



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 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 & Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, 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], 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, 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 Zeliszcuk, 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, 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], Father Nick Mahaly [COVID-19], Mike Wilcox [COVID-19], Father Deacon James Rossetti & Diakonissa Kari—ordination!, Steve Sivulich, Steve Sawchuck, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, 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 February babies: David Shirley on the 1st; Kevin Tkacik on the 6th, and Kyle James Weiser on the 12th. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M’nohayha 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, February 06 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY; VENERABLE XENIA OF ROME & 2 FEMALE SLAVES; MARTYRS BABYLAS OF SICILY & DISCIPLES TIMOTHY & AGAPIUS; VENERABLE MACADONIUS-HERMIT OF SYRIA; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF SAINT ANASTASIUS THE PERSIAN

Tone 8

1 Timothy 4:9-15

Luke 19:1-10

Litany in Blessed Memory of Milton G. Chicka, Daniel Pysh, Sara Chicka, Nikolai Pivtoraiko, Evelyn Burlack, Anne Cherepko Mazock, Roy Wyke, Katherine Debick, & Dollie Mae Irvin—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, February 13 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE; HOLY WONDERWORKERS & UNMERCENARIES CYRUS & JOHN & MARTYRS ATHANASIA, THEOCTISTE, THEODOTA, & EUDOXIA; MARTYRS VICTORINUS, VICTOR, NICEPHORUS, CLAUDIUS, DIODORUS, SERAPION, & PAPIAS OF EGYPT; MARTYR TRYPHAENES AT CYZICUS; SAINT NICETAS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 1

2 Timothy 3:10-15

Luke 18:10-14

SUNDAY, February 20 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON; AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD; VENERABLE PARTHENIUS-BISHOP OF LAPSACUS ON HELLESPONT; VENERABLE LUKE OF MOUNT STEIRION; 1,003 MARTYRS OF NICOMEDIA

Tone 2

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 06 FEBRUARY 2022

33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY; VENERABLE XENIA OF ROME & 2 FEMALE SLAVES; MARTYRS BABYLAS OF SICILY & DISCIPLES TIMOTHY & AGAPIUS; VENERABLE MACADONIUS-HERMIT OF SYRIA; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF SAINT ANASTASIUS THE PERSIAN

TROPARION—TONE 8

Thou didst descent from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings!
Our Lord, our Life and Resurrection, 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 8

By rising from the tomb,
Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,
And the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead,
O greatly Merciful One!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 8

READER: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!
PEOPLE: **Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!**
READER: In Judah, God is known; His name is great in Israel!
PEOPLE: **Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!**
READER: Pray and make your vows.
PEOPLE: **Before the Lord our God!**

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 8

Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with psalms.

New Life in Christ

Romans 6:4- Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (KJV)

Let us always honor our baptism and commit to faithfully following Jesus Christ. Each day is another opportunity to honor Jesus Christ in thought, word and deed. Repentance is always possible and beginning anew in Christ can always occur. Believers are able to reject sin at any point in life, repent and embrace Jesus Christ. Joy abounds with Holy Baptism and whenever a person repents and loves Christ. Jesus Christ's love extends to each person and God's mercy endures forever (Ps.106.1) The Lord's love is realized when one consciously turns to and embraces Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17-Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (KJV)

New beginnings are possible in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout earthly life. The Lord Jesus Christ's love for each person makes new beginnings possible. The most hardened sinner has the opportunity to enjoy new life in Jesus Christ. Believers commit sins intentionally or unintentionally and benefit from repenting. Hunger in the soul moves a person to draw near to Christ and to reject sin in life. Peace of mind and in the heart and soul comes with beginning to love Jesus Christ. Hope greatly increases when the believer turns to Jesus Christ with resolute faith.

Galatians 6:15- For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. (KJV)

The life in Jesus Christ continues to unfold as the believer seeks to live in Christ. Jesus Christ reveals Himself to persons opening their hearts, minds, and souls. The desire deep within the heart, mind and soul is fully satisfied in the Lord Jesus. God's Holy Church guides the believer to peace and love in the life in Jesus Christ. The Church offers the nourishment, instruction, and experiences for lasting peace. The Lord Jesus Christ is within reach of each person seeking to begin anew. Jesus Christ enables believers to form new and lasting personal relationships.

Colossians 3:10- And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: (KJV)

Jesus Christ taking on human flesh put in motion a lasting change upon the earth. Believers benefit from savoring the knowledge of Jesus Christ taking on flesh. Thinking and learning extensively about Jesus Christ is a most wise investment. Turning to Christ in constant prayer is an investment in the Kingdom of God. Eternal life is distinctly possible for believers choosing to live fully in Christ. Old ways of living in the world

need to be put away when one embraces Christ. The path to eternal life is always open to serious believers following Jesus Christ.

*Venerable Mother Melania of Rome, Met. Dositej of Zagreb, Apodasis of Nativity.
December 31, 2021/January 13, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania Father Rodney
Torbic*

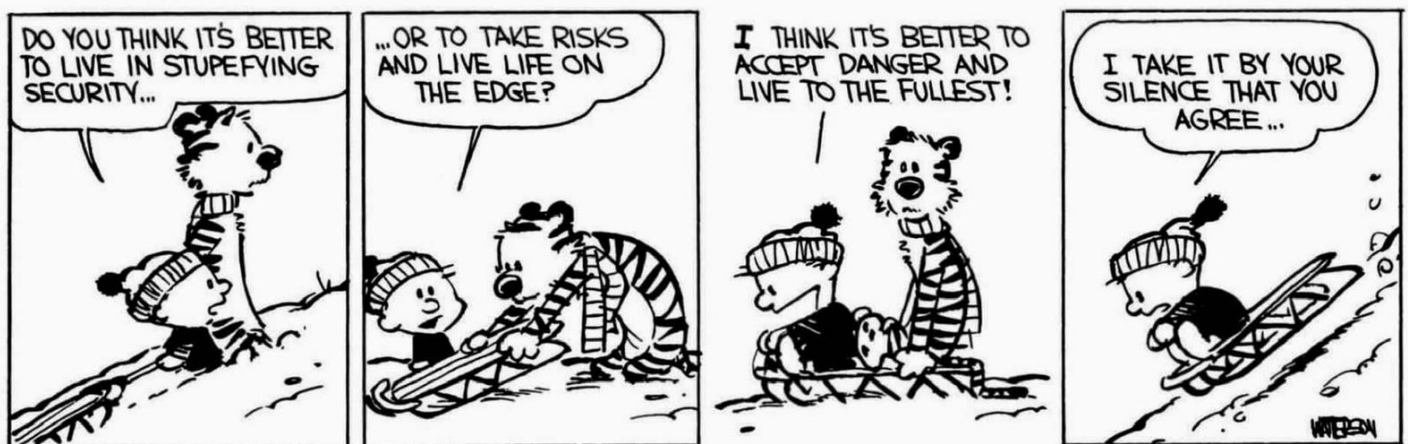
Hope—The Gifts of the Lord Abound

If we are attentive to all the Lord does for us, we will endure those times when our prayers seem to go unanswered. That God is not always giving us just what we think we need, in no way means he does not hear us. Our days are filled with gifts from God, most often in ways we do not even notice. When we pray in the Our Father, "give us this day our daily bread", we are asking God to give us that which we need. It is not required of us that we be specific in our request, for our loving Lord knows before we ask.

The Lord comes to us in the stillness of our heart and provides for us in ways that are not even known to us. He has loved us before our conception in the womb of our mother and is close to us even when we think He is far away. If we allow ourselves to look closely, we will see His gifts abound in every breath we take, in every flower we pick, in every child we hold. Our hope is eternal because God's love is eternal.

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear (I Peter 3:15)."

Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon



The Thirty Second Sunday after Pentecost Luke 18:18-27

And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments,

Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. (KJV)

The Lord Jesus Christ reaffirmed the value of God's commandments in the present Gospel. Furthermore, Jesus showed compassion to the poor. Jesus told the rich man to sell his goods and distribute the funds to the poor.

When the rich man had sold his possessions and gave the funds to the poor, he was to follow the Lord. The rich man's initial interest was to experience eternal life. Achieving eternal life was the basis for the question the man posed to Jesus.

The rich man followed God's commandments during the course of his life. His commitment to God was not complete. The rich man had a firm attachment to his material possessions. Jesus wanted a complete commitment from the man.

The man's material goods had a stronger grip on his life than his interest in following Jesus and seeking eternal life. Each person hearing this Gospel benefits by evaluating the strength of his or her personal interest in eternal life.

Hearing the present Gospel is a basis for believers to assess whether the commandments of God are followed. If a person does not follow the commandments, he or she can begin immediately to follow them.

The present Gospel inspires attentive believers to examine the personal attitude to the poor and unfortunate people in this world. Aiding the poor and unfortunate is a way to lay up treasure in heaven.

Pursuing eternal life is measured by the willingness to completely commit to following Christ. When material interests keep a person from following Jesus Christ, the path to eternal life is in jeopardy.

The Lord Jesus Christ made clear the value of the soul exceeds the value of the whole world. Jesus said: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mk. 8:36)

Contemporary society is very consumer oriented. Gathering material wealth is widely encouraged. Great wealth abounds in parts of the present world while many suffer in great poverty and hardship.

The way a person manages material possessions will show the degree Jesus Christ governs the heart, mind and soul. The use of personal wealth and possessions managed with the love of Christ makes a decided difference in life.

The Lord is clear that a rich person with God's help can enter the Kingdom. The determining factors for entering the Kingdom and experiencing eternal life rests with the person's relationship with Christ and the use of personal wealth.

God's Church proclaims the present Gospel reading each year for believers to look carefully at personal values and commitment to the Lord. Believers can easily be corrupted by material interests.

Interest in accruing personal wealth can blind individuals to suffering neighbors nearby. Devoting sufficient time to raising children can be neglected because parents are seeking greater material wealth.

The hunger in the soul requires Jesus Christ to be the primary interest and goal of life. When interest in material wealth exceeds interest in Christ, experiencing salvation of the soul and eternal life are in jeopardy.

Believers have the opportunity to correct the path of life by repenting and turning to the Lord for assistance. The Lord Jesus Christ welcomes persons seeking to repent and follow Him.

The rich man in the present Gospel made a good beginning in life by following the commandments. The man's ending in life was not as good as it could be because of his strong connection to his material goods.

The rich man was not willing to commit completely to following Jesus Christ. The whole person is committed to Jesus Christ at Baptism. All of life's efforts and possessions are to be managed in a God-pleasing manner.

The Church educates and instructs believers of the actions to take to experience eternal life. The Church nourishes and strengthens believers to ward off the evils that arise in life and put the soul in peril.

Attentive believers take each Gospel lesson to heart and apply the Gospel to daily life. Repentance, confession, and communion keep the believer united with Jesus Christ and on the path to eternal life.

Prudent management of material wealth in a God-pleasing manner facilitates the person traveling the path to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life. Jesus Christ shines the light on the path to follow and reaffirms reason to hope.

With sincere repentance and commitment to following Christ, eternal life and experiencing the Heavenly Kingdom are possible. The present Gospel reading is a valuable lesson for sober thought and meaningful direction in daily life.

The Thirty Second Sunday after Pentecost. January 17/30, 2022. Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

When your daddy is the Deacon and you just want to hold his hand during liturgy....



Vladyka Lazar Puhalo

In holy baptism we do not ask, "have you united yourself to the state." And a church that has united itself with the state has divorced itself from Jesus Christ. A church that has "placed its hope in princes, in the sons of men..." no longer hopes on God. Beware of clergy of any denomination, including the Orthodox Church, who are evidently trying to merge the church with one or another political party or even one or another wing of politics instead of simply preaching the gospel and placing their hope in Jesus Christ and the grace of the Holy Spirit. Outside of the church, one can have and express whatever political opinions and perspectives that they may have, so long as they allow the same freedom to others who disagree with them. However, giving political sermons and preaching politics from the solea or pulpit is a patent betrayal of the Gospel itself

CHURCH IS HARD

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.

Church is hard for the Priest's family, under the microscope of an entire body.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken, and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together—but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the person with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the person chanting while being overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.

Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners living in fellowship among the saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Judgement Seat of Christ.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted, and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories. Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend, When I've fought with my spouse because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold or fought tears as the hymns were chanted. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away. I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

-Unknown

*Holy Theotokos of Iveron, Russian Orthodox Church
845 Queen Street #101, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*



His Eminence, Metropolitan Antony, celebrates his 75th birthday Sunday, January 30th—Eis Polla Eti, Despota!