

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



# *November 11, 2012*

## *TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*

*THE HOLY MARTYRS MINAS, VICTOR, VINCENT AND STEPHANIS*  
*OUR VENERABLE FATHER AND CONFESSOR THEODORE THE STUDITE*

### *TONE 7*

#### *SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12 – NOVEMBER 18*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15 – BEGINNING OF PYLYPIVKA (PHILIP'S FAST)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

6:00 PM – Great Vespers of Sunday

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 – *TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THE HOLY MARTYRS PLATO AND ROMAN*

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

## *Christmas* *'Round The World*

### *BENEFIT CONCERT*

Supporting the  
**Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation**  
 and the **Ukrainian Catholic University**.

Featuring the combined Ukrainian Choirs of  
**Kobzar, Yevshan, Koliada, and Trembita**  
 along with the  
 Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra.

Special Master of Ceremonies  
*Fr. Edward Danylo Evanko*,  
 Star of Broadway Musicals, Film and Television.  
 Plus Surprise Celebrity Guest Soloists.

Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 2 pm  
 Wilshire Ebell Theatre  
 743 South Lucerne Boulevard  
 Los Angeles, California 90005

For tickets contact the Theatre Box Office at  
 (323) 931-1277  
 or call our Ticket Hotline at (909) 860-2102  
 or online at ticketsr.com

#### **Sunday offering for November 4**

Amount	Number
\$5.00	1
\$7.00	1 (loose)
\$10.00	2
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	2
\$25.00	2
\$30.00	1
\$40.00	4
\$50.00	2
\$60.00	1
\$75.00	1
\$100.00	1
\$662.00	19 Parishioners

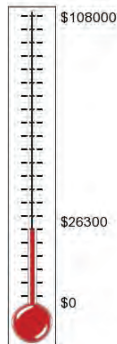
Parishioner Total: \$637.00

Visitor Total: \$25.00

Average / parish household (40): \$15.93

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00

Shortfall: **(\$1,488.00)**



*Stewardship Pledges*  
 Pledges received: 11

***It is impossible to plan any sort of budget until all pledge forms are turned in. If you haven't returned your pledge, please do so.***

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON THE ANGELS

1. Angels? Who in their right mind believes in angels anymore?!?
  - a. those who know that things exist which cannot be seen by the human eye
  - b. those who believe the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments
  - c. those who have even some awareness of the spiritual world, including non-Christians
  - d. those who are possessed by demons
  - e. all of the above
2. True or False: According to the Holy Scriptures, there are 7 ranks of angels and 9 archangels.
3. The word “angel” means:
  - a. spirit
  - b. servant
  - c. messenger
  - d. holy one
  - e. none of the above
4. True or False: Angels can be present in two or more places at the same time because they don’t have physical bodies.
5. The word “Satan” literally means:
  - a. father of lies
  - b. prince of the world
  - c. accuser or adversary
  - d. evil one
  - e. all of the above
6. True or False: Angels and demons, by their very nature as super-natural, highly intelligent spirits, not only know everything that has happened in the past, but can also read our thoughts and foretell the future.
7. If an angel came to you and gave you a different teachings from what was already given by Jesus Christ, should you listen to him?
  8. True or False: When little children die, in heaven they become angels.
  9. True or False: God created Satan as a fallen angel so that man’s free will would be tested, having the option to follow God or follow the devil.
  10. How many angels are there?
    - a. 144,000 angels, plus an unnumbered amount of demons
    - b. 99 angels, as indicated by the Lord’s parable about the 99 sheep that didn’t wander
    - c. somewhere between 1,000 and 10,000
    - d. innumerable more than the number of people ever created





## **Here's the lesson from the election, folks!**

by Matthew Warner Wednesday, November 07, 2012 12:29 PM

If you're discouraged or think the world is upside down, I have something for you.

Guess what, regardless of who won the election, today we still have millions of babies being aborted every year. We still have 50% of marriages ending in divorce. We still have a supposedly Christian culture that has separated sex from marriage from procreation. We still have many Americans who are more likely to vote based upon peer pressure, or how nice somebody is, or their own self-interest, or by what the media told them, or by what's socially easy than they are to vote based on their own moral or religious convictions (or any economic sense). We still have lonely and suffering people in our communities who need to be loved.

Whether marriage is redefined now or later, whether our religious freedom is trampled now or in 10 years, these are not at risk because politicians are getting bolder, they are at risk because our convictions are getting colder.

And if you're waiting for a politician to fix that, you're wasting your time. Sadly, most politicians are not leaders. And that's because politics has become less about leadership than it is about marketing.

Politicians are not in the business anymore of changing people's minds (leadership). That's too hard. They are in the business of marketing. They look at the cultural map of the day and then create a platform and a message that tickles enough ears to win them an election. And that's not all bad when you consider that they are our servants, sent on our behalf to accomplish our agenda. We get the politicians we deserve, as the saying goes.

But the lesson is this: Elections are not the leading edge of change. Elections are the lagging indicators of what's already changed. They tell us where we already are. So stop waiting around for politics to change this country back or to move it forward. That's not what politics does.

And if you find yourself talking about whether Romney (or any politician) lost because he was too conservative, or not conservative enough, or he should have talked about social issues more, or the party needs a "bigger tent" - just stop. Those are political games focused on trying to mirror the culture rather than change it. It may lead to political victory, but it changes little. Culture warriors have chased such illusions for too long.

What we need is to impact the culture by changing hearts and minds. We have to shift the entire conversation and cultural values, not just gerrymander the platform. We don't need a bigger "tent." We need to make a more convincing case. That's what brings about real change. That's leadership. That's evangelization. And it rarely comes from a politician.

Does that mean elections don't matter? Of course not. They matter a lot. But if you want to change their results, the mechanism is not a political one. It's cultural. And politics rarely drives culture, it's almost always the other way around.

So stop worrying about how to change the politics and go sit down and figure out the next big way that you are going to change our culture for the better. How are you going to lead?

Figure that out and the elections will take care of themselves.

The world is surely upside down. Mother Teresa agreed. She said, "I think the world today is upside down. Everybody seems to be in such a terrible rush, anxious for greater development and greater riches and so on. There is much suffering because there is so very little love in homes and in family life. We have no time for our children, we have no time for each other; there is no time to enjoy each other. In the home begins the disruption of the peace of the world."

Real change starts in the home. Not in the White House. In *your* home and the homes around this great nation. That's where it *begins*. It *ends* in the election booth. If we're only showing up to fight in the election booth, we've already missed the battle.

And if you are discouraged after the election, Mother Teresa has something to say to you about that, too:

"If you are discouraged it is a sign of pride because it shows you trust in your own power. Your self-sufficiency, your selfishness and your intellectual pride will inhibit His coming to live in your heart

because God cannot fill what is already full. It is as simple as that."

It's as simple as that, folks. Transform discouragement into the motivation that moves you to change things. (And for more inspiration from Mother Teresa, read her *7 steps to a holier life*.)

What we need right now is leadership. And if you're waiting for a politician, you're going to be waiting a long time. We need leadership 1) in your home and 2) in the culture. We need cultural leaders. We need individuals and organizations to rise up and provide inspiring, convincing leadership that will lead to conversions of mind and heart.

That's the surest way to change the politics. That's where real *change* will come from. And we already know where our *hope* comes from (and it ain't from a politician).

Start with the culture. Start with your home. Start with yourself.

[www.ncregister.com/blog/matthew-warner/heres-the-lesson-from-the-election-folks](http://www.ncregister.com/blog/matthew-warner/heres-the-lesson-from-the-election-folks)

### Answers to Quiz

1. e) all of the above.
2. False) There are 9 ranks of angels and many archangels, seven of which are known by name in Holy Scripture and Tradition
3. c) messenger
4. False. Angels are bound by time and space as are human beings.
5. c) Though all the descriptions apply, "Satan" literally means "accuser" or "adversary".
6. False. Angels do not know everything in the past, cannot read our thoughts, and do not know the future, unless God informs them of this.
7. No. See Galatians 1:8 and the errors of Islam and Mormonism for instance.
8. False. Though they may go to Heaven. Human beings do not become an-gels, nor angels become human beings.
9. False. Everything God created was made good, including Satan, who was formerly an angel of light and willingly chose to dwell in darkness.
10. d) Though there is no exact figure given in Holy Scripture or Tradition, the Church teaches that there are innumerable more angels than human beings ever created.

*“We love everything brilliant on earth: gold, silver, precious stones, crystal, bright clothing - why, then, do we not love the future glory to which the Lord calls us? Why do we not aspire to shine like the sun? ‘Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father’ (Matt. 13:43). It is because we have perverted the nature of our soul by sin, and have attached ourselves to earth instead of to heaven, to corruptible things instead of to incorruptible ones; because we love earthly, transitory, perishable, and seductive splendour. But why is there such a love for everything bright in us? Because our soul was created for heavenly light, and was originally all light, all radiance; thus light is inborn in it, the feeling and desire for light are inborn in it. Direct this aspiration to seeking for heavenly light!”*

– St. John of Kronstadt



07-06-2012

**POTLUCK PERFECTIONISM IS A STRANGE AND VERY DELICIOUS DISORDER**



## **Catechetical Video Series**

Next Sunday, after the Divine Liturgy we continue showing a series of catechetical videos. The first series to be shown will be “Catholicism” by Fr. Robert Barrons.

“‘Catholicism’ could well become one of the most significant efforts ever to advance what Pope John Paul II called ‘The New Evangelization.’”

– George Weigel,  
Biographer of Pope John Paul II

A future video series will be “The Way: Intruding Orthodox Christianity.”

**Please attend! Будьмо Уважні!**

**“Better that only a few Catholic should be left, staunch and sincere in their religion, than that they should, remaining many, desire as it were, to be in collusion with the Church’s enemies and in conformity with the open foes of our faith.”**

– St. Peter Canisius (1521-1597)

## FOUR REASONS WHY PEOPLE GIVE

*From "Compelled to Give" By VRev. Vladimir Berzonsky*

1) **Obligation** – People who give only because it's an obligation. We pay taxes that way. We open our bills and write checks reluctantly. Perhaps that's the way we deal with society at large, but this is not the attitude to take when we are asked to give from our heart to the upkeep and enhancement of the holy Church;

2) **Satisfaction** – There's something satisfying about contributing to charity. When we make a gift to an established charity, we feel good about ourselves. In the autumn season after Labor Day and through the remaining days of the year, we are solicited by so many appeals that we must make choices. Do we put something in the Salvation Army pots at each shopping center, or do we pick and choose?

3) **Pride** – We all know those who make an issue of their contributions. It doesn't count unless it appears in the media that the contributors are

People of Importance. They used to flaunt their donations to the party of their choice or even hedge their bets, giving to both major political parties. With new rules they must find a way to do the same, but not so conspicuously.

4) **Love** – All of the above are acceptable to the recipients, and all of them have value in their own right; however, gifts at the highest level first come as a true sacrifice. They are not just an excess of funds that the giver can well do without and even derives tax benefits from them, but they come from hearts that feel a compulsion to contribute. When the feeling arises within that you cannot do otherwise than to meet the needs laid out before you, when you are presented with a situation, a crisis or a grief that so overwhelms you that you are desperate to provide from your means an alleviation for that person, group or situation, you are a cheerful giver.

### *The Pulpit Is Responsible*

*September 18, 2012 By Fr. John A. Peck*

*If you ever wondered who is responsible for the moral decay, corruption and lack of discrimination in our day, it belongs firmly – FIRMLY – to those who are called to preach. The preachers are wholly responsible for the moral decline in our society.*

Brethren, our preaching will bear its legitimate fruits.

If immorality prevails in the land, the fault is ours in a great degree.

If there is a decay of conscience, the pulpit is responsible for it.

If the public press lacks moral discrimination, the pulpit is responsible for it.

If the church is degenerate and worldly, the pulpit is responsible for it.

If the world loses its interest in religion, the pulpit is responsible for it.

If Satan rules in our halls of legislation, the pulpit is responsible for it.

If our politics become so corrupt that the very foundations of our government are ready to fall away, the pulpit is responsible for it.

Let us not ignore this fact, my dear brethren; but let us lay it to heart, and be thoroughly awake to our responsibility in respect to the morals of this nation.

*The Rev. Charles Finney (d. 1875)*

*Leader of the Second Great Awakening in America*

*Source: The Black Robe Regiment*



**METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA**  
**Ukrainian Catholic**

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**No. 624/2012 O**

*This Number Should be Prefixed to Your Reply*

*Office of the Metropolitan*

**ПАСТИРСЬКЕ ПОСЛАННЯ**  
**ЄПАРХІВ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ КАТОЛИЦЬКОЇ ЦЕРКВИ США НА ПИЛИПІВКУ**

**ВСЕЧЕСНІШЕ ДУХОВЕНСТВО, ПРЕПОДОБНЕ МОНАШЕСТВО,**  
**СЕМІНАРИСТИ, НАШІ ДОРОГІ ВІРНІ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ КАТОЛИЦЬКОЇ ЦЕРКВИ В**  
**СПОЛУЧЕНИХ ШТАТАХ**

**Слава Ісусу Христу!**

Перед народженням дитини родина та друзі збираються на «baby shower». Таким чином новій мамі допомагають заготовити дитячий одяг та іншими потрібними речами. Цікаво, чи родичі Марії могли наділити її деякими потрібними для дитини речами перед тим, як вони з Йосифом пустилися в дорогу до Вифлеєму.

На Сході достойних людей вітали дарами. Троє мудреців, що вирушили до Вифлеєму, несли дари. Високоповажні освічені люди, що вивчали філософію, природу, астрологію. Хтось навіть назвав їх царями. Вони чули, що Ізраїль очікує на Месію. Вони вивчали зорі та пророцтва. Про ці очікування Ізраїля добре знали його сусіди: Персія, Халдея, Месопотамія та Аравія.

Незвичайно яскрава зірка з'явилася на небесах. Троє мудреців пустилися в дорогу на Захід – до Юдеї. Ніякі перешкоди не затримали їх в дорозі. Вони поспішили до Вифлеєму, де в бідній стаєнці знайшли немовлятку Ісуса. «Впавши ниць, вони поклонилися йому; потім відкрили свої скарби й піднесли йому дари: золото, ладан і миро» (Мт. 2, 11). Золото Цареві. Ладан Богові. Мирो чоловікові.

Наша подорож до Різдва – народження нашого Господа Ісуса Христа – починається 15 листопада Пилипівським Постом. Цей час покаєння триває до Навечір'я Різдва. Заохочуються добровільна відмова від м'ясних страв та каяття – молитва, піст, добродійність. У Навечір'я Різдва не споживається скоромне, дозволяється лише одне прийняття їжі й перекуса (з молочним, якщо це допускає місцева традиція).

Приготовляючись знову до святкування Різдва ми задумуємося над дарами. Який дар ми принесемо Ісусові? Уже Псалмспівець Цар Давид (Пс. 71[72], 10) та пророк Ісаїя (6, 16) передвістили дари мудреців. Язичницький світ вшанував Господа. А як щодо нас? Що ми принесемо Ісусові? Чи можемо ми зробити не менше? Чи знаєте ви, яких дарів Бог прагне найбільше? Бог хоче вас і мене!



**Вірите, чи ні, але ми також можемо принести золото. Хто? Яке? Золото приноситься тими, хто жертвує на славу Богу й служіння близьким свої багатства й добра. Допомога потребуючим – це золото. Чи багато людей жертвують Господу золото? На жаль, багато розтрачуються на непотрібні й проминаючі речі. Таким є наше ставлення до Того, Хто «задля вас став бідним, будиши багатим, щоб ви його вбожеством розбагатіли» (Кор. 8, 9).**

**А хто приносить Госпо ду ладан? Ладан жертвують ті, хто прикладає свої таланти та здібності, щоб славити Бога і допомагати своїм близьким. Таланти і здібності не купиш. Вони є коштовнішими за срібло та золото. Вони є Богом даними дарами. Належне їх застосування втішає Госпо да, як запах ладану. Кожен з нас наділений якимось талантом. Тому всі ми зобов'язані залучати ці таланти, щоб прославляти Господа.**

**Третій дар принесений Ісусові до Вифлєсму мудрецами – миро, можливо, найкращий дар. Хто жертвує сьогодні цей дар? Миро, як і ладан – це пахощі. Але миро – це також гіркота. Вона може добре відображати наші лиха, скорботу й тривогу. Заклопотаність, що обтяжує наш день. Зрозуміло, хто жертвує миро Господу. Той, хто мав невдалий день, хто пережив трагедію, кого несправедливо звинуватили, одинокі та хворі, але хто не зневірився, а довірився Господу, Його оздоровлюючій благодаті, - для того миро може бути гіркотою, але підсолодженою Господом. Не кожен розуміє це. Благословенні ті, що розуміють і приймають це, бо вони жертвують Ісусові коштовний дар. Вони жертвують йому пахуче миро.**

**Ми, ваші єпископи, сподіваємося і молимося, щоб ви могли відновитися в цей час приготування до народження нашого Господа. Перед святкуванням Різдва приготуйте себе і станьте коштовними дарами золота, ладану та мира для нашого Господа.**

**+Високопреосвященний Стефан Сорока  
Митрополит Української Католицької Церкви у США  
Архiepіскоп Філадельфійський для укаїнців**

**+Преосвященний Річард Семінак  
Єпископ Чиказької єпархії святого Миколая**

**+Преосвященний Павло Хомницький, ЧСВВ  
Єпископ Стемфордської єпархії**

**+Преосвященний Іван Бура (автор)  
Апостольський Адміністратор  
Пармської єпархії святого Йосафата**

**Листопад 2012**



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**PYLYPIVKA (ADVENT) PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF  
THE U.S.A.**

**TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS SISTERS,  
SEMINARIANS  
AND BELOVED FAITHFUL.**

**Praise Be Jesus Christ!**

When a child is to be born, family and friends throw a baby shower. The shower helps the new mother with baby clothes and other necessary items. I wonder if Mary's relatives were able to provide her with some of the necessary baby items as she and Joseph began their journey to Bethlehem.

Distinguished persons in the East were greeted with gifts. Three wise men travel to Bethlehem bearing gifts. They are highly respected men, educated, students of philosophy, nature, astrology. Some even call them kings. They had heard of Israel's expectation of a Messiah. They studied the stars and the prophecies. The expectation was well known by surrounding neighbors: Persia, Chaldea, Mesopotamia and Arabia.

An unusual and bright star appears in the heavens. The three wise men travel west to Judea. No obstacles impede their journey. They hurry to Bethlehem, and lo, in a poor stable, they find the infant Jesus. "They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11). Gold for the King. Incense for God. Myrrh for the Man.

Our journey to Christmas -- the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ -- begins now with St. Phillip's Fast (Pylypivka) November 15th. This is a time of penitence and lasts until the Eve of Christmas. Voluntary abstinence (meatless meals) and acts of penance (prayer, fasting, charitable works) are encouraged. Abstinence from meat, and one full meal and a snack (milk products allowed according to local custom) is permitted on Christmas Eve.

And as we prepare to celebrate Christmas again, we think of gifts. But what gifts will we offer Jesus? Already the psalmist King David (Ps. 71 [72]:10) and the prophet Isaiah (6:16) had foretold the gifts of the wise men. The pagan world pays homage to

**the Lord. What about us? What will we give Jesus? Can we do no less? You know what gift God wants most? God wants you and me.**

**Believe it or not, we also can bring gold. Who? How? Gold is brought by those who offer for the glory of God and in the service of their neighbor their resources and goods. Helping the needy is gold. Do many people offer gold to the Lord? Unfortunately more is squandered on worthless and fleeting things. Such is our attitude to the One who "became poor although He was rich, so that by His poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).**

**And who offers the Lord frankincense? Frankincense is offered by those who use their talents and abilities to praise God and for the benefit of their neighbor. Talents and abilities are not bought. They are more precious than silver and gold. They are God-given gifts. Using them properly pleases the Lord like fragrant incense. All of us have received certain talents. Therefore we all have the responsibility to use these talents, to bring incense to the Lord.**

**The third gift which the wise men brought to Jesus in Bethlehem was myrrh, possibly the best gift. Who offers this gift today? Myrrh, like incense, is fragrant. But myrrh is also bitter. It may well represent our afflictions, our sorrows, our anxieties. Preoccupations that laden our day. It is clear who offers myrrh to the Lord. The one who has had a bad day or suffers a tragedy, the one who is unjustly accused, the lonely and the sick, and who do not despair but place all their hope in the Lord, in His healing grace, Myrrh can be bitter, but it is sweetened by the Lord. Not all understand this. Blessed are they who understand and accept it for they offer a precious gift to Jesus. They offer Him fragrant myrrh.**

**We, your bishops, hope and pray that you may be able to renew yourself during this season of preparation for the birth of our Lord. Before we celebrate Christmas, prepare yourself and become precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the Lord.**

**+Stefan Soroka  
Metropolitan-Archbishop of Philadelphia**

**+Richard Seminack  
Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago**

**+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM  
Eparch of Stamford**

**+John Bura (author)  
Apostolic Administrator  
of St. Josaphat in Parma**



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква  
Святого Йоана Хрестителя  
St. John the Baptizer  
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

4400 Palm Avenue  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

**Website:** [stjohnthebaptizer.org](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org)

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***The Psalms: Voice of the Church and Medicine for Hearts***

Any part of the Scriptures you like to choose is inspired by God. The Holy Spirit composed the Scriptures so that in them, as in a pharmacy open to all souls, we might each of us be able to find the medicine suited to our own particular illness.

Thus, the teaching of the Prophets is one thing, and that of the historical books is another. And, again, the Law has one meaning, and the advice we read in the Book of Proverbs has a different one.

But the Book of Psalms contains everything useful that the others have. It predicts the future, it recalls the past, it gives directions for living, it suggests the right behavior to adopt. It is, in short, a jewel case in which have been collected all the valid teachings in such a way that individuals find remedies just right for their cases.

It heals the old wounds of the soul and gives relief to recent ones. It cures the illnesses and preserves the health of the soul.

Every Psalm brings peace, soothes the internal conflicts, calms the rough waves of evil thoughts, dissolves anger, corrects and moderates immorality.

Every Psalm preserves friendship and reconciles those who are separated. Who could actually regard as an enemy the person beside whom they have raised a song to the one God?

Every Psalm anticipates the anguish of the night and gives rest after the efforts of the day. It is safety for babes, beauty for the young, comfort for the aged, adornment for women.

Every Psalm is the voice of the Church.

*St. Basil the Great*