

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

# APOSTLES' FAST—SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS OF MOUNT ATHOS & UKRAINE

**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], Archimandrite Raphael [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, 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, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Carolyn Strittmatter, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Candace Irvin, Dollie Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [newborn], 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 July babies: Harry Batch on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Natasia Sudol on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zach Sudol on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Andy Torick on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Matthew Brunermer on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Sabrina Sudol on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and Katrina Scott on the 25<sup>th</sup>. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! 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>** *FREE!*

<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, July 04 OBEDNITZA-UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; ALL SAINTS OF MOUNT ATHOS; ALL SAINTS OF UKRAINE; MARTYR JULIAN OF TARSUS IN CILICIA; HIEROMARTYR TERENCE-BISHOP OF ICONIUM/ SAINT JULIUS-PRESBYTER OF NOVARA & BROTHER JULIAN-DEACON

Tone 1

Romans 2:10-16; Hebrews 11:33-12:2 Matthew 4:18-23; Matthew 4:25-5:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Olga Stock, Anna Kitch, Joseph Yarmeak, Sophie Carrera, Susan Justina Sredich, Stella E. Cherepko, Emil Joseph Paouncic, Igumen George Owen, Claudia Horvath, & Walter Burlack—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, July 11 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SYNAXIS OF GALICIAN & ODESSA SAINTS; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF THE HOLY UNMERCENARIES CYRUS & JOHN; VENERABLE XENOPHON-ABBOT OF ROBEIKA; VENERABLE PAUL THE PHYSICIAN OF CORINTH

> *Tone 2* Romans 5:1-10; Galatians 5:22-6:2 Matthew 6:22-33; Luke 6:17-23

#### MONDAY, July 12 FEAST OF THE HOLY APOSTLES SAINTS PETER & PAUL

SUNDAY, July 18 OBEDNITZA-UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; VENERABLE ATHANASIUS OF MOUNT ATHOS; MARTYR ANNA OF ROME; MARTYR CYRILLA OF CYRENE IN LIBYA-WIDOW; VENERABLE LAMPADUS-MONK OF HIEROPOLIS

> *Tone 3* Romans 6:18-23 Matthew 8:5-13

# **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 04 JULY 2021**

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; ALL SAINTS OF MOUNT ATHOS; ALL SAINTS OF UKRAINE; MARTYR JULIAN OF TARSUS IN CILICIA; HIEROMARTYR TERENCE-BISHOP OF ICONIUM/ SAINT JULIUS-PRESBYTER OF NOVARA & BROTHER JULIAN-DEACON

# TROPARION—TONE 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body; Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, Granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

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

# KONTAKION-TONE 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself.

Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished! Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: Thou are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

# PROKEIMENON-TONE 1

**READER:** Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

**PEOPLE:** Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

READER: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! **PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.** 

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

**PEOPLE:** As we have set our hope on Thee.

# ALLELUIA VERSES

God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.

He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever!

# Archpastoral Message—"The Holy Spirit is with Us"

We are once again in Jerusalem for the celebration of a feast. It has been fifty days since the celebration of Passover, when the people of Israel remembered how God had delivered them from the angel of death and how, through his servant Moses, he had from captivity under an Egyptian Pharaoh, and had set them on the road to freedom in the promised land.

Today, on a feast called (in the Greek that was the common language of the Mediterranean world at the time) Pentecost, or Fiftieth (Day), Jerusalem is once again full of people, Jews and Gentiles from throughout the Roman world, gathered together to participate in the celebration of another great moment in salvation history: God's revelation of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai, which according to tradition took place fifty days after the Passover.

Gathered together, too, are the disciples of a man who was publicly executed on the eve of the Passover, supposedly for fomenting rebellion against the Roman rulers of a once-again conquered people. We are gathered with them in the same upper room where, fifty days ago, they shared a final meal with their Master on the eve of his arrest and crucifixion. It is the same upper room where we gathered with them, on the first day after the Passover, to hide from the people who had arrested their Lord, only to be amazed by the presence of their Lord, resurrected from the dead!

We, like them, recognized him from the marks of his suffering, the evidence of his abuse which he showed us to confirm his identity. It is the same upper room in which the risen Lord opened his disciples' hearts and minds to the true meaning of Sacred Scripture, that God's Anointed, his Messiah, the Christ, was to achieve their salvation through his suffering.

In this same room he told them to remain in Jerusalem until he had sent to them another Comforter, who would clothe them with power from on high, and lead them into all truth. The Master has been gone for ten days. We watched with the disciples as he departed from them and returned to the Father who sent him, his work for us completed.

We are with them now, in that same upper room, with the Lord's Mother and others who have experienced the risen Lord, awaiting the fulfillment of the Lord's promise. "And suddenly, a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting upon each one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak... as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:2-4). Suddenly, the world changes.

The Spirit is here! Students of a master become emissaries of the king. The world is once again engaged. The fellowship increases. A new creation comes into view! How glorious, that the celebration of this great feast should coincide this year with the easing of restrictions that have had us confined to close quarters! It's as if the mighty wind of the Spirit is pushing us from the harbors where we have been sheltering from a storm into the great and wide sea of life. And yet, although empowered, we are changed, indelibly marked by our experiences of this pandemic.

Many of us have suffered the loss of loved ones, often from a painful distance; many have ourselves suffered the virus, and some continue to experience its effects. But the Spirit has protected us, preserved us, and is perfecting us through suffering.

Our prayer this Pentecost season is that the Holy Spirit, which "heals that which is infirm and completes what is lacking," transform us as He did the Apostles–from people who witnessed life-altering events, to emissaries of the True and Loving God, strengthened by our experience, and enlivened by His Grace.



Metropolitan Savas, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

"If you want to help the Church, it is better to try to correct yourself, rather than be looking to correct others. If you manage to correct yourself, one small part of the Church is immediately corrected. Naturally, if everyone did the same, the body of the Church would be in good health. But, today, people concern themselves with anything but themselves. You see, judging others is easy, whereas working on yourself takes effort."– *Saint Paisios* 

In Christ Service, *Fr. George L. Livanos, Proistamenos Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne* 

# <u>An absolutely excellent article on the preparedness/worthiness</u> <u>of receiving the Holy Eucharist - Fr. Barnabas Powell</u>

It's fascinating to me to see the uproar over the Roman Catholic Bishops recent statement concerning Eucharistic discipline and the central doctrine of the value of Life.

None of this conflict is new.

When a man is ordained to the Orthodox priesthood, the "amno" (the square piece of bread cut from the prosphora) is placed in his hands and he is told to keep this unstained because it will be required of you at the Last Judgement.

Every priest realizes that the tension of Eucharistic discipline is meant to be both hard and community forming. The tension between "akrevia" and "economia" is meant to form the loving character of Christ within us all.

A priest struggles with the reality that there are parishioners who are not properly preparing to receive the Eucharist. There are others who are not approaching the Divine Mystery out of the unhealthy notion of being "unworthy." And there are others who hold theologies incompatible with the Orthodox understanding of Church.

Add to this the very American and very un-Orthodox mindset of entitled "rights" and you have the perfect storm of what has happened many times in the history of the Church where the message of the Faith so conflicts with the current mindset of society that the Church has no choice but to stand for timeless truth rather than actually put people at risk by ignoring the Theology of the Real Body and Blood of Jesus.

The Church will be maligned and criticized. The Church will be bullied and shamed. The Church will be misunderstood, both purposefully and accidentally. And those who wish the Church to serve their ideology will eventually either become strong enemies of the Church or they will partner with those who love the popularity of the day more than they actually love their neighbors.

To see Roman Catholic politicians threaten the Roman Catholic bishops with economic sanctions if they don't change their stance and give these politicians the Eucharist "or else" is to see the failure of these same bishops in catechizing their faithful.

Sadly, the West has long lost the therapeutic understanding of "excommunication" and the vast majority of Roman Catholics see it as punishment and "unfair" because' after all, "We mean well."

Whereas the East still holds to confession and Eucharistic discipline as "medicine" for spiritual illness and not punishment for breaking the rules.

But still, the hard work of Eucharistic discipline still falls on the shoulders of the local priest. We are the ones who have to love our faithful enough to fight against the "illness" of "I'm not worthy so I can't approach" and the deeper illness of "I have a right to take communion because I want it."

Basic Orthodox Eucharistic discipline is straightforward: You must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing who has had a recent confession, has fasted on Wednesday and Friday and the morning of the Eucharistic service, and you are regularly and actively supporting your spiritual life by active participation in the Life of the parish.

In other words, you have to actually be practicing the Orthodox Faith to participate in the central act of worship in the Orthodox Church. UNLESS it's Pascha night liturgy, then, well, we Orthodox always do things the same way unless we don't! :-)

This work is meant to be hard. It's meant to offer so many exceptions and caveats that we are forced to revisit the spirit of the wisdom of Eucharistic disciplines to participate with the Holy Spirit in His work to form the likeness of Jesus Christ within us.

This will mean we will need to stay intimate with Christ and each other. We will need to avoid the too-easy reduction of this discipline to mere legislation. We will need to love others enough to say to them "No, you should not approach" because we priests are called to serve the deep work of loving people enough to tell them "no."

This conflict is not avoidable. It will be misunderstood. It will mean I am accused of not loving people when the truth is the exact opposite. But, at the Last Judgment, I want to present the "amno" I received at my ordination unblemished and whole. Lord, have mercy on me!

In Christ Service, Fr. George L. Livanos, Proistamenos, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne, All Saints Greek Orthodox Church—Canonsburg, PA

# The Spirit of Truth

# John 14:17- Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (KJV)

Believers are immeasurably blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit in daily life. Attentive believers acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit and are grateful. Daily life is rich beyond measure when believers' prayers beseech the Holy Spirit. Truth becomes the hallmark in believers seeking to be guided by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit fills the hearts, minds and souls of believers pursuing truth in life. Life is most authentic and fulfilling when the Spirit of Truth is fully embraced.

## John 15:26- But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (KJV)

Believers learn of the mysteries of life and of God by the work of the Holy Spirit. Growth occurs in human life as believers adhere to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Fullness in life is experienced and unfolds due to the actions of the Holy Spirit. The believer's potential is influenced by the desire to experience life's basic truths. Being attentive to the Spirit of Truth throughout life makes a decided difference. Believers' prayers are completed by rightfully acknowledging the Holy Spirit.

# John 16:13- Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. (KJV)

The Evangelist and Holy Apostle John writes instructively about the Holy Spirit. Generations of believers have benefitted from the writings of the Holy Evangelist. Minds continue to be opened and hearts are filled with joy due to the Holy Spirit. Repentant souls are cleansed, purified, and renewed by the work of the Holy Spirit New beginnings are always possible when believers turn to the Holy Spirit in faith. The Holy Spirit enables believers to seek to eradicate all that is not of God in life.

# *I John 4:6- We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. (KJV)*

Fervent, faithful, and serious believers seek to live in and glorify God in daily life. The life in God is of primary and utmost value in the lives of serious believers. Joy is rooted in the Holy Trinity and is manifested through actions of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit carefully and certainly guides believers to the Heavenly Kingdom. Completeness in life is achieved when believers faithfully follow the Holy Spirit. Growth in life is unlimited when the Spirit of Truth guides the fervent believer.

Holy Hieromartyr Timothy, Bishop of Prussia . June 10/23, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

#### <u>The Sunday of All Saints</u> Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first. (KJV)

Seriously following the Lord Jesus Christ entails a complete commitment. Christians are to demonstrate love of Jesus Christ in thoughts, words, and actions. The whole person is dedicated to Jesus Christ at Holy Baptism.

The whole person is to be involved in following Christ from the time of Baptism until departure from this life. Hardships, trials, and tribulations in life are to be addressed in ways pleasing to Christ and by following Christ's example.

Jesus voluntarily went to the Cross. Followers of Christ can expect crosses in personal life. Attentive believers learn from the way Jesus faced adversity and went to the Cross.

Christ's teachings heard and proclaimed in the Church during the course of the years fortify the believer for times of adversity in life. Church teachings fortify and strengthen the believer for hardships that arise unexpectedly.

The Sunday immediately following Pentecost puts the focus on the saints of the Church. The lives of the saints and martyrs are rich examples. They serve as lessons on the ways to face adversity and remain pleasing to Christ.

Patience is importance in facing adversity. Wisdom exists in looking to the Lord for guidance and direction. Love from God is revealed in times of adversity.

Comfort from God comes in ways totally unexpected.

Believers are never too old to learn and grasp lessons from God.

While the mind functions well, attention can be directed to God. The heart, conscience and soul have places in sound decision-making.

Contemporary society puts up barriers to following Jesus Christ. Today's society offers paths that go far from the Kingdom of God. Vigilance is necessary to avoid the perils of today's world.

Hunger in the soul seeks authenticity. God's Holy Church offers necessary nourishment for the heart, mind, and soul. God's Holy Church provides examples of believers through the centuries who remained faithful to Christ. The Descent of the Holy Spirit was celebrated greatly in the past week. The Holy Spirit serves to guide the attentive believer throughout life. Obstacles in personal life can be overcome with help from the Holy Spirit.

The Resurrected Christ defeated death. No obstacle in life is too great to bring dismay to a fervent believer. Lives of the saints describe followers of Christ rejoicing in the most difficult of times.

Christ offers joy in life. The Church teaches believers ways to experience lasting joy. Believers find in the saints vivid lessons of strong faith and repentance that bring beneficial changes to human lives.

The life in Christ involves growth from the time of Baptism until departure from this life. Stagnancy has no place in the Christian life. Prayer, fasting and repentance lead to growth in Christ.

The Church offers nourishment in the Divine services. The content of the services and the celebration of the services nourish believers. New pathways in life are opened as a believer immerses the self in the services of the Church.

The Holy Scriptures serve as an inexhaustible reservoir of learning. We come to know God better when we study the Scriptures. The heart, mind, and soul change when fully open to the Scriptures.

This particular Sunday is firmly placed on the Church calendar every year following Pentecost. The Church values the lives of the saints The saints live on in God. They are examples and intercessors before God in prayers.

Miracles are attributed to the saints. These miracles have occurred through the centuries and in all parts of the globe. Believers with eyes to see will understand the miracles that have taken place and are still taking place.

The Sunday of All Saints is a Sunday of hope. The saints have demonstrated the far-reaching possibilities of life, The saints prove the miracles and changes that can be achieved when complete dedication to God exists.

The life experiences known in the saints are astounding. Each person benefits by reading the lives of the saints and learning of the various examples of faith through the centuries.

Hunger in the soul is satisfied in God's Holy Church. Saints thrive on the nourishment in the Church. Saints are part of the nourishment in the Church.

The heart, mind and soul are enriched by the lives of the saints.

Today let us thank God for the Sunday of All Saints. Be thankful to the Church for providing this Sunday each year. May we be renewed through prayers and examples of the saints today and every day. The Sunday of All Saints. Holy Prophet Elisha, St. Methodius, Patriarch of Constantinople. June 14/27, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

Just a quick THANK YOU for all the prayers for my dear friend +Joyce! God Bless you all! Fr. Bob