

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA



*Icon of Saint Anna and Mary*

## December 8, 2019: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Eph. 5: 9-19

Gospel: Lk. 17: 12-19

<b>Mon., Dec. 9</b>	<b>Maternity of the Holy Anna (Solemn Holy Day)</b>
	9:00 + Souls in Purgatory (Dorothy Zinsky) 7:00 pm + Douglas Kanuik (Cheryl & Richard Sestili)
<b>Tues., Dec. 10</b>	8:00 + Joseph Fawcett (Barbara & Stephanie Kulick)
<b>Wed., Dec. 11</b>	8:00 + Stephen Krisler (Victor Kleszyk)
<b>Thurs., Dec. 12</b>	8:00 + Marge Evanitsky (Daughter, Michaelene)
<b>Fri., Dec. 13</b>	8:00 + Anna & Michael Zinsky (Evelyn Trently)
<b>Sat., Dec. 14</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b>
	10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + George Howanec (Family)
<b>Sun., Dec. 15</b>	9:00 + Christine Danylak (Leo Danylak) 11:30 For Our Parishioners

### NOVEMBER 2019 CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	4:00 pm	9:00 am	11:30 am	Total:
<b>Nov. 2/3</b>	75	43	48	166
<b>Nov. 9/10</b>	71	40	43	154
<b>Nov. 16/17</b>	68	41	54	163
<b>Nov. 23/24</b>	86	42	47	175
<b>Nov. 30/1</b>	94	31	18	143
<b>Total:</b>	394	197	210	801

### ST. CYRIL'S HOLY NAME SOCIETY MEETING

St. Cyril's Holy Name Society All members are invited and will meet today (December 8<sup>th</sup>) encouraged to attend this meeting. following the 9:00 Divine Liturgy.

## **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.

## **Something to Think About**

The following was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS Sunday Morning Commentary. The article is quite long but certainly is worth reading.

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled tress, Christmas trees... I don't feel threatened... I don't feel discriminated

against... That's what they are, Christmas trees.

It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think that they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene

on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu... If people want a crèche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away. I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her: "How could God let something like this happen?" (regarding Hurricane Katrina). Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insight-

ful response. She said: "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

In light of recent events... terrorist attacks, school shooting, etc... I think that it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK.

Then some of you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem. (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves. Probably, if we think about it long and

hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with “WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.”

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world’s going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Are you laugh-

ing yet? Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us that what God thinks of us.

But, if you discard this thought process, don’t sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in. My Best Regards, Honestly and respectfully.

## THE LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE

Every year as Christmas nears, candy canes show up in stores and millions are sold and eaten. While the striped candy is delicious, it is more than just a pretty, tasty treat to enjoy around Christmas. The Legend of the Candy Cane was designed to be a reminder of what Christmas is all about.

A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would help us remember who Christmas is really about. So he made a Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize

the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus. Hard candy to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God. The candy maker made the candy in the form of a “J” to represent the name of Jesus. It also represented the staff of the “good Shepherd”. The candy maker then included red stripes. He used three small stripes and a large red stripe to represent the suffering Christ endured at the end of his life. The candy became known as a Candy Cane - a decoration seen at Christmas time. The meaning has faded, but still gives joy to children young and old, whom Jesus loves and treasures.



We will begin to decorate our Church for the Christmas season today

## ‘TIS THE SEASON

(December 8<sup>th</sup>) beginning and 1 pm. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to come and lend a helping hand. We especially need the men of the Parish to handle the ladders and the Manger.

## **CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS**

Christmas Confessions will be held on both Saturday, December 14th and Saturday December 21st. These are the last opportunities for Confessions before

Christmas. There will be two priests hearing Confessions on both those Saturdays at 10:30 am and at 2:00 pm.

## **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!"

## **2019 PARISH DUES**

With the end of 2019 quickly approaching, we offer this gentle reminder to make sure that your 2019 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 2020.

## **2020 CHURCH CALENDARS**

The 2020 Church Calendars are available in the back of the Church. The Calendars

are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

## 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 Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Parish for their 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Carol Sing Along in the church on North River St. in Wilkes-Barre, next Sunday, December 15, 2019 starting at 2 pm. Join in the singing of some very sacred, joyful and inspiring

Christmas 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.

## COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of December 2019 is Team #4:

Ron Barkofsky & Joe Smagula.

## Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for December 14 & 15, 2019

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Hunter Wegforth -- Samuel Sczesniak	Bill Vervan
9:00 am	Brennin Marcinko -- Cole Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Tyler Muchisky -- Nicholas Muchisky	Frank Lesnefsky

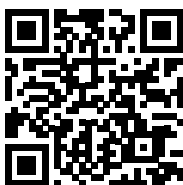
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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *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*