



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

714 Westmoreland Avenue

PO Box 3

Slickville, PA 15684-0003

[724] 468-5581

www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org

Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor

23 Station Street

Carnegie, PA 15106-3014

[412] 279-5640 home

[412] 956-6626 cell

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Metropolitan Constantine, Patriarch Pavle, Metropolitan Theodosius, Bishop Robert, Father Peter Natishan, Father Gerald Olszewski, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Dragan Filipović, Father Elias Katras, Father Stevo Rocknage, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Michael Mihalick [MS], Father Gregory [Wolfenden], Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Charles Mezzomo, Ollie Pendylshok, Walt & Evelyn Burlack, Joshua Agosto and his family, Harley Katarina Rahuba, Mike and Hilda Holupka, Eva Malesnick, Helen Likar, Stella Peanoske, Joe Nezolyk, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Maria Balo, Linda Mechtly, Mary Mochnick, Mary Pekich, Mildred Manolovich, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Sandy Gamble, Glen Lucas Burlack, Bernie Vangrin, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Stella Cherepko, Sam Wadrose, Cameron [a boy in Matt's class], Faith—a 7-year-old girl with rheumatoid arthritis, Isabella Olivia Lindgren—a 3-year-old with a brain tumor, Dillon, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Nick Malec [Maxine's brother], Erin, Jim Markovich, Jeff Walewski [thyroid cancer], Carol [Lotinski] Rose, Michael Miller, Dave May, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Alverta, Gary Zurasky, Michael Horvath, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Rita Very & family, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Mildred Walters, Michael Miller, Mike Pelchar [Liz's brother], Jim Logue—throat cancer, Liz Stumpf, Ester Tylavsky, Ed Jamison, Theodore Nixon, Charles Johnson, Amy Forbeck, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Gloria Prymak [Liz's niece], Robert Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, Sabrina, George & Mika Rocknage, Elizabeth Mitchell, Robert McKivitz, Cliff Dow, Marjorie Pershing, Amy Kemerer, Tom Marriott, Joe Farkas, Liz Obradovich, Liz, Helen Pytlak, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Mary Ann, Charlotte, Peter Natishan, Michael Spak, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, and Daria Masur. **ARNOLD:** Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, Homer Paul Kline, and Steve Ostaffy. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR NOVEMBER BABIES: Amy Zerebnick on the 4th, Father Bob on the 7th, and Stella E. Cherepko on the 28th. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years!

We hope you remembered to set your clock BACK one hour last night!

Please remember especially in your prayers: Walter Burlack & Liz Obradovich.

Please remember David Weaver in Mosul, James John Logue assigned to Iraq, Matthew Machak, and ALL American servicemen and women in the Middle East in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American servicemen and women—and bring them all home safely!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR “BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION” AND CAMPBELL’S SOUP LABELS TO CHURCH. There is a shoebox in the basement for Alex’s Sixth Grade and Matt’s Fourth Grade collections. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP! Love, ALEX AND MATT

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please call Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

Schedule of Services

Sunday, November 2 **Divine Liturgy** **10:30 AM**
20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, GREAT-MARTYR ARTEMIUS AT ANTIOCH, MARTYRS EBORAS & EUNOUS OF PERSIA, SAINT MATRONA OF CHOIS, MARTYR ZEBINAS OF CAESAREA IN PALESTINE, RIGHTEOUS ARTEMIUS OF VERKOLSK, SAINT GERASMIU THE NEW-ASCETIC OF CEPHALONIA, NEW-MARTYR IGNATIUS OF MOUNT ATHOS

Tone 3
Galatians 1:11-19
Luke 16:19-31

Litany in Blessed Memory of John Lapushansky Harry Bunio, Anna Lotinski, & Julia Golofski—Fr. Bob

Sunday, November 9 **Divine Liturgy** **10:30 AM**
21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, MARTYR NESTOR OF THESSALONICA, MARTYRS CAPITOLINA & EROIS OF CAPPADOCIA, MARTYR MARK OF THASOS & THOSE WITH HIM, VENERABLE NESTOR THE CHRONICLER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA, VENERABLE NESTOR OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA, UNCOVERING OF RELICS OF SAINT ANDREW-PRINCE OF SMOLENSK, SAINT CYRIACUS-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE, PROCLA-WIFE OF PONTIUS PILATE

Tone 4
Galatians 2:16-20
Luke 8:26-39

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Charles Yakim—Ollie Pendlyshok

Sunday, November 16

Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, MARTYRS ACEPSIMAS-BISHOP, JOSEPH-PRESBYTER, & AEITHALAS-DEACON OF PERSIA, DEDICATION OF CHURCH OF GREAT-MARTYR GEORGE IN LYDDA, MARTYRS ATTICUS, AGAPIUS, EUDOXIUS, CARTERIUS, ISTUCARIUS, PAXCTOBIUS, & NICTOPOLION AT SEBASTE, VENERABLE ACEPSIMUS-HERMIT OF CYRRHUS IN SYRIA, VENERABLE SNADULIA OF PERSIA, SAINT ELIAS OF EGYPT, SAINT ACEMONIDIES-CONFESSOR OF PERSIA, BLESSED ANNA-DAUGHTER OF PRINCE VSEVOLOD I YAROSLAVICH

Tone 5

Galatians 6:11-18

Luke 8:41-56

Litany in Blessed Memory of All Deceased Veterans

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 02 NOVEMBER 2008

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GREAT-MARTYR ARTEMIUS AT ANTIOCH, MARTYRS EBORAS & EUNOUS OF PERSIA, SAINT MATRONA OF CHIOS, MARTYR ZEBINAS OF CAESAREA IN PALESTINE, RIGHTEOUS ARTEMIUS OF VERKOLSK, SAINT GERASIMUS THE NEW-ASCETIC OF CEPHALONIA, NEW-MARTYR IGNATIUS OF MOUNT ATHOS

TROPARION—TONE 3

Let the Heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!
He has trampled down death by death!

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
And has granted the world great mercy!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One!
Leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
With the prophets and patriarchs
They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 3

READER: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

READER: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

PEOPLE: **Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

READER: Sing praises to our God, sing praises!

PEOPLE: **Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 3

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!

"In the final analysis of all these things, Our God and Lord, due to His strong love for His creation,"...and this is the key: strong great love, burning love. The Greek word is pathos. He gave His Son to a death on the cross. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son to suffer death for it. (cf. John 3:16) This was not because God could not save us in a different way, but because this was the way that God found to show and teach us His immense love. Our mind cannot grasp this! He touched us; He drew near to us through the death of His Son to show us how much He loves us! He loves us exceedingly and if He had something even more precious than this He would have given it to us. All this was accomplished so our human race could find its way back to Him, to draw near to Him. And because of His great love, He did not wish to bind our freedom. Even though He could do this, He chooses to let us come to Him in the spirit of love. All these things my friends express the mystery behind those things that "must" take place. With this solution the love of God is made obvious. At the same time, the freedom of the individual is preserved! God is truly Wonderful! These two elements, freedom and love, espoused and working together in the life of the faithful individual will give birth to holiness. This is the holiness that we need to enter the Kingdom of God.

From the 100 homilies on the book of the Revelation by +Archimandrite Athanasios Mitilinaios—translated by Constantine Zalalas

From St. Cyril of Alexandria (Cyril of Alexandria: The Early Church Fathers; Routledge pg. 118):

"...anyone who receives the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ and drinks His precious blood, as He Himself says, comes to be one with Him, mixed and mingled with Him, as it were, through partaking of Him, so that he comes to be in Christ, as Christ in turn is in him. This is rather similar to what Christ taught us in the Gospel according to Matthew, where He says, 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till it was all leavened' (Mt. 13:33)."

TWENTY-NINE LINES TO MAKE YOU SMILE

1. My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't.
2. I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.
3. Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.
4. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
5. Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive.
6. You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me.
7. Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.
8. Earth is the insane asylum for the universe.
9. I'm not a complete idiot—some parts are just missing.
10. Out of my mind—Back in five minutes.
11. NyQuil, the stuffy, sneezy, why-the-heck-is-the-room-spinning medicine.
12. God must love stupid people; He made so many.
13. The gene pool could use a little chlorine.
14. Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.
15. Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?
16. Being 'over the hill' is much better than being under it!
17. Wrinkled Was Not One of the Things I Wanted to Be When I Grew Up!
18. Procrastinate Now!
19. I Have a Degree in Liberal Arts; Do You Want Fries With That?
20. A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
21. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance.
22. Stupidity is not a handicap. Park elsewhere!
23. They call it PMS because Mad Cow Disease was already taken.
24. He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless DEAD.
25. A picture is worth a thousand words, but it uses up three thousand times the memory.
26. Ham and eggs...A day's work for a chicken, a lifetime commitment for a pig.
27. The trouble with life is there's no background music.
28. The original point and click interface was a Smith & Wesson.
29. I smile because I don't know what the h**l is going on!

*Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends!
Life is too short and friends are too few!*

A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS...

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.

3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.
9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.
10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.

~Take a moment today to thank God for your pets. Enjoy and take good care of them. Life would be a much duller, less joyful experience without God's critters

Thought for the day—e-mail from Mike Holupka

For all of us who are seniors—for all of you who know seniors—and for all of you who will be seniors. It pays to be able to laugh about it when you are!

Speaking of Senior Moments:

'WHERE Is My SUNDAY Paper?' The irate customer calling the newspaper office loudly demanded, wanting to know where her Sunday edition was.

'Ma'am', said the newspaper employee, 'today is Saturday...the Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow, on Sunday.'

There was quite a long pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition...As she was heard to mutter 'Well sh*t... So that's why no one was at church today!

Let's Create a Perfect World—Frederica Mathewes-Green

A world without suffering is literally unimaginable. Try it.

Beliefnet.com , October 21, 2008

So you think that the existence of suffering proves that there is no God. But can I ask a question? How would you eliminate suffering? What would a world without suffering look like? You have free rein-make it any way you like.

Why don't we start with something specific. People often cite the story told by the character Ivan in Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*: parents punished their little daughter for bedwetting by locking her in a frozen outhouse. Ivan cannot accept a God who would let that happen.

OK, how would you prevent it? Can you imagine a world where there is no child abuse? Not just that one awful case-there's no point in stopping only one act of abuse. How would you stop child abuse entirely? Would you make it so that an angry parent could not think of any way to hurt a child?

Could a parent imagine striking a child, but be paralyzed and unable to raise an arm? Could he strike at the child, but the blow would not land?

The blow would land, but the child would not feel it as painful?

Maybe you could make it so that parents could not get angry in the first place-how about that?

Would that mean that no one, anywhere, could get angry? Why stop with parents?

(We'll get to earthquakes and tsunamis later. One thing at a time.)

How about making it powerfully instinctive to protect children, but with some small room for evil people to do wrong? Child abuse would be so contrary to normal human nature that people would recoil in horror, as they do to Ivan's story.

Wait-that's the system we have now.

OK, let's try something simpler. What about a boy who loves his dog? The dog grows old and sick. The boy is worried. Would you make it so that no beloved pet dies?

Or does a bittersweet thought arise that, even though such a loss is painful, it will help the boy grow in maturity and compassion? But you can't allow that, really. We're

trying to make a world without suffering, not one where suffering has hidden meaning. Besides, if the boy is going to live in a world without suffering, he won't ever need to feel compassion.

All right, the boy loves the dog, so you won't let it die. What if the next year he discovers girls? Would you let the dog die then?

In a perfect world, would staying alive be based on whether someone loves you? Can you foresee that causing any kind of suffering?

What about dislike, in general? Racism, for example: would you eliminate it by making everyone look the same? Or would you eliminate our ability to notice differences? Or could we notice differences, but be unable to have negative thoughts? Would you create humans who love everybody and hate nobody, and have no choice about it?

You have to change *something*. The way things are now, there's a lot of suffering.

Maybe you don't expect to eliminate suffering entirely—you just want to set some limits. But there already are limits. A bad guy can't kill you and dig you up and kill you again. He can't kill children you haven't had yet. Even if he holds you captive, your thoughts are still free. And scientists don't struggle to cure that terrible disease where your skin suddenly melts away in the shower; there are lots of diseases that don't exist.

There are limits, but you think they should be in different places. Let's keep trying to do that.

OK, earthquakes. Would you have constructed the world some other way, without plate tectonics? Great! That was an easy one.

But if "Earthquake" was the worst kind of natural disaster, whatever was number two now automatically becomes number one—tidal waves, maybe, or volcanoes. People won't be grateful for the non-existence of earthquakes, like they're not grateful for the non-existence of Skin Melt Disease. As long as there are any natural disasters, something's going to be worst.

And, yes, it's unfair that some victims of disaster are miraculously saved, while others die. How do you want to make it fair? Nobody gets miracles, or everybody does?

Let's just go ahead and eliminate all natural disasters, anything caused by changes in weather, earth, or sea. But even stuff that's just sitting there can kill you. You can fall into a pool of water and drown.

Would you make it so that couldn't happen? Would you do that by changing the nature of water, or changing the nature of lungs?

Maybe water would have a tough skin, so you'd hit the surface and bounce. But how would we drink it? Would you change the way our bodies take in water? Or maybe we wouldn't need water? Would we need something else instead?

Don't forget gravity. We've eliminated earthquakes, but what kills people in earthquakes is being crushed by things that fall on them. Stuff can fall, even without an earthquake. Would you make it so gravity doesn't pull things down on people? ...No, that whole train of thought is problematic.

When you say that if there was a truly omnipotent God, he could have prevented suffering, do you mean that God could have made things differently? Sure, that's what we're trying to visualize now. But if you mean that he could have made a world that was illogical, I'm going to have trouble following you.

I don't expect you to actually build this perfect world, but it does seem like you should at least be able to **imagine** it.

And here's a factor we haven't talked about yet: subjectivity. People can respond to the same thing in different ways, and interpret it as suffering or not, depending on the context. A hangnail can be unbearable when you're trying to sleep, but twelve hours of childbirth is worth it when you hold that new little baby. Losing a pint of blood in a Red Cross clinic is not like losing one in a car accident.

What's more, different people have different responses to suffering overall. Some make a big fuss over nothing, while others endure terrible things without blame or complaining. Though people can't control what happens to them, they seem to have some control over their response.

Would you make that part of the human mind stronger, and diminish suffering that way? Actually, a number of religions have made significant breakthroughs in that area.

I'm not mocking your desire to create a world without suffering. If we didn't grieve at suffering and urgently want to end it, we would be less than human. Your desire to do so springs from a strong, sincere love for humankind. But accomplishing it requires major changes in what humankind is like.

You can prevent interpersonal pain by making people who give and receive the same amount of love, without bias or personal preferences. You can standardize physical

appearances, so no one would suffer from feeling inadequate or ugly, and no one could choose to love one person and reject someone else. Personalities would have to be standardized too, for the same reason. Old people would be as attractive as young people, and I guess they might as well continue to look young, since nobody is going to die anyway. You can reorganize the natural world, too, so that it is predictable and never dangerous.

This world you're creating certainly is beautiful; it's elegant and serene. It's also a lot simpler. Nothing there can change, because change would mean a fall from perfect bliss. The people living there are simpler too, untroubled and uniformly beautiful, like marble statues in a quiet garden.

In comparison, the world we've got now is just so *odd*, isn't it? It's far more complex than seems strictly necessary. Why make such wildly differing landscapes? Why bother with color? Fish are great, but 20,000 species? The more you think about it, the more eccentric, even comical, our world appears.

If you were designing humans for your perfect world, you probably wouldn't have them digest food the way we do. When you planned how they reproduce, you'd come up with something more dignified. Flatulence has been making humans laugh since the dawn of time, but it just wouldn't belong in a perfect world. (Besides, laughter can lead to teasing).

The world we've got is far from quiet and unchanging. It changes constantly, vigorously, and yet remains the same, like an ocean, like a forest. God doesn't sit afar off, watching us "from a distance," as the dumb song has it. There's no distance. His life permeates creation, filling every bug and every blade of grass, sustaining every molecule. "'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord" (Jeremiah 23:24), and Isaiah heard the angels agree, "The world is full of the glory of God" (Isaiah 6:3).

Yet there is, undoubtedly, suffering. Behind every overt experience of suffering, there is a gray-noise static of isolation, even loneliness, and the edgy necessity of self-protection. It is easy to spend most of our lives in the dry attic of the mind, worrying and pondering. We retain a sense that we are cut off from something important, something beautiful, and that is surely the tragedy reigning behind all others.

No one knows why things are this way. (A factor we usually disregard, but one assumed by people in most times and places, is that it's not just us and God here in the universe. There are spiritual forces that are not benign. You laugh, but it might turn out they're right. They make up a mighty big vote.)

The God who made such a world, and who continued to love his lost children, would try to call them back into communion with him. He would want them to dwell in innermost security and peace, because then nothing they could face would be perceived as suffering. Even when they were hurt and hated, they would give love in return. But how would he go about reaching them?

This entire Planet Earth project is eccentric, so God's approach to this problem is likely to be unexpected too. What we would expect is for him to try to make contact by speaking in the hearts of some people in every generation, and giving those prophets a message designed to draw his beloved home. Most religions preserve such books.

But we Christians believe that he did something else, something extremely odd: he became a baby. Holy books are one thing, but what humans really need is love. So he started out as a baby and walked, day by day, through a specific, earthy human life. The things he did and said during that life are still compelling, two thousand years later. The force of his personality reverberates through the ages.

At the end he went through terrible suffering. It was as if he was saying, "Look, this is how you do it," and then he did it with courage, love, and, most amazing, forgiveness.

But that wasn't the end. On the third day he rose again from the dead, trampling down death by death, and smashing the forces that wound and tear us. He demonstrated that the final victory belongs to him.

If you believe this happened, it's the definition of "good news." If the fear of death is shattered, everything is changed. Our lives are not free of trouble, but we can look at trouble in a different way, because the conqueror is with us. "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

This story might sound crazy, but it's not any crazier than the world itself; in that context, it's strangely fitting. But what about your perfect world, so beautiful and unchanging? Can you honestly say that you love it? Would anyone die for your marble men?