



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church
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SAINTS PETER AND PAUL FAST—APOSTLES' FAST

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.

Servant of God Daria Mazur, a sister of our beloved Metropolitan Constantine of blessed memory was recently hospitalized in IL, while visiting her son, with a cardiac issue.

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!

Good deeds and love for one's neighbor will result in a holy end for everyone who inwardly supplicates, "Save me, my Christ." Through love and prayer he will be saved. *St. Raphael of Lesvos*

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!

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**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

**Sunday, July 22 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HIEROMONK PANCRATIUS-BISHOP OF
TAORMINA IN SICILY; HIEROMARTYR CYRIL=BISHOP OF GORTYNA IN CRETE;
MARTYRS PATERMUTIUS, COPRIUS, & ALEXANDER THE SOLDIER IN EGYPT;
SAINT THEODORE-BISHOP OF EDESSA**

Tone 6

Romans 15:1-7

Matthew 9:27-35

Litany in Blessed Memory of Helen Pytlak—Mike & Kay Behun

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Emil Joseph Paouncic—Debbie & John Paouncic

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 08 JULY 2012 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST VIRGIN-MARTYR FEBRONIA OF NISIBIS

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, 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 4

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

READER: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works!

PEOPLE: In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 4

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

You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

Keep away human thoughts and maintain your hope in God, Who does more than we think. Hope in God will bring you comfort. Let the Lord help you, my child, through the prayers of His Saints. *St. Dorotheos of Gaza*

Bedtime story for engineers

I love this one...You don't have to be an engineer to appreciate this story.

A toothpaste factory had a problem: they sometimes shipped empty boxes, without the tube inside. This was due to the way the production line was set up, and people with experience in designing production lines will tell

you how difficult it is to have everything happen with timings so precise that every single unit coming out of it is perfect 100% of the time.

Small variations in the environment (which can't be controlled in a cost-effective fashion) mean you must have quality assurance checks smartly distributed across the line so that customers all the way down to the supermarket don't get pissed off and buy another product instead.

Understanding how important that was, the CEO of the toothpaste factory got the top people in the company together and they decided to start a new project, in which they would hire an external engineering company to solve their empty boxes problem, as their engineering department was already too stretched to take on any extra effort.

The project followed the usual process: budget and project sponsor allocated, RFP, third-parties selected, and six months (and \$8 million) later they had a fantastic solution on time, on budget, high quality and everyone in the project had a great time. They solved the problem by using high-tech precision scales that would sound a bell and flash lights whenever a toothpaste box would weigh less than it should. The line would stop, and someone had to walk over and yank the defective box out of it, pressing another button when done to re-start the line.

A while later, the CEO decides to have a look at the ROI of the project: amazing results!

No empty boxes ever shipped out of the factory after the scales were put in place.

Very few customer complaints and they were gaining market share.

That's some money well spent! He says, before looking closely at the other statistics in the report. It turns out, the number of defects picked up by the scales was 0 after three weeks of production use. It should've been picking up at least a dozen a day, so maybe there was something wrong with the report. He filed a bug against it, and after some investigation, the engineers come back saying the report was actually correct.

The scales really weren't picking up any defects, because all boxes that got to that point in the conveyor belt were good.

Puzzled, the CEO travels down to the factory, and walks up to the part of the line where the precision scales were installed.

A few feet before the scale, there was a \$20 desk fan, blowing the empty boxes off of the belt and into a bin.

Oh, that, says one of the workers, one of the guys put it there because he was tired of walking over every time the bell rang.

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



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Since our sweet Jesus is so good, compassionate, and kind, why should you despair? We seek one small thing from Him, and He gives us so much! We ask for one beam of light, and He gives us Himself as all Light, Truth, and Love. So humble yourself and rest all your hope in Him. *Elder Joseph the Hesychast*

Three things that please God are true faith in God with a pure heart, a simple life with a grateful spirit, and generosity inspired by charity. *St. Ita*

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!

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Romans 15:1-7
Matthew 9:27-35

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Parastas in Blessed Memory of Emil Joseph Pauncic—Debbie & John Pauncic*

**SUNDAY, JULY 29 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX
ECUMENICAL COUNCILS; HIEROMARTYR ATHENOGENES-BISHOP OF
HERACLEOPOLIS & 10 DISCIPLES; MARTYRS PAUL & SISTERS CHIONIA &
ALEVTINA AT CAESAREA IN PALESTINE; MARTYR ANTIOCHUS-PHYSICIAN OF
SEBASTE; VIRGIN-MARTYR JULIA OF CARTHAGE**

Tone 7

I Corinthians 1:10-18; Hebrews 13:7-16
Matthew 14:14-22; John 17:1-13

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 15 JULY 2012

**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**

TROPARION—TONE 5

Let the faithful praise and worship the Word,
Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit;

Born for our salvation from the Virgin;
For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
To endure death,
And to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 5

Thou didst descend into Hell, O my Savior,
Shattering its gates as almighty;
Resurrecting the dead as Creator,
And destroying the sting of death.
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse,
O Lover of Man,
And we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 5

READER: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

READER: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

READER: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us...

PEOPLE: From this generation forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 5

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever, and my truth will be prepared in the heavens.

Growth in Christ: A Continuous Journey

The priest prays these captivating words during the Divine Liturgy: “Grant also to those who pray with us, O God, growth in life and faith and spiritual understanding.”¹

¹ The Divine Liturgy According to St. John Chrysostom. Edited by Rev Fr. Svetozar Veselinovich, Protonamesnik, Parish Priest, Masontown, Pennsylvania, 1994, p.74.

Growth in life, faith and spiritual understanding occur due to the mercy and goodness of God. The believer has a responsibility in the process to live in ways faithful to God. The believer has a responsibility to nourish the soul.

Choices made by the believer from the time of Holy Baptism need to be consistent with the Christian life. When a believer departs from the path to the Kingdom of God, repentance is necessary.

Baptism is the important beginning in the Christian life. Renewal in Christ throughout life is necessary. Growth in Christ, maturity in faith is a reasonable expectation.

As a person cares for the body and nourishes the body, the believer is expected to care for and feed the soul. Caring for the body and neglecting the soul can be perilous.

The Church honors St. John Climacus each year on the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent. St. John's book, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, serves to vividly describe necessary steps in the Christian growth process.

Spiritual discipline is not a requirement limited to monks and nuns living in a monastery. Spiritual discipline is not a requirement limited to deacons, priests or bishops.

The Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed the value of the narrow path leading to the Kingdom of God. Every person choosing to follow Christ needs to practice the discipline necessary to remain on the road that leads to life.(Mt.7:13-14)

Centuries ago words of the Lord were recorded in the book of the Holy Prophet Jeremiah. The Lord's words ring true today. The Lord said: "Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death."(Jer.21:8)

The martyrs of Kosovo faced the choice between life and death for their souls. They made the decision to forsake the earthly for the heavenly Kingdom. St. Nikolai said: "Their bodies were sanctified by their holy souls."²

Spiritual discipline involves heeding the teaching of the Church regarding fasting and prayer. Spiritual discipline involves denying one's self and taking up the cross and following Christ.(Mt.16:24)

The believer seeking Christian growth senses the hunger for more of Christ and impatience with the present condition of the self. God gives each person a mind to use. The believer determines if the mind will be used for the benefit of the soul.

The Holy Prophet Isaiah has words to ponder when considering Christian growth. Believers do well to look outside themselves to the Holy Prophets for nourishment and for wisdom.

In Isaiah read: "Many people shall say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.'"(Is.2:3)

In the account of the rich man and Lazarus, the value of the prophets was greatly emphasized. The rich man was told by Abraham if his brothers did not heed Moses and the prophets, they would not benefit by one rising from the dead.
(Lk.16:19-31)

²St.Nikolai Velimirovic. "Kosovo". Kosovo Revisted. Editor-Hadzi Dragan Antic. Beograd, 1989, pp.55-56

Christian growth requires the believer to take initiative. Christian growth requires dissatisfaction with personal sinfulness and lack of personal purity in Christ.

Unity with Christ changes the person. Unity with Christ results in love. St. John Climacus puts love at the pinnacle of Christian growth. He said: "Love is the state of angels. Love is the progress of eternity."³

St. John Climacus is not alone in his extolling the virtue of love. The First Epistle of St. John states: "He who does not love does not know God." (I Jn. 4:8) The state of human relationships in today's world makes clear the absence of this love.

Each person has responsibility for his or her Christian growth. The prayers at the Divine Liturgy are beneficial to each believer for whom they are intended but the believer must do what he or she can do to grow in Christ.

Holy Apostle Paul speaks about change from glory to glory. The Holy Apostle told the Corinthians: "We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory." (II Cor. 3:18)

For a positive transformation in Christ, the inner self must reflect Christ and welcome Christ. The inner self must not be a den of thieves or a haven of evil. The inner self cannot be a harbor for sinful desires.

Sin is expelled and is unwelcome when Christ fully resides within the believer. Christ resides in the believer when the Holy Gospel is alive in the believer. Christ resides in the believer when the believer partakes of Holy Communion.

Christ resides in the believer when the believer wages active warfare against sin through prayer and fasting. Blessed Theophylact said great force is needed to acquire the kingdom of heaven including despising one's own life.⁴

Christian growth will not take place nor continue without the believer praying consistently, fervently and extensively. The believer will experience resistance to praying fervently, consistently and extensively.

The believer will experience temptations and distractions that would thwart, dilute or sabotage efforts to pray. The believer seeking complete unity with Christ needs to be resolute in purpose and effort.

The perils of falling prey to the Evil One need to be known. The joy of unity with Christ needs to be held near and dear to the heart. Believers can learn from others greatly experienced in prayer.

Evagrius the Solitary said: "If you have not received the gift of prayer or psalmody, persevere patiently and you will receive it."⁵ Believers benefit by not yielding to temptations to relinquish efforts at praying resolutely.

The desire for Christian growth is desire to nourish the soul. The soul hungers for nourishment from Christ. Only Christ fully satisfies the hunger of the soul. Christ is the sufficiency for the soul.

The Holy Scriptures provide nourishment. At each Divine Liturgy, the Epistle and Gospel readings, when taken to heart, have direct application to the personal lives of the listeners.

³ Saint John Climacus. The Ladder of Divine Ascent. Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Boston, Massachusetts, 2001, p.228).

⁴ Blessed Theophylact. The Explanation by the Blessed Theophylact of The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew. Translated by Fr. Christopher Stade, Chrysostom Press, House Springs, Missouri, 2006, p.95.

⁵ The Philokalia, Vol.I. Translated by G.E.H. Palmer, Philip Sherrard, and Kallistos Ware and Others. Faber and Faber, London & Boston, 1979, p.65.

The Divine Liturgy nourishes the lives of believers. The ultimate nourishment comes with Holy Communion. All of the words of the Divine Liturgy bear nourishment. The intent of the Divine Liturgy is nourishment.

Each Divine Liturgy can be a building block for the Christian life. Each Divine Liturgy can bring a small transformation to the life of each believer. The small changes can have far-reaching impact.

The believer must reach within and be willing to acknowledge and confront sin. The believer must be willing to turn to Christ seeking mercy and forgiveness, strength and enlivening.

Hope centered in Christ is well anchored hope. The lives of the saints have plowed the roads toward the Kingdom of God. The lives of the saints and martyrs have lit the paths through difficult terrain and provide assurance of the way.

Encouragement exists in these words: "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."(Heb.12:1)

Christ does not disappoint those coming to Him in faith. Documentation is in the Holy Gospel of healings granted to firm believers. Jesus told the centurion: "Go your way, and as you have believed so let it be done for you."(Mt.8:13)

Seeking to grow in Christ involves the believer drawing near to Christ. The believer's goals and daily efforts need to be consistent with the way of Christ. Christ needs to be the primary goal, foundation and source of nourishment.

St. Nikolai Velimirovic said: "The path shown by God, even if it appears wrong to you, is right---therefore travel by it. The path of God occasionally seems wrong to us because of our sins."⁶ St. Nikolai's words are strong medicine.

Sin requires strength to combat it successfully. The believer cannot defeat sin alone. Christ is necessary for the believer to be successful in combating sin. The intercession of the saints, the martyrs and the Mother of God make a difference.

The visual image of the Ladder of Divine Ascent portrays individuals falling to destruction even after having ascended to great heights. A notable icon from Mount Sinai demonstrates that great care must always be taken not to fall in sin.⁷

Humility is necessary as growth is experienced. Believers need to take care not to fall into the pattern of the Pharisee who looked down on the nearby tax collector.(Lk.18:10-14)

St. Hesychios the Priest said humility can only be acquired with much diligence. He was clear in saying: "Dispassion and humility lead to spiritual knowledge. Without them, no one can see God."⁸

Individuals choose the way they will invest their time of life and the talents they received from God. Individuals choose the degree to which they are grateful to God for the immeasurable blessings of life.

⁶ St.Nikolai Velimirovic. The Prologue of Ohrid. Vol.One. Translated by Fr.T.Timothy Tepsic. Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Western America, Alhambra, California, 2002, p.609.

⁷ The Ladder of Divine Ascent. Icon in the beginning of the text.

⁸ The Philokalia Vol.1, pp.173-174.

Individuals choose whether to acknowledge personal sin and whether to repent and seek the Kingdom of God. Choices lead to results. Choices lead to consequences. Choices affect where a person spends eternity.

Time spent in prayer is time well invested. Time invested in studying the Holy Scriptures is time well invested. Time allotted for attending the Divine services of the Church makes a difference in life.

Hunger for Christ exists throughout life. As the body needs nourishment throughout life, the soul needs nourished. The Ladder of Divine Ascent set forth by St. John Climacus is worthy of contemplation by all believers.

Growth in Christ is a life-long process. In this world where instant gratification seems to be the norm, patience seems foreign and out of place. Patient endurance is necessary for growth in Christ. Care is necessary not to fall into sin.

Reckless abandon of the way of Christ is spiritual suicide. Abandoning the way of Christ even in smallest ways eventually leads to destruction. Followers of the path to the Kingdom of God need to maintain their integrity.

Compromising Christian integrity leads to spiritual downfall. The Lord Jesus Christ said: "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much."(Lk.16:10)

Seekers of Christ need to press on. When falling, believers need to repent, turn to Christ, and seek to become stronger in Christ. Constant prayer keeps the person united with Christ.

Believers do well to contemplate the journey from the baptismal fount to departure from this life. Believers do well to weight the full commitment to Christ at Holy Baptism and whether the commitment has been honored.

The journey from the baptismal fount to departure from this life can be long. It can also be abruptly cut short. Constant unity with Christ is the greatest safeguard. Contemplating ultimate joy with Christ has a place in the journey.

St. Diadochos of Photki said: "The soul which rejoices in the love of God, at the hour of its departure, is lifted with the angels of peace above all the hosts of darkness."⁹

The trials and tribulations of this life will pale in comparison to the life in the Kingdom of God. Lazarus suffered in this life while the rich man lived sumptuously. Their places were reversed when they departed this life.(Lk.16:19-31)

The Lord Jesus Christ suffered on the Cross. He rose from the Tomb and a completely different outlook has permeated each succeeding generation of believers.

Growth in Christ poses challenges to the believer. Growth in Christ calls forth integrity from the believer. Firmness of faith and love of Christ are necessary. Love of Christ increases to the degree the person is faithful to Christ.

Christ's love is immeasurable and is available to all choosing to follow Him. The paths of life a person chooses to follow are not to be taken lightly. The time of life is not to be expended without careful thought and wise use.

Moments of life are not repeated. The time of life cannot be reclaimed. Individuals live so many finite moments. Gratefulness to God for the time of life is always appropriate.

⁹ The Philokalia, p.295.

Seeking to grow in Christ is making maxim use of the time of life. No greater joy exists than the joy of Christ. No greater fulfillment exists than fulfillment in Christ. No greater nourishment exists than Christ.

The steps toward the Kingdom of God should be taken with certainty and great care. The steps taken toward the Kingdom of God should begin with prayer and be accompanied by constant prayer.

Christ is ever-present with believers making the journey to the Kingdom. Christ said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life."(Jn.14:6).

Prepared for Adult Class, St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. June 13/26, 2012. Holy Martyr Aquilina; St. Triphyllius, Bishop of Cyprus.
Father Rodney Torbic

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.

It is no great thing not to judge and to be sympathetic to someone who is in trouble and falls down before you, but it is a great thing not to judge or to strike back when someone, on account of his own passions, speaks against you. Likewise, it is a great thing not to disagree when someone else is honored more than you are. St. Dorotheos of Gaza

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 Pauncic—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!