



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] 956-6626 cell
rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

GREAT LENT—THE GREAT FAST—ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Father Bob, 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, 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 Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Father Angelo Artemas, Father John Haluszczak, 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, 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, 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, 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, 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, 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, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik's Cousin, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik,

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, Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Mike & Amy Forbeck, David Salazar, 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, the McKenna family, David Gazella, Brian & Michele Cannone, Robert & Eleanor Rodrigues & family, Father Deacon James Rossetti & Diakonissa Kari—ordination!, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry & Shirley [skin cancer] Tkacik, Diane & Arthur Chaklis, Denny Mader, Robert Chicka [cancer], Myra Woodruff [cancer], Zoe Oswalt—Fr. Bob's cousin [cancer], Barbette [cancer] & Scott, Kristin [cancer], Erm Hartmann, Barbara Bookser [cancer], Bob Mazzuca [cancer], Marko, Taylor, Terri Crosby-Vega, Christine Mohamed, Sue Demko, Tammy & Donnie [cancer] Marsico, Terry & David Hartnett, Jamie Ball, Kay Williams, Hannah Stewart, Jim Wyko—Alex's friend, Dan Losego, Lisa Bruce, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom. 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 March babies: Sonia Luciw on the 3rd, Walter Anthony Burlack on the 7th, Mary Shirley on the 9th, Mother Alexandra on the 11th, and Judy Previc on the 12th! May God grant them Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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] 956-6626.

SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE

**SUNDAY, March 26 OBEDNITZA-SAINT BASIL THE GREAT-UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
4TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS—OF THE LADDER OF
DIVINE ASCENT; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF SAINT NICEPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; MARTYR SABINUS OF
EGYPT; MARTYRS AFRICANUS, PUBLIUS, & TERENCE OF CARTHAGE;
MARTYR ALEXANDER OF MACEDONIA; MARTYR CHRISTINA OF PERSIA;
VENERABLE ANINAS THE PRESBYTER OF THE EUPHRATES**

Tone 8

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

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

Litany in Blessed Memory of Mary Smith, John Metrick, Andrew Hanczar, Anna Lawrence, Daria Masur, Michael Cicio, Charles Shumsky, Terry Reinhart, Jean Stutchell, Joseph Vangrin, Frank Riznow, Michael Holupka, and Joseph Nezolyk—Fr. Bob

**SUNDAY, April 02 OBEDNITZA-SAINT BASIL THE GREAT-UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; VENERABLE MARY OF EGYPT; HOLY FATHERS
SLAIN AT MONASTERY OF SAINT SABBAS-SAINTS JOHN, SERGIUS,
PATRICK, & OTHERS; MARTYR PHOTINA THE SAMARITAN WOMAN &
SONS/MARTYRS VICTOR/PHOTINOS & SEBASTIAN; VIRGIN-MARTYRS OF
AMISUS-ALEXANDRA, CLAUDIA, EUPHRASIA, MATRONA, JULIANA,
EUPHEMIA, & THEODOSIA; SAINT NICETAS THE CONFESSOR-BISHOP OF
APOLLONIAS IN BITHYNIA**

Tone 1

Hebrews 9:11-14; Galatians 3:23-29

Mark 10:32-45; Luke 7:36-50

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

**SUNDAY, April 09 OBEDNITZA-SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM-UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
6TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; PALM SUNDAY—THE ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD
INTO JERUSALEM; SAINT MATRONA OF THESSALONICA; MARTYRS
MANUEL & THEODOSIUS; SAINT JOHN THE CLAIRVOYANT OF LYCOPOLIS-
ANCHORITE OF EGYPT**

*******BLESSING OF PALMS & PUSSYWILLOWS BEFORE SERVICE BEGINS*******

Philippians 4:4-9

John 12:1-18

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 26 MARCH 2023

**4TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS—OF THE
LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF
SAINT NICEPHORUS THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF
CONSTANTINOPLE; MARTYR SABINUS OF EGYPT; MARTYRS
AFRICANUS, PUBLIUS, & TERENCE OF CARTHAGE; MARTYR
ALEXANDER OF MACEDONIA; MARTYR CHRISTINA OF PERSIA;
VENERABLE ANINAS THE PRESBYTER OF THE EUPHRATES**

TROPARION—TONE 1

O Dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body!
You were a wonder-worker, O our God-bearing Father John!
You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer:
Healing the sick and souls of those drawn to you by faith.
Glory to Him who gave you strength!
Glory to Him who granted you a crown!
Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!

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

The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence,
To be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe,
O our Father and Teacher John.

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: Let the righteous exult in glory! Let them sing for joy on their couches!

PEOPLE: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

READER: Pray and make your vows.

PEOPLE: Before the Lord our God!

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 8

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

Those planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Climbing Up by Moving Down: Homily for the 4th Sunday of Lent in the Orthodox Church Fr. Philip LeMasters

In just about any activity that is worthwhile, there is always room for improvement. When we rest content with our past performance in anything, we will never get any better at it. Only those who know their own imperfection and strive to overcome it have much chance of reaching a higher goal.

If that is true in our daily work and hobbies, it is far more the case when our goal is to participate by grace in the eternal life of the Holy Trinity. On this fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we commemorate St. John Climacus, who wrote the book *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* to guide monks step by step to a life of greater holiness. Now only two weeks from Palm Sunday, the Church reminds us that we must all move upward on that ladder if we are to follow our Lord to His Passion, to His death on the cross, to His descent into Hades, and to His glorious resurrection on the third day. But the first step upward requires what seems like a step downward, for it is the step of humbly acknowledging our weakness, imperfection, and corruption. Without that honest confession, we will never develop the spiritual strength necessary to enter into the deep mystery of our salvation through the great offering and victory of our Savior.

In today's gospel text, the father of the demon-possessed young man stands as a model of the honesty that we must cultivate in order to unite ourselves more fully to our crucified and risen Lord. When Christ told him that "all things are possible for him who believes," the man "cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.'" The disciples had lacked the spiritual strength to cast out the demon, but in response to this anguished cry from the heart, the Lord Himself healed the young man. It was by acknowledging the imperfection of his faith, even as he begged for mercy, that the father's prayer was answered.

Whether we like it or not, our lives are full of opportunities for us to become more like that broken-hearted, honest, humble father. Sickness, family difficulties, economic hardship, persistent personal problems, and so many other common challenges reveal the weakness of our faith and the sickness of our souls, for we never respond to them perfectly. The Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other spiritual practices that reorient us to God, help us catch a glimpse of how much room we have to grow in the Christian life. And if we ever think that we are the only ones for whom they are a struggle, then we should think again. None of us does them perfectly; indeed, it is beyond our ability to know what it would mean to do them perfectly, for our goal is to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect. (Matt. 5:48) In comparison with that standard of infinite holiness, who does not have more room for growth than we could possibly imagine? But the more we embrace these disciplines and acknowledge our own weakness before life's daily challenges, the more aware we become of how far we are from sharing fully in the life of our Lord. The more we grasp our own sinfulness and brokenness, the more we must cry out from our hearts, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief."

Lent is a time to stop hiding our true spiritual state even from ourselves. It is a time to confess our failings to the Lord and hear in spoken words an assurance of our forgiveness in the sacrament of Confession, if we are truly repentant. It is a time to turn away from the illusion that we have already arrived spiritually and that prayer, fasting, and confession are only for other people. It is a time to see ourselves in that brutally honest father who, even in the midst of his heart-broken love for his son, told the truth about the weakness of his faith. The more we become like him, the better. The more that we pray, fast, and otherwise humble ourselves before the Lord, the clearer our spiritual vision will be, and the more we will see the infinite chasm between the holiness of God and our own wretchedness.

There is good news, however, for all of us who have fallen short. Thank God, the God-Man Jesus Christ has bridged that gap. Through His death and resurrection, He makes it possible for each of us to grow in holiness as we see ever more clearly how far we are from attaining the fullness of the glory for which He created us.

Ironically, it is by knowing our own brokenness and imperfection that we become aware of the true mystery of our salvation, of why our Lord offered Himself on the cross, descended into Hades, and rose again on the third day.

Paradoxically, we climb up the ladder of holiness by lowering ourselves through humble repentance.

"Lord, I believe, help my unbelief." That is the only confession that will enable us to prepare for what is to come in the weeks ahead as we enter into the deep mystery of our salvation. As our Savior said, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/easternchristianinsights/2016/04/10/climbing-moving-homily-4th-sunday-lentorthodox-church/>

Saint John Climacus and the "Ladder of Divine Ascent"

By Metropolitan Philaret

More than once, brethren, the fact has been mentioned that on each Sunday in the Great Fast (i.e., Lent) there are other commemorations besides that of the Resurrection. Thus, on this day, the Church glorifies the righteous John of the Ladder, one of the greatest ascetics, which the Church, in speaking of them, calls "earthly angels and Heavenly men."

These great ascetics were extraordinary people. They commanded the elements; wild beasts willingly and readily obeyed them. For them, there were no maladies they could not cure. They walked on the waters as on dry land; all the elements of the world were subject to them because they lived in God and had the power of grace to overcome the laws of terrestrial nature. One such ascetic was St. John of the Ladder.

He was surnamed "of the Ladder" (Climacus) because he wrote an immortal work, the "Ladder of Divine Ascent."

In this work, we see how, by means of thirty steps, the Christian gradually ascends from below to the heights of supreme spiritual perfection. We see how one virtue leads to another, as a man rises higher and higher and finally attains to that height where there abides the crown of the virtues, which is called "Christian love."

Saint John wrote his immortal work especially for the monastics, but in the past his "Ladder" was always favorite reading in Russia for anyone zealous to live piously, though he were not a monk. Therein the Saint clearly demonstrates how a man passes from one step to the next. Remember, Christian soul, that this ascent on high is indispensable for anyone who wishes to save his soul unto eternity.

When we throw a stone up, it ascends until the moment when the propelling force ceases to be effectual. So long as this force acts, the stone travels higher and higher in its ascent, overcoming the force of the earth's gravity. But when this force is spent and ceases to act, then, as you know, the stone does not remain suspended in the air.

Immediately, it begins to fall, and the further it falls the greater the speed of its fall. This, solely according to the physical laws of terrestrial gravity.

So it is also in the spiritual life. As a Christian gradually ascends, the force of spiritual and ascetical labours lifts him on high. Our Lord Jesus Christ said: "Strive to enter in through the narrow gate." That is, the Christian ought to be an ascetic. Not only the monastic, but every Christian. He must take pains for his soul and his life. He must direct his life on the Christian path, and purge his soul of all filth and impurity.

Now, if the Christian, who is ascending upon this ladder of spiritual perfection by his struggles and ascetic labors, ceases from this work and ascetic toil, his soul will not remain in its former condition; but, like the stone, it will fall to the earth. More and more quickly will it drop until, finally, if the man does not come to his senses, it will cast him down into the very abyss of Hell.

It is necessary to remember this. People forget that the path of Christianity is indeed an ascetical labor. Last Sunday, we heard how the Lord said: "He that would come after Me, let him take up his cross, deny himself, and follow Me." The Lord said this with the greatest emphasis. Therefore, the Christian must be one who takes up his cross, and his life, likewise, must be an ascetic labor of bearing that cross. Whatever the outward circumstance of his life, be he monk or layman, it is of no consequence. In either case, if he does not force himself to mount upwards, then, of a certainty, he will fall lower and lower.

And in this regard, alas, people have confused thoughts. For example, a clergyman drops by a home during a fast.

Cordially and thoughtfully, they offer him fast food (i.e., food prepared according to the rules of the Fast), and say: "For you, fast food, of course!" To this, one of our hierarchs customarily replies: "Yes, I am Orthodox. But who gave you permission not to keep the fasts?" All the fasts of the Church, all the ordinances, are mandatory for every Orthodox person. Speaking of monastics, such ascetics as St. John of the Ladder and those like him fasted much more rigorously than the Church prescribes; but this was a matter of their spiritual ardor, an instance of their personal ascetic labor. This the Church does not require of everyone, because it is not in accord with everyone's strength. But the Church DOES require of every Orthodox the keeping of those fasts which She has established.

Oftentimes have I quoted the words of Saint Seraphim, and once again shall I mention them. Once there came to him a mother who was concerned about how she might arrange the best possible marriage for her young daughter.

When she came to Saint Seraphim for advice, he said to her: "Before all else, ensure that he, whom your daughter chooses as her companion for life, keeps the fasts. If he does not, then he is not a Christian, whatever he may consider himself to be." You see how the greatest saint of the Russian

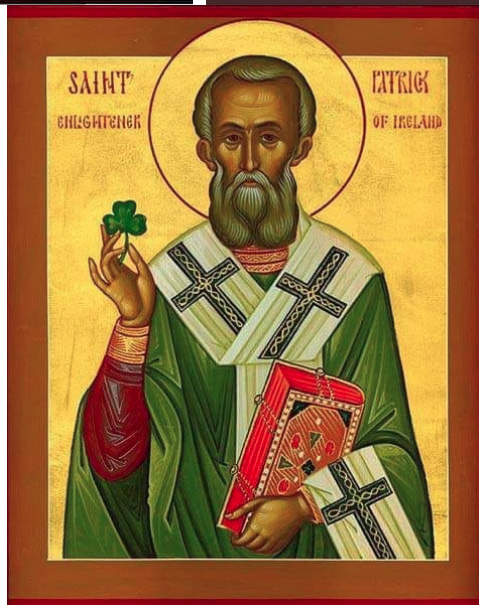
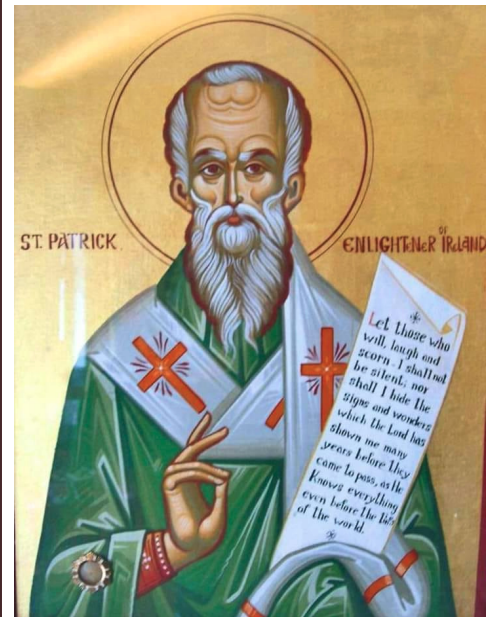
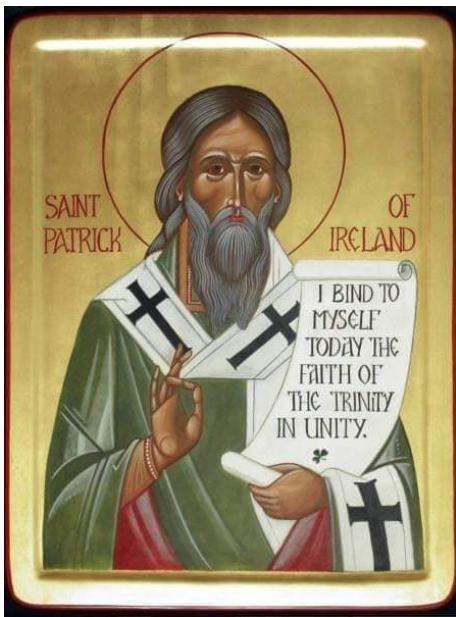
Church, Saint Seraphim of Sarov, a man who, better than we, knew what Orthodoxy is, spoke concerning the fasts?

Let us remember this. Saint John Climacus has described the ladder of spiritual ascent: then let us not forget that each Christian must ascend thereon. The great ascetics ascended like swiftly-flying eagles; we scarcely ascend at all. Nonetheless, let us not forget that, unless we employ our efforts in correcting ourselves and our lives, we shall cease our ascent, and, most assuredly, we shall begin to fall. Amen.

St Patrick "was never a Roman Catholic, it is alleged, but lived and died in the faith of the Greek church, as did most Irish of his time..." *[Just a note from Father Bob...at the time of Saint Patrick, there was a unified Christian Church, under the guidance of the Great Council of Bishops—including Rome! The Great Schism would come centuries later...]*

This is from the New York Observer & Chronicle, August 2, 1860.

ST. PATRICK. -Somebody has been making an attempt to deprive the Irish of their great saint by digging up the generally unknown facts of his history. In the first place, St. Patrick was not Irish, but Scotch, and what is of more consequence, he was never a Roman Catholic, it is alleged, but lived and died in the faith of the Greek church, as did most of the Irish of his time, and for two hundred years after. In fact, the Irish Christians of St. Patrick's day would not recognize the Church of Rome, or have any intercourse with it, and considered it as little better than Pagan; and on this account the Pope declared the Irish only half converted to christianity. St. Patrick died A. D. 500. The first missionary of the Romish church arrived in Ireland a century afterwards, and it took six centuries more to convert Ireland to the Church of Rome.



Monastery of St. Dionysius the Areopagite

Saint Patrick of Ireland

I bind to myself the faith of the Trinity in unity.

**Christ, as a light, illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield, overshadow and cover me.
Christ be under me.
Christ be over me.
Christ be beside me, on left and on right.
Christ be before me.
Christ be behind me.
Christ be within me.
Christ be outside me.
Christ, as a light, illumine and guide me.**

-- St. Patrick of Ireland

6 facts about *St Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland*

Mar
17



he was born in Britain, around 385



he was taken captive by pirates, but used his time in exile for prayer



he preached the Gospel in Ireland and converted many to Christianity



he explained the dogma of the Holy Trinity by the example of the clover



he wrote his autobiography, *Confessio*



he is one of the 3 protectors of Ireland, alongside St Columba of Iona and St Brigid of Kildare

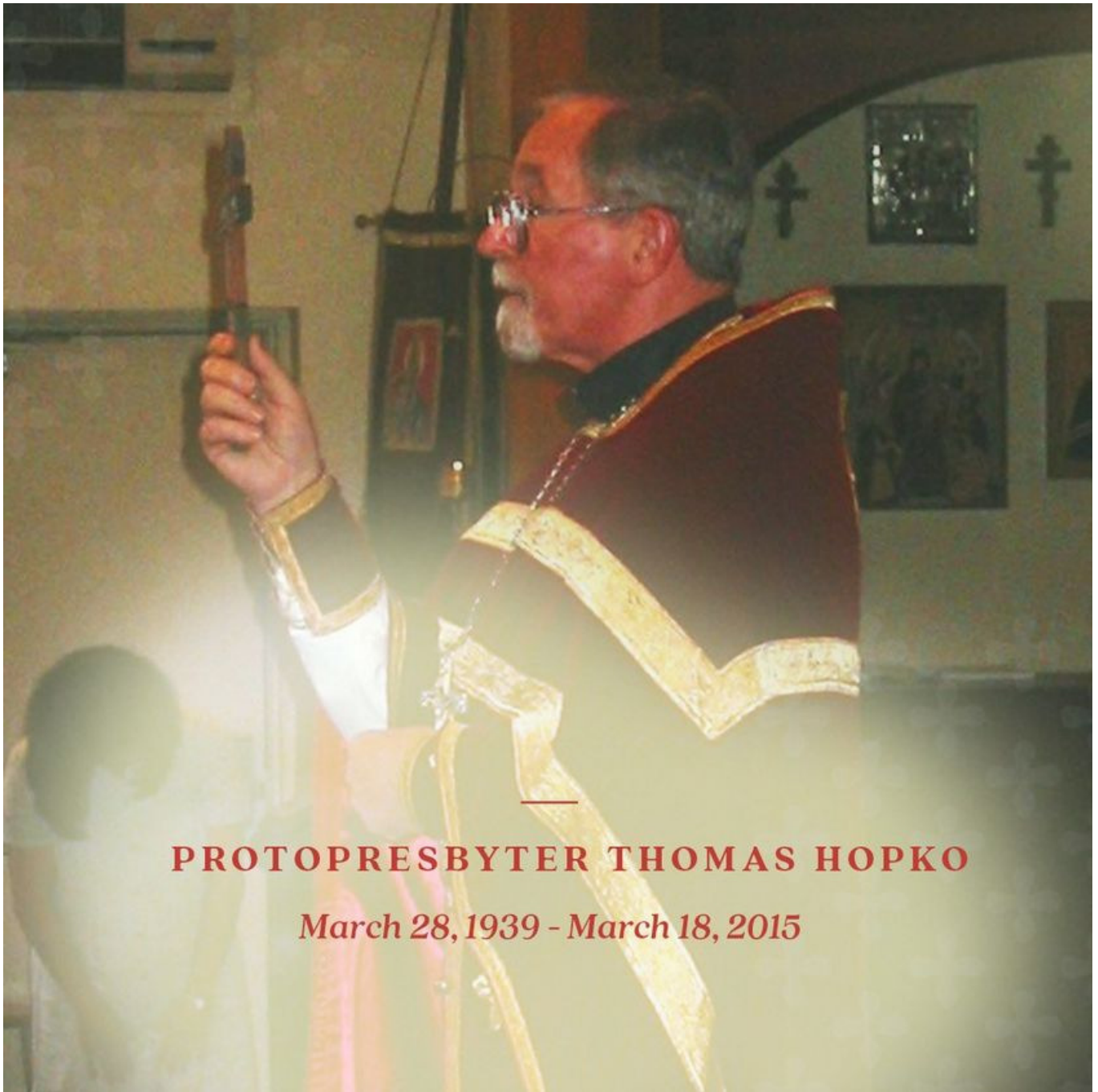
BASILICA.RO



St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

If [taking up His Cross] is the central act of His life, then it has to be the central act of our life, and there's no way around it. As sometimes my students say, "That's the bad news of the good news." The good news is that God has revealed himself to us, raised us up, forgiven us, ascended into heaven, glorified us, given us eternal life...The "bad news" is...that the way the good news gets enacted is through the Cross—and no other way. (Excerpt from *The Word of the Cross*)

On the eve of the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, we remember our dear former dean and teacher, Fr Thomas Hopko, who reposed on this day eight years ago. May his memory be eternal!



PROTOPRESBYTER THOMAS HOPKO

March 28, 1939 - March 18, 2015