

MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA

December 8, 2019

8:40 AM Rosary
9:00 AM **Health/Blessings for Holy Ghost Parishioners**
St. Nicholas Brunch

Monday, December 9th

NO SERVICES

Tuesday, December 10th

NO SERVICES

Wednesday, December 11th

9:00 AM + **Rev. George Kowalsky** – by Mary Covert
5:00 PM Confessions in the Sacristy (or by appointment)
6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, December 12th

9:00 AM + **Maria Hlynsky** – by Christina Toney

Friday, December 13th

9:00 AM + **Stefania Fenkanyn** – by Maria Bandurka

Saturday, December 14th

5:00 PM + **Demko & Kateryna Schmeida** – by Mary Schmeida

Sunday, December 15th Sunday of the Forefathers

8:40 AM Rosary
9:00 AM **Health/Blessings for Holy Ghost Parishioners**

**“Death came through Eve, but life has
come through Mary.”**
- St. Cyril of Jerusalem

CONGRATULATIONS:

This week **Patricia Romanovich (12/11)** celebrates her birthday. We wish you a wonderful celebration, and a year of health and blessings flavored with pure joy, and **many blessed years... mnohaya i blahaya lita!**

ARE YOU OVER 70 1/2?

If you are at least age 70 1/2, have an IRA, and plan to donate to charity this year, another consideration may be to take a QCD for your IRA. This action can satisfy charitable goals and allows funds to be withdrawn from an IRA without any tax consequences. A QCD can also be appealing because it can be used to satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) – up to \$100,00 for tax year 2019. QCDs may be appealing if you have few other deductions or if you are already close to your charitable deduction limitations. Because the tax-free QCD is never reported as a deduction, it is not counted against the charitable limits and does not require itemization to be effective. Alternatively, if you are subject to an RMD and have a desire to contribute to a charity, you could take the RMD proceeds as taxable distribution and use them to make charitable donation. Your IRA distribution would then be reported as income.

FOODBANK:

On December 5, 194 pounds of food from Holy Ghost parishioners was delivered to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. This translates into 162 meals for the food insecure of the region. Great job, keep it up and a big thank you to all who contributed!!

The Conception of Saint Anna:

Anna and Joachim had lived devoutly in marriage for fifty years. They gave a third their income to the poor and a third to the Temple. Still, they were scorned for being without offspring. With heavy hearts, they prayed that God would bless them with a child to comfort them in their old age. The Lord God answered their prayers by allowing Anna to conceive a child who would be the mother of God's own Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus, we see in this feast how marvelously God prepared for the birth of His Own Son. Our Lord Jesus Christ was mystically born from the virginal womb of a woman who herself was immaculately conceived from a barren womb! Let us, therefore, cry out to the Mother of God, "Hail, O Womb of Divine Incarnation! Hail, O you through whom creation is renewed! Hail, O you through whom the Creator becomes a babe! Hail, O bride and Maiden **ever-pure!**" (From the Akathist)

PLANNING AHEAD:

Dec 8 – St. Nicholas brunch
Christmas Eve Services – 9:00pm
Christmas Day Services – 9:00am

hgucc.org

"Even if you do not confess, God is not ignorant of the deed, since he knew it before it was committed. Why then do you not speak of it? Does the transgression become heavier by the confession? No, it becomes lighter and less troublesome. And this is why he wants you to confess: not that you should be punished, but that you should be forgiven; not that he may learn your sin—how could that be, since he has seen it?—but that you may learn what favor he bestows. He wishes you to learn the greatness of his grace, so that you may praise him perfectly, that you may be slower to sin, that you may be quicker to virtue. And if you do not confess the greatness of the need, you will not understand the enormous magnitude of his grace." — St. John Chrysostom

The Office of Family and Sanctity of Life
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat Parma

ST PHILIP'S FAST FOR FAMILIES

St Phillip's Fast: Preparing for the Feast of the Nativity

Becoming a Witness: Living the Church Year in the Domestic Church

Each year it seems preparations for Christmas begin earlier and earlier—even before all the Halloween candy is given out and consumed. For some this time of preparation is joyful, with the anticipation of the joyous celebration of Christ's birth. For others preparing for Christmas means lots of work, increased expenses and family encounters which are stressful and negative. Regardless of your personal experience or familial expectations, you can use this time as an opportunity for you and your family to draw close to Christ and enkindle a deeper awareness of the Incarnation and its importance in our lives. This can lead to deep inner and family peace as we focus, not upon ourselves but on God's love for us and ways in which we can become more loving.

"God is with us!"—proclaimed at Christmas—is central to the good news of our salvation. Our Church takes the time (a full 6 Sunday's of Preparation from November 15-December 25th to allow us sufficient time to reflect and act upon our resolve to love more deeply, despite the "Christmas rush".

Join us for a journey to Bethlehem, this Christmas!

Even a bit of extra prayer and reflection has the potential to be fruitful. If your children are very young you may want to use a story book or children's Bible versions of the scripture readings. You can even use videos. If your children are older, your reading or watching and discussions can be in more depth.

The secular media gets our kids focused on the commercial aspects of Christmas, earlier and earlier every year. The St Phillips fast, is a positive way to countdown the weeks leading up to the Feast of Christmas. You may want to set some time on each week of the fast, depending on your family's schedule, to reflect and pray and even to light a candle in your family's icon corner. In the Latin Church, the tradition of the advent wreath—with 4 candles—plays a major role in the Advent celebration. You can do a modified version of that—just make sure that you have 6 candles for the 6 weeks of preparation. Families may light candles whenever they have family prayer time. It is a tradition that sets a great atmosphere of focus on God, especially when we gather around the icons in our family prayer corner. Happy St. Philip's Fast!

(This material was adapted from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, Family and Life Office website, <https://skeparchy.org/flo/family-life> and the Arch-Eparchy of Winnipeg, Youth and Young Adults website, <http://ucymb.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/st-philips-plan.pdf>, and is credited to St. Elias Parish, Brampton, Ont.