



## 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 George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, 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, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smoly nec, Father Bazyl Zawierucha, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & 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, 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, Esther Holupka, 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, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, 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], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, 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, 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 Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Jeff Jones, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, 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, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Millie Koss Good, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Michael Pawlyshyn, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Stella McKeag, Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Cheryl Pomeroy, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Frances Gebet, Sheryl Smith Haraczy, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Bill Baronie, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, and Ian Brick ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

**Remember that there are only two days of the year when you can not do anything. One of them is called yesterday, and the other is called tomorrow.**

**Everyone is afraid of one thing - how not to become poor, and how not to get into hell, no one worries or trembles. - *St. John Chrysostom***

**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, SEPTEMBER 24 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM  
16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION;  
AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS; VENERABLE THEODORA OF  
ALEXANDRIA; MARTYRS DEMETRIUS, HIS WIFE EUANTHIA, & SON  
DEMETRIANT; MARTYRS DIODORUS, DIDYMUS, & DIOMEDES OF LAODICEA;  
MARTYR IA OF PERSIA; VENERABLE EUPHROSYNUS**

*Tone 7*

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

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-  
GIVING CROSS**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 01 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM  
17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION;  
AFTERFEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS; VENERABLE EUMENES-  
BISHOP OF GORTYNA; MARTYR ARIADNE OF PHRYGIA; MARTYRS SOPHIA &  
IRENE OF EGYPT; MARTYR CASTOR OF ALEXANDRIA**

*Tone 8*

Galatians 2:16-20; 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Mark 8:34-9:1; Matthew 15:21-28

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Protopresbyter Theodore Forosty, Johnathan Dorning, Katherine Behun, Mary Medich, Daniel Chicka, Mary Evaniuk, & Stancy Popichak—and John Sheliga—40 days—Fr. Bob***

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 08 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM  
18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; VENERABLE EUPHROSYNE-NUN OF  
ALEXANDRIA; MARTYR PAPHNUTIUS & 546 COMPANIONS IN EGYPT**

*Tone 1*

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Luke 5:1-11

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 24 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE  
EXALTATION; AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS;  
VENERABLE THEODORA OF ALEXANDRIA; MARTYRS DEMETRIUS,  
HIS WIFE EUANTHIA, & SON DEMETRIANT; MARTYRS DIODORUS,  
DIDYMUS, & DIOMEDES OF LAODICEA; MARTYR IA OF PERSIA;  
VENERABLE EUPHROSYNUS**

### **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!

**Back to School Thoughts** (*Metropolitan Joseph*):

"You see, children, for those who have them, no matter how big the tensions might be and the hardships of daily life, when they get home and see them, all the worries and all the weaknesses go away, because of the child's joy...

But what does the child have? The child has a lot of inner peace, because there is no cunning in the child. And when the child is also baptized, he is the perfect icon of Christ born in the manger in Bethlehem.

But the child also has an interior light that we cannot explain. You've seen how kids sleep, with their arms open as on the cross. The grown-ups can't sleep like that... We have the impression that grown-ups are so hunched from worries and everything they have inside..."

Once on Mount Athos there was a monk who lived in Karyes. He drank and got drunk every day and was the cause of scandal to the pilgrims. Eventually he died and this relieved some of the faithful who went on to tell Elder Paisios that they were delighted that this huge problem was finally solved.

Father Paisios answered them that he knew about the death of the monk, after seeing the entire battalion of angels who came to collect his soul. The pilgrims were amazed and some protested and tried to explain to

the Elder of whom they were talking about, thinking that the Elder did not understand.

Elder Paisios explained to them: "This particular monk was born in Asia Minor, shortly before the destruction by the Turks when they gathered all the boys. So as not to take him from their parents, they would take him with them to the reaping, and so he wouldn't cry, they just put raki\* into his milk in order for him to sleep. Therefore he grew up as an alcoholic. There he found an elder and said to him that he was an alcoholic. The elder told him to do prostrations and prayers every night and beg the Panagia to help him to reduce by one the glasses he drank.

After a year he managed with struggle and repentance to make the 20 glasses he drank into 19 glasses. The struggle continued over the years and he reached 2-3 glasses, with which he would still get drunk."

The world for years saw an alcoholic monk who scandalized the pilgrims, but God saw a fighter who fought a long struggle to reduce his passion.

Without knowing what each one is trying to do what he wants to do, what right do we have to judge his effort?

### **ARE WE "WORTHY" OF HOLY COMMUNION?**

From Coffee with Sister Vassa (Monday, September 18)

*"I believe and confess, Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is truly Your pure Body and that this is truly Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed, in knowledge and in ignorance. And make me worthy/proper (ἀξιωσὸν με), without condemnation, to partake of Your pure mysteries for the remission of sins and for eternal life..." (Byzantine Liturgy, Pre-Communion Prayer)*

Now, you may disagree with me, but I find the English word "worthy" in the context of receiving Holy Communion, utterly confusing, unhelpful, and even unorthodox. It seems to pose a question about my "worth" in the eyes of a Lord Who has already died for all of us, "while we were still sinners" (Rom 5: 8); and Who said to each and every one of us, "Drink from it, ALL of you..." (Mt 26: 27). Undoubtedly, He already decided that each and every one of us was "worth" that.

So, I understand the expression, "make me worthy" (ἀξιωσὸν με, сподоби мя), to mean "make me proper" or "right" for this occasion. In

other words, make my heart and mind appropriate for communion with You, meaning, at peace with You and others, despite my shortcomings and resulting conflicts, which I must take care to resolve before approaching You (as we are commanded to do in Mt 5: 23-24, "If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you..."). After all, we translate the same Greek word (ἄξιος) at the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer, "Ἄξιον καὶ δίκαιον, / Досто́йно и праведно есть" as, "It is 'proper' and right."

So, when I "examine myself," as St. Paul instructs us to do, before approaching Holy Communion (1 Cor 11: 28), let me ask the right questions, rather than the false ones. I do not ask myself whether I am "worth" the Self-Offering of the precious Body and Blood of my Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. No. Because He already answered that question, having died for me, and all of us, and having descended into our hell and overcome it, in His resurrection. What I need to ask of myself, and what He asks of me, is that my heart and mind, despite my shortcomings, are "properly" in line with His peace and His mercy, embracing forgiveness of myself and others. Lord, have it Your way; Have "mercy"! And let me have it as well, that I may be "proper" and "right" as I approach communion with You.

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge  
(Psalm 91)



Last Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege to serve with His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel, who ordained Subdeacon Evan Cliff O'Neil to the Holy Diaconate at Saints Peter and Paul UOGC in Carnegie. His first question was, with a HUGE SMILE, "So, Father Bob, how are MY PEOPLE in

Slickville? Please tell them I love them..." With all that was happening, you were in his thoughts and prayers. Please remember him in yours as well!

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Our tiny parish with a HUGE HEART has done something amazing...we have collected \$210 to send to IOCC for Hurricane Relief! Your generosity shows that you all truly possess and share the Light of Christ in your hearts—and in your lives. God Bless you all for your generosity and love for those who have had their worlds crushed...and on to resurrect them!