



## 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: Metropolitan Theodosius [OCA], 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, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaele 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, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipovic, Lynn, Jacqueline, Irma Opacic, Sharon, Zan Cheng, 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, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Evelyn Felouzis, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Millie Koss Good, Mary Haraczy, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Mike Mangan, Luke Tinsley, and Jackie Crimbchin. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our February babies:** David Shirley on the 1<sup>st</sup> and Kyle James Weiser on the 12<sup>th</sup>. May God grant them Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless!

**REMINDER:** We will hold a special parish meeting on Sunday, February 28, after the Obedniza downstairs to talk about the future of our parish. Please plan to attend with suggestions, ideas, or other constructive contributions! Thank you and God Bless us all!

**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 at some time in the future...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!

**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 07 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM  
36<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN-  
ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE; MARTYRS FELICITAS OF ROME & 7 SONS:  
JANUARIUS, FELIX, PHILIP, SILVANUS, ALEXANDER, VITALIS, & MARTIAL;  
VENERABLE PUBLISU, ASCETIC OF SYRIA; VENERABLE MARES THE SINGER OF  
SYRIA**

*Tone 3*

1 Timothy 1:15-17

Luke 18:35-43

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Milton G. Chicka, Daniel Pysh, Sara Chicka, Nikolai Pivtoraiko, Mary Lokie, Anne Chrenko Mazok, & Roy Wyke—Fr. Bob***

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM  
37<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYR TRYPHON OF CAMPSADA NEAR  
APAMEA IN SYRIA; MARTYRS PERPETUA, SATURUS, REVOCATUS, SATURNINUS,  
SECUNDULUS, & FELICITAS; VENERABLE PETER OF GALATIA; VENERABLE  
VENDEMAINUS-HERMIT OF BITHYNIA**

*Tone 4*

1 Timothy 4:9-15

Luke 19:1-10

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM  
SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE; GREAT-MARTYR THEODORE  
STRATELATES; PROPHET ZACHARIAH FROM 12 MINOR PROPHETS; SAINT SAVA  
II-ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA**

*Tone 5*

2 Timothy 3:10-15

Luke 18:10-14

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 07 FEBRUARY 2016**

**36<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT GREGORY THE  
THEOLOGIAN-ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE; MARTYRS  
FELICITAS OF ROME & 7 SONS: JANUARIUS, FELIX, PHILIP,  
SILVANUS, ALEXANDER, VITALIS, & MARTIAL; VENERABLE  
PUBLISU, ASCETIC OF SYRIA; VENERABLE MARES THE SINGER OF  
SYRIA**

### **TROPARION—TONE 3**

Let the Heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!  
He has trampled down death by death!  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
And has granted 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 3**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One!  
Leading us from the gates of death.  
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
With the prophets and patriarchs  
They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 3**

**READER:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King,  
sing praises!

**PEOPLE:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our  
King, sing praises!

**READER:** Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of  
joy!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

**READER:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

**ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 3**

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!

"The guardian angel will not retreat from us, unless we drive him away by our evil deeds. As the smoke drives bees away, and stench the doves, even so our stinking sin drives away from us the angel who protects our life."

*Saint Basil the Great*



**THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE  
The Historical & Personal Meaning of the 40-Day Blessing**



**Icon with the Presentation of Christ in the Temple**, Metropolitan Museum 1400–1500, Byzantine, Wood, painted, with gold ground ❖ Bequest of Lillie P. Bliss, 1931 (31.67.8)

**Jesus was brought to the Temple on the 40<sup>th</sup> Day**

On February 2/15, we celebrate the Feast of "Ypapanti," often translated as the "Presentation" of our Lord to the Temple, although a more accurate translation would be the "Meeting" between Jesus and Symeon.

The Gospel reading for the feast, Luke 2:22-40, tells us the story which is the origin of the holiday. Jesus was taken by His parents to Jerusalem, "to present Him to the Lord." Once they arrived at the temple,

they were met by Symeon. Symeon was "righteous and devout," upon whom was the Holy Spirit. It was revealed to Symeon that "he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." When he met the baby Jesus, Symeon took Him into his arms, in accordance with the custom of the Old Testament laws, and blessed Him. Symeon then said to God: "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel." These words are recited by the priest as he holds the baby at the conclusion of the Orthodox Christian 40-Day blessing.

### **What does this tell us?**

But what about this "meeting"? What does it tell us? First, it tells us something of the Jewish practice of presenting a child to the temple. Jesus was brought, according to the custom, forty days after His birth to the temple. Based on His example, we in the Orthodox Church also bring our children to Church for their forty-day blessing. Although it is a brief service, it is indeed powerful and a wonderful opportunity for parents to express their thankfulness to God for giving them their child, and thereby dedicating the child back to God.

This "meeting" of Jesus and Symeon also tells us that Symeon knew of the importance of Jesus, though we know that not everyone did. Symeon knew that Jesus is indeed our salvation. Not everyone understands this fact today, even among all who claim to be Christians. When we present our children to the Church for their 40-day blessing, we have an opportunity to be reminded of our own need to "meet" with Christ and to be thankful to God for our meeting.

### **We can meet the Lord**

When can we meet with Him? We can meet with the Lord when we are in prayer, when we serve our "neighbor," when we practice His commandments, and when we participate in the sacraments. We have opportunities throughout our day to meet with our Lord; however, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to inspire us! If we do that, we will find numerous opportunities to meet Him daily. All too often, as a consequence of our daily concerns, we place our meetings with the Lord at the bottom of our "to do list" and often fail to finish that list by the end of the day!

In accordance with the practice of the Orthodox Christian faith, we bring our children to the Church, to be presented to the Lord, for their own forty-day blessing. We do so out of our thanksgiving to God. Let us continue that spirit of thanksgiving by meeting with Him throughout our day and throughout our life. Let us not give Him the mere leftovers of our time, but the first fruits, that our meeting may prove to be of great importance to us! Let us keep Him - as we chant in the Hymn of the Feast of His Presentation - as our own "Sun of Righteousness," guiding us throughout our day and throughout our life, for He has indeed, "conferred upon us the Resurrection."

*Fr. Anthony Stratis*



*St. Anthony the Great – CS1179*

**+ + Three Blessed Steps to Heaven + +**

God is simple as He is cohesive, completely integrated and whole. In our disintegrated, discordant, and often warring parts, we are quite complicated instead. When Christ lived on earth He set before us very direct and simple ways for us to come up from our sunken condition of sin and death to life, and life Immortal; from earth to Heaven. He gave us these ways in a very simple message that anyone can follow if they wish, and these ways will surely lead us up into a most blessed life.

What are these steps, and how can we follow them? The first step is to deny ourselves. This is foundational. We cannot get to step two without it. Self-denial implies self-control, and the voluntary limiting of our willful desires and thoughts to be independent from anyone telling us what to do. Christ was subject to His Father. If we want to be with Him, we must become subject too as He was. The second step is to take up our own cross. This is self-denial to a greater level, and the agreement to accept pain to embrace His Godly Will to become like Him: to become full of love for all in every circumstance. This is the second step. It lets us be called Christians.

And what is the third step? Follow Me. Where shall we follow Him? To greater love by greater sacrifice by great forgiveness. By seeing that His Providence blesses every moment of our life. By seeking His Kingdom before all. Are we ready to go towards Heaven? He is there. He is waiting. He is our helper, and redeemer, and our joy forevermore. Three blessed steps. May we take them in earnest today. Amen.

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.

**SYNAXIS OF THE PRIMATES OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCHES**

Chambésy, 21-28, 2016

## COMMUNIQUÉ

At the invitation of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Synaxis of Primates of the Orthodox Autocephalous Churches took place at the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy, Geneva, from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2016. The following Primates attended:

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Patriarch Theodore of Alexandria

Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem

Patriarch Kirill of Moscow

Patriarch Irinej of Serbia

Patriarch Daniel of Romania

Patriarch Neophyte of Bulgaria

Patriarch Ilia of Georgia

Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

Archbishop Rastislav of the Czech Lands and Slovakia

The following Primates were unable to attend: Their Beatitudes Patriarch John X of Antioch and Metropolitan Sawa of Warsaw and All Poland, for health reasons, and Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece, for personal reasons. Nevertheless, all three were represented by official delegations of their Churches.

The Primates of the Orthodox Churches convened to finalize the texts for the Holy and Great Council. In the framework of the Synaxis, on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, a Divine Liturgy was held at the Holy Stavropegic Church of St. Paul. Along with the Ecumenical Patriarch, who presided, Their Beatitudes and Heads of the delegations of the Orthodox Churches concelebrated the Liturgy, with the exception of the Head of the delegation of the Patriarchate of Antioch.

During the Synaxis, whose sessions were held in the apostolic spirit of "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4.15), in concord and understanding, the Primates affirmed their decision to convene the Holy and Great Council. The Council will be held at the Orthodox Academy of Crete from June 16<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016. To this end, the Primates humbly invoke the grace and blessing of the Holy Trinity and fervently invite the prayers of the fullness of the Church, clergy and laity, for the period leading to and the sessions of the Holy and Great Council.

The items officially approved for referral to and adoption by the Holy and Great Council are: *The Mission of the Orthodox Church in the*



*Contemporary World, The Orthodox Diaspora, Autonomy and its Manner of Proclamation, The Sacrament of Marriage and its Impediments, The Significance of Fasting and its Application Today, and Relations of the Orthodox Church with the Rest of the Christian World.* By decision of the Primates, all approved documents will be published.

The Primates also discussed and determined the establishment of a Panorthodox Secretariat, the by-laws of the Council, the participation of non-Orthodox observers in the opening and closing sessions, and the budgetary costs related the Council.

Moreover, the Primates expressed their support for the persecuted Christians of the Middle East and their ongoing concern for the abduction of the two Metropolitans, Paul Yazigi of the Patriarchate of Antioch and Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim of the Syriac Archdiocese.

The proceedings of the Synaxis concluded on Wednesday evening, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, with the closing address by its President, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

At the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate  
in Chambésy-Geneva, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2016  
From the Secretariat of the Sacred Synaxis

Schema-Archimandrite Eli (Nozdin) is one of the most renowned and respected spiritual fathers in Russia. Here are his profound words: "The spiritual life needs to be learned; this is perhaps the most important learning in the world, without which our society is doomed. The most important thing is what to learn and how. Our faith, and the richness of our spiritual lives, is gained first of all through direct communion with God - that is, through prayer, by which one's faith is established. Without this theoretical knowledge and education are of little value." (pravmir)



They say "I love everybody! I love God. God is in me, I don't need a church." It's nonsense! What they mean is: "I don't want to make sacrifices, I don't want to be a part of it, I want to just live my own life the way I want." *powerful words from Schema-Archimandrite Joachim Parr*

When a man reveres God with all his heart and with faith, he receives through God's providence the power to control anger and desire; for it is desire and anger which are the cause of all evils. *St. Antony the Great, On the Character of Men no. 12, Philokalia Vol. 1 edited by Palmer, Sherrard and Ware; Faber and Faber pg. 331, 4th century*

While in public, St. John Chrysostom did not recommend that prayer be said with the lips, for the power of prayer lies not in words uttered by the lips, but by the heart. One can be heard without uttering any words. While walking about a square, one can pray in thought with great zeal, and while sitting with friends and doing any sort of thing, one can call upon God with a great cry (I mean an internal cry) without making it known to any of those present.

'The Lord your God is one Lord' (cf. Deut. 6:4), revealed in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: in the unbegotten Father; in the Son, who is begotten eternally, timelessly and impassibly as the Logos, and who through Himself anointed that which He assumed from us and so is called Christ; and in the Holy Spirit, who also comes forth from the Father, not begotten, but proceeding. This alone is God and alone is true God, the one Lord in a Trinity of Hypostases, undivided in nature, will, glory, power, energy, and all the characteristics of divinity. Him alone shall you love and Him alone shall you worship with all your mind and with all your heart and with all your strength. *St. Gregory Palamas, A New Testament Decalogue no. 1, Philokalia Vol. 4 edited by Palmer, Sherrard and Ware; Faber and Faber pg. 323, 14th century*

The sign that thou lovest God, is this, that thou lovest thy fellow; and if thou hatest thy fellow, thy hatred is towards God. For it is blasphemy if thou prayest before God while thou art wroth. For thy heart also convicts thee, that in vain thou multipliest words: thy conscience rightly judges that in thy prayers thou profitest nought. *St. Ephraim the Syrian, ON ADMONITION AND REPENTANCE.*

Let us make our mercifulness abundant, let us give proof of much love to man, both by the use of our money, and by our actions. ... Go then, and put a stop to the evil; pull out them that are drowning, though you descend into the very depth of the surge. *St. John Chrysostom, Homily 15 on Matthew 5, 4th Century*



## Third Anniversary of Metropolitan Antony's Enthronement

ΑΧΙΟΣ!  
ΜΑΝΥ ΒΛΕΣΣΕΘ ΥΓΕΑΣ!  
ΑΡΧΙΟΣ!  
ΑΝΝΟΤΑΑ Ι ΕΛΑΡΤΑΑ ΑΠΤΑ!  
JANUARY 30  
30 ΓΙΩΝΑ



### **Third Anniversary of Metropolitan Antony's Enthronement**

Three years ago His Eminence Metropolitan Antony was formally Enthroned as the 4th Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in St. Andrew the First Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring, MD.

In the presence of 20 hierarchs, representing various Orthodox jurisdictions of North America and representatives of Catholic and other Christian communities, His Eminence received his Archpastoral staff of the Prime Hierarchy of the Church.

On January 30th His Eminence Metropolitan Antony celebrates his Name's

Day (St. Anthony the Great) and his birthday.

On behalf of the clergy, members of the Council of Metropolia, the Consistory and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA we pray that our Lord will grant him peace, safety, honor, health and length of days "rightly teaching" the word of God's truth.

***Axios! Eis polla eti despota! God grant you many and blessed years!***

***Многая і благая літа!***