

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST



Icon of the Call of Nathaniel

Persistence in Sharing Faith

An ancient Arab folk-saying states that camels should be kept away from one's tent. For once a camel gets its head into the tent, the rest of the animal quickly follows. The beast's persistence is proverbial. We have experienced salespersons of the same ilk: The slightest hesitation rather than a firm "no" is always taken as permission to press harder. Once again, persistence is the key to success.

Jesus, without being pushy or rude, shows a similar sort of persistence as He deals with Nathanael. He has no credentials to present and maybe even a hometown reputation to live down. The miraculous vision under the tree is impressive enough – and so is the deep knowledge of the person that Jesus is capable of achieving. The miracle and the personal qualities – and Jesus' persistence – combine to overcome prejudice and scorn, and so win

another follower. Bartholomew, called Nathanael in our Gospel passage, is an apostle who carried on Jesus' persistence in his own labors. He pushed forward with the gospel (according to tradition) towards Ethiopia, perhaps even India. The travels of many of the apostles became legendary, and these legends embody a persistent spirit and vast energy.

The Gospel incident underlines the importance of these qualities as we attempt to share our faith with others. We might sometimes feel like camels who can't find the opening in the tent. Our overtures are politely (or not so politely) turned down. Our efforts are interpreted as intrusions. At these times of discouragement, we would do well to remember how Bartholomew was convinced: not only by miracles or promises of angels, but by the persistence of Jesus.



Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church

Hurst Street at Union Avenue
Post Office Box 126
Bridgeport, Pennsylvania 19405

"Slava Isusoo Khristoo!"
"Glory to Jesus Christ!"

Feb. 26, 2012
The Second Week

WE ARE NOW ENTERING the second week of the Great Fast (Lent), as we make our annual pilgrimage to the Promised Land of Easter Sunday and the Resurrection of Our Lord. We are instructed to fast from all meat every Friday, attend the Holy Services every week and perform acts of charity for our neighbor during this sacred season of preparation for Easter Sunday.

OUR SPECIAL SERVICES for the Great Fast include the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Friday at 6 pm and our lenten remembrance of our dear deceased with our Panachyda Prayer every Saturday morning at 8 am. Please remember to give Father a list of your family's deceased, so that he can include them by name Saturday morning.

OUR SUNDAY MORNINGS WITH FATHER adult education session is all set for this Sunday at 10:10 am in the School Lounge. Our topic will be our personal experience with fasting and praying during the Great Fast ("Velyky Pist"). Come and share your story with us Sunday. We will have coffee-tea-sweets plus some great prizes for all!

2011 DONATION STATEMENTS can now be obtained for your tax purposes. Simply give your name to the ushers and Fr. Pastor will prepare a sealed and confidential statement for you by the following week.

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS are now learning the ancient art of coloring/painting Ukrainian Easter eggs, so be sure that your young ones are in Sunday School this Sunday. Our sacred mission, yours and Fr. Pastor's, is to teach our children, so be a part of our educational ministry and bring your children and grandchildren to Sunday School.

A BIG THANK-YOU goes out to Jack Strouse and his crew for preparing our church grounds for spring planting. God bless all these good fellows with health and happiness "for many years".

TO BE BAPTIZED AND CHRISMATED SATURDAY: Maximilian Garnett, son of Sean and Michele (Cain) Garnett, Jeffersonville, PA. We all pray that our Loving Lord Jesus will bless this little lad and all his family with health, much love and joy "for many good years".

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm For all the Faithful
Sunday, 9 am +Walter Paul (The Glowa-Cienki Family)
Thursday, 7 am +Peter Boychuck (The Danko Family)
Friday, 6 pm +John, Michael, George, Steven (The Dudas Family)
Saturday, 8 am Health of Irene Dychdala
Saturday, 6 pm For all the Faithful
Sunday, 9 am +George Dychdala (The Plush Family)

TODAY'S TROPAR: O Good One Christ, we honor Your most pure Icon, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ God. You ascended the Cross to free from the slavery of the Evil One all those You created. And so we cry out in thanks: "O Savior, by coming to save the world, You filled us all with great joy." GLORY BE TO...

TODAY'S KONTAK: The Indescribable Word of the Father, Christ, became manifest in you, O Mother of God, by the Incarnation. And Christ restored our defiled image to its former beauty by His Holy splendor. We declare all this indeed by seeking our salvation.

TODAY'S PROKIMEN: O Lord, God of our fathers, blessed are You. Your Holy Name is praised and glorified forever.