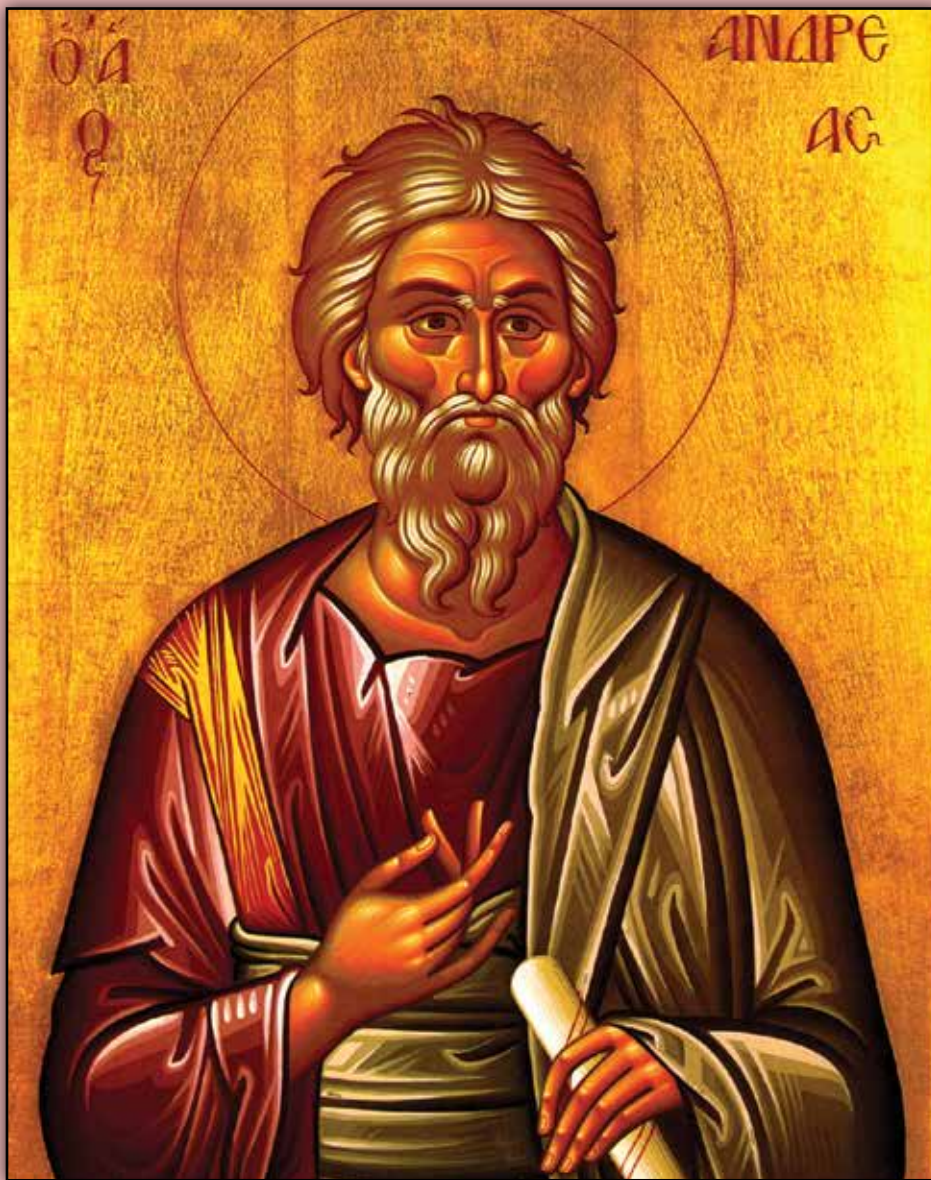


TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of Saint Andrew -- November 30th*

<b>November 28, 2021: 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b>		
Epistle: Eph. 6: 10-17		Gospel: Lk. 13: 10-17
<b>Mon., Nov. 29</b>	9:00	+ Joseph Berta (Mary Ann Spryn)
<b>Tues., Nov. 30</b>	9:00	Intention Available: Contact Fr. Nestor)
<b>Wed., Dec. 1</b>	9:00	Intention Available: Contact Fr. Nestor
<b>Thurs., Dec. 2</b>	9:00	+ Andrew & Stephen Chezik (Family)
<b>Fri., Dec. 3</b>	9:00	+ Myroslaw Iwasiw (Father Nestor)
<b>Sat., Dec. 4</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b> 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + John & Olga Yuhnick (Family)	
<b>Sun., Dec. 5</b>	10:00	For Our Parishioners

## **SAINT PHILIP'S FAST (PYLYPIVKA) PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE USA**

*God is our refuge and strength;  
a helper in afflictions which mightily  
befall us.*

*Therefore, will not we fear, though  
the earth be removed, and though the  
mountains be carried into the midst  
of the sea.*

*Though the waters thereof roar  
and be troubled, though the mountains  
shake with the swelling thereof.*

*The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

**Psalms 45, prayed during the Great  
(Holy) Hours**

***Glory to Jesus Christ!***

**Beloved in Christ,**

The whole world has been anxiously watching the new wave of the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic over the past weeks. Rather than joyfully expecting the gracious gifts of autumn and Advent, we go about our days with a sense of tension, fear, and maybe even dread, all brought on by increased awareness of human mortality.

For this reason, at the beginning of the Christmas Fast we address all of you with words of spiritual consolation and encouragement to trust in God's mercy. St. Philip's Fast, or Pylypivka, is upon us. It is a time of understanding and spiritual preparation—not so much for the birth of a boy as for the coming of the God-Man, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

We ought to think of the Nativity of our Lord as a God-revealing moment. There are others scattered throughout the gospels such as the Baptism in the Jordan when the Father declares, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). Jesus shows us in these instances who he is, where he comes from, and where is going. His every vector moves through the Father. Of course, the Resurrection is the climax of God revealing Himself to beloved humanity through victory over death and the gift of eternal life to "those in the tombs," to those who have lost Eden.

The Fast before Christmas is also a great fast. It is a time of gladness in waiting for the coming of the Messiah into the history of mankind. By coming into the world, he changes the world, because God becomes human for the deification of humanity. Our return to

Him renews the harmonious union of heaven and earth.

The liturgical texts of Christmas reveal the feast's theological meaning:

*Bethlehem make ready; let the Manger be prepared; let the Cave receive. The truth has come, the shadow has passed away, and God has appeared among men from a Virgin, formed as we are and making divine what he has put on. And so Adam is renewed with Eve as they cry, 'God's good pleasure has appeared on earth to save our race'.* (Royal Hours, First Hour)

Not only are Adam and Eve renewed, but we too, their descendants, are renewed in our original dignity as children of God through the incarnation and the birth of Jesus. The Nativity of Christ signifies and makes real the beginning of humanity's salvation from the poison of sin and death. Therefore, the Christmas Fast is a period of joy, not of sorrow. We give up all earthly and temporary joys for the sake of true Joy—celebrating the birth of the God-Man, His coming in our nature, which He takes up to Heaven.

Today the world is afraid of a new virus that can harm the body, even destroy it. Yet Christ was born in the

time of a census, turmoil among nations, and oppression. We must not forget that the Holy Family was also far from home and without a comfortable place to stay. Christ may not have been born into a pandemic, but He was born into a place full of viruses and infections, among the unsanitary conditions of the cruel world. However, even here, in the poorest place, He is greeted by the warmth of animals and the joy of shepherds. The stable and manger support the weight of God's great love and mercy for man.

*Before your Nativity, Lord, the heavenly hosts looked with trembling on the mystery and were struck with wonder; for you were well pleased to be born as a babe, you who adorned the vault of heaven with stars; and you have been laid in a manger of dumb beasts, you who hold all the ends of the earth in the hollow of your hand; for by such a dispensation your*

*compassion and great mercy have been made known. O Christ, glory to you! (Royal Hours, Third Hour).*

During the period of Christmas fasting, let us discover the Word of God: Christ, who is incarnate and born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Word is incarnated and so it becomes flesh. Let us discover the Word, let us incarnate It in ourselves. We should first prepare ourselves by embracing repentance.

And so, may our expectation of the birth of Jesus the Savior be filled with joy and trust that shines in our families, with the people around us, and with those who expect a great change in mankind and in the universe because "God the Lord has appeared to us."

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you!

**+Borys Gudziak** (Archbishop of Philadelphia)

**+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM** (Eparch of Stamford)

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

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

**+Andriy Rabi** (Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia)

## **BISHOP ANDRIY'S OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HOLODOMOR- GENOCIDE MUSEUM.**

This year we will be commemorating 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Holodomor (Famine) in Ukraine. Though it happened a while ago the wounds of many are still open, many victims remain unknown, and the truth of this horror is yet to be told. The Ukrainian government and society are ready to invest time, efforts and some financial assistance to give proper remembrance and honor to those who were killed during that time, study and investigate the Holodomor by completing the Memorial and museum in Kyiv. To create museum displays, conduct investigations and research about the victims and Holodomor in general will require adequate financial resources to complete it. International Charitable Fund for the Holodomor Museum was established back in 2019, which is managed by a board of directors.

His Beatitude Sviatoslav is a member of the board and an ambassador to help raise money for the cause. The needed amount to raise is \$60 million USD. He asked clergy and laity of the Ukrainian Catholic Church to support the effort. As of today, about 908,000 hryvnia (about \$35,000 USD) is collected. Recently His Beatitude Sviatoslav asked the Metropolia of Philadelphia to renew the effort and engage our clergy, monastics and laity in raising awareness about the project and Christian and moral responsibility to help. Beloved, if you want to help with this project, Write a check to «Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia», with a note «Holodomor Museum in Kyiv» and send it to Archbishop's Cancery, 810 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123.

## **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 the 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.

## **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 you daily lives. Please!

## **'TIS THE SEASON**

We will begin to decorate our Church for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> beginning approximately at 11:30 am. 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.

## **2022 CHURCH CALENDARS**

The 2022 Church Calendars are available in the Vestibule of the

Church. The Calendars are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

## **WHY SHOULD I USE WEEKLY ENVELOPES?**

The use of envelopes is important, they document your active participation in the faith life of our parish. This information is needed in order to obtain a Letter of Eligibility to be issued when you are asked to be a

baptism or confirmation sponsor. This also facilitates the preparation of a statement of contributions for income tax purpose. If you do not currently participate in our envelope system and would like to start using them, please



contact the Parish Office at 570-291- 4451

## **DIVINE LITURGY STATISTICS**

During the month of November, our Parish will do a statistical analysis of our Liturgy attendance for both Saturday and Sunday Services. This

information will be submitted to the Archeparchy per their request. Please come and BE COUNTED.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG**

YOU ARE INVITED to join Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish for their 27th Annual Christmas Carol Sing Along in the church on North River Street in Wilkes-Barre, Sunday, December 12th, 2021 starting at 2 p.m. 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 November 2021 is Team

#3: Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky and Cheryl Matuszewski.

**Sunday Collection for Nov. 13 & 14, 2021: \$**

**Sunday Collection for Nov. 20 & 21, 2021: \$**

*Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Parish financially in our weekly collections. If you are still staying at home due to the pandemic, and are able to send in any amount, it would be a blessing.*



## Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Web Site: [stcyrils.weconnect.com](http://stcyrils.weconnect.com)

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Many Calls for the Chosen*

The first call that shaped St. Andrew's life was the very timing and place of his birth. The second call that shaped Andrew's life came through John the Baptist. Andrew must have been an alert young man longing for the coming of the Messiah when he first heard the preaching of John. Andrew's third call came from Jesus himself. The fourth call that shaped Andrew's life was to follow Jesus, to be his disciple, a student in daily contact with Jesus, walking and talking with him, listening and learning from the Master, as from a Rabbi. The fifth call that changed Andrew's life was his selection by Jesus as one of the twelve apostles, to give witness, to preach, to bring others to Christ. Andrew, the student, was chosen to become a teacher sent by Christ. His sixth call came through pious Greeks at the Passover in Jerusalem. They wanted to see Jesus, to be introduced to him. The boy from Bethsaida began using his language skills, his un-

derstanding of Greek and Roman culture, to bring Gentiles to Jesus. St. Gregory Nazianzen, St. Jerome, and St. Paulinus tell us that after Pentecost Andrew became an apostle to people in the land of Greece, the bordering lands, and as tradition tells us, ultimately to Byzantium. The final call in Andrew's life was to martyrdom by crucifixion on an X shaped cross at Patras in Achaia.

Saint Andrew's vocation, and ours as well, wasn't given all at once, but gradually. Seven calls from the Lord built one upon the other throughout the course of his life. Andrew's response to each call gave new shape to his life and prepared him for the next gift of God. This courageous young man, by purity of heart and docile obedience to God's will became in St. Bede's words, "The Introducer to Christ." He introduced his brother to Jesus, and the Greeks and Scythians.