

November 15, 2015

25th Sunday After Pentecost

From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are about to enter into St. Philip's fast, or Advent as it is more commonly known. I didn't know it was a fasting period in the church until I entered seminary. One day a classmate of mine started putting up Christmas lights in our dorm at the start of December. Nothing unusual there. You can imagine my shock when one of the seminary priests told him to dismantle it because we were still in Advent. And this was one of the more "liberal-minded" priests! It was an educational moment for me. We prepare for a birth of a child, we prepare for a wedding, we prepare for a graduation, so why wouldn't we prepare ourselves spiritually for the great feast of the Nativity of Our Lord? That's what the Church does for us every year by giving us Advent. I felt embarrassed not knowing about that while I was already in seminary, but the truth is that nobody ever told me.

Invariably you have heard of matching donations? A wealthy man pledges to match whatever donations come in for a cause up to a certain amount, let's say \$100,000. The people donate \$100,000, he matches it. The result: \$200,000. Well, for this year's St. Philip's Fast I would like to play a spin on that idea. I will avoid as much as possible anything having to do with the commercialization of Christmas and all the preliminaries leading up to it. Perhaps, for your part you will as well? I do this because I love Christmas and I wish to preserve it for future generations. But, as it now stands, Christmas begins Nov. 1st and we're sick and tired of it by Dec. 25th. However, in the Church's wisdom if we abstain from the world's crass pollution and false festivities, then we will discover the humble and majestic God born of a poor virgin in obscurity. Only then will Christmas be great again. We have to make Christmas small to make it great again!

"But, Father, I don't want to be a Scrooge! Am I not to be generous for Christmas?" Quite the opposite! Be generous, but don't be generous in the world's understanding of generosity. You may not think that giving \$10 is much, but go to a refugee camp in Lebanon or Jordan and ask your sisters, the Syrian Christians living in squalor, and they would gladly accept it to buy bread for their children. (I'm not speaking about the "refugees" showing up at government offices in Germany and Sweden with designer clothes and iPhones demanding their rights). I speak about the real refugees who were too poor and too broken to make the transcontinental journey to receive the largesse of European social perks. You want to prepare for Christmas? Give to these refugees. While the media elites focus political effects of Europe's refugee problem, the body of Christ is busy getting her hands dirty actually doing something for the poor refugees, especially the forgotten Christians. I know from personal experience a marvelous way to help people this Advent:

1. Call "Aid to the Church in Need" and help them give clothes and food to Christians in the Middle East this winter. Their number is 1- 800 628-6333
2. A priest friend of mine in Nigeria has parishioners who've lost their fields to Boko Haram, the Islamic terrorist group. Their Christmas will be very harsh this year.
3. Support Sr. Hatune, an Orthodox sister who is well-known for helping captive Christian and Yazidi women escape ISIS. Her website is: <http://hatunefoundation.com/>

Jason, priest and sinner

New Things Happening at Holy Trinity:

- **Bible Study:** Each Wednesday in November we'll have "Supplication, Study and Snack Evening." Topic: *Understanding the Adam and Eve of Genesis.* Time: 7pm. We have all had questions about Genesis and the beginning of creation. So, why not come out and see if your questions find accurate answers.
- **The prayers before Wednesday Bible Study** on Nov. 18th and 25th will be the Emmanuel Moleben.
- **HOLY Trinity Directories** have arrived. *There are extra directories for sale for \$5, small pocket size and larger 8 1/2 x 11.*
- **We begin observing St. Philip's Feast (Pylypivka)** on **Nov. 14th** in preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In the church vestibule, please take a copy of the Pylypivka (Advent) Pastoral Letter of the Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchy of the USA. It is available in Ukrainian and English.
- **Panahyda** to Honor the Victims of the 1932-1933 Holodomor will take place on Saturday, November 28th at 10am in the church. *On Nov. 28, 2006, The Parliament of Ukraine passed a decree defining the Holodomor as a deliberate act of genocide.*
- **A big "Thank You"** to St. Josaphat Society for donating to the parish a new, high quality LCD projector for use in our auditorium. Our parish will now be able to show religious movies in the auditorium for larger groups of people. This is a great tool for evangelization. St. Josaphat, pray for us!
- **Anyone interested** in helping start an orchard at Trinity Acres? See Fr. Jason



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 prayers: Luba and Peter Hlutkowsky and Joe Popivchak.

An Armenian Prayer Service will take place **this Thursday, Nov.19, 2015** at Holy Trinity from 6:00pm – 6:15pm in commemoration of the centennial (1915-2015) of **The Armenian Genocide**, with keynote speaker, **Rev. Fr. Hratch Sargsyan**. From 6:15 – 7pm there will be a video & a Q&A session, followed by a reception in the church hall.

Soyuz Ukrainok, Branch #27 presents **Vyshyvani Vechornytsi, Presentation of Debutantes** on **Saturday, November 28th** at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott (777 Aten

Rd, Coraopolis). Cocktails at 5:30pm, Dinner at 6:40pm, Music by Rezonanz, Adults \$40, Children \$15, Dance \$10. *Reservations must be made by calling Anne Konecky 412-343-0309 by November 15th.*



Thanksgiving Day Open House at Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd. Carnegie). **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Prayer Service: Noon, **Free Dinner:** 1pm until 5pm (Turkey, Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Vegetables, Salads, Stuffing, Gravy & Desserts. Eat-in or Take-Out. 412-278-3335.

A Ukrainian Holiday Bake Sale will take place at SS. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church (404 Sixth Street, Ambridge) on **Sat., December 12th** from 3:30 to 5:30pm and **Sun., December 13th** from 12:30 to 3:30pm in the church Millennium Room – Ukrainian Christmas Bread, Ukrainian Pastries, Applelicious Candy & Christmas Cookies!!!



12th Annual COOKIE Walk takes place at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Hall (Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie) on **December 12th** from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Enjoy “walking” through tables of homemade cookies and pastries. 724-348-7326



HTUCC Poinsettias for Christmas offering envelopes are in the church vestibule. \$22 for a 10 inch (we have ordered 6) and \$15 for an 8 inch (we have ordered 30). Once you have completed your envelope, you can place it in the collection basket. **Deadline: Wed., Dec. 16th.**

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: \$1,769 was offered in the collection last weekend with another \$126 for candles, \$351 for Energy, \$25 for Special Offering, \$20 for Aid to Soldiers in Ukraine, and \$29 for “The Natalia Protynyak in Ukraine Fund”. The Pyrohi Project brought in \$2,049.50 for a grand total of **\$4,369.50. Many blessings to all of our contributors whose sacrificial giving is known by God.**

Lector Schedule:

- Saturday: November 21 at 4pm: Sandy Krivonyak
- Sunday: November 22 at 8:30am: Ben Ciarallo; at 11am: Angela Honchar

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

Sat. 11/14	<i>The holy apostle Phillip, one of the 12 apostles (Pylpivka)</i>	
4:00pm	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Steven Kerchansky requested by Tom Kerchansky	JC
also Divine Liturgy to mark the 1 st anniversary of the late Janet Andrejasik requested by Carol Ostaffe & Family	IS
5:30pm <i>Doors open for "Nite at the Races"</i>	
Sun 11/15	<i>Holy martyrs Gurias, Samonas & Deacon Abibus</i>	
8:30am	40 th day Divine Liturgy for Emily Stecko (moved from 11-13-15)	IS
11:00am	Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish	JC
also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Sue Kanai requested by Bohdan & Anne Konecky	IS
Mon. 11/16	<i>The holy apostle and evangelist Matthew</i> The pastor's day off	
Tues 11/17	<i>The father among the saints, Bishop Gregory</i>	
8:00am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Mary K. Stein requested by Vera Kohut (OLPH)	JC
Wed 11/18	<i>The holy martyr Roman & his child Barula</i>	
8:00am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Emily Stecko requested by Conrad & Margie Kulik	JC
7:00pm	<i>Bible Study preceded by Emmanuel Moleben</i>	

Thurs 11/19	<i>The holy prophet Obadiah</i>	
6:00pm	Armenian Genocide Prayer Service	
Fri 11/20	<i>Our venerable father & confessor Gregory of Decapolis</i>	
Sat. 11/21	<i>Entrance into the temple of our most holy Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary</i>	
4:00pm	Divine Liturgy to mark the 32 nd anniversary of the late Walter Zaletski requested by his children and grandchildren	JC
also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Sue Kanai requested by Russ & Donna Zorey	IS
Sun 11/22	<i>The holy apostles Philemon and those with him.</i>	
8:30am	Divine Liturgy to mark the 43 rd anniversary of the late Robert Esterburg requested by Arlene Esterburg	IS
11:00am	Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish	JC
also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Sophie Popivchak requested by Helen & Mark Popivchak	IS



NOVEMBER Birthdays



If you name is not listed below-call the rectory!!!

*Artinger, Elizabeth
Bednarchuk, Lyudmyla
Besspiata, John
Boyle, Betty
Colaizzi, Karen
Holowaty, Daniel
Honchar, Angela*

*Kincak, Jean
Kohl, Anna
Koss, Andrew
Kuzemka, Anna
Lernatovych, Voldymyr
Matviiev, Lobow
Medwig, Mark
Koss, Helen*

*Milligan, John
Mykhayliv, Oksana
Ostaffe, Carol
Pretka, Alex
Sudiak, Zac
Sushko, Evhen
Sywy, Stephen
Zagorsky, Rosemarie*