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NATIVITY FAST—SAINT PHILIP'S FAST—ADVENT

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Anastasia [Metropolitan Yuriy's mom], Metropolitan Theodosius [OCA], Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, George Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with

cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Donald Griffey, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Barbara McDougall, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Virginia Catherine Pynch, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Michael Pawlyshyn, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Stella McKeag, Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaughaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah

Dorning, Evelyn Burlack, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Bishop Athanasius Akunda of Western Kenya, Sandra Dillard, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

Beware of measuring fasting by abstaining from food. Those who abstain from food but behave badly are likened to a devil who, although he does not eat anything, doesn't stop sinning. –St. Basil the Great

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: All Christians and the others in the Middle East who are suffering during this time of great tragedy and unrest. May God watch over and keep them safe! Lord have mercy!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS;
HOLY PROPHET DANIEL; THE THREE HOLY YOUTHS: ANANIAS, AZARIAS, &
MISAEAL; SAINT DANIEL THE CONFESSOR—IN SCHEMA STEPHEN**

Tone 6

Colossians 3:4-11; Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Luke 14:16-24; Luke 11:47-12:1

SUNDAY, JANUARY 06 DIVINE LITURGY UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM

**32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST; NUN-
MARTYR EUGENIA & WITH HER MARTYRS PROTIUS, HYACINTH, BASILLA, &
CLAUDIA; VENERABLE NICHOLAS THE MONK**

STRICT FAST DAY—HOLY SUPPER AFTER LITURGY--DOWNSTAIRS

Tone 7

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17023, 32-40

Matthew 1:1-25

**JANUARY 7TH THROUGH JANUARY 17TH
NO FAST PERIOD, EXCEPT PRE-COMMUNION!**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM

**33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY & BEFORE
THEOPHANY; LEAVE-TAKING OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST; VENERABLE
MELANIA THE YOUNGER-NUN OF ROME; SAINT PETER MOHYLA-METROPOLITAN
OF KIEV**

Tone 8

Galatians 1:11-19; Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Matthew 2:13-23; John 10:9-16

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Stephen Kuzman, Timothy Stutchell, Nicholas
Vetosky, Robert Rohal, & Gary Atutes—Fr. Bob***

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 30 DECEMBER 2018

**31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY
FOREFATHERS; HOLY PROPHET DANIEL; THE THREE HOLY YOUTHS:
ANANIAS, AZARIAS, & MISAEAL; SAINT DANIEL THE CONFESSOR—IN
SCHEMA STEPHEN**

TROPARION—TONE 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
Raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.
He is the Savior of all,
The Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 6

READER: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

PEOPLE: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

READER: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

PEOPLE: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

READER: O Lord, save Thy people.

PEOPLE: And bless Thine inheritance.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 6

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

He will say to the Lord: My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in whom I trust.

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost—Luke 17:12-19

And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.(KJV)

The primary reason to go to church is to experience and be united with the Lord Jesus Christ. Nourishment for the soul is received in the Church. The purpose of human life becomes known by attending the Divine services of the Church,
Joy and peace in Christ are realized in the Church. Being cleansed of sinfulness and impurities occurs within the Church. Repentance and seeking God's forgiveness are encouraged in the Church

The Church is in the Nativity Fast at this time. The birth of the Lord Jesus Christ will be celebrated soon. The Nativity Fast offers believers the structured opportunity to focus intensely on the meaning of Christ's birth.

The Nativity Fast is a time to seriously assess our personal relationship with Christ. The desire to experience Christ completely is best fulfilled in the Church. Unity with Christ occurs through genuine repentance, Holy Confession and Communion.

The Church offers the Nativity Fast as a structure for believers to unite with Christ. Fasting strengthens believers in the battle against sinful thoughts and activities.

Serious self-assessment reveals areas of need for a healthier relationship with Christ.

The current Gospel is a lesson in the healing power of Christ. Christ healed ten lepers in the present Gospel. Christ is capable of healing believers seeking a life free from sin.

Christ is able to fill the heart with goodness and mercy.

Believers have a personal responsibility to draw closer to Christ. The Nativity Fast encourages believers to draw near to Christ. The Nativity Fast provides a new beginning for believers.

Christ coming into the world as a new born Infant changed the world forever. Believers can invest the rest of the days of their lives in serious study and will not learn all there is to know of Christ.

The hunger for Christ and unity with Christ exists in each person. Complete unity with Christ brings peace and light to life. Each person has the responsibility to act upon the desire to be united with Christ.

Christ is ever-present. Action is required of the person to sense Christ's presence. The eyes of the heart and mind need to be open to Christ. One of the ten lepers in the current Gospel openly expressed his gratitude to Christ.

Each believer has the opportunity during the Nativity Fast to seek complete unity with Christ. The opportunity is present to know Christ fully and completely. The coming Feast of the Nativity of Christ is motivation for believers to reject sin and draw near to Christ.

The world changed forever with Christ's birth. Believers are challenged to contemplate the meaning of Christ's birth for their personal lives. The Nativity Fast is an annual opportunity to be renewed in Christ.

The world is full of opportunities. If the way of Christ is followed, the path leads to the Kingdom of God. Believers benefit from being attentive to Christ in decision-making.

Following Christ in decision-making is the safest and most beneficial course for life.

Life can seem overwhelming at times. Stress can lead individuals to the brink of despair.

Christ is within reach of each person. Christ is ever-present for individuals willing to open their hearts and minds to Him.

Believers must be willing to look beyond themselves to see Christ. Ten lepers were healed in the current Gospel. Only one of the healed lepers looked beyond himself to acknowledge Christ.

In daily life, the healthiest course of action is to keep Christ first and foremost in the heart and mind. Keeping the Lord Jesus Christ as the goal and life's foundation will result in fullness of life. Sin will not thrive and prevail when Christ fills the heart and mind.

The Jesus Prayer enables believers to reject sinful thoughts and action. The Jesus Prayer serves to repel temptations. The Jesus Prayer is armor against evil attacks. Extensive use of the Jesus Prayer keeps believers united with Christ.

Repeating "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner" unites believers with Christ. The grateful leper in the current Gospel valued his relationship with Christ. Each believer does well to place the highest value on the relationship with Christ.

Believers are challenged each Nativity Fast to grow in Christ. Personal action is required for growth in Christ. Repenting and vigorously repelling sin requires constancy of will, heart and mind.

Love for Christ and the desire for complete unity with Christ deserves dominancy in each Christian. Every remaining moment of life serves as the battle ground against sin. Every remaining moment of life is the golden opportunity for complete unity with Christ.

God's love for each person is manifested at every moment of every day. God's love was exhibited in healing the ten lepers. Let us join with the grateful leper in expressing appreciation for this love.

The current Gospel stimulates expressions of gratitude toward God. Too often believers turn to God in prayer for healing or help. Not every believer takes time to thank God when healing occurs and prayers are answered,

God is not the Christian firehouse or ambulance headquarters to be called in a crisis. God is the Author and fullness of life. God is the purpose and reason for every moment of life. Nine lepers had narrow vision.

One leper took the extra step to thank the Lord Jesus Christ. Today is the day to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for blessings in life. Now is the time to thank God for prayers answered and for healings having taken place.

Thank the Lord God for being attentive to prayers. Thank the Lord God for healing afflictions. Thank the Lord God for being an assuring and comforting presence. Thank the Lord God for the gift of life and promise of eternal life.

The Twenty Ninth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Prophet Zephaniah; St. John the Silent.
December 3/16, 2018. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. *Father Rodney Torbic*

Heidi Hadsell Surunis December 8, 2013

~EVERY DAY is Christmas Day~

On Friday night I experienced one of life's most perfect moments...it's just so special I have to share it with you. Because I know it will touch you like it did me...and I feel like it's a moment that will change you...just like it changed me, just a little bit. I am changed.

On Friday night I went to Luke's game at Boyce Middle School and sat up on the top bleacher near my friends Vic and Brian...up top with "the dads". I was early because I had come straight from work so I was there to see the 8th grade team play. The score was close pretty much the whole game but little by little our boys pulled ahead and had a comfortable lead but not one that couldn't have been overcome...USC wanted to win and they battled like they always do. With about four minutes left in the game, and BP leading by 9 points, the USC coach called for subs. And one by one five boys got up from the bench and crouched over by the scorekeeper waiting. I hadn't really paid attention to their bench much but one boy caught my eye this time...that one boy who didn't just stand from his place on the bench...he SPRANG from it...that boy who didn't really squat there with the other players, he sort of bounced there...he was excited...he was REALLY excited...

I noticed that boy...I noticed his enthusiasm and I noticed that he had a subtle uniqueness that set him apart from the other boys....different only by the physical cues of mis-aligned chromosomes...different eyes...mannerisms...stride...but a smile that was so full of JOY...one of those boys wasn't like the others and he was going in the game!!! My heart started to pound and tears, always pretty close to falling ALL the time,

streamed down my cheeks when I realized what was happening. It wasn't the last 6 seconds of the game, there were 4 minutes left to play....it wasn't a blow-out...we weren't crushing them or them us...there was time for that USC coach to put together a win, but he didn't...he subbed in those boys ...he subbed in that miracle of a boy and for four minutes nobody cared about anything but him...willing the ball into his hands...hoping he would get a chance to make a shot and praying that if he did....that it would go into the hoop. I watched the coach encouraging him...and cheering and yelling...for HIM...and you could feel a shift in the room as each of us realized what was happening, and then you could feel a softening of the tension on the court as their players, and OUR players recognized it too and began to work together as ONE team for that beaming boy. Four minutes. For four minutes of goodness. Four minutes of acceptance. Four minutes of maturity and compassion. Four minutes I'll never forget.

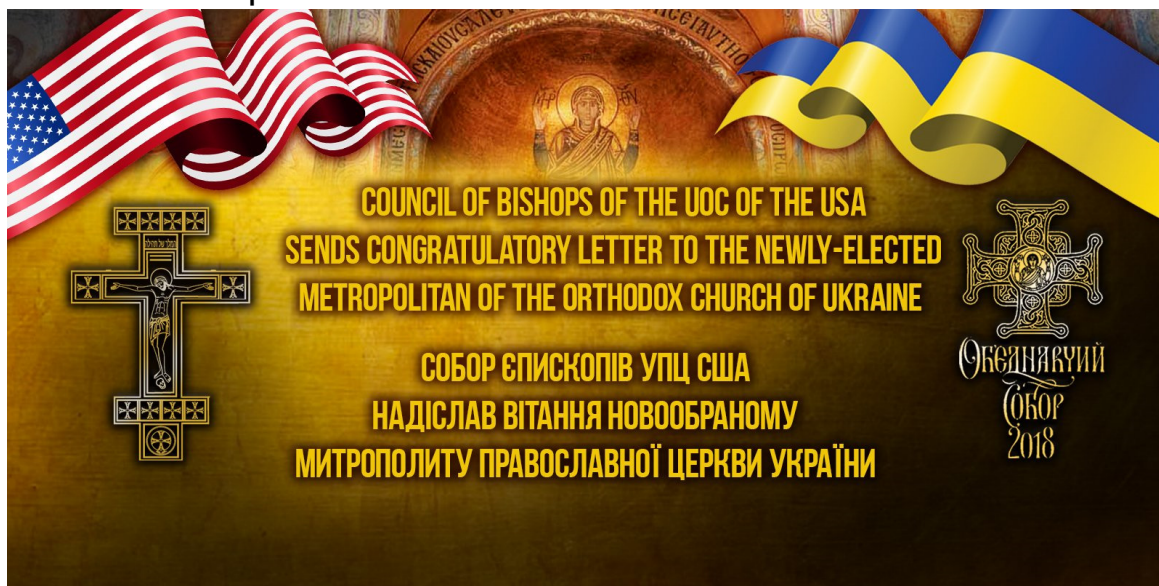
Children want to love and care and TAKE care of each other. Kids want to help and nurture and do the good and right things in life. It's our job to show them how...and every now and then, we get to see it happen in a perfect and beautiful way and when we do we're changed by the experience. Kids want to make a difference in those lives and for their whole lives they don't forget the sweetness of that compassion. I got to witness that Friday night. I got to see a USC coach who was so kind...so incredibly kind...I forgot a deep and ongoing animosity and I felt love. Changed.

I wish I could describe that game to you, ...so you can feel the way I'm feeling right now, but I can't. I can't put it into words...like so many other things in life...it's just too grande and perfect. I can say this though...there are ways we can all be changed, heroic, kind; there are ways WE can be a blessing and see these moments; and know this kind of love.

Winning matters and it's meaningful. Losing is important too; it provides lessons that take you to the next level in competition, it makes you analyze, and adjust and work harder. Competition can be healthy and it can be fierce, it pits neighbor against neighbor and friend against friend and sometimes it fosters hatred that lasts a lifetime. But what I witnessed on the court at Boyce Middle School broke down those barriers...it really did... Love is universal...caring is universal...compassion is universal...and when you GIVE with that pureness of heart...for a moment...you forget the hatred.

Friday was Christmas...and I'm celebrating it today again...and again tomorrow...and every single day I will celebrate... **Christmas!**

Council of Bishops of the UOC of the USA Greet the Newly-Elected Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine



17 December 2018—Holy Great-Martyr Barbara

His Beatitude Epiphaniy

Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine

Orthodox Church of Ukraine

Your Beatitude: CHRIST IS AMONG US!

The day of December 15, 2018 in the life of the Holy Orthodox Church of Ukraine will always be treasured in history as the day when the faithful of the Church, with the blessing of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, were blessed with the establishment of a Pomisna-Local Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the election of the Primate-Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine in the person of Your Beatitude. We look forward to your service to the Gospel and Body of Christ in God-loving Ukraine, which will be guided by the Holy Spirit and lead to the final ecclesiastic unity in the Holy Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

“This is a day the Lord has made!” It is the day that the hierarchs, clergy and faithful of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA have prayed and worked for throughout our 100-year history. Metropolitan John (Theodorovych), our first primate and the only hierarch who survived martyrdom of all the other hierarchs of the first formation of Ukrainian autocephaly (1921) served our Holy Church and the cause of Autocephaly for 50 years. Our second Primate-Metropolitan Mstyslav, from the second formation of autocephaly (1942) served our Holy Church for 43 years. He later became the first Patriarch of Ukraine in the third formation of

autocephaly (1990) and never wavered in the struggle for an independent Pomisna Church of Ukraine. Our third Primate-Metropolitan Constantine strove continually throughout his 40 years of service—20 as Metropolitan—to our Holy Church for the recognition of Autocephaly for Ukraine. We, as the present hierarchs of the UOC of the USA have worked diligently over the past 24 years ensuring that the question of Autocephaly for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Ukraine would never fade away. Our clergy and faithful have never weakened in their faith that this day would come. “We rejoice and are glad” (Ps. 117:24) in this day and thank God for your election your Beatitude, to the Primacy of the fully autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Glory to God for all things!

We all must realize, however, that this is a time in the history of Ukraine and the world that requires gentle healing, firm leadership and great love. Our prayer for you, Your Beatitude, is that you will continue to be graced by God with the gentle healing faith exhibited by the saints of all Rus-Ukraine, that you will be given the strength to exercise firm leadership in the example of the Holy Fathers of the Church and that you will be enabled to unconditionally open yourself in service to the bishops, priests and faithful who are entrusted to your paternal spiritual care. Our Lord will certainly assist you in carrying this heavy burden-responsibility and the powerful prayers of your spiritual children will sustain you always.

In behalf of the clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, we express to you our most sincere greetings as you begin this certainly difficult, but spiritually and fundamentally important, mission in the life of the Church. We enthusiastically look forward to our common work with you in brotherly love, peace, and harmony as we seek to fulfill God’s Holy Will for all Ukrainian Orthodox Christians.

Dear Brother in Christ and co-celebrant in Christ’s Vineyard, we pray in the depth of our hearts and souls that the joyful Light of the Bethlehem Star will always lead you to Christ our Lord in all your blessed service in His Name seeking the salvation of souls. We know that alone, human desire is insufficient to fulfill this service to which you have been called. As we have seen throughout the history of mankind, we cannot rely upon the wisdom of mankind as our source of strength. May your real strength come from the Wisdom of God in the Holy Trinity, for He is Good, Compassionate, Merciful, Just and loves us beyond our ability to fully comprehend.

With prayers in Christ our Lord,

+Antony, Metropolitan

+Daniel, Archbishop

Susanna Schneider—April 30

All tests are very important. They change a person more and more. The darker the darkness in your life, the better you can distinguish light. You understand that this is light, and you know how to appreciate it. —*Hieromonk Philotheus (Tifiniuc)*

“Each generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it.” —*George Orwell*

Please remember in your prayers all those who have no one to pray for them...it's our duty and responsibility as Christians to pray for others, especially those most in need!

REMINDER: We will have our annual Parish Holy Supper next Sunday after Divine Liturgy! Please plan to bring a fasting dish to share—the church will supply fish from the Slickville Deli. Feel free to bring family and friends along to church and Holy Supper, but please let Pani Gina know how many people so that we will have enough fish!