



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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**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, 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, 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 Slaughaupt, 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, 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, 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, Mark [kidney cancer], Steve Milcic, Wilbert Wagner, Bob  
Wojciechowski, Ashley, Beth Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura D., Luke D,  
Diane Murphy, Robert Studnicki, Kristin Scott [Harry's daughter], George  
Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, and  
Jill Morocco. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.*

**A Christian must always be kind, gracious, and wise  
in order to conquer evil by good. Righteous John,  
Wonderworker of Kronstadt**

**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 17                      OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS                      10:30 AM**  
**FORGIVENESS SUNDAY; CHEESEFARE SUNDAY; SAINT GERASIMUS OF THE**  
**JORDAN; SAINT JULIAN-PATRIARCH OF ALEXANDRIA; SAINT JAMES THE**  
**FASTER OF PHOENICIA; MARTYR WENCESLAUS-PRINCE OF THE CZECHS;**  
**BLESSED BASIL-PRINCE OF ROSTOV**

*Tone 8*

Romans 13:11-14-4

Matthew 6:14-21

**MONDAY, March 18    GREAT LENT—THE GREAT FAST—BEGINS**

**SUNDAY, March 24                      OBEDNITZA—SAINT BASIL THE GREAT—UPSTAIRS    10:30 AM**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY; SAINT SOPHRONIUS-**  
**PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM; HIEROMARTYR PIONIUS OF SMYRNA &**  
**COMPANIONS; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF MARTYR EPIMACHUS**  
**FROM PELUSIUM TO CONSTANTINOPLE; SAINT SOPHRONIUS-RECLUSE OF**  
**PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

*Tone 1*

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

John 1:43-51

***Triumph of Orthodoxy—Vespers—Holy Trinity GO Church, McCandless—4:30 PM***

**SUNDAY, March 31                      OBEDNITZA—SAINT BASIL THE GREAT—UPSTAIRS    10:30 AM**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS; SYNAXIS OF THE**  
**FATHERS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; SAINT CYRIL-ARCHBISHOP OF**  
**JERUSALEM; MARTYRS TROPHIMUS & EUCARPUS OF NICOMEDIA; SAINT**  
**ANANIAS-PRESBYTER & MONK OF THE EUPHRATES**

*Tone 2*

Hebrews 1:10-2:3; Hebrews 7:26-8:2; Galatians 5:22:6-2

Mark 2:12; John 10:9-16; Luke 6:17-23

# **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 17 MARCH 2024**

**FORGIVENESS SUNDAY; CHEESEFARE SUNDAY; SAINT GERASIMUS OF THE JORDAN; SAINT JULIAN-PATRIARCH OF ALEXANDRIA; SAINT JAMES THE FASTER OF PHOENICIA; MARTYR WENCESLAUS-PRINCE OF THE CZECHS; BLESSED BASIL-PRINCE OF ROSTOV**

## **TROPARION—TONE 8**

Thou didst descent from on high, O Merciful One!  
Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings!  
Our Lord, our Life and Resurrection, Glory to Thee!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

## **KONTAKION—CHEESEFARE SUNDAY—TONE 6**

O Master, Teacher of Wisdom, Bestower of virtue,  
Who teaches the thoughtless and protects the poor:  
Strengthen and enlighten my heart, O Word of the Father,  
Let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee:  
Have mercy on me, a transgressor, O Merciful Lord.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## **KONTAKION—TONE 8**

By rising from the tomb,  
Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.  
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,  
And the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead,  
O greatly Merciful One!

## **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:** In Judah, God is known; His name is great in Israel!

**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!

Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with psalms.

**When you are slandered, and therefore grow disturbed and sick at heart, it shows that pride is in you, and that it must be wounded and driven out by outward dishonour. Therefore do not be irritated by derision, and do not bear malice against those who hate you and slander you, but love them as your physicians, whom God has sent you to instruct you and to teach you humility, and pray to God for them.** *Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ p.65*

### **The Sunday of the Last Judgment** Matthew 25:31-46

*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (KJV)*

The present Gospel is a firm reminder to be fully conscious of daily life experiences with persons in need. Today's Gospel makes perfectly clear that Jesus Christ is present in the stranger, the sick, the suffering and the imprisoned.

Jesus Christ is present in the beggar on the street or the person in need of clothing or a place to stay. Jesus is present in the stranger showing up at the parish church seeking to be warmly welcomed.

Jesus is identified with the man or woman at the intersection having a sign seeking donations because of being homeless or hungry. Jesus is in the boy or girl coming to school with tattered clothing and having no food to eat at home.

Jesus is present in the neighbor, family member or friend with a life-threatening illness. Jesus is in the son or daughter arrested for drug, alcohol or other criminal offenses.

Jesus is in the man or woman in the cell at the local jail or prison or on a locked ward of the mental hospital. Jesus is in the elderly person living alone with no surviving relatives and without any friends.

Jesus is in the person that shows up at church in poor clothing because he or she is without income. Jesus is in the person who stays home suffering silently because he or she has no means of transportation.

Jesus is in the wife or husband suffering from mental or physical abuse and afraid to ask for help. Jesus is in the co-worker coming to work with minimal food to eat. Jesus identifies with the suffering veterans in long-term care hospitals.

Today the Church wants believers to look with eyes to see the suffering in our midst and to help. The Church wants believers to realize the way we treat the person hurting, hungry or a stranger is our actual treatment of Jesus.

Today's Gospel asks believers to honestly examine the self. Believers are asked to think very carefully about the people they meet and know in daily life.

Taking action to help the needy is a step toward God's Heavenly Kingdom.

The present Gospel makes very clear that Jesus Christ is fully aware of believers' personal experiences with persons in need. Each person will face Jesus Christ at the Great and Final Judgment.

Jesus Christ knows the believers that reach out to help the sick, the suffering and the imprisoned. Jesus Christ knows the believers that welcome the stranger, that clothe the needy and feed the hungry.

Today is an opportunity to commit to be more welcoming of strangers at work, in the community, or in the parish church. Today is an opportunity to comfort someone you know is suffering.

Today ask God for open eyes to see suffering. Ask God for the vision to see Jesus Christ in each person in need. Ask God for help in beginning anew in the journey to God's Heavenly Kingdom.

Persons in need and suffering appreciate the active love of believers. Parents with a son and daughter having personal difficulties or in prison are strengthened by support and prayers from their parish church.

Families with a member having mental illness are grateful when believers show compassion. Individuals recovering from an accident, surgery or undergoing cancer treatment draw strength from prayers in their parish.

The present Gospel inspires action. The present Gospel defines a pathway to the Heavenly Kingdom. Jesus Christ will return. The Great and Final Judgement will take place. Now is the time to act. God is merciful and loving. God is patient.

Repentance is possible for believers desiring to live in ways pleasing to Jesus Christ. Today's Gospel is a firm reminder to see Jesus Christ in each person in need and to act with compassion.

*The Sunday of the Last Judgment. Meatfare Sunday. February 26/March 10, 2024. St. Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

### *The Beatitudes of St Paisios the Athonite*

I

Blessed are those who love Christ more than all the worldly things and live far from the world and near God.

II

Blessed are those who manage to live in obscurity and acquired great virtues but did not acquire even a small name for themselves.

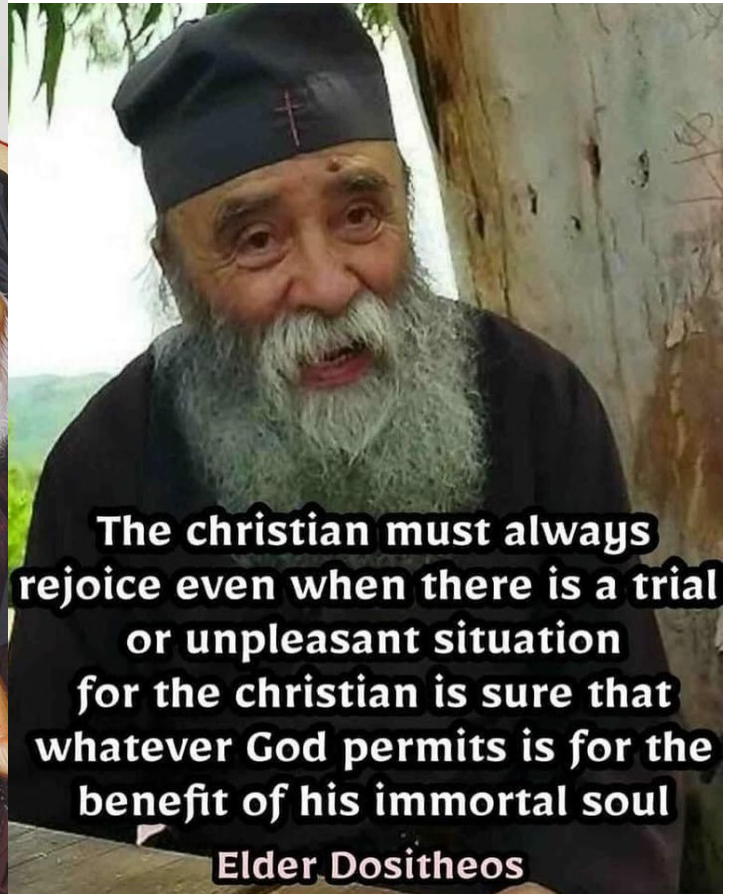
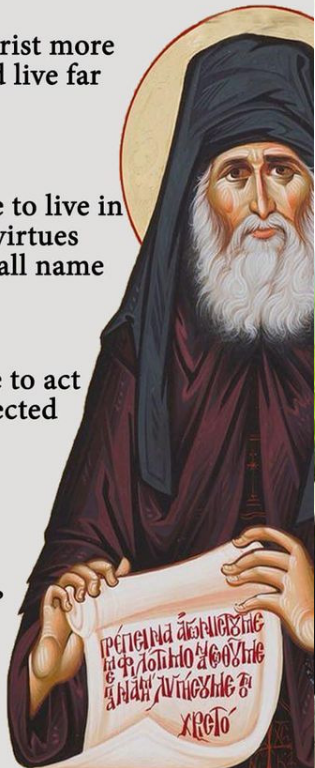
III

Blessed are those who manage to act the fool and, in this way, protected their spiritual wealth.

IV

Blessed are those who do not preach the Gospel with words, but live it and preach it with their silence, with the Grace of God, which betrays them.

 BASILICA.RO



**The christian must always rejoice even when there is a trial or unpleasant situation for the christian is sure that whatever God permits is for the benefit of his immortal soul**

**Elder Dositheos**

**Many dangers exist if a monk hides his thoughts... Monk Joseph Dionysiatis, Elder Arsenios the Cave-dweller (1886-1983) p.76**



**The Cross is a sign of being the chosen of God; it is the hallmark of Christ. With this hallmark Christ marks His Own! The beloved angels of God are represented with this sign on icons of Christ Almighty! St. Ignatius (Brianchaninov), Bishop of the Caucasus and the Black Sea, Harbor for Our Hope: On Acquiring Peace Amidst Suffering p.120**



***"Let us observe a fast acceptable and pleasing to the Lord."***

*Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters—Clergy and Laity-Faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church throughout the World,*

**CHRIST IS AMONGST US! IS AND ALWAYS SHALL BE!**

As we embark on the sacred journey of Eastern Orthodox Great Lent, let us fast not only from food but from sin and everything that leads us into sinful behavior, belief and deeds; let us fast with love and humility as a means to an end and not an end in itself; let us reflect on the purpose of fasting, as a foundation of our spiritual growth and the desire to become one with God. Drawing inspiration from the Holy Fathers, who remind us of the transformative power of repentance, and Holy Scripture, which guides us on the path of humility, may this Lenten season be a time of profound self-reflection, prayer, and adherence to the teachings of our Holy Orthodox Tradition.

In the words of Saint John Chrysostom, "Lent is a healing therapy for the soul," urging us to purify our hearts and draw nearer to the Divine. Let us heed the call of Saint Isaac the Syrian, who implores us to "make space for God within us." Through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, we strive to emulate Christ's humility and seek a deeper connection with our Creator. The second Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjold, of the newly created

United Nations once expressed a profound thought—"The longest journey is the journey inwards, of him (or her) who has started upon a quest for the source of his (her) being." As Orthodox Christians we are blessed daily in knowing the "Source of our being" through the Scriptural exposition of creation and God's unending efforts to express His Love for us, even allowing the sacrifice of His Only-Begotten Son as a ransom for our salvation.

May the wisdom of the Holy Fathers and the guidance of Holy Scripture illuminate our Lenten journey, fostering spiritual renewal, repentance, and a profound sense of gratitude for that sacrifice of our Lord. As we walk this path together, let our collective prayers and endeavors strengthen our faith, bringing us closer to the Resurrection and the eternal joy that awaits. Each of us must enter Great Lent with the intention to begin the journey inwards with more intensity than ever before in our lives.

Yes, let us honestly fast from food with the goal of physical, mental and emotional effect as the first step in this journey inward. The effect should be hunger and comprehension of just how much our Loving God has provided for us. Then the fast must expand to include change of behavior—reading Holy Scripture, worshipping at all the Lenten liturgical services, and putting aside the things that will, without doubt, distract us from the inward journey: our mobile phones, tablets, all forms of social media, all forms of visual entertainment that will not deepen our journey inwards to unity with the Divine.

Is the Lenten journey inwards easy? NO! Our salvation, however, demands that we embark upon it to have any hope at all to experience God's energies. We cannot experience His Essence, but we can, having become one with Him at the core of our being, experience His uncreated and eternal energies or manifestations of His Divinity—as the Apostles Peter, James, and John experienced His Divine Light—uncreated and pure—at the Transfiguration. May we all understand completely that the experience of the Apostles on Mt. Tabor is possible for each of us if our journey inwards is real, sincere, and filled with love for God and for each other.

We shall be praying fervently for all of you throughout this Great Lenten Fast-Journey and we beseech your prayers for us, your Spiritual Fathers...

In our Lord's All-Encompassing Love,

**+ ANTONY**

*By the Grace of God, Metropolitan—UOC of USA and Diaspora*

**+ JEREMIAH**

*By the Grace of God, Archbishop—Eparchy of South America*

**+ DANIEL**

*By the Grace of God, Archbishop—UOC of USA and Diaspora*

**The Saints are kinder than we think, and more speedily than we think they come to our help, in accordance with our prayer.**

*Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt*

### **Throne of Glory**

***(I Kingdoms) I Samuel 2:8- He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he hath set the world upon them.***

***(KJV)***

Each person is created in the image and likeness of God including beggars. (Ge. 1:26) Believers preparing for the Great and Final Judgment are mindful of beggars. Misfortune can fall upon anyone and create a dramatic change in earthly life. Beggars are worthy of Christian compassion, acts of kindness and prayers of love. Judging beggars has no place in lives of Christians seeking God's Kingdom. (Mt.7:1) Each person has sufficient sins to address in preparing for Jesus Christ's Return.

***Jeremiah 14:21-Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us. (KJV)***

Each person has sins that need remediated to be completely reconciled with Christ. The Church provides Great Lent as a time of increased encouragement to repent. Repenting of sins requires personal honesty and desire to change before God. The believer is expected to look deep within the self to acknowledge all sins. Believers longing for unity with the Lord God take the necessary steps to repent. Being separated from God by sins is a heavy burden on the heart, mind and soul.

***Zechariah 6:13-Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. (KJV)***

The Holy Prophets are points of reference for believers seeking unity with God. Wisdom from the Prophets open pathways to God's Kingdom and Eternal Life. The Prophets shine the Light of Christ in the darkest moments of earthly life. Nourishment for the hungry soul is readily found in the Holy Prophets of God. Believers benefit greatly when taking time to consider the Prophets' wisdom. Considering the Prophets is a wise investment in preparing for eternal life. (Luke 16:1-31)

**Matthew 25:31-When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: (KJV)**

The Scriptures are clear about the Lord returning for the Great and Final Judgment. Every day and every relationship are opportunities to prepare for Judgment Day. Every person will appear before the Lord and relationships will be scrutinized. Believers do well to repent of careless acts and cruel thoughts, words and deeds. Experiencing God's Kingdom and eternal life are the desired goals of Baptism. Following Baptism believers are to experience Christ in each relationship. (Mt.25:40)

*Holy Martyrs at the Gate of Eugenius. February 22/March 6, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

**Do you know what communication with God means?**

**Communicating all day long with God is an awesome thing! Just begin speaking with God and do not let go of His name. How do you think of your mother, your father, or some dear person? What does a betrothed girl do? She is captivated by thinking of her betrothed all day long. She sits and knits and remembers him. So, should we not remember Christ, our betrothed?**

*Gerondissa Makrina (Vassopoulou), Words of the Heart p.291*

