



# EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER

## Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys

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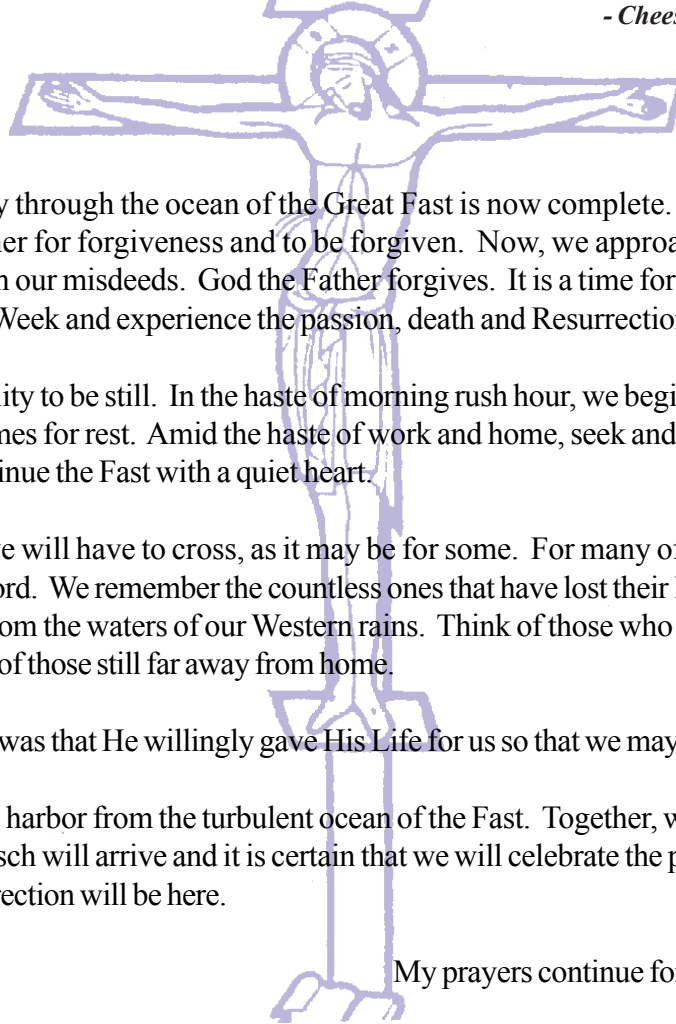
[www.eparchy-of-van-nuys.org](http://www.eparchy-of-van-nuys.org)

***Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!***

*Vol. XIV, No. 1 January - February - March, 2005*

*The light of your grace has shone upon our souls, O Lord.  
Behold this is the favorable time, the season of conversion. Let us turn away  
from the works of darkness, and let us clothe ourselves with the armor of light,  
so that crossing the ocean of the Fast, we may come to the harbor of the Resurrection  
on the third day with Our Lord Jesus Christ, the  
Savior of our souls.*

*- Cheesefare Sunday*



*H*alf our journey through the ocean of the Great Fast is now complete. When we began, we asked each other for forgiveness and to be forgiven. Now, we approach the Cross. Especially now, we are called to turn away from our misdeeds. God the Father forgives. It is a time for quiet preparation so that we can enter into Great and Holy Week and experience the passion, death and Resurrection of Our Lord.

The world challenges our ability to be still. In the haste of morning rush hour, we begin our work. In the late afternoon, we return to our homes for rest. Amid the haste of work and home, seek and find the quiet moments for prayer and reflection. We continue the Fast with a quiet heart.

It may not be an ocean that we will have to cross, as it may be for some. For many of us, the journey is not easy. We offer up our sufferings to the Lord. We remember the countless ones that have lost their lives through the Asian Tsunami and those who have suffered from the waters of our Western rains. Think of those who persevere during war and remember the infirmed. Think of those still far away from home.

The ultimate gift of Our Lord was that He willingly gave His Life for us so that we may have Life Eternal in the Father.

Together we will find the safe harbor from the turbulent ocean of the Fast. Together, we will arrive on the shores of redemption. The day of the Pasch will arrive and it is certain that we will celebrate the presence of Our Risen Lord. The glorious feast of the Resurrection will be here.

My prayers continue for each of you during Great Lent,

*+ William C Skurla*

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



PARISH	PASTOR	FAMILIES	\$ GOAL	\$ RECD as of 3/1/05	
Albuquerque, NM	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Rev. Zugger	76	\$ 15,200	\$ 3,240
Anaheim, CA	Church of the Annunciation	Rev. Msgr. Vida	95	\$ 19,000	
Anchorage, AK	St. Nicholas of Myra	Rt. Rev. Izer	43	\$ 8,600	
Denver, CO	Holy Protection	Rt. Rev. Izzo	29	\$ 5,800	
Fontana, CA	St. Nicholas of Myra	Rev. Hutsko	33	\$ 6,600	\$ 2,000
Gilbert, AZ	St. Thomas the Apostle	Rev. Acquaro	52	\$ 10,400	\$ 800
Las Vegas, NV	Our Lady of Wisdom	Rt. Rev. Vivona	49	\$ 9,800	\$ 6,600
Las Vegas, NV	St. Gabriel the Archangel	Rev. Daigle	91	\$ 18,200	\$ 3,575
Los Gatos, CA	St. Basil the Great	Rev. Hernandez	22	\$ 4,400	
Olympia, WA	St. George	Rev. Perry	28	\$ 5,600	
Phoenix, AZ	St. Stephen Pro-Cathedral	Rt. Rev. Washko	130	\$ 26,000	\$ 14,250
Portland, OR	St. Irene	Rev. Burnette	28	\$ 5,600	\$ 200
Sacramento, CA	St. Phillip the Apostle	Rev. Hernandez	20	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,400
San Diego, CA	Holy Angels	Rev. Pipta	67	\$ 13,400	\$ 3,700
San Luis Obispo, CA	St. Anne	Rev. Idranyi	36	\$ 7,200	\$ 2,200
Seattle, WA	St. John Chrysostom	Rt. Rev. Stanichar	86	\$ 17,200	
Sherman Oaks, CA	St. Mary Cathedral	Very Rev. Rybarczyk	99	\$ 19,800	\$ 1,700
Spokane, WA	SS. Cyril & Methodius	Rev. O'Brien	31	\$ 6,200	
Tucson, AZ	St. Melany	Rev. Rankin	47	\$ 9,400	\$ 4,495
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>19 Parishes</b>		<b>1,062</b>	<b>\$ 212,400</b>	<b>\$ 44,160</b>

### Byzantine Benedictines Celebrate Jubilees



Three Byzantine Benedictines from Holy Trinity Monastery in Butler, Pennsylvania recently celebrated anniversaries. Prayerful congratulations to the three Jubilarians: Reverend Theodore Seginak, O.S.B., celebrates his 60<sup>th</sup> year of priesthood; Hegumen Leo Schlosser, O.S.B. marks 50 years a priest and Brother Michael Zetszer, O.S.B. celebrates his

25<sup>th</sup> year of religious profession. Holy Trinity Monastery is located at: 134 Trinity Lane, P.O. Box 990, Butler, PA 16003-0990.

*God grant Hegumen Leo, Father Seginak and Brother Michael many happy years in peace, health and happiness!  
Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

### Sisters of Saint Basil Launch Website

[www.sistersofstbasil.org](http://www.sistersofstbasil.org)

*The site offers weekly prayer reflections, latest news, a history of the Order, information about the annual Pilgrimage and the ministries of the Sisters.*

The Sisters of Saint Basil will be able to receive prayer requests, share information, and eventually make it possible to purchase religious articles. The site features the latest edition of the Newsletter, "In Touch." Images from the 2003 and 2004 Pilgrimages are also featured on the site. For further information, contact the Sisters of Saint Basil in Uniontown, PA at: (724) 438-8644.

### +Louise Stanichar Mother of Priest

Louise Stanichar, mother of the Right Reverend Joseph Stanichar, pastor of Saint John Chrysostom Church in Seattle, WA, fell asleep in the Lord on February 2, 2005 in Seattle after a lengthy illness. Mrs. Stanichar lived in Seattle with her son since July, 2002.

Funeral services were held at Saint John Chrysostom Church in Seattle. Interment was at Mount Saint Macrina Cemetery, Uniontown Pennsylvania.

*Blessed Repose and Eternal Memory to the servant of God  
+Louise!*

*I am the Resurrection and the Life:  
he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.*

John 11: 25-26



# THOUSANDS PRAY FOR END TO ABORTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

## *Compline for Respect of Life Celebrated*

Thousands from all across the country met in Washington, DC including Reverend Lee Perry from the Eparchy of Van Nuys for the annual *Pro-Life Rally and March for Life* held January 22-24, 2005. Reverend Perry is the Pro-Life Coordinator for the Eparchy of Van Nuys. His participation in the *National Prayer Vigil for Life* was made possible through partial funding from the 2005 Bishop's Appeal.

The annual Vigil Mass for Life was celebrated on Sunday evening, January 23, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Thousands of Catholics and faithful gathered with bishops, cardinals, priests, deacons, and seminarians to pray for the termination of abortion. This event marks the anniversary of the *Roe vs. Wade* decision of the Supreme Court which made abortion legal.

His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore and Chairman of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, was the main celebrant for the Vigil Mass. "We gather to protest yet again the tragic miscarriage of justice that was the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe vs. Wade*," said Cardinal Keeler. In his homily, he thanked all for coming to Washington and noted the large, enthusiastic number of young people who came to participate in prayer and in the march for Life. He urged the faithful with their talents to write letters to legislators, to volunteer time and to continue to support pro-life activities.



*Compline for Life (l. to r.): Rev. Perry, St. George, Olympia, WA; Rev. Cuthbert Jack, OSB, St. Mary, Homer City, PA; Seminarians Frank Hanincik and Anthony Sedun of St. Anne, Harrisburg, PA.*



*Rev. John Basarab celebrated the Compline assisted by Deacon Elmer Pekarik of the Eparchy of Passaic.*

Compline for Respect of Life was celebrated in the Crypt Church later that evening. Most Reverend Andrew Pataki, Bishop of the Eparchy of Passaic, was unable to attend because of severe weather conditions. In his absence, Reverend John Basarab, pastor of Epiphany of Our Lord Church in Annandale, VA, Syncellus of the Middle States Syncellate, celebrated the Compline. Deacon Elmer Pekarik of the Annandale parish assisted. Mr. Don Springer of Epiphany Church and visiting cantors and choir members lead the responses. *Seminarians for Life International* from around the country took turns for prayer throughout the Holy Hours of the night.

On Monday morning, Cardinal McCarrick offered the liturgy in the Basilica. In the afternoon, young and old from all parts of the country marched up Constitution Avenue to Capitol Hill and the Supreme Court singing hymns, praying the rosary and chanting anti-abortion slogans. Many schools, churches, and colleges carried banners, while hundreds of other people carried their own improvised signs. Pro-Life pilgrims stretched over a mile down Constitution Avenue in an impressive demonstration for the value and dignity of human life, from conception to natural death.

(Photos courtesy of Patronage of Our Lord Parish, Baltimore, MD. visit [www.patronagechurch.com](http://www.patronagechurch.com) for more photos)

## BYZANTEEN WINTER RETREAT: *“Sharing Your Faith”*

ByzanTEENS of the Eparchy gathered in Phoenix, AZ with clergy and adults on December 29 - January 1 at Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral to focus on “Faith Sharing” at the Annual Eparchial Youth Winter Retreat.

The four day event consisted of talks, liturgical services, workshops and time for private prayer. Teens acted out various techniques of faith sharing with others through skits which they wrote.

The Divine Liturgy preceded activities to welcome in New Year 2005. Bishop William C. Skurla was the main celebrant along with visiting clergy.

The Winter retreat included an evening of bowling and a visit to the Phoenix Zoo to see “Zoolights.” This zoo event featured colored lights, illuminations, sounds and of course, the animals.



*Teens share their faith at retreat.*



*Reverend Robert Pipta, Darren Jackson lead Workshop discussion during the retreat.*

Youth from the parishes of Saint Melany in Tucson and Saint Thomas in Gilbert participated with the teens from Saint Stephen for the four day retreat.

Clergy presenters included Right Reverend Stephen Washko, pastor of Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral, Reverend Robert Pipta from Holy Angels in San Diego, Very Reverend Joseph Hutsko of St. Nicholas, Fontana, CA and Reverend Robert Rankin of St. Melany, Tucson.

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## LAS VEGAS PARISH HOSTS DAY OF RECOLLECTION

*by Rosemary Hillyard*

Our Lady of Wisdom Church in Las Vegas, NV hosted a day of recollection on Saturday, January 22, 2005. Right Reverend Stephen G. Washko, Rector of Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral was the conference presenter. Participants attended from Our Lady of Wisdom and Saint Gabriel Byzantine Catholic Churches in Las Vegas.

Father Washko began the first of his three talks with the theme of “Life and Time.” He explained how the Church supports us in our life’s work of sanctifying time by using the yearly cycle of prayer. He explained that the pattern of our daily prayer is derived from scripture and Jewish tradition.

Father Stephen described the progression of the civil celebrations of light and life into the great feasts including Christmas and Theophany which offer Christ to the world as Light and Life. He explained that the traditional Byzantine cycle of prayer leads to the true piety of virtue, justice and truth.

The day of recollection concluded with Divine Liturgy. Concelebrants were the Right Reverends Stephen G. Washko of Phoenix and Francis Vivona, JCL, of Our Lady of Wisdom, Las Vegas assisted by Deacon Stephen Casmus, Our Lady of Wisdom.



*Fellowship among the conference attendees and presenter, Rt. Rev. Stephen G. Washko.*



# 2005 EPARCHIAL CALENDAR

- January 6:** *THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD*  
**January 22-24:** *National Prayer Vigil for Life*, Washington, D.C.
- February 2:** *PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD*  
**February 6-9:** *EASTERN CLERGY OF ARIZONA RETREAT*, Spirit in the Desert, Cave Creek, AZ
- March 4 - 6:** *Deacon Candidates and Wives Retreat*, Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ  
**March 9-10:** *Eastern Catholic Bishop's Meeting*, St. Louis, MO  
**March 12:** *Lenten Day of Renewal and Recollection*, Cathedral of St. Mary, Sherman Oaks, CA  
**March 27:** *PASCHA: Holy Resurrection of Our Lord*
- April 11-13:** *Intereparchial Liturgical Commission Meeting:* Pittsburgh, PA  
**April 22-24:** *Sisters of Saint Basil sponsor LifeQuest: "Holiness is Wholeness"*  
Discernment Weekend for Young Women (ages 18-40) Contact: Sr. Jean Marie (724) 438-8644.  
Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Convent, Wilkes Barre, PA.
- May 10:** *Seminary Advisory Board Meeting*, SS Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA  
**May 11:** *Intereparchial Vocation Directors Meeting*, Pittsburgh, PA  
**May 23-26:** *Eparchy of Van Nuys Clergy Days*, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Albuquerque, NM
- June 16-18:** *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*, Chicago, IL
- July 14-17:** *"Alive in Christ 2005," Ascetical Boot Camp for Byzantine Catholic Young Men* (ages 8-17)  
Upper Nutria, NM, \$70.00. Contact: Reverend Robert Pipta, (858) 277-2511. Registration in April.
- August 4-7:** *Eparchial ByzantEEN Youth Rally*, Camp Brotherhood, Seattle, WA.  
**August 16-23:** *World Youth Day 2005*, (young adults, ages 18-35) Cologne, Germany.

## U.S. Bishops' Charter Audit Study

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops released the Summary Reports of the 2004 Charter Audits of each diocese/eparchy on Friday, February 18, 2005. The Eparchy of Van Nuys passed all articles of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth. All reports can be viewed on the USCCB website: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

In the news conference, Dr. Kathleen McChesney stated, "The crisis of sexual abuse of minors within the Catholic Church is not over." She then went on to say, "What is over is the denial that the problem exists, and what is over is the reluctance of the church to deal openly with the public about the nature and extent of the problem."

The audits tell us that most bishops are implementing all of the provisions of the charter. Dr. McChesney stated that "Compliance with the charter is crucial to providing a pastoral response to persons who report abuse and for abuse prevention."

**Promise to Protect**

**Pledge to Heal**

## TSUNAMI AID

The people of the Eparchy have responded generously to the recent Asian Tsunami disaster. Special parish collections throughout the eparchy in January totalled **\$23,505** in relief funds. A check has been sent from the Eparchy of Van Nuys to Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore for the "Tsunami Emergency Fund."

Thank you for your generosity in responding to the Tsunami disaster. *The Lord bless you and keep you!*

## A Lenten Day of Renewal

**A Day of Renewal** will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Mary, 5329 Sepulveda Boulevard in Sherman Oaks, CA on Sat., March 12, 0:30 am to 7:30 pm.

Bishop William will celebrate the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Liturgy will be preceded by talks, prayer and opportunities for healing and will be followed by dinner.

Donation: \$20.00. For further information contact Very Rev. Mel Rybarczyk, CR, Rector of the Cathedral at (858) 277-2511.

# The Holy and Great Fast 2005

## **Fasting Regulations:**

**Strict Fast** forbids the use of meat, eggs, dairy products and condiments made from animal fats and is observed on Pure Monday—the first day of the Great Fast—(February 7) and on Good Friday (March 25). The use of synthetic substitutes violates the spirit of the Great Fast.

**Simple Fast** forbids the use of meat and meat products and is observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast and on Holy Saturday.

All Byzantine Catholics are to keep the Fast. Infants, expectant and nursing mothers, and those who are seriously ill or in poor health are exempt from the Strict Fast.

For grave and particular reasons, pastors and religious superiors may dispense their subjects of the responsibilities of observing the Strict Fast, but should replace it with another penitential practice.

## **Liturgical Directives:**

### ***Divine Liturgy***

1. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated on the Sundays of Great Fast.
2. Bright vestments, except on the Third Sunday when red is used for the Holy Cross, are used on the Sundays of the Great Fast.
3. On the weekdays of the Great Fast, the celebration of the Divine Liturgy is forbidden.
4. In place of daily Divine Liturgy, one of the Lenten Hours is to be celebrated in each parish.

### ***Liturgy of the Pre Sanctified Gifts***

1. Beginning no earlier than 5:00 PM and no later than 9:00 PM, the Liturgy of the Pre Sanctified Gifts is celebrated on Wednesdays and/or Fridays of the Great Fast.
2. It may also be celebrated on Pure Monday and on the Fifth Thursday of the Great Fast (Andrew of Crete) and is also celebrated on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Great Week.
3. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Great Week it may be celebrated as early as Noon.

### ***All Souls' Saturdays***

The All Souls' Saturdays are to be celebrated with Divine Liturgy on those specific Saturdays with the reading of the Diptychs for the deceased. The reading of the Diptychs or the celebration of the All Souls' Divine Liturgy may not be anticipated on Friday evening.

### ***Good Friday and Feast of the Annunciation (March 25<sup>th</sup>)***

Liturgical Books with instructions for the celebration of this special day will be sent to the parishes.

#### ***PRAYER OF SAINT EPHREM***

***O Lord and Master of my life,  
keep me from the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust of power and idle chatter.***

***Instead, grant to me Your servant,  
the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness, patience and love.***

***O Lord and King, grant me the grace to be aware of my sins and not to judge my brother;  
for You are blessed now and ever, and forever. Amen.***

