



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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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 Joseph Kopchak, Father Charles Mezzomo, Father Anthony Dimitri, Father Frank Estocin, 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, 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, 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, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Mary Ann, Charlotte, Peter Natishan, Michael Spak, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Brandi Thomas, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Ben Bonifield—a classmate of Alex, Peter Special, Amy Boe, Doris Artman, Maureen Sams, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Shirley Tkacik, 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.

A word from the desert:

Abba John the Short said, "I am like a man sitting in the shade of a tall tree, who sees wild beasts and snakes coming at him and knows his danger and rushes to climb the tree to safety. I sit in my cell, and see temptations coming at me: and when I cannot stand up to them, I rush to take refuge in God by prayer, and so I find safety from the enemy's attack." *Abba John the Short, commemorated 9/22 November*

2009 Church Icon Wall Calendars & Envelopes are available downstairs.

Please remember David Weaver in Mosul, James John Logue George Senita, & John Kirkowski assigned to Iraq, Matthew Machak, Tonia Dec, 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, February 15 **Divine Liturgy** **10:30 AM**
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON, THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
Tone 2
Hebrews 7:7-17
Luke 2:22-40
Parastas in Blessed Memory of Helen Pytlak—Pytlak & Behun Families

Sunday, February 22 **Divine Liturgy** **10:30 AM**
MEATFARE SUNDAY, SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT, MARTYR NICEPHORUS OF ANTIOCH, UNCOVERING RELICS OF SAINT INNOCENT OF IRKUTSK, HIEROMARTYRS MARCELLUS-BISHOP OF SICILY, PHILAGRIUS-BISHOP OF CYPRUS, & PANCRATIUS-BISHOP OF TAORMINA, VENERABLE PANCRATIUS-HIEROMONK OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA, MARTYR PETER DAMASCENE
Tone 3
I Corinthians 8:8-9:2
Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, March 1 **Divine Liturgy** **10:30 AM**

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY, FORGIVENESS SUNDAY, COMMEMORATION OF THE EXPULSION OF ADAM FROM PARADISE, MARTYRS PAMPHILIUS-PRESBYTER, VALENS-DEACON, PAUL, SELEUCUS, THEODULUS, ELIAS, JEREMIAH, ISAIAH, SAMUEL, & DANIEL AT CAESAREA IN PALESTINE, VENERABLE MARUTH-BISHOP OF MARTYROPOLIS IN MESOPOTAMIA, PERSIAN MARTYRS OF MARTYROPOLIS, MARTYR ROMANUS OF MOUNT ATHOS

Tone 4

Romans 13:11-14:4

Matthew 6:14-21

Litany in Blessed Memory of John Metrick, Mary Smith, Andrew, Hanczar, Anna Lawrence, Michael Cicio, Charles Shumsky, Terry Reinhart, Joseph Vangrin, & Frank Riznow—Fr. Bob

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 15 FEBRUARY 2009

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

TROPARION—TONE 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
All the powers of heaven cried out:
O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

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

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father;
And among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me.
And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal:
I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father;
Receive me a penitent and make me as one of Thy hired servants.

PROKEIMENON—TONE 2

READER: The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

PEOPLE: **The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.**

READER: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.

PEOPLE: **The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.**

READER: The Lord is my strength and my song.

PEOPLE: **He has become my salvation.**

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 2

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Save the king, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

Judas Asparagus

Through the eyes of a child: The Children's Bible in a Nutshell

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did.

Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten

plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats.

Jesus also had twelve opossums.

The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

Abba Poemen said, "Do not give your heart to that which does not satisfy your heart."

From: [Maria Khoury](#)

To: [webpage taybeh church](#)

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:46 PM

Subject: [Saint-george-taybeh] FW: 60 Minutes under attack

Christ is in our Midst

I am forwarding this email to please ask you to write to 60 Minutes because this is a true report of the suffering we experience.

American people need to know the truth with more of these programs. The illegal settlement of Ammona mentioned by Bob Simon is in front of my kitchen window in Taybeh!

Please pray for peace in the Holy Land
In Christ, Maria

Subject: 60 Minutes under attack-

Thank 60 Minutes for its Piece "Time Running Out For A Two-State Solution?"

Bob Simon from 60 Minutes has been under attack for running an accurate, thoughtful, and critical look at the viability of the two-state solution.

Veteran journalist Bob Simon traveled the West Bank to assess the situation on the ground and clearly shows how the Israeli government's years of support for the increasing presence of illegal Israeli settlements and settlers in the West Bank, Israeli policies on appropriating Palestinian homes at a whim, Israel's imposition of arbitrary travel restriction and establishment of hundreds of checkpoints in the West Bank, and the creation of the separation barrier which appropriates even more Palestinian land, are adversely impacting the feasibility of two-state solution. The content of this piece touches on issues rarely raised in the US mainstream media and ADC [Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee] believes it is important that 60 Minutes hears from you.

Watch it on-line at:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/01/23/60minutes/main4749723.shtml>

A letter of Support to 60 MINUTES can be mailed or e-mailed to the following:

CBS

60 Minutes

524 West 57th St.

New York, NY 10019

PHONE: (212) 975-3247

60m@cbsnews.com



ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE
ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE IN AMERICA

Ancient Orthodox Christian monastery near extinction by Turkish land officials--1/27/2009



A land dispute between Mor Gabriel Monastery and neighboring villages is threatening the monastery's future. (todayzaman.com) Turkish government land officials, to the dismay of

Christians, are redrawing boundaries around a Syriac Orthodox monastery and surrounding villages located near the Turkish- Syrian region supposedly to update a national land registry.

Mor Gabriel, one of the world's oldest functioning Christian monasteries, has existed on this site for more than 1600 years. According to the monks, the new boundaries turn over to villages large plots of land the monastery has owned for centuries, and plans to designate the monastery as public forest. This threat by the Turkish government is an ongoing signal of religious persecution and confiscation of property rights of non-Muslim minorities.

The Conference of European Churches, a fellowship of 126 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican, and Old Catholic churches from European countries, has said it is "deeply concerned about the threat to the survival of the monastery" and has raised the issue with the European Union.

The historic monastery was built in 397 A.D. and has seen invasions by Romans, Byzantines, Crusaders, and Muslim armies. Three monks, fourteen nuns, a bishop, and thirty-five students reside and worship on the ancient grounds and preserve the Syriac liturgy in a chapel adorned with Byzantine mosaics.

The originally published article, found in Today's Zaman, can be read in its entirety below.

Christian monastery in Turkey fights to keep land

By Ibon Villelabeitia Midyat, Today's Zaman—Friday, January 23, 2009

In a remote village near the Turkish- Syrian border, a land dispute with neighboring villages is threatening the future of one of the world's oldest functioning Christian monasteries.

Critics say the dispute, which has become a rallying cry for Christian church groups across Europe, is a new chapter in the long history of religious persecution of the small Christian community by the Turkish state.

Tucked amid rugged hills where minarets rise in the distance, a small group of monks chants in Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ, inside the fifth-century Mor Gabriel monastery. It is a relic of an era when hundreds of thousands of Syriac Christians lived and worshipped in Turkey. "This is our land. We have been here for more than 1,600 years," said Kuryakos Ergun, head of the Mor Gabriel Foundation, surveying the barren land and villages from the monastery's rooftop. "We have our maps and our records to prove it. This is not about land. It's about the monastery."

The dispute, on which a court is due to rule on Feb. 11, is testing freedom of religion and human rights for non-Muslim minorities in this overwhelmingly Muslim country that aspires to join the European Union. The row began when Turkish government land officials redrew the boundaries around Mor Gabriel and the surrounding villages in 2008 to update a national land registry. The monks say the new boundaries turn over to the villages large plots of land the monastery has owned for centuries, and designate monastery land as public forest. Christian groups believe officials want to ultimately stamp out the Syriac Orthodox monastery. Their allegations come as the EU has said the ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party)

government needs to do more to promote religious freedom alongside its liberal economic and political reforms.

"This case relates to the political criteria Turkey has to meet to become a member of the European Union," said Helena Storm, first secretary of the Swedish Embassy in Ankara, who has traveled to the monastery to follow court hearings. "It is important that freedom of religion and property rights for minorities are respected in Turkey," she said.

Local government officials reached by Reuters in the town of Midyat and in the provincial capital of Mardin declined to comment on the case, noting it was going through the court. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has pledged to press ahead with difficult EU reforms, including rights of minorities.

'Anti- Turkish'

In the name of Turkey's strict secular laws, authorities have over decades expropriated millions of dollars worth of property belonging to Christians. Syriacs, Armenians and Greek Orthodox Christians—remnants of the Muslim-led but multi-faith Ottoman Empire—are viewed by many as foreigners. Syriacs are one of Turkey's oldest communities, descendants of a branch of Middle Eastern Christianity. These Christians, united by a language derived from Aramaic, are split into several Orthodox and Catholic denominations.

There were 250,000 Syriacs when Mustafa Kemal Ataturk founded Turkey after World War I from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire. Today they number 20,000. Syriacs migrated throughout the 20th century to Europe, fleeing first persecution by the new secular republic and later to escape violence between Kurdish separatist terrorists and the Turkish military in the Southeast.

A local prosecutor in August 2008 initiated a separate court case against the monastery after mayors of three villages complained the monks were engaged in "anti-Turkish activities" and alleged they were illegally converting children to the Christian faith. Monks say the mayors are instigating anti-Christian feelings by accusing Mor Gabriel of being against Islam. Villagers in neighboring Candarli, a settlement of 12 humble houses with no paved roads, said they had nothing against Christians and accused the monastery of taking land they need for cattle.

"There is a continued campaign to destroy the backbone of the Syriac people and close down the monastery," said Daniel Gabriel, director of the human rights division of the Syriac Universal Alliance, a leading Syriac group based in Sweden. "These proceedings cannot take place without the sanction of the Turkish government. If the government wanted to protect the Syriac Christian community, it would stop this case," he said.

Many churches and monasteries in southeast Turkey -- known to Syriac Christians as Turabdin or "the mountain of worshippers" -- are now abandoned and in ruins. "You need people to have a church. Without the community, the church is only a building," said Saliba Ozmen, the metropolitan, or bishop, of the nearby city of Mardin.

Invasions and raids

The Conference of European Churches, a fellowship of 126 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic churches from European countries, has said it is "deeply concerned about the threat to the survival of the monastery." The group has raised the issue with the EU and Turkish officials. Considered the "second Jerusalem" by Syriacs, Mor Gabriel was built in A.D. 397 near the border of today's Syria and Iraq.

The ocher-colored limestone building has seen invasions by Romans, Byzantines, Crusaders and Muslim armies and the monastery was once raided by the Mongol leader Tamerlane. After falling into disuse, Mor Gabriel was revived in the 1920s and today teaches the Syriac faith and Aramaic language to a group of 35 boys, who live and study at the monastery. By law, Syriacs must attend state schools where teaching is in Turkish, but they can be taught about their own language and religion outside school hours.

Three black-clad monks, 14 nuns and a bishop live within the walls, preserving the ancient Syriac liturgy and tending to the orchards and gardens. They worship in a chapel with Byzantine mosaics. In its heyday, Mor Gabriel housed 2,000 monks and nuns. Mor Gabriel receives more than 100,000 visitors a year, many of them from the Syriac diaspora in Germany and Sweden.

A trickle of Syriac families have returned in the last few years from the diaspora, encouraged by a drop in violence and Turkey's easing of language and cultural restrictions on its minorities as part of EU-linked reforms. Syriac church leader Ozmen said there are powerful conservative forces opposed to change in Turkey, but he is optimistic. He pointed to this month's launch of a once-banned Kurdish language channel on state television. "Multiculturalism has been part of Turkey since the Ottoman times," he said. "It is our best guarantee for the future."

Instead of wasting your time, say the prayer. And the more that listlessness and indifference come upon you, the more you should fear the threat which the Lord addressed to the wicked and slothful servant. If you let the days and nights pass with increasing negligence, soon you will end up extremely negligent. Will you perhaps boast of your negligence, when others will receive crowns for their labors?

Brother, labor a little in prayer and watchfulness, and you will see joy well up in your heart and light dawn in the firmament of your mind: not the kind of joy that disappears before you enjoy it, but the joy that is sweet, similar to the sweetness of the angels, and the light without evening of the other world, which Christ, the light of the world, Who comes through the prayer will bestow upon you before you depart from this world. Didn't this happen to our Fathers and can't this happen to us as well if our lack of faith and our negligence do not prevent it?

Counsels from the Holy Mountain, Elder Ephraim of the Holy Mountain (Athos)

