



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: Archbishop Jovan, 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 George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Deacon Dennis Lapushanski, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, 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, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, George Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelińska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Jean Stutchell, Charles & Esther Holupka, Wanda Mefford, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Betty O'Masta, Julie Eiler, Vince Ferro, 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, 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, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], Mel & Charlotte Malik, David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Susan "Billie" Mason, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Donald Griffey, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [child with cerebral palsy], 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, Karen Johnson, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Susan Bertram, Rita McConnell, Gail, Pete Special, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Fred DeNorscia, Sandi Anderson, Donald Uebing, Sabrina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Kareen Milcic, Ella Campbell, Kurt Smith, Tom Hyatt, Kenneth Miller [double-lung transplant], Joan Szymonifka, Jeaneen McCartney Thomson, Peggy Uhring [Eddie Behun's girlfriend], Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Barbara McDougall, Roy & Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Virginia Catherine Pynch, Ema Jean Piper, Susan Lucas, Manny Lopez, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, and Daria Masur **ARNOLD:** Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

REMINDER—OUR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD TODAY AFTER THE OBEDNITZA! PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AND BRING YOUR IDEAS TO HELP OUR CHURCH! God Bless!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: All Christians and the others in the Middle East who are suffering during this time of great tragedy and unrest. May God watch over and keep them safe! Lord have mercy!

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, FEBRUARY 23 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT
HIEROMARTYR CHARALAMPUS-BISHOP OF MAGNESIA IN THESSALY & MARTYRS PORPHYRIUS & BAPTUS; MARTYRS ENNATHA, VALENTINA, & PAULA OF PALESTINE; VENERABLE PROCHORUS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; SAINT ANNA-WIFE OF PRINCE YAROSLAV

Tone 2

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Matthew 25:31-46

*******ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AFTER SERVICE*******

SUNDAY, MARCH 02 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM
CHEESEFARE SUNDAY—SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS
GREAT-MARTYR THEODORE THE TYRO; SAINT MARIAMNE-SISTER OF THE APOSTLE PHILIP; UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF MARTYR MENAS THE MELODIUS OF ALEXANDRIA; SAINT THEODORE THE SILENT OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 3

Romans 13:11-14:4

Matthew 6:14-20

Litany in Blessed Memory of John Metrick, Mary Smith, Andrew Hanczar, Anna Lawrence, Michael Cicio, Chuck Shumski, Terry Reinhart, Joseph Vangrin, & Frank Riznow—Fr. Bob

*******FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS—ST. VLADIMIR, SOUTH SIDE—4 PM*******

MONDAY, MARCH 03 **GREAT LENT BEGINS!**

SUNDAY, MARCH 09 Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great 10:30 AM
FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT—SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
1ST & 2ND FINDING OF THE HEAD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST; SAINT ERASMUS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 4

2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Matthew 11:2-15

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 23 FEBRUARY 2014

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT; HIEROMARTYR CHARALAMPUS-BISHOP OF MAGNESIA IN THESSALY & MARTYRS PORPHYRIUS & BAPTUS; MARTYRS ENNATHA, VALENTINA, & PAULA OF PALESTINE; VENERABLE PROCHORUS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; SAINT ANNA-WIFE OF PRINCE YAROSLAV

TROPARION—TONE 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
All the powers of heaven cried out:
O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

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

KONTAKION—TONE 2

Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior,
Seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam,
Beheld this and rejoiced with Thee!
And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 2

READER: The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

PEOPLE: The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

READER: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.

PEOPLE: The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

READER: The Lord is my strength and my song.

PEOPLE: He has become my salvation.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 2

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Save the king, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

A Miracle of Flowers

Wes Smith's column this week for First Things is about the flowers at his church that continued to be fresh, after a parishioner poured out the last of his holy water into one of the vases.



The comment of a skeptic at that site clarified for me a point of miscommunication. The skeptic seems to think we are claiming that holy water is magic, and if we tested this in a controlled environment it would have this effect on flowers every time. There would be a pattern, one that kept appearing in any place and time.

Of course that is not the case, so the supposedly scientific conclusion is that this is not worth thinking about. It might be a fluke or a fraud, but it's a one-time thing, and as such it's unimportant.

But the claim of a miracle turns precisely on the assertion that it is unrepeatable. It's a miracle because this is **not** something that could be demonstrated in an experiment; it doesn't fit an anytime-anyplace pattern, but overrides all expectations.

If the test is repeatability, then miracles are off the table before we begin, because the reason they're miracles at is is because they're unrepeatable.

But believers see a pattern, too, a different pattern. As Wes moves further into his column, he refers to other healings and miracles. We associate this holy-water event with other events we've seen or heard about. The pattern we see has do to with recognizing the same hand at work, the same Person, who does many different "impossible" things. And does them in a way that it seems clear we're supposed to notice.

It wasn't the flowers elsewhere in the church that were preserved, or flowers at a different time of year, or the ones that didn't receive holy water, or even both bouquets. The "artist" behind this event arranged things in this particular way, because we would notice and appreciate it. He wants us to recognize his handiwork, and appreciate it, savor it, rejoice that he is near. When we learn of an "impossible" surgery where a tumor disappeared, or an "impossible" avoidance of a car accident, or any of a number of possibilities--we think, "It's him again. It's our Father."

I believe that everyone has at least one or two events of this sort in their lives. Something that you can't explain. If you reject this sort of experience categorically, then you'll forget most of them. (Wes quotes a secular philosopher who had an uncanny experience, but was able to "come up with an explanation for how I could reason this away.") But if you remain open-minded, experiences of this sort will gradually accumulate, and you begin to recognize the pattern--the hand of the "artist".

The scientists are looking at one kind of evidence. They are saying "We know this painting, the Starry Night, is by Van Gogh, so this painting of Sunflowers can't be his, because a Van Gogh painting has lots of blue"--if this were God, he would do the holy-water trick every single time.

Believers look instead at the kind of event it is and compare it with other experiences they've had, or heard about, or read about in the Bible. They say, "The same hand is at work here. This is the kind of thing he does."

So it seems to me there is a miscommunication here. Believers are not claiming that we have God in a box and can make him repeat a miracle exactly the same way every time. But we do claim that there is an artist who does such things, one who apparently delights in revealing his presence in these ways. Analyzing the chemical content of the holy water wouldn't get you very far, nor would analyzing the content of the paint on a Van Gogh canvas. But we can introduce you to the artist. That's when all the paintings start making sense.

Frederica Mathewes-Green, www.frederica.com

200th Anniversary of Taras Shevchenko to be Commemorated at the United Nations during International Mother Language Day

UNITED NATIONS -- International Mother Language Day is an observance held annually in February worldwide to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. This year, in honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ukraine's national poet Taras Shevchenko, The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) and The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO) have organized a program to bring attention to the importance of the efforts of Taras Shevchenko to defend his mother language, Ukrainian, as well as champion human rights for the Ukrainian people.

Both the UWC (since 2003) and the WFUWO (since 1991) have representatives registered with the United Nations. Dr. Martha Kebalo, WFUWO

Main Representative to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as one of the key organizers, noted the importance of support for Ukraine through participation in the commemorative event at the United Nations on February 27, from 3-6pm. Dr. Kebalo explained that "While the reason for the recognition of Mother Language Day is close to our hearts, this is the first year that Ukrainians are the organizers of such an event at the United Nations. We know that there is much interest in our program and that the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is keenly aware of events in Ukraine, as is the United Nations press corps. This event will be an excellent opportunity to place in context the long history of the Ukrainian struggle for democracy and the dignity of the Ukrainian language. It is, after all, Taras Shevchenko who wrote 'When will we greet our own George Washington at last, with the new law of righteousness?' His words are very relevant today."

The program titled "Taras Shevchenko: Champion of the Ukrainian Language, Self-Determination of Peoples, Human Rights and Social Justice" includes remarks from UN officials, greetings by UWC President Eugene Czolij and WFUWO President Orysia Sushko, a keynote by Dr. Maxim Tarnawsky of the University of Toronto, performances by the Prometheus Ukrainian Male Chorus of Philadelphia, the Dobriansky Brothers, Ludmyla Hrabovsky and bandurist Alla Kutsevych, readings of Shevchenko's poetry, as well as media presentation, art and publications exhibit. The event's master of ceremonies is Mr. Peter Fedynsky, translator of Shevchenko's Kobzar, and a former correspondent with the Ukrainian Service of The Voice of America.

The event will be held February 27, 2014 from 3-6 pm in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Chamber of the United Nations Building. There is no charge for admission, however, please RSVP by February 16, 2014 to email: ukrainersvpcday@gmail.com to be included on the list of attendees. Guests are asked to please arrive by 2:30 pm to allow time for UN security procedures at the First Avenue entrance (either the 43rd or the 47th Street access will be designated on the day of the event).

Besides the UWC and several members of the WFUWO UN representation (Sofika Zielyk and Natalia Sonevytsky), the event planning committee also includes Marianna Zajac, President of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc., Marta Kokolskyj, the Advisor for Diaspora Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, and Iryna Forostyan, CEO of the Fund for Research of Ancient Civilizations. Many Ukrainian-American community organizations will participate in the event and several, including the various Ukrainian cultural centers and Ukrainian credit unions, have offered support.

International Mother Language Day was established at the 30th Session of UNESCO on November 17, 1999, and the date represents an event on February 21, 1952, when students, who were demonstrating for recognition of Bengali as one of the two national languages of the then Pakistan, were shot and killed by police in the capital of present-day Bangladesh.

According to information available on the United Nations International Mother Language Day website, "Languages are the most powerful instruments of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage. All moves to promote the dissemination of mother tongues will serve not only to encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education, but also to develop fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue."

February, 2014

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The Road to Redemption



At 28, Helen Sharkey landed her dream job as an accountant at a prominent company in Houston. She never imagined that the dream would become a nightmare, ultimately resulting in a felony plea and a sentence in a maximum security prison.

The company was Dynegy Corporation, an energy trading firm and Enron rival. Sharkey was assigned to work on Project Alpha, a now-infamous deal in which Dynegy recorded \$300 million in loans as income. Sharkey was the youngest and most junior member of the team. She says she knew that what she was being asked to do was unethical, but convinced herself that speaking up wouldn't change anything. By taking the path of least resistance, she says, she became no different than the decision makers.

In 2001, on the heels of the Enron scandal, Sharkey and two other team members became the center of a federal investigation. Sharkey was the low man

on the totem pole, yet that was no defense. In 2003 she pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit securities fraud. She was sentenced to 30 days in a maximum security prison, 6 months home detention, a \$10,000 fine, and forfeited her CPA license.

For nearly a decade, Sharkey attempted to deny the pain and shame of what had happened. Yet there were constant reminders. Like the time she went to the police station to report that she'd become a victim of identity fraud. The police officer was eager to help until he learned she had a felony conviction. There was nothing he could do to help her, he said. The most painful moment came when her sons enrolled in first grade. Because of her felony conviction, she was told that she wouldn't be allowed to volunteer at their school or sit near students on field trips.

Around the same time, an old friend contacted her with a proposition: Would she be willing to speak to a CPA association about her experience? Though she was terrified, she said yes. It went well, so well that she started being asked to speak by other professional groups and universities. Opening up about her experience has been cathartic and she hopes she's helping others to learn from her mistakes.

Sharkey empathizes with others who are trying to turn their lives around after getting out of prison. "It is so hard to pick yourself up," she says. She's been fortunate to have a supportive family and community of friends. People released from prison "try to go out and do things the right way and they can't get a job," she says.

For all the struggles she's endured, she doesn't have to look hard to find the good that has come out of her experience. It's made her more compassionate and more able to see everyone—including the women she was in prison with—as vulnerable human beings, just like her. To those who are tempted to judge others, she says "Good people make bad decisions. You need to give them a break."

She's deeply grateful to all the people who have helped her along this journey. She wants to pay it forward by helping others who are facing prison sentences or struggling to re-enter society. A member of an Orthodox parish, she's volunteering with other Orthodox Christians in Houston who have formed a prison ministry with the support and training of OCPM.

55 maxims of the Christian Life

Via Presbytera Candace Schefe

1. Be always with Christ.
2. Pray as you can, not as you want.

3. Have a keepable rule of prayer that you do by discipline.
4. Say the Lord's Prayer several times a day.
5. Have a short prayer that you constantly repeat when your mind is not occupied with other things.
6. Make some prostrations when you pray.
7. Eat good foods in moderation.
8. Keep the Church's fasting rules.
9. Spend some time in silence every day.
10. Do acts of mercy in secret.
11. Go to liturgical services regularly.
12. Go to confession and communion regularly.
13. Do not engage intrusive thoughts and feelings. Cut them off at the start.
14. Reveal all your thoughts and feelings regularly to a trusted person.
15. Read the scriptures regularly.
16. Read good books a little at a time.
17. Cultivate communion with the saints.
18. Be an ordinary person.
19. Be polite with everyone.
20. Maintain cleanliness and order in your home.
21. Have a healthy, wholesome hobby.
22. Exercise regularly.
23. Live a day, and a part of a day, at a time.
24. Be totally honest, first of all, with yourself.
25. Be faithful in little things.
26. Do your work, and then forget it.
27. Do the most difficult and painful things first.
28. Face reality.
29. Be grateful in all things.
30. Be cheerful.
31. Be simple, hidden, quiet and small.
32. Never bring attention to yourself.
33. Listen when people talk to you.
34. Be awake and be attentive.
35. Think and talk about things no more than necessary.
36. Speak simply, clearly, firmly and directly.
37. Flee imagination, analysis, figuring things out.
38. Flee carnal, sexual things at their first appearance.
39. Don't complain, mumble, murmur or whine.
40. Don't compare yourself with anyone.

41. Don't seek or expect praise or pity from anyone.
42. Don't judge anyone for anything.
43. Don't try to convince anyone of anything.
44. Don't defend or justify yourself.
45. Be defined and bound by God alone.
46. Accept criticism gratefully but test it critically.
47. Give advice to others only when asked or obligated to do so.
48. Do nothing for anyone that they can and should do for themselves.
49. Have a daily schedule of activities, avoiding whim and caprice.
50. Be merciful with yourself and with others.
51. Have no expectations except to be fiercely tempted to your last breath.
52. Focus exclusively on God and light, not on sin and darkness.
53. Endure the trial of yourself and your own faults and sins peacefully, serenely, because you know that God's mercy is greater than your wretchedness.
54. When you fall, get up immediately and start over.
55. Get help when you need it, without fear and without shame.



Thank you to Fr. Thomas Hopko for preparing this list

REMINDER: Our Annual Parish Meeting and election of officers will be held today immediately after the Obednitsa in the hall downstairs. Please plan to attend and offer constructive ideas for the future of our parish...and volunteer for any open office! This is Christ's Church and YOUR parish... Any questions, please see John Paouncic or Father Bob! Thank you for everything you do to help make Holy Ghost a loving, caring, and special place to pray!