

St Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

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December 27th, 2009

THIRD DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY. Sunday After the Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James (Jacob) the Brother of the Lord. Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34 A.D.). Ven. Theodore the Branded (ca. 840).

EPISTLE: Galatians 1:11-19 The Gospel came not through men, but through the revelation of Christ.
Acts 6:8-15;7:1-5,47-60 The martyrdom of the Protomartyr and deacon Stephen.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23 Joseph flees to Egypt with the Mother and Child.
Matthew 21:33-42 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

PAULINE SPYTKO: Word came this week about the repose of the newly-departed Handmaiden of God Pauline. She has been living in Pennsylvania for the last few years. There will be a viewing on Monday morning from 10-11 AM followed by the funeral services at the Church at 11:30. All who knew Pauline, and all faithful are encouraged to attend the services. I kindly ask that some choir members also try to lend their vocal talents to the funeral service.

RAFFLE: The Lottery raffle is underway. If you would like to purchase any tickets, please see Dale or Nancy Richards.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: the Offering Envelopes for 2010 are now available in the Candle Room. There is a letter enclosed also from Fr James. Be sure to read it.

PICTURES: If you have any pictures of any events in the life of the Parish, please send them on to Fr James for inclusion on the website. There were many cameras at the Yolka, and it would be good to share the shots that were taken of that wonderful performance.

Fr James' Contact Info: Home: 315-866-3272 Cell: 315-706-6185 Email: adelphotheos@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING: In addition to the meeting we had in November when we elected Parish Council Officers, we will have the full annual meeting with reports of all the organizations on January 31st, 2010 after the Divine Liturgy. We hope to have reports and the proposed budget available in the next week or so that all have a chance to read them before the meeting.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES: If there are any events missing from this list, please see Father James or call the Rectory at any time. Birthdays: Barbara Daley and Alexander Chlus. Anniversaries: None. Namesdays: William Homyk, Stephen Hula, Stephen Leve, Stephania Litwen, Stephanie Roback, Shiloh Mary Worthington.

PANIKHIDA: Please continue to remember in your holy prayers all of the departed of our parish, especially the newly departed Archbishop Job, and the newly-departed Patriarch Pavel, and the newly-departed Matthew their 40th day. We will also be serving the memorial service for all of our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the Resurrection, among them Helen Boback (1996) and Charles Pysz (1977). We especially remember Wasil Krenichyn and Michael & Helen Sobolowski and all of the faithful departed. May their memory be eternal!



From the **Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah for the Nativity of Christ 2009**

For us Orthodox Christians, the Nativity of Christ is the Winter Pascha, and our celebration is rooted in the liturgical life of the Church; the world's "Xmas" hymns go on and on, oblivious, rather intentionally, to the point of the celebration. While we enjoy the worldly celebration, the family time, the gifts and giving, these are empty if we miss the central celebration itself: the services of the Nativity, culminating in receiving the Holy Mysteries. We can have Christmas without the Nativity, as does the world; but for Christians the Feast of the Nativity is Christmas!

The Feast of the Nativity is not only the contemplation of God taking human flesh. It is also the great celebration of humanity, that God so loved as to become one of us, that through that One, joy and peace and salvation may be given to the whole world. Let us treasure the life of every child, who is the image of Christ born of the Virgin, and remember the great calling which he or she, and each of us, has in God. Let us also remember that the ultimate fulfillment of that calling is found in the transformation of our very flesh, in which God became incarnate, that having become man for our sake, He enables us to partake of His Divinity on that glorious day of His coming again in the flesh.

The Jesus Prayer can be used at all times, all places: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."

Schedule of Upcoming Events

Confessions are heard before Liturgy, and before and after Vespers.

Sunday, December 27:	9 AM Church School; 9:30 Liturgy
Wednesday, December 30:	6 PM Daily Vespers
Thursday, December 31:	6 PM Great Vespers with Litya
Friday, January 1:	9:30 Divine Liturgy for the Circumcision of our Lord
Saturday, January 2:	11 AM Baptism of Nina Hula 4 PM Great Vespers
Sunday, January 3:	9 AM Church School; 9:30 Liturgy

Is Given in Loving Memory of
Prawlocki, Jovorosky and Gronadzky families

By

Sonia Buttino

May his memory be eternal!