



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

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 Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Father Angelo Artemas, Father John Haluszczak, Father Simon & Dr. Christina Nellis, Father Joshua [Anna], Father Justin (Todd) Mokhiber, Pani Cathy Danczak, Protopresbyter Gerald Ozlanski, Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, 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, Gaele 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 Zeliszcuk, 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 & Terri Berceli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, 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, 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,

Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & 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, Father Joe Uzar, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko, John, Kris & Kait, Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Amy Forbeck, David Salazar, Kitty Mary, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Alexandra Roberts, Candace Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [infant], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob's cousin], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], Donna [dementia] & Darla, Adam Snow, the McKenna family, David Gazella Brian & Michele Cannone, Robert Rodrigues & family, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry & Shirley Tkacik, Diane & Arthur Chaklis, Denny Mader, 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 [knee replacement], Christine Mohamed, Sue Demko, Tammy Marsico, Terry & David Hartnett, Jamie Ball, Kay Williams, Hannah Stewart, Jim Wyko—Alex's friend, Dan Losego, Lisa Bruce, Yvette, Barry Bender, Scott McDougall, Andrew Zelleznick, Jill Bailey, Byron & Cecilia Scott, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC [knee], Jackie May, Barbara Morvay, David Salsar, N&O, Randy & Adrienne Kuny, Vince Berardinelli, Mason Martin [Karns City HS QB] & family, Martin Mrvos, Jeff McCoy, Lauren & Sloane Valentina Persico, Alexis & baby Colton Rosati, Jessica Shirley, Steve Milcic, Wilbert Wagner, Bob Wojciechowski, and Jill Morocco. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

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, January 07 NATIVITY DIVINE LITURGY—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Tone 6

Galatians 4:4-7

Matthew 2:1-12

SUNDAY, January 14 OBEDNTIZA—SAINT BASIL THE GREAT—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY; SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY; JULIAN NEW YEAR'S DAY; CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; SAINT BASIL THE GREAT-ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA; MARTYR BASIL OF ANCYRA; SAINT EMELIA-MOTHER OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

Tone 7

Colossians 2:8-12; Hebrews 7:26-8:2; 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Luke 2:20-21, 40-52; Luke 6:17-23; Mark 1:1-8

Litany in Blessed Memory of Rose Zalenchak, Stephen Kuzman, Timothy Stutchell, Cecilia Pysh, Nicholas Vetosky, Robert Rohal, Gary Atutes, & Father Simon Nellist—Fr. Bob

THURSDAY, January 18 THEOPHANY EVE—STRICT FAST DAY

FRIDAY, January 19 THEOPHANY—BAPTISM OF OUR LORD IN THE JORDAN

SUNDAY, January 21 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM

33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY; VENERABLE GEORGE THE CHOZEBITE-ABBOT & SAINT EMILIAN-BISHOP OF CYZICUS; VENERABLE DOMNICA OF CONSTANTINOPLE; HIEROMARTYR CARTERIUS OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA; MARTYRS THEOPHILUS-DEACON & HELLADIUS IN LIBYA; ELIAS THE HERMIT OF EGYPT; VENERABLE GREGORY THE WONDERWORKER & VENERABLE GREGORY-HERMIT OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 8

Ephesians 4:7-13; Galatians 5:22-6:2

Matthew 4:12-17; Luke 6:17-23

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 07 JANUARY 2024

31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

INTROIT OF THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten Thee!
The Lord has sworn and will not change His Mind.
Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God
Has shone to the world the light of Wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
Were taught by a star to adore Thee,
The Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee,
The Orient from on high, O Lord, 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 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
And the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!
Angels, with shepherds, glorify Him!
The Wise Men journey with the star!
Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!

PROKEIMENON—Tone 8

READER: Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee. Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

PEOPLE: **Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee. Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!**

READER: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name! Give glory to His Praise!

PEOPLE: **Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee. Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!**

READER: Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee.

PEOPLE: **Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!**

ALLELUIA VERSES—Tone 1

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge!

COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA

Nativity Epistle

СОВОРУ ЄПІСКОПІВ
УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ ПРАВОСЛАВНОЇ ЦЕРКВИ США

Різдвяне Послання



Dear and Beloved Clergy and Faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America, Western Europe, and Australia-New Zealand and all our Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine,

CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM!

Once again by the Grace of God, the Great Feast of the NATIVITY – INCARNATION of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, is upon us. Even though it comes in wintertime, the joy it brings into our lives is much more like the joy we experience in spring when we witness all the budding of nature’s beauty. The Nativity fills us with joy without limits. “For there is born to us this day in the City of David (Bethlehem), a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)

He is the promised One prophesized throughout the Old Testament, the One Who sustains all. He is born of the Ever-Virgin Mary as a humble infant so that He might make us children of God. He is the Son of God Who descends from Heaven in order to lift all humanity up to Heaven – to grant us eternal life “for it pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should dwell and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself”. (Colossians 1:19-20) Today Angels and all mankind proclaim the spiritual song of the Nativity Canon: “Christ is born! Glorify Him! Christ has come from the Heavens! Welcome Him! Christ is on Earth! Exult Him!

It is sad to observe throughout this, our earthly world, a loss of relationship with God in the Holy Trinity. We have, however, another opportunity to change this estrangement into the fullness of reconciliation with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – by opening our hearts, minds, and souls to the Good News of the Nativity. We have the opportunity to relate to Emmanuel – “God with us” and to follow His lead into Heaven! We who live

in the great democracies of the world, have the opportunity to witness to the never-ending power of God, manifested to us in fullness of love – through the incarnation of His Son.

In Ukraine, however, and too many other nations around the world suffering invasion, repression, and domination from beyond their borders, our brothers and sisters struggle each day to also witness - even at the darkest of times. They struggle to hear the Nativity Carols sung in their churches, their neighborhoods, and in their own homes, but often the loudness of the bombs that rain down upon those homes, neighborhoods, and churches drown out the beautiful carols glorifying the Christ Child, filling their lives with fear and pain.

As we gather together on the Eve of Nativity with all our loved ones present, we MUST remember in our prayers before Holy Supper, along with our family ancestors, all those who have suffered and perished over the last two years – simply because of greed and covetousness in those who have attempted for centuries to usurp our spirituality, our history, our culture, and our very identity. We MUST also pray for those who still suffer under daily threats to their very existence, beseeching that the comfort and Love of the Christ Child will fill and warm their hearts even under the worst of circumstances.

We assure you, our spiritual children, of our continued prayers for each and every one of you during these holy Nativity days. May the Love of the Christ Child fill your homes and your lives in such an abundance that it cannot be contained but spread through you into the lives of all who need that Love – and you – to make their lives whole.

In our Lord's All-Encompassing Love,

+Antony, Metropolitan

+Jeremiah, Archbishop

+Daniel, Archbishop



ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEW'S
NATIVITY PROCLAMATION
ВСЕЛЕНСЬКОГО ПАТРИАРХА
ВАРФОЛОМІЯ
РІЗДВЯНЕ ПОСЛАННЯ

+ B A R T H O L O M E W

By God's Mercy, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

to All the Plenitude of the Church

Grace, Mercy, and Peace from the Saviour Christ Born in Bethlehem

Most honorable brother hierarchs,
Beloved children in the Lord,

With the grace of God, we are once again this year celebrating in chant, hymn, and spiritual song the Nativity according to the flesh of the pre-eternal Son and Word of God, namely the manifestation of the mystery of God and humankind. According to St. Nicholas Cabasilas, what occurs in the Divine Liturgy is "the mystagogy of the Lord's incarnation," while its introductory acclamation "Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" is evidence "that it is through the Lord's incarnation that people first learned that God is three persons."[\[1\]](#) The same saintly Father proclaims that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was the first and only to demonstrate the authentic and perfect human being, concerning His ethos, life, and everything else."[\[2\]](#)

The assumption of human nature in the person of the Son and Word of God, along with the opening of the way of human deification through grace, add unsurpassable value to humankind. Forgetting this truth leads to the diminishment of respect for the human person. The denial of the supreme destiny of human beings does not only liberate them, but also leads to diverse reductions and divisions. Without being conscious of their divine origin and their hope for eternity, humans struggle to remain human and are unable to handle the contradictions of the "human condition."

The Christian perception of human existence provides a solution to problems created by violence, war, and injustice in our world. Respect for the human person, peace, and justice are gifts from God; however, establishing the peace that comes from Christ demands the participation and cooperation of human beings. The Christian view on the struggle for peace lies in the words of Christ our Savior, who proclaims peace, addressing His disciples with the greeting "Peace be with you" and encouraging us to love our enemies.^[3] The revelation in Christ is called the "gospel of peace."^[4]

This means that, for us Christians, the way to peace is through peace and that non-violence, dialogue, love, forgiveness, and reconciliation have priority before other forms of resolving differences. The theology of peace is clearly described in the Ecumenical Patriarchate's document *For the Life of the World: Toward a Social Ethos of the Orthodox Church* (2020):

"Nothing is more contrary to God's will for His creatures fashioned in His image and likeness than violence one against another...We may justly say that violence is sin par excellence. It is the perfect contradiction of our created nature and our supernatural vocation to seek union in love with God and our neighbour...Peace is a real revelation of the still deeper reality of creation as God intends it and as God fashioned it in his eternal counsels."^[5]

Peace cannot be taken for granted; it is not self-evident. It is an obligation, an achievement, and an incessant struggle to preserve it. There are no automatic solutions or permanent recipes. In the face of ongoing threats to peace, we need to have vigilance and willingness to resolve problems through dialogue. The great heroes of politics are the champions of peace. As for us, we continue to underline the peacemaking role of religion. This is during a time when religions are criticized for nurturing fanaticism and violence "in the name of God" instead of being forces of peace, solidarity, and reconciliation. However, this indicates an alienation of religious faith and not an integral part of it. Genuine faith in God is the harshest critic of religious fanaticism. Religions are the natural allies of all human beings who strive for peace, justice, and the preservation of creation from human destruction.

This year, the world honours the 75th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (December 10, 1948), constituting a summary of fundamental humanitarian ideals and values, "the shared standard, to which all peoples and all nations should aim." Human rights, whose central point of focus includes the protection of human dignity with its individual, social, cultural, economic, and ecological conditions, are only understood in their original dynamics if they are acknowledged as the basis and criterion of global peace, associating it with freedom and justice. In this sense, the future

of human rights and peace is also linked to the contribution of religions in the matter of respecting them and making them a reality.

With these thoughts and festive sentiments, in full conviction that the life of the Church in itself comprises resistance against inhumanity, wherever such inhumanity arises, we invite all of you to the good fight of constructing a culture of peace and solidarity, where people will see in the face of their fellow human beings a brother or sister and a friend, rather than a threat and enemy. Moreover, we remind you all, dear brother Hierarchs and children, that Christmas is a time of self-consciousness and thanksgiving, of the revelation of the difference between the God-man and "man-god," of the realization of the "great miracle" of freedom in Christ and of the healing of the "great wound" of alienation from God. Finally, we kneel respectfully before Mary, the Mother of God, who bears in her arms the incarnate Word, and we convey to you the blessing of the Mother Holy Great Church of Christ, wishing you an auspicious, healthy, fruitful, peaceful, and joyous new year of the Lord's favour.

Christmas 2023

+ Bartholomew of Constantinople

Your fervent supplicant of all before God

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[1] *On the Divine Liturgy XII*, PG 150.392D.

[2] *On the Life of Christ VI*, PG 150.680C.

[3] Cf. Mt. 5:44

[4] Eph. 6:44

[5] § 42, 43 and 44.

New Life in Jesus Christ

Romans 6:4-Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (KJV)

Individuals choosing to experience Holy Baptism enter into a new life in Jesus Christ. The believer is expected to be faithful to Christ in this new life until earthly departure. The Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life are the ultimate goals for the new believer. The narrow path to the Heavenly Kingdom is to be followed throughout earthly life. Repentance, Confession and Communion provide for renewal of the life in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17-Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. (KJV)

The ways of sin and life contrary to the teachings of Christ are put behind at Baptism. Choosing to follow Jesus Christ as King and as God is a free and conscious decision. Remaining faithful to Jesus Christ requires

deliberate decisions throughout earthly life. Believers need the nourishment, wisdom and teachings of Christ to remain faithful. The journey to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life is filled with many challenges.

Galatians 6:15-For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. (KJV)

The person living in Christ embraces Christ's ways in thought, word and behavior. When sin overcomes the believer, the serious and faithful believer is quick to repent. Sincere repentance leads to forgiveness by Jesus Christ and renewal in daily life. The repenting believer undergoes a newness deep within the heart, mind and soul. Outward changes in the believer are noticeable when sincere repentance takes place.

Ephesians 4:24-And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. KJV)

Men and women who regularly repent experience newness and growth in Jesus Christ. Christian virtues become a normal and regular part of the faithful follower's daily life. Every person commits sins but repentance and renewal in Christ are always possible. Believers desiring to be faithful to Christ need never lose hope and give in to despair. Jesus Christ is ever-present to help the believer sincerely desiring to be renewed in life.

Colossians 3:10-And having put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. (KJV)

Desiring to conform life to the way of the Lord Jesus Christ is beneficial for believers. Conforming to the ways of Jesus Christ fills the believer's life with abundant joy. Believers are renewed when nourished by the Gospel and Christ's Body and Blood. The Divine services of God's Holy Church serve as constant sources of renewal. Being active in the life in Jesus Christ results in renewal throughout earthly life.

Holy Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius, Philemon and Those with them. December 14/27, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

The Power of Prayer

Matthew 21:22-And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. (KJV)

Prayer is the direct communication between the believer and the Lord God. Prayer is possible because of the blessings, goodness and mercy of God. Through prayer, believers communicate their innermost thoughts to the Lord. God understands the workings and inner most desires of the heart, mind and soul. The heart, mind and soul reflect the depth and strength of faith through prayer.

Mark 9:29-And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. (KJV)

Fasting and prayer work together in unison for the benefit of the believer's soul. Fasting helps the believer to be better focused and articulate in formulating prayer. Through prayer and fasting the believer beneficially draws closer to the Lord God. Paths to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life are opened by prayer and fasting. Life's difficulties are put in proper perspective when the believer prays and fasts.

Romans 12:12-Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; (KJV)

The journey to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life requires constant prayer. Only through prayer can the believer discern the paths to follow to the Kingdom. The heart, mind, and soul express the prayers required to communicate with God. Honesty in prayer keeps the believer on the safe and sure path to the Kingdom. God knows when the believer's heart, mind, and soul have authentic intentions.

Philippians 4:6-Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.(KJV)

God welcomes prayer from the believer during all the times of earthly life. Sincerity is essential in the prayers coming from the heart, mind and soul. God hears and understands prayers in the many different languages of the earth. Prayer breaks down the barriers that keep the believer from being united with God. Unity is the result when believers engage in serious prayer with the Lord God.

James 5:16-Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (KJV)

Prayer is the sure way to experience the Lord God during life's earthly journey. Life becomes a prayer when the believer seeks God with full heart, mind, and soul. Growth in Christ continues throughout life when prayer is unceasing and sincere. Life's problems are manageable when addressed in sincere and fervent prayer. Believers engaged in serious prayer learn from the Lord the sound choices for life.

St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan. Venerable Gregory of Gornjak the Hesychast. December 7/20, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

On behalf of the members and parish council, we wish you and your family a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed New Year! Christ IS Born! Glorify Him! Pani Gina, Reader Alex, EMT Matt, and Father Bob