

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 Risen! Indeed He IS Risen!

**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, 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-19], Father Victor Wronskyj [COVID-19], Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Fr. Volodymyr Muzychka [COVID-19], Diakonissa Mary Ann Cherkas, Father Harry Linsinbigler [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 Luciow, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, 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 Strozh [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], 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, 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], Mike, Amy, Nathan, & Ben Forbeck [COVID-19], David Salazar, Ann Zurasky [knee replacement], James Mary, Barb Bookser, Dr. Paul Riley, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Joyce [stroke], Toni Weber, Camdace Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MAY BABIES: Pani Gina on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Nathaniel Scott on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Martha Persico on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Christine Shirley on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jim Weiser on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and Mary Anne Kuznik on the 25<sup>th</sup>. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! Christos Voskres! God Bless them all!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is <u>NOTHING</u> 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 <u>ALWAYS</u> <u>FREE!</u>

<u>Communion Fasting:</u> 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 <u>CALL FATHER BOB</u> at [412] 279-5640.

#### **SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE**

SUNDAY, May 09 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY; HIEROMARTYR BASIL-BISHOP OF AMASEA; RIGHTEOUS VIRGIN GLAPHYRA OF NICOMEDIA

Tone 1
Acts 5:12-20
John 20:19-31

Litany in Blessed Memory of Charles Cherepko, Joseph Baloga, Daniel Pysh, Jr., Nicholas Homyrda, Anna Metrick, Carol Rose, Bogdan Mural, Esther Tylavsky, Evdokia "Josephine" Repa, +Metropolitan Constantine, Metro Warholak, Khoria Joann Abdalah, Katherine Tomson, Walter Golofski, Jr., Michael Yarmeak, Anna Vangrin, & Stella Cherepko—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, May 16 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN, RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA & NICODEMUS; MARTYRS TIMOTHY & MAURA; SAINT PETER THE WONDERWORKER-BISHOP OF ARGOS; SAINT THEODOSIUS-ABBOT OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA & FOUNDER OF CENOBIC MONASTICISM IN KIEV

Tone 2 Acts 6:1-7 Mark 15:43-16:8

SUNDAY, May 16 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC; RIGHTEOUS TABITHA; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF MARTYR ABRAMIUS OF BULGARI; APOSTLE SIMON THE ZEALOT; MARTYRS PHILADELPHIUS, CYPRIAN, ALPHAEUS, ONESIMUS, ERASMUS, & 14 OTHERS IN SICILY; MARTYR HESYCHIUS OF ANTIOCH; VENERABLE ISIDORA THE FOOL OF TABENNA; BLESSED THAIS OF EGYPT

*Tone 3*Acts 9:32-42; 1 Corinthians 4:8-16
John 5:1-15; Matthew 13:54-58

### **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 09 MAY 2021**

# 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY; HIEROMARTYR BASIL-BISHOP OF AMASEA; RIGHTEOUS VIRGIN GLAPHYRA OF NICOMEDIA

#### TROPARION—TONE 7

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life!
Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy disciples, O Christ God!
Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit,
By the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

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**

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, When Thou didst come to Thy apostles through closed doors. He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God!

#### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 3**

**READER:** Great is our Lord and abundant in power. His understanding is beyond measure.

PEOPLE: Great is our Lord and abundant in power. His understanding is beyond measure.

**READER:** Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

PEOPLE: Great is our Lord and abundant in power. His

understanding is beyond measure.

**READER:** Great is our Lord and abundant in power. **PEOPLE:** His understanding is beyond measure.

#### **ALLELUIA VERSES**

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

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all the earth.

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 HYMN**

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

# PATRIARCHAL ENCYCLICAL FOR HOLY PASCHA + B A R T H O L O M E W BY GOD'S MERCY ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

TO THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH:
MAY THE GRACE, PEACE AND MERCY OF CHRIST RISEN IN GLORY BE WITH
YOU ALL

Having completed the soul-profiting Lent and venerated the Lord's Passion and Cross, behold today we are rendered participants of His glorious Resurrection, radiant through the feast and crying out with ineffable joy the world-saving announcement: "Christ is Risen!"

All that we believe, all that we love, and all that we hope as Orthodox Christians is associated with Pascha, from which everything derives its vividness, through which everything is interpreted, and in which everything acquires its true meaning. The Resurrection of Christ is the response of the Divine love to the anguish and expectation of man, but also to the "yearning" of creation that groans with us. In the Resurrection the meaning of "let us make man in our image and likeness"[1] and of "God saw all that He had made, and behold it was very good"[2] has been revealed.

Christ is "our Pascha,"[3] "the resurrection of all." If the fall comprised the suspension of our journey toward the "divine likeness," in the risen Christ the way toward deification through grace is once again opened for "the beloved of God." The "great miracle" is performed, which heals the "great wound," mankind. In the emblematic icon of the Resurrection at the Chora Monastery, we behold the Lord of glory, who

descended "to the depths of Hades" and conquered the power of death, to arise as life-giver from the tomb, raising with Himself the forefathers of humankind and in them the entire human race from beginning to end, as our liberator from the slavery of the enemy.

In the Resurrection the life in Christ is revealed as liberation and freedom. For "Christ has set us free…for freedom."[4] The content, the "ethos" of such freedom, which must be experienced here in a manner befitting to Christ, before it is perfected in the heavenly kingdom, is love, the experiential quintessence of the "new creation." "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another"[5]. The freedom of a believer, grounded on the Cross and Resurrection of the Savior, is a journey upward and toward our neighbor; it is "faith working through love" [6]. It is an exodus from the "Egypt of slavery" and of the diverse alienations, the Christ-given transcendence of an introverted and shriveled existence, the hope of eternity that renders man human.

As we celebrate Pascha, we confess in Church that the Kingdom of God "has been already inaugurated, but not yet fulfilled."[7] In the light of the Resurrection, earthly things assume new significance, because they are already transformed and transfigured. Nothing is simply "given." Everything lies in motion toward eschatological perfection. This "unrestrained rush" toward the Kingdom, which is especially lived out in the eucharistic assembly, safeguards God's people, on the one hand from indifference toward history and the presence of evil in it, and on the other hand from forgetfulness of the Lord's words, that "my kingdom is not of this world,"[8] which marks the difference between the "already" and the "not yet" of the coming of the Kingdom, in accordance with the most theological expression that "The King has come, the Lord Jesus, and His Kingdom is to come."[9]

The chief characteristic of this God-given freedom of the believer is the unrelenting Resurrectional pulse, this freedom's vigilance and dynamism. Its character as a gift of grace not only does not restrict, but in fact manifests our own consent to this gift and strengthens our journey and our conduct into this new freedom, which also contains the restoration of our estranged relationship with creation. One who is free in Christ is not trapped in the "earthly absolutes" like "the rest, who do not have hope."[10] Our hope is Christ, the existence fulfilled in Christ, the brilliance and resplendence of eternity. The biological boundaries of life do not define its truth. Death is not the end of our existence. "Let none fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He was held prisoner by it and has annihilated it. The one who descended into hell, He made hell captive."[11] Freedom in Christ is the "other creation"[12] of man, a foretaste and model

of the fulfillment and fullness of the Divine Economy in the "now and always" of the last day, when the "blessed of the Father" will live person to person with Christ, "seeing Him and seen by Him, as they enjoy the fruits of the endless delight that comes from Him."[13]

Holy Pascha is not merely a religious feast, albeit the greatest feast for us Orthodox. Every Divine Liturgy, every prayer and supplication of the faithful, every feast and commemoration of Saints and Martyrs, the honor of sacred icons, the "abundant joy" of Christians (2 Cor. 8.2), every act of sacrificial love and fraternity, the endurance of sorrow, the hope that never disappoints the people of God, is a festival of freedom. All of these radiate the paschal light and exude the fragrance of the Resurrection.

In this spirit, then, as we glorify the Savior of the world, who trampled down death by death, we convey to all of you—our most honorable Brothers throughout the Lord's Dominion and our dearly beloved children of the Mother Church—a festal greeting, as, with one voice and one heart, we joyously bless with you Christ unto the ages.

At the Phanar, Holy Pascha 2021

#### + Bartholomew of Constantinople

Fervent supplicant for you all to the Risen Lord

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- [1] Gen. 1.26.
- [2] Gen. 1.31.
- [3] 1 Cor. 5.7.
- [4] Gal. 5.1.
- [5] Gal. 5.13.
- [6] Gal. 5.6.
- [7] Georges Florovsky, Bible, Church, Tradition, Belmont MA: Nordland Publishing, 1972, 36.
- [8] John 18.36.
- [9] Florovsky, op. cit., 72.
- [10] 1 Thess. 4.13.
- [11] From the Catechetical Homily of St. John Chrysostom on the holy and glorious Resurrection.
- [12] Gregory the Theologian, Ethical Poems 61.
- [13] John of Damascus, An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith, IV. 27.



Jawn, pronounced \'jän\, is the Philadelphia all-purpose noun.

It can refer to a single thing, or a collection or class of things, or a situation, or a person.

I remember, vividly, where I was when I learned about the 9/11 terrorist attacks. I was in Theology class at Kennedy-Kenrick Catholic High School. I was a Junior, and it was a beautiful, sunny day with temperatures

in the 70's. I couldn't tell you what we were learning about that day, not because I wasn't paying attention, but because early in the class, I remember our principal announcing what had happened over our school loudspeaker. After that, things were a blur.

School remained in session for 2 more periods before we were released shortly after lunchtime. School bus service was delayed, so instead of waiting, I walked up the hill to my grandparent's house which was roughly a 10-minute walk from my high school. I, like many others, felt like a fog had overcome me. I had never seen anything like it, didn't know what to expect, and didn't know what came next.

I ate lunch with my grandparents, and I made a special point to pay close attention to my grandfather. How he acted, what he said, how he said it, and his general body language. My grandfather, named Howard, who we called "Pinky," had seen a lot in his life. He was a Navy gunner in World War 2 and served in the Atlantic, Pacific, and the North Sea. He saw sunsets in India, braved rough seas off the coast of Scandinavia, and sailed thousands of miles defending his country.

As we watched TV together, saw the breaking news reports, and watched the Twin Towers fall, he exuded total poise, restraint, and confidence that this was yet another challenge America would face and overcome. He knew America, he defended this country, and he had supreme confidence in the will, the might, and the idea that America represented would get us through another difficult time.

I often think back to that day and admire his calmness when I face tragedy in my own life or when I see strife in this country. As an emergency manager, we see it every day. And it's likely the same for many of you. As I got older, I asked *how* he stayed so calm. The answer was right in front of the whole time.

#### <u>Wisdom.</u>

Wisdom is something that, perhaps, we overlook in the decision-making process, both nationally and personally. But it's often misunderstood. Wisdom is not just having experience. It's not just knowledge. What makes wisdom different from both is the execution of good judgement.

When we dismiss wisdom in our decision-making process, we often mistaken it for an old way of thinking. Sometimes it's easier to dismiss someone point of view as dated, and sometimes it is, but it's also worth a listen, especially for those of us who are lacking in the knowledge and experience department. We may possess good judgement, but we may lack the sample size to truly test that judgement.

Pinky's wisdom reached far and wide. He didn't just teach me to fish and build a fire, he taught me to cook that fish and maintain that fire. He

didn't just teach me how to maintain a healthy marriage and a healthy relationship with my kid, he showed us all through over 60 years of marriage and being the father of six of his own children, and grandfather to 14. He marched for human rights. He volunteered for charities.

We're all faced with untenable situations and crisis, both personally and professionally, and we battle times where the unknown consumes us. It's a fact of life. Even Pinky went through that as he stared down an enemy over the open oceans. He likely looked to his peers or his commanding officers who had faced something like this before.

When we are faced with those times in our life, look to those with wisdom. Don't be quick to discredit and discount the "old ways" of thinking. Those "old ways" and lessons learned from the wise sages in our lives may be the ticket to get us out of whatever pickle we're in.

John DiSpaldo, Teracore, Federal Emergency Management Agency- Region III

#### Pascha John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (KJV)

#### HRISTOS VOSKRESE! VAISTINU VOSKRESE! CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

The Lord's Jesus Christ's Resurrection is Divine action. Believers have reason to rejoice beyond measure. The Resurrection brings heartfelt hope and joy.

Life takes on meaning beyond the earthly.

The Resurrection ushers in the hope of unity with loved ones departed this life. Earthly life has meaning in relation to life eternal. Believers have Christ to turn to and be unified with in life, death, and life.

The Resurrection challenges believers' minds. The Holy Gospel provides evidence of Christ's power over death. God's Holy Church is where to learn and experience the Resurrection.

Around the world and through the centuries, believers celebrate and experience the Resurrection. The Resurrection is always in the present. God is always present. God is always.

We know God only through God. Not by our own means or efforts do we know God. By God's grace and love, we know God. God wants to be known and is always with us.

God reveals Himself to us. God reassures us with His Presence. We need willing eyes to see. We need open hearts and minds. God changes our souls when love dwells within.

God is love and love is God-Embodied. God is due our gratitude. Believers are to be ever-grateful. God's goodness exceeds our comprehension. God's love reaches beyond our imagination.

God's Holy Church is where best to experience and learn about God. The soul's hunger is addressed in the Church. The Precious Body and Blood of Christ are received in the Church.

God's love is inexhaustible. As the grave could not hold the Crucified Christ, the passing of centuries cannot limit the presence of God's love. Attentive believers learn of God's love and rejoice in it.

Grateful believers give thanks to God. Serious believers glorify God in their actions. When God is fully embraced and loved, God shines through the believer. Pascha is the Light enlightening the centuries.

The Light of the Resurrection is always. The Resurrection brightens life's darkest moments. The Resurrection embodies hope when hopelessness seeks to triumph.

The Holy Gospel teaches believers about Christ and the Resurrection. The Holy Gospel nourishes and enriches believers. The soul finds meaning in the Holy Gospel.

Life is renewed in the Resurrection. The Resurrected Christ enlightens life's path to follow. The Resurrected Christ provides for the journey on the path to eternity.

Willing believers joyfully and heartily follow the Crucified and Resurrected Christ. The journey to Pascha educates believers for the journey to eternity. Journeying with Christ is voluntary.

Christ enables life's hurdles to be overcome as He overcame death on the Cross. Christ brings goodness out of tragedies as He brought Resurrection from death in the Tomb. The Resurrected Christ heals hurts penetrating the soul as He overcame death's wounds. The Resurrection challenges the mind. The mind changes when embracing the Resurrection.

The believer changes when embracing the Resurrection. Each life is different due to the Resurrection. God is known in the Resurrection. God's love and goodness abound in the Resurrection.

#### HRISTOS VOSKRESE! VAISTINU VOSKRESE! CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Pascha. April 19/May 2, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

The Resurrection of Christ shows us the victory of His humble and merciful love over sin as a selfish existence and over death as separation of the soul from the body, in order to give the world a new life, the eternal heavenly life. So, man's final destination is not the grave, but the Kingdom of Heaven. *Patriarch Daniel, Romanian Orthodox Church*—2021

In Christ Service,

Fr. George L. Livanos, Proistamenos, All Saints GO Church, Canonsburg



REMINDERS: <u>NO KNEELING</u> 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.