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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 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 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], 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], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Pani Cathy Danczak, 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.

"Try love, it is the most effective medicine for the health of the soul!"—*Saint 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, July 18 **OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS** **10:30 AM**
**4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; VENERABLE ATHANASIOS 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 25 **NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE!**
**5TH 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

SUNDAY, August 01 **OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS** **10:30 AM**
**6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX
ECUMENICAL COUNCILS; VENERABLE MACRINA-SISTER OF SAINT BASIL
THE GREAT; VENERABLE DIUIS-ABBOT OF ANTIOCH; VENERABLE PAISIUS
OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Tone 5

Romans 12:6-14; Galatians 5:22-6:2; Hebrews 13:7-16

Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 6:17-23; John 17:1-13

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Father Peter Natishan, Samuel Mrvos, Matushka
Catherine Pynch, David Yenni, Denise Lawrence, Rudy Obradovich, Michael
Horvath, John Sheliga, Anne Harte, Mildred Kitch, Agnes Rossi, Michael
Cherepko, & Mary Vigani—Fr. Bob***

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 18 JULY 2021

**4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; VENERABLE ATHANASIOS OF
MOUNT ATHOS; MARTYR ANNA OF ROME; MARTYR CYRILLA OF
CYRENE IN LIBYA-WIDOW; VENERABLE LAMPADUS-MONK OF
HIEROPOLIS**

TROPARION—TONE 3

Let the Heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!
He has trampled down death by death!
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
And has granted the world great mercy!

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

KONTAKION—TONE 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One!
Leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
With the prophets and patriarchs
They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 3

READER: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King,
sing praises!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our
King, sing praises!**

READER: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of
joy!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our
King, sing praises!**

READER: Sing praises to our God, sing praises!

PEOPLE: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 3

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!

SERMON: 7/4/2021—CALLED TO A THREEFOLD MINISTRY

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

How many of you in actuality would take a job, any job, without knowing anything about it? How many of you would consider a line of work if you knew a few things about it? For example, would you take on a job if you knew the salary was zero, the work hours were long and the workload tedious, and the only benefits offered were close affiliation to your boss and the advancement of the organization? Now this may indeed sound like a silly question but in reality, many of you have already made this commitment over the past several months as dedicated and hardworking

volunteers for the parish's festival which, by the grace, of God was a big success!

It perhaps goes without saying that no person truly enters any organization without at first seeing what the organization has to offer. Before coming to a decision about membership, it is common to read every pamphlet or literature about a group, peruse every relevant website, and exhaust every possible question before committing to it. People want to make sure that all their doubts and concerns are thoroughly allayed before they make their jump. It seems that practically no one on the basis of pure faith will immediately embrace the institution in which they are interested...unless, of course, they are the disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is noteworthy that in the ministry of the Gospel to which the disciples of the Lord were called, their instantaneous response offers a radical alternative. In today's Gospel passage, we observe how the first disciples who were called—the brothers Andrew and Peter, and James and John—"immediately left their nets and followed Him" (Matthew 4.20). The key word here is 'immediately.' The fishermen did not wait for Christ to initiate them in what the ministry of the Gospel entailed. Scripture clearly does not provide any 'pre-catechism' or informational talks given by Jesus to entice the disciples to follow Him. For this reason, St. Matthew deliberately uses the term 'immediately' (εὐθέως). On the basis of blind and genuine faith, the men were drawn by the Spirit of God to see in their new Teacher a grandeur and wisdom far surpassing anything human. On this day, the disciples were enlightened to see—although not yet fully understand—the powerful presence of God made manifest in the very person of Jesus Christ.

It is only after following Christ, after making their commitment to Him, that they are initiated into the expectations of the ministry. Matthew describes this ministry in a succinct manner: "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of disease among the people" (Matthew 4.23). Christian ministry then involves following Christ in teaching, preaching, and healing. These are the expectations not only of the ordained priesthood but also of the royal priesthood of the laity (1 Peter 2.9)—what all of you are called to do as Christians, together with me, in our joint service to the Lord. In this manner then is the flock of the Church led to salvation and the Church accomplishes what it was established to do.

Let us look at each one of these ministries and how they are applied today. One of the Church's primary roles is to teach the truth of God, as it has been revealed and taught to us by Christ Himself, with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit. The world today is in dire need of discovering the truth about the meaning and purpose of life, the nature of suffering and

redemption from sin. It is in the Church, hidden in the pages of God's revealed word, Holy Scripture, and in the inspired writings of the Holy Fathers, that we can attain this truth. It is also through prayer, fasting, and participation in the sacraments of the Church that we reinforce our knowledge of the truth by living it. The Lord teaches us, instructs us, initiates us into the deeper meaning of human existence and divine truth through the work of the Church which is primarily a loving ministry of word and action.

The Church is also primarily responsible for preaching the Gospel. This ministry differs from teaching in two ways. First, to preach does not necessarily mean to teach in a systematic way but to proclaim a truth with zeal and vigor. Second, preaching is directed not always to the body of the faithful but to the secular world of which the Church is a part. The Gospel was preached to the four corners of the globe by the Apostles and their successors, the holy bishops, and priests. It was preached to those who were not Christians, who did not share the same ideals or morals or beliefs or behaviors with the Christians. The Church continues to preach the good news of the resurrected Lord and His love to the secular world and to society, speaking out against the blatant immoralities and incorrect doctrines and becoming the voice of the downtrodden and powerless. The Church has always been and remains even today the bastion and voice of righteousness.

Finally, the Church is called to offer healing to its faithful believers. Once again, it is the Lord Jesus Christ who effects both bodily and spiritual healing through His instruments, the holy priests and people, within the Church. Healing essentially means restoring man back to his original state of bliss and union with God. Man was created not to live apart from God but in harmony with His will. It is the Church's responsibility—and privilege—to assure that this union remains intact. People today want a God who will not judge or condemn or punish them. They want a God of love who will understand them and help them overcome their weaknesses. This God is to be found nowhere but in the Church Christ Himself established. Christ always healed the illnesses of man both on a spiritual level first, inducing faith in others, before proceeding to crown His miraculous work with physical healing. The Church continues this all-important ministry and, as we have said before, serves as the hospital or clinic—and not the judicial court—that takes in all of her sick, heals them, and returns them to the world whole, ready to witness to the truth of Jesus Christ.

This threefold ministry that our Lord demonstrates today in the Gospel—teaching, preaching, and healing—is continued today by the Church. The Holy Spirit works within the Church He established by inspiring the faithful and empowering them to continue these ministries for the good and

salvation of the world. Are we ready to assume these ministries? Are we ready to “immediately” leave behind our worldly cares, our fears, and our doubts to take upon ourselves the cross Christ calls each of us to bear? Teaching, preaching, and healing does not necessarily mean changing our professions—it does mean, however, becoming apostles within our given reality, representing God and acting on His behalf every day of our lives—in our homes, in our workplaces, and in our schools. The disciples did not receive a formal theological catechism; they did not graduate from a university nor were they degreed servants. They simply approached Christ with deep faith and commitment and allowed God to do the rest and empower them for ministry. May we also approach the Lord in faith and truly become His hands and feet and mouthpiece in the world. Amen. (+)

~Fr. Stelyios Muksuris, PhD, ThD

*Protopresbyter, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh
Interim Pastor, St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, Clarksburg, WV*

John the Baptist

Matthew 11:11- Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (KJV)

Let us keep in mind always the standing of St. John the Baptist in the Lord’s view. We have the opportunity to learn lasting lessons for life from St. John the Baptist. St. John the Baptist had an understanding of himself in relation to the Lord Jesus. The Church ensures that St. John is remembered and very appropriately honored. Divine services are dedicated to St. John and events in his life are commemorated. Learning from and about St. John continues throughout the serious believer’s life.

Mark 6:24- And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist. (KJV)

The Holy Gospel preserves facts about the life and death of St. John the Baptist. The Church wants each succeeding generation to know of St. John and his life. St. John’s death by beheading is a gruesome act engrained into salvation history. History reveals numbers of Jesus Christ’s followers have had gruesome deaths. The blood of Christ’s followers serves as a lasting reminder for later generations. Christ’s serious followers heed and remember the martyrdom that has taken place.

Luke 7:20- When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? (KJV)

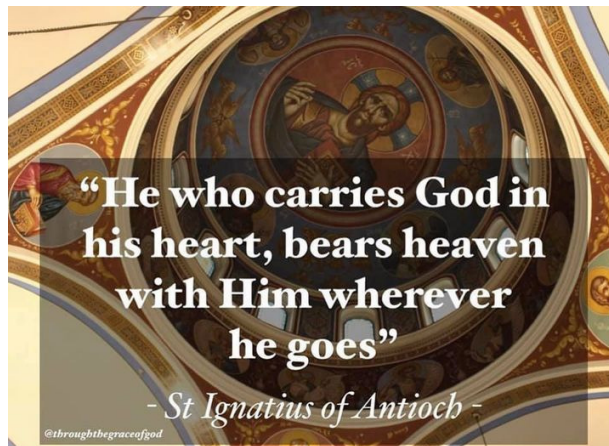
The Messiah’s coming was anticipated and John’s followers sought verification. The question from St. John’s followers caused Jesus to speak

about His impact. We learn much about the Divinity of Jesus from the actions of St. John the Baptist. Care is required when studying the life of St. John and his relationship with Jesus. Learning about Jesus has lasting effects for the attentive and welcoming believer. Love and appreciation for St. John the Baptist increases with maturity of faith.

John 1:15- 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. (KJV)

John noted the very existence of Jesus preceded John's own personal existence. John's personal statements indicate Jesus is held in higher honor than himself. Our very honoring of Christ in heart, mind and soul is affected by John's words. Love for Christ and learning of Christ increase through learning from St. John. Jesus and St. John are inseparably united at certain points in the time of history. The Church commemorates and proclaims lessons from Jesus Christ and St. John.

*Nativity of St. John the Baptist. June 14/July 7, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.
Father Rodney Torbic*



The Third Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 6:22-33

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you,

O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (KJV)

We cannot enter the Kingdom of God on our own. We need the help, mercy and goodness of God for all that we do. We are foolish if we think we accomplish anything good on our own.

Any talents we have, the energy we have and the working of our mind depends on God and comes from God. Our body and the working of the body depends on God.

Each breath, each heartbeat and movement of the body depends on God.

Looking beyond the self to God and to God in our lives is beneficial throughout life. God is bigger and greater than we have ever imagined.

Many years ago, +Proto Radovan Milkovich of Blessed Memory preached a sermon describing God as being too small in our minds. We are challenged in life to know the constant revealing of the greatness of God.

The present Gospel gives focus for each individual life. The Kingdom of God is the first priority for believers. Efforts and thoughts of each believer are to be directed to the Kingdom of God.

Following Holy Baptism, believers are to follow the path to the Kingdom of God with great earnestness. When believers depart from the path, immediate repentance and return are expected.

We find wise words in the Book of the Holy Prophet Jeremiah: "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the **ways**, and see, and ask for the **old** paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." (Jer.6:16)

Peace for the soul is elusive if the mind, heart and soul are caught up in the contemporary world. God must be first and foremost in life for peace to be achieved. The battle for the soul to remain at peace is continuous.

The Lord God provides the strength for believers to achieve peace in the heart, mind and soul. Jesus invites believers to draw near and experience peace dearly needed for life.

Jesus said: "**Take my yoke** upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Mt.11:29) The desire for the Lord must be stronger than the desire for sin for peace to be achieved.

Efforts to pray, fast and forcefully protect the heart, mind and soul are necessary. The Christian life is a battle from Baptism until departure from this life.

The battles against sin and seeking God's Kingdom are waged within the person.

The world makes departing from the path to the Kingdom very appealing.

Commercials abound to take the mind, heart, and soul far from the Lord God.

Constant vigilance is required to keep God first and foremost in life.

The Church offers the support, nourishment, and resources for believers to remain on the path to the Kingdom. The saints and martyrs through the centuries prove that remaining faithful is possible.

Repentance is possible at all times up to the very last moment of life. The repentant thief on the cross proved the value of repentance. Jesus told the thief: "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Lk.23:41-43)

Love for God is to be cultivated in life. Our love for God increases when we adhere to God's teachings and experience their value. We verify God's presence and experience God in daily life by looking for God and abiding by God's ways.

God is revealed constantly in daily life for believers with eyes to see and ears to hear. God is ever-present and verifiable when the mind is directed toward God and focused on seeking God.

The mind, heart and soul fill with peace and joy when God dominates life.

Daily choices reveal the goals and paths embraced in life. The use of time, talents and resources becomes the record of the person's interests, priorities and goals.

God is fully aware of each person's interests, desires, and sinfulness. The ability to repent exists withing each believer. Like the repentant thief let us sincerely say, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." (Lk.23:42)

*The Third Sunday after Pentecost. Transfer of Relices of St. Cyrus and John. New Martyrs of Dabar and Mileseva. June 28/July 1, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.
Father Rodney Torbic*

*Father Thomas Soroka: **Saint Tikhon's farewell address to America:***

It is necessary for us personally to promote and contribute to this triumph [of Orthodoxy]. And for this we must reverently preserve the Orthodox Faith, standing firm in it in spite of the fact that we live in a non-Orthodox country, and not pleading as an excuse for our apostasy that "it is not the old land here but America, a free country, and therefore it is impossible to follow everything that the Church requires." As if the word of Christ is only suitable for the old land and not for the entire world! As if the Church of Christ is not "catholic"! As if the Orthodox Faith did not "establish the universe"!

Furthermore, while faithfully preserving the Orthodox Faith, everyone must also take care to spread it among the non-Orthodox. Christ the Savior said that having lit the candle, men do not put it under a bushel but on a candlestick so that it gives light to all (Mt 5:15). The light of the Orthodox Faith has not been lit to shine only for a small circle of people. No, the Orthodox Church is catholic; she remembers the commandment of her Founder, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature and teach all nations" (Mk 16:15; Mt 28:19).

We must share our spiritual richness, truth, light, and joy with others who do not have these blessings. And this duty does not only lay upon the pastors and the missionaries but on the lay persons as well, since the Church of Christ, according to the wise comparison of the Holy Apostle Paul, is the body, and every member takes part in the life of the body. By means of all sorts of mutually binding bonds which are formed and strengthened through the action of every member according to his capacity, the great Church body receives an increase unto the edifying of itself (cf. Eph 4:16).



Do good while your hands are warm. St. Alexey Goloseevsky (Shepelev, 1917)

REMINDER: There will be no service in Slickville next Sunday, July 25, as Father Bob will be out of town. Please plan to attend services at one of our close-by sister Orthodox parishes! Stay SAFE!!! God Bless! Fr. Bob