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

**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 Yurij, 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 Luciow, 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 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, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaugenhaupt, Louis & 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 [5year-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, 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, Ashley, Beth Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura D., Luke D, and Jill Morocco. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is <u>NOTHING</u> 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 <u>ALWAYS</u> <u>FREE!</u>

<u>Communion Fasting:</u> 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 <u>CALL FATHER BOB</u> at [412] 956-6626.

#### SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE

SUNDAY, February 18 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY; HOLY MARTYR AGATHA; MARTYR THEODOULA, HELLADIUS, MACARIUS, BOETHOS, AND EVAGRIUS; SAINT THEODOSIUS-ARCHBISHOP OF CHERNIHIV

Tone 4 1 Timothy 4:9-15 Luke 19:1-10

SUNDAY, February 25 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & THE PHARISEE; SAINT MELETIUS-ARCHBISHOP OF ANTIOCH; VENERABLE MARY/MARINUS & FATHER SAINT EUGENE; SAINT ANTHONY II-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Tone 5 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Luke 18:10-14

SUNDAY, March 03

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON; APOSTLES ARCHPPUS & PHILEMON OF THE 70

& MARTYR APPHIA; MARTYRS MAXIMUS, THEODOTUS, HEYCHYIUS, &

ASCLEPIODOTUS OF ADRIANOPOLIS; SAINTS EUGENE & MACARIUS
PRESBYTERS-CONFESSORS AT ANTIOCH; SAINT DOSETHEUS OF

PALESTINE-DISCIPLE OF SAINT ABBA DOROTHEUS; SAINT RABULAS

Tone 6

1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Hebrews 13:7-16 Luke 15:11-32; Matthew 5:14-19

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, & Joseph Nezolyk—Fr. Bob

#### **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 18 FEBRUARY 2024**

### ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY; HOLY MARTYR AGATHA; MARTYR THEODOULA, HELLADIUS, MACARIUS, BOETHOS, AND EVAGRIUS; SAINT THEODOSIUS-ARCHBISHOP OF CHERNIHIV

#### **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.

#### **OPTIMISM**—From Father Larry Daniels' Bulletin

Count your blessings instead of your crosses.

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joy instead of your woes.

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears.

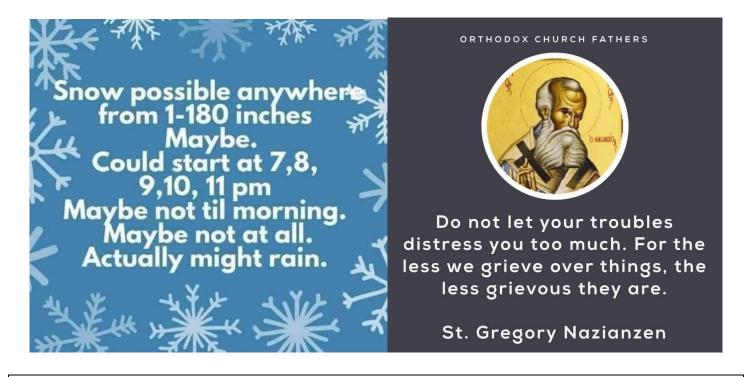
Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean.

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth.

Count on God instead of yourself!



#### **Following God's Commandments**

Matthew 19:17-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. (KJV)

The Lord God's commandments are set forth for believers to willingly embrace. Believers freely and willingly choose whether to adhere to the commandments. Force and coercion have no part in becoming a follower of God's commandments. Fullness of the life in Jesus Christ and eternal life awaits the faithful followers. Immeasurable peace and joy result from following the Lord God's commandments.

### Mark 7:7-Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men (KJV)

Believers have the responsibility of accurately discerning God's commandments. Efforts must be made not to be deceived in following the commandments of men. Self-examination will reveal if the believer truly is following the way of the Lord. Sin often permeates the heart, mind and soul and corrupts the unwitting believer. Believers can inadvertently and easily follow ways that are far from the Lord God.

#### Luke 1:6-And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. (KJV)

The Scriptures provide examples that following the commandments is possible. Believers benefit when vigilant and discerning in following God's commandments. The world is full of deceptions seeking to corrupt and entrap careless believers. Evil finds a way to enter the heart, mind, and soul when believers are tired and lax. Episodes of depression can lead a believer down perilous paths harmful to the soul.

### John 14:21-He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. (KJV)

Believers show love for the Lord God by following the known commandments. The Holy Scriptures make clear the commandments God has set forth to follow. The believer joyfully experiences God's love when following the commandments. Following God's commandments proves worthwhile for those doing so in faith. The hunger for God's love is fully addressed by following God's commandments.

### Revelations 22:14-Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. (KJV)

The Heavenly Kingdom and life eternal awaits followers of God's commandments. Eternal joy occurs when believers faithfully follow God's commandments. The soul is put in imminent peril when the commandments of God are violated. Eternal punishment is the possibility when God's commandments are disregarded. The Lord wants believers to repent and embrace following the commandments.

Forefeast of Theophany. Synaxis of the 70 Apostles. Venerable Theoktistis, St. Euthasius, Archbishop of Serbia. January 4/17, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

We must try to always be in good spirits, always joyful, because the spirits of evil want us to be sad all the time. *Elder Thaddeus(Strabulovich) of Vitovnica* Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica p.153

#### **Patience**

#### Luke 21:19- In your patience possess ye your souls. (KJV)

Patience and the welfare of the soul are interconnected according to the Gospel. The Lord God's assistance and blessing are needed for patience to fully develop. Patience is the way of waiting upon the Lord God to reveal the path to follow. Being patient is the way for believers to protect the soul from unseen dangers. Wisdom and patience are interconnected for the ultimate benefit of the believer.

#### Romans 5:3-4- And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope. (KJV)

Patience grows out of tribulation for believers making the most of the experience. Saints and martyrs are examples for believers to learn from during tribulation. Being patient when turning to God in prayer affords needed time for guidance. God guides the believer taking time to patiently engage in prayer before acting. Wise believers patiently engage in prayer before each important undertaking.

### Colossians 1:11-Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness. (KJV)

God provides serious believers with necessary, desired and beneficial patience. Patience wisely practiced positively impacts actions in accord with God's will. Believers looking to the Lord for guidance are patient in moments of tribulation. The Lord God reveals Himself to believers patiently seeking guidance in prayer. Prayer and patience lead the believer on the road to the Heavenly Kingdom.

### I Thessalonians 1:3- Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures speak extensively about the value of patience for believers. The Apostle Paul acknowledges the presence of patience in the Thessalonians. Patiently investing hope in Jesus Christ is a solid investment in God's Kingdom. Hope patiently invested in Christ yields immeasurable benefits for the believer. Believers do well to personally assess the practice of being patient in hope.

### I Timothy 6:11- But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. (KJV)

Believers are challenged in daily life to practice patience in personal relationships. Considering the views of other persons necessitates exercising great patience. Demonstrating patience with others includes being loving and forgiving in life. Serious believers practice great patience when trying to follow Jesus Christ. Wise believers patiently repent when committing errors in following Christ.

St. Gregory the Theologian. Venerable Publius. Venerable Gregory of Pec. January 25/February 7, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

#### Father Theophan [Kenyon] Mackey

In Orthodoxy, we have a shocking and astonishing balance between the absolute demands for truth in Dogma, Moral Teaching, and Mysteries, together with a perfectly consonant, overwhelming, and constant, sense of non-judgment of neighbour, mercy, prayerful supplication for all, living and departed, and great pity for those who are harming themselves through ignorance or willfulness.

"A merciful heart burns with love for all creatures." St Isaac of Syria This begins with:

- 1. Not judging them
- 2. Praying for them
- 3. Doing something kind for them

And doing this repeatedly.

Eventually, you don't even want to hate your enemies, because that would deprive you of something - the ability to love them - and you don't consider anything worth that loss.

That is Christianity aka Orthodoxy aka Jesus Christ.

-Hierodeacon Parthenios

#### **The Thirty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost** Matthew 15:21-28

Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. (KJV)

Believers face the actions of the devil in daily life. The devil may vex a family member, a friend, or coworker. The devil can influence one or members of a parish. The devil's actions and influence are a constant concern.

Believers must be constantly vigilant when dealing with the devil's influence and actions. Being fully nourished by, focused on, and centered in Jesus Christ is the only way to successfully deal with the devil.

The mother in the present Gospel focused her attention on Jesus Christ. She was resolute and committed in seeking Jesus' attention and healing. The mother wanted her daughter free of the devil's influence.

Persons vexed by the devil are disruptive to daily life. When the devil's actions manifest in the home, at work, or in a parish, disorder and discomfort arise.

Through the present Gospel, the Church teaches the way to deal with the devil.

The devil is overcome and defeated by Jesus Christ. The present Gospel is a reminder for believers to be fully focused on and centered in Christ. The mother in the present Gospel demonstrates the value of seeking mercy from Christ.

The value of strong faith in Jesus Christ is verified in the present Gospel. The strong faith of the caring mother resulted in her daughter being healed and freed of the devil's influence.

For believers to experience daily life free from the trauma and influence of the devil, Jesus Christ must completely fill the heart, mind, and soul. At any moment, believers can increase their personal commitment to Christ through prayer,

The believer's mind can firmly direct attention to Jesus Christ seeking Christ's intervention to overcome the devil. The mother in the Gospel proved by example the power of strong faith in Christ.

The present Gospel has inspired and educated believers down through the centuries. The present Gospel offers hope to parents, workers, and parishioners dealing with the actions of the devil.

Jesus Christ is the answer for dealing with the devil. Personal selfassessment will reveal if the believer's commitment to Christ is firm, resolute, and complete.

Honest self-assessment will reveal aspects of life that weaken personal faith.

Jesus Christ is a constant source of nourishment through prayer, reading the Scriptures, or attending the Divine services. Jesus nourishes and strengthens believers when they partake of Holy Communion.

The wise use of daily time keeps believers strong in faith and centered in Christ. Prayers to Christ are possible throughout the day. Short prayers seeking Christ's mercy keep the believer strong and focused.

The road to God's Heavenly Kingdom can be long. The devil will always appear in certain forms on the journey through life. Seekers of God's Kingdom need to remain strong throughout the journey. Believers must take care of themselves.

The devil will take advantage of moments of weakness. The devil attacks when believers are tired. Being firmly rooted and nourished in Christ keeps the believer fit for the battles that arise during the journey.

The Church provides learning opportunities from infancy until departure from this life for believers to grow in Christ. The Holy Mysteries and Divine services of the Church keep the believer focused and strong.

Prayerful support for one another among believers helps when the battle against evil arises. Mothers and fathers dealing with a son or daughter vexed by the devil benefit from the support of other family members and friends.

Increased prayer among like-minded believers helps the person dealing with the devil in personal life. Leaders in the workplace or in a parish need prayerful support and encouragement to deal with issues created and fostered by the devil.

The Lord Jesus Christ is always present and within reach. Jesus Christ is always the answer to the questions of life. Jesus Christ is the answer to the problems of life. Jesus Christ is the constant joy of life.

Jesus Christ is ever-present in the Church. Growing in Christ is expected for the believer in the Church. Opportunities to grow are limited only by the faith of the believer.

When momentary battles are lost to the devil, wise believers immediately repent and begin anew. Jesus provides mercy, forgiveness, and the direction for renewal. Jesus Christ provides the wisdom for action.

When Jesus hung upon the Cross, the darkness seemed to indicate death was final and Jesus was finished. Jesus rose from the tomb. Resolute believers fighting the devil rise with the Victorius and Resurrected Christ to continue the battle.

The Thirty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost. Transfer of the Relics of Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer. January 19/February 11, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

#### **Moses and the Prophets**

## Numbers 11:29-And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? Would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them! (KJ

Moses and the Holy Prophets offer God-filled wisdom for every century. Believers following the path to God's Kingdom heed Moses and the Prophets. The Divine services of God's Holy Church reference Moses and the Prophets. The Church's teachings are rich with references to Moses and the Prophets. Learning from Moses and the Prophets benefits the heart, mind and soul. Behavior changes when heeding admonitions from Moses and the Prophets.

### Luke 16:31-And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. (KJV)

The Gospel of St. Luke places great value on lessons from Moses and the Prophets. Believers do well to think carefully about the reference in St. Luke's Gospel. Being attentive to Moses and the Prophets is an investment in God's Kingdom. Investing in God's Kingdom involves making wise decisions about life's efforts. The time of life comes only once and is not reclaimed, repeated or extended. Life's decisions have lasting consequences that extend beyond earthly death.

### John 1:45-Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. (KJV)

Prayer is required when believers seek wisdom from Moses and the Holy Prophets. Great attentiveness is necessary to study the life of Moses and prophetic messages. The believer's seriousness, motivation and objectives affect the effort put forth. Learning from Moses and the Prophets gives new understanding of Jesus Christ. Looking back in time at Moses and the Prophets gives the believer perspective. Continued effort in studying Moses and the Prophets results in new understanding.

# Acts 28:23-And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening. (KJV)

The Lord's goodness and mercy are needed for believers to continue to learn. The Lord's gifts of the mind, heart, and senses enable learning for the soul. The believer cannot see, hear, or understand without the Lord God's action. Moses and the Holy Prophets lived centuries ago and continue to be relevant. Wise believers learn the relevancy of Moses and the Prophets for today's world. Applying lessons from Moses and the Prophets results in a rich life in the Lord.

Afterfeast of the Nativity. Holy 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia. December 28/January 10, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

"If you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday." Isaiah 58:10