Wheat requested by Frank & Doris Lemmon	JC
Thurs. 1/12	<i>The holy martyr Tatiana, deaconess</i>	8:00am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Theophil "Ted" Konecky requested by Zhynyk Bohonok	JC
Fri. 1/13	<i>The holy martyrs Hermylus & his friend Stratonicus</i>	8:00am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Anna Kulik requested by the Kulik Family	JC
Sat. 1/14	<i>Our venerable fathers martyred in Sinai & Raithu</i>	4:00pm	Divine Liturgy to mark the 10 th anniversary of the late Harry Ostaffe requested by his wife Carol and Family	JC
		also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Dan Moroco requested by Katherine & MaryAnn Volanski	IS
Sun 1/15	<i>Our venerable father Paul of Thebes</i>	8:30am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Bishop Seminack requested by the St. Josaphat Society	IS
		11:00am	Divine Liturgy for the people	JC
		also Divine Liturgy for Yulia & Michael Konecky requested by Bohdan & Ann Konecky	IS



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lubomyr Chubko
Nataliya Milligan
Ronald Artinger
James Bogdon
July Krisovenski
Yuri Wowczuk
Sophia Chubko
Nestor Lernatovych
Nadia Kazitska

Luba Hlutkowsky
Volodymyr Sapuzhak
Anastasia Chruszcz
Jonathan Hoover
Adrienne English
Voldamyr Matviiev
Braden Hoover
Stephen Medwig

Dan Pituch
Roman Lutsiv
Vasyl Zhurybida
Sheerena Zaletski
Bohdan Mykhailiv
Natalia Charron
Roman Konecky
Jessica Petrovych