



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church
714 Westmoreland Avenue
PO Box 3
Slickville, PA 15684-0003
www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org
Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor
23 Station Street
Carnegie, PA 15106-3014
[412] 279-5640 home
[412] 956-6626 cell
rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

GREAT LENT

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 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 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 S3ilier, 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 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 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 Slaughaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam & Gordon Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's

cousin], JoAnne & Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Steven—Harry Batch's cousin, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik's Cousin, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Micky Delans [COVID-19], Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, 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, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Diane Norton [cancer], Brett Crosby, 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.

"Orthodoxy proposes and does not impose itself—there is individual human freedom to work with the Holy Spirit in a personal and communal way " +Metropolitan Constantine

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE! PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD—AND IN OUR LIVES!

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, March 20 SAINT BASIL THE GREAT-OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
10:30 AM**

2ND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS; SYNAXIS OF THE VENERABLE FATHERS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; HOLY HIEROMARTYRS OF CHERSON-BASIL, EPHRAIM, CAPITO, EUGENE, AETHERIUS, ELPIDIUS, & AGATHODORUS; SAINT PAUL THE SIMPLE OF EGYPT-DISCIPLE OF SAINT ANTHONY THE GREAT; SAINT PAUL THE CONFESSOR-BISHOP OF PRUSIAS IN BITHYNIA; SAINT EMILIAN OF ROME

Tone 6

Hebrews 7:26-8:2; Galatians 5:22-6:2

John 10:9-16; Luke 6:17-23

**SUNDAY, March 27 SAINT BASIL THE GREAT-OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
10:30 AM**

3RD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS; SAINT BENEDICT OF NURSIA-ABBOT; SAINT EUCHEMON-BISHOP OF LAMPACUS; SAINT ROTISLAV-MICHAEL-PRINCE OF KYIV; SAINT THEOGNOSTUS-METROPOLITAN OF KYIV & ALL RUS

Tone 7

Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Mark 8:34-9:1

**SUNDAY, April 03 SAINT BASIL THE GREAT-OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS
10:30 AM**

**4th SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS—THE LADDER OF DIVINE
ASCENT; VENERABLE JAMES-BISHOP OF THE STUDIUM; SAINT CYRIL-
BISHOP OF CATANIA; SAINT THOMAS-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

Tone 8

Hebrews 6:13-20; Ephesians 5:8-19

Mark 9:17-31; Matthew 4:25-5:12

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Frank Pendlyshok, John Cherepko, Ollie
Pendlyshok, Stella Peanoske, Rose Lopushanski, Mary Haluszczak,
Vladimir Hanczar, Michael Brittan, Deacon Dennis Lapushansky, & Lynne
Giglione—Fr. Bob***

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 20 MARCH 2022

**2ND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS; SYNAXIS
OF THE VENERABLE FATHERS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; HOLY
HIEROMARTYRS OF CHERSON-BASIL, EPHRAIM, CAPITO, EUGENE,
AETHERIUS, ELPIDIUS, & AGATHODORUS; SAINT PAUL THE SIMPLE
OF EGYPT-DISCIPLE OF SAINT ANTHONY THE GREAT; SAINT PAUL
THE CONFESSOR-BISHOP OF PRUSIAS IN BITHYNIA; SAINT
EMILIAN OF ROME**

TROPARION—TONE 8

O Light of Orthodoxy! Teacher of the Church! Its confirmation!
O Ideal of Monks and invincible Champion of Theologians!
O wonder-working Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and Preacher of Grace!
Always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

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

KONTAKION—TONE 4

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors!
So let us rise and fast, offering alms with tears of compunction and crying:
Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea;
But forgive us, O Master of All,
So that we may receive the incorruptible crowns.

PROKEIMENON—TONE 5

READER: Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this
generation forever!

PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this
generation forever!

READER: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

PEOPLE: **Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever!**

READER: Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us.

PEOPLE: **From this generation forever!**

ALLELUIA VERSES

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

The righteous will be remembered forever; he is not afraid of evil things!

Archbishop Daniel Zelinsky of the USA commented on the Russian patriarch.

QUESTION: There was a statement released Wednesday from Moscow Patriarch Kirill. What are your thoughts on that statement? Conciliatory? Goodwill? An appeal of some sort?

ANSWER: [It was] A letter from a religious politician, and not a spiritual father of the people of Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

I think Patriarch Kirill is repeating a so-called history lesson we all received from President Vladimir Putin a few days ago. You cannot rewrite the history, Ukrainians and Russians. I'm not being divisive here, but we're not sharing the same history. Ukraine—Kievan Rus', not Russia.

To say that we share the same ethnic background and what have you—I think it's a mistake. It's an incorrect statement. And I wish the religious leaders would correct that terminology he's utilizing it. It's not a brotherly conflict that we're having in Ukraine. I have a younger brother, and when we were growing up, we had a conflict. We fought over little things. But at the end of the day, we knew we were brothers, and we knew we had to respect each other because there was love between us. If you love somebody, as a brother, as a true brother, you're not going to go and bomb the homes and destroy the lives of people, and then say, "Well, let's bring humanitarian aid," and what have you. If you're truly the spiritual father, as you claim, of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Moscow, Patriarchate in Ukraine, then go and confront the political leader of Russian Federation and tell him, "Stop abusing the people of my church."



Father Steve Repa contributes:

It is still a KGB mentality church—using the sacraments and religion to press and as a weapon—**"Orthodoxy proposes and does not impose itself—there is individual human freedom to work with the Holy Spirit in a personal and communal way "** +Metropolitan Constantine

Forgiveness Sunday Matthew 6:14-21

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (KJV)

Great Lent is at the door. Tomorrow is the first day. The Church has been preparing believers for the coming days and the journey to Pascha. The time to get serious about Great Lent has arrived.

The Church wants all believers to have a good and desirable beginning for the Lenten journey. Forgiving each other and seeking forgiveness from God frees the believer to earnestly begin the journey.

Battling sin requires great concentration and focused desire for the Lord God.

The current Gospel advises believers to lay up treasures in heaven where moth and rust do not corrupt and where thieves cannot break in and steal.

Laying up treasures in heaven is an investment in the Kingdom of God and a preparation for eternal life. Exercising forgiveness in daily relationships is a step toward laying up treasures in heaven.

Forgiveness in daily relationships is necessary for love to be alive in relationships. Husbands and wives regularly need to be forgiving of each other if the marriage is to be strong and healthy.

Parents need to be forgiving of sons and daughters if healthy growth is to take place. Sons and daughters improve personal health by forgiving their parents. Forgiveness is essential in the workplace, the community and the parish church. The Lord set the supreme example for forgiveness when He was crucified. Jesus said: "Father, **forgive** them; for they know not what they do." (Lk. 23:34) Jesus' willingness to forgive in the face of death is something always to remember.

The Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen set a similar example of forgiveness when he was being stoned to death. St. Stephen said "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." (Acts 7:60)

Learning to forgive from Jesus and St. Stephen will benefit believers now, during the course of Great Lent and throughout life. Forgiveness lifts a great weight from the believer and frees the believer to grow in Christ.

Living as Christ teaches and shows by example enables the believer to grow and mature in Christ. The hunger in the soul yearns for the peace experienced by forgiveness. Forgiveness energizes the believer in following Jesus Christ.

Great Lent is the opportunity set forth by the Church each year to grow in Christ. Repentance is encouraged. Increased fasting, prayer and almsgiving are prescribed and expected during Great Lent.

Participating in Great Lent is voluntary, encouraged and expected for all believers. Each believer is at a different level of growth in Christ. The investment made in Great Lent will determine the joy experienced at Pascha.

Great Lent is a time for personal honesty with the self and with God. Now and throughout Great Lent personal sinfulness is to be assessed, rejected, and replaced with repentance.

God's help and teachings are necessary in personal assessment and repentance. God's goodness, love and mercy enable new beginnings in Jesus Christ. Great Lent is a time for newness in Christ.

Let us welcome the arrival of Great Lent with vigor and enthusiasm. May we keep in mind the Light of Christ and the joy of the Resurrection throughout the journey. The effort put into prayer, fasting and almsgiving is to be highly valued.

Attending Lenten services and being attentive to the content of the services nourishes the soul. The present Gospel describes keeping the Lenten effort private between the believer and God.

The content of today's Gospel is to be seriously considered in the days ahead. If a great investment is made in prayer, fasting and almsgiving, expect to be challenged and tempted. When feeling tired, take time to rest, and begin anew.

The Cross of Christ will give strength to each believer. Remember Jesus Christ on the Cross and His suffering as Great Lent proceeds. Remaining hopeful throughout the journey is essential.

God's Holy Church welcomes believers during Great Lent. Each service provides nourishment for the soul. Focused prayer and fasting will draw the believer closer to Jesus Christ.

Almsgiving and charitable acts are best done discreetly, quietly known to God. God sees charitable giving done discreetly and knows the motivation of the giver. The Church offers numerous opportunities for charitable giving.

Each day of life is a blessing from God. Each moment of time only comes once. The time of life is to be cherished and used wisely. Seek to glorify God in the days ahead and be forgiving in daily relationships.

Cheesefare Sunday. Venerable Timothy. St. Eustathius, Archbishop of Antioch. February 21/March 6, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; be silent and listen.

VICARIATO DE ORIENTE

@ORTHODOXYFORYOU

+ Saint Iakovos Tsalikis +

From Father Joshua Anna: I love how Abbot Tryphon teaches! This is so important to understand as Orthodox' Christians. The Romans went heretical over Original Sin and from Agustine to now they are off the mark. Orthodoxy maintains intact the full teaching of Christ as an historical fact and present reality until the end of time.

ANCESTRAL SIN vs Roman Original Sin:

The Inheritance of death rather than the firstborn's sin

That the Orthodox Church does not accept the doctrine of original sin as espoused in the West, in no way suggests we do not need to be born anew. Orthodoxy continues the teaching of the Early Church that we inherit only the results of Adam's sin, not his guilt. This is known as Ancestral Sin because the sin of our first parents resulted in our inheriting a cosmos where sickness, and death reign.

Christ's death on the cross has as its power, not an atonement sacrifice, but in the conquering of the power of death itself. Death has been trampled down by death, and Christ's resurrection opened the door to eternal life, and ended the finality of death. Christ's resurrection becomes our resurrection.

Although we do not refer to ourselves as "saved", as do Evangelical Christians, believing as we do that salvation is a process, we nevertheless know we are in need of salvation. Our understanding of the nature of sin as distinct from the concept of original sin and the hereditary guilt that requires a substitutionary, atonement-type, sacrifice, separates us doctrinally from Western Christianity.

Had there not been a fall, Christ the Logos (Word) would still have, in the mind of many Church Fathers, incarnated in the flesh and taken on our nature. For this condescension by our God to take on the flesh of His creatures, opened wide the door for our communion with Him, allowing us to enter into the very Heart of God, thus completing creation as it was meant to be.

Our journey into the heart culminates in theosis, whereby we are joined in everlasting communion with the very God Who created us, for as Saint Athanasius of Alexandria said, "The Son of God became man, that we might become god." And in II Peter 1:4, we read that we have become "...partakers of divine nature." Saint Athanasius went on to say that theosis is "becoming by grace what God is by nature."

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

A Christian should not know a single enemy in the world, even if the world did not give him a single friend. - *St. Philaret of Moscow*



"...People feel unhappy and they don't know why. They feel that something is wrong, but they can't put their finger on what. They feel uneasy, confused, frustrated, alienated, and estranged—and they can't explain it. They have everything and yet they want more; and when they get it, they are still empty and dissatisfied. They want fulfillment and it never seems to come. Everything is fine and yet everything is wrong...

...Here in America, this is almost a national disease. It is covered over by frantic activity and endless running around; it is buried in activities and events; it is drowned out by television programs and football games. But when the movement stops and the dial is turned off and everything is

quiet...then the dread sets in, the meaninglessness of it all, the boredom and the fear...

...St. Augustine said more than 1500 years ago, "and we will be forever restless until we rest in Him." Our lives are made for God, and we will be unsatisfied, unfulfilled and frustrated until we find our home with Him. Nothing in this fallen world can, of itself, bring us the peace that we seek. God alone can do that because He alone is our home. And we are His...

—Fr Thomas Hopko, "The Lenten Spring"



Vladika Lazar Puhalo:

Atheism around the world just got an immense boost as the patriarch of Moscow's fully endorses the invasion of Ukraine and tries to give it a moralistic justification. The invasion of a peaceful sovereign nation but another nation is never morally justifiable. It does not justifiable when America did it and it certainly is not justifiable now. By trying to give this horrifying invasion a moral/religious basis and turn it into a crusade, Kyril has not only given his approval to the restoration of the Soviet Union, but he has given a tremendous boost to the atheist movement which have accused Christianity, and religion in general, is harmful to the human species. One cannot except in the heart that the Moscow patriarch actually believes in God.

**Akathist Service to "The Mother of God, the Inexhaustible Cup"
March 27, 5pm**

Addiction is perhaps the most pervasive sickness in our society, for when it infects someone it strangles their entire physical, mental, emotional, and economic well-being. Millions of dollars are spent for treatment to fight this illness, and yet too often the treatment is not successful because those stricken cannot fully cooperate with the program. Many so afflicted sincerely desire to renounce the terrible tyrant that rules their lives, but they do not have enough power within themselves to fight this enemy and overcome their passion.

As Christians, we know that in addition to treatment, they need spiritual help. And one of the greatest sources of spiritual help is the Theotokos, the Mother of God. She wants all those suffering from addiction to appeal to her for help. She is an inexhaustible cup of joy, consolation, and healing, and she will pour into the afflicted hearts the spiritual gifts of heavenly sweetness, to help those turn away from the destructive passion of addiction.

This Akathist Service is being offered so we may together implore the Mother of God to intercede before her Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that they may not perish from addiction but be saved. The service will not just pray in general for those with addictions, but also during the service everyone whose first name is provided to the priests who are conducting these services, will also be prayed for. God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds, and He calls them all by name.

The service is being held at four area Orthodox churches on Sunday, March 27, at 5:00pm. Locations are St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 3400 Dawson St, Pittsburgh (Oakland), Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh (McCandless), Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 200 Walnut St., Carnegie, and St. Michael Orthodox Church, 1182 Ashland St., Greensburg. All are welcome!