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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, Metropolitan Savas, 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 Smolynech, 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, 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, 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, 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, Diane & Arthur Chaklis, Denny Mader, Robert Chicka [cancer], Myra Woodruff [cancer], Zoe Oswalt—Fr. Bob's cousin [cancer], Barbette [cancer] & Scott, Kristin [cancer], 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...**

**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, September 11** **NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
**\*\*\*\*\*STRICT FAST DAY\*\*\*\*\***

*Tone 4*

*1 Corinthians 16:13-24; Acts 13:25-32*  
*Matthew 21:33-42; Mark 6:14-30*

**SUNDAY, September 18** **OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS** **10:30 AM**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; PROPHET ZACHARIAS & RIGHTEOUS**  
**ELIZABETH; MARTYRS THIPHAEL & SISTER THIVEA; VIRGIN-MARTYR**  
**RHIAS OF ALEXANDRIA; MARTYRS URBAN, THEODORE, MEDIMNUS, & 77**  
**COMPANIONS AT NICOMEDIA; MARTYR ABDAS; MARTYRDOM OF HOLY**  
**PASSION-BEARER HLIB-IN BAPTISM DAVID; MARTYRDOM OF SAINT**  
**ATHANASIUS-ABBOT OF BREST**

*Tone 5*

*2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4; Hebrews 6:13-20*  
*Matthew 22:1-14; Matthew 23:29-39*

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Father John Harvey, Father Dragan Filipovic, Frank Gazella, Sr., Suzie Pelczar, Helen McNally, Gerald Wampler, & Victims of 9/11—Fr. Bob***

**SUNDAY, September 25** **OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS** **10:30 AM**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION; LEAVE-**  
**TAKING OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS; HIEROMARTYR**  
**AUTONOMOUS-BISHOP IN ITALY; HIEROMARTYR THEODORE-**  
**ARCHBISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA; SAINT CORONATUS-BISHOP OF ICONIUM;**  
**MARTYR JULIAN OF GALATIA & 40 MARTYRS WITH HIM**

*Tone 6*

*Galatians 6:11-18; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Philippians 2:5-11*  
*John 3:13-17; Matthew 22:35-46; Luke 10:38*

# **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 11 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**\*\*\*\*\*NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE\*\*\*\*\***

**13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**\*\*\*\*\*STRICT FAST DAY\*\*\*\*\***

## **TROPARION—TONE 4**

When the women disciples of the Lord  
Learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection;  
They cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles:  
Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,  
Granting the world great mercy.

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**

My Savior and Redeemer,  
As God rose from the tomb  
And delivered the earthborn from their chains.  
He has shattered the gates of Hell,  
And as Master, He has risen on the third day!

## **PROKEIMENON—TONE 4**

**READER:** O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

**PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.**

**READER:** Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

**PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.**

**READER:** O Lord, how manifold are thy works!

**PEOPLE: In wisdom hast Thou made them all.**

## **ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 4**

Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.

You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

Sister Vassa [Larin] (Monday, August 29 [September 11])

**WHAT DOES "MEMORY ETERNAL" (ВЕЧНАЯ ПАМЯТЬ/VECHNAYA PAM'YAT) MEAN?**

*"The righteous shall be in eternal memory. He shall not fear evil tidings."*  
(Εἰς μνημόσυνον αἰώνιον ἔσται δίκαιος, ἀπὸ ἀκοῆς πονηρᾶς οὐ φοβηθήσεται.  
/В память вечную будет праведник, от слуха зла не убоится, Ps 111:6)

When we sing or say "Memory eternal!" when somebody dies in our church, we mean that we pray that they be counted among the "righteous"; the sort of people who, according to the above-quoted Psalm-verse, remain in "eternal memory," or memorable also in timeless eternity, (although "memory" in "eternity" is a mystery impossible to grasp), and who did "not fear evil tidings." Even if they were poor and seemingly defeated in this life, like St. John the Baptist.

That's why the above-quoted Psalm-verse is chanted as the "Communion Verse" on today's (New Calendar) feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. It affirms the Church's perspective on the seemingly undignified death of the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, ordered by Herod Antipas at the behest of a young woman, who pleased him with her dancing at his birthday party. It would seem that on this occasion, drunken mindlessness triumphed over righteousness; that evil triumphed over good. But—no. The holy and great John, Forerunner of the Lord, is cherished in "eternal memory" as the righteous and fearless "voice crying out in the wilderness," speaking truth to power, while Herod Antipas, who acted out of merely-human fear, remains in our memory but a pathetic side note to John's story. Most of us today don't even distinguish this Herod (Antipas or "the Tetrarch") from the other Herod ("the Great" or the king), Herod Antipas's father, who had the infants killed in Bethlehem.

While Herod Antipas feared losing face before his friends, after he promised with an oath to give the young woman whatever she asked, St. John the Baptist did not fear losing his head, for telling Herod that he should not be with Herodias, Herod's sister-in-law. I'll remind us that this was the woman who demanded John's head on a plate, literally, so I think that John's concerns for Herod in this relationship were not just of the canonical/legalistic kind, but of the this-woman-might-want-your-head-on-a-plate kind. Thus, in this story the righteous fear-less-ness of John the Baptist is manifested in stark contrast to the wicked fear-ful-ness of Herod. And yet, the good guy in this story lost his head, while the bad guy remained alive and in power, in this world anyway. Many people back then probably thought that John lost, and Herod won. But the Church affirms, both in the Psalms and today, that "The righteous shall be in eternal memory. He shall not fear evil tidings." John the Baptist did not fear the

“evil tidings” about Herod being angry with him, when Herod had John arrested. According to tradition, he continued to chastise Herod for his relationship with Herodias, even in prison.

How is this story relevant for us today? The message for us today, from this whole story, is that our participation in “the righteous” and righteousness liberates us from “the fear of evil tidings;” the fear that comes from all the negative news that we imbibe in our 24/7 news cycle. This does not mean that we are perfect, because “there is not one righteous” (Rom 3:10). But we participate in God’s “rightness” and “righteousness,” when we choose His truth and side with His truth, participating in it in faith, (that is, choosing to believe in Him, and to have communion with Him and with the Communion of the Saints), amidst all the false idols of this world. By “false idols” I mean the kind of success, celebrity, strength, power, and wealth that seem to have the upper hand in our world, and the ups-and-downs of which we might tend to focus on, if we get drawn into its system of values. Today we also see a rise in authoritarian regimes in many countries, which stifle the voices of truth-tellers and silence the truth-thinkers.

We may not all be called to lose our heads in this situation, as was St. John the Baptist, because not everyone is called to “martyrdom” (or “witness”) in the same way. But let us not fear the “evil tidings” of this world, I am thinking, by keeping our focus on the presence of God in our lives, and cherishing the “eternal memory” of His righteous ones, both from the past and those who suffer for raising up their voices today. Holy and Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!



**The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost** Matthew 19:16-26

*And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. (KJV)*

The present Gospel focuses on growth and change for the life in the Lord Jesus Christ. Growth in Christ involves following and trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. The heart, mind, and soul are required to be open to change.



Acting on the interest in growth in Christ is necessary. The rich man in the present Gospel was only willing to adhere to the commandment to a certain degree.

He had reached the limit of what he was willing to do.

How many believers feel they do enough for the church, for their family, their friends, or their employers? Growth requires a willingness to change and put aside all that inhibits growth.

Jesus told the rich man to dispose of his possessions to enter into life. The rich man expressed an interest in eternal life but his attachment to his possessions held him back from the change required.

Believers exist in every century who deny themselves the fulness of the life in Christ. The unwillingness to change and give up inhibiting possessions in the current life prevents living fully in Christ.

Possessions can include material possessions but also other non-material aspects such as unwillingness to give up an office or position held to move forward. Certain attitudes can prevent growth in Christ and need to be set aside.

Eternal life is the intended goal of each Christian. Growth in Jesus Christ is to occur throughout life. The believer must be conscious and active in following Christ in order to grow.

The Holy Gospel, the Church's Divine services, and teachings nourish and guide the believer from Holy Baptism until departure from this life. Attentive believers are active in following Christ in the Church.

Participating in the Holy Mysteries enable the believer to be transformed and remain united with Christ. Embracing change includes opening the heart, mind, and soul to Christ and welcoming the newness Jesus Christ constantly provides.

The love, mercy, and goodness of Christ await the believer opening the heart, mind, and soul to newness in Christ. Eternal life is the ultimate goal. The path to eternal life is set forth at the time of Holy Baptism.

God reveals the steps to take from Baptism until departure from this life. God's revelations become known to the believer through participating in the life of the Church.

Constant repentance, fasting, and prayer open the believer's heart, mind, and soul to attentiveness to God's teachings and revelations. The attentive believer comes to know the steps God desires for the believer to take.

Just as Jesus told the rich man in the current Gospel, attentive believers will understand each day Jesus' expectations for eternal life. The decision rests with the believer whether to give up the inhibitors in life to gain eternal life.

The rich man went away sorrowful. The rich man's possessions ruled his heart, mind, and soul to a greater degree than his desire for eternal life. This Gospel is a challenge for believers each year to examine the heart, mind, and soul.

Hearing the present Gospel enables each believer is to look carefully at the heart, mind, and soul. Each believer hearing the Gospel answers the question of whether to give up possessions inhibiting growth to gain eternal life.

Jesus Christ makes clear eternal life is possible. God makes eternal life possible. With God, difficulties can be overcome that stand in the road of attaining eternal life.

By reaching into the depths of the heart, mind, and soul, the believer truly desiring eternal life, will find a way to seek God's help to make the changes necessary.

Childbirth is a painful experience for the mother but giving birth brings joy.

Giving up old ways of life can be painful for believers. The joy offered in Jesus

Christ makes the change worth making.

The soul is worth more than the whole world. The Gospel of St. Mark states "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mk.8:36) Today is the day to embrace Jesus Christ and seek eternal life.

*The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Martyr Agathonicus; Holy Hieromartyr Gorazd of Prague. August 22/September 4, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

### **Work**

***Psalm 27/28:4- Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert. (KJV)***

The Psalms offer a treasury of wisdom to learn more about the work of human beings. Believers interested in doing work pleasing to God benefit by considering the Psalms. The hunger in the soul is satisfied when the believer is united with God in daily work. Believers find completeness in daily life when doing work that is pleasing to the Lord. Turning to the Lord at the beginning of work in prayer and for guidance is most wise.

***Psalm 32/33:15- He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works. (KJV)***

Using the talents and gifts given by God in ways pleasing to God leads to satisfaction. Each person has the opportunity to choose the nature of work for the course of life. Wise individuals turn to the Lord for valuable

guidance in undertaking daily work. God is ever-present and answers prayers for guidance as believers go about their work. Work is done within a community and the impact on others merits great consideration.

***Psalm 61:13/62:12-Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work. (KJV)***

Personal talents and gifts from God are best developed in accord with God's teachings. The Holy Gospel offers fundamental lessons for human relationships in the workplace. The believer's work creates a record that will be utilized at the Lord's Second Coming. The ultimate fruits of the believer's work become known over the course of time. Every person will face the great and final judgment at the glorious Second Coming.

***Psalm 89/90:17-And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. (KJV)***

Throughout life believers have the opportunity to repent and begin anew in their work. When time has been wasted and efforts have been to no avail, repentance is necessary. The Lord welcomes believers seeking to use talents and gifts in God-pleasing ways. Believers immersing themselves in the Holy Gospel find solid direction for daily work. The Holy Gospel offers lessons and teachings that are practical and apply to daily life.

***Psalm 103/104:23-Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening. (KJV)***

Cooperation in work is required for daily personal and societal needs to be fully met. Personal relationships in the workplace reflect the depth of the believer's faith in God. Faithful believers loving God demonstrate great love of co-workers in the workplace. Workers seeking to please the Lord in daily undertakings proceed with enthusiasm. The Lord strengthens faithful believers as they go about their daily endeavors at work.

*Return of the Relics of Apostle Bartholomew; Holy Apostle Titus of the Seventy. August 25/September 7, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.  
Father Rodney Torbic*

### **Confession Has Deep Roots**

***Leviticus 5:5-And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing: (KJV)***

Regular Confession is necessary and beneficial in the serious believer's life. Confession enables the believer to put sin behind and to begin anew in Christ. Confessing sins in God's Holy Church lifts weight from the believer's conscience. Stress is alleviated when the Lord God is merciful and forgives the believer's sins. Peace is restored to the believer when heartfelt confession is made before God.

**Numbers 5:7- Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed. (KJV)**

The desire to repent motivates believers to seriously confess sins inhibiting life. Making things right with others when possible is part of the act of repentance. Repentance and confession work together as the believer begins anew in Christ. New beginnings in Jesus Christ are always possible when repentance occurs. Forgiving others having been offended is part of repentance and confession

**Psalm 31/32:5- I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. (KJV)**

Honesty with the Lord God leads to the greatest benefits when confessing sins. The act of confession is a personal encounter with the Lord God in the Church. The Church provides the love and support necessary for trusted confessions. The priest witnesses and guides the believer through the confession experience. God's goodness and mercy prevail when confessions are heartfelt and complete.

**Proverbs 28:13/14- He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. (KJV)**

Life's full possibilities are limited when sins are buried deep within the believer. God can absolutely be trusted to be merciful when true repentance is desired. The believer seriously desiring to begin anew in Christ will value confession. Putting past sins behind and beginning life anew in Christ is always possible. Joy arises in the believer's life when repentance and confession are heartfelt.

**Daniel 9:4- And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; (KJV)**

Love and gratitude for God are experienced when the believer confesses sins. God knows the believer's sins before confession and welcomes the confession. Serious repentance and confession bring joy to the Lord God and the believer. As a believer matures in Christ, the opportunity to confess become more valued. Serious believers are conscious of personal sins and seek to confess them.

*Dedication of the Church of the Great-martyr George in Lydda. November 3/16, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

### **Belittle No One**

It Was I Who Was Lost But Have Been Found

If we allow ourselves to belittle anyone, either because of their appearance or because of their state in life, we dismiss the truth that God can, in His Divine Providence, transform anyone into a saint. The person who seems to have succumbed to a worldly life, appearing covered in tattoos, nose rings, and orange hair, could be in the process of coming into an awareness of God, and our judging them, or shunning them, could hamper this process. Human weakness can be changed by divine power. We must recognize this truth so that we never condemn another, or judge another.

We must always remember that it is God Who has shown mercy on us, and it is this same God Who wishes that all come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. He is able to help all. "And if in His providence He does not deliver all men together from their passions, yet like a good and loving physician, He heals with individual treatment each of those who are trying to make progress." (St. Maximos the Confessor) If we judge others by their appearance, or by their lifestyle, we forget that we belong to Christ because He first loved us. It was I who was lost but have been found.

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon