

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

# CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

**ON THE MEND:** Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Metropolitan Constantine, Bishop Robert, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Dragan Filipović, Father Stevo Rocknage, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Michael Mihalick [MS], Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Cuthbert Jack, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Deacon Dennis Lapushanski, Joshua Agosto and his family, Mike Holupka, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Joe Nezolyk, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Linda Mechtly, Mary Mochnick, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Stella Cherepko, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, 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, Robert Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, George & Mika Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Liz, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Doris Artman, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, 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, Bob C., Allieyoung girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew-21year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Woloschak, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciow, Nellie Patsko, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Pete Niederberger, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Lloyd Sheakley, Diane McDaniel, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael

Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Tony Butecoff, Carl & Margaret Reed, Theodore Demopoulos, Jillian Bowman, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Karen & Peter Special, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Doug Smith [Millie Kerr's son-in-law], Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], Mel & Charlotte Malik, Paula Pasquinelli, David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, June Miller, Corey Guich, Monica Salvatore, Glenda Tickerhoof, Robert Vangrin, Juliana Leis, and Daria Masur. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

**THANK YOU ALL!** Your hospitality and love for Christ were evident during last Sunday's visit by Bishop Daniel and our seminarians: Andriy, Wasyl, Ihor, and Yuri. They were impressed with the kindness, generosity, and love shown them during their short time in Slickville. We hope they come back again soon!

#### **REMINDER: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost!**

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 <u>ALWAYS</u> <u>FREE!</u>

<u>Communion Fasting:</u> 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, May 13 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN; HOLY APOSTLE JAMES-BROTHER OF SAINT JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN; SAINT DONATUS-BISHOP OF EUROPA IN EPIRUS; UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF HIEROMARTYR BASIL-BISHOP OF AMASEA; MARTYR MAXIMUS OF EPHESUS \*\*\*\*\*\*\*MOTHER'S DAY\*\*\*\*\*

Tone 4
Acts 11:19-26, 29-30, Acts 12:1-11
John 4:5-42, Luke 5:1-11

Litany in Blessed Memory of All Deceased Mothers, Grandmothers, etc.—Fr. Bob Parastas in Blessed Memory of Helen & Frank Riznow—the Riznow Family

Sunday, May 20 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN; COMMEMORATION OF THE APARITION OF THE SIGN OF THE HOLY CROSS OVER JERUSALEM IN 351 AD; MARTYR ACACIUS THE CENTURION AT BYZANTIUM

Tone 5 Acts 16:16-34 John 9:1-38

Litany in Blessed Memory of Helen Pytlak—Mr. & Mrs. Arthur DeSabatine Parastas in Blessed Memory of John Batch—Harry Batch

Thursday, May 24 HOLY ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, May 27 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; SYNAXIS OF THE CARPATHO-RUSYN SAINTS; MARTYR ISIDORE OF CHIOS; MARTYR MAXIMUS UNDER DECIUS; SAINT SERAPION THE SINDONITE-MONK OF EGYPT; SAINT NICETAS-RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; SAINT LEONTIUS-PATRAIRCH OF JERUSALEM

Tone 6
Acts 20:16-18, 28-36
John 17:1-13

Litany in Blessed Memory of All Deceased Veterans—Fr. Bob

# **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 13 MAY 2012**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN; HOLY APOSTLE JAMES-BROTHER OF SAINT JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN; SAINT DONATUS-BISHOP OF EUROPA IN EPIRUS; UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF HIEROMARTYR BASIL-BISHOP OF AMASEA; MARTYR MAXIMUS OF EPHESUS

\*\*\*\*\*\*MOTHER'S DAY\*\*\*\*

# Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Христос воскрес! Воістину воскрес! Χριστὸς ἀνἐστη! Άληθῶς ἀνἐστη! (Khristós Anésti! Alithós Anésti!)

Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat! إ ماق اق عيسمان! (al-Masīḥ qām! Ḥaqqan qām!) Kristo Amefufukka! Kweli Amefufukka

#### **TROPARION—TONE 4**

When the women disciples of the Lord Learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection; They cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, Granting the world great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

#### **KONTAKION—TONE 8**

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith; She saw Thee, the Water of Wisdom, and drank abundantly! She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

# **KONTAKION—TONE 4**

My Savior and Redeemer, As God rose from the tomb And delivered the earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of Hell, And as Master, He has risen on the third day!

# **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**

Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.

You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

#### THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS (Replaces "It Is Truly Meet")

The angel cried unto Mary, who was full of Grace Hail, oh pure virgin, oh pure virgin once again I hail Thee Thy Son has risen from His three days in the grave, and He has raised the dead with Him, Oh rejoice, all ye people.

Oh shine with clear radiance, shine on new Jerusalem For the glory of the Lord is shining up on you. Rejoice! Rejoice! now and be joyful--oh Zion, and though oh pure one and adorable birthgiver of God, in the rising again of HIM who was born of Thee.

# **COMMUNION HYMNS**

Receive ye the Body of Christ; taste ye the fountain of immortality.

## **Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!**

The letter below was sent by Fr. Demetrios Carellas on Monday of Bright Week this year. The content is a valuable reminder for each of us as long-standing conflict is often a stumbling block for many and personal peace remains elusive. I hope you'll have time to read it in its entirety:

"It is the day of the Resurrection; let us be radiant in the festival, and let us embrace one another. Let us say, O brethren, even to those who hate us: Let us forgive all things on the Resurrection..."

[Resurrection Doxastikon in the 1st Plagal tone]

**Christ is Risen!** 

This year, the words of the closing hymn of the Resurrection Matins service really spoke to my heart. It is: a call to heart-centered intimacy; a call to forgive everything-past and present-in the spirit of the never-ending JOY of our Saviour's Holy Resurrection, even to those who hate us.

Well, then, should not this Christ-centered call apply also to family members and friends with whom we are currently-at best-'benignly rejecting', and-at worse-festering bitterness and/or contempt? My brothers and sisters in the risen Lord Jesus, how can we expect our Lord to - as another Resurrection hymn states-"make our lives peaceful", if we continue to show Him our contempt through the way we treat those closest to us?

What a glorious time this is for us to let go of our anger, harshness and judgment of those whom we feel have offended us, rejected us, been cruel to us—even for years? And here is the most effective way to do this: We must pray that our Lord Jesus will grant us His grace to take full blame for the conflict, and not expect any apology from the other party—even if, by the standards of this fallen world, we were ones being "wronged". In this way, my beloved sojourners on the sea of life, we will be victorious, even if the other person chooses to reject our efforts. I have total confidence in the truth of what I am sharing with you, because I have frequently read about these things in the teachings of our holy Church Fathers, and in the lives of our Saints; and actually have seen living results of it in my 37+ years of service to our Lord Jesus and His Church.

When we surrender our wills to Christ in this manner, then He will give to our hearts at least these two things: His peace, "which surpasses all understanding"; and a love for the other person that is no longer mecentered and conditional, but Christ-centered and unconditional! And then we will experience and inward freedom, that words cannot circumscribe!

However, (please forgive the length of this!) we cannot approach the other person with any hidden agenda; or our efforts will bear no good fruit. A story from the Desert Fathers will clearly illustrate this: Once two monks at a Monastery became quite angry with one another, and begin to harbor resentment for one another. One of the monks decided to make an attempt reconciliation with his brother. However, on the way to speak with him, he allowed the devil to fill his thoughts with memories of the unkind things the other had said to him, and to put in his mind that: if he asked for forgiveness, then the other monk had to do likewise. Thus, the reconciliation attempt failed completely.

Therefore the monk went to his Spiritual Father, who explained to him that his hidden agenda made it impossible for God's grace to enter into the conversation. Therefore, he instructed his spiritual child to pray fervently for God's grace; and to approach his brother—unconditionally, and willing to accept full blame for the loss of their friendship. Approaching his brother's

cell in this manner, armed him with with God's grace, their division was destroyed!

O my dear and blessed brothers and sisters in the risen Lord, think of what healing power would start taking place within ourselves, our families, our parishes, even our Nations, if you and I choose to follow this path during the next 38 days—if we too "forgive all things on the Resurrection!

#### **Truly He is Risen!**

Your servant in Christ, +Fr. Demetrios

We came to the Thebaid, and at the city of Antinoe we visited Phebamon the Sophist for the benefit of his words. He told us that in the district around Hermopolius there had been a brigand whose name was David. He had rendered many people destitute, murdered many and committed every kind of evil deed; more so that any other man, one might say. One day, while he was still engaged in brigandage on the mountain, together with a band of more than thirty, he came to his senses, conscience-stricken by his evil deeds. He left all those who were with him and went to a monastery. He knocked at the monastery gate. The porter came out and asked him what he wanted. The robber-chief replied that he wanted to become a monk, so the porter went inside and told the abbot about him. The abbot came out and, when he saw that the man was advanced in age, he said to him, "You cannot stay here, for the brethren labor very hard. They practice great austerity. Your temperament is different from ours and you could not tolerate the rule of the monastery." But the brigand insisted that he could tolerate these things, if only the abbot would accept him. But the abbot was persistent in his conviction that the man would not be able.

Then the robber-chief said to the abbot, "Know, then, that I am David the robber-chief; and the reason why I came here was that I might weep for my sins. If you do not accept me, I swear to you and before Him who dwells in heaven that I will return to my former way of life. I will bring those who were with me, kill you all and even destroy your monastery." When the abbot heard this, he received him into the monastery, tonsured him and gave him the holy habit. Thus he began the spiritual combat and he exceeded all the other members of the monastery in self-control, obedience, and humility. There were about seventy persons in that monastery; he benefited them all, providing them with an example.

One day when he was sitting in his cell, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, saying, "David, David; the Lord has pardoned your sins and, from this time on, you shall perform miraculous signs." David replied to the

angel, "I cannot believe that in so short a time God has forgiven me all my sins, which are heavier than the sand of the sea." The angel said to him, "I did not spare Zachariah the priest when he refused to believe me concerning his son.(Lk. 1:20) I imprisoned his tongue to teach him not to doubt what I said; how then should I spare you? You shall be totally incapable of speech from this time onwards." Abba David prostrated himself before the angel and said, "When I was in the world, committing abominable acts and shedding blood, I had the gift of speech. Will you deprive me of it by imprisoning my tongue, now that I wish to serve God and offer up hymns of praise to Him?" The angel replied, "You will only be able to speak during the services. At all other times you shall be completely silent"—and that is how it was. He sang the psalms, but he could say no other word, big or little. The one who told us these things said, "I saw him many times and I glorified God."

John Moschus, Leimonarion (The Spiritual Meadow) 143

The child Jesus born within us advances by different ways in those who receive Him in wisdom, in age, and in grace. He is not the same in every person, but is present according to the measure of the person receiving Him. He shows Himself according to each one's capacity. He comes either as an infant, or a child advancing in age, or as one fully grown after the example of the cluster. Christ is never seen with the same form upon the vine, but He changes His form with time—now budding, now blossoming, now mature, now ripe and finally as wine. Thus the vine holds out a promise with its fruit. It is not yet ripe for wine, but it awaits maturity. Meanwhile it does not lack in any delight, for it gladdens our sense of smell instead of our taste with its expectation of the future; by its fragrance of hope it sweetens the soul's senses. A faith firm in a grace we hope for becomes a delight for us who wait in patience. *St. Gregory of Nyssa*, **The Song of Songs** 

## **PASCHA TO ASCENSION**

From Pascha to the Feast of the Ascension The period between Pascha and the Feast of the Ascension is an intense period focusing on the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers benefit from being very attentive to this period of time. The period between Pascha and the Feast of the Ascension is a time to live in accord with the Church. Believers' lives improve when they conform to the celebration of the Resurrection. The joy of the Resurrection has a primary place in the hearts and minds of believers. The hope emanating from the Resurrection has a place in guiding believers. The meaning of the Resurrection is a constant point of reference. The Crucifixion

and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ are standards of measurement for daily life. The love of Christ is a daily standard of measurement for believers. Christ demonstrated His love as an example for believers to follow. Christ taught when He washed the feet of the disciples prior to His Crucifixion. The Lord Jesus Christ said: "If I then, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.(Jn.13:14) In being specific about loving others, Jesus said to His disciples, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you."(Jn.13:34) We become followers of Christ at Baptism. From the time of Baptism until departure from this life, Christians are expected to live in conformity with the life and teachings of Christ. Christians are expected to grow in Christ throughout life. When lapses in faithfulness to Christ occur, repentance and return to faithfulness is necessary. Confession and Holy Communion bring believers into unity with Christ. Believers determine the goals and direction of their lives. The Holy Gospel read at Pascha describes Christ as the Light. The Gospel of St.John states: "That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world."(Jn.1:9) Believers determine the degree of faithfulness they apply to daily life in following the light of Christ.. Believers make choices throughout the day reflecting whether personal life is in conformity with the Church. Each day the Church moves through the year in a defined and organized manner. The Church has daily services expressing the theology of the Church. The Church has daily expectations regarding the lives of believers. Following Christ is completely voluntary and is an expected act of love and appreciation. Following Christ is an expressed desire for the salvation of the soul and leads to healing wounds of the soul. Following Christ involves repentance. When St. John the Baptist saw the Lord Jesus Christ, St. John said: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."(Jn.1:29) For believers to move from sin to salvation, living in Christ is absolutely necessary. The Church provides the daily structure and nourishment for believers. The Church fortifies believers to face the daily perils to the soul. The Church is security and safety against the always dangers lurking to bring downfall. The Church establishes prayers for daily guidance and strength. The Church holds daily services for nourishment. The Church shapes the day, the week, the month and the year. The Church leads believers toward the Kingdom of God. The Church prepares believers making the journey toward the Kingdom. Believers determine the direction of daily life and ultimately where their lives are concluded. Each person is given a certain faculty of mind. Each person has responsibility for the personal gifts given by God. The Lord Jesus Christ said: "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required..."(Lk.12:48) Believers living in the Resurrected Christ will do all within their personal ability to

learn about Him and be nourished by Him. Jesus said: "...learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."(Mt.11:29) Peace is found in Christ. We know from the lives of the martyrs and saints they are able to be at peace in the midst of adversity and turmoil. On Holy Saturday we learn of the composure of the three youths in the fiery furnace. The three youths placing their trust in God in the fiery furnace sang with one mouth, praising and glorifying God. The Church wants us to know about the Prophecy of Daniel as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ.(Dan.3:1-57) The Gospel on Pascha speaks about the Word being in the beginning and subsequently taking on flesh .(Jn.1:1-17) The Eighth Ode of the Paschal Canon makes the connection between Christ and the saving of the youths in the furnace. The contents of the Divine services are fully instructional. Attentive listeners learn the teachings of the Church from the content of the services. The Divine services are not only beautiful in sound, but are amazing at what they teach. Between Pascha and the Feast of Ascension, believers have consistent opportunities to learn more about the Risen Christ and His actions back to the creation of the world. Christians live not only in the present. Christians benefit from considering the work of God through the ages. Christians do well to think about how they invest the rest of their lives and the anticipated results of the Final Judgment.

Prepared for Adult Class. St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. April 19/May 2, 2012. St. John of the Ancient Caves. Father Rodney Torbic

Hollywood lights shine on Salem Township (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review)—A few Salem Township farms have gotten the Hollywood treatment in recent weeks. They've been the setting for scenes in "Promised Land," a movie about a corporate salesman who visits a rural town to purchase gas drilling rights from property owners. <a href="http://triblive.com/news/westmoreland/1358004-74/crews-filming-martz-salem-scenes-township-farm-film-filmed-month">http://triblive.com/news/westmoreland/1358004-74/crews-filming-martz-salem-scenes-township-farm-film-filmed-month</a>

**THANK YOU ALL!** Your hospitality and love for Christ were evident during last Sunday's visit by Bishop Daniel and our seminarians: Andriy, Wasyl, Ihor, and Yuri. They were impressed with the kindness, generosity, and love shown them during their short time in Slickville. We hope they come back again soon!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our May babies:** Pani Gina on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Nathanial Scott on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Martha Persico on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Christine Shirley on the 23<sup>rd</sup>,

and Jim Weiser on the 24<sup>th</sup>. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! Christ is Risen!

#### UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA CONSISTORY OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS PRESS RELEASE

#### **Metropolitan Constantine Hospitalized**

We ask all the clergy and faithful of our Holy Church and beyond to pray for he healing of our beloved Metropolitan Constantine who was admitted to hospital early this morning. [Monday, May 7] His Eminence was experiencing an overwhelming weakness in his entire body and was advised by his physicians to go by ambulance to the hospital for an evaluation. He is presently in intensive care being treated for severe congestion, which is affecting his heart and lungs, thus weakening his entire body. Please pray fervently that as He raised Jairus' daughter from her bed of pain and suffering that our Loving Lord will extend His healing touch upon His servant Metropolitan Constantine so that he is home in time to celebrate with the hundreds planning to participate in honoring him at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his episcopal consecration. As we are informed, we will provide further information to you all about the Metropolitan's healing progress.

+Archbishop Antony +Bishop Daniel

O Holy Father, Heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies, who sent Your Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to heal those in illness: visit and heal Your servant, our Metropolitan Constantine, granting him release from pain and restoration to health and vigor, that he may give thanks unto You and bless Your holy Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

REMINDERS: <u>NO KNEELING</u> until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. Instead of "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service *until Ascension Thursday*, we sing "Christ is Risen!" Also, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.