



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church
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*******NATIVITY FAST—ADVENT—SAINT PHILIP'S FAST—
PILIPKIVA*******

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 Trachine, 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 Zeliszczyk, 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. [infant], 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, Brian & Michele Cannone, Robert & Eleanor Rodrigues & family, Don Menagon [COVID-19]. 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 at **[412] 279-5640**.

SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE

SUNDAY, December 26 NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE 10:30 AM
27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS EUSTRATIUS, AUXENTIUS, EUGENE, MARDARIUS, & ORESTES OF SEBASTE; VIRGIN-MARTYR LUCY; VENERABLE ARSENIUS; VENERABLE NICODEMUS OF ROMANIA; VENERABLE ARCADIUS; VENERABLE MARDARIUS-RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 2
Colossians 3:4-11
Luke 14:16-24

SUNDAY, January 02 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY; SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS; HIEROMARTYR IGNATIUS THE GOD-BEARER OF ANTIOCH; SAINT PHILOGONIUS-BISHOP OF ANTIOCH; SAINT DANIEL II-ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA; VENERABLE IGNATIUS-ARCHIMANDRITE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 3
Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Matthew 1:1-25

Litany for the Departed: Rose Zalenchak, Stephen Kuzman, Timothy Stutchell, Cecilia Pysh, Nicholas Vetosky, Robert Rohal, & Gary Atutes—Fr. Bob

FRIDAY, January 07 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

SUNDAY, January 09 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY; HOLY RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, & JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD; HOLY PROTOMARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN; VENERABLE THEODORE GRAPTUS OF PALESTINE & BITHYNIA-CONFESSOR; SAINT THEODORE-ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Tone 4
Galatians 1:11-19; Acts 6:18-15, 7:1-5, 47-6-
Matthew 2:13-23; Matthew 21:33-42

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 26 DECEMBER 2021

27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS EUSTRATIUS, AUXENTIUS, EUGENE, MARDARIUS, & ORESTES OF SEBASTE; VIRGIN-MARTYR LUCY; VENERABLE ARSENIUS; VENERABLE NICODEMUS OF ROMANIA; VENERABLE ARCADIUS; VENERABLE MARDARIUS-RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

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!

From Father Steve Repa

GREEK practice of vestments - two colors - Light for feasts and Dark for lenten seasons

From the RUSSIANS Church's Nastol'naya Kniga Sviashchenno-sluzhitelia

The most important Feasts of the Orthodox Church and the sacred events for which specific colors of vestments have been established, can be united into six basic groups.

1. The group of Feasts and days commemorating Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prophets, the Apostles, and the Holy Hierarchs. Vestment color: Gold (yellow) of all shades.
2. The group of Feasts and days commemorating the Most Holy Mother of God, the Bodiless Powers and Virgins. Vestment color: Light Blue and White.
3. The group of Feasts and days commemorating the Cross of Our Lord. Vestment color: Purple or Dark Red.
4. The group of Feasts and days commemorating Martyrs. Vestment color: Red. [On Great and Holy Thursday, Dark Red vestments are worn, even though the church is still covered with black, and the Holy (Altar) Table is covered with a white cloth.]
5. The group of Feasts and days commemorating Monastic Saints, Ascetics and Fools for Christ. Vestment color: Green. The Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), Holy Trinity Day(Pentecost) and Holy Spirit Day (Monday after Pentecost) are, as a rule, celebrated in Green vestments of all shades.
6. During the Lenten periods, the vestment colors are: Dark Blue, Purple, Dark Green, Dark Red and Black. This last color is used essentially for the days of Great Lent. During the first week of that Lent and on the weekdays of the following weeks, the vestment color is Black. On Sundays and Feast days of this period, the vestments are of a dark color with Gold or colored ornaments.

FUNERALS, as a rule, are done in WHITE vestments.

In earlier times, there were no Black vestments in the Orthodox Church, although the everyday clothing of the clergy, especially the Monastics, was Black. In ancient times, both in the Greek and in the Russian Churches, the clergy wore, according to the Typicon, "Crimson Vestments": Dark (Blood) Red vestments. In Russia, it was first proposed to the clergy of Saint Petersburg to wear Black Vestments, if possible, to participate in the Funeral of Emperor Peter II [1821]. From that time on, Black Vestments became customary for Funerals and the Services of Great Lent.

White is worn for the feasts and post-feasts of Epiphany, Transfiguration, and Pascha. In antiquity, Christmas and Epiphany were celebrated as one feast, Theophany of the Lord, so, in some places, White is worn on Christmas day, but Gold is worn from the second day of Christmas until Epiphany.

In RUSSIA, at Liturgy on Holy Thursday, a white altar cover is used to represent the linen tablecloth of the Last Supper [the priest wears dark red, and the church remains in black until after Liturgy, when the priest's vestments return to black].

The Church and the vestments of the priest are changed to WHITE at the Prokeimenon of Holy Saturday Liturgy. (In Muscovite custom, white is worn for Paschal Matins, bright red is worn at Pascha Liturgy.) In the UKRAINIAN practice white is worn to Pentecost.

In Carpatho-Russian, UKRAINIAN custom, WHITE, exclusively, is worn in the PASKAL season.

WHITE is, the color of Resurrection, is worn at FUNERALS and memorial services. –Lazarus Saturday

GREEN is worn for Pentecost and its post-feast, feasts of prophets, and angels. In some places, green is worn for the Elevation of the Cross in September.

In Carpatho-Russian, UKRAINIAN practice, GREEN is worn from Pentecost until Saints Peter and Paul Lent. Green is often worn for Palm Sunday.

GOLD is worn from Christmas, till Dormition fast and in some places, during Advent Sundays. Gold is worn when no other color is specified. In one tradition, gold is worn on all Sundays until (except when white is worn), including even the Sundays in all the fasting periods.

RED is worn for SS Peter and Paul lent, SS Peter and Paul feast, for ADVENT, for the Angels, Elevation of the Cross (Sept 15), and for feasts of Martyrs. (In Moscow style, and on Mount Athos and at Jerusalem, bright red is worn on Pascha [after Matins] and on the Nativity.)

BLUE is worn for all feasts of the Virgin, Presentation of the Lord, Annunciation, and sometimes on the fifth Friday of Lent (Akathist). In Carpatho-Russian, UKRAINIAN parishes, BLUE is worn for DORMITION fast and feast, and is worn until Advent.

PURPLE is worn on weekends of Lent. In some places, PURPLE is worn on weekdays of Lent as well—at times (gold on weekends).

BLACK is worn especially in Holy Week. Red or purple for Holy Thursday, white for the Holy Saturday transition

In Carpatho-Russian, formerly Uniat parishes, black is worn on weekdays for funerals and memorial services and liturgies, as is done in the Roman Church, though this is not universally true anymore.

Orange or rust is worn in some places for SS Peter and Paul fast, and in other places for SS Peter and Paul feast through Transfiguration.

Please note that when we say 'feast', we include the period from the vigil of the feast until it's apodosis, or 'putting away,' usually called the 'post-feast'. The length of these post-feasts vary, and are given in the Liturgical Calendar and Rubrics. Generally speaking, there is a post-feast of about a week for each of the twelve major feasts. As you can see, there is great variety in ways of doing things.

In the Western Church, six colors are used: white, red, rose, green, purple and black. Blue and gold are not used. Black is worn on Good Friday, and at requiem Masses

From Father Milorad Orlic:

Today [12 December] We Commemorate: St. Mardarije of Libertyville
(1889-1935)

Born in village of Kornet, Ljesani County, in Montenegro, on November 2, 1889, pious parents Petar and Jela Uskokovic, he was baptized in his village church dedicated to St. George and received his baptismal name Ivan. His mother was from the well-known Bozovic family. Both of his parents were well respected in their community holding the office of leadership and particularly his father was a captain of their clan.

Considering his parents' status, young Ivan was sent to further his education, first in Rijeka Crnojevic, Cetinje, and then in Belgrade, Serbia. While in Belgrade, young Ivan advanced his childhood desire to serve God and the Church, and so from there he headed to monastery Studenica where after a short period of novice life he gets tonsured to monasticism having received the name Mardarije. With the decision of the Holy Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church, now young hierodeacon Mardarije is sent to Russia where he spent twelve years (1905-1917) furthering his theological education and growing in wisdom. From there, the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church sent him to the United States of America to organize the Serbian Orthodox Church. On December 1, 1923, now archimandrite Mardarije is appointed as administrator of the Serbian American-Canadian diocese with the see in Chicago and that same year he purchased around ten acres of land in Libertyville, Illinois, where later St. Sava monastery was built. He was elected by the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church as the first bishop for the newly established diocese in America on December 7, 1925, and his consecration took place on Palm Sunday, the Feast of the Entrance of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, on April 25, 1926.

From then on His Grace Bishop Mardarije, the first bishop of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, labored tirelessly in

building churches, St. Sava monastery in Libertyville, sowing Christian love, spread peace, preached and witnessed the Gospel of Christ throughout his diocese. In spite of inescapable worldly trends, he lived spontaneity of truth and a provision of grace, just because Life has dawned from the Tomb, and is dawning still. Having labored as bishop for a little over nine years he died peacefully on December 12, 1935, hospitalized in Ann Arbor, Michigan, while writing his last Nativity Encyclical to his beloved flock. His earthly remains were laid to rest at St. Sava monastery in Libertyville. The Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church during its regular session held from May 14-29, 2015, brought forth a decision that his name be added to the Diptych of saints of the Holy Orthodox Church.

From the Holy Hierarch Mardarije, we see how the grace of God reaches the heart of our cities, bringing to the confusion of the world the breeze of the Spirit and the serenity of the Age to come.

Troparion of Sts. Mardarije and Sebastian:

O God of our Fathers,
Always act with kindness towards us;
Take not Your mercy from us,
But through the prayers of Saints Mardarije
and Sebastian
Guide our lives in peace.

Kontakion to St. Mardarije of Libertyville, Tone 8:

Tireless preacher of Christ the Lord,
Leader on the path of St. Sava for your people in diaspora,
Labor-loving practitioner and teacher of repentance,
Holy Mardarije of Libertyville and America,
Together with all the Enlighteners of the
American lands,
Entreat the only Lover of Mankind,
To grant all Orthodox Christians peace and unity!



Bishop Mardarije.



Father Stel Muksuris:

"THE DIVINE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH are words in which we converse and speak to God with our worship and with our love. The hours spent closest to Paradise are the hours spent in the church together with all our brethren when we celebrate the Divine Liturgy, when we sing and when we receive Holy Communion. [However] whatever you do under compulsion and whatever causes your soul to kick instinctively and protest, causes you harm." ~*St. Porphyrios the Athonite Elder, Wounded by Love, p. 165*



Vladika Lazar Puhalo:

One of the things that makes right wing Evangelicals so dangerous is their focus on "God's punishment." They really are riveted on the delusion that justice is a synonym for punishment and that God's main interaction with mankind is His desire to "get even with man" for having offended Him. They actually believe that they have to coerce external behaviour in order to prevent "God's punishment" on America. For them, the only solution is an authoritarian system of government. That is one of the dangers that we face: this dystopian fantasy of an autocratic theocracy as the solution to the frightening fantasies that haunt their souls. There is a tendency on part to relegate actual and proven dangers to the level of conspiracy theories. We have already heard some of their demagogue preachers denying climate change but asserting that the already occurring results of climate change are only God's punishment for this or that imagined "sin." Somehow, they

have left no space for God's love and mercy and appear to feel that only coerced external behaviour can resolve the problems facing the Western world today. As a result, they have espoused the most destructive and corrupt form of politics and a theology that actually promotes atheism. We can see elements of this within the Orthodox Church today also, and we need to urgently resist it.

The role of Christians
in the world is to filter
the atmosphere of the
earth so that the
atmosphere of God's
reign can gain ground.

- Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica



This day [13 December] in 1997, I received the fearsome gift of the Holy Priesthood by the laying of hands by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Constantine, of Blessed Memory. Since then, I have had the honor, responsibility, and great joy to serve Holy Ghost parish in Slickville, PA.

As I look back, I think of all who guided, prodded, scolded, pushed, coddled, comforted, and kicked my keister to do His Work...being the Servant of those in the Holy Priesthood: Father Steve Repa comes to mind as my big brother and teacher.

Among those who have Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Proto Dragan Filipovic, Protopresbyter George Livanos, Father Tom Hopko, Father John Harvey, Father Peter Natishan, Father John Gido, and, of course, His Beatitude, +Constantine.

To my brothers and concelebrants who have helped me over the years...words do not begin to express my love and thanks for all the advice, comfort, and love you have shown to me.

To the members and officers of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh: Thank you! I am humbled that you continue your support and love for this unworthy priest.

To my parish family...you have supported me through changes and COVID-19 restrictions with care, kind words, and LOVE!

To my sister-by-another-mother, Rebecca Danchenko...you always had my back and either hugged or kicked me to keep going—situation-dependent, of course, forever!

To my family...Pani Regina Blair Popichak, Reader Alexander Popichak, EMT Matthew Popichak...I have no words to thank you...just my love and my heart.

I am truly who I am by all who have touched my life over these decades...and I thank you, pray for you all, and love you!

We have no idea where our lives will lead us...but we do know that no matter when, where, or how we get there...Z'nami Boh! God IS With us!

Sorry this is so long...I just started to spill my heart and this is where it went!

God Bless and Keep you ALL—always!

Love and prayers,

Fr. Bob

Village Priest--Slickville, PA