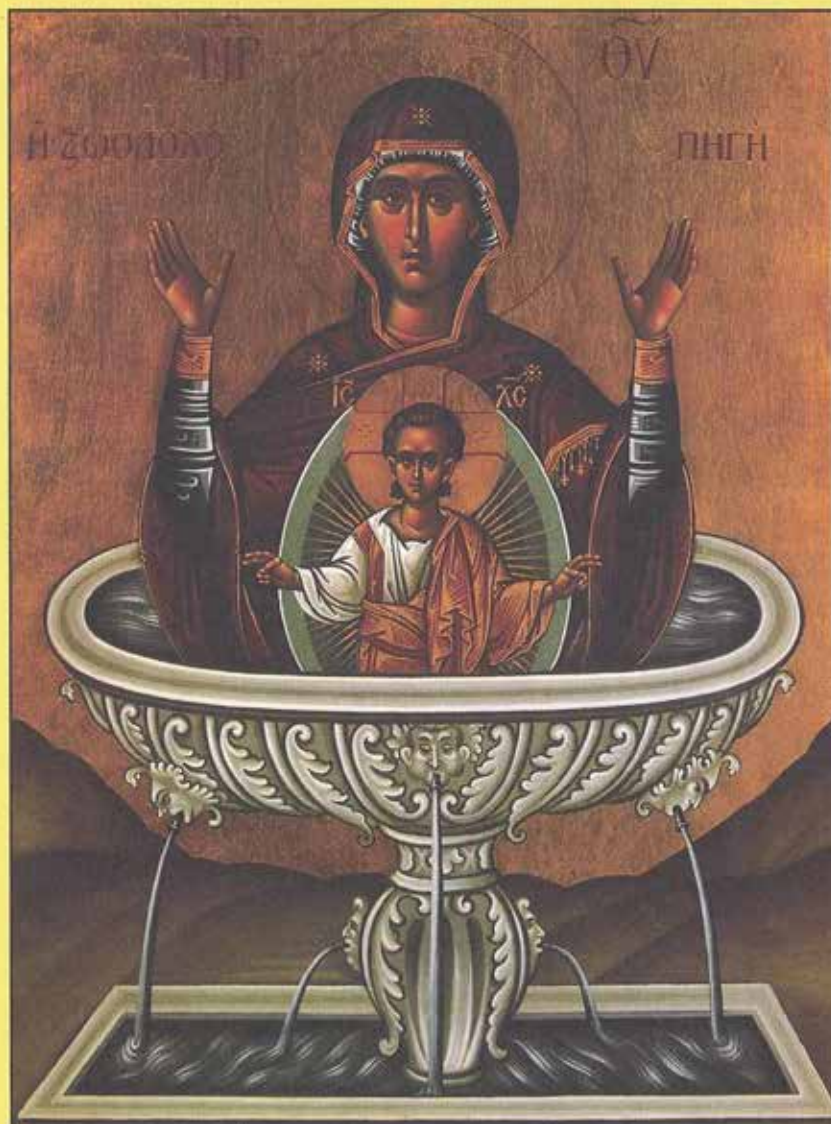


TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of the Fountain of the Mother of God

Dec. 10, 2017: Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Eph. 6: 10-17

Gospel: Lk. 17: 12-19

Mon., Dec. 11	8:00	+ Helen Nasevich (Barbara Gadomski)
Tues., Dec. 12	8:00	+ Anna Chaykosky (Daughter Shirley & Children)
Wed., Dec. 13	8:00	+ Deceased of the Stecco Family (Joan & Ed Stecco)
Thurs., Dec. 14	8:00	+ Ann Slaboda (M/M Nando Ubaldini)
Fri., Dec. 15	8:00	+ David T. Krenitsky (Joe Mussari & Patricia)
Sat., Dec. 16	No Morning Divine Liturgy. 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + George Chowanec (Family)	
Sun., Dec. 17	9:00	For Our Parishioners 11:30 + William Trently (Wife Evelyn)

Christmas Pastoral Message

Christ Is Born!

The birth of Christ – the time when the Christian world becomes immersed, as if in a fairy-tale of its childhood: fancy sparkling garlands, glistening Christmas tree ornaments and the comfort of family festivities, with its familiar aroma of Holy Eve supper reminiscent of childhood and the excitement of waiting for gifts as children. At this time, it even seems to adults that the mystical joy of Christmas, almost here and

now, is leading them to the Promised Land of comfort and fulfillment of all dreams. We would venture to say that Christmas, somehow in a mysterious, incomprehensible way, hands down to us the distant, gentle taste of Heaven.

On a purely human level, Christmas, possibly as no other of our Christian feast days, manifests to us the essence of all our most profound aspirations, that is, to be part of a community, the community of a large family, sitting at the festive table of

Our Heavenly Father.

Nevertheless, somehow we forget or we don't want to possibly remember, that in order to achieve the aim to which our entire inner being aspires, it is necessary we go all the way through. For we, as human beings, still find ourselves in the valley of tears and as our divine services say, the earthly "life – is but a shadow and a dream". To walk along this road, along the road of achieving our destiny – is to follow Jesus Christ. It means to follow Him Who put aside His glory and entered the darkness of this world, where the human being suffers, removed from the intimacy of God.

Christ could have been born in a royal palace. He could have become a worldwide ruler who imposes his will on the passive masses of subjects, whom He forcibly pulls, each and every one, into the embrace of the Loving Father. However, how could God, who is Love, desire compulsory "love"? Could a Loving Father try to compel his children to love Him by force?

This is the reason why Christ did not choose the path of power. He chose the path of Love, which is the only one that can overcome evil which reigns in this world. Love is the one and only

thing that can prompt the human heart to respond with love. He chose the path of accomplishing the will of the Father in order to gather together into one all the scattered children of God (John 11, 52) through Sacrifice. His mission – redemption of humanity, restoring the relationship of the human person with God, this – the Sacrifice, is a sacrifice from the very beginning to the very end.

The Sacrifice which began at that moment when the Son of God, the Second Person of God, set aside his Glory, Power, Grandeur and lowered Himself, assuming human nature, becoming one of those who suffer in the valley of banishment. His Sacrifice passed both through the cold cave, which served as a stable for flocks of sheep in the vicinity of Bethlehem – the town of his human ancestor – King David. It went through the simplest manger, where feed was left for the livestock, through the prickly hay, through the rejection of the neighbors. It continued through the flight into Egypt and simple years of childhood and youth in the forgotten Galilean town, which, it seems, had a bad reputation among the people. His Sacrifice undergoes the rejection of those to whom He was sent, who dishonored Him by their ridicule

and cruelty all the way to the Cross. Nonetheless, Christ fulfilled His mission and accomplished the will of the Heavenly Father.

Each one of us is called to walk down His path, to continue His mission. However, this requires our understanding of the fact that we are members of His Body, that is, the Church. This demands of us an ever closer union with Him here on earth, a unity with Him in Love, in order to be able to unite ourselves with His Sacrifice, as participants in His mission.

In Christmas, in a mysterious and incomprehensible manner, the beginning of His mission is joined together with our foretaste of Heaven. The beginning and end unite. Simultaneously, we have a call to come walk with Him on the way, and in doing so, we already have the power to experience

in advance the foretaste of the joy of a completed journey. Thus Christmas is not only the joy of a family celebration, not just the shimmering heavenly lights, but a call directed to each one of us, a call to set out on a journey.

At the time of beginnings of the Chosen People, God said to our Forefather Abraham in Ur of Chaldea: come out of yourself. And this call is directed to each one of us: come out of yourself. Come out of your preoccupation with daily monotony; come out of your fears and limitations and come stand before the manger in which the mission of Christ begins. It is a mission which is not easy, but a necessary prerequisite for reaching the goal of our existence, – to be with God for all eternity.

Christ is Born!

+Stefan Soroka (Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians)
Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM (Eparch of Stamford)

+Benedict Aleksiychuk (author & Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago)

+ Bohdan J. Danylo (Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma)

+John Bura (Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia)

+Andriy Rabiychuk (Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia)

Christ Our Pascha

The New Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, *Christ Our Pascha*, is Now Available to Read Online. You can now access and read the online English language version of the Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Christ Our Pascha at: <http://catechism.royaldoors.net/catechism/>

Every household should use this online text as a resource for family members to grow in knowledge and understanding of their faith and their church. Parents should especially use this text to share and teach the faith with their children.

Humor... Life After Death

“Do you believe in life after death” the boss asked one of his employees.
“Yes sir” the employee replied.
“Well that makes everything just fine

then”, the boss went on. “After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother’s funeral, she stopped by to see you!”

2018 Church Calendars

The 2018 Church Calendars are available in the Vestibule of the Church.

The calendars are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

Notice to the Parish

Please pass this notice to those members of our parish who have not been regular in their church attendance and ask them to carefully consider the message below.

I want you to know that our parish needs you, and that you also need to be here with us. We have a responsibility

to one another as members of the Body of Christ – the Church – and these responsibilities are growing daily, given the events taking place in the world around us. Please make church attendance and prayer a regular part of your daily lives. Please.

Andrew’s Pence

The Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC)

has decided to hold a collection, called Andrew’s Pence, to support faithful of

UGCC abroad where there is no permanent ecclesiastical structure.

More than 100 years ago Ukrainians started to leave their native land in search of a better life, material welfare, and freedom. Many settled on another continent, where church buildings of the UGCC are not everywhere, so that the faithful could not attend services in their native Church. Wishing to

provide all faithful of the UGCC with spiritual care, the bishops call upon all to support the faithful of the UGCC abroad in prayer and financially, collecting the so-called Andrew's Pence.

According to the Protocol of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, the "Andrew's Pence" collection is to be taken in all parishes each year in the month of December.

Christmas Carol Sing Along

YOU ARE INVITED to join Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Parish for their 24th Annual Christmas Carol Sing Along in the church on North River Street in Wilkes-Barre, today, December 10, 2017 starting at 2 p.m. Join in the singing of some very sacred, joyful and inspiring Christ-

mas Carols. Afterwards, please join us in the lower church hall for a Christmas Fellowship Social. Please bring a friend or family member, and share the joy of Christmas with them, as we all prepare to welcome the Newborn Son of God into our hearts and homes."

St. Mary's International Dinner Club

St. Mary's Dinner Club: St. Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton. Thursday, December 14 ONE SEATING ONLY AT 6:00 PM, featuring Holiday Carving Stations. Menu: Tossed Green Salad, Carving Stations include Top Sirloin of Beef, Honey Glazed Smoked Ham, Tender Roast

Turkey Breast. Sides Station: Scaloped Potatoes, Candied Yams, Italian Style Green Beans, Brown Sugar & Cinnamon Glazed Carrots. Dessert: New York Style Cheese Cake. Non-alcoholic Beverages included. Cash Bar Available. \$20 per person. Reserve by end of day December 11. 570-343-5151

Save The Date December 17, 2017 1:00 pm

A Visit From Saint Nicholas, escorted by Members of the Heavenly Court is scheduled for, Sunday, December 17, 2017, at approximately 1:00 pm. According to our Ukrainian Tradition, the Feast of St. Mykola, (St. Nicholas Day), is December 6th, however, it is observed by those who follow the Julian Calendar, on December 19th. We will receive one of our most Beloved Saints, who will give us a special blessing, and treats for children of all ages. This year, all CCD students, accompanied by a parent or

guardian, will welcome St. Nicholas by singing, "O, KTO, KTO," and, everyone can sing along with other favorite carols. Saint Nicholas will visit with each child individually. As previously stated, this visit will remain an unpublicized, private Parish event limited to members of the parish/immediate family/closest friends. We look forward to seeing you! For more information, please contact Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Marcinko III, at 570-241-3540.

Annual Festival of Christmas Carols

The Annual Festival of Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 3 p.m. at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate

Conception in Philadelphia. Choirs from different parishes will participate. Everyone is welcome.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of November 2017 is Team #4: Ed Stecco and Joe Smagula.

Sunday Collection for December 2 & 3, 2017: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for December 16 & 17, 2017

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Joseph Chylak -- Nicholas Chylak	John Sakson
9:00 am	John Nasevich -- Patrick Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Jordan Radle -- Brian Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Word Made Flesh Makes Us Divine

Our faith is not founded upon empty words; nor are we carried away by mere caprice or beguiled by specious arguments. On the contrary, we put our faith in words spoken by the power of God, spoken by the Word himself at God's command. God wished to win men back from disobedience, not by using force to reduce him to slavery but by addressing to his free will a call to liberty.

The Word spoke first of all through the prophets, but because the message was couched in such obscure language that it could be only dimly apprehended, in the last days the Father sent the Word in person, commanding Him to show Himself openly so that the world could see Him and be saved.

We know that by taking a body from the Virgin He re-fashioned our fallen nature. We know that his manhood was of the same clay as our own; if this were not so, He would hardly

have been a teacher who could expect to be imitated. If He were of a different substance from me, He would surely not have ordered me to do as He did, when by my very nature I am so weak. Such a demand could not be reconciled with His goodness and justice.

No. He wanted us to consider Him as no different from ourselves, and so He worked, He was hungry and thirsty, He slept. Without protest He endured His passion, He submitted to death and revealed His resurrection. In all these ways He offered His own manhood as the first fruits of our race to keep us from losing heart when suffering comes our way, and to make us look forward to receiving the same reward as He did, since we know that we possess the same humanity.

St. Hippolytus of Rome

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