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ADVENT—SAINT PHILIP'S FAST

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 Smoly nec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, 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

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, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [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 Slaughaupt, 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 & Gordon 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, Patrick Felice [Melanie's husband] Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Cindy M., Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Pearl Hanczar, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, 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.

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, DECEMBER 15 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; PROPHET HABAKKUK; MARTYR MYROPE OF
CHIOS; VENERABLE JOHN, HERACLEMON, ANDREW & THEOPHILUS OF EGYPT;
VENERABLE JESSE-BISHOP OF TSILKANI IN GEORGIA; SAINT ATHANASIUS-
RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA, WHOSE RELICS ARE IN THE NEAR CAVES;**

**SAINT ATHANASIUS-RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA, WHOSE RELICS ARE IN
THE FAR CAVES**

Tone 1

Ephesians 5:8-19

Luke 18:18-27 [of the 30th Sunday!]

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 READER SERVICE DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; CONCEPTION BY SAINT ANNA OF THE MOST
HOLY THEOTOKOS; PROPHETESS ANNA-MOTHER OF THE PROPHET SAMUEL;
SAINT SOPHRONIOS-ARCHBISHOP OF CYPRUS; VENERABLE STEPHEN THE
"NEW LIGHT" OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

Tone 2

Ephesians 6:10-17; Galatians 4:22-31

Luk3 27:12-19; Luke 8:16-21

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 OBEDNITZA DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM
28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; PROPHET HAGGAI; MARTYR MARINUS OF
ROME; BLESSED EMPRESS THEOPHANIA OF BYZANTIUM**

Tone 3

Colossians 3:4-11

Luke 14:16-24

BULLET INSERT FOR 15 DECEMBER 2019

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CHIOS; VENERABLE JOHN, HERACLEMON, ANDREW & THEOPHILUS OF EGYPT;
VENERABLE JESSE-BISHOP OF TSILKANI IN GEORGIA; SAINT ATHANASIUS-
RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA, WHOSE RELICS ARE IN THE NEAR CAVES;
SAINT ATHANASIUS-RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA, WHOSE RELICS ARE IN
THE FAR CAVES**

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!

Archiepiscopal Encyclical for the Feast of St. Nicholas

Protocol No. 67/19 **December 6/19, 2019**

Feast of our Father among the Saints,

Nicholas the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the reverend priests and deacons, the monks and nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox family in America

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

The name of Saint Nicholas brings joy to people around the world as nearly a synonym for love and generosity. Even more does his name evoke reverence and delight among Orthodox Christians, who know the wondrous

deeds God worked through His servant. By the power of Christ within, Saint Nicholas fought injustice, raised the dead, healed the sick, and supplied the needs of the flock under his care. In these wonders we rejoice.

In connection with the National Shrine at the World Trade Center, however, the mention of Saint Nicholas has come to evoke the opposite feelings. A name that should be associated with holiness, peace, and prayer is instead linked with debt, corruption, and mismanagement. Angry voices have been raised against clergy and laity alike, without regard for involvement or responsibility. Some think that the priests and bishops are obliged to find money to complete the Shrine. The clergy, however, are not trained to be fundraisers or bankers. Their attention should be prayer and the ministry of God's word (Acts 6:4).

The time has come to seek more actively the assistance of the Shrine's holy patron. Perhaps what we have failed to do on earth, he can help to accomplish from heaven. Christ has given Saint Nicholas the power to right wrongs and provide for the needs, whether spiritual, medical, or financial. By his intercessions he raised a fallen sailor from the dead; surely through his prayers the work on our Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine can be resurrected once more and brought to completion.

I would ask, therefore, that in every parish of our Archdiocese, a [Service of Paraklesis to Saint Nicholas](#) be offered in connection with his feast. Let us seek the help of the Wonder-worker of Myra, asking for him to show us God's power and provide that which we lack, until the church bearing his holy name stands once more at the World Trade Center.

With one heart and one voice may we chant on his feastday:

Winged like a young bird flying forth from the nest of the angels to hover over the blossoms of the Church, thrice-blessed Nicholas, you call out to God always on behalf of all in any kind of necessity, peril, or temptation; and by your intercessions rescue them and us. (1st Sticheron of the Lauds of December 6/19)

May the name of Saint Nicholas once again be known only for love, generosity, and the glory of God forevermore. May the Lord grant many years to those who celebrate their name day with this bright festival, as well as to us all.

With paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS, Archbishop of America



PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX BISHOPS BEYOND THE BORDERS OF UKRAINE

EPISTLE FOR APOSTLE PHILIP'S FAST - ADVENT

"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

"So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel', a which is translated, 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:22-23)

Dearly beloved clergy, monastics and faithful of our Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchies beyond the borders of Ukraine and to all throughout the world who prepare during this Phillip's Fast – Advent for the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – "our Savior – God with us":

Approximately 700 years before the Nativity of Christ, Isaiah prophesized that He would be born of a virgin, which we see was, indeed, fulfilled in Bethlehem as described in the Gospel of Matthew. The world awaited the arrival of the Messiah – the Savior – sometimes with patience, sometimes with doubt, sometimes with impatience and sometimes with outright rebellion. We have been blessed to become faithful witnesses to the Truth of the Incarnation of God – the Word of God – Jesus Christ – God with us – God, one of us – God Who offered, and continues to do so, Himself for our salvation.

The world of the time of the Incarnation – the Nativity of the Christ-Child – quite frankly, failed to recognize that the wait was over. No one expected the Messiah – the Savior – would come as an innocent child, born of a virgin in a cave and placed into a food trough of domestic animals. And yet, from these almost unfathomable circumstances we set out upon the path leading to our salvation.

After the Great Feast of Pentecost, the Apostles, and their successors, under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, knew that theirs was a holy and inescapable responsibility to bear witness to Christ – the Incarnated Son of God – Who is risen from the dead. It was not an easy task. The Evangelist, Apostle Matthew utilizes history to reveal who this

Jesus was to those who identified themselves completely through their own history. In the first chapter of his Gospel, which we read during Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before the Nativity, Matthew presents the genealogy of Jesus Christ through 42 generations: from Abraham to David, fourteen generations, from David to the captivity in Babylon, fourteen generations and from the captivity in Babylon to Christ – fourteen generations. Following this presentation, Matthew goes immediately into the narrative of the Nativity of our Lord.

Matthew understood that it was extremely important to convey to the people of God that this Jesus Christ was one of them, an integral part of their entire history – not a stranger who has no compassion or love for them – but one of them who came to fulfill God’s loving promise to them. The point of all this is that Matthew was trying to convey to all that all that history, all those generations were leading to something – something far beyond what they had ever humanly expected.

The entire New Testament does the same for all of us who comprehend that the Son of God remains as “one of us”. All that we witness in the Gospels and the Epistles and Revelation – both the good (in human terms) that we read and the bad that we read – continue to reveal to us that everything is still “leading to something” – and that something is the expectation of our salvation, to becoming one with God.

Our prayer is that as we proceed through this pre-Nativity season, we keep this expectation in clear focus. God has come to US, God is among US and God will embrace US once again in His Heavenly Kingdom, if we live as those who clothed themselves in Him during the Holy Mystery of Baptism and received the fullness of Grace from the Holy Spirit in the Holy Mystery of Chrismation. Let us strive always to keep that baptismal garment, the pure white cloth in which we were wrapped following our Baptism, as unblemished by sinfulness on the day of our repose as it was originally.

Let us prepare through prayer and fasting and in contemplation of the purity of LOVE offered to us in an innocent child, continually dwell upon the ultimate goal – that something – that God has been leading us to through all the generations of human history.

In the All-Encompassing Love of our Lord and through the prayers of the Holy Apostle Phillip,

+ YURIJ

Metropolitan Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ ANTONY

Metropolitan Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America, and Diaspora

+ JEREMIAH
Archbishop Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America
+ DANIEL
Archbishop Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora
+ ILARION
Bishop Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
+ ANDRIY
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

The Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Luke 10:25-37

And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. (KJV)

The present Gospel speaks of the elements necessary for eternal life. Eternal life is the intended goal of each believer. Complete love of God and neighbor are necessary.

The Gospel illustrates the importance of looking clearly at the suffering nearby apparent to each of us. The Gospel spurs the action to take if the believer is serious about eternal life.

Observant believers become aware of suffering individuals in need of compassionate love and attention. A family member, friend, neighbor or co-worker will have an illness or injury.

The Gospel makes it clear not to ignore or leave the healing action to others when immediate aid is imperative. The Lord Jesus Christ teaches believers to act in the spirit of the Samaritan.

The Lord Jesus Christ calls forth love and compassion for the sick and injured appearing in daily life. St. John's Epistle states: "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." (I Jn.3:18)

Loving in deed and truth takes initiative and effort. The Samaritan stopping to help the crime victim along the road interrupted his personal journey. The Samaritan showed devoted interest to this unknown person along the roadside.

Beyond ministering to the injured victim, the Samaritan took additional action. He took the injured person to an inn for further care. God's love was manifested in this Samaritan and his actions are a lasting lesson.

Attentive Christians appeal to God for guidance and direction in assisting individuals in need in daily life. God's guidance is beneficial for every act of a Christian.

In every moment of life believers do well to ask God for guidance and blessings to undertake any intended action. By turning first to God for guidance and blessings, believers go forth with certainty and confidence.

During this time of the celebration of the Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, we are mindful of the Gospel message of the Feast.

"Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."(Lk.11:28)

Turning to God first avails the believer of God's valuable guidance. Each day is an opportunity to increase attentiveness to God's presence at every moment of life. The Gospel fully expresses the relevancy of God's love in daily life.

Heeding the Gospel improves and enriches the believer. Following the word of God is reassuring and strengthening. No better guidance exists for living each moment of life.

Believers have to shed the scales of the eyes and the screen the noise entering the ears to be attentive to the voice and word of God for guidance. The Gospel provided in God's Holy Church speaks directly to the attentive listener.

The present Gospel is an annual reminder to be loving and compassionate in daily life. Today's world is often harsh and filled with acrimony. Today's world can give rise to hardness of hearts and indifference to suffering.

The Lord God calls believers to act in love and compassion, providing healing care whenever possible. God's healing power acts through believers not only in medical facilities but also along the roadways of life.

The Gospel strengthens and nourishes believers. Believers become empowered to act when heeding the Gospel. Parishes have opportunities to provide compassionate care for the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Christ provides the lens to view suffering nearby. Christ provides the inspiration and guidance for responding to suffering in our midst. Being attentive to Christ spurs and causes action to be initiated.

The priest and the Levite in the present Gospel passed by the injured crime victim along the road. The Samaritan stopped to render assistance. We continue to be inspired by and learn from the actions of the Samaritan.

In today's world, let us be healers and lovers of our neighbors on the roadways of life. Let us not pass by on the other side of the road when we see suffering in our midst.

St. John raises a question to keep in mind. St. John wrote: "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (I Jn.3:17)

The Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Hieromartyr Clement. Apodasis of the Entry. November 25/December 8, 2019. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

Renewed in Christ

Romans 12:2-And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (KJV)

Every day is an opportunity to be renewed in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Prayer and repentance in the heart and mind brings the believer closer to Christ. Humility and putting Jesus Christ first in every moment of life makes a difference. Christ is ever-present and within reach at all times readily accepting the believer. Believers reach out to Jesus Christ to experience His love, mercy and forgiveness.

2 Corinthians 4:16-For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. (KJV)

Renewal comes in the relationship with Lord Jesus Christ in God's Holy Church. The Church provides the teaching, nurturing and guidance for renewal in Christ. Daily renewal is possible as the Holy Apostle Paul made known to the Corinthians. Faith, desire and willingness to repent lead the believer to renewal in Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church is where the Holy Mysteries of Christ are fully experienced.

Ephesians 4:23-And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (KJV)

Breaking patterns of sin becomes possible when turning to the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is loving, forgiving and provides necessary guidance for the mind's renewal. Believers benefit from taking the initiative to reach out to Christ to improve

life. The ever-welcoming embrace of the Lord Jesus Christ heals the hurting believer. Wholeness and peace of heart, mind and soul result from turning to Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:10-And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: (KJV)

Newness in Jesus Christ is accompanied by the responsibility to follow the Lord. Jesus Christ is always due gratitude for His love, mercy and willingness to forgive. Renewal in Jesus Christ is to be embraced and welcomed as a blessed opportunity. The Lord Jesus Christ is never to be taken for granted in the course of daily life. Attentiveness to Christ's presence and love has a place in the mind at all times.

Titus 3-5-Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; (KJV)

The blessings of renewal in Christ comes not by our own doing but by the Lord. All the good in our lives emanates from the Lord God and is attributed to the Lord. Each breath, beat of the heart, and thought in the mind is from the Lord's action. Movement of the body and good done in daily life occurs because of the Lord God. Unending gratitude belongs to the Lord God for the mercy to forgive and renew us. Venerable Gregory Decapolis, Forefeast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple. November 20/December 3, 3019. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic