



# EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER

## Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys

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***Christ is Born! Glorify Him!***

*Vol. XIV, No. V December 2005*

### ***Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho!***

December 25, 2005

Dear Faithful People,



On Christmas, we receive the greatest gift of all time. Jesus is born in a cave in Bethlehem. Our greatest gift is God's special gift to us. Salvation has been brought to us and we exclaim: "Christ is Born!"

Our children anxiously await gifts at Christmas. Countless lists are prepared and many reminders are given. There is an expectation, a longing, and finally the excitement of opening the packages placed under the Christmas tree. Both gift giving and gift receiving are important parts of the gatherings and celebrations at Christmas. It is with joy that we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In the Byzantine Church of the West, we gather to pray and to give thanks at Christmas for the many gifts that we have received this year. Like the children, we also prepare our lists and prayerfully present our needs to God. Our hope is that our requests will be heard by Him and answered in the coming days.

We lift all those in prayer who have suffered from natural disasters this year. We pray that their lives recover hope and that healing will come to them and to all those who are suffering and in need.

Once again we pray for peace on earth and good will among the nations. We pray for a gentle change of heart and healing to transform the world. We also remember those in military service in the Middle East and pray for their return.

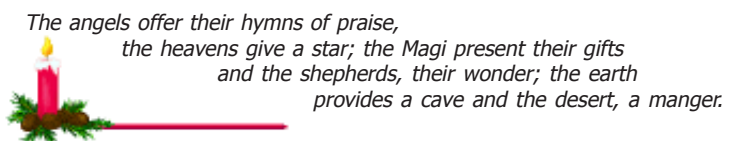
Along with our gifts to one another, remember that the most important gift we can give is to give of ourselves. Wherever your journey may take you in this coming New Year, be sure to bring with you the gift found in your heart. Tell of the Good News that "God is With Us!" As we pray together in Church on Christmas morning, my prayer for each of you is to share in the many blessings and the Love of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ William C. Skurla*

Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D.  
*Bishop of the Eparchy of Van Nuys*

*O Christ, what shall we offer You?*



*The angels offer their hymns of praise,  
the heavens give a star; the Magi present their gifts  
and the shepherds, their wonder; the earth  
provides a cave and the desert, a manger.*

*-Nativity Vespers*

## ETERNAL MEMORY +REVEREND JOHN M. DORICH

**PHOENIX, Arizona**—Reverend John M. Dorich, retired Byzantine Catholic priest of the Eparchy of Van Nuys fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday evening, December 1, 2005 in Phoenix, Arizona after a brief battle with cancer. He was 71. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary (Kasich) Dorich.

Father John was born in Weirton, West Virginia on November 6, 1934. He was an only child. A graduate of Saint Procopius Academy in Lisle, IL, he was ordained to the priesthood at Saint John Cathedral in Munhall, PA on April 23, 1961 after attending Duquesne University and Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary.

Following ordination, he was assigned as Assistant Pastor of Saint John parish in Hazelton, PA. He also served at the Pennsylvania parishes of Saints Peter & Paul in Portage and at St. Mary in East Pittsburgh. He was pastor at St. Michael in Pleasant City, Ohio before moving West in 1978.

Father's first assignment in the West was in Albuquerque, NM where he served at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church from 1978 to 1983. He was incardinated into the Eparchy of Van Nuys in 1982. Later that year, Bishop Thomas Dolinay appointed him to serve as Dean of the newly established Eastern Deanery for the Eparchy of Van Nuys.

During his time in the Eparchy, he briefly served the mission community of Saint Macrina in San Mateo, California before becoming pastor of Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church in Denver, CO (1985-1987).

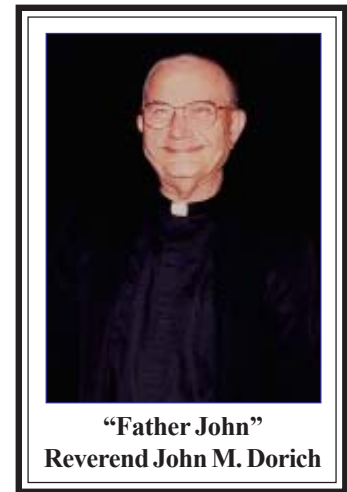
In 1985 his appointment as a consultant for the Van Nuys Eparchy was announced.

Father John accepted assignment in 1987 at Saint Melany Byzantine Catholic Church in Tucson, Arizona where he remained pastor until 1993.

After his retirement in 1997, he remained in residence at Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral, Phoenix, Arizona. He assisted at the parish, helped with events in the parish hall and Pastoral Center until his death. He was grateful to God for his priesthood.

In Memoriam, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated at Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral in Phoenix on Wednesday, December 7. Most Reverend William C. Skurla was the main celebrant. Concelebrants included Right Reverend Stephen Washko, Rector, Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral; Very Reverend Joseph Hutsko, St. Nicholas of Myra, Fontana (CA); Reverend Phil Acquaro, CSB, JCL, St. Thomas the Apostle, Gilbert; Reverend Nils Thompson, OFM, St. Gabriel the Archangel, Las Vegas, NV and Rev. Hugo Soutis of Dormition Ukrainian Catholic Church, Phoenix.

A Memorial Liturgy on Friday, December 16, 2005 at Saint Mary Church in Weirton, West Virginia was celebrated by Most Reverend Basil M. Schott, OFM, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh and concelebrants Reverend Ed Lucas, pastor of Saint Mary and Reverend Robert Karl of Warren, Ohio. The private interment was at Saint Paul Cemetery, Weirton.



*May God grant to his servant  
the priest +John Eternal Memory  
and Blessed Repose*



### Peter's Pence

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, gratefully acknowledges the offering of \$5,883.20 which was sent from the Eparchy of Van Nuys as Peter's Pence for 2005.

His Holiness thanks the Eparchy for this gift, which will help him in his universal ministry. He is aware of the devotion which motivates our contributions and he is deeply appreciative of this testimony to the bond of charity uniting the local Churches with the See of Peter.

*Saint Nicholas, Wonderworker*

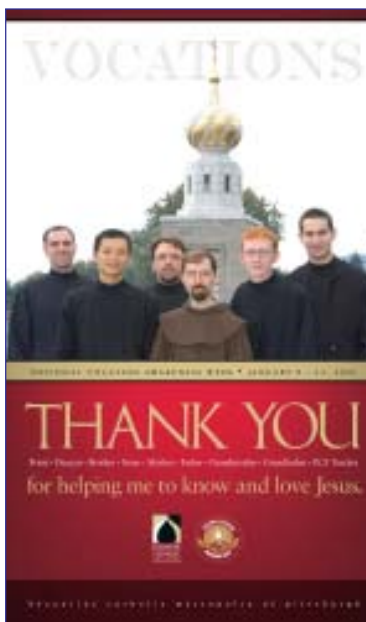


## VOCATION AWARENESS SUNDAY - JANUARY 8, 2006

A most important event in the life of our Church will happen early next year. Sunday, January 8, 2006 is *Vocation Awareness Sunday*, the beginning of Vocation Awareness Week. This will be observed nationally concluding on Friday, January 13.

We have been hearing the words “vocation crisis” for a long time. As that crisis becomes more acute, every day we recognize with great concern the seriousness of the decrease in the numbers of our priest, deacons, brothers and sisters.

We also cannot forget that each of us has a vocation, if not to holy orders or the monastic life, then to marriage or to the single state. Our concerns must include prayers for everyone to respond to the particular call that is in God’s plan for him or her.



Family life requires special attention, not only because of its breakdown in today’s society, but also because it is in the family that religious vocations are nurtured and encouraged.

Let us always thank God for all

those who serve Him in our parishes and for the many ways that they do that.

It is critical and essential that each of us enters into the spirit, prayer, and participation of this special week with utmost sincerity. Your pastor has received a packet of materials to facilitate this: a mini poster for your home to serve as a reminder, prayer-cards for your individual prayer, and prayer activities for the family and for the religious education classes. Please also attend the Moleben for Vocations in your parish.

We are confident that you will enthusiastically embrace the intentions of the National Vocation Awareness Week in your home and in your parish. Our commitment and unity will emphasize the intensity of our plea before God.

### ORDINATION TO MINOR ORDERS, SUBDIACONATE

Mark A. Gomori of Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral in Phoenix, AZ was ordained to Minor Orders (Lector) and Subdiaconate at Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral in Phoenix.

The ordaining Bishop was Bishop William C. Skurla. Present were Right Reverend Stephen G. Washko, Rector, and Deacon John Montalvo, both of the Pro-Cathedral.

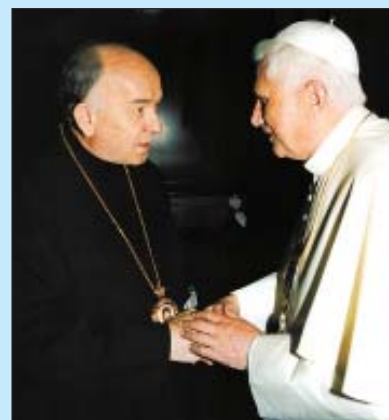
A reception followed with the guests and parish members at Saint Stephen Hall.

*God grant His servant  
Subdeacon Mark many happy  
years!*

### SYNOD OF BISHOPS IN ROME

On October 11, 2005, Metropolitan Basil M. Schott, OFM addressed the Synod of Bishops gathered in Rome to reflect on the Eucharist. He stressed recent efforts to renew authentic liturgical practices of the Eastern Churches in the United States, the unique opportunity for productive ecumenical dialogue among Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Churches of like traditions, and the central role of the clergy in bringing the Eucharist to the people.

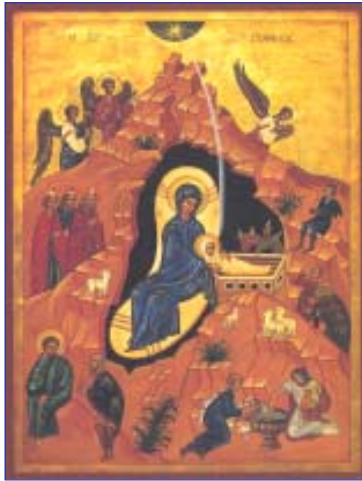
Archbishop stated, “From an Eastern perspective, the path to the light is through and out of the darkness or shadows. However, there will always be shadows until Christ comes



*Metropolitan Basil Schott meets with Pope Benedict XVI during the Synod of Bishops, held in Rome October 2 through 29, 2005*

again. This is part of the human condition. From our part, we must have the courage to look at the shadows and thereby bring the light of Christ therein.”

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**Christ is Born!  
Glorify Him!**



## EPARCHIAL CALENDAR

### 2005

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>December 4</b>     | <b>Southern CA Region St. Nicholas Dinner</b> Saint Nicholas of Myra, Fontana, CA                                  |
| <b>December 10</b>    | <b>Saint Nicholas Dinner</b> Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ  |
| <b>December 17</b>    | <b>Ordination of Marcus Gomori to Minor Orders</b> (Lector and Subdeacon) Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ |
| <b>December 28-31</b> | <b>Eparchial Youth Winter Retreat</b> Cathedral of Saint Mary, Sherman Oaks, CA                                    |

### 2006

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>January 8</b>     | <b>Vocation Sunday</b>   |
| <b>January 9-13</b>  | <b>Vocations Awareness Week</b>  |
| <b>January 15</b>    | <b>Blessing of Saint John of the Desert Melkite Byzantine Catholic Church</b><br>Phoenix, AZ |
| <b>January 21-23</b> | <b>National March for Life</b> , Washington, DC  |
| <b>January 22-25</b> | <b>Eastern Catholic Clergy Retreat</b> , Spirit in the Desert, Carefree, AZ                  |

