



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 Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, 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, Father Paisius McGrath, Joshua Agosto and his family, 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, 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, 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, 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, Donna Cacioppo [Evelyn's niece], Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Stella Rossi, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Carol Mensing's Family, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Billy Sinclair, Evelyn Felouzis, Kyranna Cherpas, Lawrence Deuce Skurcenski, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Millie Koss Good, Mary Haraczy, Heather Ried, and Mother Ana. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

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!

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, SEPTEMBER 20 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST
HOLY THEOTOKOS; MARTYR SOZON OF CILICIA; APOSTLES EVODUS &
ONESIPHORUS OF THE 70; MARTYR EUPSYCHIOS OF CAESAREA IN
CAPPADOCIA; MARTYRDOM OF SAINT MACARIUS-ARCHIMANDRITE OF
OVRUCH-PEREIASLAV**

Tone 7

2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Galatians 6:11-18
Matthew 25:14-30; John 3:13-17

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 OBEDNITZA—DOWNSTAIRS IN CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-
GIVING CROSS; REPOSE OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

*******STRICT FAST DAY*******

Tone 8

1 Corinthians 1:18-24
John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Tillie Kuzman—John & Debbie Paouncic

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 04 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; APODOSIS OF THE EXALTATION OF THE
CROSS; APOSTLE QUADRATUS OF THE 70; HIEROMARTYR HYPATIUS-BISHOP
OF EPHESUS & PRESBYTER ANDREW; SAINTS ISAACIUS & MELETIUS-BISHOPS
OF CYPRUS; MARTYR EUSEBIUS OF PHOENICIA; MARTYR PRISCUS OF
PHRYGIA; UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF SAINT DEMETRIUS-METROPOLITAN
OF ROSTOV**

Tone 1

Galatians 2:16-20; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Mark 8:34-9:1; Matthew 17:14-23

*Litany in Blessed Memory of Father Theodore Forosty, Johnathan Dorning,
Catherine Behun, Mary Medich, Daniel Chicka, & Mary Evaniuk—Fr. Bob*

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 20 SEPTEMBER 2015

**16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF
THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS; MARTYR SOZON OF CILICIA;
APOSTLES EVODUS & ONESIPHORUS OF THE 70; MARTYR
EUPSYCHIUS OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA; MARTYRDOM OF
SAINT MACARIUS-ARCHIMANDRITE OF OVRUCH-PEREIASLAV**

TROPARION—TONE 7

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death!
To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise!
For the Myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy.
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
To proclaim that Thou art 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 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
For Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers!
Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry:
The Savior has come to those in faith!
Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 7

READER: The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless
His people with peace!

**PEOPLE: The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall
bless His people with peace!**

READER: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the
Lord!

**PEOPLE: The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall
bless His people with peace!**

READER: The Lord shall give strength to His people!

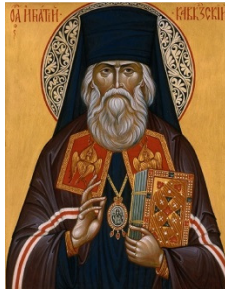
PEOPLE: The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 7

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most
High!

To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night!

Love of God by St. Ignatius (Brianchaninov)



Love God as he commanded you to love Him, and not as self-deluded daydreamers think they love Him.

Do not fabricate raptures for yourself, do not excite your nerves, do not inflame yourself with a material fire, with the fire of your blood. The sacrifice pleasing to God is humility of heart, contrition of spirit. With wrath does God turn away from sacrifices offered with self-confident presumption, with a proud opinion of oneself, though the sacrifice be a whole burnt offering.

Pride excites the nerves, heats the blood, arouses daydreaming, enlivens the life of the fall; humility calms the nerves, subdues the motion of the blood, eliminates daydreaming, mortifies falls, enlivens the life in Jesus Christ.

Obedience before the Lord is greater than good sacrifice, and submission than the fat of rams said the Prophet to the Israelite king who had dared to offer to God a wrong sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22). When you wish to offer to God the sacrifice of love, do not offer it self-willfully, from a thoughtless impulse; offer it with humility, in that time and that place which the Lord commanded

"The spiritual place on which spiritual sacrifices are commanded to be offered alone is humility" (Saying of St. Pimen the Great from the Alphabetical Patericon).

The Lord marked the one who loves and the one who does not love by true and exact signs: *If a man love Me, he will keep My word. He that loveth Me not keepeth not My sayings* (John 14:23-24).

Do you wish to learn the love of God? Shun every deed, word, thought, and feeling forbidden by the Gospel. By your enmity towards sin which is so hated by All-Holy God, you will show and prove your love for

God. When due to weakness it happens that you fall into transgressions, heal them at once by repentance. But it is better to strive not to allow yourself even these transgressions, by strict watchfulness over yourself.

Do you wish to learn the love of God? Assiduously learn the commandments of the Lord in the Gospel, and strive to fulfill them in very deed. Strive to turn the Gospel virtues into habits, into your qualities. For a person who loves, it is natural to fulfill the will of the beloved with exactness.

I have loved Thy commandments more than gold and topaz: therefore, I directed myself toward all Thy commandments; every path of unrighteousness have I hated says the Prophet (Ps. 118:127, 128, LXX). Such conduct is indispensable for maintaining fidelity to God. Fidelity is the unalterable condition of love. Without this condition, love is dissolved.

By the constant shunning of evil and fulfilling of the Gospel virtues—which comprises the whole Gospel moral teaching—we attain the love of God. And by this same means do we abide in the love of God: *If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love* said the Savior (John 15:10).

The perfection of love consists in union with God; advancing in love is joined with inexpressible spiritual consolation, delight, and enlightenment. But in the beginning of the struggle, the disciple of love must undergo a violent warfare with himself, with his own deeply damaged nature: evil, which through the fall became innate to our nature, has become for it a law, warring and revolting against the Law of God, against the law of holy love.

Love of God is founded on love of one's neighbor. When the remembrance of wrongs is obliterated in you: then you are close to love. When your heart is overshadowed by holy, grace-given peace towards all humanity: then you are at the very doors of love. But these doors are opened by the Holy Spirit alone. Love of God is a gift from God in a person who has prepared himself to receive this gift by purity of heart, mind, and body. The degree of the gift is according to the degree of preparation: because God, even in His mercy, is just.

Love of God is entirely spiritual: *that which is born of the Spirit is spirit* (John 3:6). *That which is born of the flesh is flesh* (John 3:6): carnal love, as something born of flesh and blood, has material, corrupt properties. It is inconstant, changeable: its fire is completely dependent on matter.

Hearing from Scripture that our God is a fire (Heb.12:29), that love is a fire, and feeling in yourself a fire of natural love, do not think that this is one and the same fire. No! These fires are at enmity with one another and are swallowed up by one another (cf. *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, steps 3 and 15). *Let us serve in a manner well-pleasing to God, with reverence and fear; for our God is a consuming fire* (Heb. 12:28-29).

Natural love, i.e. fallen love, heats a person's blood, excites his nerves, and arouses daydreaming; holy love cools the blood, calms both soul and body, draws the inner man towards prayerful silence, and immerses him in rapture through humility and spiritual delight. Many ascetics, having taken natural love for Divine love, excited their blood, and excited their daydreams also. The condition of excitement passed very easily into a condition of frenzy. Many took those who were in a state of excitement and frenzy for persons filled with grace and holiness, while they were actually unfortunate victims of self-delusion.

There were many such ascetics in the Western Church from the time it fell into heresy, in which Divine properties are blasphemously ascribed to a man, and veneration which is due and fitting to God alone is given to a man. Many of these ascetics wrote books from their excited condition in which frenzied self-delusion seemed to them to be Divine love, in which their disordered imagination painted for them a multitude of visions which flattered their self-love and pride.

Son of the Eastern Church! Shun the reading of such books, avoid following the precepts of those who are self-deluded. Guided by the Gospel and the holy fathers of the true Church, ascend with humility to the spiritual height of Divine love by the means of fulfilling Christ's commandments in deed.

Know firmly that love for God is the highest gift of the Holy Spirit, and a person can only prepare himself, through purity and humility, for the receiving of this great gift, through which mind and heart and body are changed.

In vain is the labor, fruitless is it and harmful, when we seek to discover in ourselves high spiritual gifts prematurely: merciful God gives them in His own time, to the constant, patient, humble fulfillers of the Gospel commandments. Amen.



+ + "...and Unto the Ages of Ages. Amen." + +

Time moves on, and we see this happen whenever and wherever we look, for this world and all that is in it comes and goes and is no more – except where it touches Eternity. And what is this Eternity? It is God and His Presence as He intersects and touches His Creation and even time itself as it is transfigured into meaningful life that begets and lives in true Life. That Life is God Himself, and yet even now we can touch Him, know Him, and love Him by tenderly opening our hearts and minds to Him today.

When we pray we are not actually just reminding God of our needs and wants, our hopes and dreams, or our fears and troubles. Prayer is much more than this. Prayer is the invitation to enter into a living relationship with God as He is merciful and loving towards all of His Creation and every sentient being that has ever been or will ever be. We are invited to participate in this creative act of love and mercy by being with Christ as He reaches out to others and to ourselves.

When we think to pray, the invitation is before us, and the deeper we pray and more intently we do so, the fuller this participation becomes until we are permeated with Godly love and mercy ourselves in the ever-deepening relationship with God and all of Heaven and Earth. This is a great invitation.

It is only by this fuller life with God that our lives will have their fullest meaning indeed, and so will enter at last into Eternal Life. Often in the prayers of the Church the ending phrase is just this seal and affirmation of Life—our Life and the Life of others—in our fullness of Life with God. And so may we, with all of Heaven, consciously, thankfully, and mercifully say, "...and unto the Ages of Ages. Amen."

Jesus said, *"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give you; for Him hath God the Father sealed."* (John 6:27)

The Monastics at St. Isaac of Syria Skete and at the Convent of St. Silouan
and the Faithful at St. Nicholas Church
and the Staff at Orthodox Byzantine Icons and St. Isaac's Bookstore.

Hieromartyr Maxim Sandovich



Troparion – Tone 4

By the Providence of God you were sent to the Mountain of Pochaev for the knowledge of the truth of the Orthodox faith, and receiving true teaching in the city of Zhitomir, as a soldier of Christ you came to our land. For Orthodoxy and your own people you accepted a martyr's crown. Therefore you confirmed your native land in Orthodoxy. O Priest-Martyr Maksym, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Kontakion – Tone 2

Your Martyrdom, O Father Maxsym, enlightened and roused up our people to the Orthodox Faith. giving up your own life to Christ God, you endured torments and the suffering of imprisonment. Pray for us and for your land before Christ God!

One of the most glorified martyrs of Orthodoxy in the 20th century St. Maxim (Sandovich) serves as a reminder that true belief has a price. He was born to pious parents in Galicia in the Horlitsky district in the village of Zdyna. Having finished primary school and four years of study at the gymnasium, he entered the Pochaiv Lavra in Ukraine as a novice. After

several years at the monastery, he entered the seminary in Zhitomir. After completing his studies, he married a young Orthodox woman, Pelagia, and was ordained to the holy priesthood in 1911. He returned to his home-land to serve the growing number of Orthodox faithful who had fled the "Unia" and returned to the Orthodox Church. In less than one year, he was arrested by the Austro-Hungarian militia for his zealous activity among the Orthodox faithful, and taken to prison bound in chains. For two years, he languished in a Lviv prison without trial enduring horrible conditions and abuse.

In early 1914, the holy priest was released from prison for lack of evidence, and he returned to his home village.

By the summer of 1914, the Austro-Hungarian authorities were suspicious of any persons involved with the Orthodox Church, especially the Priest Maxim Sandovich. Without warning, the militia arrested Fr. Maxim, his Matushaka, and his parents, dragging them off in chains to the district prison. Forced to travel by foot the entire way, they suffered much at the hands of their captors. On Sunday, August 6th, just before dawn, the priest rose from his bunk, read his morning prayers and three akathists.

Having finished the third akathist, two soldiers dragged him from the cell and put him before Captain Deitrich, a man known for his cruelty. Saint Maxim stood silently before his accusers. Captain Deitrich read out the execution order and laughed heartily. He approached the innocent priest, tore off his pectoral cross and letting it fall to the ground, trampled it under his feet. He then marked an "X" on Fr. Maxim's black riassa in the middle of his chest for the firing squad. Two soldiers, standing less than ten feet away, waited for the command.

As Captain Deitrich began the customary command of orders to the two soldiers, St. Maxim cried out; "Long live the Rusyn People! Long live Orthodoxy!" Shots rang out in the courtyard, and the newest martyr for Christ fell to the ground. One of the soldiers approached the dead priest and shot him three more times in the head with a revolver. His mother and father along with his Matuska wept as they watched the scene before them. The pious Orthodox faithful buried the holy priest under the watchful eye of those who had murdered him. To this day, many travel to his grave asking the holy martyr to intercede for them.

On the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God

We gather today to celebrate the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God. The most beloved Mother of God holds the most unique and honored relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ

She was chosen from among all women of all centuries to be the Birthgiver of the Lord Jesus Christ. She was greeted by the Angel of God and informed of her selection.(Lk.1:26-38)

She was blessed to experience the Lord Jesus Christ from the earliest moments of taking on human flesh and was present at His Crucifixion.. She is depicted in the icon of the Feast of Christ's Ascension.

The Dormition Fast preceding the feast is a period to contemplate the Mother of God. Christians are to honor the entire fast. Christians are to pray and conform their lives to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Mother of God is the model of purity. She is the intercessor most often turned to in time of need. Miracles continue to be attributed to her in all parts of the world.

Individuals seeking to nourish the inner hunger of the soul turn to the Mother of God in prayer. God's Holy Church considers the Feast of the Dormition worthy of serious attention and celebration.

Believers do well to think carefully and extensively about the life and departure from earthly life of the Mother of God. Believers benefit from examining their personal relationship with Christ during this time of the Dormition.

The Mother of God is an inspiration. Her life is a source of personal nourishment. Prayers offered to the Mother of God enable Christians to change their lives for the better.

The Mother of God is a source of great joy. Individuals turning to the Mother of God in prayer find solutions to their personal problems. Believers find comfort and strength when praying to the Mother of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ deemed the Mother of God worthy to unite with Him. Christ's unity with His Mother is like no other unity.. The Mother of God is an example of unity with Christ for all believers.

On this Feast of the Dormition, let us give thanks to God for the blessings we have received from the Mother of God. Let us thank God for opportunities to learn more about the Mother of God.

Today let us rejoice. Today let the Mother of God capture our attention.

May our thoughts and prayers directed to the Mother of God strengthen and improve our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. August 15/28, 2015.

Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God. Father Rodney Torbic

REMINDER: Next Sunday, September 27, we will convene downstairs in the church hall for our monthly Obednitsa to enable those who cannot navigate our steps to participate in the Holy Eucharist. Please remind those who may not otherwise hear of the change! God Bless! Fr. Bob