

December 29, 2013
Sunday after Christmas
Holy Dormition Friary, Sybertsville, PA
www.hdbfm.com



Icon of the Nativity, Holy Dormition Chapel, Sybertsville

Divine Liturgy – December 29-January 12
with special prayers for:

Sun Dec 29	8am	+ Theodore Chulock
Mon Dec 30	8am	<i>from the unscheduled intentions</i>
Tue Dec 31	8am	+ Mary Ann Wong
Wed Jan 1	8am	++ Homa family
Th Jan 2	8am	++ Kuruc family
Fri Jan 3	no Divine Liturgy – 8am Matins – this is a day of preparation for Theophany	
Sat Jan 4	8am	+ Mildred Roman
	5pm	+ Mary Craver
Sun Jan 5	8am	+ John Machala
Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord		
Mon Jan 6	8am	<i>from the unscheduled intentions</i>
Tue Jan 7	8am	+ Mary Dzamko
Wed Jan 8	8am	+ Michael Dzamko
Th Dec 26	8am	+ Joseph Lauricella
Fri Dec 27	8am	living & deceased of the Howitz family
Sat Dec 28	8am	++ Crofcheck & Blashko families
	5pm	++ Mary & John Skislock
Sun Dec 29	8am	+ Thomas Tomashefski

Confessions: Thursdays 3-4:30pm & 7-7:30pm
Friday January 3 will be the last Friday confession time until February 21.
Please pray for vocations!

Voice of the Week

*We rightfully insist on the importance of conscientious objection but perhaps we, too, need to exercise it as a means of defending ourselves from an unwritten law of our surroundings, which unfortunately is that of gossip. So let us all be conscientious objectors; and mind you, I am not simply preaching! **Gossip is harmful to people, our work and our surroundings.***

—Pope Francis
 Christmas address to members of the Curia

CHRIST IS BORN!
GLORIFY HIM!

CHRISTOS RAZHDAJETSJA!
SLAVITE JEHO!

Holy Innocents

Matthew 2:13-23

*A voice was heard in Ramah, ...
 Rachel, weeping for her children.*

Herod, in his fear of a little newborn child, commands that thousands of baby boys be slaughtered. If it weren't so sad, it would be comical. How can a king be so threatened by a baby?

Christmas is a joyous time, yet the prayers of the Church consistently remind us that the newborn lying in a manger will eventually lie in a tomb for three days. But only for three days!

Too long is the list of prayers of people who are suffering. The flight into Egypt, the holy innocents, are part of the larger story of the life of Jesus: God so loved the world that he even sought to share our sorrow and pain. Rachel, the wife of the patriarch Jacob-Israel, is identified with the people Israel. Jesus, too, identifies with his people. We remember that Jesus weeps at the tomb of his friend, that he cries out for his people.

This time of year, we reflect on the prophet Isaiah's song that "God is With Us!" But God is not here only to bring instant victory and gratification. God shares our sufferings as well. God is present and the holy innocents are slaughtered. God is present and someone close has cancer. God is present and there is trouble at work, at home.

The sign of our faith is not the absence of trouble, but how we recognize and allow for God to be With Us, guiding us to let his Light to shine out into the dark world. Dare we trust?

God so trusted the world that he allowed his Son to be born a small and helpless child, to lie in a manger for there was no room in the inn. This child's Light is so strong that creation cried out, giving birth to a star to guide the wise men to Bethlehem.

The Prince of Peace is born among a people at war. The joy of God is seen in the hearts and lives of those who trust God in their sorrow. **Christ is Born!**

Prayer of the Week

On this day illumined by the Gospel hope which springs from the humble stable of Bethlehem, I invoke the Christmas gift of joy and peace upon all: upon children and the elderly, upon young people and families, the poor and the marginalized. May Jesus, who was born for us, console all those afflicted by illness and suffering; may he sustain those who devote themselves to serving our brothers and sisters who are most in need. Happy Christmas to all!

—Pope Francis, *To the City and the World*
 Christmas, 2013

Verse of the Week

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors. Luke 2:14

Peace to Mankind

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors. (Luke 2:14)

Dear brothers and sisters in Rome and throughout the whole world, Greetings and Happy Christmas!

I take up the song of the angels who appeared to the shepherds in Bethlehem on the night when Jesus was born. It is a song which unites heaven and earth, giving praise and glory to heaven, and the promise of peace to earth and all its people.

I ask everyone to share in this song: it is a song for every man or woman who keeps watch through the night, who hopes for a better world, who cares for others while humbly seeking to do his or her duty.

Glory to God!

Above all else, this is what Christmas bids us to do: give glory to God, for he is good, he is faithful, he is merciful. Today I voice my hope that everyone will come to know the true face of God, the Father who has given us Jesus. My hope is that everyone will feel God's closeness, live in his presence, love him and adore him.

May each of us give glory to God above all by our lives, by lives spent for love of him and of all our brothers and sisters.

Peace to mankind

True peace – we know this well – is not a balance of opposing forces. It is not a lovely “façade” which conceals conflicts and divisions. Peace calls for daily commitment, but making peace is an art, starting from God's gift, from the grace which he has given us in Jesus Christ.

Looking at the Child in the manger, Child of peace, our thoughts turn to those children who are the most vulnerable victims of wars, but we think too of the elderly, to battered women, to the sick... Wars shatter and hurt so many lives!

Too many lives have been shattered in recent times by the conflict in Syria, fueling hatred and vengeance. Let us continue to ask the Lord to spare the beloved Syrian people further suffering, and to enable the parties in conflict to put an end to all violence and guarantee access to humanitarian aid. **We have seen how powerful prayer is!** And I am happy today too, that the followers of different religious confessions are joining us in our prayer for peace in Syria. Let us never lose the courage of prayer! The courage to say: Lord, grant your peace to Syria and to the whole world. And I also invite non-believers to desire peace with that yearning that makes the heart grow: all united, either by prayer or by desire. But all of us, for peace.

Grant peace, dear Child, to the Central African Republic, often forgotten and overlooked. Yet you, Lord, forget no one! And you also want to bring peace to that land, torn apart by a spiral of violence and poverty, where so many people are homeless, lacking water, food and the bare necessities of life. Foster social

harmony in South Sudan, where current tensions have already caused too many victims and are threatening peaceful coexistence in that young state.

Prince of Peace, in every place turn hearts aside from violence and inspire them to lay down arms and undertake the path of dialogue. Look upon Nigeria, rent by constant attacks which do not spare the innocent and defenseless. Bless the land where you chose to come into the world, and grant a favourable outcome to the peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians. Heal the wounds of the beloved country of Iraq, once more struck by frequent acts of violence.

Lord of life, protect all who are persecuted for your name. Grant hope and consolation to the displaced and refugees, especially in the Horn of Africa and in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Grant that migrants in search of a dignified life may find acceptance and assistance. May tragedies like those we have witnessed this year, with so many deaths at Lampedusa, never occur again!

Child of Bethlehem, touch the hearts of all those engaged in human trafficking, that they may realize the gravity of this crime against humanity. Look upon the many children who are kidnapped, wounded and killed in armed conflicts, and all those who are robbed of their childhood and forced to become soldiers.

Lord of heaven and earth, look upon our planet, frequently exploited by human greed and rapacity. Help and protect all the victims of natural disasters, especially the beloved people of the Philippines, gravely affected by the recent typhoon.

Dear brothers and sisters, today, in this world, in this humanity, is born the Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. Let us

pause before the Child of Bethlehem. Let us allow our hearts to be touched, let us not fear this. Let us not fear that our hearts be moved. We need this! Let us allow ourselves to be warmed by the tenderness of God; we need his caress. God's caresses do not harm us. They give us peace and strength. We need his caresses. God is full of love: to him be praise and glory forever! God is peace: let us ask him to help us to be peacemakers each day, in our life, in our families, in our cities and nations, in the whole world. Let us allow ourselves to be moved by God's goodness. ■

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From our Provincial Minister, Fr John Puodziunas, OFM:

Divine Love is knocking at our doors at times unexpected, when it is inconvenient for us ... the same as it knocked 2,000 years ago. Can we find the room and offer the place for Divine Love to enter anew into our lives and the places where we live? In this way Christmas becomes more than gifts, cards, decorations, and a fine meal. It is no longer about us but about the Incarnation ... **unto us a child is born!**

Christmas Letter to the Friars, 2013

