

"The Fruit of the Spirit..." Galatians 5:22

The Fruit Basket

Love • Joy • Peace • Goodness • Kindness • Faith • Patience • Temperance • Gentleness

Volume V, Number 12 *A friendly Orthodox Christian 'Zine* DECEMBER 2010

BE JOYFUL, O EARTH!

Let creation exceedingly rejoice,
For the Creator fashions Himself as a creature.
And He who was before all things
now manifests Himself as God newly revealed.
Let the wise men go to meet Him with their gifts;
Let the shepherds clap their hands in faith at the wonder;
and let mortal men join the angels with rejoicing.¹

Be Joyful, O earth!
Behold, Christ draws near to be born in Bethlehem.
Be glad, O sea!
And dance for joy, O company of prophets,
For today you behold the fulfillment of your words.
Rejoice, all you righteous!

Let the kings of the whole earth sing with rejoicing,
And let the nations be in exceeding joy!
Mountains, hills, and valleys,
Rivers, seas and the whole of creation:
Magnify the Lord who now is born.

Rejoice, O Virgin,
The Theotokos who of the Holy Spirit
Has borne Life into the world
For the salvation of all!²

¹*Compline of the final day of the prefeast of the Nativity, December 24.*

²*Matins of the final day of the prefeast of the Nativity, December 24.*

THE FRUIT BASKET

Edited and published monthly
by An Orthodox Christian

The goal of this publication is to provide a friendly, light, Orthodox Christian 'Zine (a mini-magazine) that contains a blend of "something to exercise our minds, something to make us laugh, and something to make us meditate on spiritual matters." It is also a venue for sharing our insights and interests.

Articles or comments from our readers are welcome. We reserve the right to edit for suitability, clarity and space. Printing of items does not imply endorsement by the church or the priest or even the editor of this publication. Please call if you need more info.

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We got mail...

Hello!

Many thanks for the Fruit Basket. I have saved a year of them and find I still like to look at them. I think and I smile. The selection of items is perfect. They can be looked at again and again.

Love, Helen H.

*Thank you, Helen. Your comments are much appreciated.
I love to get feedback!*

The Editor

*May the Light of Christ shine brightly
in your hearts this Christmas season
and always.*

MEDITATION FOR DECEMBER

Watch for good times to retreat into yourself. Frequently meditate on how good God is to you.—*Thomas aKempis*

*Lord, help me find time to focus on
You—the reason for this wonderful
season. Amen.*

the Bless Your Heart Each New Day Calendar donated by Kathy Z, of Parma

THE WINTER PASCHA

Readings for the Christmas-Epiphany Season

by Thomas Hopko

ISBN 0-88141-025-X

St Vladimir's Seminary Press,

575 Scarsdale Rd., Crestwood, NY 10707

1-800-204-2665

The excerpts from the above book will be continued in this issue in preparation for the feast of the Nativity.

There are many chapters in the book and due to lack of space only a few could be included and those are much reduced by omitting the beautiful hymns and Bible passages and some of the other text. To get the full impact one would need to read the whole book and not just pieces here and there. It is hoped that the included parts will be of interest to those of you who wish to make preparation for the Nativity more meaningful, and perhaps will whet your appetite to get and read the whole book. It is well worth reading at any time of the year, not only during preparation for Christmas.

The Editor



Christ is born! Glorify Him!



THE WINTER PASCHA (*Excerpts continued*)

13. The Faith of the Three Young Men

During the prefeast season of Christmas the church celebrates the memory of many of the Hebrew prophets. Especially commemorated are the prophet Daniel and his companions Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, the three Hebrew youths who refused to worship the idol of King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon and were thrown into a fiery furnace.

Not only is there the celebration of these Hebrew youths together with Daniel eight days before the feast of the Nativity, but their story is remembered and hymned on the two Sundays before Christmas which are dedicated to the memory of all the righteous of the Old Covenant who prepared the coming of Christ. In addition, the story is read in its entirety, together

with the recitation of their prayer before entering the flames, at the vigil of the Lord's Pascha of the Cross and Resurrection in the spring. And at every Lord's Day vigil throughout the entire church year, the young men are hymned in the seventh and eighth odes of the resurrectional



canons at matins and their canticle is prescribed to be sung.

The story of the three young men is critically important for many reasons, chief of which is their uncompromising faith in the one true God, the Lord of Israel, and their testimony to what genuine faith in God must be.

Nowadays there are many, even among Christians, who say that to have genuine faith in God is to make claims on the Lord, to be assured of His actions on behalf of the earthly well-being of His people and to

count on His deliverance in very human ways. They say that those who do not express their faith in this way are actually weak in faith, doubting the divine promises of the Lord. But such an attitude, sometimes referred to as the “name it and claim it” approach to faith in God, has nothing in common with the faith of the three holy children.

The three young men did not claim that the true God would save them from death in the flames. They surely believed that He could, but they did not insist that He would! Just the contrary. They bore witness to the fact that their God does whatever He wants. It was none of their business what He would or would not do. They trusted their God in everything. If it was His will to deliver them, they were ready for that. But if it was His will that they should perish in the flames, they were ready for that as well! For they believed that whatever God did, He was still the God in whom they could trust for their ultimate victory. And no matter what God did, they still, under whatever circumstances, would not worship the idol that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. In a word, according to the witness of the three young men, real faith and genuine trust in God makes no deals and no claims. It is completely and totally ready, as was shown supremely in Jesus, to accept whatever the Father wills and provides, knowing that His faithful ones will never be put to shame. Only such faith can change fire into dew and deliver from death.

The three young men in the Babylonian furnace remain forever the witnesses of the faith in the true God. They prefigure, in their total obedience, the trust of Him who “in the days of His flesh...offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard for His godly fear.”

This is Jesus, who “although He was a Son,...learned obedience through what He suffered; and being made perfect...became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...” (Heb 5:7-9). This is the only faith worthy of those who serve the living God who saves the world through the shameful death of His royal Son. ☩



☩ *Christ is born! Glorify Him!* ☩

14 THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

Two Sundays before the celebration of Christmas, the Orthodox Church rejoices in the festival of the holy forefathers of the Old Covenant, including those who came before the giving of the Law. They foretold the coming of the Messiah and are redeemed by His saving Pascha.

Together with the canon of the Nativity of Christ the songs of the liturgical services of the day sing of Noah, Samson, Barak, Jephthah, Nathan, Eleazar, Josiah, Job, Samuel, David, and his son Solomon, Elijah and all the prophets, including Daniel and the three holy children. It sings also of the holy women made “strong in the days of old by the might of Your strength, O Lord: Hannah, Judith and Deborah; Hulda, Jael, Esther and Sarah; Miriam the sister of Moses; Rachel, Rebecca and Ruth, the noble-minded ones.” It sings, in a word, of all of the righteous of the Old Covenant times, men and women, Hebrews and Non-Hebrews, who found life in God and so as the epistle reading of the day proclaims and as the Church believes, “will appear with Him in glory” when “Christ who is our life appears” (Col 3:4).

The life of the righteous fathers and mothers of ancient days, like that of all God’s saints, is Christ. God’s holy people live for Him alone, for the living God and for His Word. Their reason for being is to praise God, not only in words but in deeds, and so to live.

There is a great difference between *existing* and *living*. Many people exist. Very few really live. Only those who seek God have life. Only those who delight in His commandments and rejoice in accomplishing His will pass beyond mere existence and actually find life. “Seek God, and your soul shall live” (Ps 69:32, LXX). This is the cry of the psalmist David. His exhortation is in perfect harmony with the words of God given to Moses in His revelation of the divine Law. (Deut 30:15-20)

The holy forefathers and mothers, together with all their descendants, have chosen life. They find it in God’s Messiah, Jesus Christ, who is Life itself, God’s incarnate Word. The celebration of the Winter Pascha is a celebration of Life in God’s Word. For “Christ who is our life” has already appeared (Col 3:4). We have “beheld His glory” (Jn 1:14). Now that glory is hidden in the “form of a slave” (Phil 2:7), but it will be revealed at the end of the ages in power for those who “have loved his appearing” and “live in Him” (2 Tim 4:8; Col 2:6).

15 THE SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

The Sunday before the feast of Christ's Nativity the Church celebrates the memory of the men and women who believed in the true God and prepared for the coming of His Son and Word in human flesh. The day is a celebration of their faith and an affirmation that it has found its perfection and fulfillment in God's promised Savior who is Jesus Christ the Lord.


[Please see Hebrews 11:1-40 and 12 for reference for this chapter.]

The epistle reading at this Sunday's liturgy is taken from the letter to the Hebrews, where the faith of those who came before Christ is noted and praised.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval...”

The letter to the Hebrews lists those who sought the Lord, and demonstrates that their actions were inspired by their faith...

“...who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions...became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life....They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy...And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.” (Heb 11:32-40)

It is an amazing teaching. Those who did such wonderful things, who endured such afflictions and sufferings, ...were nevertheless not made perfect apart from us despite the greatness of their faith. For their faith was in the One who has acted in our time in fulfillment of the promises first made to them, and then through them to us, their spiritual children. Since this is so, we must imitate their faith, acquire their courage, and embody their power, so that we can in turn become the inheritors of their blessings. This is the crucial message of the Sunday dedicated to their memory. 

 *Christ is born! Glorify Him!* 

18. CHRIST COMES TO RESTORE THE IMAGE

Human beings, male and female, are made in the image and according to the likeness of God. (Gen 1:26-27; 5:1-2) This is a fundamental doctrine of the Judeo-Christian worldview. It means that we humans are not simply the product of our heredity and environment.... We human beings are human because our fundamental and essential property is to be the most perfect created expressions of God's being and life. We are made to be "imitators of God" and "partakers of the divine nature" (Eph 5:1; 2 Pet 1:4).

To be made in the image and likeness of God is to be both a spiritual and a material being....It is, in a word, as all of the orthodox Christian saints have taught, to be able to be by God's grace and good will absolutely everything that God Himself is by nature.

God is a living God, and we are made also to live...God is peaceful and joyful, kind and compassionate, powerful and gentle—and that is the way that we too are to be. God lives forever and never dies, and we also are made to be immortal....We can carry on the connections endlessly; they apply in every case. Whatever God is, we are made by Him to become. And most important of all, God is Love (1 Jn 4:8, 16) And we His creatures are made by Him also to be Love. To love all things which He loves and to love Him first of all!

The cause of all sadness and sorrow is that human beings have failed to be—and therefore endlessly [have failed]to become—what God has made them to be. In the ultimate sense, they have failed to love. This is the meaning of the sin of Adam and Eve in the Bible. Human beings use their godlike natures and employ their godlike energies for evil instead of good...They corrupt their being, distorting the divine image within them and losing their likeness to God.

Orthodox Christians affirm that Jesus Christ has come to restore God's image and likeness in human beings. He enabled them to be what they were created to be in the beginning. Jesus does this, not simply because He is God's only-begotten Son and Word, but because He is also "the image of the invisible God" (*Col 1:15; 2 Cor 4:4*). Those who see Jesus, as He Himself has said, see God the Father. (*Jn 14:8-9*)

Christ restores the image of God in human beings, being Himself God's uncreated and eternal image, by becoming a real human being, the "last" and "final" Adam, the man from Heaven.(1 Cor 15:45-49)

As the second and final Adam, Jesus does everything that the first and original Adam was called—but failed—to do. He obeys God. He honors His Name. He delights in His Presence. He adores His Divinity. He gives thanks for His gifts. He speaks His words. He does His works. He accomplishes His will. And so He fulfills Himself in a human manner as one made in God’s image and likeness. But being the Son of God Himself, God’s uncreated Image and word, His accomplishment extends to all human beings and is made fully and freely available to all people. “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Cor 15:22) for Adam himself was just “a type of the One who was to come” (Rom 5:14). This is Jesus.

“But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the effect of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift of righteousness brings life through the one man Jesus Christ. (Rom 5:15-17)

This is the message of Christmas. There is a new Adam. There is a restored image of God. It is the restored image of the Image Himself, God’s Son and Word, Jesus Christ. In Him humankind has found its fulfillment and perfection. In Him human beings can live. In Him all people can complete themselves as creatures made to be by God’s grace all that God Himself is by nature. In Him all people can be human. ☩



☩ *Christ is born! Glorify Him!* ☩

(18 continued)



Prepare, O Bethlehem,
For Eden has been opened to all.
Adorn yourself, O Ephratha,
For the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave.
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the fruit divine;
If we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.
Christ is coming to restore the image which He made in the beginning.⁴

The Creator, the Wisdom of God, draws near,
The mist of the prophets' promise is dispersed.
Joy clears the skies,
Truth is resplendent,
The dark shadows are dispelled,
The gates of Eden are opened,
Adam dances in exultation:
Our Creator and God wills to fashion us anew.⁵

You partook of human flesh, O Christ,
Offspring of the seed of Abraham,
You came to give grace upon grace,
Restoring Your image
And freeing us from corruption.
For the Father has sent You, the only-begotten son,
As atonement for the world.⁶

O Lord my God,
I will sing You a birthday song,
A hymn on the prefeast,
For by Your Nativity You give me a divine rebirth,
And lead me up to my first perfection.⁷

⁴ Troparion of the prefeast of the Nativity

⁵ Matins of second day of the prefeast of the Nativity, December 21.

⁶ Compline of the third day of the prefeast of the Nativity, Dec. 22

⁷ Compline of the eve of the Nativity

25 GOD IS WITH US

God is with us! Understand all nations, and submit yourselves,
For God is with us!

...

To us a Son is given.

And the government shall be upon His shoulder,
And of His peace there will be no end.

And His name shall be called the Angel of the Great Council;
Wonderful; Counsellor; The mighty God, the Everlasting father;
The Prince of peace; The Father of the world to come!

(Is 8:9-10, 17-18; 9:2, 6-7 LXX)

When Christ appears on earth, God is truly with us, all of us; not only with the Jews but with the gentiles, not only with the Orthodox Christians and Christians generally but with all people, including those who do not ask for Him and do not seek Him. All people and nations are called to understand this and to submit to it, not for God's sake but for their own. It is their honor not their humiliation. It is their dignity, not their degradation. It is their freedom, not their enslavement. It is their very life.

This is the message of the Winter Pascha. God is with us on earth. He is in our very midst as the man Jesus, whose name is Emmanuel. He has revealed His unknowable, inconceivable, ineffable, invisible nature in the most tangible way; as the Child who is born for us, as the Son who is given to us. To understand this and to submit to it is man's greatest glory and joy.

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
And the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
The wise men journey with a star;
Since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a little Child!³



³ *Kontakion for the feast of Nativity*



Christ is born! Glorify Him!



WORD SEARCH FOR DECEMBER

L W T M B K T Y G M K R R E O T E L T S I M X
D S T N I C H O L A S O R N A M E N T S B B L
M R R N N E H P E T S R Y T R A M O T O R P M
F R O B Z N A N N A T S S U O E T H G I R E A
H J R L N J V W R R V G C L M Y D N F C R X R
M N D H R F Y T I V I T A N F O E V E R V B T
X D T Y R U Q M N K E K H M N Q L P Y C D A Y
R W K L X R O L G V B Y R R N M T C H T S N R
V O C L X T M F E K V Z O Z H R H Q R I T A A
R R A J I Z P S O E E B N R C R L R L N F I N
F C B S W G R P N Y S K T K I R M Y R S I L A
F L H Y T A H H G I T P A S T I N L N E G U S
C Z Z R E G E T T D P I T C H T E K Y L V J T
X G P Y I R O S S W K M V Y T I L Z N R B R A
Y L W L M S I O P R A L F I N I L H O L L Y S
K E F A P R T R S S K I L A T P U D M G K T I
N W N D H C P M T E R N D T D A L R L C T R A
C R D C S M M L A O F T F E F F N L F T Q A B
O R D X L P R B L S E X C Z X Z R L W W N M M
O Z P C O Q G G B H E E C H R I S T M A S K D
K C R G R Y J G P P M V T Z R Z T R R W B F X
I W K Y A B M O W B T J E M R N W P Q K K K M
E B D H C T R J E T M W L V Q F X T L M K J P
S T L G W P T R M Z D L Q P M J B Y J W N T T

*Lord , keep Your arm around my shoulder—
and Your hand over my mouth!
from Augie's Scrapbook*



WORD SEARCH LIST FOR DECEMBER

Carols	Martyr Anastasia	Tinsel
Christ is born	Martyr Juliana	Ven
Christmas	Merry Christmas	Herman
Christmas Eve	Mistletoe	
Cookies	Nativity of our Lord	
December	New Years eve	
Eve of Nativity	Ornaments	
Fruitcake	Prophet Daniel	
Gifts	Protomartyr Stephen	
Glorify Him	Righteous St Anna	
Holly	Roast goose	
Lights	St Nicholas	



BIBLE BRAIN WORKOUT FOR DECEMBER

391. Where do we read of a woman plucking down her house with her own hands?
392. When did God threaten to smite a multitude of horses with blindness?
393. Where is it prophesied that trees shall clap their hands?
394. Where are Christians bidden to provoke one another?
395. Which king caused eighty-five priests to be massacred in a single day?
396. Where do we read about a person who came in eager haste, but went away grieved?
397. Who declared that the Lord hated them?
398. What animal is said to move his tail like a cedar?
399. Where is a man bidden to drink water out of his own cistern?
400. Which is the only book in the Bible that mentions “a pair of shoes”?

Answers on page 19

How did you score? A+ Bible Scholar 6 or more Correct ;

A Superior 5 +correct; B+ Pretty good 3+ correct: C Fair

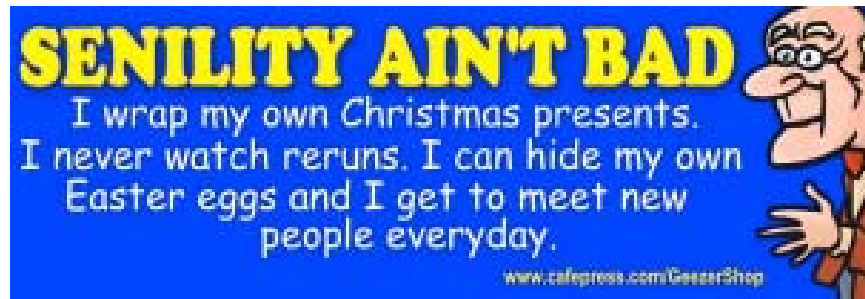
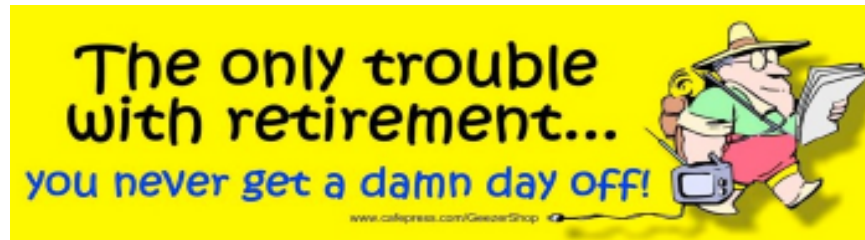
2+ correct; Less than 2, an opportunity to make reading the Bible daily a wonderful habit!



Christ is born! Glorify Him!



SENIOR BUMPER STICKERS



CRYPTOGRAM CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER

The following message is written in code using regular letters. Your task is to figure out which real letters the code letters stand for.

IRX ZLXXTRAQ EJTKT UIZ UHEJ

EJT IRWTA I BLAEHELXT CP

JTINTRAQ JCZE GKIHZHRW WCX

IRX ZIQHRW:WACKQ EC WCX HR

EJT JHWJTZE, IRX CR TIKEJ

GTIOT, WCCXUHAA ECUIKX BTR!

To make this more of a challenge cover up or have somebody cross out some or even all of the Cheat Chart!!!

CHEAT CHART--IT GIVES YOU SOME OF THE LETTERS.

<u>REAL LETTERS</u>	<u>e i g n h r s l</u>
CODE LETTERS	T H W R J K Z A

Tougher Challenge for the Whiz Kids!

DCLPLMXPL DCL QXPU CAYVLQM

HAQQ ZAFI IXT N VAZS;KLCXQU, DCL



FAPZAS VCNQQ WXS WLAFI NSU KLNQ

N VXS, NSU IXT VCNQQ WNQQ CAV

SNYL AYYNSTLQ. —AVNANC 7

Q=I

See page 19 for additional clues if you really need them.

 *Christ is born! Glorify Him!* 

ARE WE REALLY THAT OLD?

I'm better off than Howdy Doody anyway...

Paul Anka



Now 68



Captain and Tenille



Now 67

Now 69



David Nelson



Now 73

*Submitted
by Kathy B*



**Howdy
Doody**



Now 75

What Can We Do to Change Our Experience of Christmas?

A. Make a list of the “tasks” you must do surrounding Christmas:

1. Put a check next to the things you enjoy doing
2. Put an “x” next to the things you do not enjoy doing
3. Involve others in the family in the enjoyable tasks.

B. Schedule more of what you enjoy doing.

1. A trip to the theater, “*A Christmas Carol*” or ballet, *The Nutcracker*
2. Caroling to the sick in a nursing home.
3. Cutting down the tree and decorating the house
4. Spiritual celebrations
5. Baking cookies, making candy

C. Make a list of all those you give gifts to and re-evaluate it.

1. Can you give a gift to the whole family instead of every member?
2. Can you lower the amount given to each person?
3. Can you donate to a charity instead?

D. Decide for yourself about the meaning of the season

1. Don’t let Hallmark or the TV dictate it.
2. When you decide the meaning of the season, think of ways to bring out that meaning and make those activities a priority for you and your family.

E. Increase your good deeds

1. Welcome the lonely into your family.
2. Christmas time is a difficult time for many people—those without families, the lonely, the recently bereaved. What can you do to ease them over the Christmas season?

F. Enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas.

1. Watch good Christmas time programming
2. Read holiday stories together.
3. Make time to be with the children—it is easy to allow the busyness of preparations to take over.
4. Bring the sounds: CD’s of Christmas music.
5. Bring the smells: the evergreen tree or boughs, the spice of cookies and fruitcake, the scent of candles or potpourri.

*Remember the Reason for the Season
is Emmanuel—God with us—Jesus*

Submitted by Barbara Shepard



Christ is born! Glorify Him!



THE BOTTLE OF WINE

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. She stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car. Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk but the old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

“What in bag?” asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said,
“It’s a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband.”

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said: “Good trade.”

Son: ‘Mum, when I was on the bus with Dad this morning, he told me to give up my seat to a lady.’

Mom: ‘Well, you have done the right thing.’

Son: ‘But mum, I was sitting on daddy’s lap.’



Points to Ponder

- 🔔 Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
- 🔔 Why is the 3rd hand on the watch called a second hand?
- 🔔 If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
- 🔔 Why do we say something is “out of whack”? What is whack?
- 🔔 Why does “slow down” and “slow up” mean the same thing?
- 🔔 Why is it called “after dark” when it is really “after Light”?
- 🔔 Doesn’t “expecting the unexpected” make the unexpected expected?
- 🔔 Christmas—What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

submitted by Helen C.

BIBLE BRAIN WORKOUT answers for DECEMBER

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 391. Proverbs 14:1 | 396. Mark 10:17-22 |
| 392. Zechariah 12:4 | 397. Deuteronomy 1:27 |
| 393. Isaiah 55:12 | 398. Job 40:15-17 |
| 394. Hebrews 10:24 | 399. Proverbs 5:15 |
| 395. 1 Samuel 22:18 | 400. Amos 2:6 and 8:6 |

More WHY WOMEN LIVE LONGER THAN MEN



I can cut it down AND load it on the truck!!

Golden Rules for Living:

- 1. If you open it, close it.*
- 2. If you turn it on, turn it off.*
- 3. If you unlock it, lock it up*
- 4. If you break it, admit it.*
- 5. If you can't fix it, call someone who can.*
- 6. If you borrow it, return it.*
- 7. If you value it, take care of it.*

*From Augie's Scrapbook
submitted by Augie*



S=n A=i

 *Christ is born! Glorify Him!* 

THE FRUIT BASKET

18893 Howe Road
Strongsville, OH 44136



Sunshine Greetings from

St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral



CALENDAR for DECEMBER

- 6 St Nicholas the Wonderworker
- 9 Conception by Righteous Anna
of the Theotokos
- 13 Ven. Herman of Alaska Wonderworker
- 17. Daniel and the three young men
- 24 Eve of Nativity
- 25 Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
- 26 Synaxis of the Most-Holy Theotokos
- 27 Protomartyr Stephen
- 29 14,000 Holy Innocents