



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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SAINTS PETER AND PAUL FAST

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Metropolitan Constantine, Bishop Robert, Bishop Daniel, Father Gerald Olszewski, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Dragan Filipović, Father Stevo Rocknage, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Michael Mihalick [MS], Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Anthony Dimitri, Father Cuthbert Jack, Father Elias Warnke, Archimandrite Lev, Father Nestor Kowal, Father Gabriel Rochell, Father Bill & Pani-Matka Sonia Diakiw, Pani-Matka Linda Oryhon, Father Paul Bigelow, Protodeacon Mykola Dilendorf, Father Emilian Balan, Evelyn Burlack, Joshua Agosto and his family, Harley Katarina Rahuba, Mike Holupka, Eva Malesnick, 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, Isabella Olivia Lindgren—a 4-year-old with a brain tumor, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Jeff Walewski [thyroid cancer], Michael Miller, Dave May, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Alverta, Michael Horvath, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Michael Miller, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Gloria Prymak [Liz's niece], Robert Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, George & Mika Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, 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, Doris Artman, Nancy Barylak, Henry & Shirley Tkacik, Martin Golofski, Anthony Yerace, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier [3-year-old with cancer], Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Jean Stutchell, Charles & Esther Holupka, Wanda Mefford, Lynn (Bush) Gill, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Betty O'Masta, Julie Eiler, Glenn Miller, Vince Ferro, Michael Pawlyshyn, Dorothy Lednovich, Kristin Batch Vaughn, Bob C., Allie—young

girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Carmen Talmonti, Matthew—20-year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuzniak, Michael Woloschak, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Nellie Patsko, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Donna Tickerhoof, David Buchholz, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Pete Niederberger, Jasmine Walker, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Fred DeNorscia, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Lloyd Sheakley [Pani Gina's uncle], Diane McDaniel, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly Irma McDivitt, Sandy Gardner, Richard Trinclisti, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Tony Butecoff, Carl Reed, Georgia & Theodore Demopoulos, Jillian Bowman [10-year old with cancer], Renee' Richards, Lois, and Daria Masur. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

As he was dying, Abba Benjamin said to his sons: If you observe the following, you can be saved, "Be joyful at all times, pray without ceasing, and give thanks for all things."

Please remember James John Logue, George Senita, John Kirkowski, Matthew Machak, Michael Repasky, and ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American service men 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 Debbie Paouncic's class. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP!

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, July 10 **Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom** **10:30 AM**
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—SAINT SAMPSON THE HOSPITABLE OF
CONSTANTINOPLE; SAINT JOANNA THE MYRRH-BEARER; SAINT SEVERUS-
PRESBYTER OF INTEROCREA IN ITALY

Tone 3

Romans 6:18-23

Matthew 8:5-13

Tuesday, July 12 HOLY, GLORIOUS, AND ALL-LAUDABLE APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL

Sunday, July 17 **Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom** **10:30 AM**
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—SAINT ANDREW-ARCHBISHOP OF CRETE;
SAINT MARTHA-MOTHER OF SAINT SYMEON STYLITES THE YOUNGER; MARTYRS
THEODOTUS & THEODOTA AT CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA; HIEROMARTYR
THEODORE-BISHOP OF CYRENE IN LIBYA & WITH HIM MARTYRS CYPRILLA, AROA,
& LUCIA

Tone 4

Romans 10:1-10

Matthew 8:28-9:1

Sunday, July 24 **Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom** **10:30 AM**
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—THE MIRACLE OF GREAT-MARTYR EUPHEMIA
THE ALL-PRAISED OF CHALCEDON; HEIROMARTYR CINDEUS OF PAMPHYLIA;
BLESSED EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES OLHA-PRINCESS OF KIEV-IN BAPTISM HELEN

Tone 5

Romans 12:6-14

Matthew 9:1-8

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 10 JULY 2011
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—SAINT SAMPSON THE
HOSPITABLE OF CONSTANTINOPLE; SAINT JOANNA THE
MYRRH-BEARER; SAINT SEVERUS-PRESBYTER OF
INTEROCREA IN ITALY

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!

Testimonial Dinner for Pani Kateryna Dowbenko

July 17, 2011

The Board of Directors of Ridna Shkola, School of Ukrainian Studies, and the Committee to help the Ukrainian Language Program at the University of Pittsburgh, will hold a Testimonial Dinner for Pani Kateryna Dowbenko, instructor of Ukrainian Language at the University of Pittsburgh for 36 years. Mrs. Dowbenko will be honored for her longtime work and devotion to teaching the Ukrainian Language to the students of the University of Pittsburgh and other institutions of learning in the Pittsburgh area.

You are cordially invited to attend a Testimonial Dinner which will take place on Sunday, July 17, 2011, at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott Hotel, in Coraopolis.

Pani Dowbenko's former students are especially encouraged to come and pay tribute to this great lady.

Reception will begin at 2:00pm, with Dinner to follow at 3:00pm.

Cost: \$35.00 per person.

If you are unable to attend, please consider a tax deductible donation.

Make checks payable to:

Ridna Shkola, Ukrainian Language Program at Pitt

C/o Yaroslav Hodowanec
Ukrainian Selfreliance FCU
95 South Seventh Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

*“ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT WILL GO TO THE ENDOWMENT FOR THE
UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH”*

For information and reservations contact:

Anne Konecky: 412-343-0309

or

Luba Hlutkowsky: 412-279-7377, poltava1@gmail.com

They told us of an old man at Scetis who, when he was ill, longed for some fresh bread. When he heard of it, one of the brothers who was an athlete picked up his sheepskin, put some dry loaves into it, and went off to Egypt to exchange them, and he brought them back to the old man. When he saw they were still warm, they were astonished. The old man refused to eat them, saying, "It is my brother's blood." But the old men persuaded him to eat them, saying, "For the Lord's sake, eat, so that the brother's sacrifice be not in vain," and at this he ate.

For if you change from inhumanity to almsgiving, you have stretched forth the hand that was withered. If you withdraw from theaters and go to church, you have cured the lame foot. If you draw back your eyes from a harlot, you have opened them when they were blind. These are the greatest miracles. *St. John Chrysostom*

Abba Poemen said: If a man remembered that it is written, "By your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned" (Matt. 12:37), he would choose to be silent.

Our life can be likened to a deep ditch, which in times of rain fills up so much that it cannot be crossed, and at other times it dries up and no water flows in it. The Holy Fathers praised the life that flows like a small stream which flows continually, never running dry. This small stream is good because it is easy to cross and because it is pleasing and healthy, its water being good for drinking since it flows peacefully and is never murky. *St. Ambrose of Milan*

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

8-10 East 79th St. New York, NY 10075-0106 * Tel: (212) 570-3530 Fax: (212) 774-0237

Date : June 29, 2011

PAN-ORTHODOX CONSENSUS ON SAME-SEX UNIONS

NEW YORK – In light of recent events, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America reminds the faithful of the very instructive statement issued already in 2003 by the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), which was at the time the Pan-Orthodox representative body in the Americas. The same statement, which follows, still stands today.

SCOBA Statement on Moral Crisis in Our Nation

Wednesday, August 13, 2003

As members of the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), representing more than 5 million Orthodox Christians in the United States, Canada and Mexico, we are deeply concerned about recent developments regarding “same sex unions.”

The Orthodox Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality, firmly grounded in Holy Scripture, 2000 years of church tradition, and canon law, holds that marriage consists in the conjugal union of a man and a woman, and that authentic marriage is blessed by God as a sacrament of the Church. Neither Scripture nor Holy Tradition blesses or sanctions such a union between persons of the same sex.

Holy Scripture attests that God creates man and woman in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:27-31), that those called to do so might enjoy a conjugal union that ideally leads to procreation. While not every marriage is blessed with the birth of children, every such union exists to create of a man and a woman a new reality of “one flesh.” This can only involve a relationship based on gender complementarity. “God made them male and female... So they are no longer two but one flesh” (Mark 10:6-8).

The union between a man and a woman in the Sacrament of Marriage reflects the union between Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:21-33). As such, marriage is necessarily monogamous and heterosexual. Within this union, sexual relations between a husband and wife are to be cherished and protected as a sacred expression of their love that has been blessed by God. Such was God’s plan for His human creatures from the very beginning. Today, however, this divine purpose is increasingly questioned, challenged or denied, even within some faith communities, as social and political pressures work to normalize, legalize and even sanctify same-sex unions.

The Orthodox Church cannot and will not bless same-sex unions. Whereas marriage between a man and a woman is a sacred institution ordained by God, homosexual union is not. Like adultery and fornication,

homosexual acts are condemned by Scripture (Rom 1:24-27; 1 Cor 6:10; 1 Tim 1:10). This being said, however, we must stress that persons with a homosexual orientation are to be cared for with the same mercy and love that is bestowed by our Lord Jesus Christ upon all of humanity. All persons are called by God to grow spiritually and morally toward holiness.

As heads of the Orthodox Churches in America and members of SCOBA, we speak with one voice in expressing our deep concern over recent developments. And we pray fervently that the traditional form of marriage, as an enduring and committed union only between a man and a woman, will be honored.

August 13, 2003

† **Archbishop DEMETRIOS, Chairman**

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

† **Metropolitan HERMAN**

Orthodox Church in America

† **Metropolitan PHILIP, Vice Chairman**

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

† **Archbishop NICOLAE**

Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America America and Canada

† **Metropolitan CHRISTOPHER, Secretary**

Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada

† **Metropolitan JOSEPH**

Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church

† **Metropolitan NICHOLAS of Amissos, Treasurer**

Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese in the USA

† **Metropolitan CONSTANTINE**

Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA

† **Bishop ILIA of Philomelion**

Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America

Previously published on the web: <http://www.scoba.us/articles/2003-08-13-moral-crisis.html>

One of the fathers who had gone to Constantinople to attend to some necessary business said to me: While I was sitting in the church, a man who was illustrious in the worldly sense but also a great lover of Christ came in; and when he saw me, he sat down. He then began asking about the salvation of the soul. I told him that the heavenly life is given to those who live life the earthly life in a seemly way.

"You have spoken well, father," he said. "Blessed is the man whose hope is in God and who presents himself as an offering to God. I am the son of a

man who is very distinguished by the standards of the world. My father was very compassionate and distributed huge sums among the poor.

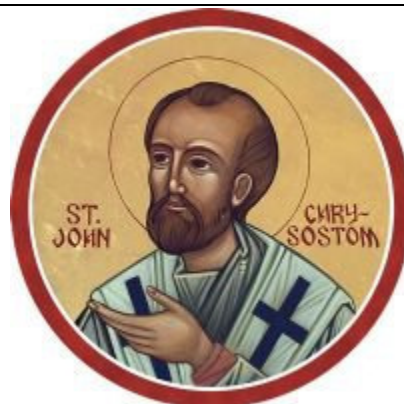
One day he called me; showing me all his money, he said to me: 'Son, which do you prefer; that I leave you my money, or that I give you Christ as your guardian?' Grasping the point he was making, I said I would rather have Christ; for everything that is here today shall be gone tomorrow. Christ remains forever. So from the moment he heard me say that, he gave without sparing, leaving very little for me when he died. So I was left a poor man and I lived simply, putting my hope in the God whom he bequeathed to me."

"There was another rich man, one of the leading citizens, who had a wife who loved Christ and feared God; and he had one daughter, his only child. The wife said to the husband: 'We have only this one daughter, yet the Lord has endowed us with so many goods. What does she lack? If we seek to give her in marriage to somebody of our own rank whose way of life is not praiseworthy, it shall be a continual source of affliction to her.

Let us rather look for a lowly man who fears God; one who will love her and cherish her according to God's holy law.' He said to her, 'This is good advice. Go to church and pray fervently. Sit there, and whoever comes in first, he it is whom the Lord has sent.'"

"This she did. When she had prayed, she sat down and it was I who came in at that moment. She sent a servant to call me straightaway and she began asking me where I was from. I told her that I was from this city, the son of such-and-such a man. She said, 'He who was so generous to the poor? And have you a wife?' I said I had not. I told her what my father had said to me and what I had said to him. She glorified the Lord and said, 'Behold, the Good Guardian whom you chose has sent you a bride - and riches, so that you may enjoy both in the fear of God.' I pray that I might follow in my father's footsteps to the end of my days."

John Moschos, Leimonarion (The Spiritual Meadow) 201



Even in the 4th Century, we were struggling with the tendency of people to allow their zeal for worship to grow cold. But it is up to each of us to encourage those we love to allow the Holy Spirit to renew that hunger for God and His truth in their hearts. Have you asked your friends who use to be faithful in service to

come back to church? Are you providing a good example to your friends, family, and neighbors that your faith has top priority in your life?

We miss you in worship on Sundays. We need you with us so our community "AMEN" can ring loudly in our lives. We hope you will come to worship on time this Sunday.

Your servant,
Fr. George

What Concern is it to us if Our Brethren do not Attend Church?

Saint John Chrysostom was asked the same question in the late 4th Century and offered the following reply:

"Now these remarks of mine are not so much directed to those who do not attend, as to you who do not bring them forward and do not rouse them from their idleness, and bring them to this table of salvation. I call to mind that on the festival days the multitudes assembled resemble the broad expanse of the sea, but now not even the smallest part of that multitude is gathered together here.

Where are they now who oppress us with their presence on the feast days? It is clear that the absence of all the others is due not only to their own idleness, but also to your neglect. But what if they do not desire to come, you say. Make them desire it by your continual demand to attend, for if they see you insisting upon it they certainly will desire to come.

For what profit is a lamp if it does not give light to him who sits in darkness and what profit is a Christian when he leads no one back to virtue? Do you not see doves which have been trained, how they hunt for others when they are let out? Let us also do this. For what kind of excuse shall we have, if irrational creatures are able to hunt for an animal of their own species, while we who have been honored with reason and so much wisdom, neglect this kind of pursuit?

I exhort you with these words: Go each of you to the houses of your brethren, wait for them to come out, lay hold of them, and bring them here. (*emphasis added*) Now reach out as never before, rouse yourselves up, and let each person enter the Church accompanied by a member of his family: let them incite and urge on another to the assembly here, the father his son, the son his father, the husbands their wives and the wives their husbands, brother his brother and friend his friend; or rather let us not summon friends only but also enemies to this common

treasury of good things. If thy enemy sees you care for his welfare, he will undoubtedly relinquish his hatred."

Fr. George L. Livanos, Economos, All Saints GOC, Canonsburg, PA

From the sayings of The Great Abba Antony

"A man's life or death cometh from his neighbor; if we benefit our brother we benefit ourselves, and if offend him we sin against God."

Rest in eternity with the Lord Ramzy Khalil, in life you served him diligently and joyfully, in passing you are with him truly and eternally.

Abba Zosimus said: When I was once with the blessed Amma Dionysia, a brother asked her for some alms; and she gave him whatever she could. However, since he received less than he had asked for, he began to insult her, speaking improperly about her and about me. When she heard this, she was hurt and sought to harm him. Therefore, on learning this, I told her: "What are you doing, conspiring against yourself? You are removing every virtue from your soul. For what is it that you worthily endure, by comparison with those things, which Christ endures for you? I know, my lady, that you have distributed all your possessions as if they were worthless. Nevertheless, unless you acquire meekness, then you will be like the forger beating an iron nugget but producing no vessel. St. Ignatius the God-bearer says, "I require meekness, through which all of the power of the prince of this age is abolished." The sign of abolishing this world is not being troubled when someone insults you.

There are times when a person will ignore large sums of money; nevertheless, when it comes to a small needle, one's attachment to it may cause one much trouble. Then, the small needle replaces the large amount of money. Therefore, one becomes a slave of the needle, or the monastic cap, or the handkerchief, or the book, instead of being a servant of God." Reflections (Dialogismoi) of Abba Zosimus 5.2 (trans., Fr. John Chryssavgis)

The well-known father Minas the Mavrovounian was very charitable. All the monks in his group ate from one large bowl. At the beginning of the meal he would pretend to be eating, and then after he saw that the others had had enough, he would finish what was left in the bowl. "Have you had enough?" he would ask.

"Yes," would be the answer, without their realizing that he had eaten only one spoonful of food. from An Athonite Gerontikon

A man who takes pride in natural abilities—I mean cleverness, the ability to learn, skill in reading, good diction, quick grasp, and all such skills as we possess without having to work for them—this man, I say, will never receive the blessings of heaven, since the man who is unfaithful in little is unfaithful and vainglorious in much. And there are men who wear out their bodies to no purpose in the pursuit of total dispassion, heavenly treasures, miracle working, and prophetic ability, and the poor fools do not realize that humility, not hard work, is the mother of such things. The man who seeks a quid pro quo from God builds on uncertainty, whereas the man who considers himself a debtor will receive sudden and unexpected riches.

St. John Climacus, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, 22

From the writings of the Blessed Elder, IERONYMOS of Aegina +1966

That we should guard our senses and keep our curiosity in check

"Be careful with your senses. Wherever you find yourselves—whether at home, or on the way somewhere—pray. Do not look with curiosity here and there....When you walk in the street, say the Creed or whatever prayer you wish; and God will protect you from temptations. Do not take notice, do not look at, and do not listen to what does not concern you. Take heed in all things concerning yourselves, even your movements or the way you dress."