

# THE ENLIGHTENER

Newsletter of St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church

Volume 1, Issue 3

Harrisburg, PA

December 2001

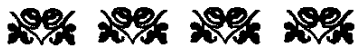
## Parishioners enter Christmas season with St. Philip's fast, new class for adults

The traditional fast prior to Christmas is called PHILIP'S FAST or PHILIPOVKA. It lasts for 40-days and is similar to that before Easter. We are asked to refrain from dairy products and meats during this period. Filipovka Moleben will be celebrated in our parish on Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M. A PENITENTIAL SERVICE will be held on Monday, December 10, at 7:00 P.M., with ample priests present to hear Confessions. **MAY YOU HAVE A HOLY AND HAPPY PHILIP'S FAST!**

**COME, LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH!** You are invited to participate in a new catechetical program designed just for grown-ups. Cantor Jim Kushlan is presenting **EASTERN CATHOLIC ADULT FORMATION** class on Wednesday during Philip's Fast, 7:15-8:15 p.m. in the parish hall. Come to the Filipovka Moleben at 6:30 p.m. and stay for class. Refreshments are available, and parents are free to bring their kids along. For more information call or e-mail Cantor Jim: (home) 564-4934, (work) 540-6692, jimk@cowles.com.

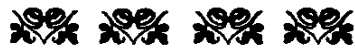
God descends to the humble as waters flow down from the hills into the valleys.

*St. Tikhon of Voronezh*



### Tropar

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; for through it, those who worshiped the stars have learned from a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to recognize You as the Orient From On High. Glory be to You, O Lord.



### St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church

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Served by Fr. Michael Shear  
717-652-1415

stann@stannsbyzhbg.org  
www.stannsbyzhbg.org

Divine Liturgies at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; Summer 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.; Holy Day Vigil 7 p.m.



**Nativity of Our Lord**

**FASTING FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST:** Please note that the fasting laws for the reception of the Holy Eucharist have not been abrogated. The laws require a three-hour period from solid foods and a one-hour period from liquids. You cannot eat donuts at quarter of eight in the morning and come to Communion at nine o'clock, but you can drink coffee up until one-hour before.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS:** How large should your Christmas Offering be? Only you know. Only you can decide how to balance your responsibilities to home and to

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# Respect Life News

## RLC offers many opportunities for living the Gospel of Life

The St. Ann Respect Life Committee (RLC) offers many opportunities for living the Gospel of Life to members of our parish family. Since last summer, the RLC has collected baby care items for distribution to local pregnancy centers. This collection provides an easy way to become involved for those whose busy schedules don't leave much time in the day for other activities. A collection box, conveniently located outside of the shrine room, is the drop off point for diapers, formula, baby clothes, and other items. The RLC is also working with the Harrisburg chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life to provide transportation to the March for Life in Washington on January 22, 2001. Watch for more information about how to participate in the March in the coming weeks. Finally, along with their Respect Life t-shirts, the Committee is also offering

scarves and fleece headbands with the RLC logo, just in time for Christmas. To order RLC merchandise, see any member of the Committee, or call Lisa Sakmar, 717- 865-0299. If you'd like to know more about the Respect Life Committee, join them in the Parish Center on the third Sunday of every month, after the second Liturgy.

**"It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop."**

*Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life*

**BYZANTEEN YOUTH RALLY-2002: June 27-30, 2002 at Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA. An exciting spiritual event that brings together Byzantine Catholic teenagers, ages 13-19. More information to follow. If you are interested call Phil Zulli at 566-8585, Joan Trautlein at 564-8257, or Father Mike at 652-1415.**

**WORLD YOUTH DAY WITH THE POPE - July 23-28, Toronto, Canada, ages 16-35. World Youth Day Office for Byzantine Catholics: (909) 822-7663.**

### (CHRISTMAS OFFERING, Continued from Page 1)

Church. But remember, just as the cost of what you buy climbs each year, your parish also experiences cost increases that are at least as large and many times larger. A year-end Christmas gift is your chance to go beyond day-to-day support of your parish priest, Liturgies, educational programs and help for the needy that you fund through your weekly envelopes. There is an underlying truth to the admonition, "DON'T GIVE UNTIL IT HURTS: GIVE UNTIL IT FEELS GOOD!" Your offering is a one-time special offering. Please be as generous as you possibly can be.

**LOOKING FOR GIFTS?** If you can't find the gift you are looking for try shopping in our Gift Shop in the Church Basement. You will find many one-of-a-kind icons from Eastern Europe, figurines, genuine antiques, gifts of all types that you can't find in local stores and reasonably priced. Stop in the Gift Shop, browse around and purchase your special gifts.

**Christmas Bake Sale: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 IN THE PARISH CENTER, 9 A.M. UNTIL SOLD OUT. SALE ON FIRST COME-FIRST SERVED BASIS. NO ORDERS TAKEN.**

## Celebrate the Family

The "Parenting by Heart" video series will be viewed every second Sunday of the month. Plan to join other parents as they learn how to give unconditional love. Next session is Jan. 13, 2002.

# What's Happening

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## CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24

You are all invited to the Parish Center after the 9:00 P.M. Liturgy. Parishioners are asked to please bring their famous cookies and baked goodies for everyone to enjoy. Contact Helen Lutzkanin at 566-3175 if you will be bringing cookies and let her know. These cookies, etc., can be brought to the Parish Center prior to Christmas Eve. Beverages will be provided. We thank all those who have volunteered to set up the Parish Center.

OUR CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE PARISH CENTER DURING THIS SOCIAL.

## EPIPHANY EVE SUPPER JANUARY 5

Supper will be held at 5:30 P.M. in the Parish Center. Attendance by reservation only. The deadline for reservations is December 31, 2001. We must know the number of people who will attend in order to prepare sufficient food and to take care of other preparations. For reservations call Helen Lutzkanin at 566-3175, John Falatovich at 697-4958 and Eleanor Bereschak at 533-7908. Offering is \$4.00 per adult, and this includes anyone over the age of 10 years.

VESPERS WITH VIGIL LITURGY AND SOLEMN BLESSING OF WATER WILL FOLLOW THE HOLY SUPPER AT 7:00 P.M. Plan to attend the Holy Supper and the Epiphany Vigil Liturgy on Saturday, January 6, EPIPHANY LITURGY WILL BE AT 9:30 A.M. EPIPHANY IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.

## GOODS FOR EASTERN EUROPE

Please do not bring any more clothing to the parish center. Packages will no longer be sent over to Eastern Europe. The last mailing will be one month before Easter. After that there will be no more mailings.

## ADVENT FOLDERS

Your Advent Folder is enclosed. Please offer to Christ and His Church a gift of a coin a day and the joy in our souls will help brighten Christmas for someone else who is less fortunate. Be generous and bring joy to your heart. The monies offered in your Advent Folder will be distributed to the poor and to the Churches in Eastern Europe.

## CANDLE OFFERINGS

Please remember to burn a candle during the Feast of the Nativity in memory of a loved one or for a special intention of yours.

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

If you would like to offer a special article for Christmas in memory of a loved one, in Thanksgiving, or for a Special Intention, a special form is included with this letter. Make your selection and return the form as soon as possible.

## TREE OF GIVING

Thank you to all who participated in our ANNUAL TREE OF GIVING. Some of the gifts will be distributed to a few needy families in the Parish, but the majority of gifts will be sent to orphans and needy children in Eastern Europe who have little to make them happy at Christmas time. We especially thank Drs. Richard and Kathy Szarko for the great deal of time, effort and talents they put into this project.

## DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT APPEAL

(STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - 2000): As you all know, this Appeal has been in effect for several months. Your participation is vital to our church, our Eparchy and to our Bishop. There is a great need, only you can help. Giving to this Appeal is a way of thanking God for all His Blessings and returning to God a prayerful share of time, talent and treasure allotted to us. May we count on those of you who have not yet made a commitment to do so and help us reach our goal that has not been reached yet. Thank you to those who have donated.

## URGENT! WE NEED HELP AT BINGO

Urgent request for volunteers to help at bingo, We need the following volunteers: 2 people to sell specials, (shift is 6:00PM to 7:15PM) 1 person to check (shift is 6:45 PM to 10:00 PM) 1 person to call (shift 6:45PM to 10:00PM) 2 people to sell holder tickets (shift is 6:00PM to 8:15PM) and 2 people to be Substitutes when needed. Each volunteer shift is scheduled to report every 5 weeks. Year ending 2000 bingo paid \$16,122.00 for St. Ann's utility expenses and transferred \$13,400.00 to St. Ann's general operating budget. If we don't get more people to help at bingo, we will be forced to discontinue bingo at St. Ann's. Please give your serious consideration to this matter. We are also in great need of brown grocery bags. Please bring them to the Parish Center as soon as possible. Please come forward and volunteer your services. Call Father Mike at 652-1415, Tom Walko at 545-4046, or Stephen Plouse at 652-0545.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Please keep the Rectory informed of any change of address, telephone number both

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# Pious Terrorists

By Father T. Ronald Haney

Do you want to talk about terrorism?

Okay, let's talk about pious terrorists who launch bombs of gossip and plant mine fields of unfounded accusations.

Pious terrorists don't physically kill people, but they do irreparable damage, causing others worry, anxiety, discouragement, disillusionment, heartbreak, listlessness.

Tragically, pious terrorists do their destructive devastation right within the Christian community that should be known for love, support, understanding, acceptance, forgiveness.

Despite outward appearances of religious piety, those who poison the lives of others with gossip and destroy others' reputations with unfounded accusations are certifiable neurotics.

Pious terrorists project on others their own unadmitted weaknesses, faults, immoral desires, sins with the accuracy of a sniper's bullet.

And even more tragic is their claim that they are doing good by doing evil.

If there is something more destructive, it is the support these heartless, unbalanced pious terrorists get from those in authority who accept the gossip and unfounded accusations as fact and never check the other side or listen to the plight of the victims.

## Motives

I am not a professional psychologist but I can still ask this question: What motivates these pious gossipers, calumniators and detractors?

I can also guess.

Feelings of inferiority have to play an essential part in their destructive behavior. It is a neurotic need to put down others that they might elevate themselves.

They are busybodies who have nothing better or more constructive to do than to stick their self-righteous noses into other people's business and rash judge whatever their victims are doing.

They are arrogant, convinced they can do someone else's job far more efficiently even though they can point to no outstanding accomplishments of their own or do not have the necessary training and skills.

Having done nothing especially worthwhile themselves, their envy turns on those who are accomplishing something worth admiration. Their total energy is directed to bringing down those who are succeeding.

They are to be pitied because they aren't even aware that they are revealing to everyone around them how jealous, how envious, how hateful they really are, even though they try to hide their viciousness behind so-called good intentions.

Pious terrorists wage guerilla warfare. They are cowards who write anonymous letters or make anonymous phone calls.

This is not biological terrorism. It is psychological terrorism perpetrated by those who strike a pious pose in church and mouth pietistic platitudes in public.

These pious terrorists may have calloused knees from their privatized prayer but their hearts are just as calloused.

Pious terrorists' piety is rooted in their misguided egotism, their obsessive need to be recognized and applauded. Their piety is as far from being based on the gospel as the Playboy magazine.

## Fault-Finding

Pious terrorists are habitual fault-finders.

They are never satisfied unless they are causing a crisis - for someone else. They manufacture problems for someone else to deal with or be anxious about or become depressed over.

Sunk in the swamp of their own mire, the only contribution pious terrorists make is to throw mud at others.

There is no joy in their lives. Only a fiendish delight in destroying others.

Pious terrorists constantly prey on other members of the Christian community like participants in a fox hunt, like paid assassins, like self-righteous leaders in an Inquisition.

Giving the benefit of the doubt is as foreign to pious terrorists as manicured fingernails are to an ape.

Another tragedy: pious terrorists will never recognize themselves for what they are. Even if they are reading this editorial, they will think of a hundred other people it applies to but never to themselves.

Gossip is a mirror wherein beholders see everyone's face but their own.

There is an adage for the potential victims of pious terrorists: If you stand out, you had better look out.

And potential victims would do well to meditate on the life of Jesus. Who was more victimized by those who were envious of him, who rash judged him, who falsely accused him?



# Christmas Liturgy Schedule

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 23 - SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS - HOLY FATHERS

8:00 A.M. - Liturgy  
10:30 A.M. - Liturgy

MONDAY - DECEMBER 24 - VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS - CHRISTMAS EVE

8:00 P.M. - Compline  
9:00 P.M. - CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY

PARISH SOCIAL IN PARISH CENTER AFTER THE 9:00 P.M. LITURGY

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 25 - THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

10:30 A.M. - Liturgy

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 26 - SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

7:00 P.M. - Liturgy

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 27 - ST. STEPHEN

9:30 A.M. - Liturgy

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 30 - SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS - SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY

8:00 A.M. - Liturgy  
10:30 A.M. - Liturgy

MONDAY - DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

5:00 P.M. VIGIL LITURGY

PARISH SOCIAL - following the Vigil Liturgy, in the Parish Center. A pork and sauer-kraut supper will be served. The Social is contingent on enough people attending. There is a sign up sheet in the back of

*I wish all of you a most holy,  
happy, and blessed Christmas,  
New Year, and Epiphany.*

*Father Michael*

the church for those who will attend. Watch your bulletin for further information.

TUESDAY - JANUARY 1, 2002 - CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD - ST. BASIL THE GREAT NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:30 a.m. - Liturgy

SATURDAY - JANUARY 5 - VIGIL OF EPIPHANY - EPIPHANY EVE

5:30 P.M. - HOLY SUPPER IN THE PARISH CENTER.

7:00 P.M. - Vespers with Vigil Liturgy and Solemn

Blessing of Water

SUNDAY - JANUARY 6 - BOHOJAVLENIJA - EPIPHANY - THIS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

8:00 A.M. - Liturgy  
10:30 A.M. - Liturgy

NOTE: Above times are subject to change. Watch your Bulletin for changes in times.

## What's Happening

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for and for work, in order that the parish records can be kept updated and correct and current. Thank you.

### ST. NICHOLAS CHILDREN'S PARTY

Sunday, December 9, after the 10:30 A.M. Liturgy. Remember to bring your cookies to enjoy at the party. All children invited.

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Christmas Pageant will be held in the Parish Center on Sunday, December 16, under the direction of Mrs. Joan Trautlein. Everybody is invited to attend the pageant.

**ST. NICHOLAS BUFFET DANCE**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2001 - preceded by a cocktail hour. Buffet at 7:45 P.M. Cash bar. \$40.00 per couple; \$20.00 single. ADMITTANCE BY RESERVATION ONLY. FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT JOHN FALATOVICH AT 697-4958 or mail your reservation to him at 908 Wakefield Ave., Mechanicsburg, PA., 17055-5773 or drop your reservation form into the collection basket at Church. Please do not wait until the last minute.

# Have men forgotten God?

BY ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN

God,- that's why all this has happened.

*Excerpts from THE TEMPLETON PRIZE ADDRESS*

"More than half a century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of older people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: Men have forgotten God, that's why all this has happened.

"Since then I have spent well-nigh fifty years working on the history of our Revolution; in the process I have read hundreds of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own toward the effort of clearing away the rubble left by that upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous Revolution that swallowed up some sixty million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: Men have forgotten

"What is more, the events of the Russian Revolution can only be understood now, at the end of the century, against the background of what has occurred in the rest of the world. What emerges here is a process of universal significance. And if I were called upon to identify briefly the principal trait of the entire twentieth century, here too, I would be unable to find anything more precise and pithy than to repeat once again: Men have forgotten God."

"Western societies are losing more and more of their religious essence as they thoughtlessly yield up their younger generation to atheism. If a blasphemous film about Jesus is shown throughout the United States, reputedly one of the most religious countries in the world, or a major newspaper publishes a shameless caricature of the Virgin Mary, what further evidence of godlessness does one need?"

## *A prayer of Thanksgiving*

By Fr. Alexander Sclichemann

*Father Alexander Schniemann celebrated his last Divine Liturgy on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, 1983, in the St. Vladimir's Seminary Chapel. At the end of the Liturgy he called upon all of us to give thanks to God:*

Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank you, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which is offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness in the Holy Spirit."

Thank you, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and for giving us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank you, O Lord, for having united us to one another, in serving You and Your Holy Church.

Thank you, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, and temptations and for having restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you, O Lord, for the sufferings you bestowed

upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and remind us of the one thing needed: your eternal Kingdom."

Thank you, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to worship You. Thank you, O Lord, for this school, where the name of God is proclaimed.

Thank you, O Lord for our families, husbands, wives and, especially, children, who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name, in joy, movement and holy noise.

Thank you, O Lord, for everyone and everything. Great are you, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles.

Lord, it is good to be here.

Amen.

**A new book - *Journey Through the Great Fast* - will be available for Lent. It's cost will be \$5. Normal selling price is \$10. Additional copies can be ordered.**