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**Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Christ IS Risen!
Indeed He IS Risen!**

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес!
Χριστός ανέστη! Ἀληθῶς ανέστη! (Khristós Anésti! Alithós Anésti!)
Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!
المسيح قام! إحقا قام! (al-Masīḥ qām! ḥaqqan qām!)
Kristo Amefufukka! Kweli Amefufukka

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 Yuriy, 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 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], Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, 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, 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, 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 Strozh [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, 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 Zeliszczyk, 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, 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, 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, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Cindy M., Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Bill Boretsky, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Steven—Harry Batch's cousin, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik's Cousin, Stella McKeag, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, 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.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ...Christ IS Risen! Indeed He IS Risen! At this time, we are unable to celebrate Pascha together in our parish church, but we TRIED but are unable to live-stream any services due to poor internet connection via cell phone. That said, there is **NOTHING to keep us from praying...for each other, for our family and friends, and most of all for the first responders—EMTs, nurses, doctors, firefighters, police officers, and members of our military who keep us safe. Be well, and be SAFE!!! God Bless!**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...the newly-departed handmaiden of God Anastasia Kalistchuck, mother of His Eminence, Metropolitan Yuriy of the UOC of Canada, who fell asleep in the Lord this past Sunday morning. May God grant her the Kingdom of Heaven and Life Everlasting! Vechnaya Pam'yat! Christos Voskres! Christos Anesti! Al Maseeq 'Am! Christ IS Risen! God Bless her family...

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, MAY 17 **NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE** **10:30 AM**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; THE SAMARITAN WOMAN; VIRGIN-MARTYR PELAGIA OF TARSUS IN ASIA MINOR; HIEROMARTYR ERASMUS-BISHOP OF FORMIA IN CAMPAIA; HIEROMARTYR ALBAN-BISHOP OF ANAEA IN ASIA MINOR; HIEROMARTYR SILVANUS OF GAZA

Tone 4

Acts 11:19-267, 29-30

John 4:5-42

SUNDAY, MAY 24 **NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE** **10:30 AM**

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN; HIROMARTYR MOCIUS; HOLY EQUALS-TO-THE-APOSTLES METHODIUS & CYRIL, TEACHERS OF THE SLAVS; VENERABLE SOPHRONIUS-RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 5

Acts 16:16-34; Hebrews 7:26-8:2

John 9:1-38; Matthew 5:14-19

Litany in Blessed Memory of Gary Drapcho—Reader Alexander's coworker, and Anastasia Kalistchuck, Metropolitan Yurij of Canada's mother

THURSDAY, MAY 28 THE GLORIOUS ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR

SUNDAY, MAY 31 **NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE** **10:30 AM**

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; FATHERS OF THE FIRS ECUENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; MARTYR THEODOTUS OF ANCYRA & 7 VIRGIN-MARTYRS-ALEXANDRA, TECUSA, CLAUDIA, PHAINE, EUPHRAISA, MATRONA, & JULIA; MARTYRS PETER, DIONYSIUS, ANDREW, PAUL, & CHRISTINA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

John 17:1-13

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 17 MAY 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; THE SAMARITAN WOMAN; VIRGIN-MARTYR PELAGIA OF TARSUS IN ASIA MINOR; HIEROMARTYR ERASMUS-BISHOP OF FORMIA IN CAMPAIA;

HIEROMARTYR ALBAN-BISHOP OF ANAEA IN ASIA MINOR; HIEROMARTYR SILVANUS OF GAZA

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
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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.

KONTAKION—TONE 8

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith;
She saw Thee, the Water of Wisdom, and drank abundantly!
She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified.

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 3

READER: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King,
sing praises!

PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our
King, sing praises!

READER: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of
joy!

PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

READER: Sing praises to our God, sing praises!

PEOPLE: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 3

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

You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS (Replaces "It Is Truly Meet")

The angel cried unto Mary, who was full of Grace

Hail, oh pure virgin, oh pure virgin

once again I hail Thee

Thy Son has risen from His three days in the grave,

and He has raised the dead with Him,

Oh rejoice, all ye people.

Oh shine with clear radiance, shine on new Jerusalem

For the glory of the Lord is shining up on you.

Rejoice! Rejoice! now and be joyful--oh Zion, and though

oh pure one and adorable birthgiver of God,

in the rising again of HIM who was born of Thee.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Receive ye the Body of Christ; taste ye the fountain of immortality.

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

**Talk on Prayer for the Diocesan Dept. of Christian Education and
Internet Ministries**

Hristos Voskrese! Christ is Risen!

Matthew 6:9-13-After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil... (KJV)

Every generation of believers is blessed to have the Lord's Prayer to directly unite with the Lord God. During this time when God's Holy Church is filled with Paschal joy, unity in prayer with the Risen Lord is paramount.

The Lord's Prayer is timely each day, of every year and in all centuries. The Lord's Prayer is from the Highest Authority. Believers pray the Lord's Prayer with the firmest conviction and confidence.

From the youngest child to the oldest adult, the Lord's Prayer has the deepest meaning. Believers are attentive to God the Father, are mindful of God's Holy Name and the coming of God's Kingdom.

Believers look to God's will being done on earth as in heaven. The faithful prayerfully seek daily bread. The direct connection between forgiving others and being forgiven by God is clear in the Lord's Prayer.

Every moment is an opportunity to be united with the Lord, to avoid temptation and be delivered from evil. Reciting the Lord's Prayer is active preparation for the Great and Glorious Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Active prayer is a constructive and wise investment in the Kingdom of God. During this Paschal period, Jesus' Resurrection is foremost in serious believers' hearts and minds. The Risen Christ brings the greatest of all joy.

No virus, no tyranny, no oppression, no illness, even death itself is not sufficient to stifle the joy of Christ's Resurrection. Christ's Resurrection brings the brightness of Divine Light and eradicates the darkness of life.

Prayer opens the believer's heart, mind, and soul to the Light of the Risen Christ. Joy permeates the hearts, minds and souls of serious believers immersed in the Risen Christ.

Time is a precious gift from the Living God. Wise believers cherish time as God's precious gift of life. Each moment affords believers with the opportunity to be united with the Risen Lord.

Centuries ago the Psalmist proclaimed the cherished words: "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."(Ps.118:24- KJV) The Psalmist reaches deep within attentive hearts, minds and souls,

Every moment of every day, the Risen Lord is present and accessible when we pray deep within our heart, mind and soul. The Risen Lord is the ardent and insurmountable guide for all the days of our lives.

Matthew 17:21-Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. (KJV)

The Lord Jesus Christ links prayer and fasting together. Believers adhering to the Lord's words on prayer and fasting appreciate the effectiveness. Illnesses and afflictions of the soul are best dealt with by prayer and fasting.

Demons attacking believers during the course of daily life are repelled best by prayer and fasting. God's Holy Church wisely prescribes days of fasting and periods of fasting throughout the year.

Attentive believers are mindful of the Church's calendar and faithfully make a serious effort to honor the fast periods. Every believer is constantly challenged by the Holy Apostle Paul's words to pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Serious self-examination of personal practices on prayer and fasting provide honest and necessary answers for improvement. Christians have the continued responsibility to honor Christ's teachings.

Perils to the soul exist throughout life. Joy in the Risen Christ is permanently available. Choices made at each moment of life determine whether the believer is inseparably united with Jesus Christ.

When errors in judgment occur and the way of sin is chosen, believers have the ability and responsibility to repent and reunite with Jesus Christ. Fasting and prayer hasten repentance and reunification with Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ rejoices when repentance occurs. The Lord said: "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." (Lk.15:7)

The Lord provides each day of life to be fully lived in Him. The Jesus Christ told Martha: "I am the resurrection, and the **life**: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: " (Jn. 11:25)

Now it the time to be united with the Risen Lord. Joy in the Lord is ever available. All obstacles in life and perils to the soul are overcome through turning to the Lord in prayer and fasting.

St. John's Gospel has Christ's guiding words for daily life: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (Jn. 16:33)

Prayer requires centering the heart, mind and soul in the Lord. Strong effort and work are necessary for prayer to continue throughout life. Firm conviction and discipline unite in bringing prayer and fasting together in continued effort.

Seekers of the Kingdom of God and eternal life find welcoming words in St. Matthew's Gospel. The Lord said: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Mt.11:29)

Matthew 21:13-And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer;. (KJV)

Churches are holy places where believers are to go with confidence to draw closer to God. The Church's Divine services offer regular opportunities to learn about, worship and to experience God.

Parish churches and monasteries are destinations where individuals turn to in faith. Deep personal benefit exists in simply sitting in a church or monastery turning to God in quiet listening.

The heart, mind, and soul benefit when open to receive God. A person's expectations and strength of faith make a difference. Jesus spoke clearly about strong faith.

St. Matthew's Gospel preserves the Lord's words: "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." (Mt.17:20)

Today the world is contending with a threatening virus. At other periods of history there have been world wars, financial hardships, or devastating weather.

Situations will arise when individuals or families may have to contend with news of a serious injury or illness, an unexpected job loss or tragic accident. Going to God's Holy Church is the beneficial step to put life's events into perspective.

The Diocesan bishop, parish priests and monastic communities work resolutely to keep churches and monasteries welcoming places of prayer. Seekers of the Lord God take full advantage of the opportunities to come and pray.

Regularly scheduled Divine worship services nourish believers prayerfully entering. It is also proper to go to places of worship and to pray individually at non-scheduled times of collective worship.

Coming to church and sitting quietly, listening, and speaking to God can be life-changing. Requesting to meet with the priest for periods of personal prayer for specific needs is absolutely proper.

Churches exist to be used throughout the week not only at designated periods of time on Sundays and major feast days. Priests welcome believers seriously interested in drawing closer to the Lord God.

Parishes are strengthened when believers actively engage in prayer throughout the week. When weekday services and prayers are offered in churches and monasteries, the benefits extend well beyond the church walls.

Communities are enriched when parish churches and monasteries are filled with Divine services and believers coming for personal prayer. Always keep in mind the primary purposes for which the parish church was consecrated.

The Psalmist expressed the joy of being in the Lord's house with these words: "LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth." (Ps.26::8-KJV)

Matthew 21:22-And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. (KJV)

Firmness of faith and trust in the Lord are essential in prayer. A willingness to accept the Lord's response comes with the purest heart and mind. The Lord knows what is best for each person.

Prayers to the Lord provide guidance for daily living. The Lord is present during the day and night. The Lord is accessible at all times. Believers need never feel alone or separated from the living God.

Constant prayer keeps the person united with the Lord and ensures guidance for daily decision-making. Fervent prayer keeps the person from putting the soul in peril.

Prayer is an acknowledgement that life comes from God and is intended to be lived in ways pleasing to the Lord God. God's commandments and teachings proclaimed and made known through the Church carefully guide believers.

Attentive believers seek nourishment regularly from the Holy Scriptures and presence in the Church's Divine services. Sincere prayer strengthens understanding in following the ways of the Lord.

Attentive believers are reassured by the revelation of God's presence in daily life. Prayers open the eyes of believers to see God at work in ways not readily observable to the unbelieving.

Active prayer involves energy from the mind and heart. Concentration on prayerful content and mindfulness of the Lord God work cooperatively. Love of God is manifested in consistent prayer.

Responsible believers regularly give thanks to the Lord God for ever-present goodness, mercy and love. Attentive believers grow in consciousness about the exceeding goodness, mercy, blessings, and love from God.

Life involves constant breathing and a beating-heart. Prayer is an equivalent part of life to breathing and an active heart-beat. The Holy Apostle Paul writing to the Thessalonians values prayer without ceasing. (1 Thess. 5:17)

Periodic self-examination reveals the strength, content and regularity of a person's prayer life. The Church has a rich collection of prayers beneficial for use at home. Believers do well to familiarize themselves with these prayers.

Consulting with the parish priest is beneficial for learning more about particular prayers and practices which can be personally enriching. Reading about prayer from respected sources is a wise investment.

The Psalms are enriching for personal prayer and are used throughout the Divine services of the Church. Believers will always benefit from prayerfully reading the Holy Scriptures.

Daily prayerful reading of the Holy Scriptures according to the Church's calendar is a way to be firmly united with the Church.

Matthew 23:14-Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. (KJV)

Prayer is a sacred relationship with the Lord God. Different dimensions are involved. Believers have personal prayer practices. Believers join with others in the Church community for Divine services.

Prayers are offered by believers individually and jointly with others during the course of daily life. Sacramentally participating in the Church throughout life unites believers with each other in prayer.

Churches and monasteries around the world offer prayers at all times of the day and night benefitting believers everywhere. Attentive believers keep in mind and are appreciative of prayers offered in world-wide locations.

When a person feels alone or is becoming depressed, strength can be drawn from the knowledge that somewhere in the world at any given moment, prayers are offered for the benefit of believers.

A believer never needs to feel alone. Mindfully, a person can unite with the Church active in different locations throughout the world. God's love becomes known and is experienced through these locations of constant prayer.

Prayers in different locations where the Church is present has a healing effect on believers near and far. Prayers impact well beyond the locale where offered. They transcend time and space.

Saints and martyrs are known in the Church to be intercessors before the Lord God. Guardian angels and patronal saints are held dearly in the believers' hearts and minds.

Often serious believers will turn to certain saints for addressing a specific need or concern. For instance, some saints are known to be particularly beneficial in dealing with issues requiring medical healing.

Christians do well to grow in knowledge during the time of life. The Lord offers the opportunity for unlimited growth. Active believers will pursue growth in the Lord all the days of life.

Holy Baptism is a beginning point in the Lord. Nourishment and knowledge gained by prayer and participation in Divine services leads to growth in the relationship with the Lord God.

Stagnancy in the Christian life deprives a person of the full growth available. Choices for an active Christian life are completely voluntary and without pressure. Growth is conditional upon the choices made each day.

Each choice leading to Christian growth through prayer increases appreciation for the Lord. When person prays with firm faith and confidence, the person simultaneously avoids engaging in peril to the soul.

James 5:16-Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (KJV)

The Church is in the midst of the Paschal celebration. The joy of Christ's Resurrection is increasingly realized through prayer. When the mind and heart focus on the Resurrection, limits are transcended.

The mind and heart fill with joy as the knowledge of the Resurrection comes alive in the believer. This joy is duplicated in church communities, homes, and workplaces where believers are located.

Prayerful greetings of Christ risen from the dead lift hearts and minds to heights heretofore not achieved. Occupants of prison cells, hospital wards, and concentration camps are enlivened by knowledge that Christ is Risen!

Tyrannical governments seeking to suppress the Church fail in silencing the message that Christ is Risen! Prayer is the main avenue leading directly to the Risen Lord.

God's Holy Churches radiate with the joy of Christ's Resurrection. Believers hearts and minds bubble with joy of the Risen Lord. Time and space are transcended as Christ's Resurrection is a present-day occurrence in each century.

God is greater than the finite mind can comprehend. At the same time the certainty of God is everywhere for believers to see and prayerfully experience. Prayerful choices enable believers to grow throughout life in the Risen Lord.

Let us always be mindful of the presence of the Risen Lord. With renewed concentration, let us savor the joy of the Resurrection. With vigor and renewed commitment, may our fervent prayers increase.

Saints and martyrs have communicated the joy and benefits of living in the Risen Lord under all kinds of adverse circumstances. Mindful of the burning of St. Sava's Relics commemorated this day, let renewal abound in our hearts and minds.

Earthly life is time limited. The Lord God offers the path to eternal life. The Risen Christ demonstrated that death is not a confining end. Prayer opens the avenues for believers to put life and death in perspective.

Prayer is the way to keep all of life in perspective. Large problems become manageable when partialized in prayer. Issues appearing mountainous, are reduced to manageable size through prayer.

Through prayer, let us benefit from words of the Holy Apostle: "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." (Rom 12:2)

Hristos Voskrese! Christ is Risen!

*Evening of the Sunday of the Paralytic. Translation of the Relics of St. Sava.
April 27/May 10, 2020. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

The Sunday of the Paralytic John 5:1-15

After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. (KJV)

This Gospel lesson about the paralytic being healed after an illness lasting thirty-eight years is a message of hope for all long sufferers. The Church wisely places this reading in the Paschal period of celebration.

The Risen Lord removed the confines of death and demonstrated that Christ is Life. When Jesus healed the paralytic, the man was reborn in Christ with full mobility.

Jesus Christ offers freedom from the paralysis of sin. Jesus told the man made whole to sin no more. Daily decisions determine whether our lives become paralyzed in sin.

Sins accumulating over a long period time have a devastating effect on the mind, body, and soul. Jesus Christ offers freedom from the paralysis of sin for believers honestly repenting and being renewed in Christ.

Renewal in Christ is accompanied by the responsibility to live in ways pleasing to Christ. Too often individuals turn to Christ for help in times of illness but fail to follow Christ after being healed.

The paralytic was able to take up his bed and walk as directed by Jesus. The remaining days of his life, the paralytic was expected to refrain from sin. Many believers have participated in Great Lent, have repented and confessed their sins.

Following confession and being healed of the paralysis of sin, believers are to do their best and live in the Risen Lord. The Church provides nourishment and direction for living in Christ and encourages repentance when sin occurs.

The Church rejoices in Christ's healing of the paralytic. The healing of the paralytic is in keeping with the Paschal theme of joy. Jesus Christ radically changes gloomy situations into the greatest joy.

Serious believers savor the present Gospel and all messages in the Holy Gospel. Learning about Jesus Christ and being strengthened and renewed in Jesus Christ is a life-long journey for believers.

Serious believers never fully satisfy the appetite of the soul for nourishment from the Holy Gospel. Christ's words and life are the life of the serious believer. The Gospel and serious believers' lives are always inseparable.

Each Divine Liturgy the Gospel is proclaimed with benefit. Attentive listeners draw strength from each proclamation of the Gospel. Lives change when the Gospel is proclaimed.

The current Gospel reading has been preserved in the Church for centuries. The benefits to attentive listeners through the years are beyond measure. Sufferers depressed with longstanding conditions hear this Gospel and have hope again.

Hope makes a difference in life. Life is transformed when the belief exists afflictions and illness can be overcome in Christ. With hope, a life sentence of despair changes into the possibility of health in Jesus Christ.

Christ rising from the Tomb brings enduring hope. Christ healing the paralytic solidifies hope. Each celebration of Pascha strengthens the conviction of hope in believers.

The world changes when hope is present. Personal demeanor and interaction improve with the presence of hope. The world is suffering from the darkness of a virus at this time.

Centering life in the Risen Christ enables believers to experience a newness unimpaired by the current virus. The Risen Christ will guide believers through the days of the virus to a joyous outcome.

The brightness of the Resurrection will outshine the darkness of any virus. Search deep within the self and recall the devastation, plagues, and afflictions of past centuries.

A search of history reveals the joy of the Risen Christ eventually is manifested and changes life for the better. Observe the church celebrations and festal processions in former Communist countries as proof of the Risen Lord!

Rejoice with the Church today in the news of the healing of the paralytic. Rejoice in the news "Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life."

The Sunday of the Paralytic. The Burning of the Relics of St. Sava. April 27/May 10, 2020. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

Military Chaplains

Our soldiers need the support of chaplains

A number of years ago our monastic community welcomed seven military chaplains from Joint Base Lewis-McChord. These fine young men who answered the call to serve the nation as military chaplains, inspired me with their commitment to Christ, and their willingness to enter into a dangerous and combative world with our military, willing to lay down their lives for our troops.

It should be clearly evident that a strong U.S. military depends on more than high-tech equipment and highly trained soldiers. Our military chaplains help soldiers struggling with loneliness, drug addiction, failing marriages, and a myriad of other problems that the civilian population faces, but that are made all the more difficult when one is deprived of the support of family and friends. Soldiers need the guidance of chaplains as they face being away from home, and missing their loved ones. Our soldiers need the support of chaplains as they struggle with faith in the field, and the many deployment issues that arise.

The military chaplaincy is a special vocation, a calling that only a few clergy receive, but one that is direly needed by the young men and women who face loneliness, and the temptations that deployment brings. Those willing to put their lives on the line for our nation are deserving of the very best in pastoral care, and I was deeply moved by the quality of these men who have answered the call of both God, and nation.

Military chaplains deserve the encouragement and prayerful support of all of us who are in civilian life. They especially deserve the friendship,

support, and prayers, of parish priests, who too often do not understand this special calling.

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon



Photo: Military chaplains from Joint Base Lewis-McChord visited the monastery.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. Instead of "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service until Ascension Thursday, we sing "Christ is Risen!" Also, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.