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ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, 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 Smolynech, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, 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 [Archbishop 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—young man 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, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [young lady 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, 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, 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, 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 Slausenhaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, 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, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Marianne Mulroy, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's cousin], JoAnne & Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat Jennings, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom.

ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline and Walter Sakol. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

If God is slow in answering your request, or if you ask but do not promptly receive anything, do not be upset, for you are not Wiser than God. (St. Isaac the Syrian 7th Century)

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 15 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYR MAMAS & PARENTS THEODOTUS &
RUFINA; SAINT JOHN THE FASTER—PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; 3,628
MARTYRS WHO SUFFERED IN NICOMEDIA**

Tone 4

1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Matthew 21:33-42

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION;
AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS; HOLY & RIGHTEOUS
ANCESTORS OF GOD JOACHIM & ANNA; MARTYR SEVERIAN OF SEBASTE; SAINT
THEOPHANES THE CONFESSOR & FASTER OF MOUNT DIABENOS; MARTYRS**

**CHARITON & STRATON; HOLY FATHERS OF THE 3RD ECUMENICAL COUNCIL;
UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF SAINT THEODOSIUS-ARCHBISHOP OF
CHERNIHIV**

Tone 5

2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4; Galatians 6:11-18; Galatians 4:22-31
Matthew 22:1-14; John 3:13-17; Luke 8:16-21

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

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION;
AFTERFEAST OF THE EXALTATION; GREAT-MARTYR EUPHEMIA THE ALL-
PRAISED OF CHALCEDON; SAINT SEBASTIANA; MARTYR MELITINA; MARTYRS
VICTOR & SOSTHENES OF CHALCEDON; SAINT DOROTHEUS-HERMIT OF EGYPT;
MARTYR LUDMILLA-GRANDMOTHER OF SAINT WENCESLAUS-PRINCE OF THE
CZECHS; REPOSE OF SAINT CYPRIAN-METROPOLITAN OF KIEV**

Tone 6

2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Galatians 2:16-20
Matthew 22:35-46; Mark 8:34-9:1

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 22 SEPTEMBER 2019

**13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYR MAMAS & PARENTS
THEODOTUS & RUFINA; SAINT JOHN THE FASTER—PATRIARCH OF
CONSTANTINOPLE; 3,628 MARTYRS WHO SUFFERED IN NICOMEDIA**

TROPARION—TONE 4

When the women disciples of the Lord
Learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection;
They cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles:
Death is overthrown! Christ God is 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 4

My Savior and Redeemer,
As God rose from the tomb
And delivered the earthborn from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of Hell,
And as Master, He has risen on the third day!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 4

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

READER: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works!

PEOPLE: In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 4

Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.

You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

Thanks to the Cross, we no longer wander in the deserts, because we have known the true path, no longer dwell outside the Kingdom, because we have found the door, we are not afraid of the fiery arrows of the devil, because we saw the source. —St. John Chrysostom

"Grant me the heart of Jesus, around which darkness waited in vain to enter, but never could." —Saint Nikolai Velimirovich

One man asked a priest: "If God is everywhere, what do I go to Church for?"

To which the priest replied:

"After death, eternity follows. Every person at a certain moment will abandon his body on earth and proceed with his soul to eternity; to the life that has no end. Man so will remain without the body and till the second coming of Christ, at which time the bodies of the righteous and the unrighteous will be resurrected in order to be judged. It is a fact that, after death, man's soul is separated from the body and lives in a unique state.

As we have witnessed, God visited us...

The humble person believes that all things depend on Christ and that Christ gives His grace and in that way, he makes progress.

The person who possesses holy humility lives even now in the earthly uncreated Church. He always has the joy of Christ, even in the most displeasing circumstances. +Saint Porphyrios, "Wounded by Love"

Fruit of the Spirit—Goodness

Romans 2:4-Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Believers benefit when being mindful of the goodness of God and being grateful. The goodness of God leads us to repentance when we so earnestly desire to repent. Repentance is necessary throughout life and is the way for beginning life anew. Unity with Christ occurs through repentance, Holy Confession and Communion. Gratefulness is due to God for the opportunity to repent again and again in life.

Romans 11:22-Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Living in God's goodness requires consciousness of mind and heart to please God. Dangers and perils to the soul exist therefore practicing vigilance is very necessary. Failure to live in and adhere to God's goodness carries undesirable consequences. Daily nourishment for the soul strengthens the believer in the Christian journey. God's goodness provides constant joy for the appreciative and attentive believer.

Romans 15:14-And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Goodness in believers comes from God and God is to be recognized as the Source. Love of God keeps the believer aware of the constancy of God's goodness in life. Serious Christians seek to know and be conscious of God's goodness every day. Sharing God's goodness is a standard part of daily Christian life in the community. Family life is enriched when the goodness of God is at the center of daily activity.

Ephesians 5:9-For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;

The fruitful blessings of the Holy Spirit deserve constant recognition in daily life. Daily Christian life entails constant unity with the Lord God in mind and spirit. Unity exists when sin is rejected and love of God dominates the heart and mind. Putting all behind believers do well to press forth for the unity with Christ. (Heb.12:1-2) Christian joy involves bearing the crosses in our lives as did the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

Each of us benefits by looking to Christ for our calling and the way to fulfill it. The Lord God is ever-present in the Church to daily nourish and guide believers. Believers will find the paths to take and the actions to undertake by seeking Christ. Faithful believers are never abandoned in life's daily journey to God's Kingdom. Responsible believers place firm confidence in the Lord God each and every day.

*St. Moses the Black. August 28/September 10, 2019. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.
Father Rodney Torbic*

WALKING THROUGH DOUBT

Sister Vassa, Sunday, September 15

*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning/my transgressions? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest."
(Psalm 21/22: 1-2)*

There is nothing new about having "doubt" in the whole business of our relationship with God. After all, it is in the Psalms, as quoted above. And it is in the words of this precise Psalm that our Lord gave voice to the human experience of doubt, when He cried out from the cross: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (Mt 27: 46).

The word "doubt" comes from the Latin "dubitare," which means "to hesitate, to question, to waver in opinion..." It is part, really, of all my relationships,—the merely-human ones also. I can be confronted with "doubt," and yet remain faithful in a relationship, when I walk through it, on my cross-carrying journey. Because "others," including God, remain in some part a "mystery" to me, raising question-marks in my limited mind that doesn't know everything.

So let me note the human aspect of this "hesitation" that is "doubt," and not view it as something outside of, or excluding, my relationship with God. It is only human, because of the simple fact that we don't know everything. And it's nothing new, as something God engages biblically, in His relationship with us throughout Salvation History. He nudges us forward, through our question-marks, recorded throughout the ages from the Old-Testament books like the Psalms to the New Testament. Let me let Him walk me through the discomfort of my "not knowing" and my "questioning," as He walks the doubting Thomas through it, saying to me, "Do not doubt but believe." (Jn 20: 27)

The Unknown God

Posted on [September 13, 2019](#) | by Hieromonk Gabriel |



Paul preaching in the Areopagus

I would like to begin by telling two stories. The first is a story from the life of St. Silouan of Mt. Athos (in the story, Fr. Sophrony of Essex is the narrator and St. Silouan is the Staretz):

I remember a conversation he had with a certain Archimandrite who was engaged in missionary work. This Archimandrite thought highly of the Staretz and many a time went to see him during his visits to the Holy Mountain. The Staretz asked him what sort of sermons he preached to people.

The Archimandrite, who was still young and inexperienced, gesticulated with his hands and swayed his whole body, and replied excitedly, "I tell them, 'Your faith is all wrong, perverted. There is nothing right, and if you don't repent, there will be no salvation for you.'"

The Staretz heard him out, then asked, "But please tell me, holy archimandrite, do they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ—that He is the true God?"

"Yes, they do believe that."

"And do they honour the Holy Mother?"

"They honour Her, but they teach erroneous things about Her."

"And what about the saints—do they acknowledge their existence?"

"Yes, they do, but ever since they have severed themselves from the Church, what kind of saints could they have?"

"Do they perform services in Churches? Do they read the word of God?"

"Yes, and they also have temples and services, but if you could only see how inferior their services are to ours—how cold, how soul-less they are!"

"Holy archimandrite, their souls obviously feel that they are acting correctly in believing in Christ, in honouring the Holy Mother and the saints—whom they invoke in their prayers. That is why, when you tell them that their faith is illegitimate, they will not listen to you... But if you told the people that they are right in believing in God, that they are right in honouring the Holy Mother and the saints, and in going to church for services and praying at home, that they are right in reading the Word of God and all the rest, except that here and there they have a few incorrect theories which should be corrected, then everything will be just fine and pleasing to God, and by the Grace of God, everyone will be saved..."

The second story is a story from my own life. I was young, in my early twenties, and had recently become Orthodox but had not yet entered the monastery. I wrote a post one night on Facebook about freedom. I deleted my Facebook account when I joined the monastery, so I do not have a record of precisely what I said. But as best as I can recall, I wrote that America, which prides itself above all else on its freedom and its liberty, is in reality a land of slavery to materialism and consumerism. I wrote that we have been deceived into believing that we are free by allowing ourselves to be satisfied with a false and external counterfeit of freedom. I wrote that in truth we are being held in inner spiritual bondage, and that most of the time we have no idea that we are slaves at all.

I was absolutely shocked at the level of vitriol and anger which I received for writing that post, even from the most meek and good-natured of my friends. It honestly blew me away. I could not in any way understand why my words had provoked such a violent and bitter reaction.

I think I understand that reaction better now. I was like the young, overzealous missionary archimandrite in Fr. Sophrony's story about St. Silouan. I was attacking something very precious to the hearts of my listeners. I spoke only of what was wrong with this country, and therefore I made myself into an enemy of those who saw something beautiful in it. And so it is small wonder that my words did no good to anybody.

I suspect that very often we Christians make this same mistake with the secular radicals of our society. Misguided and mistaken though they are, they are nevertheless doing battle for that which they hold dear: compassion, mercy, freedom, and love. And when we make ourselves into their enemies, in their eyes we make ourselves also into the enemies of the noble principles to which they have dedicated themselves, of all that they have found to be good and true and beautiful in their world.

How seldom do we affirm anything which these sincere and idealistic people believe! How rarely do we recognize the common ground that yet exists between us. Granted, that common ground seems to be diminishing with each passing day— but that is all the more reason to make a beginning now, while we still can. After all, even the most poisonous lies contain a seed of truth. And it is our task as Christians to find that seed, and to help it grow.

When St. Paul arrived in pagan Athens and looked upon the magnitude of their idolatry, he did not rail against their errors and iniquities. He spoke rather of the one altar that he found to "the unknown god," and proclaimed to them that Christ was that very god whom they worshipped without knowing it.

We must take great care to find such altars today. The world still longs to worship Christ, in fact perhaps more so now than at any time since St. Paul preached that sermon in the Areopagus two millennia ago. We must search for that longing, and we must speak to that longing. May God have mercy on us if

we are found to have reviled that very longing in the hearts of His children, having looked merely upon the idolatry by which it is ignorantly expressed.

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 21:33-42

Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?(KJV)

Synaxis of Serbian Saints Matthew 5:14-19

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.(KJV)

We are at the beginning of a new Ecclesiastical Year. Now is the time to recommit ourselves to drawing closer to the Lord God. Today we are to open our hearts and minds to welcoming the learning possible in God's Holy Church.

Today we are to seek nourishment from the Holy Gospel. Today sin in our lives is to be firmly repudiated. Repentance is timely. Learning from the Lord God is always timely.

The Holy Gospel provides the nourishment we need for our souls each day. The wisdom of the Holy Prophets enables us to understand the society we live in. We learn from the Holy Prophets how far we have departed from the Lord God. (Lk.16:29-31)

The craziness and violence which plagues our society can be better understood and put into perspective by the teachings and lives of the saints of God's Holy Church.

We benefit when searching for the truth found in God's Holy Church. Our lives are enriched when we draw wisdom from the ages taught and exemplified in the lives of the saints and martyrs.

The Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was crucified. The Lord Jesus Christ exemplified love and peace as no other. In this world of violence, let us learn from Christ.

In this world of aggression, abrasiveness and daily violence, let us look to Christ as the exemplification of Peace. Today learn from Christ's life and teachings the lessons of love and sacrifice in human relationships.

Forgiveness and charity have a place as hallmarks of daily life. Repentance leads to virtue. The logs in our own eyes need to be removed first. (Mt.7:5) Those who are without sin can cast the first stone.(Jn. 8:7)

Today is the day to look deep within our hearts, minds and souls. New beginnings in Christ are possible. Nourishment comes from Christ. Nourishment exists in the Holy Gospel in God's Holy Church.

The Divine services of God's Holy Church offer constant food for the soul, learning and opportunities to begin anew. The content of the Divine services provide direction from the Lord Jesus Christ

God's Holy Church has the ability to shape and direct our lives. Each day we are able to learn valuable lessons from the Church. We are exposed to lessons from the Holy Scriptures and the lives of the saints.

The writings, lives and teachings of the Holy Fathers and Mothers address life's problems. Turn not to novel and ineffective ways of addressing life's problems when we have Christ and the Church to learn from and follow.

Adherence to the narrow path of faith through the centuries will lead us to God's Kingdom. (Mt.7:13-14) New beginnings in Christ are based in the enduring hope present in His Resurrection.

God's Church provides the structure and environment for the optimum learning and growth possible throughout life. God's Holy Church addresses life at all stages from the beginning of known time to life eternal.

Minds and hearts open to learning in Christ never cease learning. Christ's nourishment is constant. Christ's joy and love are constant. Prayer and love of Christ enable learning to take place.

Today's Gospel lessons offer nourishment for the present and future. The present and future are to be lived in Christ. Christians commit to Christ at Holy Baptism. This commitment is to be renewed at each moment of life.

Today great joy is present in God's Holy Church. Christ's Resurrection is celebrated. Unity with Christ is experienced. Minds and hearts welcome Christ and rejoice in Christ's love and peace.

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Martyr Mamas. Venerable John the Faster. Synaxis of the Serbian Saints. September 2/15, 2019. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic