



**Holy Ghost Orthodox Church**  
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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 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, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynec, 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], 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, Father Deacon 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, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Father Joe Uzar—newly ordained, 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, David Hess, 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, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob’s cousin, car accident], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], Donna [dementia] & Darla, Linda Snow, Zack Blair [Pani Gina’s nephew], Greg & Mary Lou Sheakley [Pani Gina’s cousins—COVID], the McKenna family, David Gazella, 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 November babies: Amy Lewis on the 4<sup>th</sup> & Father Bob on the 7<sup>th</sup>. May God grant them both Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M’nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families...**

**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, November 07**                      **OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS**                      **10:30 AM**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS MARCIAN & MARTYRIUS; SAINT TABITHA; MARTYR ANASTASIUS; VENERABLE MARTYRIUS THE DEACON & SAINT MARTYRIUS THE RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

*Tone 3*

Galatians 1:11-19

Luke 16:19-31

*Litany in Blessed Memory of John Lopushanski, Samuel Kerr, Helen Likar, Harry Bunio, Mary Pekich, Constantine Hanczar, Anna Lotinsky, Julia Golofski, & Paul Popichak—Fr. Bob*

**SUNDAY, November 14**                      **OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS**                      **10:30 AM**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HOLY WONDERWORKERS & UNMERCENARIES COSMAS & DAMIAN & THEIR MOTHER SAINT THEODOTA; HIEROMARTYRS JOHN-BISHOP & JAMES-PRESBYTER OF PERSIA; MARTYRS CYRENIA & JULIANA; MARTYR HERMENINGILDA THE GOTH; MARTYRS CAESARIUS, DACIUS, SABBAS, SABINIAN, AGRIPPA, ADRIAN, & THOMAS AT DAMASCUS**

*Tone 4*

Galatians 2:16-20

Luke 8:26-39

**SUNDAY, November 21**                      **OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS**                      **10:30 AM**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SYNAXIS OF ARCHANGEL MICHAEL & OTHER BODILESS POWERS: ARCHANGELS GABRIEL, RAPHAEL, URIEL, SALAPHIEL, JEGUDIEL, BARACHIEL, & JEREMIEL**

*Tone 5*

Galatians 6:11-18; Hebrews 2:2-10

Luke 8:41-56; Luke 10:16-21

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 07 NOVEMBER 2021**

**20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS MARCIAN & MARTYRIUS; SAINT TABITHA; MARTYR ANASTASIUS;**

**VENERABLE MARTYRIUS THE DEACON & SAINT MARTYRIUS  
THE RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

**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!

**Some thoughts on Halloween...**

*from Father Benjamin Naasko*

I want to clear up some misconceptions about Halloween.

We are often told that Halloween is of pagan origin. We are told that it has its roots in the ancient Irish festival of Samhain, and we are told that the ancient pagan Irish performed human sacrifices on the night of October 31 to commune with the ungodly spirits of their dead ancestors. We are told that Christian missionaries tried and failed to "baptize" these ancient pagan rituals by moving the commemoration of All Saints to November 1 but that they failed to convince the Irish pagans to attend Vigils at the Church on October 31 and they persisted in their pagan festivities.

None of this is true. Much of it is based on anti-Catholic propaganda from the 19th century. Many of the traditional practices of Halloween have historical antecedents as popular expressions of Christian piety and most of the objectionable practices connected with Halloween are developments of our American Culture of the past century. Much like how commercialization has ruined the spirit of Christmas, it has ruined the spirit of All Hallows. Much like our contemp-pagans have lied about the early history of Christmas calling it a Christian takeover of earlier pagan solstice celebrations (another lie that originated in anti-Catholic propaganda), so too our modern pagans have laid claim to Halloween, a holiday which had never previously belonged to them.

The first thing to know about Halloween, or more properly Hallowe'en, is that it is an abbreviation of a longer name: Hallows Even, or Hallows Evening, or Hallows Eve. It was the beginning of a Christian festive period of Hallowtide, which is centered around the feast of All Hallows or All Saints and the feast of All Souls.

In the Christian East, we celebrate All Saints on the Sunday after Pentecost, and we remember All Souls on a number of Saturdays. In the West, All Souls comes directly after All Saints; first the Church Triumphant is celebrated and then the Church prays for the deceased. It is important for Orthodox Christians to know that the Feast of All Saints in the West was moved to November 1st by Pope Gregory IV in the 8th century, prior to the division of the churches. The celebration of All Saints on November 1 and its Vigil the evening prior has been found by historians to have reached Northumbria, Scotland, and Ireland by the early 9th Century. The celebration of All Saints in Ireland therefore predates the Christianization of Rus.

When March comes along we all, both East and West, appropriately remember St. Patrick the Enlightener of Ireland who very successfully brought Irish paganism to an end. Within a few generations of Patrick's death in 461, there was nothing whatever of left of Irish paganism. By the time the Feast of All Saints on November 1st reached Ireland in the late 8th or early 9th century, paganism had been gone for centuries. The only reason we know that there was some pagan festival called Samhain is

because of the records of Monks, who noted the Holiday, but failed to mention anything whatsoever about the practices of such a day. We know absolutely nothing about the pre-Christian Samhain. Nonetheless, the word does survive in modern Gaelic and means something close to our word "autumn." This is not unlike the English word "Easter," which now only designates the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ, even though St. Bede tells us it once referred to some unknown Anglo-Saxon pagan festival. The earliest records we have about the content of Irish pagan rituals only date back about 200 years. It is not possible that they are anything other than speculation, propaganda, or outright fiction.

As concerns the traditions of Halloween, most of them are of a pious Christian origin. Trick-or-treating is connected to the tradition of "souling" a customer where children would beg alms (in the form of little cakes) in exchange for the promise to pray for people's deceased loved ones. It was a charitable exchange all around. Its connection to Halloween has more to do with the prayers and masses offered for the deceased on All Souls Day. It was in America that it was changed to trick-or-treat, maybe a less charitable exchange of goodies for the promise of good behavior, but this was more acceptable in Protestant America than praying for the dead.

Costumes are historically connected with Halloween, but also other Christian Celebrations. This became more common after the Black Death, the great bubonic plague of the 14th Century. Dressing as the dead and the "Danse Macabre" (a direct allusion to the scriptural story found in 2 Maccabees and the martyrdoms recorded there), depictions of which adorn a number of Churches and Holy Places. The depictions, personification of death, and the dressing up as dead ones are aimed at bringing a moral message to believers. As we remember all of the Saints and pray for all of those who have died, we need to reflect on our own mortality and live in the knowledge that death will come for us. The point of it all is to encourage repentance.

Of course, modern costumes rarely convey this message and many go too far and seem to celebrate evil and death. Some revel in sin and exalt pagan themes, perverting the Christian celebration of All the Saints. Of course, such things are problematic and must be avoided just like those frenzied pre-Christmas sales that have resulted in the death of some shoppers and pervert the Christian meaning of Christmas and must be avoided. However, it is clearly still possible, especially for Western Christians to have a pious and holy celebration of Halloween. I pray that Christians of the Western Rite are successful in reclaiming their holiday and their heritage from those who would commercialize or subvert it.

**FROM MOTHER ALEXANDRA:**



# "Be still, and know that I am God."

Ps 46:10

Stop talking  
Switch off your phone  
Stop commenting  
Listen  
Stop arguing  
Stop questioning  
Stop moaning

Stop doubting  
Be sure  
Have faith  
No second opinion

God is Almighty  
God is in control  
God is love  
God is King  
God is my hope, rock,  
fortress  
God is ever-present, a  
help in times of  
trouble.  
God is my Father  
God is my shepherd-  
He will lead me,  
nourish me, protect  
me & restore me.



Emrick John

Our 14-year-old dog Abbey died last month. The day after she passed away my 4-year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so, and she dictated these words:

**Dear God,**

**Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.**

**Love, Meredith**



We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letterbox at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page were the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

**Dear Meredith,**

**Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help and I recognized her right away.**

**Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.**

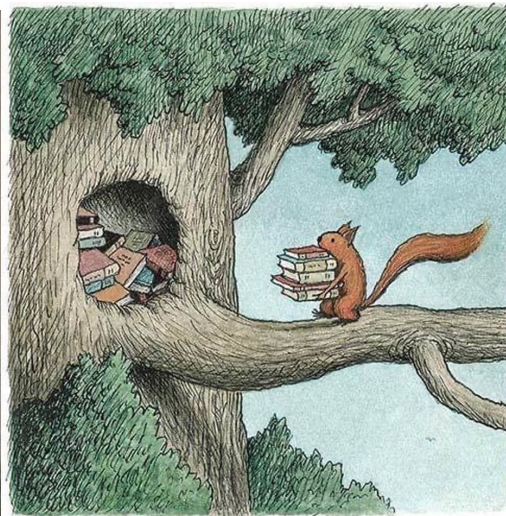
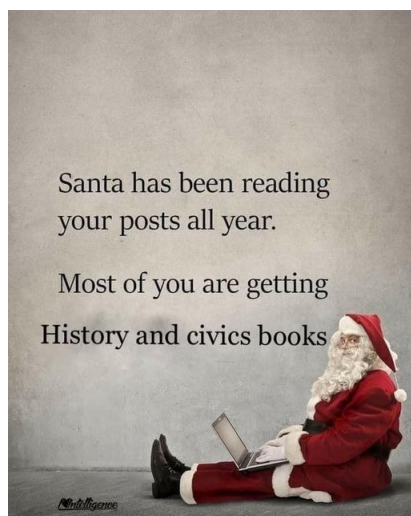
**Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I'm easy to find. I am wherever there is love.**

**Love, God**

Don't say you're too busy to Share this. Just go ahead and do it!

Suspended Coffees You will all be happy to know this wonderful story is 100% true, please don't take offense to the reference of God, it's part of the story.

“Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind, and the third is to be kind.” Marry Jane il 🍀Live🍀Love🍀Laugh



**The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Luke 6:31-36**

*And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do*

*good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. (KJV)*

### **Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke**

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (KJV)

The parish church is where believers normally enter into the life in Christ.

Whether brought as an infant by parents or coming individually as an adult, the official entry into the life in Christ normally occurs at the parish church.

The parish church is where Baptism and Chrismation occur for the overwhelming number of believers. The parish church also provides the Holy Mysteries of Confession, Communion, Marriage and Holy Unction

Life from birth until departure from this life is connected with the parish church. The Lord Jesus Christ is always available and present in the parish church.

Believers learn from and grow in Christ in the parish church.

The Christian home is an integral part of the Church. Parents are to nurture children in the way of Jesus Christ. Adults are to live in the home in ways pleasing to Jesus Christ.

The parish church and the Christian home affect the neighborhood and community in which they are located. Christ radiates from the parish church and the Christian home and reaches well beyond the walls and property boundaries.

Love grows and abounds in the parish church and in the Christian home.

Individuals take on the responsibility of maturing in Christ and radiating the love of Christ in the parish, the home and the community.

The need for repentance is constant and the parish church and the Christian home encourage repentance. Christian husbands and wives, fathers and mothers learn to repent and return to Christ.

Prodigal sons and daughters find the welcoming love of the parish church and Christian home to be healing for the hurting heart and soul. The Gospel proclaimed at each Divine Liturgy nourishes and guides believers.

St. Luke's Gospel for today gives clear direction from Jesus Christ for dealing with difficult relationships in the church, the home, and the community. Serious believers apply the Gospel reading to daily relationships.

Being loving and merciful in all relationships is an expectation for believers.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the example of perfect love for believers to learn from and follow.

In St. John's Gospel for today, Jesus Christ identifies Himself as the door to enter for salvation. Jesus Christ's constant welcoming presence keeps the path to salvation open throughout life.

From Holy Baptism until departure from this life, believers have the opportunity to remain on the path to eternal life and God's Kingdom. When the believer strays and commits sins, returning to the narrow path is always possible.

Jesus welcomes believers seeking eternal life. Jesus welcomes sinners desiring to repent and begin anew. The parish priest is ever-ready to assist the believer in the journey to eternal life and the Heavenly Kingdom.

Attending the Divine services of the Church and adhering to the fasts keeps the believer united with Jesus Christ. Joy thrives in the minds, hearts and souls of believers united with Christ.

Jesus Christ the Shepherd is known to His followers and His followers are known to Him. Now is the time to rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now is the time to follow Jesus Christ.

Today's Gospel readings from St. Luke and St. John are instructive and nourishing. God's Holy Church provides the Gospel readings at each Divine Liturgy for instruction and nourishment.

Partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ offered at each Divine Liturgy ensures unity with Christ. Grateful believers appreciate the presence of the parish church and celebration of the Divine Mysteries.

Believers demonstrate gratitude to Christ by adhering to the teachings from the Holy Gospel and Divine services. Now is the time to demonstrate gratitude to Jesus Christ in everyday life.



*The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke. October 18/31, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

THERE ARE TWELVE  
DAYS  
OF CHRISTMAS.  
NONE OF WHICH  
ARE IN  
NOVEMBER

