



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church
714 Westmoreland Avenue
PO Box 3
Slickville, PA 15684-0003
www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org
Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor
23 Station Street
Carnegie, PA 15106-3014
[412] 279-5640 home
[412] 956-6626 cell
rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

Christ IS Baptized! In the Jordan!

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, Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, 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], Father George Livanos, Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father Steve Hutnick [COVID-`9], Father Victor Wronskyj [COVID-19], 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, 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, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, 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, 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 & 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, 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, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Micky Delans [COVID-19], Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Dolores Wachnowsky, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Deacon Joe Uzar—vocations, Tim—surgery, Archimandrite Raphael—COVID-19, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko [triple by-pass], John, Kris & Kait, Jeff & Mary Jane Double [COVID-19], Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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.

St. John of Kronstadt: "I am nothing without the Lord. I have really not one true thought or good feeling, and I can do no good work; without the Lord I cannot drive away from me any sinful thought, or any sinful feeling, or any inclination to vice. It is the Lord Who accomplishes every good thing that I think, feel, and do. How boundless is the grace of the Lord acting in me!"

Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh sends along: "Anger is a perversion of courage, as lust is a perversion of love." Saint Gregory of Nyssa

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... 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 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**.

SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS!!! 10:30 AM
33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; AFTERFEAST OF THEOPHANY; VENERABLE THEODOSIUS THE GREAT—CENOBIARCH; VENERABLE THEODOSIUS OF ANTIOCH

*****BLESSING OF WATER DOWNSTAIRS AFTER SERVICE*****

Tone 8

Ephesians 4:7-13; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15
Matthew 4:12-17; Matthew 11:27-30

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS!!! 10:30 AM
34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT ATHANASIUS THE GREAT & SAINT CYRIL-ARCHBISHOPS OF ALEXANDRIA; VENERABLE MARCIAN OF CYRRHUS IN SYRIA-MONK

Tone 1

Colossians 3:12-6; Hebrews 13:7-16
Luke 18:18-27; Matthew 5:14-19

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 07 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS!!! 10:30 AM
35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN-ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE; MARTYRS FELICITAS OF ROME & 7 SONS-JANUARIUS, FELIX, PHILLIP, SILVANUS, ALEXANDER, VITALIS, & MARTIAL; VENERABLE PUBLIUS-ASCETIC OF SYRIA; VENERABLE MARES THE SINGER OF SYRIA

Tone 2

Timothy 1:15-17
Luke 18: 35-43

Litany in Blessed Memory of Milton G. Chicka, Daniel Pysh, Sara Chicka, Nikolai Pivtoraiko, Evelyn Burlack, Anne Cherepko Mazock, Roy Wyke, & Katherine Debick—Fr. Bob

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 24 JANUARY 2021

33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; AFTERFEAST OF THEOPHANY; VENERABLE THEODOSIUS THE GREAT—CENOBIARCH; VENERABLE THEODOSIUS OF ANTIOCH

*****BLESSING OF WATER DOWNSTAIRS AFTER SERVICE*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Thou didst descent from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings!
Our Lord, our Life and Resurrection, Glory to Thee!

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

KONTAKION—TONE 8

By rising from the tomb,
Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,
And the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead,
O greatly Merciful One!

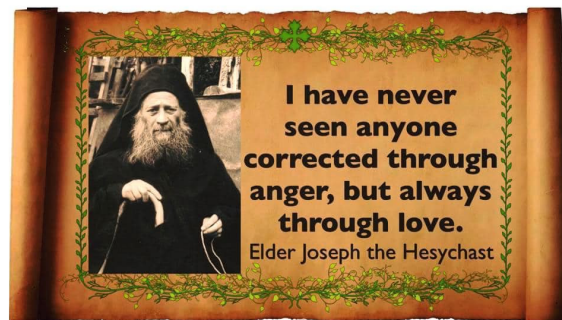
PROKEIMENON—TONE 8

READER: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!
PEOPLE: **Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!**
READER: In Judah, God is known; His name is great in Israel!
PEOPLE: **Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!**
READER: Pray and make your vows.
PEOPLE: **Before the Lord our God!**

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 8

Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our
Savior!

Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to
Him with psalms.



Why Do Members of the Clergy Wear a Beard?

Posted on January 12, 2021 | by Archpriest Vladimir Dolgikh



If you asked a person in the street to describe an Orthodox priest, they would almost certainly mention the beard, even though they might miss a few details about the vestments. Perhaps the beard will be the first thing that they would even notice. In our imagination, the beard has become a stereotypical attribute of a priest. But many are still not sure why. Conversely, people would find it quite unusual and even perplexing to see an Orthodox priest in a vestment but without a beard.

So why do priests wear a beard? Many would suggest that this is their way to emulate Christ, as many Orthodox icons depict Him with a beard. To a great extent, they would be right. Yet there are also other reasons.

What the Scriptures say

Even readers with limited knowledge of the Bible might presume that the tradition of wearing a beard among the clergy may have its origins in the new testament times. In chapters 19 and 21 of the Book of Levit, for example, we read that the Lord commanded His faithful not to cut their hair or beards. The Scriptures also explain the cause of the prohibition. The non-canonical Epistle of Jeremiah tells us that wearing long hair and beards was widespread among the Pagan oracles. The law of Moses expressly discouraged such Pagan practices among the Jewish priests. The Venerable Ephrem the Syrian gives us additional background. He writes that the Pagans were growing their hair and beards long to shave them off at a designated time at a spring, a heathen temple, or some other Pagan sanctuary. As we see, cutting the hair and the beard was not just a ritual, but a part of Pagan worship. As Christ abolished the ritualistic practices mandated under the old testament law, the New Testament has no mention of such prohibitions. Yet this is still not the whole story.

The canons

The first book of the Apostolic Constitutions suggests in one of its general commandments that men who destroy the hair of their beards may do so to seduce others. A similar statement is found in Rule 96 of the Sixth Ecumenical Council. It says that the followers of Christ must emulate His life by not making to themselves curls and round rasures, which the faint spirited may find seductive. As the Byzantine chronicler and canonist John Zanas writes in his commentary, this rule equally applied to facial hair.

His reason: some men will cut the hair of their beards to look like women. The commentator hints at the homosexual practices of ancient Rome. To rule out the possibility of engaging in them, the Church prohibited the marring of the hair, which in its view, may constitute a sign of indulgence in this vile transgression.

Since then, the tradition of wearing a beard has taken deep root among the clergy, and today most of them are wearing a beard by default, to use the language of computer geeks.

The Moscow Council of a Hundred Chapters in 1551 also supported the idea that a man without no beard had a female appearance. It seemed like not having a beard was so extraordinary for a 16th-century man that Council expressly prohibited to perform memorial services or other church offices for the deceased if they had gotten rid of their beards.

Increasingly, the Orthodox populations of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and other Slavic countries came to believe that the beard was synonymous to such typically male virtues as power, stamina, and determination.

Is it necessary for a priest to wear a beard?

In theory, no. In practice, however, almost all Orthodox priests wear one. Elsewhere, the custom may be different. As we know, beards are uncommon among Catholic priests in the West. In the early years of Christianity, only members of Rome's upper classes wore a beard. The clergy went without one, and this tradition has persisted. When the hippie movement gained popularity in the United States and Western Europe in the 1960s, some Orthodox priests began to get rid of their beards. Growing numbers of hippies were engaging in drug use, drug trade and other criminal activity, and many of them were wearing a beard. The priests were just too tired of being stopped by the police who took them for hippies because of their beards.

Today, wearing a beard is again becoming popular among the clergy and also among secular men. While the people outside the Church are simply keeping up with the fashion, the Orthodox faithful are emulating Christ. In this way, following the example of Christ is still the most common reason for beard wearing among the Orthodox. Yet we must remember that the quality of our spiritual life and our probability of entering the Kingdom of Heaven have nothing to do with the size or thickness of our beard.

Translated by The Catalogue of Good Deeds

Source: <https://pravlife.org/ru/content/pochemu-svyashchenniki-nosyat-borodu>

The Way, the Truth and the Life

John 14:6-Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (KJV)

Believers are constantly challenged to stay united with the Lord Jesus Christ. Temptations, distractions, and misleading paths arise during the course of life. Remaining faithful and united with Christ can get more difficult as life progresses. As the believer adheres to the narrow path, evil arises to put the soul in peril. Love for the Lord Jesus Christ must be superior to any temptation or distraction. Constant vigilance is required to keep the believer on the path to the Kingdom.

John 10:9-I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (KJV)

The appearance of good must always be tested to ensure Christ is the essence. Only with Christ is the believer secure on the journey to the Heavenly Kingdom. Eternal life is possible for the faithful to Jesus Christ putting aside all else in life. Prayer, fasting, and attentiveness keep the believer alert to the soul's daily perils. Hunger in the soul is only authentically satisfied with nourishment from Christ. Believers need not look elsewhere other than Jesus to satisfy the soul's hunger.

John 8:22-And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (KJV)

Recognizing the truth of the completeness in life in Jesus Christ frees the believer. Lasting meaning and purpose for life exist and are experienced within Jesus Christ. Truth of the lasting value of the life in Christ frees the believer from attachments. Perceptive believers experience Jesus Christ without being materially encumbered. When Jesus Christ is resolutely primary in life all else is put in proper perspective. Acknowledging Jesus Christ as truth convicts the believer's heart, mind, and soul.

John 6:40-And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. (KJV)

Seekers of everlasting life need look no where other than to the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church offers complete teaching and experiences with Jesus Christ. Total and complete freedom exists for the believer to choose the life in Christ. Personal love for Jesus Christ increases with the believer's life experiences. The authenticity of Jesus Christ becomes readily apparent to perceptive believers. Believers experience joy when Jesus Christ is accepted as the way, truth, and life.

Venerable Melania of Rome. St. Dositij of Zagreb. Apodasis of Nativity. December 31, 2021/January 13, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic