



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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DORMITION 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, Father John Nakonachny, 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, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [child with cerebral palsy], Thomas Stutzman, Dr. Kirsten Ream, and Daria Masur. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

PRAYER LIST: Please help update our prayer list. If you or someone you know no longer needs to be on the prayer list or if there is someone who needs to be on the list please let Father Bob know. Remember—Prayers are ALWAYS FREE! Thank you!

Please remember Ryan Fuller, 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, AUGUST 19 **Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom** **10:30 AM**
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR
LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

*******PAGE 236 IN THE BLACK DIVINE LITURGY BOOKS*******

Tone 2

II Peter 1:10-19

Matthew 17:1-9

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Rae Ruth Batch—Harry and family
Slickville Lions Club Chicken BBQ—\$6 per half chicken—BP Gas Station—Routes
22 and 819

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26 **Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom** **10:30 AM**
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—LEAVE-TAKING OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION; SAINT MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR HIPPOLYTUS
OF ROME & 18 WITH HIM INCLUDING MARTYRS CONCORDIA, IRENAEUS, &
ABUNDIUS

Tone 3

I Corinthians 15:1-11

Matthew 19:16-26

Litany in Blessed Memory of Helen Pytlak—Helen & Fred Vrbanic

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28 **THE DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY, THE**
THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 02 **Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom** **10:30 AM**
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—AFTERFEAST OF THE DORMITION;
PROPHET SAMUEL; MARTYRS SEVERUS, MEMNON, & 37 SOLDIERS AT PLOVDIV
IN THRACE

Tone 4

I Corinthians 16:13-24

Matthew 21:33-42

Litany in Blessed Memory of Josephine Roman & Suzie Pelczar—Fr. Bob
Parastas in Blessed Memory of Maxine Kitch—Rosemary and Andrea

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 19 AUGUST 2012
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

*******PAGE 236 IN THE BLACK DIVINE LITURGY BOOKS*******

Lift up the eyes of your mind to the light of the Gospel of Transfiguration,
that you yourself might be transfigured as your spiritual intellect is made

new. If this happens, you will draw down divine rays from on high and will be conformed to the image of the glory of the Lord, whose face shone on the mountain as radiant as the sun. *St. Gregory Palamas*

It is necessary most of all for one who is fasting to curb anger, to accustom himself to meekness and condescension, to have a contrite heart, to repulse impure thoughts and desires, to examine his conscience, to put his mind to the test and to verify what good has been done by us in this or any other week, and which deficiency we have corrected in ourselves in the present week. This is true fasting. *St. John Chrysostom*

The only means by which you can spend the day in perfect holiness, peace, and without sin, is the most sincere, fervent prayer as soon as you rise from sleep in the morning. It will bring Christ into your heart, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and will thus strengthen and fortify your soul against any evil; but still it will be necessary for you carefully to guard your heart. *St. John of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ*

Our Relationship with Jesus Christ

This is the time to consider Jesus Christ and our relationship with Him. Jesus Christ is ever present with us. At times we will clearly sense His presence. At other times, we will feel distant and have thoughts dwelling other than on Christ. It is important that we always repent and return to Jesus Christ.

Our relationship with Jesus Christ is more than intellectual. It is intensely and uniquely personal. Though all Christians are united with and identify with Christ, each person feels a special relationship with Christ, a one to One relationship.

A special bond exists among Christians which they share with each other and with Christ. This bond transcends language and territory to link together in spirit and love, people who have never met personally.

The physical birth of Jesus Christ took place centuries ago. As Orthodox Christians, we celebrate Christ's nativity each year as a present day reality. We proclaim with joy each year that "God is with us!"

It is likely that we do not spend sufficient time being amazed at the passage of centuries and the enduring presence of Christ. Each year at the Divine Liturgy on Pascha we read from the Gospel of St. John that Jesus existed at what is referred to as "the beginning."(Jn.1:2). St. John states that all things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."(Jn. 1:3).

Jesus Christ is central to our Faith. We take our identity from Him. We place our hope in Him. He is our salvation, the source for the remission of sins.

As Christians, we live in a busy and diverse world. There are many distractions. Many individuals in the world blaspheme and do not proclaim Jesus Christ with great glory. At times, the conclusion can be drawn a war is being waged to denounce and subdue any references to Jesus Christ in public places.

We must be certain of our faith. Our perspective must be clear. Through prayer, continual prayer without ceasing, we can come to know Christ as we have never known Him. The barriers to our relationship with Jesus Christ exist within ourselves.

Each of us exerts control over our personal prayer life. Each of us exerts control over our use of time. Our thoughts are subject to personal control. We must be sensitive to the word "discipline" and how it emanates from the word "disciple". To be disciples of Christ, He must ever be present in our prayers, thoughts and mind. Jesus Christ must be our consuming interest.

The Orthodox Church is a Trinitarian Church. In the Creed, we proclaim our belief in One God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. We proclaim our belief in the Son of God, of one essence with the Father. In the Creed, we assert our belief in the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who with the Father and Son is worshipped and glorified. Our beliefs give rise to our actions and they define us as human beings.

We are members of the Holy Orthodox Church. Our religious teachings and services proclaim Christ as God and enable us to learn more about Him. Through the Holy Mysteries, we experience Christ in diverse ways in which He is wonderfully impacts our lives.

The Holy Mysteries are turning points in human lives. We meet Christ in the Holy Mysteries, in Baptism, Chrismation, Confession and Communion, Marriage and Ordination, in Holy Unction....these are times when changes noticeably occur in human beings. Participation in the Holy Mysteries is a turning point of life.

There is a subtlety to Jesus Christ. He acts in ways which defy total comprehension and challenge the best of minds. Jesus Christ became man without giving up His divinity. He entered the world through humble surroundings. We have no record of His being educated in institutions of higher learning but His teachings interest the world's best scholars.

Records exist of healing by Jesus Christ. These miracles are sources of hope and inspiration for the sick and suffering of the world. They are objects of scholarly research and close scrutiny. More importantly, the

miracles of Christ serve to manifest the faith of Christians everywhere. Christ offers hope!

People of all ages have relationships with Jesus Christ. We know from the Gospel of St. Matthew that Jesus wanted the little children to come to Him.(MT.19:14). From personal observation, we can attest that men and women of all ages find a bond with Jesus Christ.

For many, the relationship with Jesus Christ begins at infant Baptism and grows throughout life. Other individuals may experience unity with Christ at later stages in life. The relationships may mature at different rates and in different ways. With certainty, we know the relationships with Christ are not limited by age, sex, race or national origin.

Jesus Christ is identified with the Kingdom of God. In the Creed, we refer to His Second Coming. In the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "Thy Kingdom come..." The Creed, The Lord's Prayer and our thoughts regarding Jesus Christ, all deserve careful attention.

In the Creed, we refer to the judgment that will take place when Christ returns. The Gospel of St. Matthew in the Twenty Fifth Chapter is an additional point of reference to the Last Judgment.

Our relationship to Jesus Christ is not to be stagnant. We should look to St. Apostle Paul who said Jesus Christ would be magnified in his body whether by life or by death. For St. Paul, to live is Christ and to die is gain.(Phil. 1:26-27).

Everyday is a new opportunity to renew our relationship with Jesus Christ. Every moment is an opportunity to say: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."

Throughout our lives, Jesus Christ is ever-present. He is wherever we may go. If we travel to another country, He is there. If we work in a factory or hospital or office, Jesus Christ is present. Airplanes and rockets do not reach heights which exceed the grasp and presence of Christ.

We do not have to search to find Christ. We do not have to travel far. Our challenge is to open our hearts to Him and to keep them open. Our challenge is to keep our minds on Christ. We must open our eyes and be sensitive to Christ's presence wherever we are.

Now is the time to consider our relationship with Jesus Christ. It is always time to consider our relationship with Him. Time is measured according to Christ's birth. It behooves us to measure each moment of time as a golden opportunity to be with Jesus Christ.

Focusing on Individuals with Disabilities

John 9:3-Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.'

- Merit exists in viewing physical, emotional and spiritual afflictions through the teachings and understandings of the Church.
- Every person has value.
- Every person is created in the image and likeness of God.(Gen.1:16)
- Relationships and care for each other are to be governed by love.(I Jn.4:7)
- Merit exists in looking at the societal institutions created to care for individuals with physical and mental afflictions.
- Addressing religious needs of individuals brings peace and balance to life.
- Growth occurs when the soul is nourished.
- Love is the way to communicate and overcome barriers to communication.
- Conditions viewed as disabling are far ranging and complex.
- Limitations of sight, hearing, speaking, and movement commonly come to mind.
- Intellectual limitations and physical growth limitations may place a person in a disabling condition.
- Assessments need to be on-going regarding the nature and ethics of treatment offered.
- The participation of individuals and their families affects the response to conditions considered disabling.
- Certain conditions will remain unchanged but the response to the conditions can change.
- Certain conditions may be of a kind that changes can occur and improvements result.
- Science and technology have ways to enhance physical impaired physical conditions.
- Some conditions occur from birth and continue through life.
- Some conditions take place during different stages of life due to accidents or illness.
- Some conditions are brought on due to personal disregard for life...possibly even self-inflicted.
- Being a parent of a child born with disabilities brings with it accompanying responsibilities and decisions.

- Professional help from various sources will be needed to enable the child to develop as fully as possible.

I Corinthians 7:24-Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.

- The whole family is affected when a member of the family has a substantial disability requiring support and on-going care.
- The person with a disability may need to go to a facility outside the home for an extended period of time for care and treatment.
- Family members and friends may need to travel to see the person in care or take the person for care.
- Unexpected accompanying costs can accrue that need to be considered.
- Personal growth is the challenge for every person.
- Many individuals with disabilities serve as inspiring examples.
- Patience is always in order to deal with frustrations and setbacks.
- Victims of war and violent crimes are among the disabled.
- Not all disabilities are readily apparent and may have a silent and not immediately noticeable impact.
- Complexities abound in trying to understand the full impact of disabilities.
- Parish churches need to take time to think about being accommodating in physically and in other ways.
- Sensitivity is needed for individuals with impaired vision.
- Sensitivity is needed for individuals with hearing impairment and the need to read lips to understand.
- Rest room facilities, eating facilities and entrances and exits need to be accommodating.
- Individuals working with the severely disabled need patience and support.
- Individuals working with severely injured and traumatized need understanding regarding the impact to care giver.
- Measuring progress is not always the same for each person.
- Ministering to the disabled requires creativity and flexibility.
- Care of the soul and nurturing of the soul is always of primary focus.
- The Church is where each person can expect to be loved.
- The Church is where each person can turn for understanding and acceptance.
- The Church is where each person can seek to come to terms with difficult personal conditions.
- The Church is where a person can turn to seek personal peace.

- The Church is where parents, caregivers and healthcare providers can find the Source of strength to give the care necessary.

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. Sixth Annual Healthcare Seminar. St. Panteleimon. July 27/August 9, 2012.
Father Rodney Torbic

I prefer a man who sins and repents to one who does not sin and does not repent. The first has good thoughts, for he admits that he is sinful. But the second has false, soul-destroying thoughts, for he imagines himself to be righteous. *Abba Poemen the Great*



From the July 30/August 13 entry of *The Prologue of Ohrid*:

It is necessary to distinguish a sinner from a penitent. If you have taken it upon yourself to rebuke a sinner, take care that you do not rebuke the penitent also. The parable of the Prodigal Son demonstrates how dear a repentant sinner is to God. Therefore, let one who has become dear to God, be very dear to you.

One time, a monk succumbed to sin, for which he was banished from his monastery. This monk went to St. Anthony, confessed his sin, repented, and remained with Anthony for a period of time. Then Anthony sent him back again to his monastery, but they did not receive him, and again drove him out. Again, the penitent went to St. Anthony. Again, Anthony sent him back to the monastery, with a message to the fathers there: "A ship suffered shipwreck and lost its cargo, and only with great difficulty did that boat reach the harbor—and you want to sink even that which was saved

from sinking!" Hearing this wise message, the fathers received the penitent brother into the monastery with joy.

The angel who is always near us is by nothing so distressed and made indignant as when, without being constrained by some necessity, we deprive ourselves of the ministration of the Holy Mysteries and of reception of Holy Communion, which grants remission of sins. For at that hour the priest offers up the sacrifice of the Body of Him Who gives us life, and the Holy Spirit descends and consecrates the Body and Blood and grants remission to creation. The cherubim, the seraphim, and the angels stand with great awe, fear, and joy. They rejoice over the Holy Mysteries while experiencing inexpressible astonishment. The angel who is always by us is consoled, because he also partakes in that dread spectacle and is not deprived of that perfect intercourse. *St. Isaac the Syrian*

Rejoice not when your enemy falls; and when he stumbles, let not your heart exult (Proverbs 24:17)

He is a man; do not rejoice in his fall. He is your brother; let not your heart leap for joy when he stumbles. God created him for life, and God does not rejoice in his fall. And you also, do not rejoice at that which grieves God. When a man falls, God loses; do you rejoice in the loss of your Creator, of your Parent? When the angels weep, do you rejoice?

When your enemy falls, pray to God for him that God will save him; and give thanks to God that you did not fall in the same manner. You are of the same material, both you and he; like two vessels from the hand of the potter. If one vessel breaks, should the other one smile and rejoice? Behold, the small stone that broke that vessel only waits for someone's hand to raise it to destroy this vessel also. Both vessels are of the same material, and a small stone can destroy a hundred vessels.

When one sheep is lost, should the rest of the flock rejoice? No, they should not. For behold, the shepherd leaves his flock and, being concerned, goes to seek the lost sheep. The shepherd's loss is the flock's loss, too. Therefore, do not rejoice when your enemy falls, for your Shepherd and his Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, do not rejoice in his fall.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Good Shepherd, remove malicious joy from our hearts, and in its place plant compassion and brotherly love.

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

The greatest egoist is he who follows his thoughts, and does not ask anyone for guidance and direction --- leading himself to destruction. Someone may be extremely smart and very astute; but if he is willful, self- confident and selfish, he is also constantly tormented. He becomes very confused, and many problems are created for him. In order to find his way, he must open his heart to a Spiritual Father and humbly ask for his help. *Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain (Athos)*

At the beginning of the struggle...the holy commandments of God must be fulfilled with a certain forcefulness of will (cf. Matt. 11:12); then the Lord, seeing our intention and labor, will grant us readiness of will and gladness in obeying His purposes. For 'it is the Lord who makes ready the will,' (Prov. 8:35 LXX), so that we always do what is right joyfully. Then shall we truly feel that 'it is God who energizes in you both the willing and the doing of His purpose,' (Phil. 2:13). *St. Diadochos of Photiki, **The Philokalia Vol. 1***

If artists who make statues and paint portraits of kings are held in high esteem, will not God bless ten thousand times more those who reveal and beautify His royal image? — for man is the image of God. When we teach our children to be good, to be gentle, to be forgiving— all attributes of God, to be generous, to love their neighbor, to regard this present age as nothing, we install virtue in their souls, and reveal the image of God within them. This, then, is our task: to educate both ourselves and our children in godliness; otherwise what answer will we have before Christ's judgment seat? Let us be greatly concerned for our wives and our children, and for ourselves as well. The good God Himself will bring this work to perfection, so that all of us may be counted worthy of the blessings He has promised. *St. John Chrysostom*