



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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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 Joseph Kopchak, Father Cuthbert Jack, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John Nakonachny, Deacon Dennis Lapushanski, Protopresbyter Peter Hotrovich, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, 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, 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, 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, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Pete Niederberger, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, 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, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Juliana Leis, Susan "Billie" Mason, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, LuAnne [Mike Horvath's daughter], Donald Griffey, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [child with cerebral palsy], Thomas Stutzman, Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Jamie Gardner, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Ronald Graham [Evelyn's nephew], Chris, Pastor Ed Bowen, David Hiles, and Daria Masur ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

Different ways to lay down one's life for one's neighbor

He who has love, lays down his life for his neighbor. For if one should hear an offensive word, and is himself able to respond with similar words, yet does not utter them, or if he is wronged, yet endures it and does not repay the one who has wronged him, then such a one lays down his life for his neighbor." Abba Poimen

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 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 ask 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, JANUARY 27
10:30 AM

Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; LEAVETAKING OF THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY; SAINT SAVA-FIRST ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA; SAINT NINA, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES; SAINT KENTIGERN MUNGO, BISHOP; HOLY FATHERS SLAIN AT SINAI & RAITHU; SAINT JOSEPH ANALYTINUS OF RAITHU MONASTERY; SAINT THEODULUS-SON OF SAINT NILUS OF SINAI; SAINT STEPHEN-ABBOT OF CHENOLAKKOS MONASTERY NEAR CHALCEDON

Tone 1

Colossians 3:12-16

Luke 18:18-27

Krsna Slava in honor of Saint Sava after Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 03 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM

THIRTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR NEOPHYTES; MARTYRS EUGENE, CANDIDUS, VALERIAN AND AQUILA; VIRGIN MARTYRESS AGNES OF ROME; MARTYR ANASTASIAS-DISCIPLE OF SAINT MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR; MONK NEOPHYTES OF VATOPEDEIA; SAINT MAXIMUS THE GREEK

Tone 2

Colossians 3:12-16

Luke 18:35-43

Litany in Blessed Memory of Milton G. Chicka, Daniel Pysh, Sara Chicka, Nickolai Pivtoraiko, Anne Cherepko Mazock, & Mary Lokie—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM

THIRTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN; SAINT PALLADIUS THE HERMIT OF ANTIOCH; SAINT ISAAC THE SYRIAN-BISHOP OF NINEVEH; SAINT EPHRAIM-BISHOP OF PEREYASLAVL

Tone 3

I Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Matthew 15:21-28

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 27 JANUARY 2013

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ANALYTINUS OF RAITHU MONASTERY; SAINT THEODULUS- SON OF SAINT NILUS OF SINAI; SAINT STEPHEN-ABBOT OF CHENOLAKKOS MONASTERY NEAR CHALCEDON

TROPARION—TONE 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;
While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, Granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life:
Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!
Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

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

KONTAKION—TONE 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with
Thyself.
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished!
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:
Thou are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 1

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on
Thee.

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our
hope on Thee.

READER: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our
hope on Thee.

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

PEOPLE: As we have set our hope on Thee.

ALLELUIA VERSES

God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.

He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ,
with David and his seed forever!

Some characteristics of the passion of Greed

"'What sort of thing is greed?' an ascetic Elder was once asked. He then gave the following answer, 'Greed is: to lack trust that God looks after you; no longer to hope in His promises; and to love pleasure.'"

A 5th Century mother's entreaty to the Lord Jesus, upon learning that her son [one of the monks at Raithu, January 13/26] was martyred for Christ:

When she was informed of his death, she dressed in bright clothes and put on a joyful face; and, having lifted up her hands to the heavens, said roughly the following to the Savior Christ: 'To Thee, Master, I entrusted my son, and I rejoice that now - and in the future age - he has been saved. To Thee I surrendered my son, and Thou art He Whom I considered his protector. I thus rejoice, indeed, that he has been preserved safe and unharmed from the Devil. For I do not think about his death, or what his end was, but I look on the fact that he escaped the danger of every sin. I do not think about the fact that his body was so wounded, or that he suffered a bitter death, but that he sustained his soul clean and immaculate to the end; and surrendered his spirit into that spotless hands.'" From the *Evergentinos*

Read details here: <http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2011/01/holy-fathers-slain-at-sinai-and-raithu.html>

Blessed is he who is considerate of the poor and the needy. Not even night should interrupt you in your duty of mercy. There should be no delay between your intention and your good deed. Generosity is the one thing that cannot admit of delay. He who does acts of mercy should do so with cheerfulness. The grace of the deed is doubled when it is done with promptness and speed. Let us visit Christ whenever we may, let us care for Him, feed Him, clothe Him, welcome Him, honor Him, not only at a meal or by anointing Him as Mary did, or by giving Him gold, frankincense and myrrh, like the Magi. *St. Gregory of Nazianzes*

The bread you store up belongs to the hungry; the cloak that lies in your chest belongs to the naked; the gold you have hidden in the ground belongs to the poor. *St. Basil the Great*

St. Basil the Great

(compilation by Pres. Candace for a Junior Sunday School class)



St Basil was born in Cappadocia, which is in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), in 329 AD. His whole family was devout and God-loving. His grandfather was martyred for not denying his faith in Jesus Christ; he was torn apart by hungry lions. His grandmother Macrina told Basil and his brothers and sisters this story of courage and faith in order to strengthen their own Christian faith.

St. Basil's parents were called Basil and Emmelia, they had six children. This was a most blessed family because both parents and all of the children became Saints in the Orthodox Church.

St Macrina was the oldest child, three of the boys became bishops. St. Basil became Bishop of Caesarea, St Gregory became Bishop of Nyssa and St Peter became Bishop of Sebaste. Basil's family had a good position in society, they had plenty of property and were wealthy.

Basil grew up and went to university, he studied Greek Literature, rhetoric (the art of speaking or writing well) and philosophy. He combined the ancient Greek spirit with his Orthodox Christian Faith. St. Basil is celebrated along with St. John Chrysostom and St. Gregory the Theologian as Saints of Education on 30 January.

St. Basil was tall, thin and had a long beard. He ate no more than was absolutely necessary for his survival; his food was poor and simple. He chose never to eat meat. He had just a couple pieces of clothing which were well worn, this again, being his choice. St. Basil believed that we should be in control of ourselves at all times and have a blessed life of prayer. He said that we should season our daily work with the singing of spiritual songs (hymns) the same way that we season our food with salt when we cook. He said that the sacred songs can only lift us up and give us joy and not sadness. Basil loved all people and devoted his life to helping all those in need; he was also a fighter for God's Truth. At the age of 28, St. Basil became a monk; at 35, he was ordained a priest and at 41, he was made Bishop of Caesarea.

Philanthropist is a Greek word meaning "friend of people" (philo + anthropos). St. Basil had great wealth but this did not interest him. Instead,

he sold all his possessions and used the money to build orphanages, hospitals, homes for the aged, schools and monasteries. Our church has an organization named in honor of St. Basil—do you know what it is called? It is called "Philoptochos," and it means "friend of the poor," (philo+ptochos).

St. Basil was full of love and compassion for others—he was known to plead for mercy and forgiveness from the emperor on behalf of those in trouble or for those who had made mistakes. Another time, after an earthquake, he worked for days without sleep to dig through rubble with his own hands to save those who were trapped; he helped the injured and urged everyone to share their food with those who had none. St. Basil stood by the people and encouraged them throughout the catastrophe; he planted food in new areas and helped prevent the starvation of the people. After these things, St. Basil was made Bishop of Caesarea.

St Basil was responsible for starting monasteries where groups of monks live, work, worship, pray and dedicate their lives to God together. Up until that time, many monks lived as hermits (on their own) and not in communities. St. Basil devised strict rules for monks to follow, in order to live with each other and serve God properly.

St Basil was not worried about offending anyone when it came to saying or doing what was right. His views often clashed with that of the emperor. One time, the emperor sent his prefect Modestus, with orders to make St. Basil support the false belief of Arius (also known as the Arian heresy) or resign from the Church. St. Basil refused to obey. Modestus threatened him and told St. Basil that he should fear him because he had the power to do anything he liked to him. Modestus told St. Basil that he could take his possessions, exile him, torture him and put him to death. St Basil said that these things did not trouble him. He said, "take my possessions, I have none except for the worn clothing I wear. Exile me, for wherever I go I am at home as all of the earth belongs to God. Torture me, I am already ill and weak and will not last long to be tortured. Kill me? I welcome death as it will bring me to God much sooner." Modestus was stunned by St Basil's answers and said that no bishop had ever spoken like this to him. St Basil replied that perhaps he had never met a real bishop before.

A saint's feast day is on the day he or she dies and goes to be with God—St. Basil died on January 1/14, 379. We remember and celebrate his memory on that day.

On January 1/14, we remember St. Basil's day with vasilopita, a sweet bread dedicated to St. Basil. It has a coin baked inside. Why?

The Emperor Julian the Apostate (what is an apostate—do you know?) It is someone who once followed the Orthodox Christian Faith and has turned away from it. The Emperor Julian was once a schoolmate of St.

Basil's in Athens and they had studied the same things—even the Holy Scriptures. However, instead of staying close to his Christian Faith, Julian turned away from it and his heart became cold and ugly toward God and the Christians.

Emperor Julian had a very high opinion of himself (that is called "pride") and he marched off to war against the Persians with his troops with a plan to conquer both lands and people. He sent a letter to St. Basil who was Archbishop of Caesarea at that time. Although Julian and St. Basil knew each other for years, St. Basil did say the Julian was an unfit emperor and for good reason. The Emperor's letter stated that he required that St. Basil deliver one thousand pounds of gold to him by messenger. He threatened that if he did not do this, Julian would destroy all the buildings of Caesarea and in their place, erect temples and statues of Roman gods in their place to humble the people and exalt himself. Julian then closed his letter saying, "I have learned to know and condemn that which I once read," in other words, he told St. Basil he rejected the Christian Faith he once received.

St. Basil did not waste time in writing back to Emperor Julian saying that his actions and words were shameful and that he disgraced the empire by his words and threats that sounded high and mighty but were actually the work of demons—in that Julian would insult the Church and lift himself up against God. He went on to say how badly he felt for the ruin of Julian's soul after they had studied the Holy Scriptures together and for the choices Julian was making. He commented that if Julian had understood what he read, he never would have condemned it.

St. Basil went on to mention that he lived in poverty and that Julian was aware of it. Nevertheless, St. Basil put together an offering for the Emperor from what he had—three barley loaves which would have been St. Basil's food. Julian accepted the gift, but in return, he gave St. Basil an insulting gift—grass from a pasture.

St. Basil responded by saying that he gave a gift from among the best he had to eat—from his own table and Julian had done the same. This response, of course, angered Emperor Julian very much.

Julian then threatened, "When I return from Persia, I will indeed burn down your city and take prisoner the foolish people there who have been led astray by you because you dishonor the gods (idols) whom I worship and you, too, shall receive a just reward!"

After returning to the city, St. Basil called the people to himself. He told them about the emperor's threats and counseled them saying, "Don't grieve, fellow Christians, but consider what money you need to live on and bring whatever excess you have that we might gather it all together in one place. Then, when we hear the emperor is returning, we shall cast heaps of

money onto the road, that when he sees all the treasure, as the lover of money that he is, he will accept the offering and not follow through on his plan.”

Therefore, the Christians brought together a great deal of wealth, gold, silver and precious stones. The items were placed under the care of the Church.

When St. Basil learned the Julian and the army were on their way back from war, he called together the multitude of Christians from Caesarea and commanded them to keep a three day fast. Afterwards, he and the faithful went to the summit of the mountain called Didymos, to the Church of the Most Holy Theotokos. There they prayed together that the will of the emperor would be changed and that the people might remain safe.

During that time, St. Basil received a heavenly vision. He saw hosts of heaven (angels) encircling the mountain where they were praying. He also saw a woman enthroned with great glory. She said to the angels standing by, “Call Mercurios to me so that he might go and slay Julian the enemy of my Son.” Who was the woman? The Holy Theotokos, of course! St. Basil then saw the holy Great Martyr Mercurios come and take up his weapons and leave.

After this vision, St. Basil left the mountain with some of the clergy and went back into the city where the church of the holy Great Martyr Mercurios was. Within that church were the relics (bones) of St. Mercurios and his weapons which were venerated or honored by the Christians. One hundred years had passed since St. Mercurios’ martyrdom in Caesarea. Upon entering the church, St. Basil could not find the Saint’s relics nor weapons. He asked the keeper of the church’s vessels and he knew nothing about what had happened. The Saint then realized that the vision he had seen was true and on that same night, June 26, 363, the ungodly apostate emperor was slain. Saint Basil then returned to the mountain and announced, “Rejoice and be glad today, Christians! Our prayers have been heard, a fitting punishment has come upon the ungodly emperor. Let us offer thanks to God and go into the city, that each may receive back his money.”

When the Christians heard this, they cried with one voice, “We thought to give the money to the ungodly emperor in exchange for our lives. Now, shouldn’t we offer these gifts to the King of heaven and earth who granted us our lives?” Now, St. Basil praised their eagerness. He determined, however, that each should receive back one-third of their contribution. The remainder of the money went to help the poor.

Regarding the portion of wealth that was returned, St. Basil had one-third of the treasure baked into large loaves of sweet bread, which were cut and shared among the people. That is why we make Vasilopita (St. Basil’s

bread) each year on January 1 and a coin is baked inside to remind us of St. Basil and what happened to the people of Caesarea in the fourth century. The bread is blessed, the first piece cut is for our Lord, the second for the Theotokos and then for the poor and then to each member of the family. If the coin is in the piece for the Lord or the Theotokos, it is given to the church. If it is in the piece for the poor, give it to your church Philoptochos group.

There are other episodes in St. Basil's life that we could recount, but this will have to do for now.

What do you think made St. Basil so great? Very few people in history have been given the title of "Great". Alexander the Great was so called because he conquered the world of his time. But St. Basil was called "Great" because he conquered (won over) the hearts and souls of men for Jesus Christ. He dedicated his life and all he had to fully loving and serving God and God honored him greatly because of it and countless numbers of people benefited from St. Basil's love and generosity.

St Basil, pray that we too may be unattached to personal things (possessions), become humble, compassionate, and loving toward others and burn with love for God. Let us also be courageous in defending the One, True, Orthodox Christian Faith like you did. St. Basil, pray to God for us!

Then we saw another old man, called Abba Bes, who surpassed everyone in meekness. The brothers who lived round about him assured us that he had never sworn an oath, had never told a lie, had never been angry at anyone, and had never scolded anyone. For he lived a life of the utmost stillness, and his manner was serene, since he had attained the angelic state. He was extremely humble and held himself of no account. We pressed him strongly to speak a word of encouragement to us, but he only consented to say a little about meekness, and was reluctant to do even that.

Once when a hippopotamus was ravaging the neighboring countryside the farmers called on this father to help them. He stood at the place and waited, and when he saw the beast, which was of enormous size, he commanded it in a gentle voice, saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I order you not to ravage the countryside anymore." The hippopotamus, as if driven away by an angel, vanished completely from that district. On another occasion he got rid of a crocodile in the same way.

Historia Monachorum in Aegypto 4 (c. 394 AD)

Externally-oriented people of worldly education of full of egoism and pride and resemble satellites that orbit in the sky, giving one the impression that they are stars. If, however, you observe them carefully you will see their crooked steps and see that it is all a human sham.

Internally-oriented people, on account of their humility, are the true stars that move at dizzying speeds, but noiselessly and humbly, without anyone understanding how they move even though they are immense planets. They hide in the depths of heaven and give men the impression that they are little oil lamps aflame with a humble light.

Elder Paisios of Mt. Athos, Epistle 4

It was said of a brother that he had to fight against blasphemy and he was ashamed to admit it. He went where he heard some great old men lived to see them, in order to open his heart to them but when he got there, he was ashamed to admit his temptation. So he kept going because he wanted to see Abba Poemen. The old man saw he was worried, and he was sorry he did not tell him what was wrong. So one day he forestalled him and said, "For a long time you have been coming here to tell me what is troubling you, and when you are here you will not tell me about it, but each time you go away unhappy, keeping your thoughts to yourself. Now tell me, my child, what it is all about." He said to him, "The demon wars against me to make me blaspheme God and I am ashamed to say so." So he told him all about it and immediately he was relieved. The old man said to him, "Do not be unhappy, my child, but every time this thought comes to you say, 'It is no affair of mine, may your blasphemy remain upon you, Satan, for my soul does not want it.' Now everything that the soul does not desire, does not long remain," and the brother went away healed.

For your heart not to be hardened, you must never think that someone else is at fault, or how much that person is at fault; but rather, how much you are at fault. You see, when people are at odds with one another, each of them thinks that he is in the right; and each thinks he is entitled to more rights than the other person, and so they are constantly in disagreement.

Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain