



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

714 Westmoreland Avenue

PO Box 3

Slickville, PA 15684-0003

[724] 468-5581

www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org

Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor

23 Station Street

Carnegie, PA 15106-3014

[412] 279-5640 home

[412] 956-6626 cell

ELEVATION OF THE CROSS—STRICT FAST DAY

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 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

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT CHARITON THE CONFESSOR-ABBOT OF PALESTINE; PROPHET BARUCH; SYNAXIS OF THE SAINTS OF THE KIEVAN CAVES MONASTERY: SAINT ANTHONY THE FOUNDER, PROCHORUS THE GARDNER & WONDERWORKER, JOHN THE FASTER, AND OTHERS**

Tone 2

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Luke 5:1-11; Luke 6:17-23

Litany in Blessed Memory of Nicholas & Catherine Behun—the Behun family

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 27 SEPTEMBER 2015

**17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS
AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS; REPOSE OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

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

Troparion—Tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
Grant victory to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries,
and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

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

O Christ our God,
Who wast voluntarily lifted up on the Cross,
grant Thy mercies to Thy new people named after Thee.
Gladden with Thy power Orthodox Christians
and give them victory over their enemies.
May they have as ally
that invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.

Prokiemenon—Tone 7

Reader: Extol the Lord our God. Worship at His footstool for it is holy!

**People: Extol the Lord our God. Worship at His footstool for it is
holy!**

Reader: The Lord reigns; let the people tremble!

**People: Extol the Lord our God. Worship at His footstool for it is
holy!**

Reader: Extol the Lord our God.

People: Worship at His footstool for it is holy!

INSTEAD OF HOLY GOD:

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection, we glorify.

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection, we glorify.

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection, we glorify.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. And Thy Holy Resurrection, we glorify.

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection, we glorify.

Alleluia Verses—Tone 1

Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast gotten of old.

God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

Hymn to the Theotokos

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord.

You are the mystical Paradise, O Theotokos, in which Christ blossomed; through Him the life-bearing Wood of the Cross was planted on earth. Now at its Elevation, as we bow in worship before it, we magnify you.

Communion Verse:

The light of Thy countenance has shone on us, O Lord.

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

8-10 East 79th St. New York, NY 10075-0106 * Tel: [\(212\) 570-3530](tel:(212)570-3530) Fax: [\(212\) 774-0237](tel:(212)774-0237)

www.goarch.org-Email: communications@goarch.org

News Release

Contact: PRESS OFFICE—Stavros Papagermanos, pressoffice@goarch.org

Protocol 171/15

September 14/27, 2015

The Universal Exaltation of The Precious and Life-Giving Cross

Exalted today, the Cross sanctifies the ends of the earth, and the Church is renewed in the Resurrection. (Hymn of Vespers)

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is a blessed day and celebration of the tremendous power of the Cross of our Lord. Through the Cross the power and wisdom of God have been revealed. By the Cross we are reconciled to Him, and we can find true and enduring peace. It is the Cross that directs us to Christ and to the way of salvation and eternal life.

As the Apostle Paul recognized in his first Epistle to the Corinthians some see this as foolishness or contrary to the wisdom of the age (I Corinthians 1:17-23). How can wisdom be found in great humility, suffering, and sacrifice? Where is peace and reconciliation through an instrument of torture and punishment? How can this cruel means of death show us the way to life?

First, our Exaltation of the Cross affirms that God has revealed His great might and wisdom through *what is low and despised in the world* (1:28) and *what is foolish and weak* (1:27). He did this *so that no human being might boast in the presence of God* (1:29). He chose a means for our redemption that did not conform to worldly standards of wisdom and power, showing that our source of life, our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification (1:30) are found in Jesus Christ alone.

Second, as we exalt the Precious and Life-Giving Cross, we commemorate the tremendous offering of our Lord. We acknowledge that He alone was able to reconcile us to God by His death, ending our estrangement due to the power of evil. By *making peace through the blood of His Cross* and through our faith in Him, we can be presented before God as holy, blameless, and irreproachable. (Colossians 1:19-23)

Finally, we proclaim the power of the Cross on this Feast, for through it Christ has shown us the way to life. Through the Cross and His humility

and obedience unto death, He has been exalted so that *every tongue should confess that He is Lord* (Philippians 2:11). By *emptying himself, taking the form of a servant, and being born in the likeness of humankind* (Philippians 2:7), Jesus has received a name above every name. Christ has shown that through the His Cross He is leading us to overcoming sin and evil and death and to reach eternal life.

As we celebrate the Cross and its transforming power for our lives and for all the created order, we also offer our support for our beloved Holy Cross School of Theology. In the life of our Schole, this feast always marks the beginning of a new academic year. It also is the beginning and continuation of the journey of our students who are preparing for service to God and His Church. During this time at Holy Cross they are strengthened and nurtured for a lifetime of ministry, and through the Cross they will be connected to the wisdom of God, will guide others to reconciliation and peace, and will show the way to salvation and eternal life through Christ. May we offer our prayers and gifts of support for our seminarians and our beloved Holy Cross.

Through our worship and celebration let us call all people to come to the Cross of our Lord so that they might know His grace and compassion. Certainly, the power of the Cross will change their lives forever!

With paternal love in Christ,

†DEMETRIOS, Archbishop of America

Miraculous Icons of the Mother of God

Believers coming to the St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Carmichaels, Pennsylvania on October 6, 2011 were blessed to venerate the Hawaiian Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Mother of God.

Miraculous icons of the Mother of God appear in the Holy Orthodox Church. They exist in different parts of the world. Some are myrrh-streaming, some are weeping, and others are miraculous because of prayers before them.

Miracles are attributed to these icons. The myrrh-streaming and weeping icons are miracles in themselves. Individuals tell of healings or being different after having venerated the icons or being anointed.

Akathists have been written to icons of the Mother of God describing healings or the occurrence of other miracles. Miraculous icons strongly affect the mind and confirm belief among the faithful.

Believers are willing to travel long distances to venerate myhrr-flowing and weeping icons. Miraculous icons stir hopes among believers suffering from particular illnesses.

The fragrancy emanating from these icons is often distinct and identifiable. The soul hungers for healing. Miraculous icons address the hunger of the soul. Thanks to God for the presence of miraculous icons.

Thanks to the Mother of God for miraculous icons bearing her image.. When an icon of the Mother of God streams or tears begin to flow, wonderment takes place. The meaning is not always clear. The impact is profound and far-reaching.

Believers become different after personally experiencing a weeping or myhrr-flowing icon. The memory is imprinted and lasting. Believers sharing the experience verify with each other the impact that has taken place.

Parish churches are often eager to welcome a visit from a myhrr-streaming or weeping icon. Parishes are enriched by the hosting experience. The faith of parish believers is strengthened when a miraculous icon visits.

The mysteries of God are beyond full human comprehension. Believers experience God at work on a daily basis. Miraculous icons are an example of God at work in daily life. Miraculous icons lift the heart and mind to new levels.

Love for God and the Mother of God increases when miraculous icons make a difference in personal life. Testimonies of believers whose lives have changed by miraculous icons are convincing.

Miraculous icons are a source of joy. Healings and miraculous outcomes due to prayers to certain icons of the Mother of God change the course of personal lives. Skepticism is not sufficiently powerful to have believers think otherwise.

Adult Class. St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. Venerable Dometius, Martyr Venerable Or. August 7/20, 2015. Father Rodney Torbic

When, on this day, we look at the precious Cross of Christ, in faith let us adore it, let us rejoice, and embrace it ardently, beseeching our Lord, who of His own choice gave Himself to be crucified on it, to make us worthy of

adoring His most precious Cross so that, free from all defilement, we may attain the day of Resurrection. ***Orthros for the Adoration of the Holy Cross***



Icon of the Mother of God of Three Hands

The Icon of the Mother of God of Three Hands is a defining icon of the Serbian Orthodox Church. Traced to St. Luke and located in Hilandar Monastery, the icon has affected lives throughout the world and through the centuries.

Countless individuals have witnessed the image of the Icon of the Mother of God of Three Hands. Countless individuals have prayed before the icon and benefitted. The monks in Hilandar Monastery enjoy the daily benefit of this priceless treasure. Visitors to Hilandar are enriched by the presence of the icon. Replicas exist in homes and churches throughout the world.

Icons have great importance. Icons affect lives in immeasurable ways. Believers turn to icons with hope and confidence. Icons are known to be associated with miraculous occurrences.

Individuals having experienced the difference in their lives due to holy icons are resolute in their faith. Personal experience is convincing and cannot be discredited.

The Icon of the Mother of God of Three Hands inspires present day believers. Images of the icon summons thoughts about its history. The beauty of the icon draws individuals closer to the Mother of God.

Viewing the icon initiates thoughts about the Mother of God that reach to the depth of the soul. Mary the Mother of God was chosen from among all women of all centuries to give birth to the Christ-Child.

Mary has a singular relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ of which there is no equal. The Icon of the Mother of God of Three Hands is

compelling for individuals seeking to know more about the Mother of God and Jesus Christ.

Understanding Christ cannot be separated from thinking about His virgin birth and the choice of Mary to be the Birthgiver. Mary's life from conception to earthly departure is commemorated in God's Holy Church.

Countless prayers to the Mother of God exist and are a part of the life in God's Holy Church. Specific prayers exist in connection with the Icon of the Mother of God of Three Hands.

Life is lived to the fullest in Christ. Mary the Mother of God has a relationship with Christ worthy of the greatest personal consideration. Personal change for the better in Christ is connected with thinking about Mary and Christ.

Thank God the Icon of the Mother of God of Three Hands remains protected and present in Hilandar Monastery on the Holy Mountain. Thank God for the opportunity to view the image of this icon and to be personally enriched.

¹ Aleksandar Stosich. The Story of the Miraculous Icon of the Most Holy Mother of God, "Of Three Hands." Editor-Rev. Vojislav Pavlovic. Nikoljnik Publishers, Hamilton, Ontario, 2003.

*St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. September 4/17, 2015.
St. Babylas; St. Moses, God-Seerer, Hieromartyr Metropolitan Petar of Sarajevo.*

Father Rodney Torbic

PASTORAL PATIENCE

The good pastor does not demand conformity before healing has taken place

It deeply troubles me when I encounter clergy who want to push their parishioners into total conformity and compliance with the teachings of the Orthodox Church, without first helping them seek the healing that takes place within the Hospital of the Soul. My spiritual father, Archimandrite Dimitry of blessed memory, counseled against storming at people, before using the tools found within the Church, to bring about the transformation of the soul, and the healing of the nous. Demanding conformity in regards abortion, same sex marriage, homosexuality, and a host of other issues that separate our modern society from the Gospel teachings of the Church, drives people away from the very place that can bring about the transformation we all so desperately need. The pastor must first help those who have come into the Church to enter into an encounter with the Living God, and allow Christ to empower them for change, both morally and spiritually.

Just as a child needs the patience of a good parent to grow into adulthood, so too is there the need for pastors to patiently guide the seeker into an encounter with the Living God, and bring about the purification of the nous (the eye of the soul). Pressuring parishioners into conformity does nothing to help the person mature in the faith, for only the Holy Spirit can transform the heart, and bring the believer into conformity with the Gospel teachings. Everyone needs the Church's transformational power to make them holy. Demanding holiness before healing has taken place, only serves to drive the seeker from the hospital before they can be made whole.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

+ + "The Crown of the Year" + +

We need to revisit our conceptions of time to consciously enter a deeper relationship with Christ, Who as God is the Existent above and beyond all time, and yet in His Incarnation was also within time. This is a great wonder. All relative time is encompassed and enclosed within God's Eternity which is all of the experience of relative times simultaneously--and yet even more. God doesn't see the future, for He is already at every past, present, and future at once. This is hard for us to imagine, but some of the Saints have experienced this in their lives. If we are with Him more and more, then somehow we can become more aware of this elasticity of time even in our own humanity, for love is beyond all.

The Church New Year begins (as does the Jewish New Year before it) at the end of the time of harvest and the beginning of the next cycle of preparing the soil, planting, growing, and finally harvesting again to begin the cycle anew. It is, however, more than this, because the Liturgical Cycle of the Church also begins each year on this day, September 1st. We are at the beginning now of the New Year of blessings from God as He consciously renews time for our repentance. He not only renews it, but encompasses it and encloses it with a crown of goodness of life and love. He will bless us as we move through time if we will only turn to Him consciously, lovingly, and thankfully with humble hearts and gladsome minds. May the Lord of Life and Time bless us this coming New Year.

"Thou shalt bless the crown of the year with Thy goodness..." (Psalm 64:11 in Septuagint Numbering, 65:11 in Hebrew numbering)

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.