



## **Holy Ghost Orthodox Church**

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# **SAINTS PETER AND PAUL FAST—APOSTLES' FAST**

## **Vechnaya Pam'yat, Metropolitan Constantine!**

### **Memory Eternal!**

**ON THE MEND:** Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: 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, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, 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, 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., Allie— young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—21-year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Woloschak, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, 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, 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, Susan "Billie" Mason, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, LuAnne [Mike Horvath's daughter], Donald Griffey, Martin Kapusta, Deborah Smith, and Daria Masur. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JULY BABIES:** Harry Batch on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Matthew Brunermer on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and Katrina Scott on the 25<sup>th</sup>. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'Nohaya Lita!

"My joy, I beg you, acquire the Spirit of Peace. That means to bring oneself to such a state that our spirit will not be disturbed by anything. For one must go through many sorrows to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. This is the way all righteous men were saved and inherited the Heavenly Kingdom..."—*Saint Seraphim of Sarov*

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 01**      **Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—MARTYRS LEONTIUS, HYPATIUS, & THEODULUS AT TRIPOLI; SAINT LEONTIUS-CANONARCH OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**  
*Tone 3*  
Romans 6:18-23  
Matthew 8:5-13  
*Litany in Blessed Memory of Olga Stock, Anna Kitch, Sophie Carrera, Susan Justina Sredich, Stella E. Cherepko, Joseph Paouncic, Igumen George [Owen], & Claudia Horvath—Fr. Bob*  
*Parastas in Blessed Memory of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Constantine—40 days—Fr. Bob*
- Sunday, July 08**      **NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE—FR. BOB OUT OF TOWN**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—VIRGIN-MARTYR FEBRONIA OF NISIBIS**  
*Tone 4*  
Romans 10:1-10  
Matthew 8:28-9:1
- Thursday, July 12**      **FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS & ALL-PRAISED APOSTLES PETER & PAUL**
- Sunday, July 15**      **NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE—FR. BOB OUT OF TOWN**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—THE PLACING OF THE HONORABLE ROBE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS AT BLACHERNAE; SAINT JUVENAL-PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM; SAINT PHOTIUS-METROPOLITAN OF KIEV**  
*Tone 5*  
Romans 12:6-14; Hebrews 9:1-7  
Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JULY 2012** **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—MARTYRS LEONTIUS, HYPATIUS, & THEODULUS AT TRIPOLI; SAINT LEONTIUS-CANONARCH OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

### **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!

He who wants to know from experience the mysteries of Christianity should apply all his strength to spiritual labors and not attempt to understand everything with the mind alone. *Abbot Nikon*

### **Prayers for the Departed**

Praying for loved ones departed this life is integral to God's Holy Church. Prayers begin for departed loved ones immediately. The Church has a service entitled: "Office after the Departure of the Soul from the Body"<sup>1</sup>

Subsequent services held after a person has departed this life include the Pomen also known as the Trisagion. The Funeral Service and the Parastos/Panikhida also are services involving prayers for the departed.

The creation and long-standing existence of the various services for the departed speaks to the value ascribed by the Church to these efforts.

<sup>1</sup> Book of Needs. Compiled and Edited by A Monk of St.Tikhon's Monastery. St.Tikhon's Seminary Press, South Canaan, Pennsylvania, 2002, p.137.

The existence and performing of these services are expressions of hope and belief that they are of benefit. God's mercy is everlasting. (Ps.102/103:17)

Prayers for the departed are not limited to services specifically for the departed. The Divine Liturgy has prayers for the departed in the Proskomedie and in litanies. The departed are also remembered at the time of Slava celebrations in the blessing of the memorial wheat.

The Akathist for the Departed is a specific service involving prayers for all departed from the beginning of the world.<sup>2</sup> Great and faithful effort has gone into the development, approval and translation of the various services for the departed.

Great effort has been invested in publishing the services on a widespread basis. Great effort is exerted in the performing of the services and the faithful drawing near to be in attendance.

The services and prayers for the departed are not only to benefit the departed loved ones. The services and prayers give structure for clergy and faithful to express concern for the departed in ways consistent with the beliefs of the Church.

The services and prayers of the Church need to be consistent with teachings and beliefs of the Church. The services and prayers need to be consistent with the way of Christ.

The content of the prayers and services need to be absent of any heretical or unsupported assertions. The content and prayers need to clearly reflect the theology of the Church.

When a person departs this life, clergy and surviving loved ones feel the need to draw near to God in being attentive to the change taking place. The prayers and services provide a structure and focus to address the change in life.

The prayers and services for the departed bring together followers of Christ.

Unity occurs among all affected. Healing takes place. Constructive steps are taken for the departed and the surviving.

When a person departs this life, the person cannot undo or change what has taken place during earthly life. Appeals to God by clergy and surviving loved ones in behalf of the departed may affect the Final Judgment by God.

We know from the Holy Gospel that changes can happen even after a person departs this life. The Lord Jesus Christ restored life to the only son of the widow of Nain after he had died.(Lk.7:11-15).

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<sup>2</sup> Book of Akathists. Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, New York, 1994, p.286.

We know from the Holy Gospel that Jesus restored life to Lazarus after Lazarus had been dead for four days.(Jn.11:1-12:1) Every Pascha believers celebrate Jesus' Resurrection from the dead..

Sufficient evidence exists in the Gospel to believe that God can make changes even after death has occurred. The Gospel evidence is sufficient proof to continue with the efforts to pray for the departed.

The Church has four Memorial Saturdays during the year when the departed this life are remembered particularly and collectively. Additionally, every Saturday is a time to remember the departed.<sup>3</sup>

The Epistle and Gospel read during the Funeral Service reference the rising of the dead.(I Thess.4:13-17; Jn.5:24-30) The belief in the resurrection of the dead is expressed in The Creed recited at Holy Baptism and at each Divine Liturgy.

Love for departed loved ones is motivation for prayers to be said and services to be held at the time of death and continuing until the Second Coming of Christ. The Church is faithful in remembering all departed this life.

The Akathist for the Departed provides for prayers for those who departed without repentance and for those having no one to pray for them.<sup>4</sup> Love can make a difference. God's love can make a decided difference.

Persistence in coming to God in prayer in behalf of departed loved ones is consistent with the message of the Holy Gospel. Jesus spoke of the value of being resolute in gaining the attention of our heavenly Father.(Lk.11:5-13)

The value of firmness of faith was demonstrated when the woman of Canaan appealed to Jesus for help with her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus recognized her strong faith when her request was not granted and she persisted.(Mt.15:22-28)

We can never be certain of the Final Judgment that will befall our loved ones departed this life. We do well when we continue to pray for them individually and in the services of God's Holy Church.

Praying for departed loved ones is a way to prepare for our own departure from this life and increasing our understanding of the meaning of life and death.

The Canon of Repentance assists in putting life and death in perspective.

The Canon of Repentance states: "I believe that Thou wilt come to judge the living and the dead, and that all will stand in order, old and young, lords and princes, priests and virgins. Where shall I find myself?"<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> 1992 Calendar of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada. Editor Very Rev. Milan Savich. Great Lakes Graphics, Skokie, Illinois, p.36

<sup>4</sup> Book of Akathists, p.391

<sup>5</sup> The Unabbreviated Horologion or Book of the Hours. Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, New York, 1997, p.344.

Loved ones departed this life have done much to make our lives better. They have blessed us during this life in many different ways beyond measure and comprehension.

We can show appreciation for our loved ones departed this life by praying for them without ceasing. We can turn to the Lord God in faith and love according to the practices of the Church and ask for mercy for loved ones departed this life.

Accidents can take a loved one suddenly from this life. Catastrophic illness, an unexpected heart attack, or an act of violence can bring an end to the life of a loved one. The loved one may or may not have had time to repent.

The sudden and unexpected death of a loved one can leave surviving family members and friends confused. The prayers and services of the Church for the departed give direction for constructive action.

When grieving family members and friends gather in the services of the Church, God is at work healing the keen sense of loss being felt. God is at work restoring order to the lives of the living.

The Church is a continuous source of support and healing for believers choosing to turn to Christ. The Church remembers loved ones departed this life even when family members and friends may forget.

Graves are blessed regularly in parish cemeteries. Prayers for the departed are included in the Divine Liturgy whenever and wherever the Divine Liturgy is served.

Believers have the opportunity to request prayers for departed loved ones at any time throughout the year. Believers have the opportunity to seek guidance from the priest in learning to pray for beloved family members and friends.

Believers do well to familiarize themselves with the contents of the different services and references to the departed in services. Believers taking time to look at the different services will be amazed at the full range of prayers for the departed.

The Akathist for the Departed is comprehensive and encompassing in the many forms of death and prayers for all individuals. Anyone examining the Akathist for the Departed can find a way for solace in the loss of a loved one.

Prayer has different degrees of depth and range. Prayers for the departed can be utilized to the degree believers seek to be concerned about loved ones. Prayers for the departed can take place at home and in the church.

The burning of memorial candles in the church, at home and in the cemetery is way to express prayer for a departed loved one. The making of

memorial wheat at the time of a parastos/panikhida or a family Slava is a remembrance of departed.

The blessing of the grave of a loved one is a way to remember a loved one in prayer. Only God knows what the Final Judgment will bring for each individual. Until the Final Judgment, God's judgment is not final regarding a loved one.

A departed person does not control his or her life beyond earthly death. A living person has the ability to pray for the departed loved ones while the living person has faculty of mind.

The way a person's earthly life appears outwardly does not necessarily reflect the way a person will spend eternity. God knows what takes place in the hearts and minds of believers.

The experiences of Lazarus and the rich man also give some indication of what can occur in the future. Present day suffering in earthly life may be replaced with quite a different experience after earthly death.(Lk.16:19-31)

The rich man that neglected poor Lazarus at his gate suffered great torment after his earthly death. His life of luxury during earthly life was short lived. Heeding the words of Moses and the prophets has great benefit.(Lk.16:31)

The best way to prepare for life after earthly death is to live in Christ as faithfully as possible. Living in Christ as faithfully as possible entails remembering relatives and friends departed this life.

Too often family members and friends lay in graves in cemeteries and are not remembered in prayer. Too often services held on Memorial Saturdays in parish churches have only a small number of people in attendance.

Too often great numbers of individuals do not carry on the family Slava and neglect to remember the faithful family members through the centuries that have preserved the Faith in their lives.

Too often when a family member departs this life prayers cease for them. The Holy Apostle Paul said: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable."(I Cor.15:19).

When a parish Slava is celebrated, it is common for a procession to be made around the church three times. During the last encircling of the church, prayers are offered for the departed faithful of the parish.

In God's Holy Church, the living and the departed are united in different ways. Prayer is an important way for this unity to take place. Prayer is a way for the living to show respect and concern for the departed.

Sons and daughters will learn of the importance of prayers for departed family members and friends when they see their parents ascribing value to prayers for the departed.



Cemeteries are well-cared for when living family members and friends show a continuing interest in the graves of loved ones. Care of cemeteries and holding a full range of memorial services requires extensive support.

Praying for loved ones departed this life is a way to learn more about life and death. Praying for loved ones departed this life is a way to live responsibly.

Loved ones departed this life are not to be discarded with abandon.

Human beings are created in the image and likeness of God.(Gen.1:26). The bodies and the lives of individuals departed this life deserve the greatest of respect. The souls of departed family members and friends deserve continued attention.

Individuals taking time to remember family members and friends put their love into action. Well-cared for cemeteries and well-attended memorial services are expressions of love and respect for loved ones absent in this earthly life.

The women going to the Tomb out of love and respect for the Crucified Christ experienced great joy. They learned: "He is risen!"(Mk.16:6) At the Final Judgment believers faithful to their departed loved ones may also experience joy.

The Psalmist said: "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."(Ps.89/90:12) Believers are behooved to think carefully about the on-going attention given to beloved ones departed this life.

Prayer springs forth from the hearts and minds of the living. The hearts and minds of the living determine the degree of sincerity of interest in loved ones departed this life.

The Church is clear on expecting continued remembrance of the departed. Living individuals consciously make choices regarding departed loved ones in prayer.

God knows the degree of each person's faithfulness to beloved family members and friends departed this life. God knows the continuing interest of family members and friends in praying for loved ones departed this life.

Parents have a responsibility to teach their sons and daughters the value of prayers for the departed. Parents have a responsibility of teaching their sons and daughters the importance of caring for cemeteries where loved ones are buried.

Each Christian has a responsibility to familiarize his or herself with the teachings of the Church. Each Christian has a responsibility to learn of the meaning of life and death.

Prayers take place voluntarily. Prayers carry with them great value and force. Prayers shape a person and a family. Prayers shape a society. Prayers reflect the values of a person.

Praying for the departed is a way to value family members and friends giving and enriching our lives. Christ said ten lepers were healed and only one took time to give thanks.(Lk.17:12-19).

Prayers for departed loved ones express thanksgiving and love.  
*Prepared for Adult Class. St.George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. June 6/29, 2012. Venerable Bessarion the Wonderworker and Venerable Hilarion the New. Father Rodney Torbic*

I'm not sure I can even pronounce this, but it's a fun list! Read it and have a good laugh!

\**PARAPROSDOKIANS*... (Winston Churchill loved them) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right—only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
9. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
10. Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station.
11. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paychecks.
12. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
13. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
14. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
15. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
16. A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
17. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

18. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
19. There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.
20. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
21. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
22. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
23. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
24. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
25. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
26. Where there's a will, there are relatives.

**And mine is: I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.**

Bob Graham, Crafton HS '59, Winter Springs, FL

Abba Or also said: If you have spoken evil of your brother, and you are stricken with remorse, go and kneel down before him and say, "I have spoken badly of you. Let this be my surety that I will not spread this slander any further." For detraction is death to the soul.

**Father Bob will be out of town from July 7 through July 17—if you need the services of an Orthodox priest, please contact John Paouncic—he has a list of local priests. Also, for July 8 and 15, please visit one of our neighboring sister parishes for Divine Liturgy. If you have any questions, please see or call Fr. Bob before he leaves!**