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## **APOSTLES' FAST—SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST**

**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 Smoly nec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], 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 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, 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 Slaughaupt, 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], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline and Walter Sakol. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... 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](tel:4122795640) at [412] 279-5640.**

**SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE**

**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 ATHANASIOUS 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

**SUNDAY, July 18**                      **NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE!**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS PROCLUS & HILARY OF ANCYRA;  
VENERABLE MICHAEL-MONK OF MALEINUS; MARTYR GOLINDUC-IN HOLY  
BAPTISM MARY-OF PERSIA; MARTYRS THEODORE & SON JOHN OF KIEV**

*Tone 4*

Romans 10:1-10

Matthew 8:28-9:1

**BULLETIN INSERT FOR 11 JULY 2021**

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SYNAXIS OF GALICIAN & ODESSA  
SAINTS; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF THE HOLY  
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ABBOT OF ROBEIKA; VENERABLE PAUL THE PHYSICIAN OF  
CORINTH**

**TROPARION—TONE 2**

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
All the powers of heaven cried out:  
O Giver of Life! Christ our God! 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 2**

Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior,  
Seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam,  
Beheld this and rejoiced with Thee!  
And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever!

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 2**

**READER:** The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

**PEOPLE:** **The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.**

**READER:** The Lord has chastened me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.

**PEOPLE:** **The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.**

**READER:** The Lord is my strength and my song.

**PEOPLE:** **He has become my salvation.**

### **ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 2**

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Save the king, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

#### **Wait**

***Isaiah 40:31-But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (KJV)***

The Holy Prophets have words of wisdom for seekers of the Heavenly Kingdom. God's Holy Church places great value on the Holy Prophets through the centuries. The Divine services have references to the Prophets for edification of the attentive. The Creed professed at Baptism and at each Divine Liturgy refers to the Prophets. Careful readers will find relevancy for today's world in the words of the Prophets.

***Lamentations of Jeremiah 3:25-The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. (KJV)***

Believers looking to the Prophets find value in the lessons to wait on the Lord. Developing patience in today's world is a real challenge for

hurried believers. Instant gratification is a common desire and waiting requires necessary restraint. The Lord God is good and will not disappoint believers waiting in sincere faith. Self-examination is a healthy practice for developing patience to wait on the Lord.

***Hosea 12:6-Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment and wait on thy God continually. (KJV)***

Carefully examining the contents of the heart and soul will facilitate patience. All that is not of God and that fails to lead to the Kingdom needs cast away. Trust in the Lord increases as a person learns from experience following the Lord. Attending the Divine services and reading the Holy Scriptures builds trust in God. Prayer, fasting and abiding by the teachings of the Church leads to increased faith.

***Micah 7:7-Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. (KJV)***

Patience is essential when seeking salvation and entails overcoming daily hurdles. Circumstances arise in earthly life that test and challenge a person's patience. God will give believers strength to endure when the Lord is life's primary interest. Vigilance and prayer keep a person focused on the path to the Heavenly Kingdom. Serious believers look to the Lord God for direction and the paths to take in life.

***Habakuk 2:3-For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. (KJV)***

The Lord will reveal to believers the vocations for life and employment to choose. God's Holy Church offers education for all of life and the vision of everlasting life. Timely revelations from God unfold during the course of the believer's earthly life. Seekers of everlasting life root themselves in the Lord God and remain focused. God's love unfolds as believers readily open the heart, mind and soul to the Lord.

*Holy Martyrs Manuel, Sabel and Ismael. June 17/30,2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.  
Father Rodney Torbic*



***Good Afternoon. Since we know some of you may be on leave tomorrow in anticipation for the Independence Day weekend, we***

**wanted to get you this edition of *The Jawn* one day early. Please be safe, and enjoy time with your loved ones!**

There are specific parts of certain days, annually, that are seared into my memories. It could be the way the sun hits water, the way sky looks in the morning or evening, or the way the snow lays on once bare grass or cement. Those pictures, painted by nature and mood, illicit both fond remembrances and build my anticipation for what is to come next in life. They happen every year, on the same days, and as I grow older, they become more important and more pronounced.

For instance, there's the first couple of minutes of the first slate of Sunday football games, knowing that for the next 17 weeks, my Sunday's will be transformed. It's not about a ball, a halfback counter, or a 3-4 defense, it's about fire pits in the backyard with a TV outside. It's yard work with my beloved Eagles on the radio. It's Sunday dinners made in a crock pot as the smells of hearty family favorites like pot-roast and taco soup fill my kitchen, and my heart.

There's the morning of January 1<sup>st</sup>, when the air outside is so cold that you can see your breathe, and even the warmest cup of coffee barely lays a liquid blanket upon our chilled bones. It's boarding SEPTA public transportation and taking a train into Central Philly to watch Philadelphia's very peculiar tradition of "Mummery" as the Mummer's Parade makes its way down Broad Street. It's not about the cold, and it's not about the costumes, it's about having my little girl on top of my shoulders as she watches the homemade floats amble on down the city's cement. It's meeting strangers and sharing libations. It's a great conglomeration of friends and family when those moments, at times, seem fleeting.

It's that first warm day of Spring, the way the sun hits your skin at just the right angle, and you realize that, finally, our calculus changes from layers on to layers off. The way buds, ever so small, ever so young, are yet ripe with potential. Anticipatory hues of pink, white, and purple, just waiting for that last frost to pass so that their brilliant bursts of colors, their source of nourishment to nature, can bloom like peacocks. Those first few leaves, the beginning of the canopy that will provide our scant summer shade. It's not about the allergies, the pollen, or the yard work, but rather, about the promise of that first deep breath through our noses where the smell of flowers replaces the crinkle of rock salt below our boots.

For me, the same can feelings are developed during the dusk of Independence Day. After a day of swimming, hot dogs, hamburgers, and good conversation with friends and family, dusk during Independence Day is a respite from the sensory overload that was the day of Independence Day. It means adults, taking a break from supervising children as they lay sleepy on the carpet from a day at the pool or creek. It's the way,

hopefully, you get to view the sky at dusk, when pinks and purples of the afternoon mix with the blues and blacks of night and day. It's the anticipation, waiting for just the right sun and moon angle, for fireworks shows across America to light up the night sky. The wait is beautiful, especially when you have a backdrop as diverse and vibrant as this.

Perhaps your moments are different, with different days and different feelings, but Independence Day holds a special place in all our hearts. It's America's day, a day set aside for us. All of us. It is a uniting day, no matter your viewpoints on progress, government, and politics. Whether we are united in family or fireworks, or historical indulgence, we know why we're here, why we're doing what we do.

If you think of it, take the time to embrace the dusk of Independence Day. Embrace that tired feeling that kids feel after a hard day of playing, because we're all tired. Embrace the anticipation of that great period between day and night because we're all parts excited, part anxious, about the future. Embrace the explosion of the fireworks at night, and celebrate, because after what we've all been through, we need to celebrate the good and the beautiful.

Finally, embrace nightfall. When the fireworks are over. When the stars dance amongst the skies high above. When the kids are asleep in the backseat of the car on the way home from a long day of fun. When the night is still, and serene, and it's just you and your thoughts, and you can embrace what Independence Day is: a birthday, for the greatest country in the world, supporting the greatest idea in all the world, and the promise of rebirth, rejuvenation, and the hope that things like change, tradition, and perseverance can make our lives, and our country, a better place.

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

## **Silence**

### **Entering into the Silence**

All Orthodox Christians are aware of the importance of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, in our journey to God. These three practices are at the heart of the Great Lenten Fast for all practicing Orthodox Christians, but we all should make these the heart of our everyday life throughout the year.

Prayer is our way of communicating with God on a daily basis, and fasting days (Wednesday and Friday) are called for throughout the Church Year. As Christians, we are also obligated to give alms to the poor, as demonstrated throughout the New Testament. Yet we often overlook the great spiritual practice of entering into the Silence as a way to discover ourselves, and deepen our experience with God's presence.

Today's technological advancements have introduced noise into our lives in ways unthinkable to the ancients. Not more than a hundred years



ago, most families found silence as an everyday experience, for when the sun went down, families nestled into warm corners of their parlors, and their kitchens, often reading books, or simply watching a crackling fire. Along with this quieting down of the day, silence was part of every evening.

Orthodox families were especially cognizant of the need to spend quiet time on the eve of the Sunday Liturgy, as well as great feasts of the Church, knowing that this silence served as a preparation time for receiving Christ's Body and Blood, during the celebration of the upcoming Liturgy.

Keeping silence by turning off radios and television sets, muting iPods, and turning off computers, is a splendid way of allowing everyone in the family to experience the silence that allows us to listen for the voice of God, speaking in our hearts. Refraining from conversation, music, and all forms of entertainment for just an hour or two, helps open us to an experience of God that has become foreign to most modern Americans.

Silence is the means by which we may access and deepen our relationship with God, and develop self-knowledge. Silence allows us to live more harmoniously in our world, and actually listen for the voice of God speaking to our hearts. Saint Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, placed the virtue of silence on par with the faith itself in a synodal letter from AD 400. "Monks—if they wish to be what they are called—will love silence and the catholic faith, for nothing at all is more important than these two things." This invitation into the silence is not for monks only.

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

*Prayer to Accept the Will of God  
by Metropolitan Philaret*

**L**ord, I do not know what to ask of You. You alone know what I need. You love me more than I am able to love You. Father, give Your servant that for which I am unable to ask. I do not dare to ask either for a cross or for consolation: I only stand before You. My heart is open to You, and You Yourself see needs of which I am unaware. See and do according to Your mercy. Strike me and heal me; knock me down and lift me up. I show reverence and keep silence before Your holy will: Your destiny for me is beyond understanding. I offer myself as a sacrifice to You. I have no other desire besides the desire to carry out Your will. Teach me how to pray – and You Yourself pray in me! Amen.

**The Second Sunday after Pentecost** Matthew 4:18-23

*And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father and followed him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. (KJV)*

The Gospel reading for today describes Jesus calling Peter, Andrew, James and John to be His followers. The four men immediately followed the Lord Jesus Christ. They left their home, families, and occupations.

Each person baptized into Christ is a follower of Christ. Interest in sin and sinful ways have no place in the Christian life. Baptism is a definitive commitment to adhere to the teachings and way of Christ.

The Church is currently in the Apostles Fast. This is a time to think about the inspiring examples and complete commitment of the Apostles Peter and Paul to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostles Fast is an opportunity to evaluate our own personal commitment to Christ. Believers benefit from careful examination of the self and degree of personal adherence to the teachings and example of Christ.

Each day is an opportunity to repent of sins and attractions perilous to the soul. Every moment is an opportunity to begin anew in Christ. Jesus welcomes believers seriously seeking the Kingdom of God.

Peter, Andrew, James, and John as well as the Apostle Paul have remained as lasting examples of faithful followers of Jesus Christ. We have to ask ourselves if we have been completely faithful from the time of our baptism to the present.

The Lord God knows if we have sincerely repented of our sins and are truly seeking to be followers of Christ. The depths of our minds, hearts and souls are known to God.

God knows any dark or evil thoughts we have entertained. God knows when we have spoken or thought ill of others. God knows when we have been judgmental and unforgiving.

Healing is possible with the Lord Jesus Christ. Health of mind, heart and soul are possible with Jesus Christ. The believer must be willing to follow Christ completely to experience health and healing of heart, mind and soul.

The present Gospel describes Jesus Christ preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing all manner of sickness and diseases. Hope emanates from Christ for all attentive believers hearing the present Gospel.

Joy rises in the hearts of believers wanting to cast sin from their lives and have the shackles of harmful passions severed. The Lord Jesus Christ offers victory over sin and the perils to the soul.

Jesus Christ offers the pathway to the Kingdom and to everlasting life. Mercy, love, and forgiveness abound in the Lord Jesus Christ. Horrible sins are no challenge for Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ conquered death. Jesus Christ raised and restored life to the dead. Jesus forgiving sins and giving believers new beginnings in life continues to occur unto the present day.

Jesus is the way to have the conscience, the heart, the mind, and the soul purified. Jesus is the pathway to peace that passes all understanding. (Phil.4:7) Jesus is the Emanator of loves that heals.

God's Holy Church prescribes the Apostles Fast each year. The Apostles Fast enables believers to redirect life to the Heavenly Kingdom. Believers are encouraged to use the Fast to repent and redirect the self toward Christ.

The Church nourishes believers during the Fast. The Divine services, the Holy Scriptures and the teachings of the Church serve as daily sources of nourishment for the mind, heart, and soul.

While today's society moves to embrace values and activities reminiscent of Sodom and Gomorrah, believers are called to embrace the lasting values and teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believers find wisdom and eternal nourishment in the Church. Believers become aware of the proven pathways to the Heavenly Kingdom chosen by the saints and martyrs.

Too often sinful ways are promoted as good in today's world. Too often the perils addressed by the Holy Prophets are ignored. Too often lives are harmed and ruined by current societal teachings.

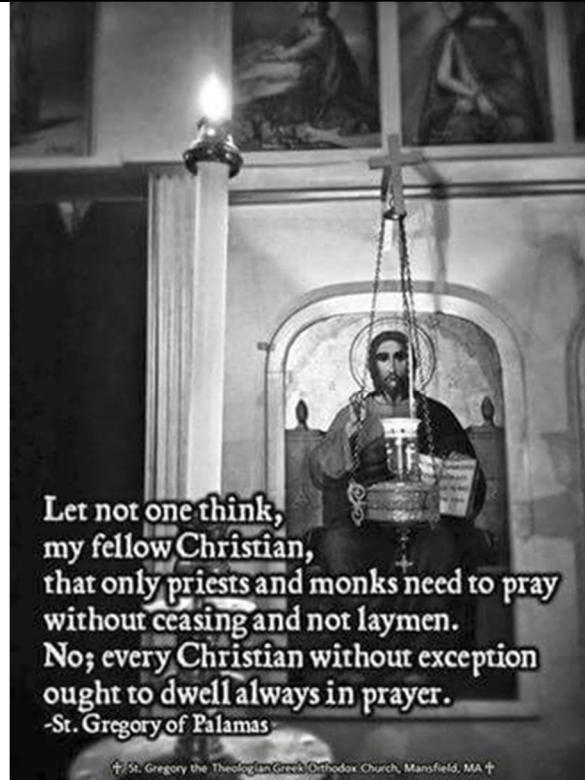
Goodness, mercy, and God's love live within the Church and are taught by the Church. The Church offers light in the darkest moments of life. The Church provides hope when despair seems to be creeping into daily life.

The Lord God knows the needs of believers. God provides through the Church the necessities of life. Wise believers seek to learn in the Church.

Wise believers embrace the way of Christ taken up at Holy Baptism.

Peter, Andrew, James, and John embarked on a new life in Christ. Each believer embarks on a new life in Christ at Holy Baptism. The Apostles Fast is the time to ensure faithfulness to Jesus Christ continues with great joy.

*The Second Sunday after Pentecost. June 21/July 4,/21, 2021. Holy Martyr Julian of Tarsus; Venerable Anastasia of Serbia. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



**If God is slow in answering your request, or if you ask but do not promptly receive anything, do not be upset, for you are not Wiser than God! +Saint Isaac the Syrian—7<sup>th</sup> century**