

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

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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 Antony, Metropolitan Yurij, Anastasia [Metropolitan Yurij's mom], Metropolitan Theodosius [OCA], Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, 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 Smolynec, 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 Luciow, 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 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 Slaugenhaupt, 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.

IOCC UPDATE: We have added \$152 last week to our first week's collection of \$61, for a total OF \$213! Thank you all so much for your kindness...two more weeks to go! Questions, please see 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 <u>ALWAYS</u> <u>FREE!</u>

<u>Communion Fasting:</u> 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 <u>CALL FATHER BOB</u> at [412] 279-5640.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH 10:30 AM 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION; AFTERFEAST OF THE EXALTATION; MARTYRS SOPHIA & 3 DAUGHTERS-FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE-AT ROME; MARTYR THEODOTA AT NICAEA & AGATHOKLEA; 156 MARTYRS OF PALESTINE INCLUDING BISHOPS PELEUS & NILUS, PRESBYTER ZENO, & OTHERS

Tone 1
2 Corinthians 6-11; Galatians 2:16-20
Matthew 17:14-23; Mark 8:34-9:1

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 07 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH 10:30 AM

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HOLY PROTOMARTYR & EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES THECLA OF ICONIUM; VENERABLE COPRIUS OF PALESTINE

Tone 2

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

Luke 5:1-11

Litany in Blessed Memory of Father Theodore Forosty, Johnathan Dorning, Katherine Behun, Mary Medich, Betty O'Masta, Daniel Chicka, & Mary Evaniuk— Fr. Bob

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Nicholas & Catherine Behun—Behun Family

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH 10:30 AM 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; POKROVA—PROTECTION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY; APOSTLE ANANIAS OF THE 70; SAINT ROMANUS THE MELODIST OF CONSTANTINOPLE; MARTYR DOMINUS OF THESSALONICA; MARTYR MICHAEL-ABBOT IN ARMENIA & 36 FATHERS WITH HIM

Tone 3

Galatians 1:11-19; Hebrews 9:1-7

Luke 6:31-36; Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Parastas in Blessed Memory of George Luciow—Sonia Luciow

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION; AFTERFEAST OF THE EXALTATION; MARTYRS SOPHIA & 3 DAUGHTERS-FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE-AT ROME; MARTYR THEODOTA AT NICAEA & AGATHOKLEA; 156 MARTYRS OF PALESTINE INCLUDING BISHOPS PELEUS & NILUS, PRESBYTER ZENO, & OTHERS

TROPARION—TONE 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;

While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;

Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,

Granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life:

Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy Kingdom!

Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

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

KONTAKION—TONE 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself.

Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished! Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:

Thou are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 1

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

READER: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our

hope on Thee.

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. **PEOPLE: As we have set our hope on Thee.**

ALLELUIA VERSES

God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.

He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever!

When a brother priest dies...

When a brother priest dies, a great sense of loss is keenly felt.

When a brother priest dies, thoughts turn to the Resurrection.

When a brother priest dies, the suffering of Christ comes to mind.

When a brother priest dies, the Holy Altar of God receives him.

When a brother priest dies, parishioners and friends mourn him.

When a brother priest dies, we remember his work for God.

When a brother priest dies, the Gospel he preached continues.

When a brother priest dies, he is remembered in the Proskomedia

(Eucharistic preparation service before Liturgy).

When a brother priest dies, seeds of faith he planted will still grow.

When a brother priest dies, Christian love he nurtured lives on.

When a brother priest dies, his teachings about Christ remain.

When a brother priest dies, we gather in and as the Church of God.

When a brother priest dies, the words of "Memory Eternal" ascend. When a brother priest dies, the whole clergy brotherhood is affected. When a brother priest dies, comfort is extended to his dear family. When a brother priest dies, his active earthly ministry is completed. When a brother priest dies, we have much to learn from his life in Christ. When a brother priest dies, thoughts turn to his Baptism and Ordination. When a brother priest dies, we think of the Second Coming of Christ. When a brother priest dies, his life is an example for his followers. When a brother priest dies, strength comes in Christ's Body and Blood. When a brother priest dies, hope emanates from Christ's Empty Tomb. When a brother priest dies, the Holy Liturgies he served bear fruit. When a brother priest dies, prayers for his soul begin and continue. When a brother priest dies, he joins with brother priests gone before. When a brother priest dies, the sense of time is soundly affected. When a brother priest dies, we reach within to examine life's meaning. When a brother priest dies, we thank God for his Christian life and love. Father Rodney Torbic

His eyes were directed toward the ground; and beating upon his heart with repentance from deep within his heart, he pronounced with his whole soul the prayer united with his confession: God be merciful to me, a sinner. His prayer was so effective and strong, that the sinner left the temple of God justified... *St. Ignatius Brianchaninov*

It is a wonderful thing that, however much we trouble about our health, however much care we take of ourselves, whatever wholesome and pleasant food we eat, whatever wholesome drinks we drink, however much we walk in the fresh air, still, notwithstanding all this, in the end we are subjected to maladies and corruption; whilst the saints, who despised their flesh, and mortified it by continual abstinence and fasting, by lying on the bare earth, by watchfulness, labours, unceasing prayer, have made both their souls and bodies immortal. *St. John of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ, p.286*

Someone asked Abba Anthony, "What must one do in order to please God?" The old man replied, "Pay attention to what I tell you: Whoever you may be, always have God before your eyes. Whatever you do, do it according to

the testimony of the Holy Scriptures. In whatever place you live, do not easily leave it. Keep these three precepts and you will be saved."

Athanasius, Life of St. Anthony

The truth of God has to be comprehended not by the mind alone but with all one's strength; by the mind and the will and the heart; one has to live according to the truth in order to come to know the truth. Blessed Archbishop John (Maximovitch)

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost—Matthew 15:21-28

Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and besought Him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us, But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me. But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. (KJV)

Sunday before the Holy Cross—John 3:13-17

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (KJV)

When studying the Holy Gospel, many elements require consideration. The present Gospel is in the sequence of the Holy Orthodox Church following Pentecost.

The Gospel of St. Matthew is read in churches on the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost each year. The Church expects believers to benefit from hearing this Gospel with each reading. Repetition makes an impact. The words of the Gospel become a part of the believer. The Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed the words preserved in the Holy Gospel. They have lasting value.

By studying the Gospel, believers interested in the Lord Jesus Christ gain knowledge and understanding. This Gospel lesson details the dialogue that occurred and the healing that took place.

This lesson demonstrates the value of coming to the Lord Jesus Christ with personal problems and seeking His help. Turning to the Lord for help and guidance deserves first place in the Christian life.

The present Gospel offers instruction and hope for parents with demon possessed sons or daughters. The mother coming before Christ had strong faith and was resolute.

Parents with sons or daughters having emotional problems do well to consider the strength of their daily Christian faithfulness. Daily faithfulness to God put problems in perspective and makes them manageable.

Daily faithfulness to God strengthens parents dealing with difficult problems. Current mothers or fathers benefit by following the example of the mother in the present Gospel.

The relationships between Jesus, the disciples and the mother were forged by the interaction taking place. This Gospel lesson has affected the formation of Christians for centuries. This Gospel reading offers hope for parents.

The mother needed a change for the better in her daughter. Christ's love for the hurting is revealed in this Gospel. The Lord Jesus Christ responded to the woman's plea for mercy and help.

The mother held Jesus in high esteem and showed honor to Him. She drew near to Jesus and worshipped Him. The personal condition of the heart, mind and soul affects a believer's approach to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Self-examination determines if daily life is devoted to prayer and living in God-pleasing ways. Soul searching makes clear if Christ fills the heart, the mind, and the soul each day.

The mother's patience was tested in her desire for healing. Patience and firm faith in Christ are necessary in the Christian life. In today's world, when the desire for immediate response prevails, patience does not get the attention deserved.

The mother pressed on with Jesus. Her sincerity was evident. Her motivation was pure. Jesus did not disappoint the mother. He recognized and affirmed her faith. The daughter was healed.

Christ's healing power still exists. We know from the Epistle to the Hebrews: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Heb 13:8) Christ deserves to be turned to first when believers need help with personal problem.

Faith in Christ becomes stronger when practiced daily. Jesus acknowledged the greatness of the mother's faith. Mothers and fathers benefit from thinking extensively about this mother's faith.

Demands on today's parents are great. Children learn their faith from their parents. Children learn their values from their parents. Parents sincere in practicing faith in Christ become lasting examples for their sons and daughters.

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. The Sunday before the Exaltation of the Precocious Life-giving Cross. September 10/23, 2018. Holy Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

https://www.goarch.org/-/sharing-in-the-pain-of-losing-a-loved-one

Sharing in the Pain of Losing a Loved One - Family & Parenting Articles - Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Rev. Fr. Costas Keares

The loss of a loved one—whether a parent, a spouse, a child or a good friend—can be one of the most devastating and painful experiences in life. It is an unavoidable reality that all of us will experience at some point in our life's journey. As the old saying goes, time heals. Yet my observation through the years is that time itself is not the solution. I have seen individuals who still grieve for a loved one many years after their passing. So what else do we need to combine with time? Certainly, for us Christians, the greatest tool we have as we face these difficult circumstances in life is our faith in the risen Lord and in His promise that there is life beyond the grave.

In accepting this reality we receive hope in the midst of darkness, hope and encouragement to go on and seek the light who is Christ Himself.

A few years ago, after witnessing my parishioners struggling with the loss of their loved ones, I began a seminar in my parish called GriefShare, a grief recovery support group. It is a Protestant model, so you need to introduce it as such. You also need to make some minor adjustments in introducing certain discussions, particularly the last chapter, which deals with the issue of faith. The program consists of thirteen sessions. Each time we gather the group views a short video about twenty minutes to half an hour long, and then we continue with a discussion for an hour on each

particular topic. A workbook that accompanies these sessions allows participants to reflect and to take notes. The videos are professionally done, and they are led by a number of different grief counselors. They speak from personal experiences on a variety of topics such as living with grief, the journey of grief, the effects of grief, the death of a spouse, your family and grief, the uniqueness of grief and other subjects, culminating in a discussion of heaven and the afterlife.

As the weeks progress and the group begins to feel more comfortable with one another, they slowly open up and share their unique stories. In this safe environment of sharing memories, emotions and feelings, healing begins to take place. I remind them that the deeper the love and commitment with the individual lost, the more profound and pronounced the pain will be. They learn that they mourn not simply the loss of their spouse, but also the lost opportunities to share future life experiences and celebrations with them. They face difficult realizations: my husband/wife will not be here to enjoy with me the wedding of our child, to share the joy of holding in our arms our grandchild, to enjoy our years of retirement together.

The effects of grief on an individual who is mourning can be very profound. One may experience physical symptoms such as memory loss, hallucinations and even anger with the deceased and with God. It is not uncommon to laugh one moment and to cry the next, to bring to mind great memories and to be grateful for the time you shared with your loved one yet to cry and wish you had more time to share with them. We can't stop what the heart is feeling. Yet we can logically make choices to help us go on, for grieving is a natural part of life.

As the program progresses the group learns that the first celebrations without our loved ones will be the most painful. Their absence at the first Thanksgiving, Christmas, Pascha, summer vacation and any other occasion will be noticeable. But we also learn that the second and third anniversary will be more manageable. Life goes on despite the loss of our loved one. We learn new ways to cope, and we must be willing to allow our family and friends to help us go on. One of the most important aspects of a group such as this is to help us see that we are not alone. Knowing that other people are experiencing these same feelings is comforting. Even though each story is unique, we are still traveling on this painful path with others who share in our struggles, fears and anxiety.

In the final session I try to bring in the richness of our Orthodox Faith and the hope we find in Scripture. We speak about memorial services, the

making of kolyva (the tray of boiled wheat) and their symbolism. We also talk about remembering our loved ones annually at the prescribed Saturday of Souls liturgies. These are tangible actions that remind us that our loved ones are never forgotten by us and, most importantly, that they are always remembered by our loving and merciful God. We explain the beautiful hymn we sing, "May their memory be eternal." To be remembered by the Lord is to be loved and embraced by Him. We recall the thief who was crucified alongside of our Lord and cried out, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Our Lord, hearing his genuine prayer, responded, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:42–43).

We begin to see that there is hope in the midst of darkness. We are reminded of the words of St. Paul the Apostle, who said, as Christians, we do not grieve "as others who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Our hope is in our risen Lord, who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25).

Resources for Healing and Comfort

- Reach out to your priest for support from him and your parish family.
 Ask him about local grief support groups in your community or parish.
- Grief can be challenging to navigate. Consider finding a professional counselor to help you navigate this loss in your life.
- Books:
 - Dealing with Grief by V. Rev. Fr. Gordon Walker—This pamphlet discusses the grief process for Christians and offers positive steps toward healing.
 - The Courage to Grieve: The Classic Guide to Creative Living, Recovery, and Growth Through Grief by Judy Tatelbaum—This self-help book provides the specific help we need to face our grief fully and recover and grow from the experience.
 - For Those Who Hurt: An Orthodox Perspective on Suffering by Michael Keiser—A practical and easy-to-read book that helps those who grieve by providing resources based on our Orthodox Christian tradition.
 - Seeing Beyond Depression by Jean Vanier—This thoughtful resource is filled with short reflections on the depression that often accompanies grief and bereavement.

Grief in the Orthodox Church

- Memorial Service This special service of the Orthodox Church commemorates the souls of the departed faithful. Services are often held on the third, ninth and fortieth days after death and on the sixthmonth and first-year anniversaries.
- Kolyva Boiled and sweetened wheat symbolizing the departed is used at a memorial service for the dead to signify that a grain of wheat fallen to the ground will rise again as new life (John 12:24).
- <u>Saturday of Souls—</u>The Church prescribes four of these liturgies throughout the year: the two Saturdays before Lent, the first Saturday of Lent and the Saturday before Pentecost.

GriefShare: Grief Recovery Support Group GriefShare is a biblical, Christ-centered grief support group ministry whose resources help you equip a lay-led team for effective and ongoing grief ministry at your church. For more information visit griefshare.org/startagroup.

Rev. Fr. Costas Keares is a 1990 graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He has been serving the parish of St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church in North Royalton, Ohio, for the last nine years. He and Presvytera Nicole, who currently serves as the vice president of the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres, are the parents of two children, Peter and Christina.

This article originally appeared in PRAXIS Volume 17: Issue 1, "Listening to Suffering."

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