



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, 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 Cuthbert Jack, 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, 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—an 7-year-old girl with rheumatoid arthritis, Isabella Olivia Lindgren—a 4-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, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, 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, Marjorie Pershing, Tom Marriott, Joe Farkas, Liz Obradovich, Liz, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Peter Natishan, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Brandi Thomas, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Peter Special, Amy Boe, Doris Artman, Maureen Sams, Nancy Barylak, Shirley Tkacik, Carol Kowalcheck, Martin Golofski, Joe Paouncic, Anthony Yerace, Joanne Brodrick, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier [3-year-old with cancer], Diane Waryanka, Nathan Forbeck, Joseph Baloga, Andy Torick, Sarah Doyle, Carmella Berardesca, Samuel Peters, Jean Stutchell, Joe Paouncic, 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Michele Corba Kapeluck, who received a kidney transplant two Fridays ago. May God grant her a full and speedy recovery!

Please remember James John Logue George Senita, & John Kirkowski assigned to Iraq, Matthew Machak, Tonia Dec, Michael Repasky, 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 Seventh Grade and Matt’s Fifth 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, September 27 Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS—STRICT FAST DAY

REPOSE OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, MARTYR PAPAS OF LYACONIA, BLESSED PLACILLA THE EMPRESS-WIFE OF THEODOSIUS THE GREAT, NEW MARTYR MACARIUS OF THESSALONICA

Tone 7

I Corinthians 1:18-24

John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Tillie Kuzman—Debbie & John Paouncic

Sunday, October 4 Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS, APODOSIS [LEAVE-TAKING] OF THE EXALTATION, APOSTLE QUADRATUS OF THE 70, HIEROMARTYR HYPATIUS-BISHOP OF EPHEBUS & PRESBYTER ANDREW, SAINTS ISAACIUS & MELITIUS-BISHOPS OF CYPRUS, MARTYR EUSEBIUS OF PHOENICIA, MARTYR PRISCUS OF PHRYGIA, MARTHRYS EUSEBIUS, NESTABUS, & ZENO OF GAZA, VENERABLE DANIEL-ABBOT OF SHUZHGORSK, UNCOVERING THE RELICS OF SAINT DEMETRIUS-BISHOP OF ROSTOV, VENERABLE JOSEPH OF ZAONIKEIV MONASTERY

Tone 8

II Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Matthew 15:21-28

Litany in Blessed Memory of Kay Behun, Father Theodore Forosty, Johnathan Dorning, & Mary Evaniuk—Fr. Bob

Sunday, October 11

Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VENERABLE CHARITON THE CONFESSOR—ABBOT OF PALESTINE, PROPHET BARUCH, MARTYRS ALEXANDER ALPHIUS, MARK, NICON, NEON, HELIODORUS, & 24 OTHERS IN PISIDIA & PHRYGIA, MARTYRDOM OF BLESSED WENCESLAUS-PRINCE OF THE CZECHS, SYNAXIS OF THE VENERABLE FATHERS OF THE PERCHEVSKY LAVRA WHO REPOSE IN THE CAVES OF VENERABLE ANTHONY

Tone 1

II Corinthians 9:6-11

Luke 5:1-11

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Nicholas & Catherine Behun—Behun Family

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 27 SEPTEMBER 2009

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

*******STRICT FAST DAY*******

**REPOSE OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, MARTYR PAPAS OF LYACONIA,
BLESSED PLACILLA THE EMPRESS-WIFE OF THEODOSIUS THE GREAT,
NEW MARTYR MACARIUS OF THESSALONICA**

TROPARION—TONE 7

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death!
To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise!
For the Myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy.
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
To proclaim that Thou art risen, granting 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 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
For Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers!
Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry:
The Savior has come to those in faith!
Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 7

READER: The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His
people with peace!

PEOPLE: **The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless
His people with peace!**

READER: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

PEOPLE: The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

READER: The Lord shall give strength to His people!

PEOPLE: The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 7

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High! To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night!

"A thing that many young fellows don't seem to realize at first is that success depends on oneself and not on a kindly fate, nor on the interest of powerful friends." Robert Baden Powell

Here is a new way to look at a deck of cards—via e-mail from Very Rev. Father George Livanos!!

A Deck of Cards

It was quiet that day, the guns and the mortars, and land mines for some reason hadn't been heard.

The young soldier knew it was Sunday, the holiest day of the week.

As he was sitting there, he got out an old deck of cards and laid them out across his bunk.

Just then an army sergeant came in and said, 'Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon?'

The soldier replied, 'I thought I would stay behind and spend some time with the Lord.'

The sergeant said, 'Looks to me like you're going to play cards.'

The soldier said, 'No, sir. You see, since we are not allowed to have Bibles or other spiritual books in this country, I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards.'

The sergeant asked in disbelief, 'How will you do that?'

'You see the Ace, Sergeant? It reminds me that there is only one God.'

The Two represents the two parts of the Bible, the Old and the New Testaments

The Three represents the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost.

The Four stands for the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The Five is for the five virgins there were ten but only five of them were glorified.

The Six is for the six days it took God to create the Heavens and Earth.

The Seven is for the day God rested after making His Creation.

The Eight is for the family of Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives—the eight people God spared from the flood that destroyed the Earth.

The Nine is for the lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy He cleansed ten, but nine never thanked Him.

The Ten represents the Ten Commandments that God handed down to Moses on tablets made of stone.

The Jack is a reminder of Satan, one of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of heaven for his sly and wicked ways and is now the joker of eternal hell.

The Queen stands for the Virgin Mary.

The King stands for Jesus, for he is the King of all kings.

When I count the dots on all the cards, I come up with 365 total, one for every day of the year.

There are a total of 52 cards in a deck; each is a week—52 weeks in a year.

The four suits represent the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter.

Each suit has thirteen cards—there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter.

So when I want to talk to God and thank Him, I just pull out this old deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for.'

The sergeant just stood there. After a minute, with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said, 'Soldier, can I borrow that deck of cards?'

Please let this be a reminder and take time to pray for all of our soldiers who are being sent away, putting their lives on the line fighting...

Toward the end of his life, Father Augustine the Russian (+ 1965) lived alone in a hermitage dependent on the monastery of Philotheou (on Mount Athos). He had a great love for every person, and every time he met anyone, whether monk or layman, he would make a deep bow to him. "He carries the grace of Holy Baptism," he would say whenever someone asked why he did this.

He overflowed with charity even for animals. Little by little, he transformed the enclosure of his hermitage into a hospice for elderly and ailing animals: asses and mules that were blind, lame, moribund, sick, or otherwise useless. The lay workers would open his gate and let such animals

in without even asking him. The good old man would then take loving care of them. He used to go and cut fresh grass and store it for winter's provisions, for his "disciples," as he used to call them. When the fathers of the monastery saw how weak he had become, they suggested that they take him to the monastery infirmary. Father Augustine answered, "I can't leave my mules!" Finally, he accepted.

At night, he had no need of a kerosene lamp. "God gives me another light," he used to say, "and I can see more clearly than during the day." In his simplicity, he believed that everyone could see, just like he could, the uncreated light of God. One day, the eve of the Annunciation, the patronal feast of the monastery, monks and laymen were busy polishing the monastery's brass. Suddenly, Father Augustine appeared, radiant, quite transformed with the divine presence.

"Bless me, holy fathers!" he said, making his usual prostration.

"Say, how are you, Father Augustine?"

"I want to confide a thought to you. You must tell me if I am experiencing an illusion. This night, all night, there was a lot of light. One could see clearly, just like daylight, from Caracallou to Stavronikita. I could pick out the least detail. Was this, maybe, an illusion?"

One of the lay workers, mocking the old man, replied, "But, dear father, it was a sputnik satellite. It fell from the sky into your cell and lit everything up."

Reassured, Father Augustine thanked him, and took his leave.

When he was bedridden in the infirmary, he used often to shout, "The holy angels are coming, there! there! Don't you see them?" And he would wake up the elderly monks sleeping next to him and shake them. Then, a little later, "The saints are here! The All Holy Mother of God!" And he would again awaken the other invalids. The infirmarian used to reprimand him severely, saying, "Won't you stop this? You're deluded. Who is someone like you that the saints should come visit you?" Every day it was like that. When Father Augustine finally passed away, his face suddenly lit up, blindingly, three times. The infirmarian then understood his error, and exclaimed, "Now I am sure that this one was a saint!"

from The Living Witness of the Holy Mountain

From the sayings of St. Cyprian of Carthage: **“Put Christ first because He puts us first, and let nothing deter us from loving Him.”**

The **Slickville Lions Steak Fry** will take place TODAY from 1:00-4:00 at the Slickville VFD pavilion—right next to the Civic Center. Some meal tickets will be available at the door on the day of the event **but they will be limited**. The Lions would like to have anybody interested contact them by **Monday, September 21st** to get an accurate presale count to order the proper amount of steak. Anyone interested can call Lance

Remic at 724-309-6750 or Joe Ulisse at 724-468-4919. *For more information, see the poster downstairs on the bulletin board.*

REMINDER: We are still updating information for our Parish Directory. See Alex downstairs after Divine Liturgy to correct any errors in the information we presently have. Most important is an emergency contact number—we would also love to have e-mail addresses if you have one! See Alex, Pani Gina, or Father Bob with any questions.

A message for all, especially for parents.

**SERMON: 9/6/09 "STAND UP FOR YOUR FAITH"
13TH Matthew
(I Cor. 16:13-24. Matt. 21:35-42)**

Fr. Alexander Veronis, Lancaster, PA

**BE WATCHFUL.
STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH.
BE COURAGEOUS. BE STRONG.
LET ALL YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. (I Cor. 16:13-14)**

Good spiritual advice from St. Paul as we begin a new Ecclesiastical Year. It comes from today's Epistle Reading.

Our contemporary society contains many elements that militate against faith and our Christian beliefs. A display of faith or religion in the public arena often meets vehement opposition. In some offices, Christians are told not to wear visible neck crosses anymore. On major Christian holy days Christmas, Christians are told not to greet others with a Christian greeting. Even MERRY CHRISTMAS has become offensive to some.

A college freshman gets paired up with a dorm partner who is a Satan worshiper with displays of devils and satanic images in her dorm room. The student and her parents, who are Christian believers, complain to the college administration and are told there is nothing they can do about it. They cannot change her roommate or room. Besides this is part of their daughter's college education!

These realities are happening not in Communist China or North Korea, but in America today. Some prophetic writers predict that an age of

persecution of Christians is coming to America, just as it happened in Communist Russia for 73 years. We used to think that this just talk of fanatics. But the signs of the times seem to confirm the possibility more and more.

Why the increase of private Christian schools today?

Why are people sending their children to them at considerable sacrifice and expense? Why is the home schooling industry increasing so rapidly!?

People of faith want to preserve their Christian values!

Whether or not you fear the opposition to Christian principles prevalent today, you need to be **watchful**. **You and I and all Christian believers need to be vigilant**. **We must stand firm in our Christian faith**, as the Bible advises believers.

People ask, **Father, should we send our children to a Catholic, Mennonite or Christian School? They ask** because they want their children to learn in an atmosphere where God and the Bible and our Christian heritage are still honored and respected.

Circumstances have changed radically in my lifetime. I well remember the public school teachers who read the Bible at the beginning of classes. One of my homeroom teachers in public school had us memorize verses from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament.

I remember singing Christian hymns in public gatherings.

"FAITH OF OUR FATHERS LIVING STILL" or

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHT, EARLY IN THE MORNING, OUR SONG SHALL RISE TO THEE" or

"We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing..." at Thanksgiving.

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come.." at Christmas time, or

"God bless America" on patriotic days.

Admittedly these were well-known Protestant hymns. However, they did convey a Christian message of faith with which all Christians could identify.

Those days are gone. All the more reason today why we need to make our Church Schools and Sunday Schools vibrant and relevant. We need to keep Bible Studies and Orthodox Study Groups and Summer Orthodox Camp Programs, and GOYA and ORTHODOX COLLEGE FELLOWSHIPS as effective as possible. We need to teach and practice personal home devotions. If our youth and young adults don't receive Orthodox Christian education and nurturing from the Church and home, where will they get it? They definitely will not receive it from today's society where even the name of Jesus or a Christian Icon cannot be displayed in public places.

Thank God that the Orthodox Church today is trying to be more **vigilant**, more **watchful** and **courageous** by emphasizing religious training and awareness of the Gospel. Our own Fr. **Hector Firoglanis** is speaking this weekend at the Mission & Evangelism Conference at Antiochian Village to persons interested in strengthening their Orthodox faith.

Several years ago, Presvytera Pearl and I were attending an Orthodox Mission & Evangelism Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We visited the **AGHIA SOPHIA Orthodox Coffee House located** in the city's downtown. In this Coffee House, a group of dedicated Orthodox Christians and a priest carry on a steady powerful witness for the Orthodox Christian faith. The Coffee House consists of a 3-story house. It is open 7 days a week, all day. Anyone can walk in anytime for a cup of coffee and other non-alcoholic beverages and a sweet, sit down in an environment filled with Orthodox Christian books and icons attractively displayed. Volunteers roam the house and talk to anyone who wishes to talk, or read and learn more about Orthodoxy. Visitors can simply sit in a comfortable chair and talk with friends. The whole idea of this Coffee House is to expose visitors to Orthodox Christianity.

Fr. **Stephen Vernak**, the dynamic young Pastor of Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Harrisburg, visited this Coffee House in Colorado Springs this week. He and a committee of dedicated parishioners are in the process of buying a property in downtown Harrisburg to establish another **AGHIA SOPHIA ORTHODOX COFFEE HOUSE**. It will be their way to witness to Orthodoxy in Harrisburg.

BE COURAGEOUS. BE STRONG. LET ALL YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE.

Yes, it takes courage and vision to reach out of the box of our comfort zone and to let others know who we are as Orthodox Christians. We need to be **strong** in our faith to talk openly about Jesus Christ as Our Lord, God and

Savior to those willing to listen. Some will challenge us when we stand up for Christ. Some will tell us all religions are the same and that we all worship the same God. Some may call us fanatics.

Yet if we keep feeding our inner life through daily Bible reading, through regular prayer and devotions, through repentance and through the sacrament of Holy Communion, we can strengthen our Christian witness. God will help us to be bold, courageous and ready to answer all who ask us about "the hope that is within" us, as St. Peter tells us.

Some years ago **Fr. Lazarus Moore**, a convert Australian Orthodox priest, visited our parish. He was an itinerant older priest, about 82 years old and very joyful. He wore sneakers with his monk's robe and knew the Bible very well. He read it in the original Greek and had a gift of teaching it in English. He conducted a Bible Study in our Church. Some will remember him. We hosted him in our home overnight and in the morning he put on his sneakers and jumped up and down doing his calisthenics and stretching his arms and legs and jogging up and down Springside Drive. He did everything with such **CONTAGIOUS JOY**. He made all around him **smile with joy as he related the Scriptures to everyday living**.

Before he left, we asked him to sign his name in our guest book. We wanted to remember his wonderful inspiring visit. He wrote this short verse above his name:

"Let all you do be done in love."

The very verse quoted earlier from today's Epistle: I Cor. 16:14

Over the years, I have quoted and written that verse many times, always remembering **Fr. Lazarus Moore and his joyful, loving Christian witness**.

As we begin another Ecclesiastical Year this first week of September, let these words guide us, too, in our Christian life:

BE WATCHFUL.
STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH.
BE COURAGEOUS.
BE STRONG.
LET ALL YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE.

LET US PRAY:

Help us, Lord, with the grace of your Holy Spirit to be witnesses for Jesus Christ through our lives, our words and the opportunities you set before us each day. Amen.