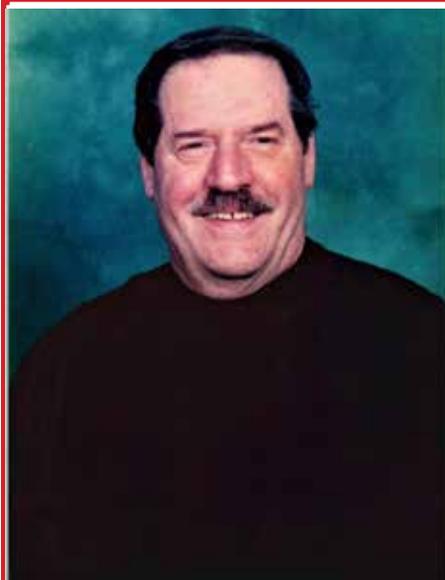


TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Ann and Mary -- December 8-9

| December 2, 2018: 28th Sunday After Pentecost | |
|---|---|
| Epistle: Col. 3: 12-16 Gospel: Lk. 17: 12-19 | |
| Mon., Dec. 10 | 8:00 + Pearl Kostic (Matt Beckage) |
| Tues., Dec. 11 | 8:00 + Tom Matkosky (Al & Cookie Smargiassi) |
| Wed., Dec. 12 | 8:00 + Michael Carrera (Matt Beckage) |
| Thurs., Dec. 13 | 8:00 + Evelyn Cheplick (Kikuyo Kawai, Yoshikazu Kawai & Kumiko Suzuki) |
| Fri., Dec. 14 | 8:00 + John Joseph Kulesa (Terry & Barbara Chmil) |
| Sat., Dec. 15 | No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 Confessions 4:00 pm + George Chowanec (Family) |
| Sun., Dec. 16 | 9:00 + Christine Danylak (Leo Danylak) 11:30 For Our Parishioners |



**+ Rev. Edward
Levandusky**

1939-2018

**May His Memory Be
Eternal!
Vichnaya Pamyat!**

On the Feast of the Maternity of the Holy Anna

The U. S. Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchy issued the following letter dated November 30, 2006:

To the Clergy, Sisters, and the Faithful of the Metropolitan Province of Philadelphia for Ukrainians:

As long as anyone can remember, we have celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in the United States on December 8th as a Holy Day of Obligation. This was done so we may be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of the Latin Church as this title of the Mother of God is the patron of our great country. In accordance with the decree (1.4) of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church during the Synod of 1997 (September 14th - 20th), the holy

days of obligation were promulgated and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception was not included as a day of obligation.

As the feast of the Conception of St. Anne is celebrated on December 9th in ALL of the Eastern Churches (Gregorian Calendar) and specifically in the Ukrainian Church, we, the undersigned, promulgate that the Feast of the Conception of St. Anne is to be celebrated on December 9th in the United States of America. This will enable our Church *sui iuris* to be of one accord in its celebration of the Liturgical life of our Church. This is to take effect immediately. Given on the Feast of St. Andrew (November 30) 2006.

+Stefan Soroka

+Robert M. Moskal +Richard S. Seminack +Paul Chomnycky, O.S.B.M.

It's Okay to Say "Merry Christmas"

Every Christmas, anti-Christian groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Communist Party, various Islamic groups and Atheist groups sue some city for erecting a nativity scene on public property. Likewise, fearing they may be perceived as politically incorrect, a

handful of retailers replace the word "Christmas" with "Holiday" in their marketing.

It may seem like a small issue, but these things are significant because they diminish the importance of the Christian foundations of our society.

Our ideas of justice, mercy, liberty

and love for our fellow man are deeply rooted in the Traditions of the Apostolic Church which includes the Bible, particularly in the life, death and resurrection of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. That's why America has been a light among the nations in the world.

Like the angel who appeared to the shepherds saying: "I bring you good news

of great joy," we Christians have a story to tell about the blessings of honoring the true God. Telling the story can start with simply not patronizing stores that use "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas" and by reminding those who say "Happy Holidays" that "It's okay to say Merry Christmas!"

Ask the Pastor

What is an angel?

The word angel means a "messenger" of God. An angel of God is one of the spirits of heaven sent down by God to announce His will and to fulfill His orders. The Holy Scriptures give us many accounts of the deeds performed by the angels by the order of God, such as: the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah or guarding Paradise after the fall of Adam. The New Testament tells of angels who appeared to Zacharias, and the Virgin Mary. "An angel," says St. John Damascene, "is an intelligent substance, always active, having free will and bodiless, serving God: a being that has received immortality as a gift of God. The

Creator alone knows its essential nature." According to the Tradition there are nine ranks of bodiless powers or the Hosts: angels, archangels, principalities, powers, virtues, dominions, thrones, cherubim and seraphim (cf. Col. 1:16). The Cherubim and Seraphim are described as offering continual adoration before God with the incessant and ever-resounding cry: HOLY! HOLY! HOLY! (Isaiah 6:3, Rev. 4:8). We refer to this when we sing the Cherubic Hymn in the Divine Liturgy: Let us mystically represent the Cherubim and sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life –creating Trinity. Together with them we sing: Holy! Holy! Holy!

Special Collection for St. Mary's Church, Carteret, NJ At Divine Liturgies Dec. 8 and 9

On the evening of November 27th, our faithful in Carteret, NJ experienced the tragic destruction of their Parish Church

of St. Mary as the result of a three alarm fire. Bishop Andriy has asked that a special collection be taken up in all of our par-

ishes, at the Divine Liturgies this weekend for St. Mary's parish in Carteret, NJ. In

this season of giving, please be generous in your support of our sister Parish.

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.

Welcome St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas arrives today (Saturday), at approximately 5:15 pm. St. Nicholas will visit with each child, and there will be treats for children of all ages. Our Religious Education children will welcome St. Nicholas by singing, "O, KTO, KTO," and, everyone can sing along with other

favorite carols. REMINDER to all: There is to be no eating of candy or oranges inside the Church. Please be mindful and pick up any wrappers, etc., before leaving. Thank you. Looking forward to seeing you!

St. Cyril's Holy Name Society

St. Cyril's Holy Name Society will meet today (Sunday), following the 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy. All members are encouraged to attend this monthly meeting.

Christmas Confessions

Christmas Confessions will be held on both Saturday, December 16th and Saturday December 23rd. These are the last op-

portunities for Confessions before Christmas. There will be two priests hearing Confessions on both those Saturdays at

10:30 am and at 2:00 pm.

Our Condolences

In your Christian Charity, please pray for the blessed repose of the soul of the following who recently fell asleep in the Lord:

- + **Eugenia Barkofsky** was buried from St. Cyril's on Tuesday, Novem-

ber 27th.

- + **Michael (Jerry) Galay** was buried from St. Cyril's on Saturday, December 1st.

May their memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat.

2018 Parish Dues

With the end of 2018 quickly approaching, we offer this gentle reminder to make sure that your 2018 Parish Dues are paid. Also, we remind our Parish

Family Members that as of January 1, 2011, Parish Dues are now \$25.00 per adult per year. There is no increased planned for 2019.

2019 Church Calendars

The 2019 Church Calendars are available in the Vestibule of the Church. The

calendars are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

The Way

Did you know *The Way*, our archeparchial newspaper is available for FREE through the internet? Our newspaper is published twice a month in both an English language version and a Ukrainian language version. To receive this online newspaper, simply send your email ad-

dress to : ukrarcap.org. You may also share *The Way* with family and friends by sending their email addresses to: ukrarcap.org. All parishioners are encouraged to receive and read *The Way*, the Catholic newspaper of our Philadelphia Archeparchy.

Do You Have Time To Help Others?

VNA Hospice and Home Health is seeking volunteers to be part of our care team. Our volunteer program provides a

unique opportunity to serve others and at the same time learn new skills and make new friends. If you like to listen to

treasured stories or just lend a helping hand, VNA is the place for you.

If you would like more information on joining our team, please contact Ma-

rina Pambianco, Volunteer Coordinator, at 570-383-51804 or mpambianco@vnahospice.org

Connor's Christmas Miracle

An "Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar" will take place on Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 1 to 5 pm at Jon Pierres American Bistro, 590 Burke Bypass in Olyphant.

All proceeds benefit Connor Edward Abda, who was born on June 1, 2018 with Immunodeficiency Disease (Boy in the Bubble Disease).

Donations will help Connor with ongoing medical expenses as he contin-

ues with treatment at Hershey Medical Center.

Donations of \$5.00 per Family at the Door gets you a Door Prize ticket for a LIVE Christmas Tree, Photos with Santa, gift bags for the kids, juice, hot chocolate, Homemade cookies, and the Gift of Giving Connor a Miracle! For more info call Kim at (H) 570-383-9552, (C) 570-892-0378 or Diane at 845-542-9233.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of December 2018 is Team #4: Ed Stecco, Joe Smagula and Ronald Barkofsky.

At this time we are looking for

more volunteers to help process the Sunday Collection. If you are interested in helping, please let Father Nestor know.

Sunday Collection for December 1 & 2, 2018: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for December 15 & 16, 2018

| | Altar Boys | Lectors |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| 4:00 pm | Nicholas Muchisky -- Nicholas Borowski | Michael Shumek |
| 9:00 am | Brennin Marcinko -- Cole Marcinko | Pat Marcinko |
| 11:30 am | Tyler Muchisky -- Jordan Radle | Frank Lesnefsky |

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

If Moses did not Take off his Shoes

Moses was prevented from approaching the burning bush until he had taken off his shoes. You are aspiring to stand in the presence of the One who is greater than every thought and every passion. How then can you refuse to strip yourself of every passionate thought?

Praying means rejecting pleasures and banishing anger.

Do not open your heart to fleshly longings. They stir up emotions that trouble the eye of the mind and therefore destroy prayer.

Your prayer ought to be steadfast and fervent. So dispel all distractions and wandering thoughts the moment they present themselves. They disturb you and worry you so that your fervor is weakened.

During your prayer, try to keep your mind deaf and dumb. Only so will you be able to pray.

Do not be content with external attitudes of prayer. Turn your mind to the prayer of the spirit, with awe and fearfulness.

St. Evagrius of Pontus