



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 John Harvey, 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, 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 Zelinska [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, 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, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Chris, Pastor Ed Bowen, David Hiles, Karen Johnson, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Susan Bertram, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Fred DeNorscia, Sandi Anderson, Donald Uebing, Sabrina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Barbara McDougall, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Virginia Catherine Pynch, Susan Lucas, Manny Lopez, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Judi Danser, Mira Filipovic, Lynn, Jacqueline, Irma Opacic, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Debby Novak, Jeff Jones, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Margaret Thurston [Evelyn's sister], Donna Cacioppo [Evelyn's niece], Brandon, Anna Trenching, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Greg Schwing, Shobna Shah, and Daria Masur ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our November babies: Amy Zerebnick Lewis on the 4th and Father Bob on the 7th. May God grant them both Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless!

Please remember in your prayers—our dear 'Little Father' Emilian, who returned to Romania to undergo surgery for back pain. This particular procedure is not offered here in the United States. He asked for our prayers and expressed his thanks for the love and fellowship he has shared with the Holy Ghost Parish Family. He said he looks forward to returning to us pain-free in the springtime...may God watch over him and heal him...Fr. Bob

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, NOVEMBER 02 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; GREAT-MARTYR ARTEMIUS AT ANTIOCH**

Tone 4

Galatians 2:16-20

Luke 16:19-31

Litany in Blessed Memory of John Lapushanski, Sam Kerr, Helen Likar, Harry Bunio, Mary Pekich, Constantine Hanczar, Anna Lotinsky, & Julia Golofski—Fr. Bob

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Stancy Popichak—Fr. Bob

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 09 NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE—FR. BOB OUT OF TOWN
22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYR NESTOR OF THESSALONICA;
MARTYRS CAPITOLINA & EROTEIS OF CAPPADOCIA; MARTYR MARK OF THE
ISLE OF THASOS; SAINT NESTOR THE CHRONICLER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Tone 5

Galatians 6:11-18; Galatians 5:22-6:2

Luke 8:26-39; Luke 6:17-23

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS ACEPSIMAS-BISHOP, JOSEPH-
PRESBYTER, & AEITHALAS-DEACON OF PERSIA; DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH**

**OF GREAT-MARTYR GEORGE IN LYDDA; MARTYRS ATTICUS, AGAPIUS,
EUDOXIUS, CARTERIUS, ISTUCARIUS, PACTOBIUS, & NICTOPOLION AT
SEBASTE; VENERABLE ACEPSIMAS-HERMIT OF CYRRHUS IN SYRIA; SAINT
SNANDULIA OF PERSIA**

Tone 6

Ephesians 2:4-10

Luke 8:41-56

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 02 NOVEMBER 2014

**21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; GREAT-MARTYR ARTEMIUS AT
ANTIOCH**

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.

Seed and Soil

A Sermon by Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos

"And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold" (Luke 8:8)

A seed contains a miracle. When you look at it from the outside, or touch it, it appears hard, dry, perhaps even dead and incapable of producing anything. But place it in the ground, give it water and warmth, and life begins to stir. The outer shell dies but the inner kernel comes alive by the mysterious forces of growth. The inner powers of the kernel are released when the seed is in proper soil and receives adequate moisture. The kernel germinates and new life begins. As long as nourishment is provided, growth continues. From the seed comes a flower, a plant, or a tree, each of which was present only potentially in the seed.

Is the miracle of growth manifest in human beings, too? Yes, by all means. Not only our physical being but also our spiritual being has the potential of miraculous growth. Physical growth is practically spontaneous and automatic. Yet physical growth, too, requires adequate nourishment and suitable environment. Spiritual growth is neither spontaneous nor automatic. Spiritual growth requires the exercise of personal freedom through intellectual, moral and spiritual decisions, commitments and actions. But spiritual growth, too, surely needs a proper environment and constant nourishment to flourish.

In the Parable of the Sower (Lk 8:5-15), Jesus teaches that both seed and soil are necessary for growth. Both seed and soil need proper interaction to produce satisfying crop. The seed is likened to the word of God. The soil is the life and heart of each human being. The parable tells us that much seed is lost when falling into unreceptive soil. However, when seed and soil connect and interact properly, astonishing growth occurs. "And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold."

What do we mean by the seed of the word of God? What is God's "word?" Any human word, spoken or written, conveys meaning. Many words together express a message, various forms of communication from one person to another. Words and messages reflect the mind and character of the one from whom they come.

In a similar way, God's word is God's utterance, God's speech, God's message. God's words convey precious knowledge that God wants human beings to know and live by. "I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before me" (Ex 20:2-3). "Seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Mt 6:33). "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 13:34). "Who ever would be great among you must be your servant; for the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life for many" (Mt 20:26-28).

All those divine words are not merely abstract principles, arbitrarily established, just to test human obedience and keep people in their place. Rather, they make up essential instruction that is intrinsic to human nature. They are food and drink natural to our humanity as personal and moral beings created in the image and likeness of God. When those divine words are wholeheartedly embraced and faithfully practiced, they become "life-bearing" and "life-giving." They generate light and life because they guide to right and harmonious relationships between God and people, between people and people, as well as between people and creation. They are like seeds which, when falling into good soil, grow and yield a hundredfold.

Do you recall some biblical verses about the importance of God's word? When Jesus was hungry, He was tempted to turn stones into bread. But He rejected the temptation and said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but *by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*" (Mt 4:4). Upon finishing the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared: "Everyone then who *hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock*; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock" (Mt 7:24-25). At a time of crisis, Jesus asked His disciples: "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter replied: "Lord to whom shall we go? *You have the words of eternal life*" (Jn 6:67-68)!

Moreover, God's word is not only instruction and guidance. God's word discloses God's character and power. God's word both announces and enacts who God is, what He has done, and what He is doing even now. God cannot be separated from His word. God's word is always the vehicle of God's holy presence and creative power. In Genesis we read that God said: "Let there be light! And there was light." The prophets in the Old Testament likened God's word to a powerful hammer that strikes and

breaks rock, that is, the hardness of human hearts and the hardness of human communities, in judgment and for healing. The Book of Hebrews declares: "The word of God is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing to soul and spirit, ... and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb 4:12).

Even more astonishing is that Christ himself, according to the New Testament, is the Word of God— *Logos Theou*—the supreme self-revelation of God—who God is, what He has done, and what He continues to do today. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... In Him was light and the light was the life of all people. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (Jn 1:1-5).

Of course those words point to the core message of the Christian faith, the good news of the gospel. The good news is that God in Christ has broken humanity's bondage to the powers of sin, evil, and death. God in Christ actualizes His love and forgiveness for sinners. God in Christ offers to every man and woman a new start, a new order of life, a life of grace and truth. Because of the divine nature and blessings of the gospel, St. Paul variously calls the gospel itself the word of God, the word of Christ, the word of grace, the word of reconciliation, the word of truth. When the gospel of Christ is wholeheartedly announced, the announcement does not merely inform but also mediates Christ and His blessings. Christ in His holiness and power is present in His word. When the good news is heard and embraced, human hearts are stirred and human lives change. The gospel "is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes" (Rom 1:16). When falling into good soil, the gospel takes root and grows, and yields a hundredfold.

Nevertheless, if the soil is not conducive to growth, the seed of the word of God remains inactive and powerless. Seeds cannot take root on the hard path. Seeds cannot last in rocky ground lacking adequate moisture. Seeds cannot flourish among weeds. Jesus tells us (Lk 8:11-15) that the hard path is a faithless heart, a heart that hears but pays no true heed to God's word. The rocky ground is a heart that initially receives God's word but later loses endurance when trials and temptation come. The soil with weeds is a heart filled with worldly cares and distractions that seem to swallow up God's word. Lack of faith, lack of endurance, and lack

of spiritual focus—those indeed are the negative elements of the infertile soil that cancel out the miracle of the seed. We know all about those elements because we face them every day. We need to be humbly mindful that all of us at various times have exemplified the hard path, the rocky ground, or the soil with weeds.

What we need much more is to concentrate on building up good soil. Christ the Sower is forever faithful, enduring, and active through his mighty and life-giving word. What men and women need to do is respond in kind; to offer to Him the soil of “an honest and good heart” (Lk 8:15). The parable clearly identifies the negative elements of the unproductive soil—lack of faith, lack of endurance, lack of spiritual focus. But the parable also powerfully suggests the opposite elements, the contrasting positive qualities of the honest and good heart. Those are lively faith, patient endurance, and the focus of an active Christian worldview. The Lord warned: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Lk 8:8). But the Lord also gives assurance that, when falling on good soil, the seed of God’s word takes deep root, grows bountifully and yields blessings beyond imagination. Praise, thanksgiving, and glory be to Christ the eternal Sower. Amen.

Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

REMINDER: There will be no service in Slickville next Sunday, November 09, as Father Bob will be out of town. In case of an emergency, please contact John Pauncic, who has a list of area Orthodox Priests. Please plan to attend one of our sister Orthodox parishes in Greensburg, Jeannette, Monroeville, Black Lick, or Arnold.

A special thank you to everyone who said prayers for my mom, Stancy “Baba” Popichak, who fell asleep in the Lord last Sunday morning. She loved to hear the adventures of our Slickville parish family and prayed for each of you in her daily prayers. May God reward you a thousand-fold for your kindness. God Bless! Fr. Bob, Mark, George, & Stephen—and our families.