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CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRISTOS VOSKRES! CHRISTOS ANESTI!!

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 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 S3ilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, 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 Philpa, 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 & Jan Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara

Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy & Sharon Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Theresa Paluh, Lottie Bubrzyk, 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 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, Randy Lapuh, Henry & Shirley Tkacik, Denny Mader, 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.

PLEASE REVIEW THE NAMES ON THE PRAYER LIST ABOVE AND LET FATHER BOB KNOW ANY NAMES THAT CAN BE REMOVED...

*******REMINDER—NO KNEELING UNTIL PENTECOST!*******

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE! PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD—AND 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, May 29 **OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS** **10:30 AM**
6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN; SAINT THEODORE THE SANCTIFIED; SAINT ALEXANDER-ARCHBISHOP OF JERUSALEM; MARTYRS VITUS, MODESTUS, & CRESCENTIA; BLESSED CHILD MUSA; MONK-MARTYRS OF THE COMMUNITY OF SAINT SAVA THE SANCTIFIED; SAINT GEORGE-BISHOP OF MITYLENE

Tone 5
Acts 16:16-34
John 9:1-38

WEDNESDAY, June 01

LEAVE-TAKING OF PASCHA

SUNDAY, June 05 **OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS** **10:30 AM**
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; VENER4BLE MICHAEL THE CONFESSOR-BISHOP OF SYNNADA; MARTYR MICHAEL THE BLACK-ROBED OF SAINT SABBAS MONASTERY; VENERABLE VIRGIN EUPHROSYNE-PRINCESS OF POLOTSK

Tone 6
Acts 20:16-18, 28-36
John 17:1-13

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 12

OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS

10:30 AM

PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH

NAME'S DAY

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 29 MAY 2022

6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN; SAINT THEODORE THE SANCTIFIED; SAINT ALEXANDER-ARCHBISHOP OF JERUSALEM; MARTYRS VITUS, MODESTUS, & CRESCENTIA; BLESSED CHILD MUSA; MONK-MARTYRS OF THE COMMUNITY OF SAINT SAVA THE SANCTIFIED; SAINT GEORGE-BISHOP OF MITYLENE

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес!

Χριστός ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη! (Khristós Anésti! Alithós Anésti!)

Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

المسيح قام! حقا قام! (al-Masīḥ qām! Ḥaqqan qām!)

TROPARION—TONE 5

Let the faithful praise and worship the Word,
Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit;
Born for our salvation from the Virgin;
For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
To endure death,
And to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

KONTAKION—TONE 4

I come to Thee, O Christ,
Blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,
And call to Thee in repentance:
Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 5

Thou didst descend into Hell, O my Savior,

Shattering its gates as almighty;
Resurrecting the dead as Creator,
And destroying the sting of death.
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse,
O Lover of Man,
And we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

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

Look upon me and have mercy on me.

Lead my steps according to Thy word.

[THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS \(Replaces "It Is Truly Meet"\)](#)

**The angel cried unto Mary, who was full of Grace
Hail, oh pure virgin, oh pure virgin
once again I hail Thee
Thy Son has risen from His three days in the grave,
and He has raised the dead with Him,
Oh rejoice, all ye people.**

**Oh shine with clear radiance, shine on new Jerusalem
For the glory of the Lord is shining up on you.
Rejoice! Rejoice! now and be joyful--oh Zion, and though
oh pure one and adorable birthgiver of God,
in the rising again of HIM who was born of Thee.**

COMMUNION HYMNS

Receive ye the Body of Christ; taste ye the fountain of immortality.

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

The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman John 4:5-42

Then cometh He to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well

was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For His disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto Him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast Thou that living water? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when He is come, He will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am He. And upon this came His disciples, and marvelled that He talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came unto Him. In the mean while His disciples prayed Him, saying, Master, eat. But He said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought Him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and

then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. So when the Samaritans were come unto Him, they besought Him that He would tarry with them: and He abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. (KJV)

Translation of the Relics of St. Nicholas Luke 6:17-23

And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets (KJV).

**Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese!
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

St. John's Gospel describes the Lord Jesus Christ as the source of living water. Those who drink from Jesus will never thirst. Jesus is the inexhaustible Source leading to everlasting life.

God's Holy Church is continuing to celebrate Jesus Christ's Resurrection. Jesus' triumph of Life over death merits constant attention. Believers drinking from the Resurrected Christ have Christ living in them.

Throughout the day and throughout earthly life, believers have the opportunity to drink from Jesus Christ. The Gospel is clear that Jesus Christ offers nourishment for life throughout life.

Once having tasted of the living water from Christ, believers know and value the difference. Repentance is always possible for believers who have been nourished by Christ and have fallen away.

Remaining united with Christ keeps the believer on the narrow path to God's Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life. Perils to the soul and evil exist to derail believers on the journey to the Heavenly Kingdom

Great vigilance is necessary every moment of life to guard the soul. The closer a person gets to complete unity with Christ, the greater the peril to the soul as evil seeks to triumph.

Jesus Christ proved He is greater than evil and fortifies the faithful remaining united with Him. Savor the joy of the Resurrected Christ. Savor the opportunities to be united with Christ at every moment of life.

Depend not on personal strength or personal willpower. Strength is derived from God. When God is recognized as the source of strength and believers act in concert with God, evil temptations and perils are defeated.

This is a time of great joy in God's Holy Church. Rejoice in the Church's celebration of the Resurrection. Rejoice in the life and love of Jesus Christ.

Cherish the hope the Resurrection holds for each moment of life.

Be constantly grateful to God's Holy Church for offering Christ's living water. Be thankful for the Holy Apostles, Saints, and Martyrs through the centuries. Have gratitude for the founders and benefactors of this holy parish church.

Reject manifestations of evil in daily life and follow the Light of the Living Christ. Through the prayers and intercession of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker whose translation of relics is being celebrated today, be confident in the Lord.

Christ's Resurrection is the sufficient foundation for life and life eternal.

Christ's Resurrection is the world view to put every moment of life in perspective.

Christ's Resurrection is the source of everlasting knowledge and everlasting life.

*Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. Translation of the Relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. Holy Prophet Isaiah. May 9/22, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.
Father Rodney Torbic*

Cloud of Witnesses

The Saints are Alive in Christ Jesus

Vigil lights are placed before the icons of the saints, according to Saint Symeon the New Theologian, as a way of showing that without the Light, Who is Christ, the saints are nothing. It is only as the light of Christ shines on them that they become alive and resplendent.

The saints show us what a glorious destiny we have in God, and through the example of their lives, point the way to our becoming

“partakers of divine nature.” The saints, as the cloud of witnesses in heaven, are present in the divine services, worshiping the Holy Trinity with us. They, as our friends, intercede before the Throne of God on our behalf, having won the good fight, and we are encouraged by the memory and example of their lives, as we struggle on our own path to God.

It has been said that there are two kinds of people in the world: sinners who think they are saints, and saints who know they are sinners. A saint is a Christian who lets God's light shine through, and whose life has been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We venerate the Saints as we seek their intercession with God, but we adore and worship only God in Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We venerate the Images (Icons) as well as the relics of the saints and martyrs. Yet according to the decisions and Canons of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, this veneration relates not to the icons as such, but to their prototypes, or to the persons whom they represent.

The interior walls of our temples are adorned with the icons and frescoes of the saints as a reminder that we are surrounded by the cloud of witnesses, the saints, and that the Church Militant (here on earth) is not separated from the Church Triumphant (in heaven). In Christ, death does not divide us, for the saints are not dead, but alive in Christ Jesus.

Glory to Jesus Christ, Who is glorified in His saints.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



Philip G Haddad Jr. "THE BIG PICTURE!"

O.K. Folks! Reality Check.

I recently had an in-depth conversation with a lovely couple, who have had their share of challenges (like all of us); but have never lost contact (or focus) on The Big Picture. Sure it is a pleasurable to have things, to have

friends, and to have a social life—all of which are important to a degree; but fall short of essential in comparison to the Big Picture.

Although there are unexpected issues that arise in our daily lives; although we plan as best we can for tomorrow, our plans do not always (Point of Clarification) Seldom—work out according to our wishes or desires. Why not, we keep asking ourselves as we make demands of the One and Only that has the Power to grant our wishes!

Folks, the perils we face each and every day are often minute in comparison to those our friends and neighbors. A few days ago, I visited Bethesda Naval Hospital and witnessed what occurs there on a daily basis. The stream of endless individuals with challenges difficult to fathom, and with an attitude of acceptance and open willingness to address these issues with a sense of viewing their challenges against the backdrop of the Big Picture is (and was) humbling to say the least.

When next you are upset with that irrational and discourteous driver, that customer service representative with a personality of a fire hydrant, or that vendor that is more concerned about solving what he/she believes is your problem without first listening to you; take PAUSE and consider the BIG PICTURE—count your blessings, and be grateful for what you have and that you are strong enough not to be compromised for what truly matters in life.

Just maybe your patience and consideration (and BALANCE) will become contagious. Just my take! Blessings all!

Icons And The Redwoods

Encountering The Precious, Ageless, And Sacred

The very first time I entered an Orthodox church, I felt drawn to Her. There was a tangible, inner tug, and an overwhelming sense of peace, holiness, and awe, emanating from the very walls of the temple. The serving clergy were not the focus of the service, as I'd experienced in my protestant upbringing, but seemed to be moving within the walls of their temple, as if servants, or, given the beauty of their vestments, courtiers to an emperor. The focus was not on men, but on the holiness of God. I felt an overwhelming desire to be a part of this religion, but, at the time, allowed the ethnic, and language, differences to keep me from returning.

Eventually, as is evidenced by my present vocation, I did return, and can not even imagine how I could have stayed away, for some twenty years, after having tasted "the heavenly realm." Orthodoxy is like that, for it seems almost familiar to many first timers, as though we've known this faith from our very conception.

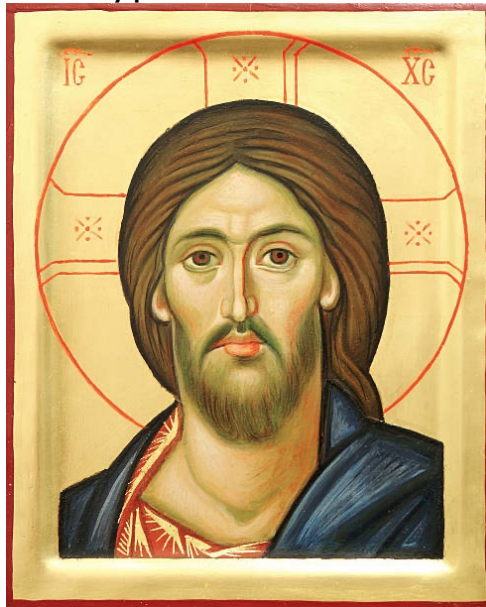
I remember seeing my very first hand painted icon. It was an icon of Christ, and I felt drawn into it, wanting to embrace it (or, perhaps more

correctly, being embraced by it.) This first encounter was in 1968, and in the small, private chapel of a friend. This encounter came about a month after I'd driven through Northern California's Redwood National Forest, beholding the thousand-year-old, towering trees. Both the icon, and the Redwoods, had an enormous impact on my young soul. They both seemed to offer me sanctuary, and a sense of peace. Both made me feel I'd encountered something precious, ageless, and sacred. I still feel the same, as an aging monk.

We humans are material beings, having been given bodies by our Creator. This Creator God has placed us in a material world, surrounded by things we can touch, see, smell, taste, and hear. Orthodox temples, by their very nature, allow us to commune with this very God, Who has given each of us the ability to touch, see, smell, taste, and hear. It is through the material world that God has chosen to unite Himself to us, His creatures. The Logos (The Word), Christ Himself, by Whom everything that is, came into being, has come down from heaven, and embraced us, as His own.

My last trip through the Redwoods brought back memories of my first encounter with an icon of Christ. How could they not, for it is the very Christ, depicted in the icon, Who created the Redwoods, and all that is beautiful and sacred.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. Instead of "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service *until Ascension*

Thursday, we sing "Christ is Risen!" Also, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.