



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

APOSTLES' FAST—SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

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 Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, 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 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 & 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, 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...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our July babies: Harry Batch on the 1st, Natasha Sudol on the 2nd, Zach Sudol on the 2nd, Andy Torick on the 14th, Matthew Brunermer on the 15th, Sabrina Sudol on the 19th, and Katrina Scott on the 25th. May God grant them Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! God Bless them and their families...

Tone 3
Romans 6:18-23
Matthew 8:5-13

TUESDAY, JULY 12

FEAST OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL

SUNDAY, July 17

OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS

10:30 AM

**5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT ANDREW-ARCHBISHOP OF CRETE;
VENERABLE MARTHA-MOTHER OF SAINT SYMEON STYLITES THE
YOUNGER; MARTYRS THEODOTUS & THEODOTA; HIEROMARTYR
THEODORE-BISHOP OF CYRENE**

Tone 4
Romans 10:1-10
Matthew 8:28-9:1

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 03 JULY 2022

**3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; ALL SAINTS OF HALYCH & ODESSA;
HIEROMARTYR METHODIUS-BISHOP OF PATARA; MARTYRS INNA,
PINNA, & RIMMA-DISCIPLES OF APOSTLE ANDREW IN SCYTHIA;
MARTYRS ARISTOCLEUS-PRESBYTER, DEMETRIAN-DEACON, &
ATHANASIUS-READER OF CYPRUS; SAINT LEUCIUS THE CONFESSOR-
BISHOP OF BRINDISI; SAINT MINAS-BISHOP OF POLOTSK**

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!

The Second Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 4:18-23

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. (KJV)

The Lord Jesus Christ offers healing and the Kingdom of God for those choosing to follow Him. Believers are to leave behind all that inhibits the full love of God when choosing to follow Christ.

At Baptism the believer's full body is dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ. Following Baptism believers are to learn in God's Holy Church the best and most pleasing ways to follow Jesus Christ.

The Church offers the way of repentance when poor choices are made and sin in life occurs. Jesus Christ's love and forgiveness provide the healing necessary for new beginnings throughout life.

Jesus' call to follow Him is powerful and appealing, Jesus offers the way out of sin and life in God's Kingdom. Peter, Andrew, James, and John recognized in Jesus the value of leaving all behind and following Him.

Believers in every century have heeded the call of Christ to follow Him. Jesus Christ calls each person at each moment of time to leave behind the chains of sin to embrace the goodness in Him.

Each person is unique, created in the image and likeness of God. Through living in Jesus Christ, the believer finds the best ways to manifest the image and likeness of God.

The Church nourishes and guides the believer from Baptism to eternal life and God's Kingdom. God's saints open the paths to follow and shine the light of Christ through their lives. The saints show that following Christ is very possible.

When doubts occur in the mind, Jesus Christ is ever-present to reassure the believer and renew the call to follow Him. Peter, Andrew, James, and John in the present Gospel follow Jesus Christ without hesitation.

We know from the Church's history that Peter, Andrew, James, and John lived in Christ in ways that are of lasting value. The Holy Apostles Peter, Andrew, James, and John are of immeasurable benefit to every generation.

The hunger in the soul is addressed and filled when the believer says 'Yes' to the call of Christ throughout all of life. Evil is to be firmly rejected and the life in Jesus Christ is to be fully embraced.

Prayer, fasting, and charitable works keep the believer oriented and attentive to Christ. Through prayer and nourishment in the Church, the believer finds the ways to live out life in ways most pleasing to the Lord.

The saints show that life can be lived in a variety of ways and be fully pleasing to the Lord. The world needs believers to live out life in different capacities for the existence of communities.

God reveals to believers the paths to take in manifesting the image and likeness in the Lord in daily life. Strength to overcome barriers to Christian growth and roadblocks in life comes through faith and belief in Christ.

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were guided by Christ as they went forth. They left behind their old lives and took up the new life in Christ for the benefit of their salvation.

Each person makes choices during the course of the day. The choices determine whether Christ is followed, and God's Kingdom are the primary goal.

Peter, Andrew, James, and John did not turn back after having following Christ.

Following Baptism each person is to remain firmly on the path to God's Kingdom and eternal life. The joys of life are experienced as the person remains faithful to Christ even in the most difficult of circumstances.

The Lord Jesus Christ showed that going to the Cross did not remove joy from life. Going to the Cross revealed the greatest joy as Jesus Christ defeated death by going to the Cross.

Each believer is baptized under the sign of the Cross. Each Divine service takes place under the sign of the Cross. Life is to be lived under the sign of the Cross.

Life under the sign of the Cross is the life in Christ and offers new life in Christ.

The present Gospel is proclaimed by the Church each year to reassure believers of the immediacy of the value of following Christ. The call of Christ is timely and timeless and beckons the believer to eternal life and God's Kingdom.

God's Holy Church is present for believers to heed the call of Christ and to follow Him. The Church offers unity with Christ through the Holy Scriptures, the Divine services, and the Holy Mysteries.

The world is transformed and overcome when believers choose to follow Christ. Just as death was defeated by Christ, sin, evil, and death are overcome by the life in Christ.

Today say "yes" to following Christ. At every moment resolve to say "yes" to the call of Christ. Through the prayers of the Holy Apostles Peter, Andrew, James, and John draw strength in following Christ throughout life.

The Second Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Apostle Aquilina; St. Tryphilius, Bishop of Cyprus. June 13/26, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

Holy Martyrs

Acts 22:20- And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him (KJV)

Remembering the Holy Martyrs through the centuries is essential for believers. The witness of the Holy Martyrs is part of the essence of God's Holy Church. The Holy Martyrs teach, inspire and serve as examples for every generation. Protomartyr Stephen is a lasting example for believers down through the centuries. St. George and St. Demetrios are very well remembered for their great courage. St. Lazarus and the Holy Kosovo Martyrs continue to inspire Serbs world-wide. Believers learn from and turn to the Holy Martyrs as intercessors before God. Nourishing the hunger in the soul includes embracing God's Holy Martyrs.

Revelation 2:13- I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. (KJV)

The believer's love for God's Holy Martyrs is very well-placed and well-invested. Conditions in each generation summon forth Holy Martyrs to witness for Christ. The Holy Martyrs' commitment to Jesus Christ is until

death and life-everlasting. Freely and consciously the Holy Martyrs go forth and give themselves for Christ. God's Holy Church honors and remembers the Holy Martyrs in Divine services. The Holy Martyrs are called to mind in the celebration of the Serbian Slava. Celebration of the Holy Mystery of Marriage includes reference to Holy Martyrs. The Church's importance ascribed to the Holy Martyrs cannot be over-estimated.

Revelation 17:6- And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures provide important references and lessons of the Holy Martyrs. Serious believers turn to the Holy Martyrs in prayer throughout the course of life. Families have the Holy Martyrs as their Patronal Saints and fervent intercessors. Communities bear the names of Holy Martyrs as lasting witness to their memories. The Holy Martyr St. Panteleimon comes to mind when believers seek healing. Holy Martyrs maintain the deepest hope, faith, and love in following Jesus Christ. The Holy Martyrs nourish believers seeking strength in life's most difficult times. God's Holy Martyrs benefit the salvation of souls heeding their complete witness.

*The Eve of Vidovdan. June 14/27, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.
Father Rodney Torbic*

Repentance is Always Timely

Matthew 4:17- From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (KJV)

Sincere repentance is always timely and beneficial for believers during earthly life. Repentance is necessary to cleanse the self of sins and to begin anew in Christ. Believers think and act in ways offensive to the Lord God necessitating repentance. God's reassuring love provides the hope and motivation for believers to repent. Desire for firm unity with the Lord Jesus Christ facilitates repentance in believers.

Luke 13:5- I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. (KJV)

Failure to repent carries with it the threat and peril of serious danger to the soul. Constant care of the believer's soul is necessary and requires great vigilance. The soul and the relationship with Jesus Christ are of primary importance in life. Sins put the believer in an undesirable position for the great and final judgment. The Lord knows each believer's thoughts and actions and will judge accordingly.

Acts 3:19- Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. (KJV)

Believers have the opportunity to repent while the mind is well-functioning. Opportunities to repent are not to be wasted as life may end unexpectedly. Repentance affords the opportunity to seek eternal life and to avoid damnation. Receiving forgiveness of sins is possible until the very last moment of life. Repentance restores joy to life and increases love and appreciation for God.

2 Corinthians 7:10- For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. (KJV)

The life in Christ involves taking responsibility for sin and embracing repentance. Repentance includes the combined action of the believer's heart, mind, and soul. The primary way believers can reconcile with God is through sincere repentance. The life in Christ improves when the believer repents and seeks to begin anew. Actively addressing personal sins keep the believer on the path to God's Kingdom.

2 Peter 3:9- The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (KJV)

Procrastination in seeking repentance has no place in the serious believer's life. God's goodness, mercy, and forgiveness merit thanksgiving and appreciation. Love, thanksgiving, and gratitude for God are demonstrated through repentance. Trust and confidence in God become evident when believers sincerely repent. Joy and peace permeate the heart, mind, and soul when sincere repentance occurs.

St. Epiphanius; St. Germanus of Constantinople. St. Nikodim of Pech, Apodasis of Mid-Pentecost. May 12/25, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

Unless We Become as Little Children

Matthew 18:3- And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (KJV)

A number of years ago when my twin grandsons were very young, they went to the parish cemetery adjacent to the church parking lot. While playing in the cemetery, they began to reverently kiss the crosses located there.

As the two boys exited the cemetery, they passed by my car, a Chevrolet. They stopped at the front of the car and kissed the emblem on the front. My grandsons viewed the emblem as a cross to be kissed.

I had owned many Chevrolets before this particular day. During decades of driving, I never viewed the standard emblem on a Chevrolet as

a cross. Ever since the day my grandsons kissed the emblem, I have viewed the emblem as a cross.

If my memory is correct, somewhere in my reading of the writings of St. Nikolai Velimirovic, I learned about viewing objects in daily life that are shaped as a cross. Strength and inspiration can be drawn from these images.

As we grow into adulthood, we often lose the simplicity of viewing events and occurrences in daily life. Our views of daily life, objects, and happenings are shaped and influenced by experiences with the passing of time.

Simple clarity may get lost in the process of human life experience. These young boys saw a cross before them and they approached it reverently. Their lives, vision, and understanding had not been distorted with experiences of many years.

In previous years of giving sermons, I very rarely mentioned personal experiences. Shortly after the boys kissed the emblem on my car, I included a description of their actions in a Sunday sermon.

The boys' kissing the cross in their heartfelt simplicity resulted in the most memorable of comments. The comments received were totally unexpected.

Describing the boys' actions made an impact.

Preaching the Gospel and attempting to live by the Gospel is the greatest of blessings and honors. Sermon preparation is a learning and sharing experience.

The heart, mind, and soul are nourished in the process.

Drawing strength and direction from God are essential in sermon preparation. Consistent use of the Holy Scriptures strengthens, and gives root and anchor to sermons.

Sermons need to be easily understood and touch the heart, mind, and soul. My grandsons in their simple actions taught me a lesson that continues to be of value.

*Holy Great-martyr Irene of Thessalonica. Mid-Pentecost. May 5/18, 2022.
Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

Prisoners

Psalm 69:33-For the Lord heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners. (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures offer a perspective for believers to consider the imprisoned. Sins imprison each person until repentance occurs and Jesus Christ is embraced. Prisoners are not only those individuals locked in government jails and prisons. The mind can cause individuals to be

imprisoned in their own bodies and homes. Repentance is the way to be forgiven and made free from being a prisoner of sin.

Psalm 79:11-Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die; KJV)

The Lord God is attentive to the hearts, minds and souls of the imprisoned. God responds to repentant hearts, minds and souls of those seeking forgiveness. The imprisoned have the opportunity through repentance to seek God's Kingdom. Prison chains, walls, and bars do not prevent a person from seeking repentance. God's love is able to bring forgiveness and healing to the most notorious sinner.

Psalm 102-20-To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death; (KJV)

Each person is an individual before God whether in the community or imprisoned. Individuals are created in God's image and likeness and experience God's love. Attentive individuals recognize God's love and embrace God's forgiveness. Accepting God's forgiveness of personal sin facilitates learning to love God. God's love heals, makes well and whole the repentant sinner's broken heart.

Psalm 146:7-Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners: (KJV)

Narrow thinkers will bring to mind those locked up in jail and prison cells. Individuals in the community commit crimes of the heart, mind, and soul. Repentance is required of all sins by the believers seeking renewal in Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to health, wellness, and wholeness. Embracing Christ makes overcoming the chains of sin possible and desirable.

St. Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria. June 9, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

*God is everywhere.
You decide whether you
are close to him or not.
- St. John Chrysostom -*

