



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church
714 Westmoreland Avenue
PO Box 3
Slickville, PA 15684-0003

www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org

Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor

23 Station Street

Carnegie, PA 15106-3014

[412] 279-5640 home

[412] 956-6626 cell

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 Smolynech, 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, 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, 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 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 Pinton, 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, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaughaupt, Louis & Teresa Berceli, Tom Nolan, Noble Wilshaw, and Ian Brick. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

From the sayings of Pope Shenouda: "If you have despaired of yourself, God has not despaired of your salvation. He has saved many, and you are not any more difficult than they. Where grace works, there is no place for despair. Come forward, then, to repentance with a heart full of courage, and do not suffer self-belittlement"

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, NOVEMBER 26 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM-ARCHBISHOP OF
CONSTANTINOPLE; MARTYRS ANTONINUS, NICEPHORUS, & GERMANUS OF
CAESAREA IN PALESTINE; MARTYR MANETHA OF CAESAREA IN PALESTINE**

Tone 8

Ephesians 4:1-6; Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Luke 10:25-37; John 10:9-16

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 NATIVITY FAST/ADVENT/SAINT PHILIP'S FAST BEGINS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 03 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; FOREFEAST OF THE ENTRY OF THE
THEOTOKOS; VENERABLE GREGORY DECAPOLITES; SAINT PROCLUS-**

ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE; MARTYR DASIUS; MARTYRS EUSTACE, THESPESIUS, & ANATOLIUS OF NICAEA; HIEROMARTYRS NERSES & JOSEPH, AND JOHN, SAVERIUS, ISAAC, & HYPATIUS-BISHOPS OF PERSIA; MARTYR AZADES, SASONIUS, THECLA, & ANNA

Tone 1

Ephesians 5:8-19

Luke 12:16-21

Litany in Blessed Memory of Thomas Bryan, John Hanczar, Edward & Helen Pytlak, Mary Blitzkan, Marjorie Yarmeak, Mary Sharon, Rose Pyrch, Frank Barankovich, Mary Krevanich, Katherine Holowaty, & Robert Vetosky—Fr. Bob

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; GREAT-MARTYR JAMES THE PERSIAN;
VENERABLE PALLADIUS OF THESSALONICA; 17 MONK-MARTYRS IN INDIA;
VENERABLE ROMANUS THE WONDERWORKER OF CILICIA**

Tone 2

Ephesians 6:10-17

Luke 13:10-17

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 26 NOVEMBER 2017

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM-ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE; MARTYRS ANTONINUS, NICEPHORUS, & GERMANUS OF CAESAREA IN PALESTINE; MARTYR MANETHA OF CAESAREA IN PALESTINE

TROPARION—TONE 8

Thou didst descent from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings!
Our Lord, our Life and Resurrection, Glory to Thee!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 8

By rising from the tomb,
Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,
And the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead,
O greatly Merciful One!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 8

READER: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

PEOPLE: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

READER: In Judah, God is known; His name is great in Israel!

PEOPLE: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

READER: Pray and make your vows.

PEOPLE: Before the Lord our God!

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 8

Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with psalms.

In the very center of Moscow, not far from the Kremlin, on the high hill near Solyanka is the Ioanno-Predtechensky monastery (our temple is located in its farm in the Moscow region), which belongs to the most ancient women's monasteries of Moscow.

In the chapel, to the icon of the icon of the Holy Prophet (on the right) a copper hoop with the size of a human head that is easily put on the head is attached to the metal chain. On the hoop is a half-stitched, but discernible inscription - a brief prayer to St. To John the Baptist: "Holy Great Forerunner and Baptist St. John pray to God for us."

With certainty it can be asserted that this hoop is known from the second half of the XIX century, i.e., since the revival of the monastery. Earlier this time, there is no information about the hoop in the monastery. It is known accurately and documentarily that he was in the chapel, but was attached to another icon of the Beheading of St. John The Prophet. On what occasion it was made is unknown. This circumstance is hidden from us, and we can offer only more or less plausible guesses.

Perhaps it was a testament of healing attached to the icon in the form of a head measure. The Church veneration of the Holy Prophet John knows his gracious help and the power to rid himself of headaches. St. John the Baptist heals not only the headache or heavier head disease by prayer to him, but he helps to repent, He helps to change the way of thinking, all the human consciousness to aim for Christ, and already in the light of Christ's Truth to comprehend our life. The hoop could be evidence of such healing.

In all of the Orthodox East and in Russia such a custom is known since ancient times, when miraculous icons were hung with some evidences of a miracle by prayer: jewels, crosses, rosaries, panagias, specially cast images of body parts, organs or human figures.

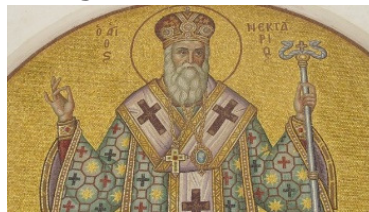
So did St. John Damascene after the miraculous healing of his arm, cut off by order of the Caliph. After the prayer of the Monk before the icon of the Mother of God, the Most Holy Theotokos healed him, and St. John cast a truncated hand out of silver and hung it to the image of the Mother of God, since then known as "The Three Hands", as a testimony of a miracle.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BYn0zQTlpbL/?taken-at=1007877317>



- **A Modern Day Saint**

- **By** Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis, Roger Hunt in The Prayer Team **Nov 09, 2017**



- **Feast of St. Nektarios**—*For you remember our labor and toil, brethren; we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you, while we preached to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our behavior to you believers; for you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus which are in Judea; for you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews. I Thessalonians 2: 9-14*

Good morning Prayer Team!

When we think of the saints, often times we think of the early centuries of Christianity. We think of saints who lived in deserts, who had no modern conveniences. Saint Nektarios, who the church commemorates each year on November 9, is a "modern day" saint. He lived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He died less than 100 years ago and he was

made a saint in 1961, before some of us were even born. Saint Nektarios was a bishop. He was a very prayerful man. He was ordained a priest in Egypt and was serving as a parish priest in Cairo. He was ordained a bishop in 1889. However, after serving for only one year, he was exiled from Egypt without any explanation. He spend his life writing, hearing confessions, preaching and celebrating the Liturgy. He died of cancer in 1920.

When he died, and people came to prepare his body for burial, they threw his clothes onto the bed next to him. And the man who was suffering from cancer on the bed was healed. After St. Nektarios was buried on the island of Aegina, his tomb began to emit oil and people who were anointed with the oil were healed. He was "proclaimed" a saint in 1961, after a groundswell of support from pious people who had been healed at his tomb. St. Nektarios is the patron saint of cancer patients.

The words I want to focus on today are from the Epistle lesson read on this day, from I Thessalonians 2:9-14. In verse 10, we read, "*You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our behavior to you believers.*" And in verse 14, we read "*for you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus.*" In his letter to the Thessalonians, St. Paul reminds us that as witnesses for God, we are supposed to be holy, righteous and blameless in our behavior. We witness for God by being imitators of Christ.

Saint Nektarios did not die a violent death. He did, however, have a challenging life. He was exiled without explanation. He had to leave his home for no reason. He lost his reputation without recourse. And yet he found a way to glorify God, and to witness for Christ. He actually intended to live his life in relative obscurity. He was content to be a priest, a man of prayer, a humble spiritual father, and a writer. He didn't set out to achieve acclaim. But his quiet labor for Christ got him exactly that. He gained fame because of his humility. People flocked to him because of his piety. People asked his advice because he was living in Christ and Christ was living in him and this was very attractive to people stressed out by the challenges of life.

I love the story of St. Nektarios because it is a story that can belong to ANY of us. If we work with humility, if we seek to honor Christ in our lives, and if we strive to imitate the love of Christ, this will do two things for us. It will bring people to us because people want to be around loving and Godly people. And secondly, it will please God.

The word for "saint" in Greek is "agios." And "agios" means set apart. Some of the "agious" (people who are set apart) are acclaimed as saints by us, and they are honored with churches and icons. The most important thing in life, however, is not to have a church named after you, or to be assigned a saint's day. The most important thing in life is to be recognized by God as an "agios", as one who tries to set his or her life apart from the ways of the world in order to embrace the ways of God. In so doing, God will recognize us as "agious" and save for us a place in His heavenly kingdom.

Saints are not just people who lived a long time ago. There are saints walking in our world today. There are people who when they die will be recognized as saints. The story of St. Nektarios proves that this could happen to any of us, if we live our lives as witnesses and imitators of Christ. *The son of Silybria, the guardian of Aegina, and the ardent lover of virtue who in recent years has appeared, the God-inspired servant of Christ Nektarios, O faithful, let us praise. For he gushes forth healings of every kind to those who cry out reverently: Glory to Christ who glorified you; glory to Him for your miracles; glory to Him who through you effects cures for all. (Apolytkion of St. Nektarios, Trans. By Fr. Seraphim Dedes)*

Set yourself apart for Christ today!

+Fr. Stavros

Let My Prayer Be Set Forth Before You As Incense
by Jennifer Rice (11/7/2017)



Please continue to pray for the faithful of Guatemala and for the all of the missionaries who are serving them in the name of Christ!

The doors to our parish in Aguacate remain open throughout the day, waiting to offer its embrace and a place of refuge from the world to pray. Young and old, men and women from the village release from their hearts

what weighs heavily upon them before Christ, the saints, and the heavenly powers in seeking their intercessions.

One recent evening was no exception. Before Vespers, I entered through the doors to notice that, during the day, someone lovingly added several delicate white roses to the icons of Christ and the Feast of the Annunciation, greeting all upon entering the narthex. The church interior is dimly illuminated by the warm glow of a handful of candles as reminders of the prayers offered during the day. As I proceeded further into the sanctuary, I noticed a young mother kneeling before the iconostasis in front of the Theotokos, with a type of blanket called a cargador (carrier) wrapped about her to secure a young infant sleeping on her back and an older child quietly sitting on the wooden bench. She was sobbing, and I felt helpless, wondering what I might be able to do to ease her pain.

After a few moments of looking mostly at my feet, my attention gravitated to the mother's corte, an ankle-length woven skirt that is secured in place by a woven belt, which is part of the traditional dress for Mayan women. Her corte was colorful and vibrant. Depending on the intricate woven designs, it can take a couple of months to create the necessary amount of fabric to make a corte, and each are a work of art in their own right. The corte is also a unique way to stay connected to one's ancestry, since the designs and colors in the skirt identify its origins and, thus, the village of the family from where its wearer originally comes. I pondered how the interlacing yarn, which forms such an intricate pattern, functions as a way to remain connected to one's family, even when circumstances in life might cause otherwise.

I returned my gaze to the iconostasis to focus on the icon of the Theotokos. Although I might not have been familiar with the specific circumstances that brought her to tears, I could pray alongside and for this

young mother, as “when God wants to have mercy on someone, He inspires someone else to pray for him, and He helps in this prayer” (St. Silouan the Athonite). Prayer not only strengthens our relationship by bringing us closer to Christ but also connects us to one another. Our prayers are like the yarn joined together to create something beautiful beyond ourselves. As Fr. Thomas Hopko writes in the second volume of *The Orthodox Faith*: “We go to church to be together, to sing together, to meditate on the meaning of the faith together, to learn together and to have union and communion together with God.”

Our prayers for each other are so very important. Pray for this young mother; and pray for me as I seek to serve these dear people with the love of Christ.

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord. –Hymn from Vespers

To learn more about, or support the work of, Ms. Jennifer Rice please visit:

<http://www.ocmc.org/JenniferRice>

SAINT PAUL THE CONFESSOR—ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Saint Paul the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople, was chosen to the patriarchal throne after the death of Patriarch Alexander (+ 340), when the Arian heresy had again flared up. Many of the Arians were present at the Council which selected the new Archbishop of Constantinople. They revolted in opposition to the choice of Saint Paul, but the Orthodox at the Council were in the majority.

The emperor Constantius, ruling over the Eastern half of the Roman Empire, was an Arian. He was not in Constantinople for the election of the Archbishop, and so it took place without his consent. Upon his return, he convened a council which illegally deposed Saint Paul, and the emperor

banished him from the capital. In place of the saint they elevated Eusebius of Nicomedia, an impious heretic. Archbishop Paul withdrew to Rome, where other Orthodox bishops were also banished by Eusebius.

Eusebius did not rule the Church of Constantinople for long. When he died, Saint Paul returned to Constantinople, and was greeted by his flock with love. But Constantius exiled the saint a second time, and so he returned to Rome. The Western emperor Constans wrote a harsh letter to his Eastern co-ruler, which he sent to Constantinople along with the holy exiled archpastor. The threats worked, and Saint Paul was reinstated upon the archiepiscopal throne. But soon the pious emperor Constans, a defender of the Orthodox, was treacherously murdered during a palace coup. They again banished Saint Paul from Constantinople and this time sent him off in exile to Armenia, to the city of Cucusus, where he endured a martyr's death.

When the Archbishop was celebrating the Divine Liturgy, Arians rushed upon him by force and strangled him with his own omophorion. This occurred in the year 350. In 381, the holy Emperor Theodosius the Great solemnly transferred the relics of Saint Paul the Confessor from Cucusus to Constantinople. In 1326, the relics of Saint Paul were transferred to Venice.

Saint Athanasius the Great, a contemporary of Saint Paul, writes briefly about his exiles, "Saint Paul the first time was sent by Constantine to Pontus, the second time he was fettered with chains by Constantius, and then he was locked up in Mesopotamian Syngara and from there moved to Emesus, and the fourth time to Cappadocian Cucusus in the Taurian wilderness." www.oca.org

The icon of the goddess of beauty

Hieromonk Austin and his assistant were cleaning the candlesticks at the monastery shop when a young girl came into the shop. She examined the icons and asked: "Father, do you have icons of all the saints?"

"Everything", replied father Austin

"I need the goddess of beauty icon."

They stopped the work listening in anticipation of hearing the moral destruction of the girl.

Father Austin got up, looked around and exclaimed: "Yes, there she is!"

The girl looked at the icon and said: Oh, what a beautiful girl!

After that, she paid and went off.

The assistant walked over to the father with the question: "what did you give her? What kind of icon is this?"

Father answered - "the Mother of God, Enlightener of the mind icon".

At the same time, father Austin's eyes radiated with kindness and love.

