



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 Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Anastasia [Metropolitan Yuriy's mom], 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 & Pani Mary Anne 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 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, 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], 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 Strozh [child with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, 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 Pyrch, 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, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, 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, 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, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaughaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Evelyn Burlack, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis

Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam Grant, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini’s mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

All the time, no matter what you do, whether you are sitting, walking, or working, say with your heart, “Lord have mercy!” *St. Nikon of Optina*

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 09 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH 10:30 AM
15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; VENERABLE POEMEN THE GREAT; SAINT HOSIUS THE CONFESSOR-BISHOP OF CORDOVA; SAINT LIBERIUS-POPE OF ROME; VENERABLE POEMEN OF PALESTINE; MARTYR ANTHUSA;
HIEROMARTYRS PIMEN & KUSHA OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Tone 6

2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Matthew 22:35-46

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH 10:30 AM
16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HIEROMARTYR ANTHIMUS-BISHOP OF NICOMEDIA; MARTYRS THEOPHILUS-DEACON, DOROTHEOS, MARDONIUS,**

MIGDONIUS, PETER, INDES, GORGONIUS, ZENO, THE VIRGIN DOMNA, & EUTHYMIUS; SAINT THEOCTISTUS-FELLOW-FASTER WITH SAINT EUTHYMIUS THE GREAT; SAINT PHOEBE-DEACONESS AT CENCHREAE NEAR CORINTH; MARTYR BASILISSA OF NICOMEDIA; HIEROMARTYR ARISION-BISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA

Tone 7

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Matthew 25:14-30

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH 10:30 AM
17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION;
AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS; MARTYRS MENODORA,
METRODORA, & NYMPHODORA; SYANXIS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES APELLES,
LUCIUS, & CLEMENT OF THE 70; MARTYR BARYPSABAS IN DALMATIA; BLESSED
PULCHERIA THE EMPRESS OF GREECE; SAINTS PETER & PAUL-BISHOPS OF
NICAEA; VENERABLE PAUL THE OBEDIENT OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Tone 8

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1; Galatians 6:11-18

Matthew 15:21-28; John 3:13-17

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 09 SEPTEMBER 2018

**15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; VENERABLE POEMEN THE GREAT;
SAINT HOSIUS THE CONFESSOR-BISHOP OF CORDOVA; SAINT
LIBERIUS-POPE OF ROME; VENERABLE POEMEN OF PALESTINE;
MARTYR ANTHUSA; HIEROMARTYRS PIMEN & KUSHA OF
PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

TROPARION—TONE 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord who didst rise from the dead: 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 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,

Raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,

He bestowed resurrection on the human race.

He is the Savior of all,
The Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 6

READER: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

PEOPLE: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

READER: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

PEOPLE: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

READER: O Lord, save Thy people.

PEOPLE: And bless Thine inheritance.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 6

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

He will say to the Lord: My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in whom I trust.

The Reason for Fasting Fr. Barnabas Powell

When I was just learning about the Ancient Faith, I was struck by the wisdom of fasting from certain foods. You see, I had been raised to think that a fast was no food at all, just water. And I would hear stories of Pentecostal pastors “fasting” for a month or even 40 days and “great miracles” occurring because of their fasting. So, of course, I tried that and failed every time I tried something like that.

Then I discovered the history of fasting, the reason for fasting (here’s a big hint: It isn’t to get God to do something for you!), and the power of fasting, not merely as an individual, but as a community.

It revolutionized my understanding of the purpose and the power of the normal Orthodox Christian practice of fasting. AND it changed my motivation for fasting. Turns out, that’s the most important lesson!

Look at this passage from Mark 2:18-22: *At that time, John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast? And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; if he does, the patch tears away from it,*

the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but new wine is for fresh skins."

Jesus is once again confronted by the religious leaders and the religious lawyers of His day as to why He and His disciples "didn't follow the rules." Jesus answer didn't rebuke them for fasting, but He did confront them with their warped motivation. It isn't about following the religious rules; it's about exclusively focusing on Jesus Christ. The Lord teaches them and us that my fasting has to be motivated by my love, my longing, and my living for Jesus Christ!

The time to fast and the reason to fast is when "the Bridegroom is taken away." You see, I love Jesus Christ. And I want my life to stay focused on Jesus Christ! And my appetites, uncontrolled and undisciplined, will always distract me from a life lived and loved for Jesus Christ. My life, our lives, become distracted, and intoxicated by a lack of focus on the Lord and then we start living self-centered lives, and even if or when we fast from meat and dairy, it will be motivated by "just following the rules" instead of teaching even my physical body that what it wants is never as important as what my soul needs.

My motivation for obedience must be driven by love! Love for God and love for my brothers and sisters. When my motivation is too small, it produces self-righteousness instead of humble devotion, and that always leads me to judge my brother. Of course, when that happens it's as if I haven't fasted at all!

So, Today, what motivates your religious practices? Why do you fast, or go to confession, or even go to liturgy? Why do you follow the Faith? Turns out what motivates you reveals to you and to the universe WHO you really are! But the wisdom of the spiritual disciplines in the Timeless Faith draw us to a deeper place. A place where I finally WAKE UP to my need for Christ, and His everlasting and unchanging LOVE for me. AND I don't practice these disciplines by myself. No, the Church stands with me in my struggle against the self-destructive spiritual blindness of self-centeredness and says "We will do this all together. We will ALL be Orthodox on Purpose!

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/faithencouraged/2018/08/the-reason-for-fasting/>

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Mt.21:33-42

The Church determined this parable of the Lord Jesus Christ has a permanent place during the Divine Liturgy on the Thirteenth Sunday after

Pentecost. The Gospel readings throughout the year have an established order.

The scheduled Gospel readings provide certainty for individuals attending the Divine Liturgy. The Gospel readings are the same in all parish churches and monasteries. The current Gospel reading is rich in imagery.

A landowner is the primary figure of honor. Vinedressers are expected to work the landowner's vineyard. Trust is involved as the landowner goes away. The vinedressers remain behind. The landowner is expected to return.

The landowner's absence was not permanent. The vinedressers had the responsibility to honor the landowner's expectations. The vinedressers had the responsibility to prepare for the landowner's eventual return.

The Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven after the Resurrection. His glorious Second Coming is expected and is prayed for daily. Believers have a responsibility to take care in the way they live in preparation for Christ's return.

Holy Apostle Paul is very explicit in his words to the Romans regarding the judgment to come. The Holy Apostle Paul said: "There is no partiality with God."(Rom.2:11)

The landowner sent his servants to receive the fruit from the vineyard. He expected that he would receive the fruit as he was the property owner. The vineyard was created due to his effort.

The Lord God blesses each individual with talents, gifts and resources. Each individual is expected to be a good steward of the God-given talents, resources and gifts.

Talents, resources, and gifts from God are to be used in God-pleasing ways. Each person will eventually answer to the returning Christ for the way he or she has been a steward of blessings received.

The Lord Jesus Christ said: "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works." (Mt.16:27)

The servants coming for the fruit of the vineyard represented the landowner. Respect shown to the servants would be respect shown the landowner. Disrespect shown the servants would be disrespect shown the landowner.

The way representatives of Christ are treated in daily life is a reflection of treatment of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ said: "He who receives you

receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”
(Mt.10:40)

The time of life is precious and never returns. Individuals have only one opportunity to use the time of life. Sincere repentance is necessary before earthly life comes to an end.

Continuous repentance is necessary because individuals never know when earthly life will end or when Christ will return for the final judgment. Preparation for Christ’s return is something serious believers keep in mind.

The vinedressers had their personal interests at heart. The vinedressers rejected the authority of the landowner. The vinedressers were hostile towards the representatives of the landowner.

The vinedressers persecuted and killed the landowner’s representatives. How often in contemporary times do we see and hear about Christ’s representatives being persecuted, beaten, and killed?

The persecution of Christians and the destroyed churches and monasteries in Kosovo in recent years are vivid examples of animosity. The way contemporary society is a steward of the earth reflects the degree of respect for Christ.

When the earth and resources of the earth are pillaged and abused, disrespect and rejection of Christ is evident. When babies are aborted and human life is not treated with respect and dignity, Christ is rejected and turned away.

The Gospel continues to be preached throughout the world. The question is why more people do not listen. The question exists as to why there is not faithful adherence to the Holy Gospel.

The landowner sent more servants. The second wave of servants received the same cruel treatment as their predecessors. Christ was crucified. Christ’s followers during the ensuing centuries have often experienced horrible deaths.

The Serbian Orthodox Church in recent years recognized many martyrs experiencing horrific deaths within the past century. Persecution exists for Christians even in the present century.

Centuries of evidence exist verifying the goodness of God. Greater adherence to the teaching of Christ is needed today. Today is the day for serious repentance and preparation for Christ’s return and final judgment.

Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. August 13/26, 2018. The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Martyr Hyppolitius. Apodasis of Transfiguration. Father Rodney Torbic

Don't React!

Don't react to outside negative stimulus

Each day brings on new challenges regarding the health of your soul. Those moments when a family member or coworker makes a remark that are meant to anger you, are those times you need to guard your heart. When those around you are gossiping about someone, that is an opportunity for you to keep silent. The driver who's just cut you off on the freeway; the woman who pushes her way in front of you in the checkout line; the rude neighbor; all are moments in time when you can take control and grow stronger spiritually.

Trials and temptations, when confronted with a peaceful heart, bring forth healing and make the soul that much stronger and healthier. Reacting does nothing but bring forth paralysis of the soul, binding us to our fallen nature. Receiving all these temptations with a peaceful heart and not reacting to outside negative stimulus, helps strengthen you for the next round of trial and temptation. Little by little, you will find that the Peace of Christ fills your every waking moment, bringing on a joyful spirit and a peaceful heart.

Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

"Often when someone throws a rock at a dog, rather than rushing at the person who threw the stone, the dog will run and bite the stone. We do the same thing. The Tempter uses someone else to tempt us, whether in word or deed, and rather than deal with the Tempter, who threw the stone, we bite the 'rock', our fellow man that the hater of good used against us."

— Elder Amphilochios Makris of Patmos (d. 1970), whom the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate has now formally recognized as a saint of the Church. Glory to God.

In Christ Service, Fr. George Livanos

> *"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."* -C. S. Lewis

The Ancient Western Way of Making the Sign of the Cross

April 17, 2018 By [Fr. John A. Peck](#)

The sign of the cross is a beautiful gesture which reminds the faithful of both the cross of salvation while invoking the Holy Trinity.

The early Church Fathers attested to the use of the sign of the cross. Tertullian (d. 250) described the exceptional frequency of the sign of the cross being made: *"In all our travels and movements, in all our coming in and going out, in putting on our shoes, at the bath, at the table, in lighting*

our candles, in lying down, in sitting down, whatever employment occupies us, we mark our foreheads with the sign of the cross” (De corona, 30).

St. Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386) in his *Catechetical Lectures* stated, *“Let us then not be ashamed to confess the Crucified. Be the cross our seal, made with boldness by our fingers on our brow and in everything; over the bread we eat and the cups we drink, in our comings and in our goings out; before our sleep, when we lie down and when we awake; when we are traveling, and when we are at rest” (Catecheses, 13).*

Even much later, an instruction of Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) evidences the traditional practice but also indicates a shift in the Latin Rite practice of the Catholic Church: *“The sign of the cross is made with three fingers, because the signing is done together with the invocation of the Trinity. ...This is how it is done: from above to below, and from the right to the left, because Christ descended from the heavens to the earth, and from the Jews (right) He passed to the Gentiles (left).”*

Until then, the custom of making the cross from the right to the left shoulder was the common practice for all Christians in both the western and eastern Church.

About Fr. John A. Peck

Director of the Preachers Institute, priest in the Orthodox Church in America, award-winning graphic designer and media consultant, and non-profit administrator.

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 22:1-14

In the Gospel, the king sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding. Churches constantly invite individuals to attend the Lord’s banquet. The invitation is proclaimed: *“in the fear of God and with faith draw near.”*

Only a small percent of baptized Christians regularly attend the Divine Liturgy. A much smaller percent seriously prepare and regularly partake of Holy Communion.

The Lord Jesus Christ said: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.”(John. 6:53)*

Having Christ within us is most desirable.

The invitees to the wedding apparently had their reasons for declining the king’s invitation. Christians give different reasons for not regularly attending the Divine Liturgy.

Believers give different reasons why they do not prepare regularly for Holy Communion. Non-participation in the Church is the pattern of life for many persons previously baptized into Christ.

Large numbers of individuals previously baptized into Christ are inactive. Parish efforts to improve church attendance and participation among the inactive previously baptized are often not successful.

The king was determined to have the invitees attend the wedding feast. He sent out servants to announce the preparations that had taken place. Priests regularly give sermons and teach classes about the value of coming to the Divine Liturgy.

The king's efforts did not change the minds of the individuals invited to the wedding. Priests find it difficult to convince parishioners to resume attending church on a regular basis after periods of extended absence.

The individuals invited to the wedding went about their daily business. They did not take the king's invitation seriously. The king had power and authority to hold the wedding feast and invite the guests.

The invitees had the ability to make their own decisions about attending. The choices the invitees made would affect their standing with the king. The choices believers make each day affects their standing with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Invitations from the king were expected to be taken seriously. Invitations from the Lord Jesus Christ deserve great attention and consideration. The invitees declined the king's invitation.

A certain number of invitees were hostile and violent to the king's servants. Many bishops, priests, deacons and faithful Christians have suffered through the centuries for serving Christ.

The lives of the saints and martyrs provide vivid examples of devout believers who died solely because they served Christ. Priests today suffer from rudeness and hostility by individuals adverse to Christ.

Christians often work in hostile work environments where their high ethical and moral standards are ridiculed and not wanted. Christian churches and cemeteries are vandalized because they stand for Christ.

The king lost his patience with the people he had invited. The lack of respect, hostility and aggression inflamed the king. He responded with force. The murderers lost their lives.

Individuals not heeding the invitations of Christ will face the judgment of Christ at His glorious Second Coming. Each person's existence comes from God and continues only because of God.

Failure to show constant appreciation of God is rude. Being harmful to Christians has perilous consequences. The king determined that the initial invitees were not worthy of attending the wedding.

Many individuals begin the Christian life with enthusiasm and after a period of time become cold in faith. They cease to follow Christ. Many profess love for Christ in times of crisis but when the crisis passes they no longer show interest.

The king went ahead with the wedding feast. The Divine Liturgy continues to be held even when church attendance drops to low levels. The Precious Body and Blood of Christ are prepared at each Divine Liturgy.

The invitation to follow Christ is continuously offered. The Lord Jesus Christ said: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.'" (Mt.7:21)

The king had the power to decide who to invite to the wedding. The Lord Jesus Christ has the power and authority to determine who will be admitted to the Heavenly Kingdom.

Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost. August 20/September 2, 2018. Holy Prophet Samuel; Hieromartyr Phillip, Bishop of Heraklion. Father Rodney Torbic

"We shall not deny thee, beloved Orthodoxy, nor will we be false to thee, tradition's respect. We were born to thee, we will live in thee, and in thee we will fall asleep. If the times call for it we will die for thee many times." Joseph Bryennios (Spiritual father of St. Mark of Ephesus)