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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 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 Smolynec, 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], Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, 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, 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, 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye,

William Lusherand, 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], Terri Crosby-Vega [COVID-19], Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], 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.

"The way of the Church is love; this differs from the manner of the legalists. The Church sees everything with forbearance and seeks to help each person, no matter what he may have done, no matter how sinful he may be." ~ St Paisios the Athonite

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, FEBRUARY 21 NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE

**SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE; AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING
OF OUR LORD; GREAT-MARTYR THEODORE STRATELATES; PROPHET
ZECHARIAH-OF THE 12 MINOR PROPHETS; SAINT SAVA II ARCHBISHOP
OF SERBIA**

Tone 4

2 Timothy 3:10-15

Luke 18:10-14

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS!!! 10:30 AM

**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON; APOSTLE ONESIMUS OF THE 70; VENERABLE
PAPHNUTIUS-MONK & DAUGHTER SAINT EUPHROSYNE-NUN OF
ALEXANDRIA; VENERABLE EUSEBIUS-HERMIT OF SYRIA; VENERABLE
PAPHNUTIUS-RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Tone 5

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Luke 15:11-32

**SUNDAY, MARCH 07 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS!!! 10:30 AM
MEATFARE SUNDAY; SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT; UNCOVERING OF THE
RELICS OF HOLY MARTYRS AT GATE OF EUGENIUS AT CONSTANTINOPLE;
SAINTS THALASSISUS, LIMNAEUS, & BARADATES-HERMITS OF SYRIA;
SAINT ATHANASIUS THE CONFESSOR OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

Tone 6

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Matthew 25:31-46

**Litany in Blessed Memory of Milton G. Chicka, Daniel Pysh, Sara Chicka, Nikolai
Pivtoraiko, Evelyn Burlack, Mary Lokie, Anne Cherepko Mazock, Roy Wyke,
Katherine Debick, and Rose Zalenchak--Fr. Bob**

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 21 FEBRUARY 2021

**SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE; AFTERFEAST OF
THE MEETING OF OUR LORD; GREAT-MARTYR THEODORE
STRATELATES; PROPHET ZECHARIAH-OF THE 12 MINOR PROPHETS;
SAINT SAVA II ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA**

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—SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE—TONE 4

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee
And learn humility from the Publican's tears.
Let us cry to our Savior:
Have mercy on us, O only-merciful One.

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.

The Thirty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Luke 18:35-63

And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And

they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God. (KJV)

We are blessed to hear the Holy Gospel within God's Holy Church. The Gospel is a blessing for all with open hearts and minds seeking to draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Attentive believers enrich their lives by incorporating the message of the Gospel into personal daily life. The Gospel contains the teachings and life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believers experience Jesus Christ and the power of Jesus Christ when welcoming the Gospel into the heart and mind. Believers are empowered and renewed in Christ through the Holy Gospel.

The present Gospel is a lesson of the value of persistent hope and faith in Jesus Christ. The blind man reached out to Jesus for mercy in hope of healing.

Jesus acknowledged the blind man's strong faith and granted the man his sight.

Pleas for God's mercy are an integral part of God's Holy Church. The prayers of the Church have innumerable pleas for the Lord's mercy. Individual believers learn at very young age to seek the Lord's mercy.

God is known through the ages as a good and merciful God. The hunger of the soul leads the believer to seek God's goodness and mercy. God's goodness and mercy do not absolve believers of personal responsibility.

The blind man reached out to Jesus even when he was rebuked for his initiative. In present day society, there are many who discount efforts of prayer and worship. There are voices who say pleas for mercy will be fruitless.

Some years ago there was a man, a drinker, who needed a liver transplant. Many said he would not get the transplant. His mother was confident in her prayers the transplant would take place. She prayed fervently.

The mother's prayers were answered. The transplant occurred and the man became renewed in Jesus Christ. The mother's strong faith was rewarded and God's goodness and mercy were realized.

The blind man in the current Gospel had his faith in Christ rewarded. The blind man's life became new when he received his sight. His initiative in reaching out to the Lord in hope and faith was not in vain.

Believers have the responsibility to make the effort to remain strong in faith and hope even when resistance exists. Hope in Jesus Christ is well-placed hope. Seeking the Lord's mercy is constructive and purposeful action.

At times when situations seem very dire and hope wanes among those affected, it is common to say all we can do is pray. Praying is powerful, constructive, and formidable.

Praying brings results. Coal miners' pensions were in jeopardy for many years. The miners' union took extensive action to protect and ensure the pensions were secured as previously promised by the federal government.

Very little success was expected by onlookers that the government would secure the pensions. A few years back the likelihood of the government securing the miners' pensions was set at 1% by legislative predictors.

The United Mine Workers of America leaders firmly held prayer as a very vital part of the continuing effort to secure the pensions at the highest government level. Last year Congress passed the legislation and the President signed it.

The miners' pensions were secured against overwhelming odds. The value of prayer was once again verified. A careful look at history reveals through the ages the value of prayer.

God is attentive to serious prayer and hopeful hearts. God is attentive to serious believers seeking constructive results. God is mindful of pleas for mercy.

God is at work every day performing miracles.

When believers face difficult situations, hope, strong faith and the love of God always have a place. Hope, strong faith, love of God and God's love always have a place in life.

Difficulties arise in life sometimes unexpectedly. Sometimes, we create our own difficulties. The lessons from the Gospel keep us focused and grounded. The Gospel helps each of us to move past our own blindness to see God at work.

God is always at work in our lives. We may not see God at all times but if we turn to God in faith, love and hope, God's reassuring presence will be experienced.

The present Gospel is a basic lesson of faith, hope and love. The blind man reached out in hope and faith for mercy and healing. God's attentiveness and love were revealed in the healing of the man's blindness.

Blindness evokes thoughts of darkness. Miners losing their pensions gave rise to thoughts of a dark future. A mother's son losing his life for failing to get a needed liver transplant would have been a dark ending.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Light when darkness exists. The Lord giving sight to the blind, a liver in answer to mother's prayer and securing pensions for miners having worked years in darkness are proof of God's goodness and mercy.

The Thirty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. Saint Gregory the Theologian Venerable Publius, Venerable Grigoriye of Pech. January 25/February 7, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania Father Rodney Torbic

via Father Steve Repa
The Holy Eucharist: A Live Coal

by Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon

Speaking of the Holy Eucharist, the Fathers and early liturgical texts of the Church have recourse to the metaphor of the flaming coal (anthrax, pruna) in reference to the Lord's body. For instance, with Isaiah 6:7 obviously in mind, The Liturgy of Saint James refers to "receiving the fiery coal" (labein to pyrinon anthrax) from the Eucharistic altar. Indeed, even without using this word, those same doctrinal sources regularly appeal to Isaiah's experience, when they speak of the Holy Eucharist. Thus, in The Liturgy of S. John Chrysostom, when the Christian has received the Holy Communion, the priest tells him:

"Lo, this has touched your lips and has taken away your iniquity." In comparing the sacramental body of Christ to Isaiah's living coal, these texts testify that the flesh of the risen Christ bears the fire of the Holy Spirit, drawn from the hearth of the heavenly altar.

It is through this purifying and sanctifying coal that we are deified in the Holy Eucharist. Thus, St. John of Damascus wrote, "Let us draw near to Him with burning desire and...let us take hold of the divine coal [tou theiou anthrakos], so that the fire of our longing, fed by the flame of the coal, may purge away our sins and enlighten our hearts. Let us be enkindled by touching this great divine fire, and so come forth as gods" (The Orthodox Faith 4.13).

In addition to the symbolism of the fiery coal from the altar, the Eucharistic bread itself seems naturally to evoke the image of the oven. This image is amply justified in the Epiclesis, the prayer that asks the Father to send down the Holy Spirit to transform the bread and wine into the Lord's Body and Blood. Rupert of Deutz perceived this truth, when he wrote, "The Virgin conceived Him of the Holy Spirit, who is the eternal fire; and through the same Holy Spirit He offered Himself as a living victim to the living God, as the Apostle says [Ephesians 5:2]. Accordingly, on the

altar He is immolated by the same fire. For it is by the operation of the Holy Spirit that the bread becomes the body, and the wine the blood, of Christ" (On Exodus 2.10).

The Divine Liturgy, we may say, is the oven of the Holy Spirit. That grain of wheat, which was sown in the earth on Good Friday, sprang forth as the infinite Paschal harvest and now abides forever in the granary of heaven.

Christ our Lord is not content, however, simply to abide in His glorified body. In this body, Christ can be found in only one place. He is needed, however, in many places, and this is the reason He provided a new, sacramental mode of presence. In the Holy Eucharist, He lives on thousands of altars at once, available—edible!—for the myriads of believers who draw near in the fear of God and with faith and love.

In the mystery of the Holy Eucharist, the wheat, which is Christ's glorified body, is baked in the oven of the Holy Spirit, so that the nutritive energies of God may pass into those who receive Him in faith. Through the cells and sinews of our own flesh, there course those divine energies that transform and deify our bodies and souls—our whole being—with the dynamism of immortality—eternal life.

Commenting on the Bread of Life Discourse in John 6, Saint Clement of Alexandria plays on the image of fire stimulating the yeast in the dough, as heat raises the sown seed:

"Here is observed the sacrament of the bread [to mystikon tou artou], for He says it is His flesh and as manifestly raised up; just as fire raises up the sowing from corruption [ek phthoras kai sporas], so like baked bread it has truly been raised up through fire for the enjoyment of the Church" (The Teacher 1.6).

Saint Clement likewise speaks of this sacramentally conferred immortality in connection with the Lord's blood, which we receive from the Chalice. Recalling, with Leviticus 17:11, that "the life of the flesh is in the blood," he comments: "To drink of the blood of Jesus means nothing less than to participate in the Lord's incorruption [tes kyriakes metalabein aphtharsias]. For the Spirit is strength to the Word, just as the blood to the body" (op. cit. 2.2).

This Eucharistic participation in the fire of Spirit is symbolized in the boiling water added to the Chalice right before the reception of Holy Communion. As the deacon pours this water into the blood of Christ, he identifies its symbolism:

"The fervor of faith, the fullness of the Holy Spirit."

Via Father George L Livanos...

"The answer to our anxiety is not drugs, alcohol, tranquilizers or psychiatric treatment. It will not be cured by Yoga, or some eastern meditation practice. The problem is that we have lost God at the center of our lives. Once we make our love for God the primary focus of our lives, and allow His Grace to work through us, then we will be comforted and embraced in His love—no matter what circumstance we encounter in life. All anxiety disappears. This is the aim of the Orthodox way of life: to put God first and seek the Holy Spirit. The anxieties of modern life are only symptoms of our separation from God." *Saint Paisios the Athonite*

Watch

Ezekiel 33:6-But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. (KJV)

Believers have a responsibility to remain alert, vigilant and to always watch. Attention must always be given to thoughts entering the mind, heart, and soul. Parents are expected to be attentive to the behavior and interests of their children. Priests are to be attentive to their parishioners and alert them to existing dangers. The soul requires protection and nourishment to be fortified against sinful ways.

Prayer, worship and fasting help the believer remain alert to the soul's peril.

Daniel 4:13-I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; (KJV)

The hunger of the soul seeks and searches for the presence of God in daily life. The watcher will behold the Holy One when the heart, mind and soul are willing. Repentance makes room in the heart, mind, and soul to welcome the Holy One. The Holy Prophets educate the watcher willing to embrace the way of the Holy. Life is enriched when the watcher is responsible in daily vigilance for the Lord. The Holy Prophets' messages are welcome to those seeking holiness in the Lord.

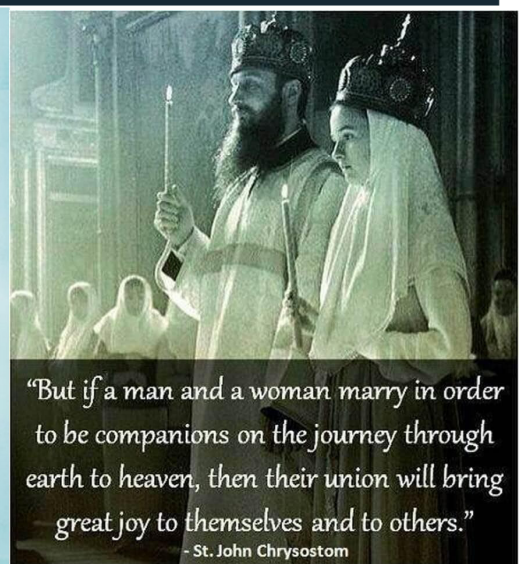
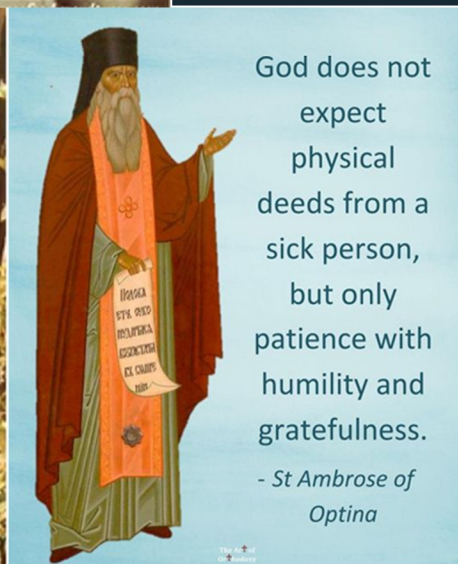
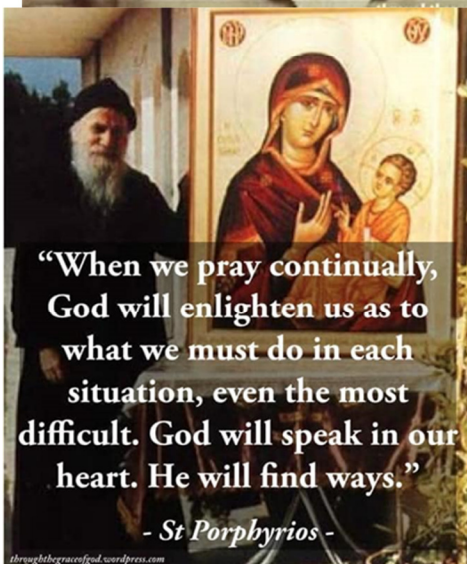
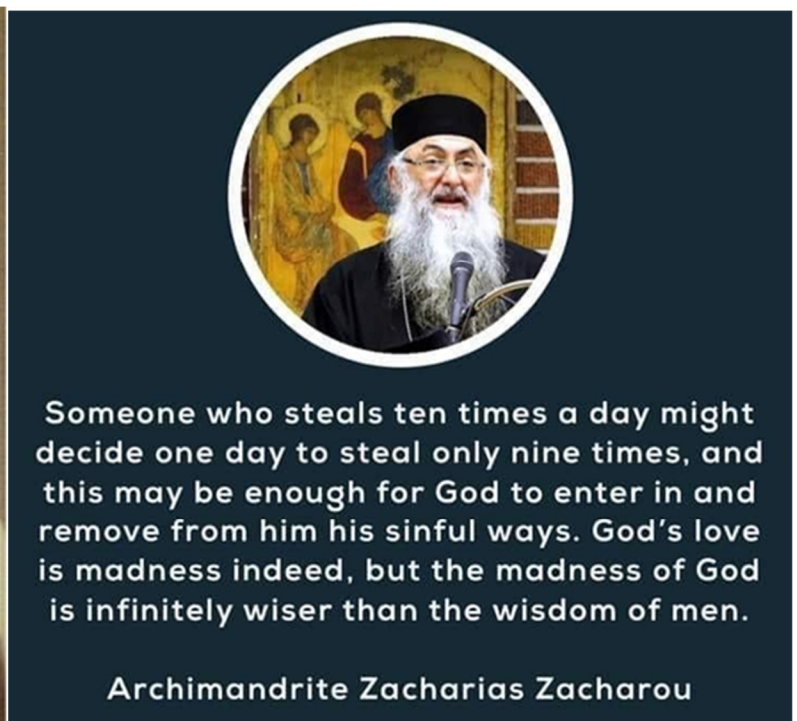
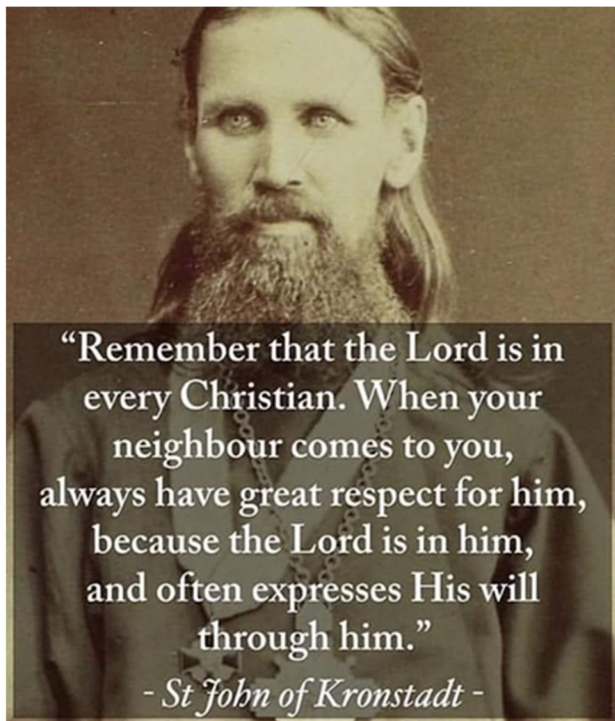
Hosea 9:8-The watchman of Ephraim was with my God: but the prophet is a snare of a fowler in all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God. (KJV)

The Holy Prophets reveal the ills of contemporary life and address present evils. Readers of the Holy Prophets will draw wisdom to apply in daily Christian life. The responsible watcher will be vigilant in all aspects of life during all of life. Evil appears in places and at times when least expected and with great deception. The vigilant watcher fortified and nourished in the Lord repels the lurking evil

Micah 7:4-The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity. (KJV).

Priests attentively watching over their flocks lead them through troubled times. Parents alert to the ways of their sons and daughters prevent evil from thriving. Teachers are in positions to be observe when evil is at work in their students. Doctors and nurses see the negative impact of evil overcoming a person's life. Families suffer strife when parents are not vigilant in keeping evil out of the home. The Lord God's reassuring presence and love become visible to watchful believers.

Venerable Ephraim the Syrian. Venerable Isaac the Syrian. January 28/February 10, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic



***Metropolitan Savas Zembillas* for your consideration:**

I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the State, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally.

This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but, in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly their worst enemy.

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty.

President George Washington, The Farewell Address

QUICK NOTE:
February 21 to 28 is a
FAST FREE WEEK!