

## Why Do We Keep Philip's Fast?

by Steve Puluka

Unlike the Great Fast before the Feast of the Resurrection (Pascha), the Phillipian fast is seldom known or practiced in the Byzantine Church. Often it is confused with the Roman Catholic practice of Advent.

Because the Nativity/Theophany events hold less importance than Feast of Feasts–Pascha (the Resurrection), a detailed structure never evolved for the Phillipian Fast. Yet the Phillipian Fast is an ancient practice in preparation for the Incarnation and Theophany of the Lord Jesus Christ. This 40-day fast is important and should be preserved and practiced. The Phillipian Fast can help us to better understand and appreciate all of God's saving plan.

Without the structure and public events to guide us, the practice of the Phillipian Fast has gradually fallen off. Theologically, the birth and the public ministry of Christ are inextricable linked.

The Phillipian Fast was created to prepare us to receive Christ into the world and begin His public ministry. They are two sides of a single coin. The Phillipian fast prepares us to receive the public ministry of Christ announced at Theophany. On arriving at Bethlehem and the Nativity on December 25, we begin to prepare for the Theophany. We do not stop at the Nativity. In our joy at God's arrival, we press forward and see the Theophany. With Theophany we experience the beginning of Christ's revelation to us of the mysteries of God. Most important of all, this event points out the Mystery of the Trinity, a mystery long hinted in the Old Testament.

Text excerpts taken from:  
**Christbearers–Meditations for the Pre-Christmas Fast,  
Christmas and Theophany.**

The booklet is available from the Office of Religious Education  
of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Pittsburgh

## Divine Liturgy Schedule

**Dec. 2...**      **28th Sunday after  
Pentecost**  
Mother of God School  
10 a.m.

**Dec. 9...**      **29th Sunday after  
Pentecost**  
Mother of God School  
10 a.m.

## IMPORTANT: Care of New Gym Floor

The old flooring in the gymnasium of the Mother of God School has been replaced.

Because the new flooring is vinyl, care must be given when placing and taking up the chairs, tables, etc.

Chairs and other items  
must not be dragged across the new floor.  
Please use a dolly.

We will also use one of the inside/outside mats on which to place our censer so as to prevent any burn marks on the new floor.

Thank you for your help and diligence.

*Come O Jesus, Our Savior.  
Redeem and Save Us.*

## Liturgy Propers

**27th Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Leave-taking of the Feast of the Entrance of  
the Theotokos into the Temple**  
**Our Holy Fathers and Martyrs Clement of Rome,  
and Peter, Bishop of Alexandria**  
**November 25, 2018**  
**Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**

Troparion – Tone 2 (p. 130)

Troparion of the Entrance – Tone 4 (p. 268)

Kontakion – Tone 2 (p. 131)

Prokeimenon – Tone 2 (p. 132)

EPISTLE: Ephesians 6:10–17

Alleluia – Tone 2 (p. 132)

GOSPEL: Luke 13:10–17

Magnification and Irmos (p.269)

[in place of "It is truly just..."]

Communion Hymns (p. 78–81)

[PAGE NUMBERS REFERENCE GREEN LITURGY BOOK]

**CELEBRANT: FR. LEE GROSS**

## Announcements

■ **Today's Liturgy Intention** – Today's Divine Liturgy is offered by Andy Haba for the blessed repose of his son +Andrew John Haba. May his memory be eternal. *Vičnaja jemu pamjat.*

*"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

– Revelation 21:4 (NKJV / OSB)

■ **Today's Commemorations** – Today is the Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. It is also the Leave-taking (*Otdanije*) of the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, which was commemorated this past Wednesday.

On this date, the Byzantine Church commemorates our Holy Fathers and Martyrs Clement, Pope of Rome; and Peter, Bishop of Alexandria.

St. Clement is one of the Apostolic Fathers, a small number of early Christian authors who lived and wrote in the second half of the first century and the first half of the second century. They are acknowledged as leaders in the early Church, however their writings were not included in the New Testament. The Fathers also include Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp of Smyrna.

The label "Apostolic Fathers" has been applied to them since the seventeenth century to indicate that they were thought of as being of the generation that had personal contact with the Twelve Apostles. Thus they provide a link between the Apostles – who had personal contact with Jesus – and the later generations of Church Fathers, which includes the Christian apologists, defenders of orthodoxy, and developers of doctrine.

Clement was cast into the Black Sea with an anchor around his neck, circa A.D., 100 under the Emperor Trajan.

## Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church



### Montgomery County Mission

*Mother of God Community School*  
*20501 Goshen Road*  
*Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879*  
*301-482-0282*  
*www.eolmission.org*

#### Our community...

was established in October 1996 to meet the spiritual needs of Byzantine Catholics living in northern Montgomery County, southern Frederick County, and adjoining areas.

#### We celebrate our faith...

in a diverse community. We welcome all, regardless of ethnic or religious background who are committed to develop a deeper understanding of the Christian faith expressed in the Byzantine tradition and spirituality, and who wish to pray for and work towards the full communion of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches as sister Churches of the One Universal Church of Jesus Christ.

#### We continually resolve...

to gather in His Name, share the truth of our Faith, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to everyone.

## Please Remember

*"Is anyone among you sick? ...the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up."*

James 5:14-15 NKJV/OSB

### OUR MISSION COMMUNITY

- Jeff Sesok
- Ron Pytel.
- Lou Shanks.
- Rosemary Chisarick.
- Doris and Rich Fejka.
- Raymond Klimkosky.

### OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Mary Neimiller
- Yazmine Nickerson.
- Paula and Tom Tate & Family.
- Christine Dennis.
- Peggy Winkelmann.
- Laura Hinkle.
- Doran Coady.
- Ann Tracy.
- Travis Waters.
- Bertha Bergan.
- Arlene Kollar.
- Jamee Kruse.
- Joseph and Nancy Dillmann.
- Paul and Mary Ellen Sorensen.
- Tony Tworkoski.
- Linda Oros.
- Mike DiMarino.
- Robert and Doris Kreger.
- Robert Diethrich.
- Lucy Fontenot
- Patricia Minihane.
- Brother Joseph Comber, CFX.

### SPECIAL INTENTION

- Elizabeth Basarab.
- Sally Pekarik.
- Fr. Conan Timoney.
- Fr. Lee Gross.
- Deacon Peter Turko.



## Pray for Our Community

*"Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts; Look down from heaven and see, and visit this vine and the vineyard which*

*Your right hand has planted, and the branch that You made strong for Yourself."*

Psalm 80:14-15 NKJV/OSB



## Food Pantry

Our community places a food collection basket near the information table as you enter the gymnasium. Don't forget those who are less fortunate. Nonperishable food items, diapers, baby food, and personal care items are always in demand. The Food Pantry Program, administered by St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, supports the working poor of our area.



*"...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to Me. ...Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."*

Matthew 25:35-36, 40 NKJV/OSB

■ **Mirovanije** – In commemoration of the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple this past Wednesday, there will be anointing (*mirovanije*) and distribution of blessed bread at today's Divine Liturgy. Everyone is welcome to receive anointing and blessed bread. *Christ is among us! He is and shall be!*

**The Christmas Fast** – Philip's Fast (or the Christmas Fast) began at sundown on November 14, the Feast of St. Philip, and runs 40 days until According to tradition, it was customary to observe a strict fast (no meat or dairy) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and a lesser fast on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Ruthenian Metropolia has identified this period as a penitential season. The fast may be observed voluntarily, partially, or in its entirety. However, Friday's during this period remain as days of penance. Abstaining from meat or performing an appropriate act of penance is prescribed.

At the age of three, Mary, accordingly was brought to the Temple to be dedicated to the Lord.

The Epistle reading for the feast (*Hebrews 9:1-7*) is oriented in that direction. Just as the High Priest of the Jews entered the sanctuary once a year to offer the blood of expiation for himself and for the sins of the people, Christ himself with His own blood for He is our High Priest.

■ **Continue to Remember in Prayer** – *"They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword..."* (Hebrews 11:37a)

Please lift up in prayer all those who are persecuted and deprived of liberty, everywhere in the world, even in our own country.

Please especially remember the peoples of Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Niger – the whole Middle East and Africa – who are literal martyrs for Christ. Also the people of Ukraine.

They are all our brothers and sisters, for all are one in Christ.

■ **Bishop's Annual Appeal 2018** – Mission members have received a letter from Bishop Kurt with a pledge/donation card and more information regarding the appeal. Please return the pledge card with your check made out to the Eparchy of Passaic, 445 Lackawanna Ave., Woodland Park, NJ 07424. You can also pledge online. Go to [www.eparchyofpassaic.com](http://www.eparchyofpassaic.com). Our goal for this year is once again \$6,000. If you have questions or did not receive the mailing from the Chancery Office, please see Vince Kovalick.

Every year since our community began participating in the appeal, we have either met or exceeded our goal. Any monies over our goal are returned for religious education.

## Evangelization

■ **Food Pantry** – Our Mission Community's ministry to the unfortunate of our area through the local Food Pantry program, administered by St. Martin Roman Catholic Church, Gaithersburg, is always in great need of non-perishable foods, baby food and supplies, and personal hygiene items. Hunger never takes a vacation or holiday.