



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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 Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor
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ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

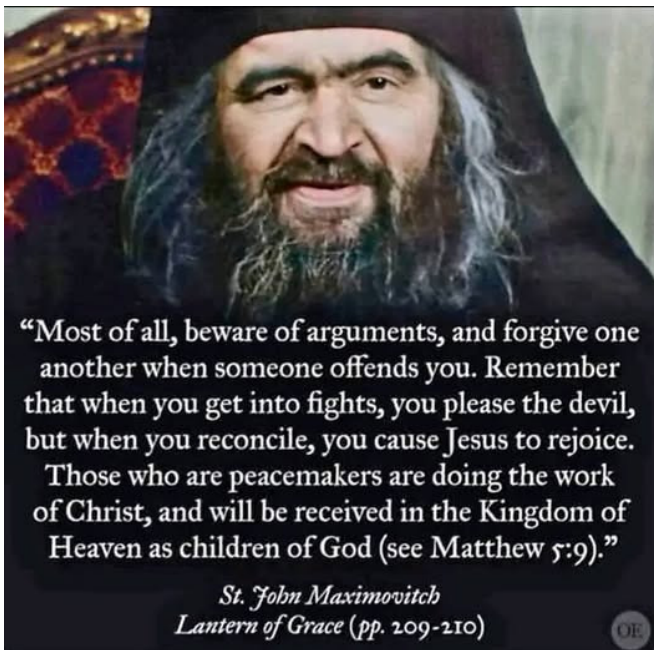
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

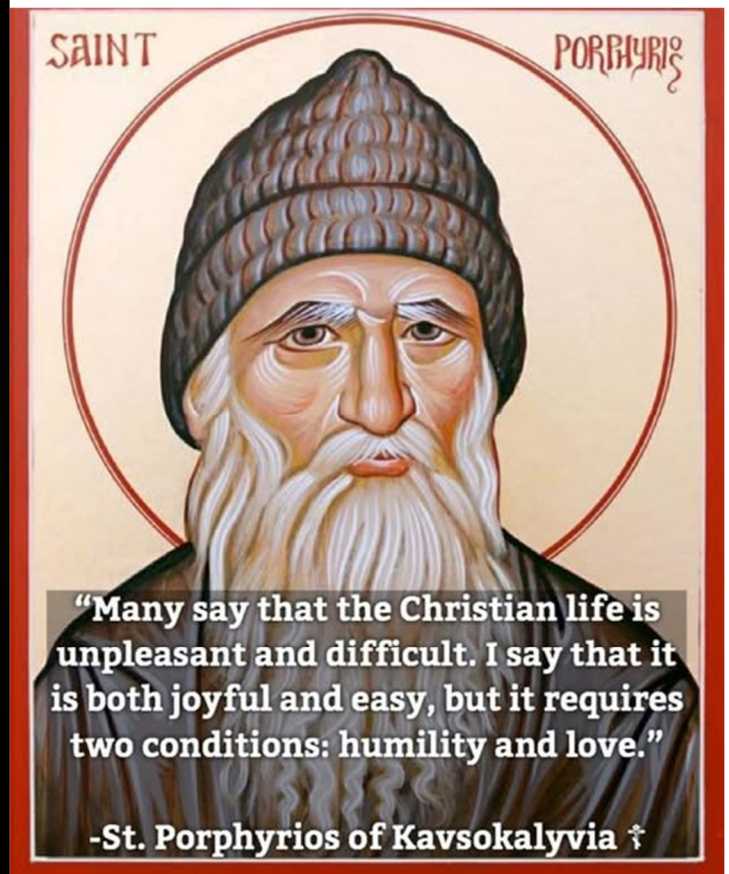
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

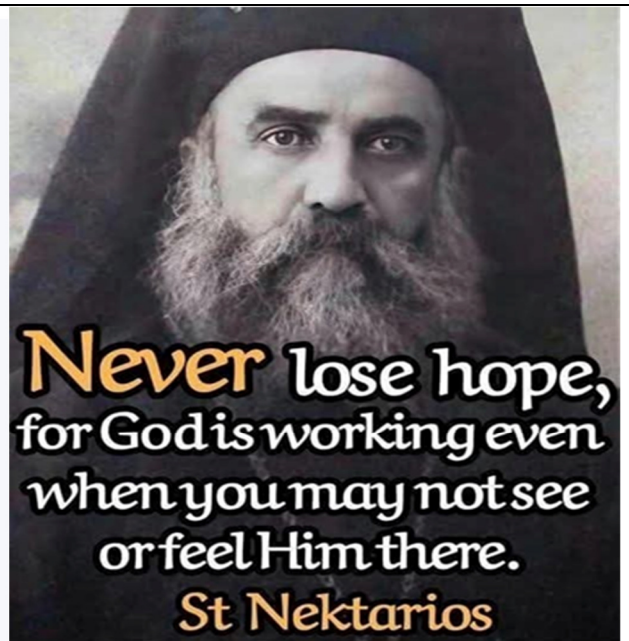
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHs IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

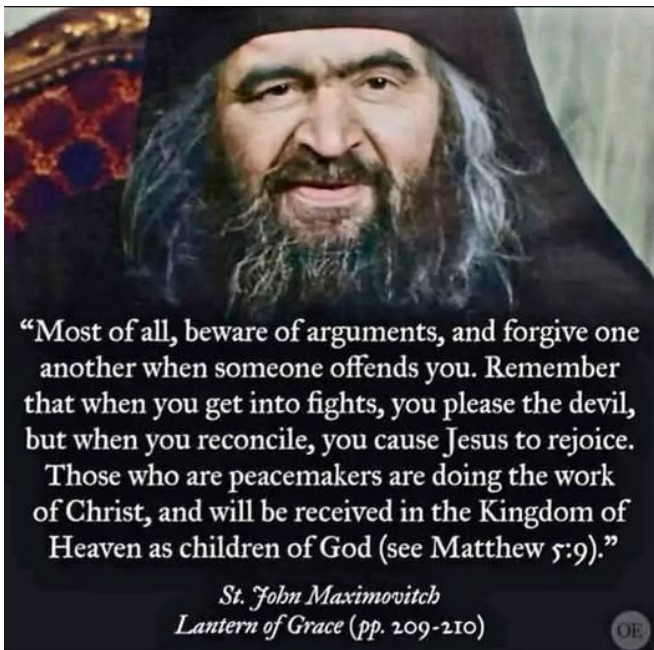
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

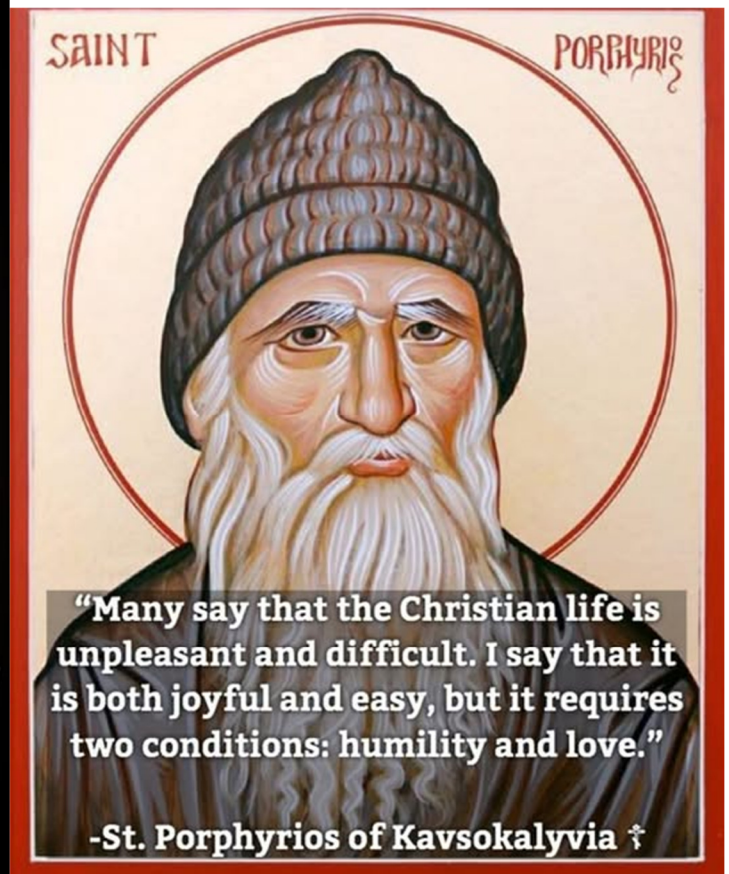
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

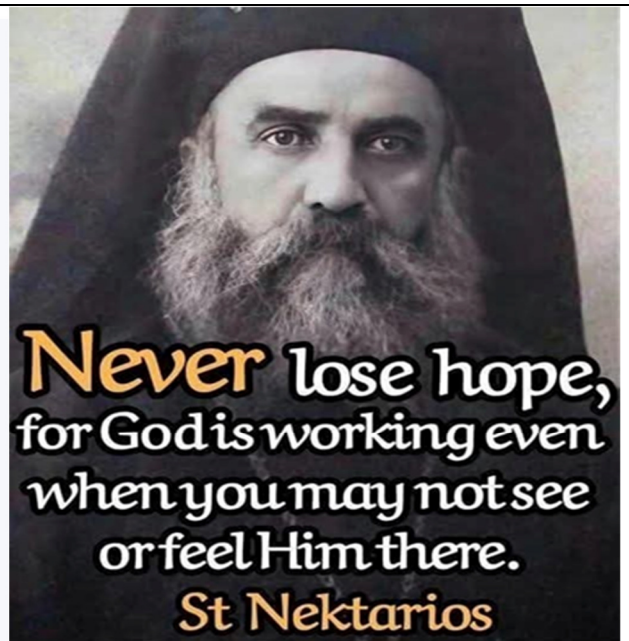
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

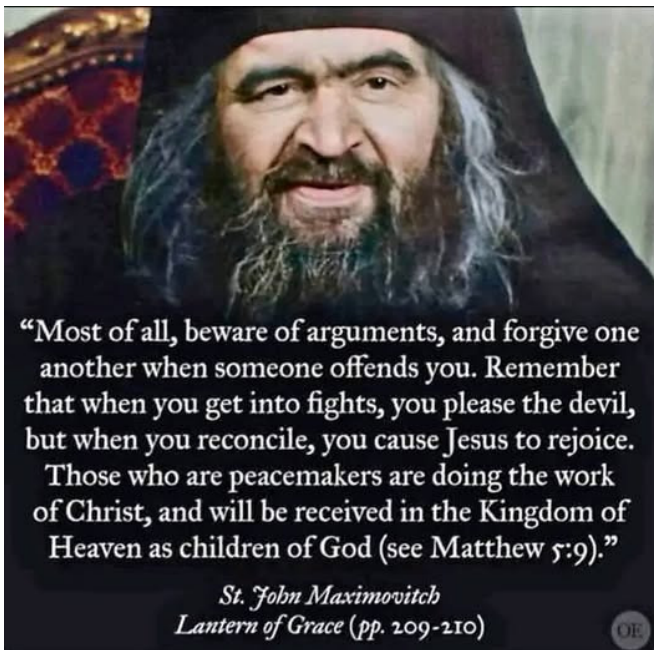
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

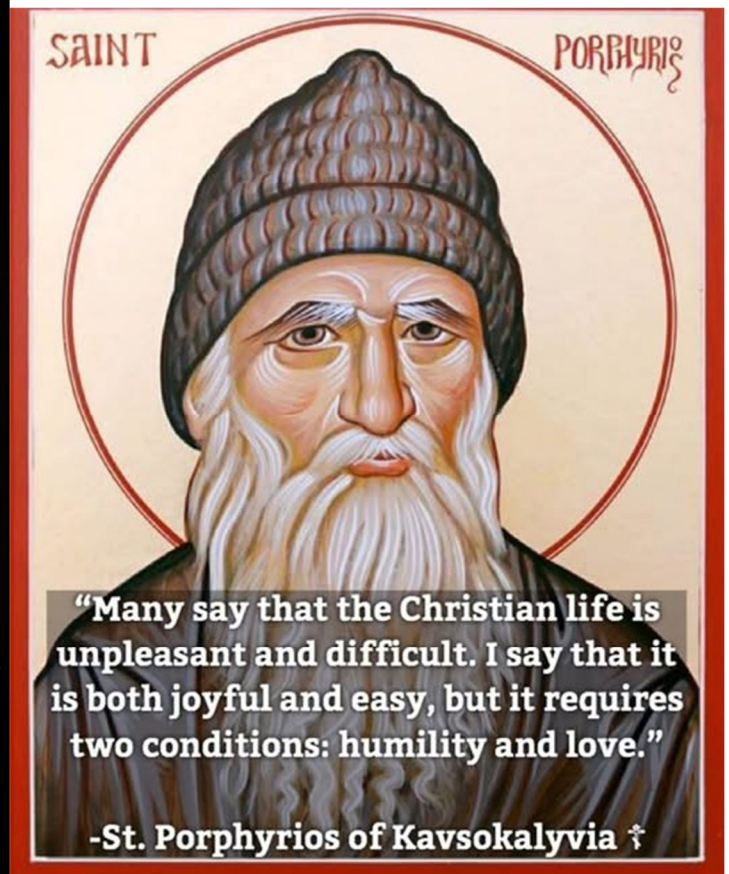
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

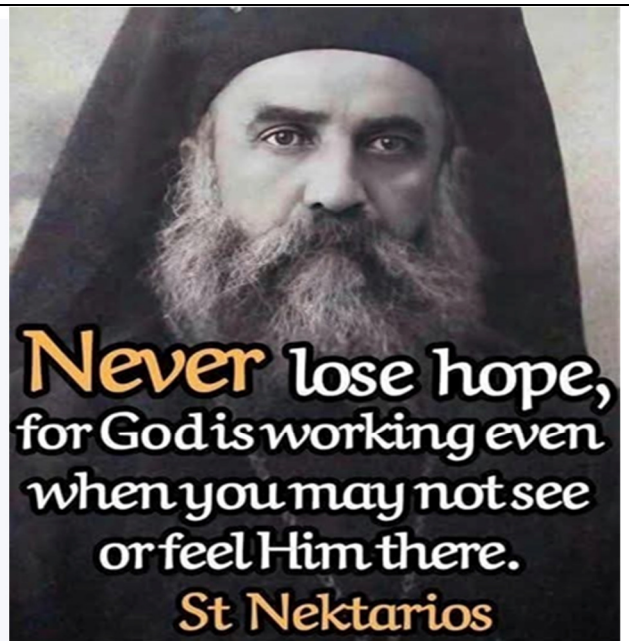
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

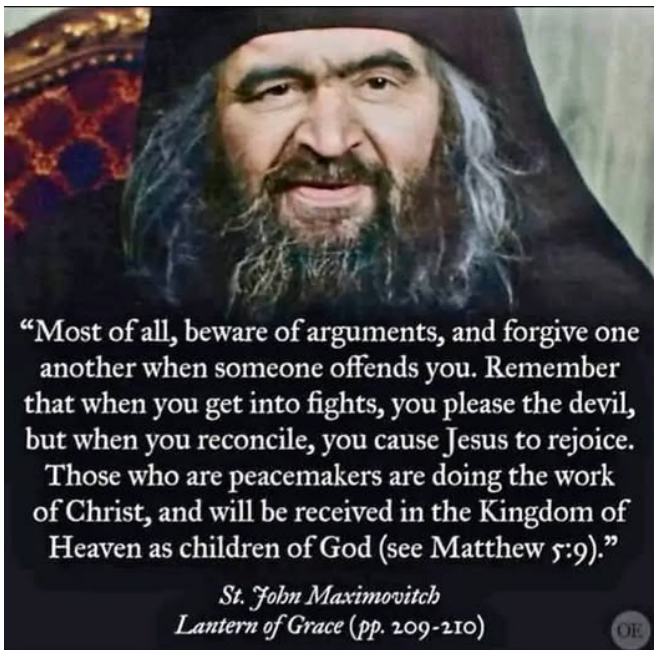
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

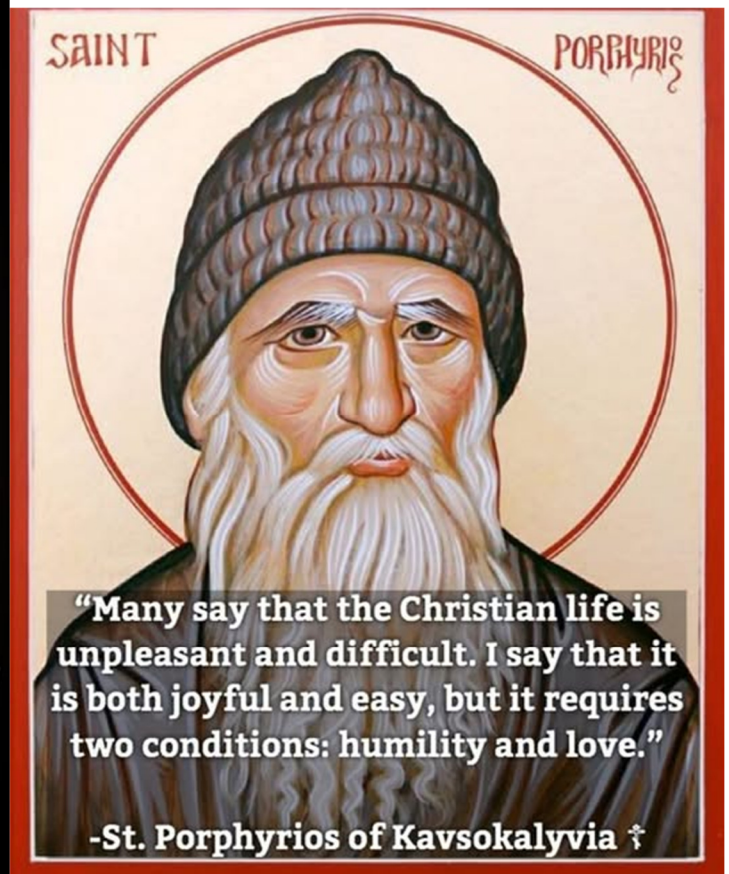
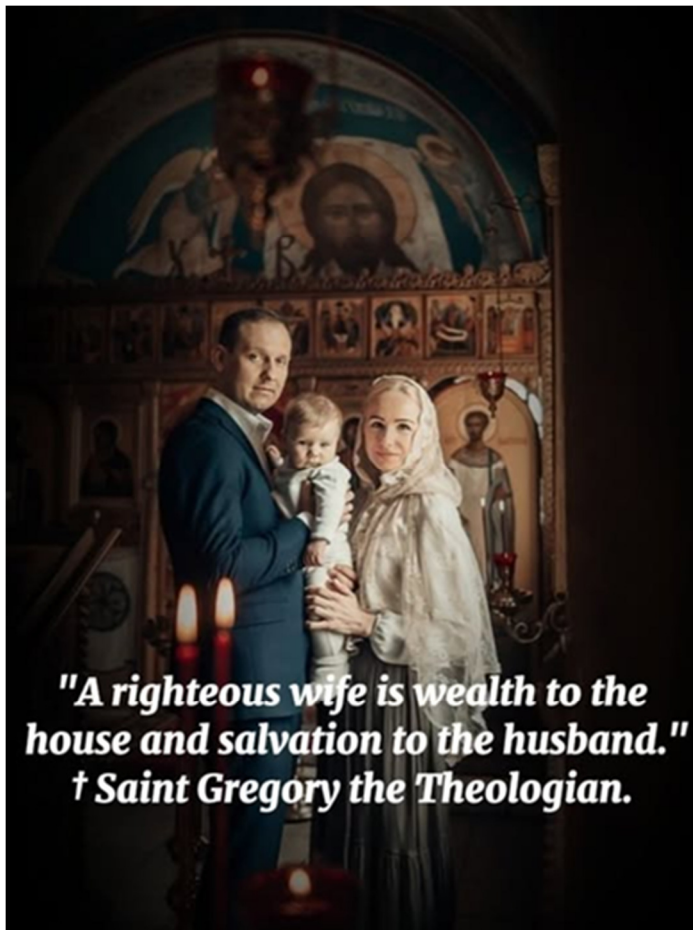
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

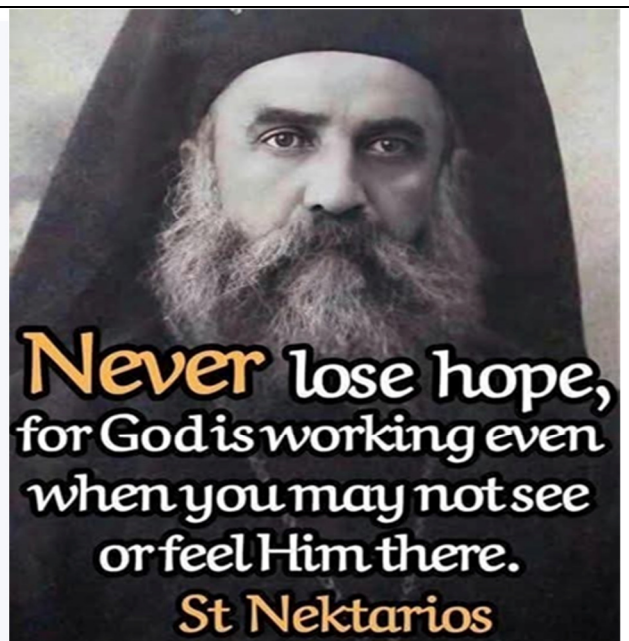
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

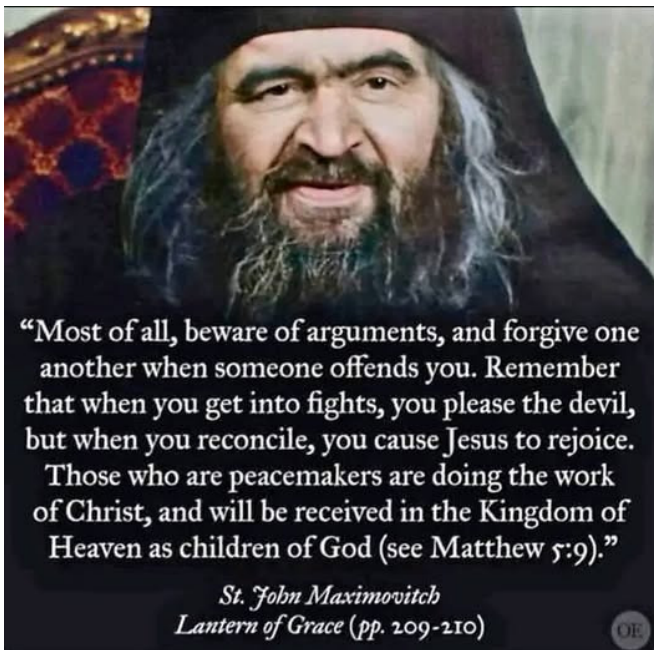
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

*St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)*



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

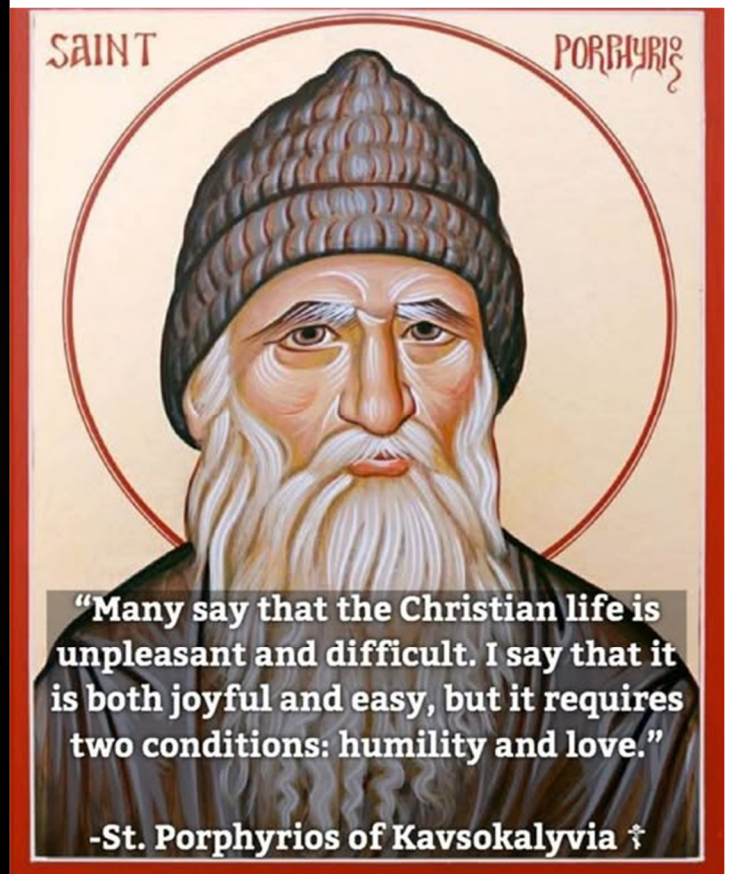
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

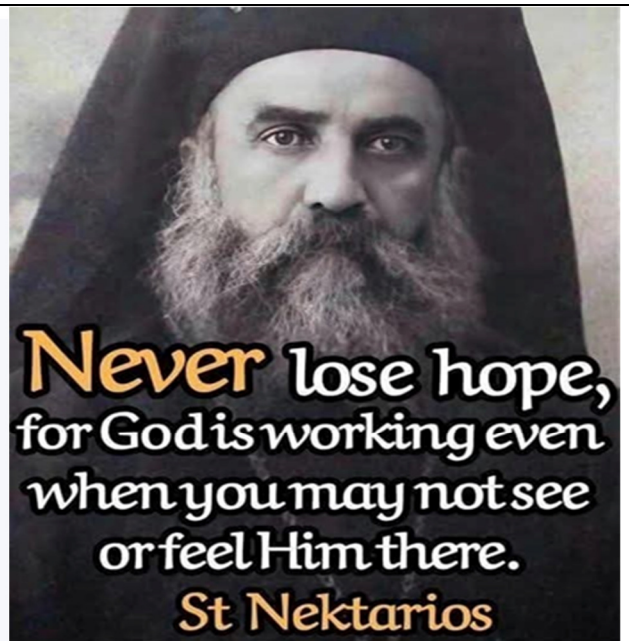
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

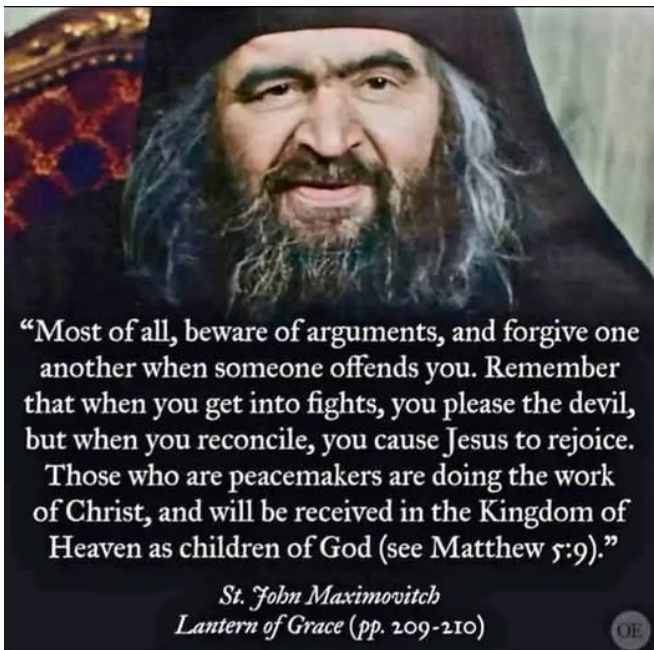
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

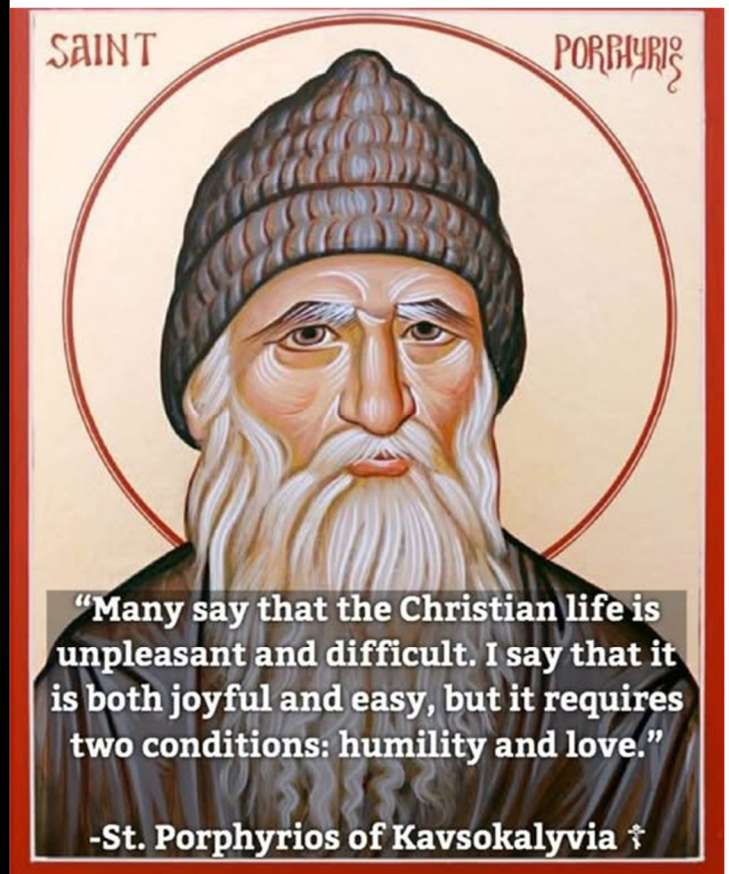
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

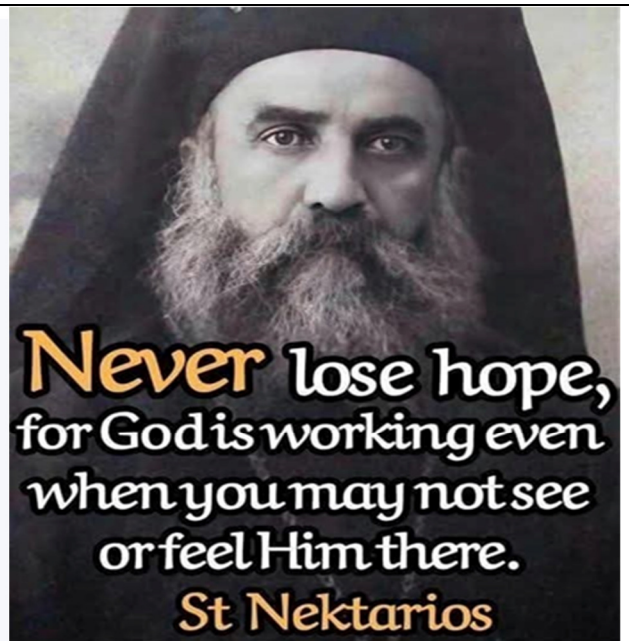
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

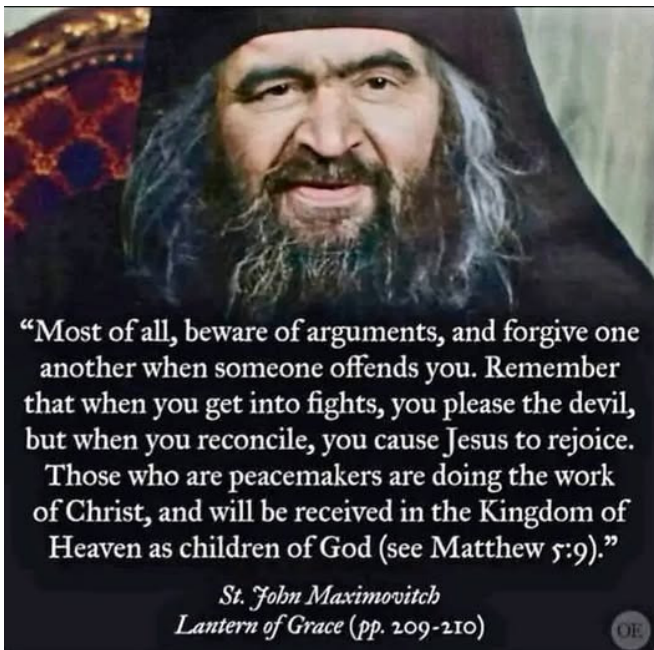
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

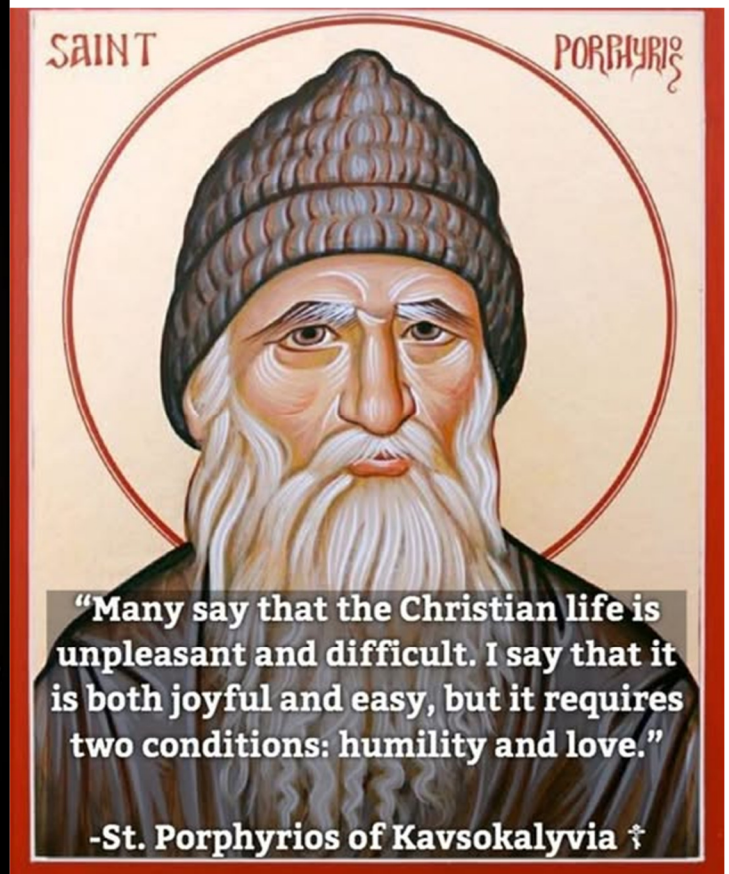
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

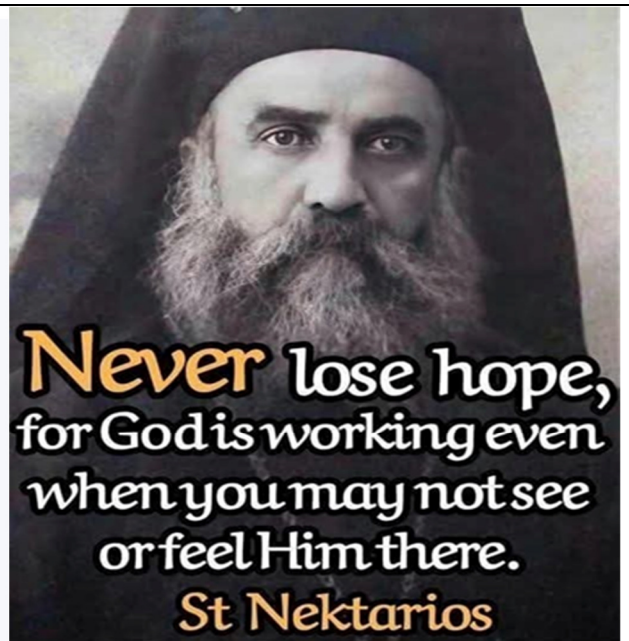
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

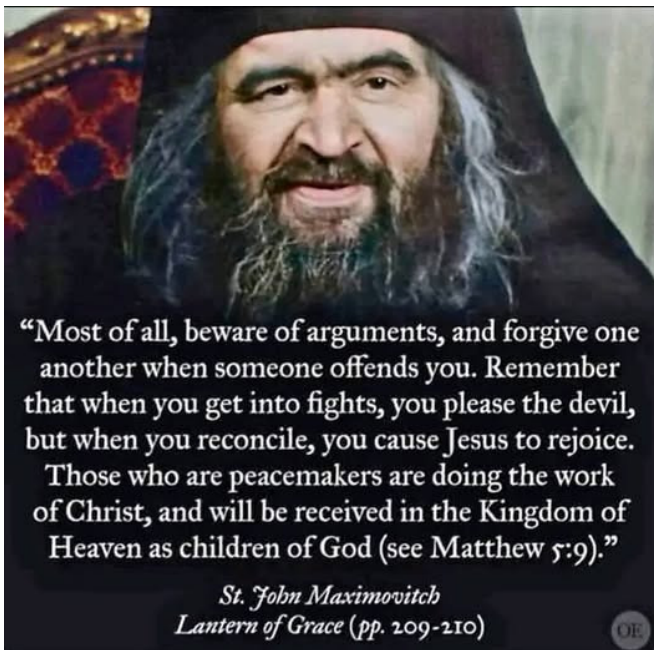
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

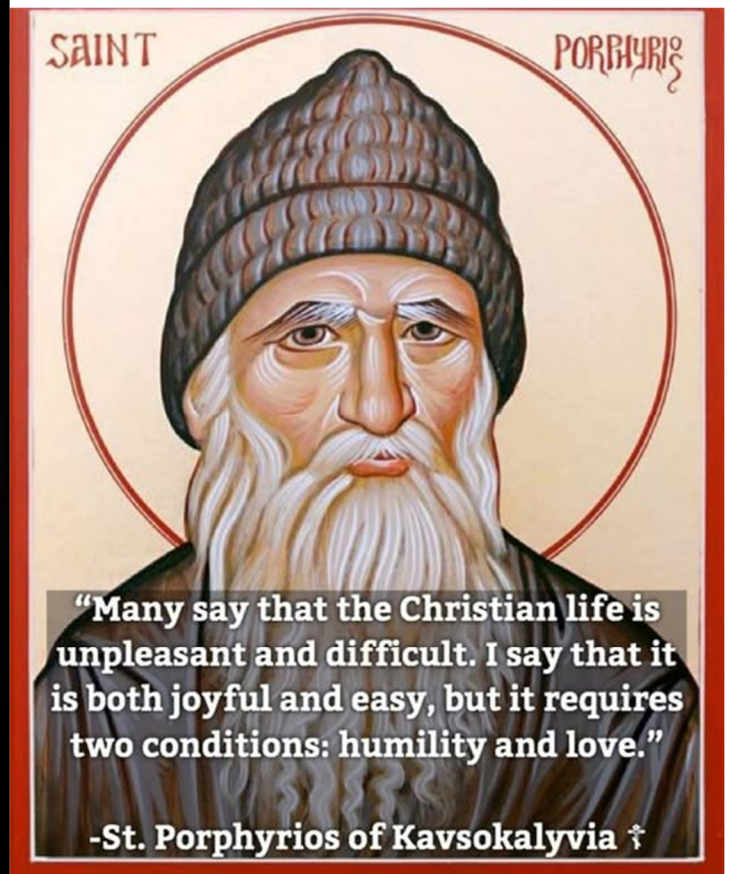
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

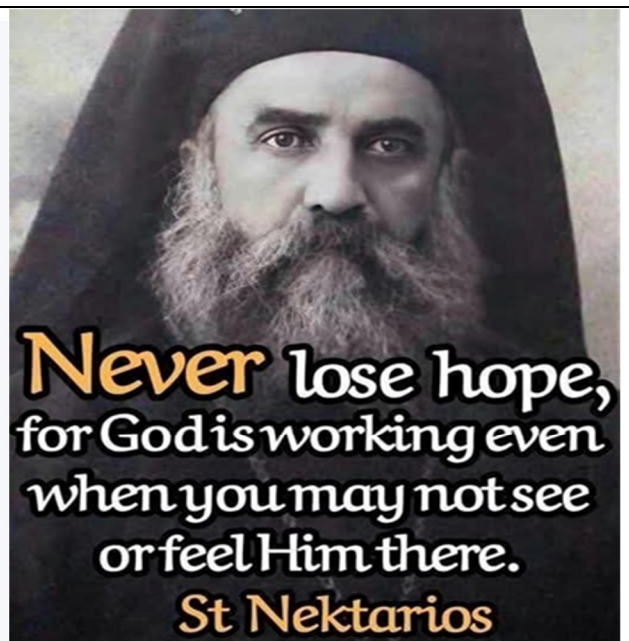
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

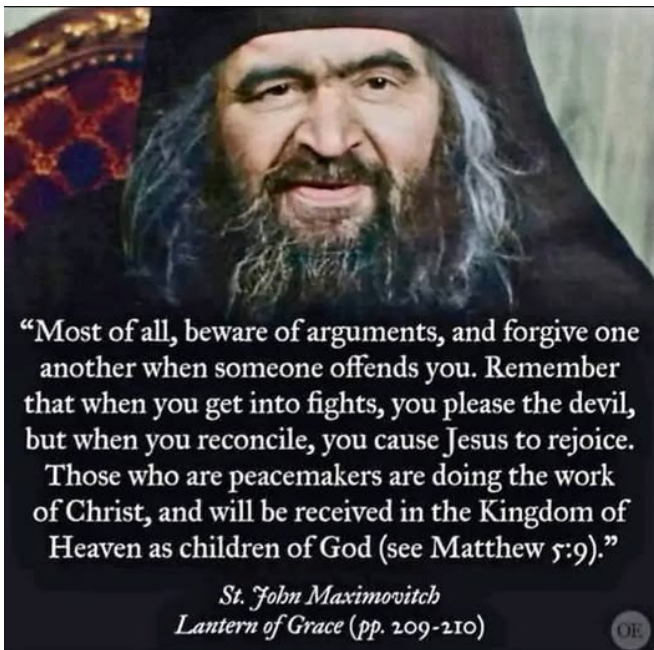
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





“Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9).”

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

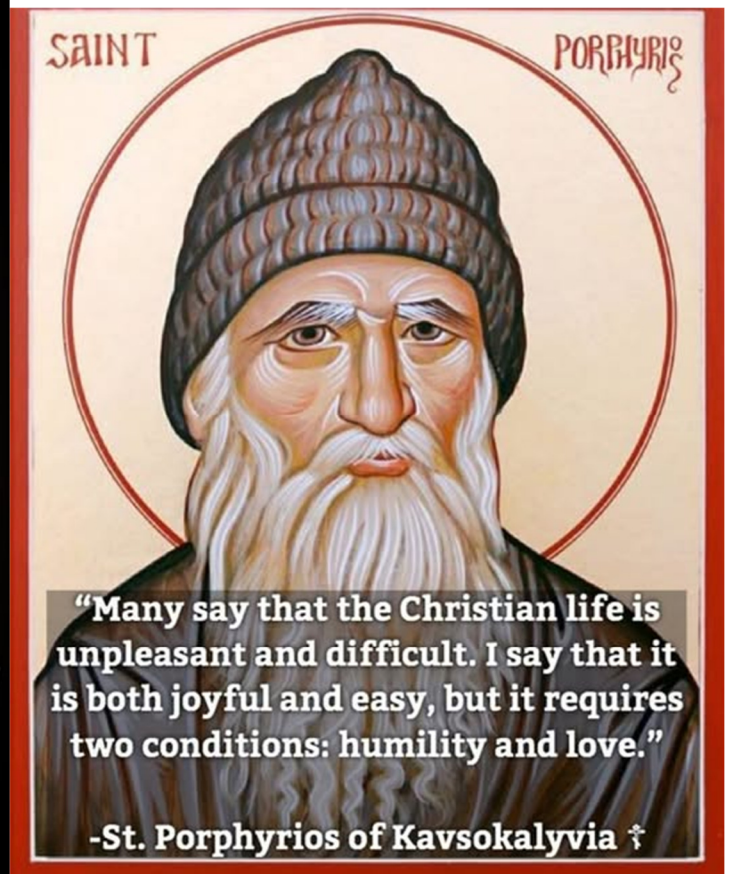
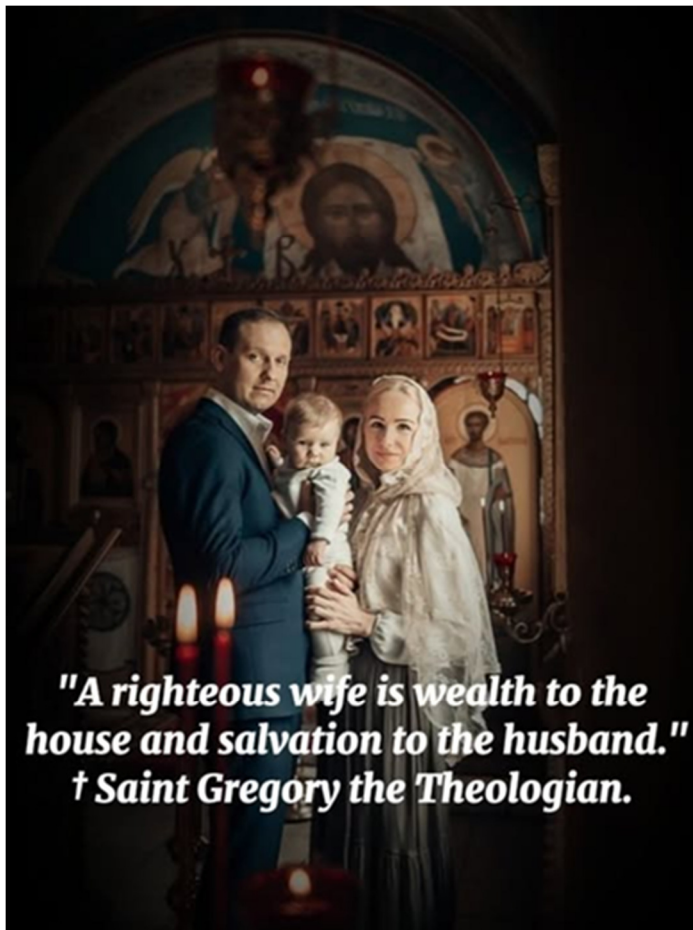
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

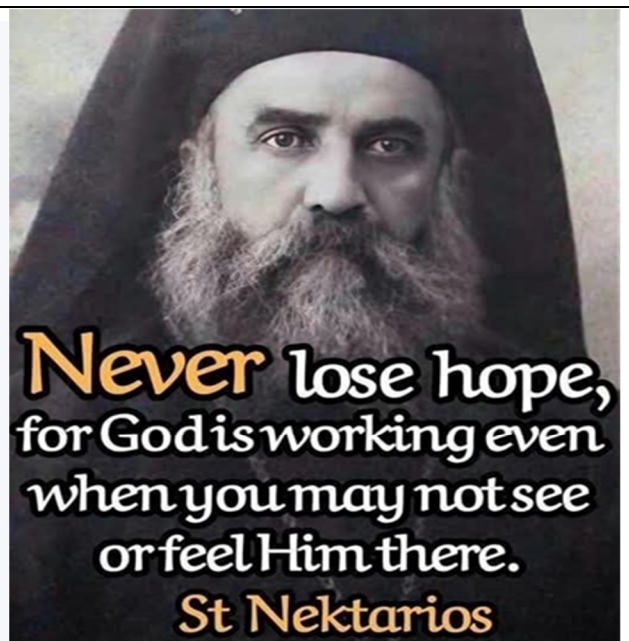
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 Slaughenhaupt, 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
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*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

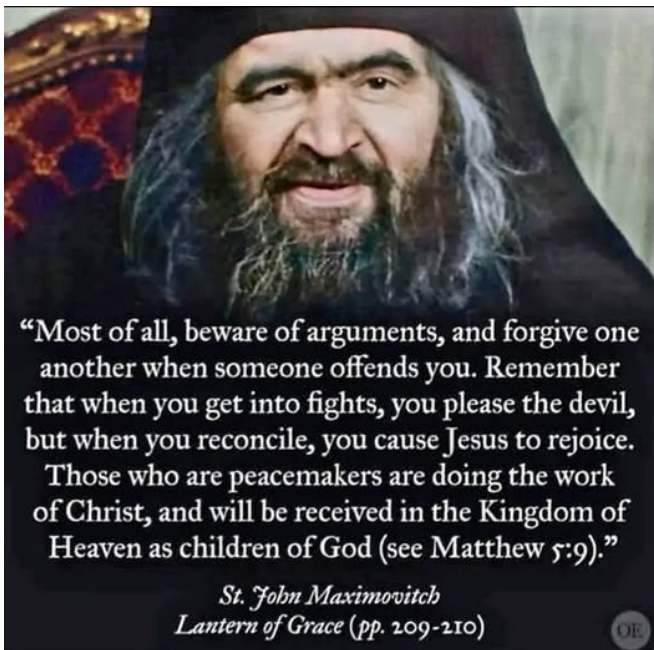
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

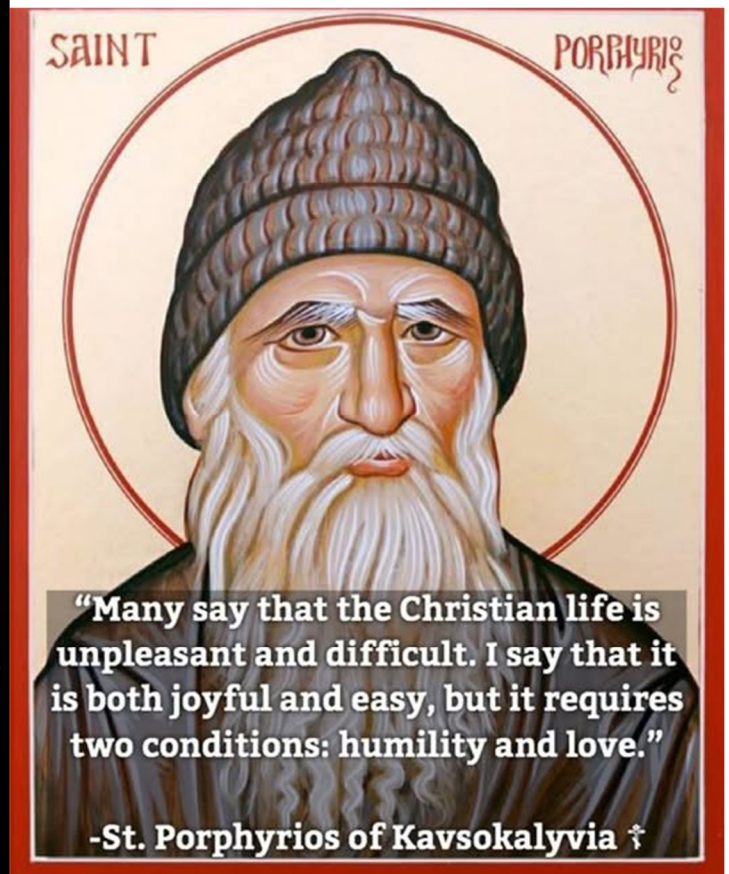
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

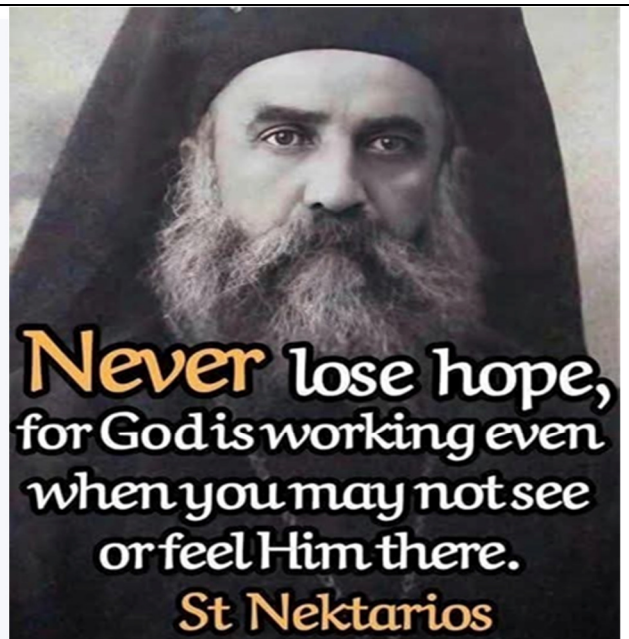
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



Never lose hope,
for God is working even
when you may not see
or feel Him there.
St Nektarios

The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

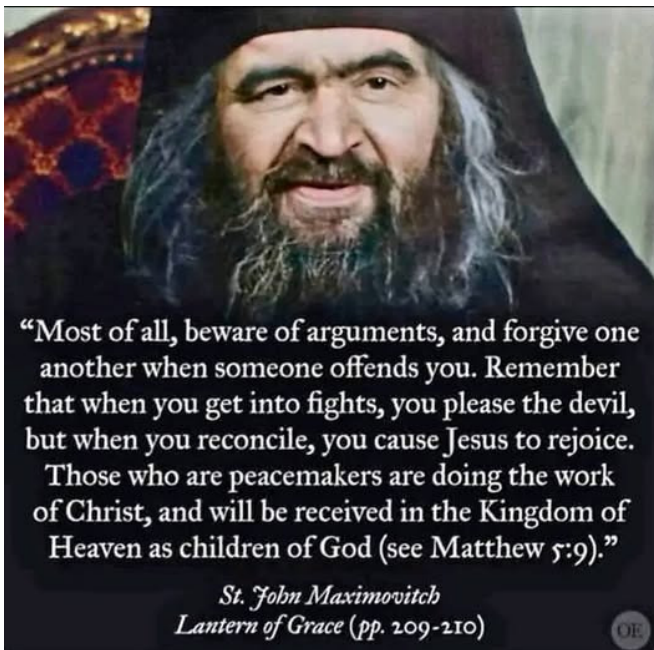
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

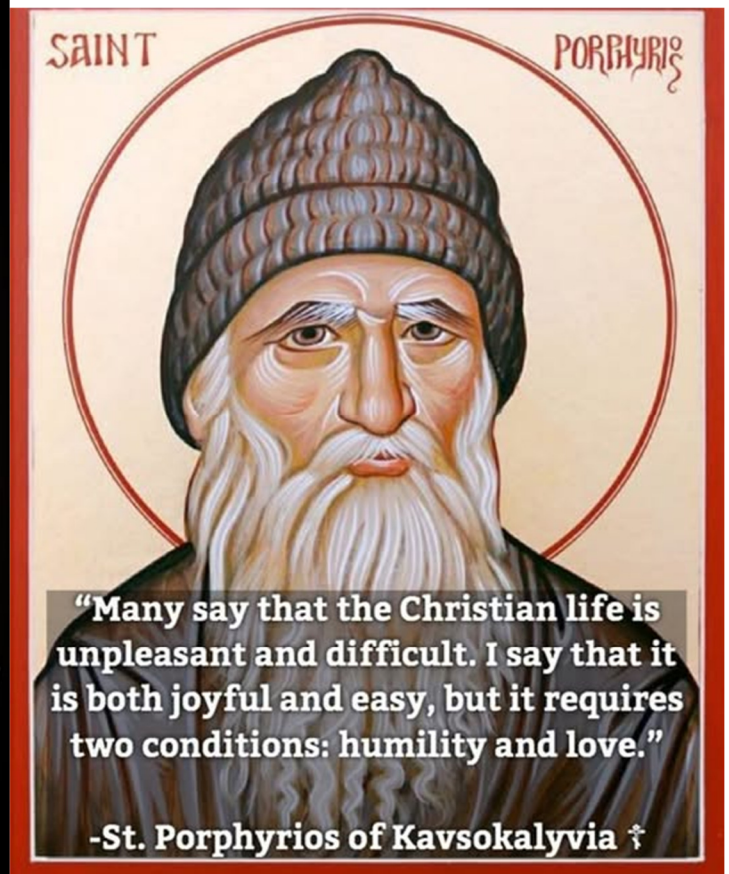
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

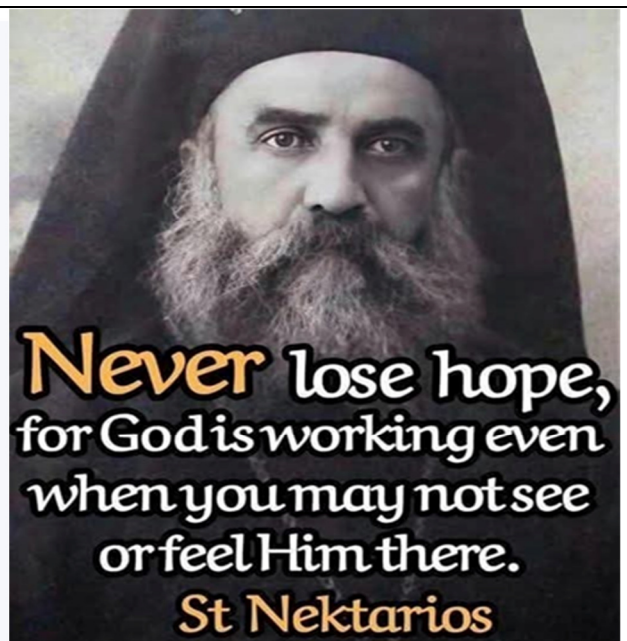
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

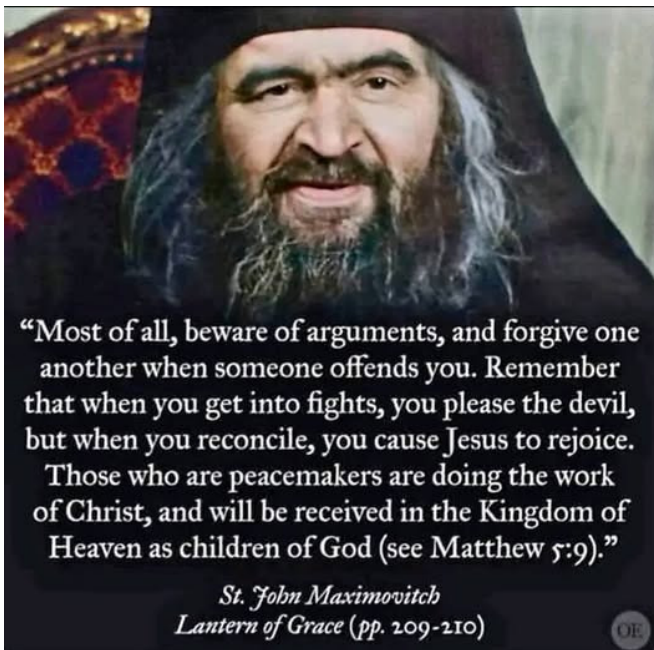
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

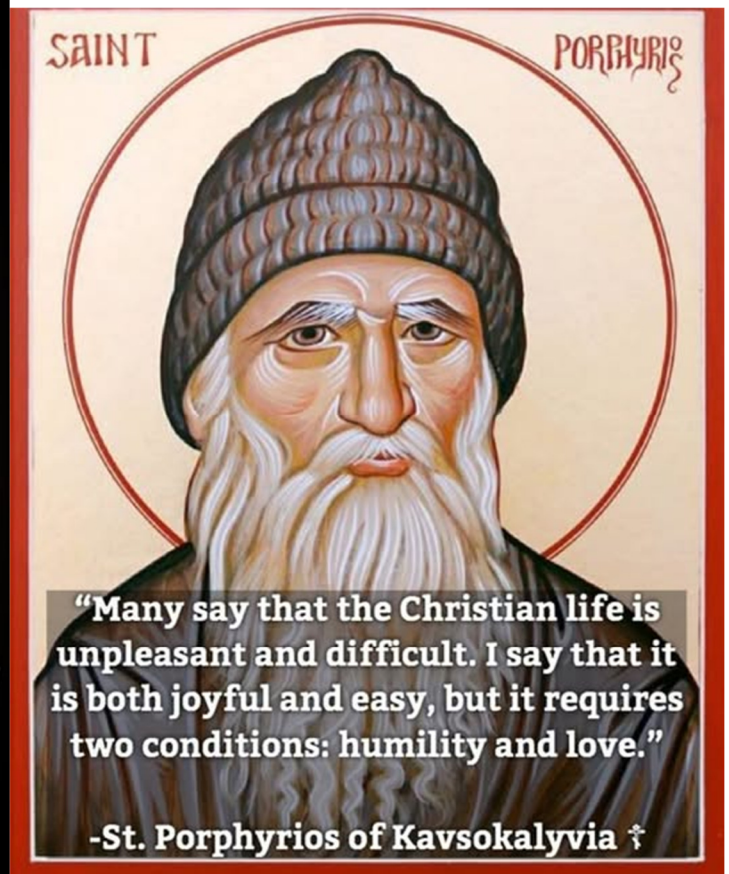
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

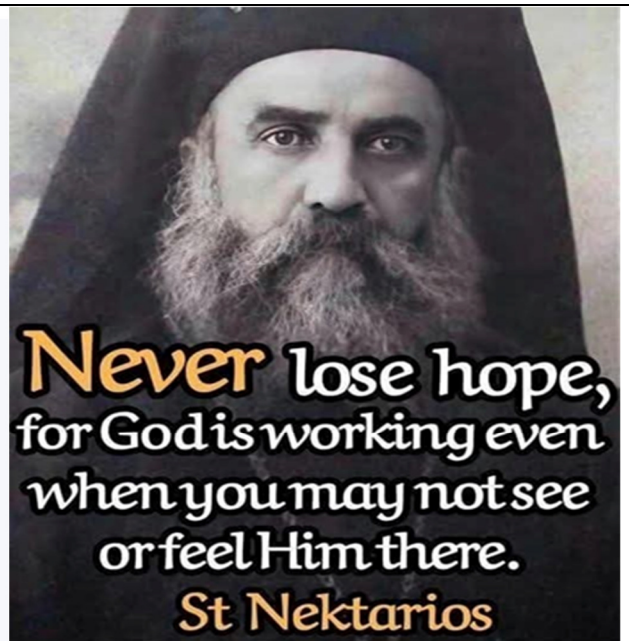
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

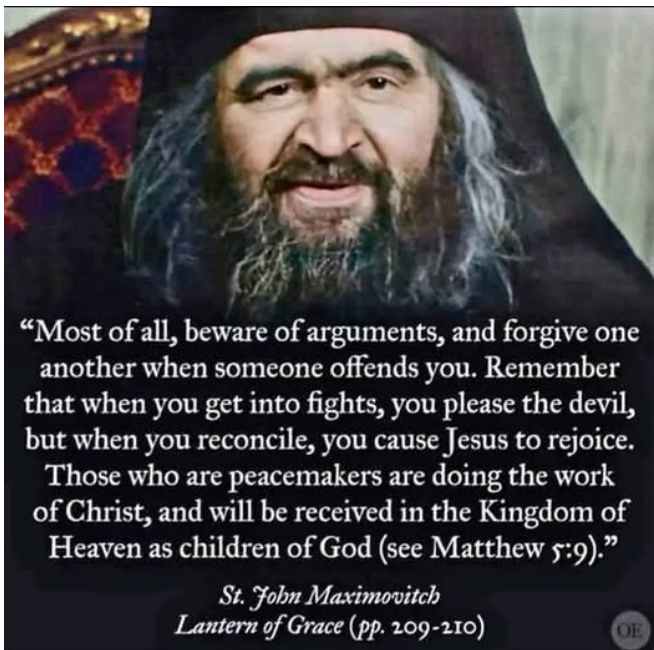
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

*St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)*



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

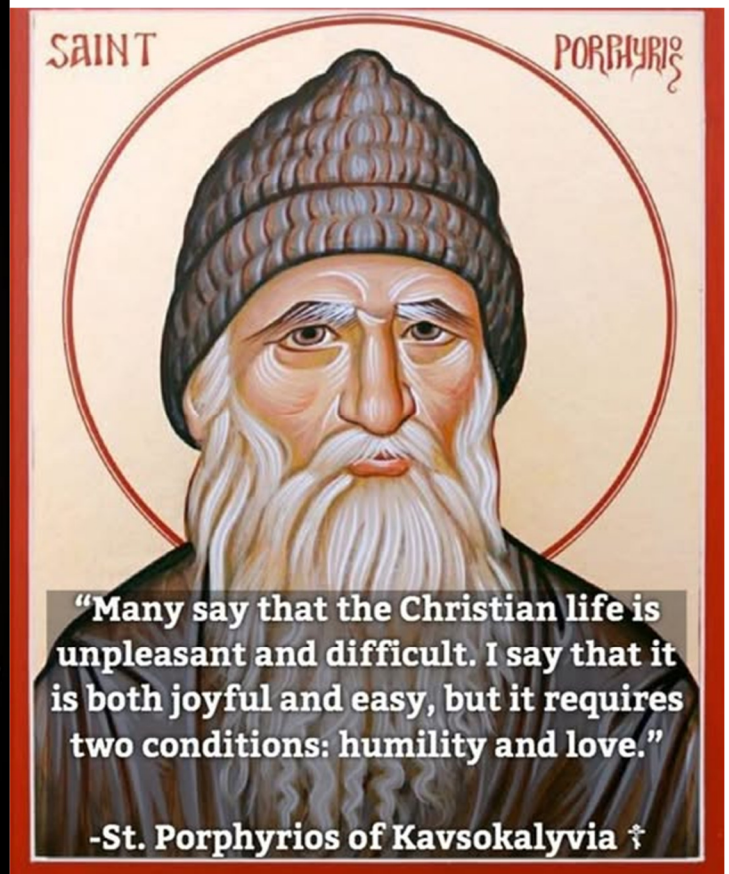
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

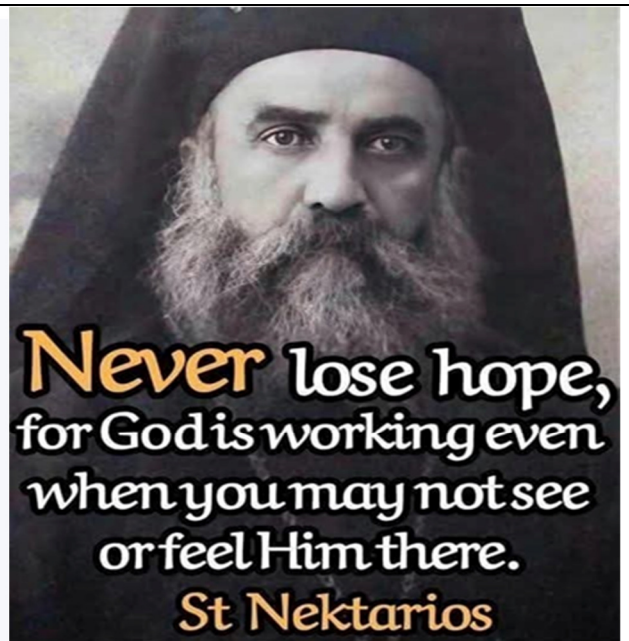
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 Slausenhaupt, 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHs IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

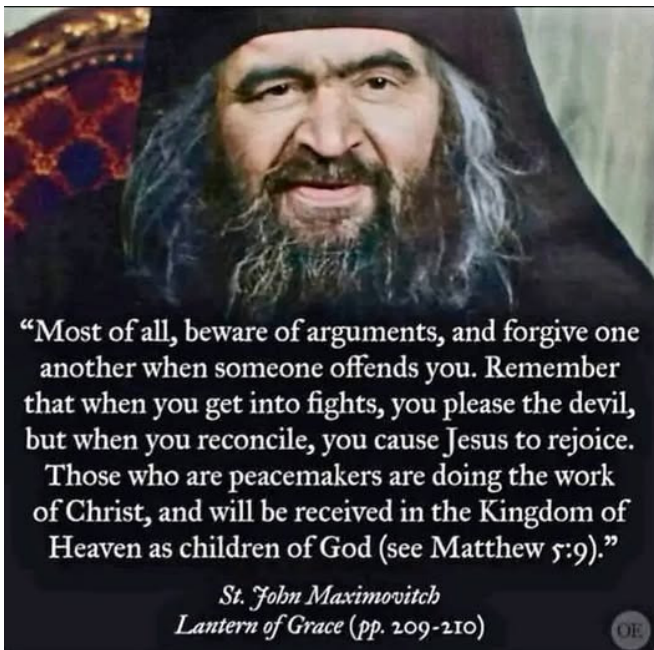
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

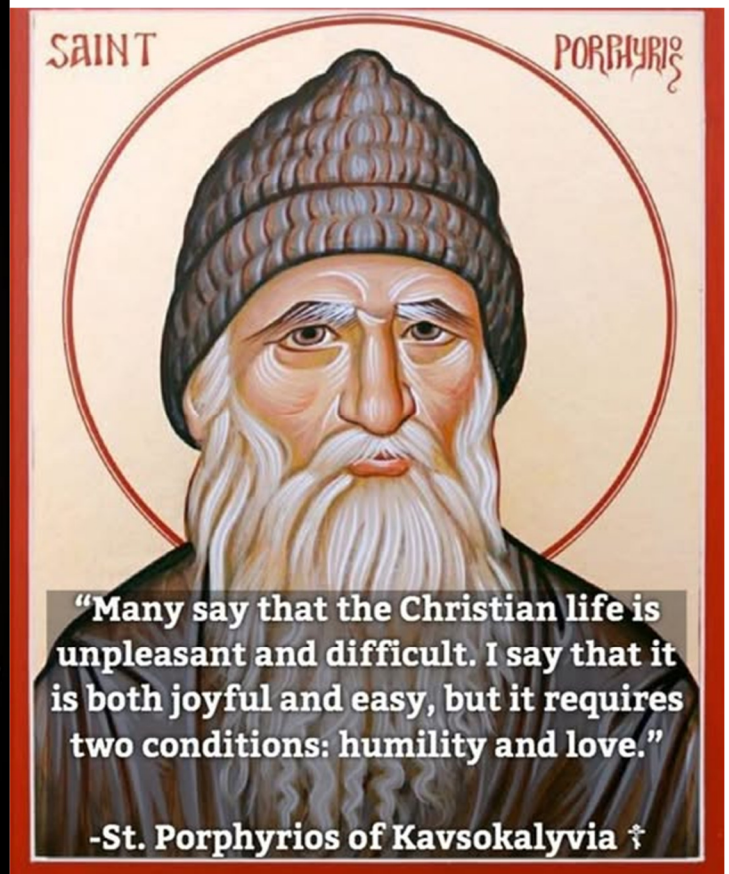
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. ***Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.***

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

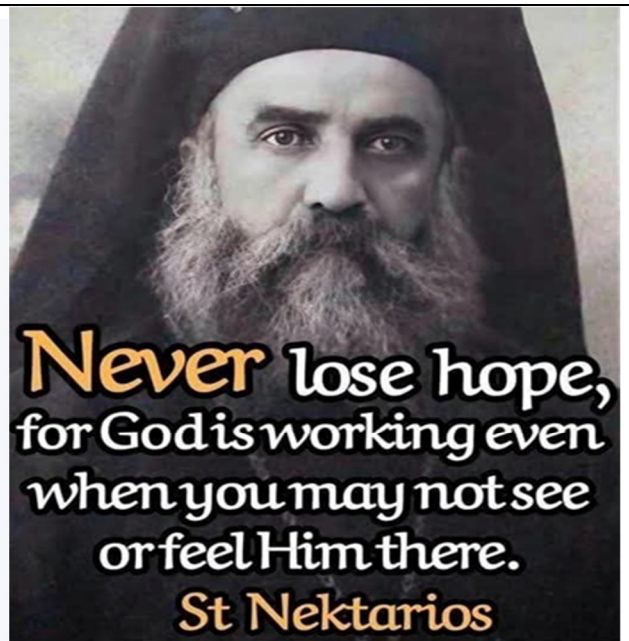
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

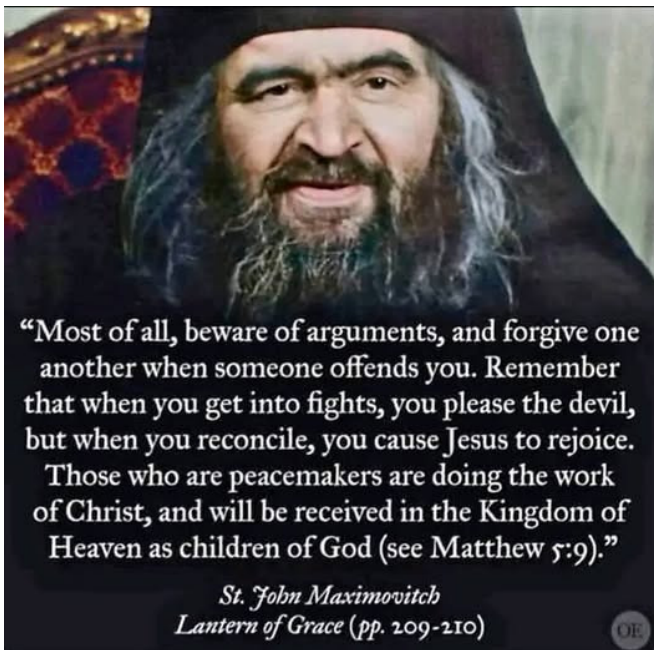
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

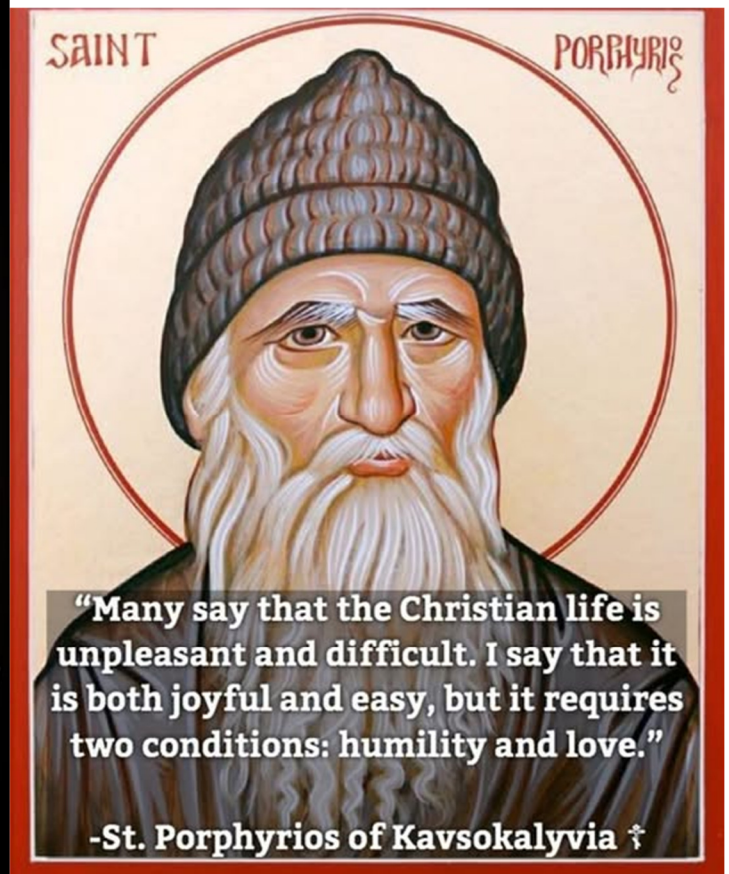
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

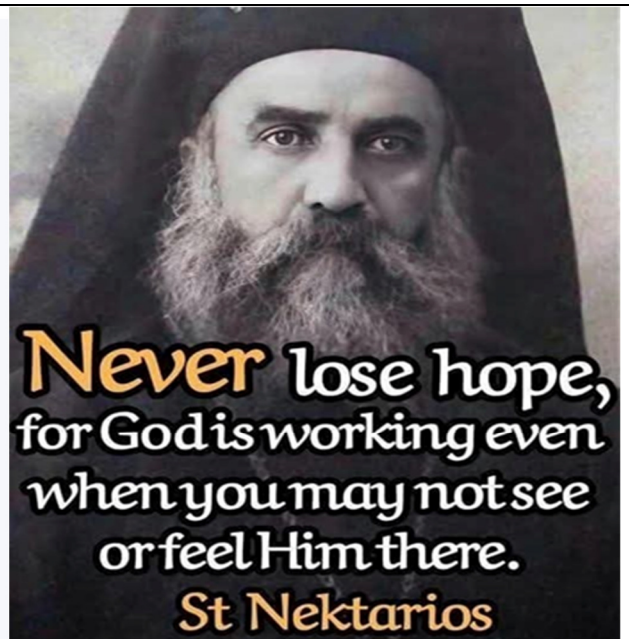
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

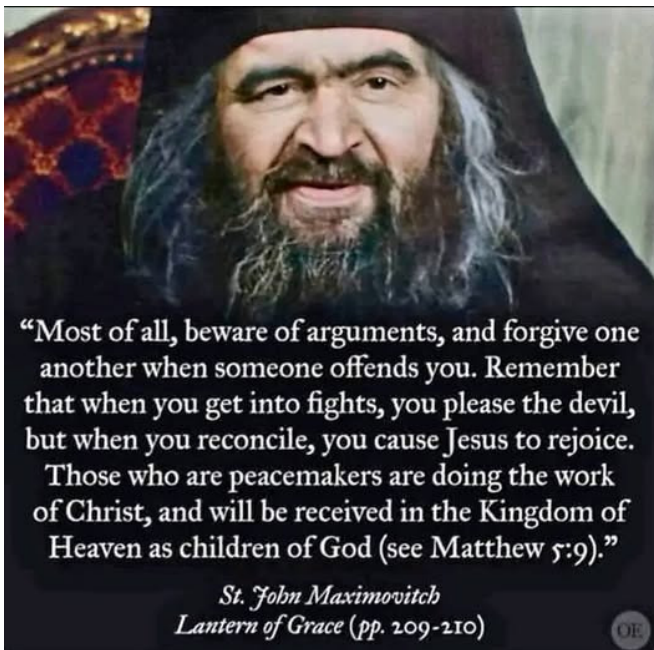
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

*St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)*



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

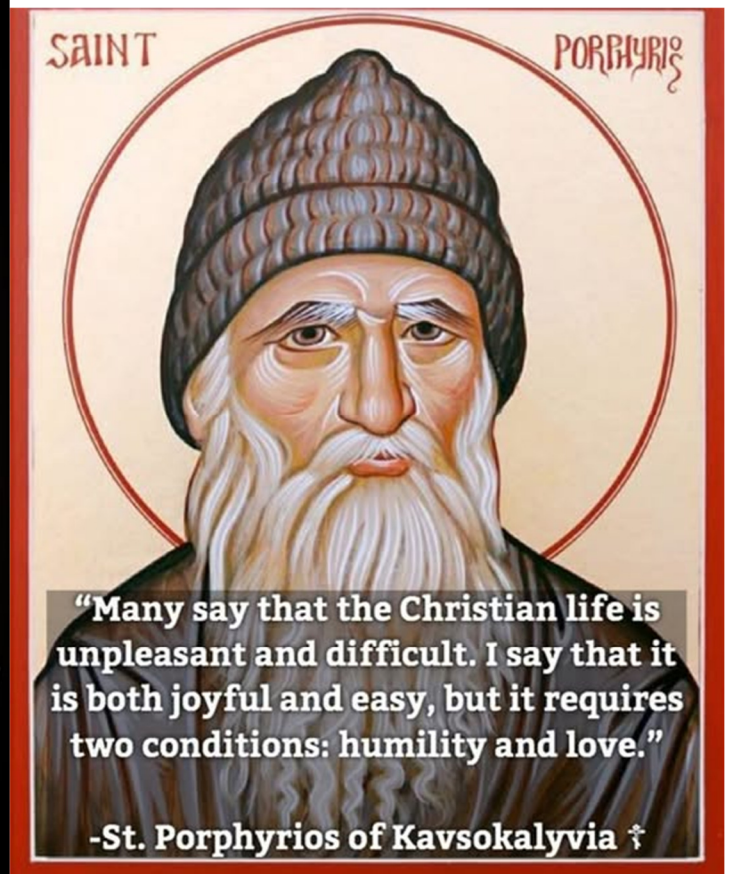
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

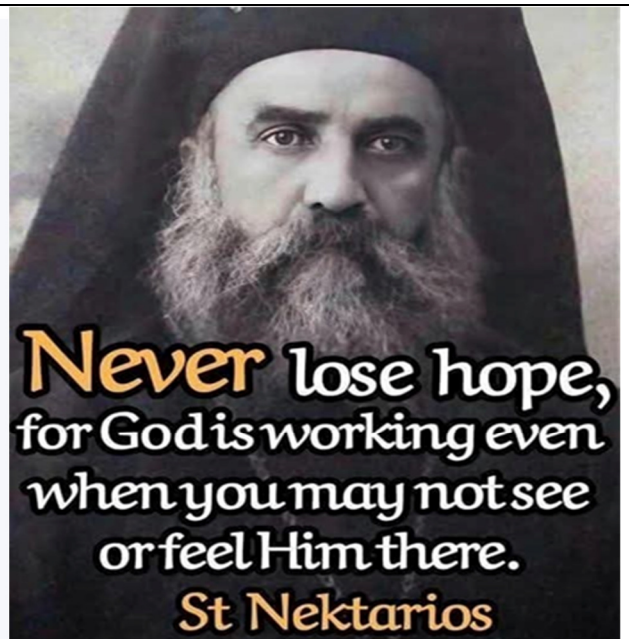
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 Slaughenhaupt, 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

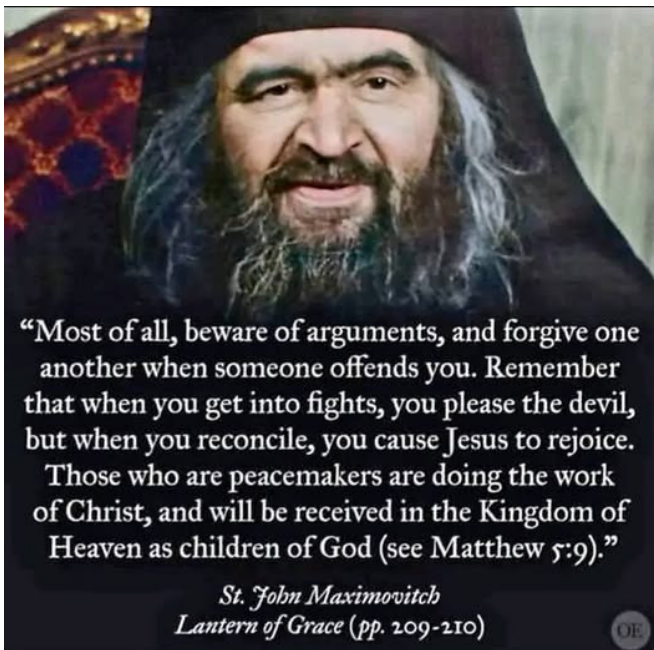
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

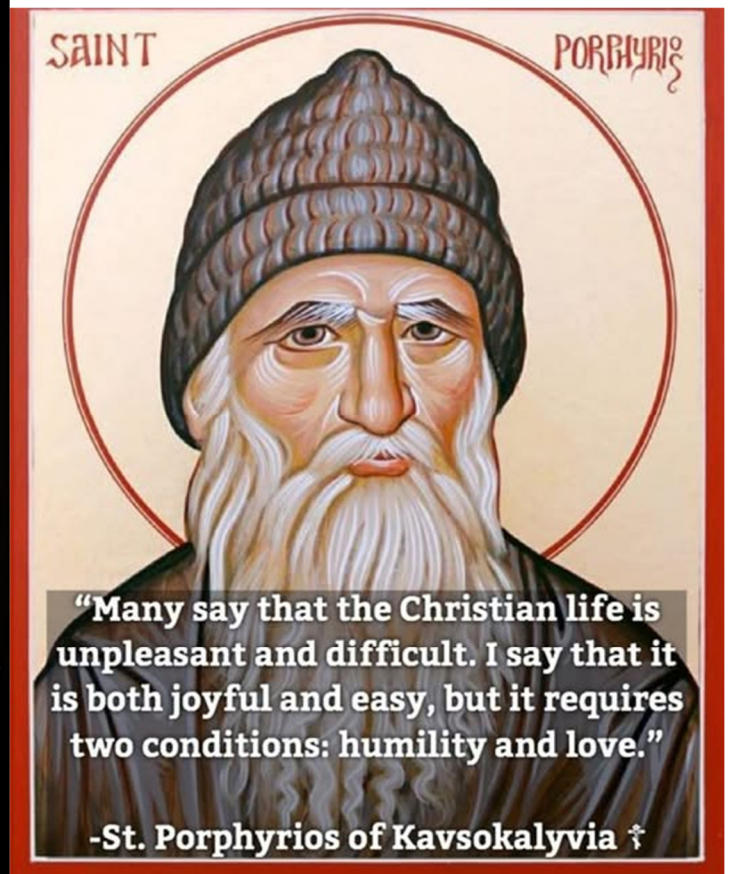
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

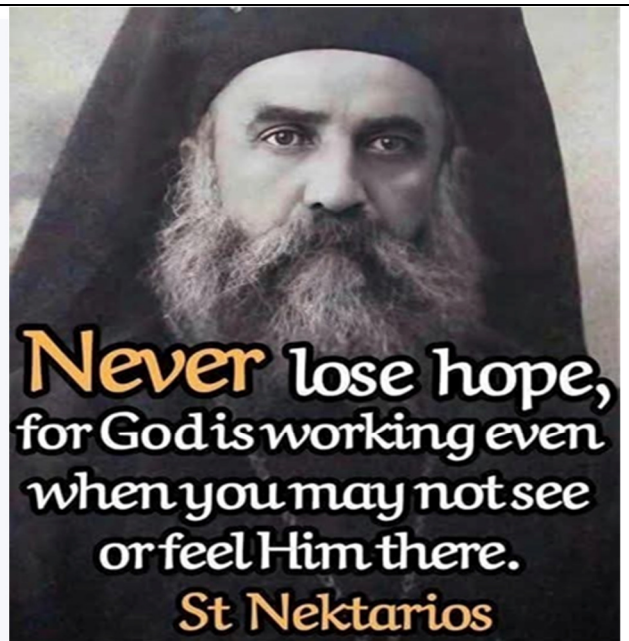
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

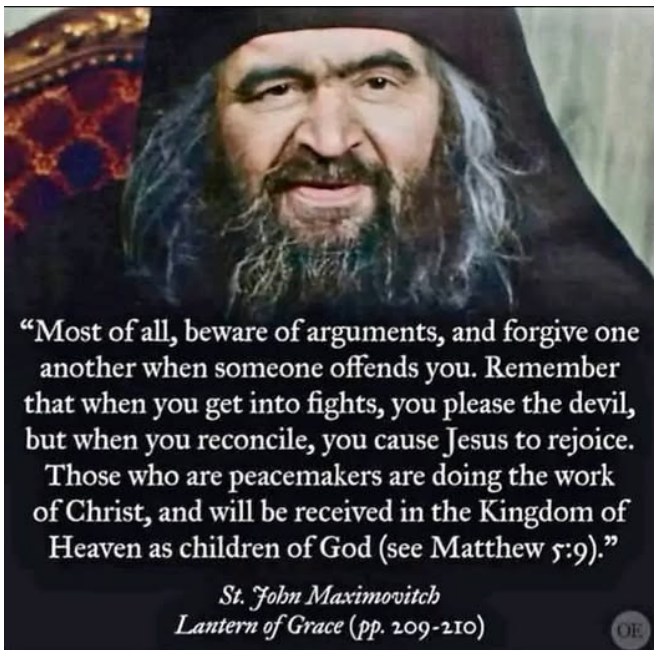
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

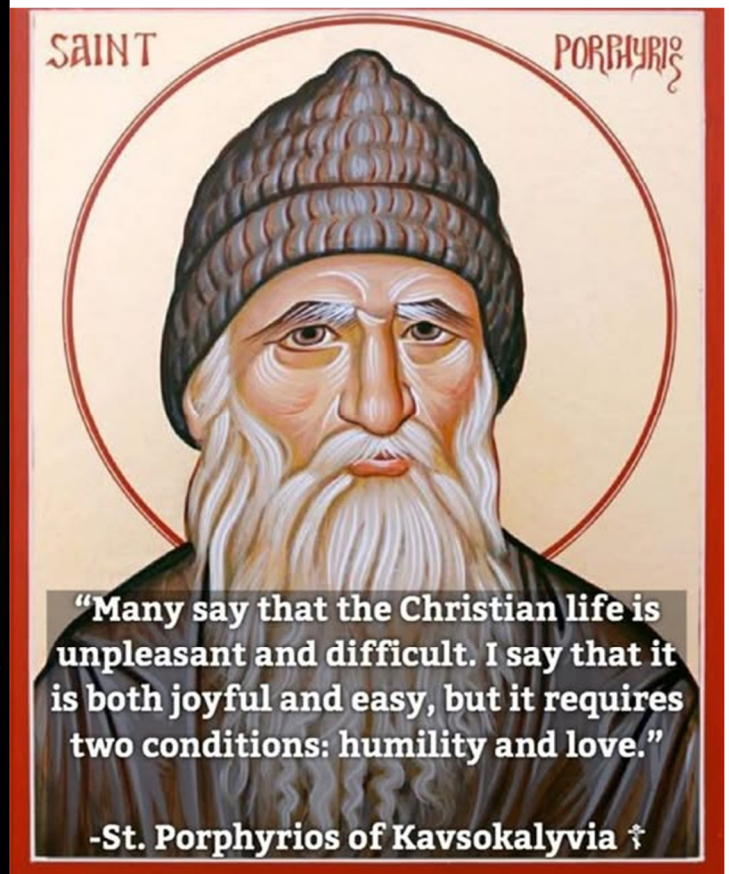
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

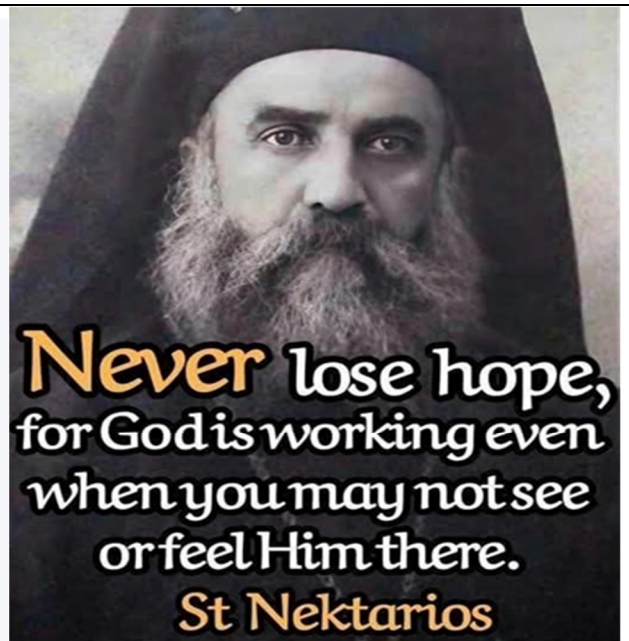
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 Slausenhaupt, 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

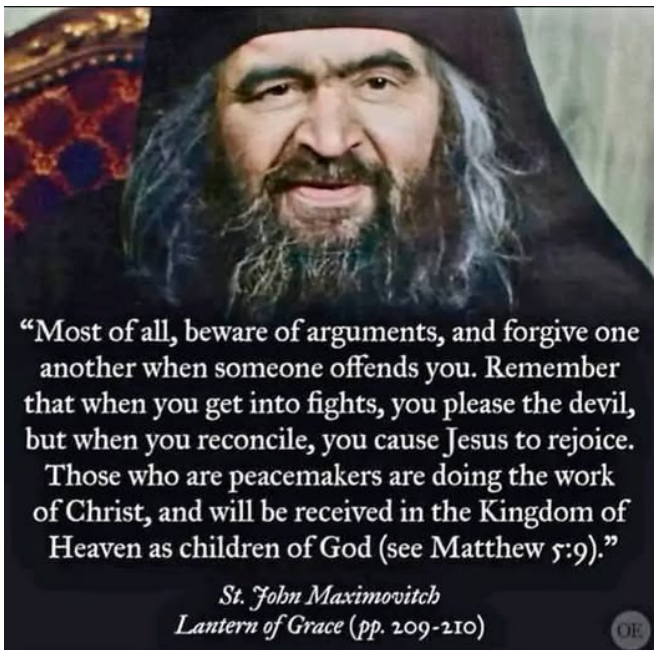
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

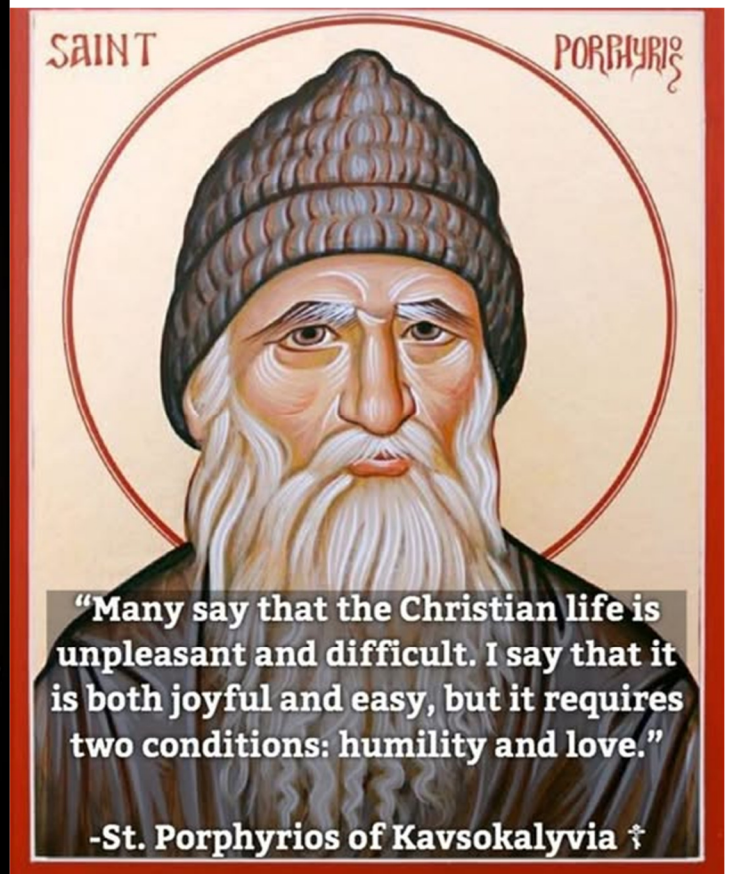
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

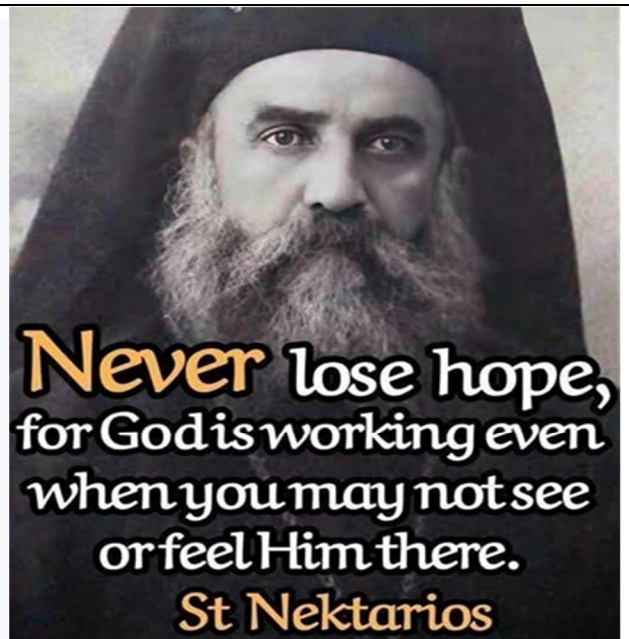
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

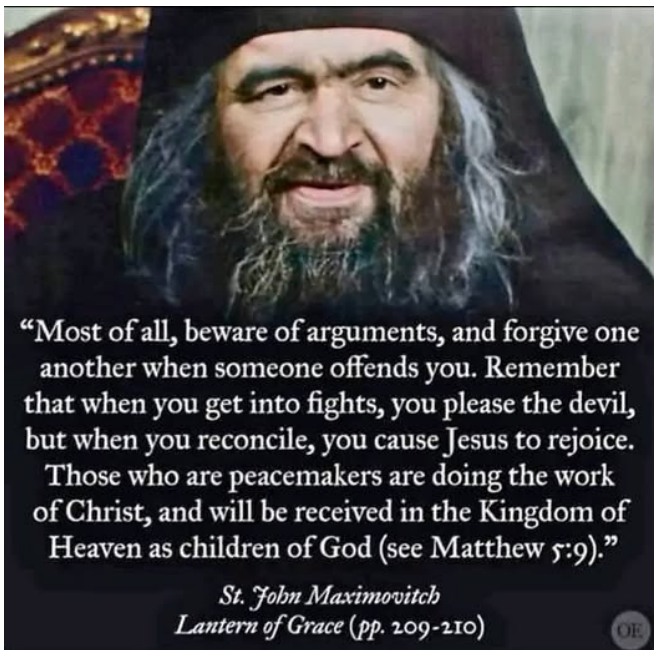
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

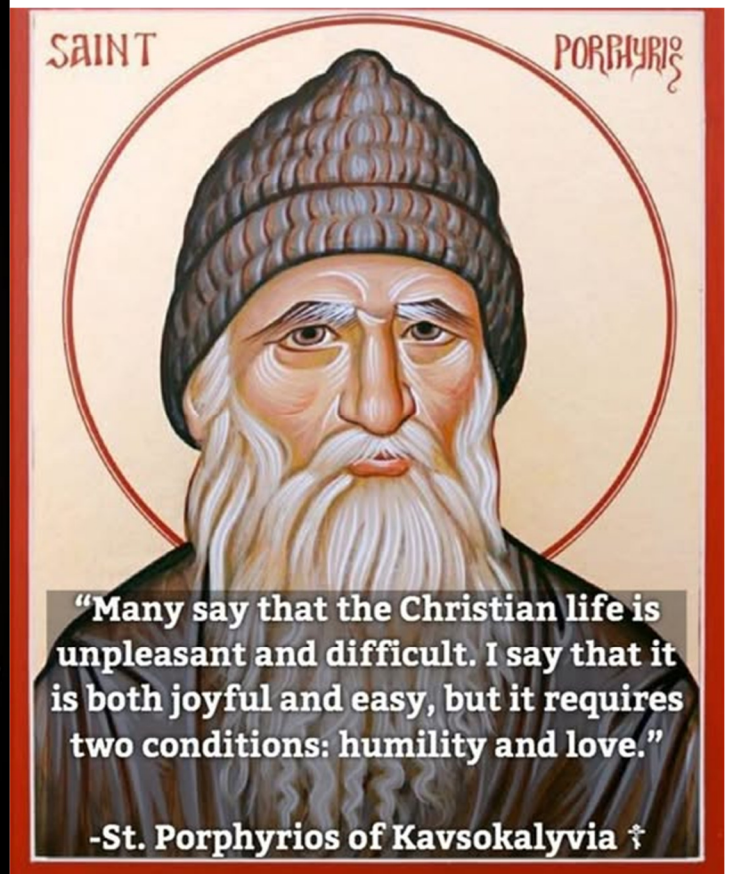
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. ***Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.***

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

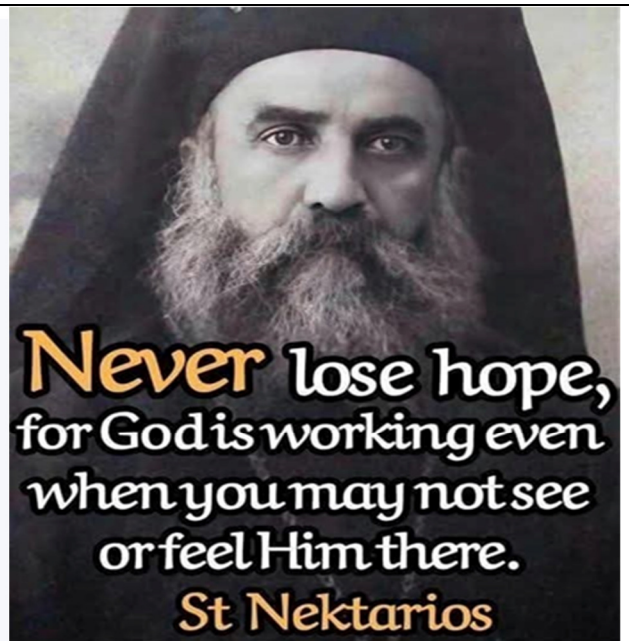
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 Slaughenhaupt, 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

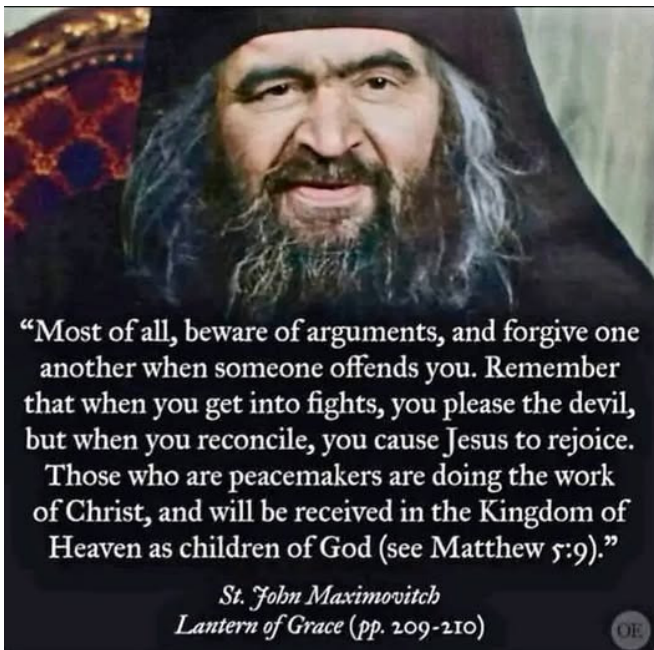
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

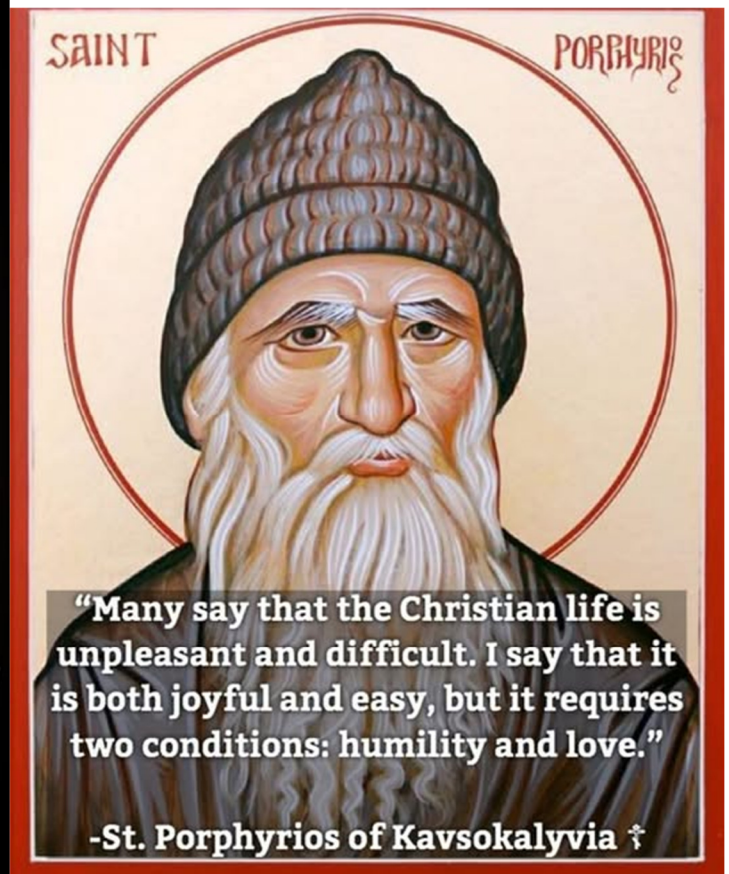
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

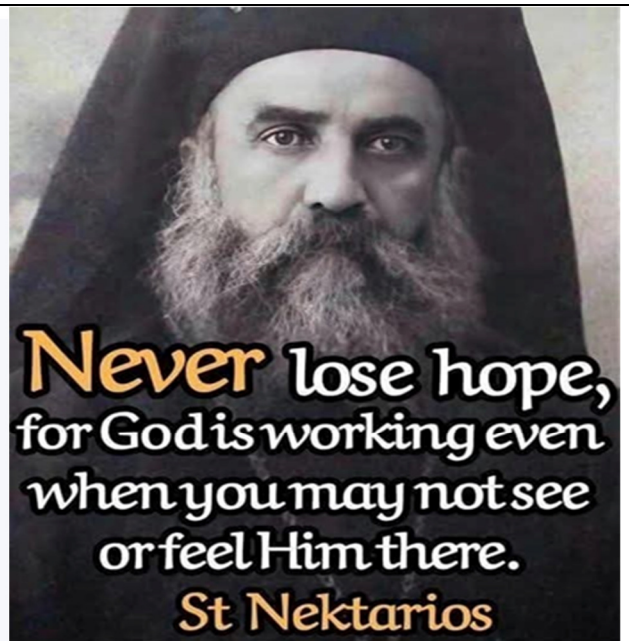
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
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*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

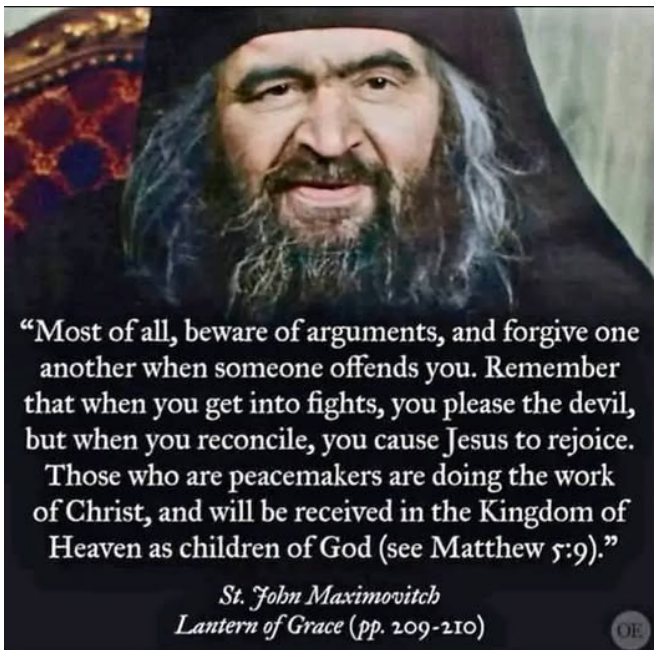
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

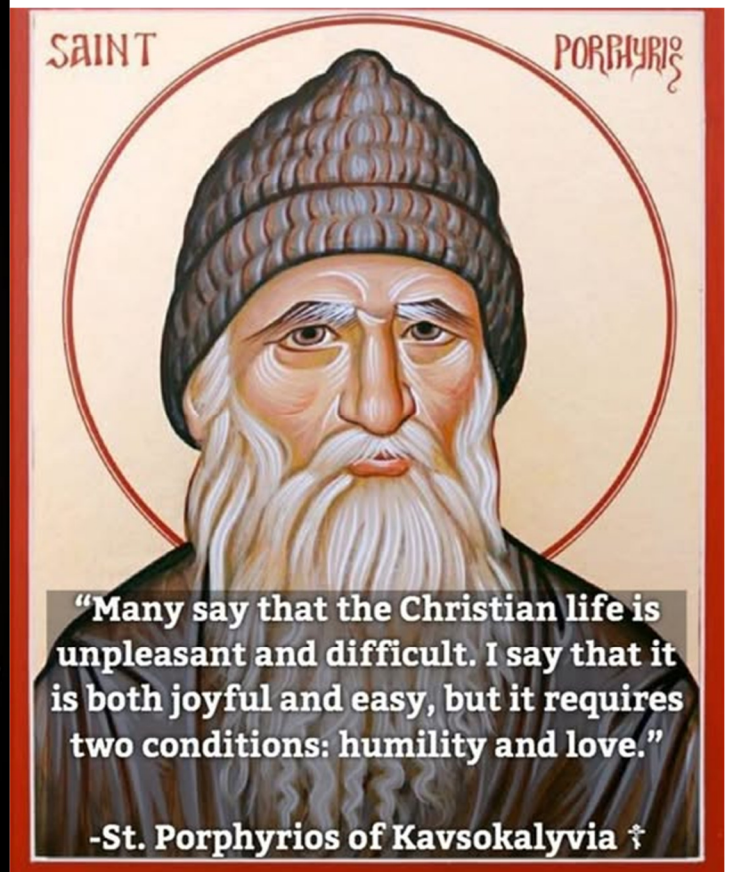
James 5:16- Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much: (KJV)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



**"A righteous wife is wealth to the house and salvation to the husband."
† Saint Gregory the Theologian.**



"Many say that the Christian life is unpleasant and difficult. I say that it is both joyful and easy, but it requires two conditions: humility and love."

-St. Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia †

Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

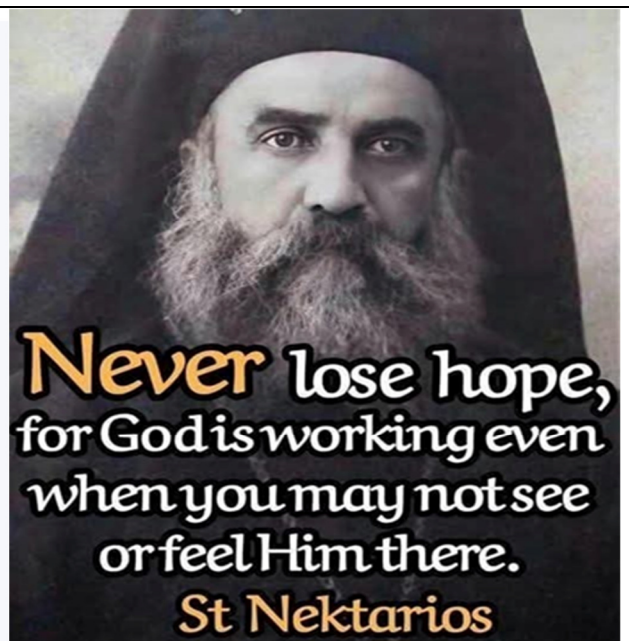
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHs IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

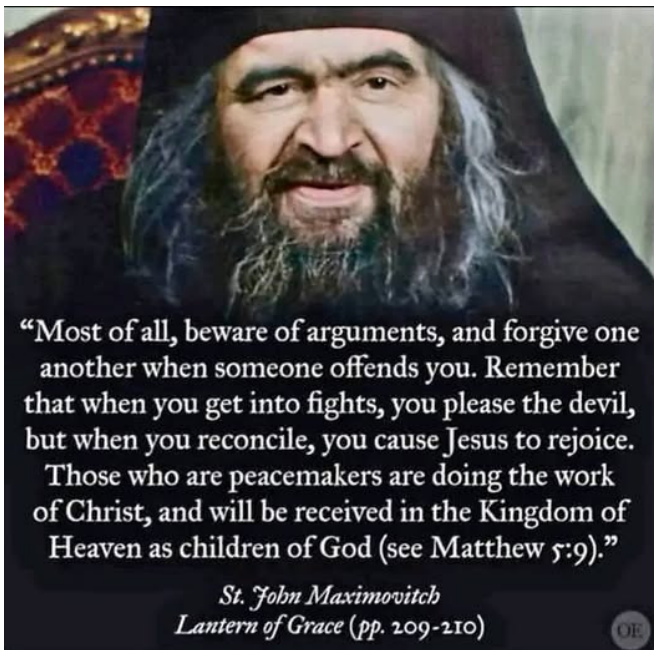
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

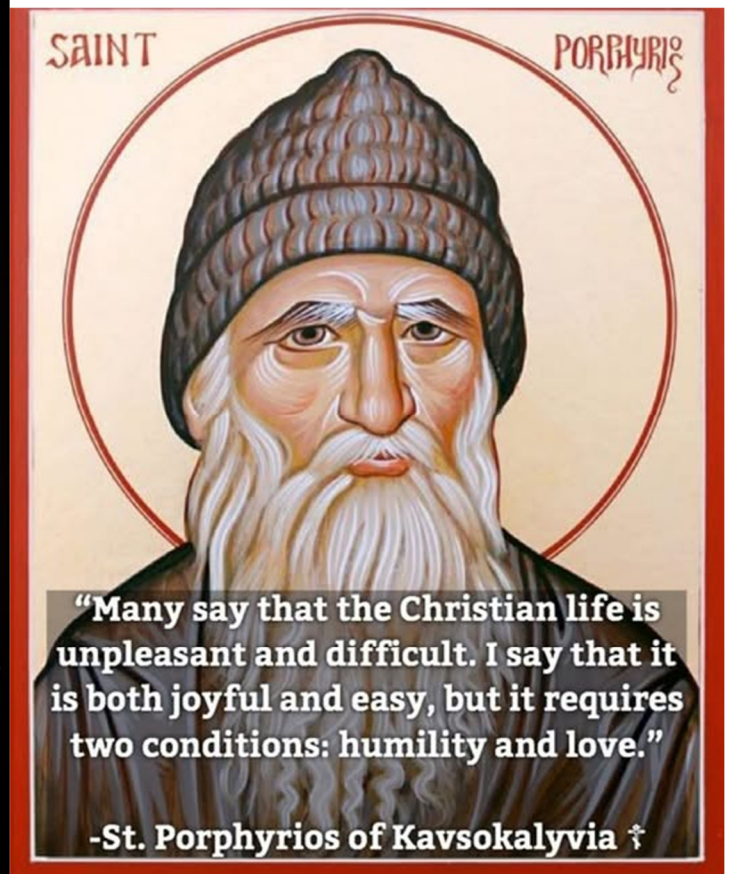
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

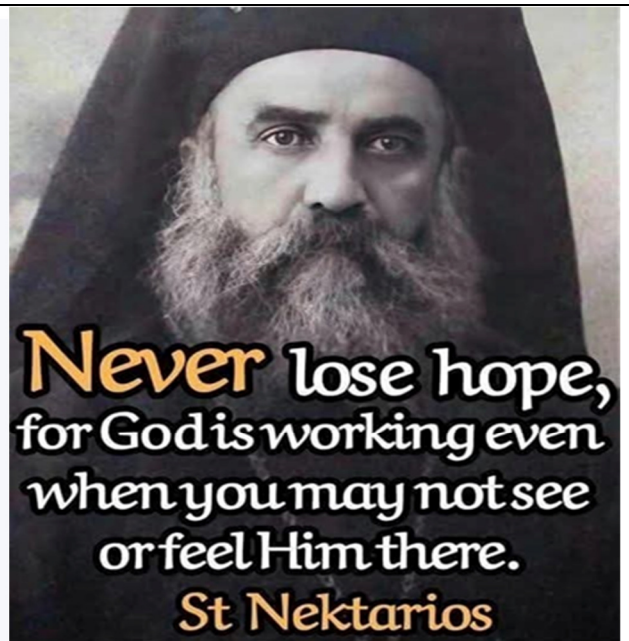
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

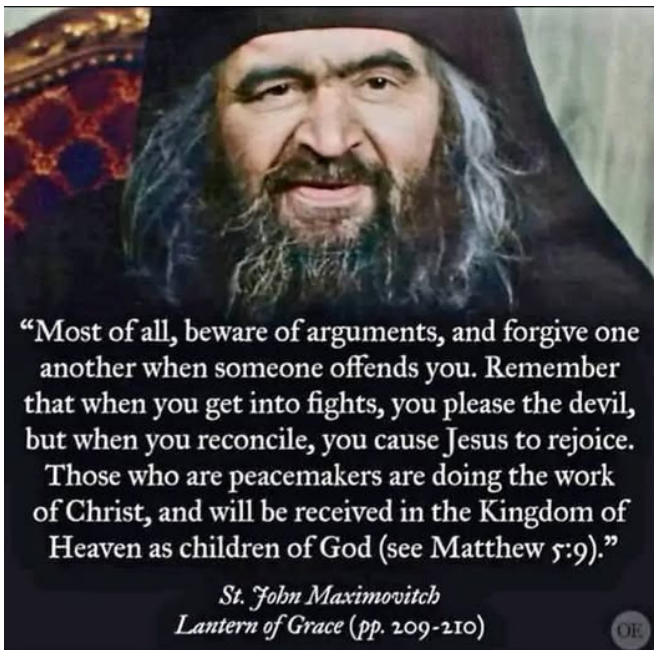
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

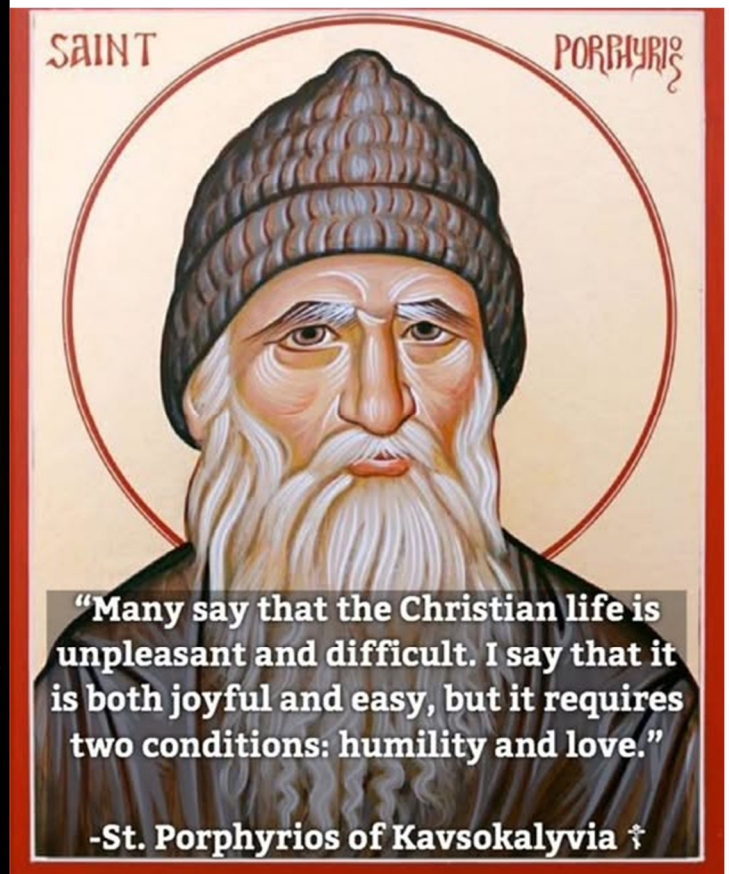
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

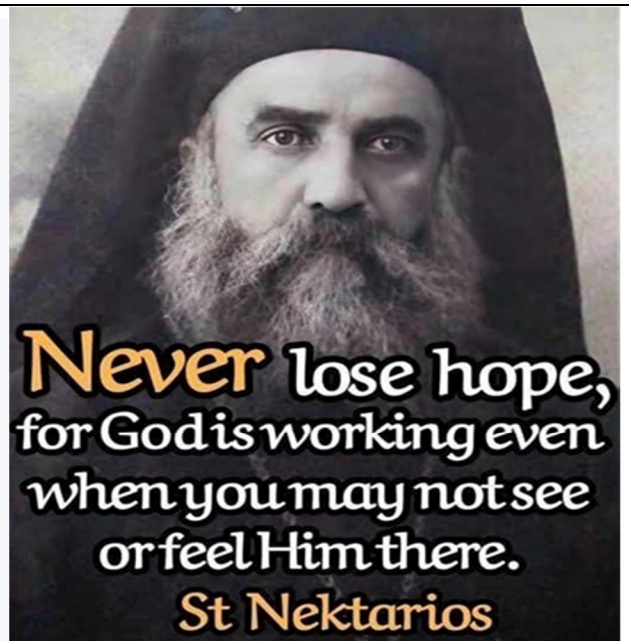
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

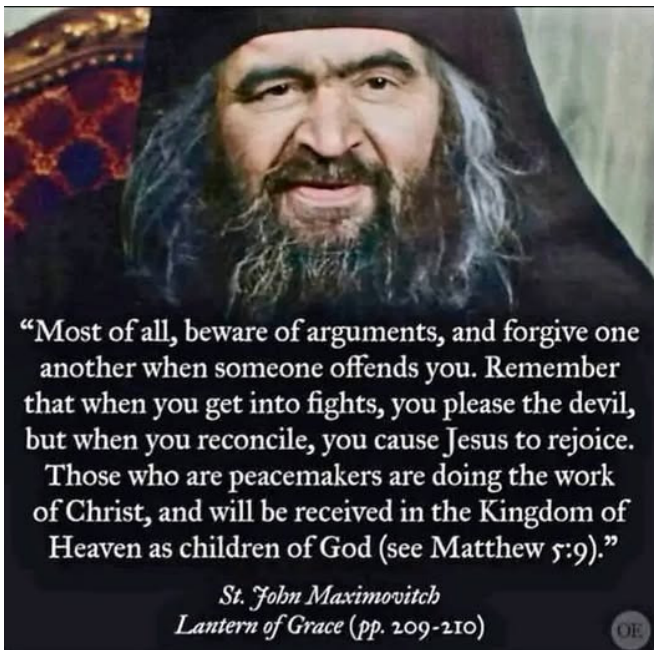
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

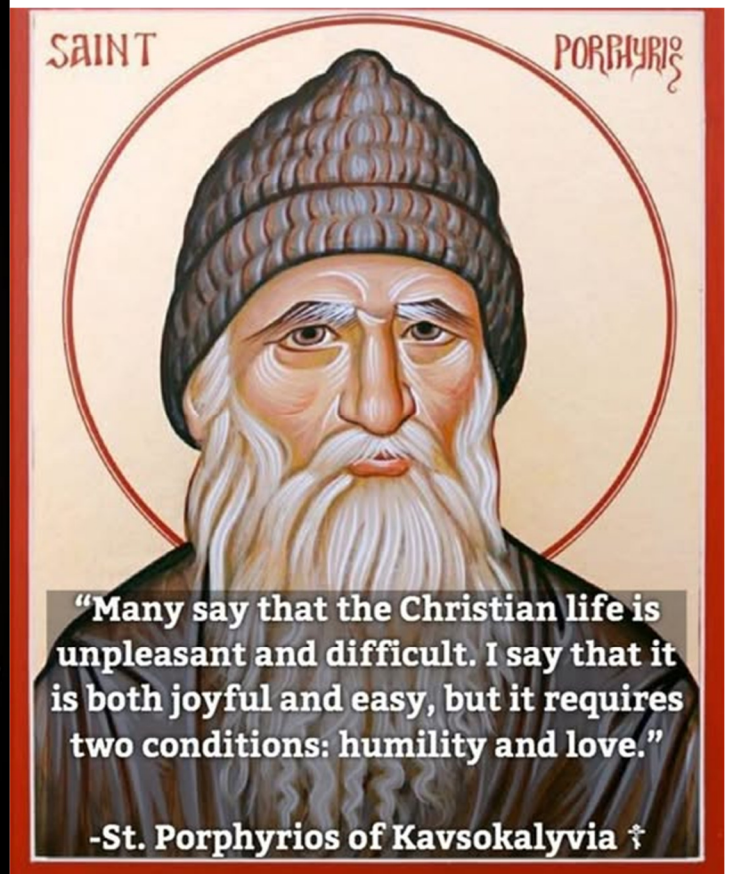
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

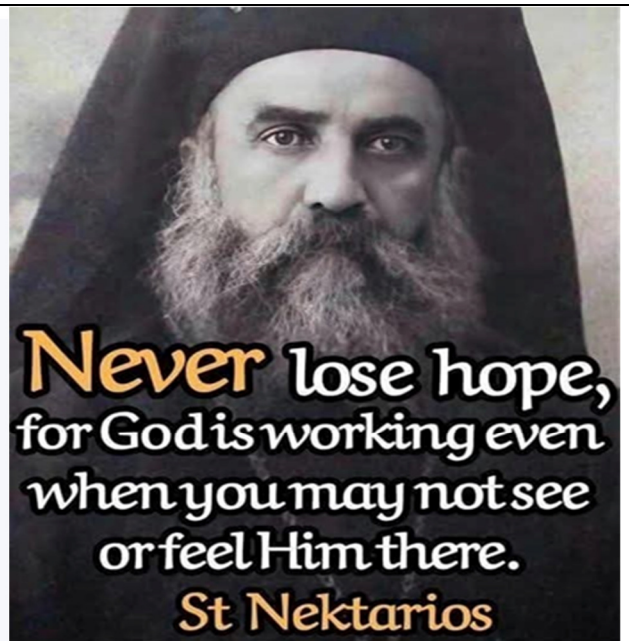
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

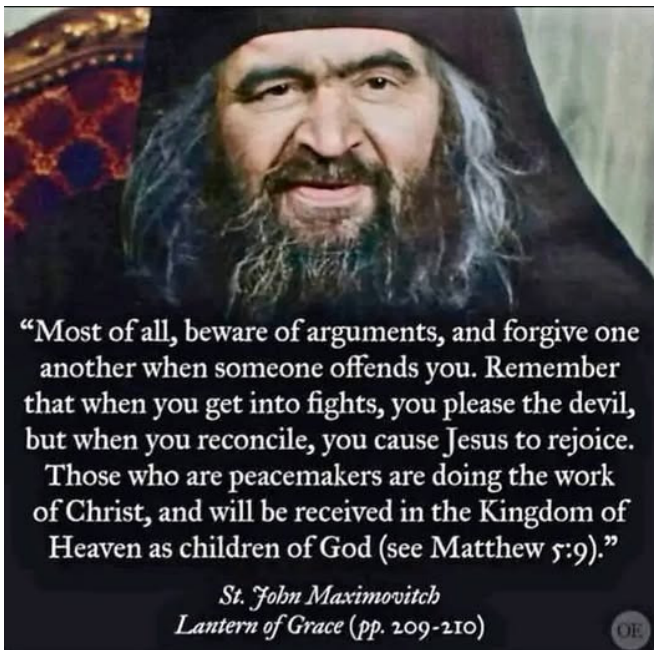
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

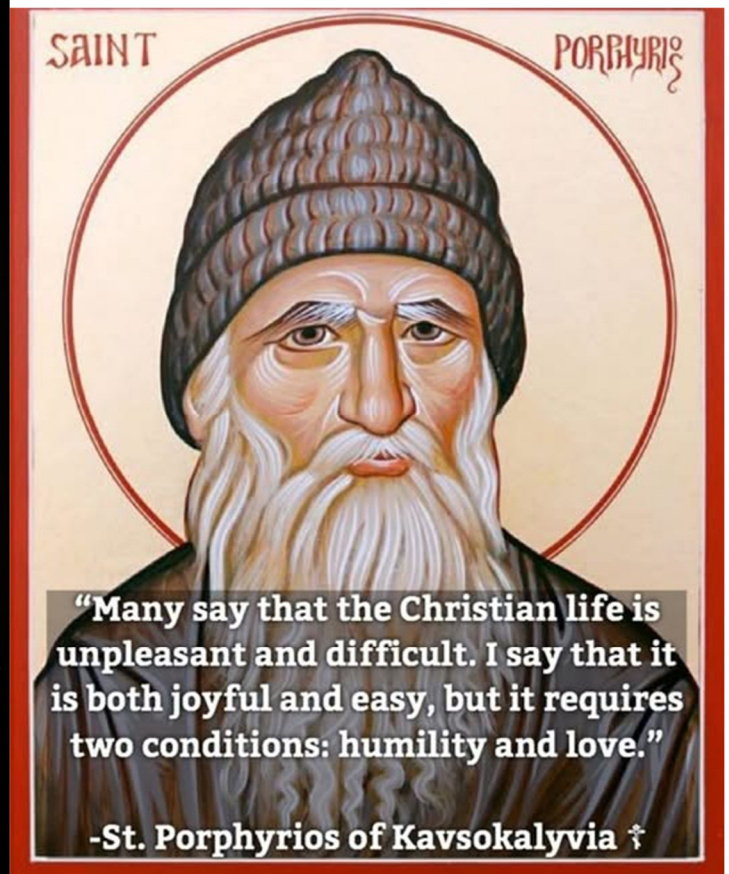
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

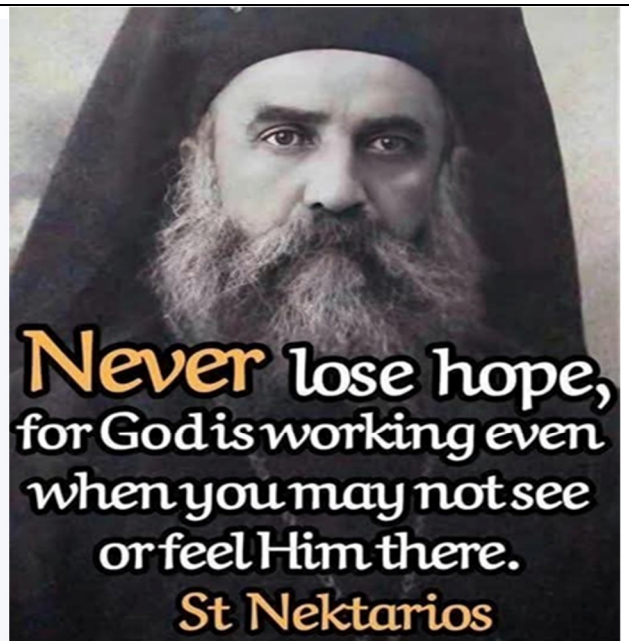
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

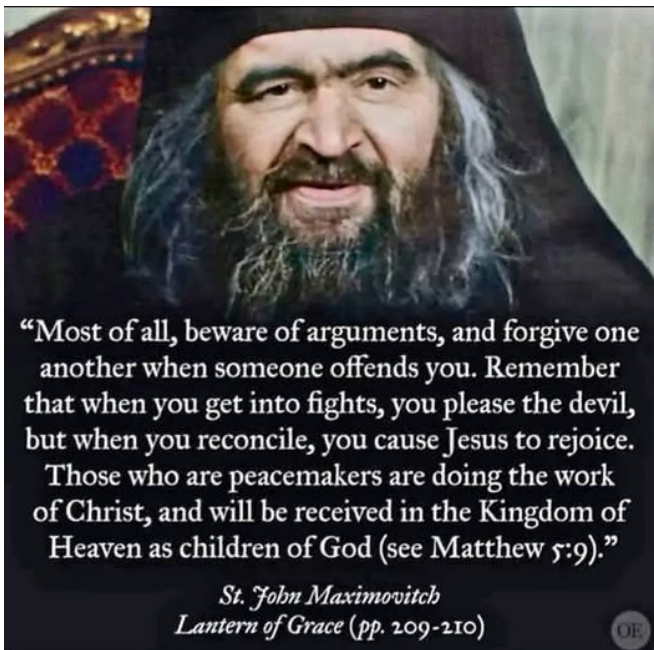
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

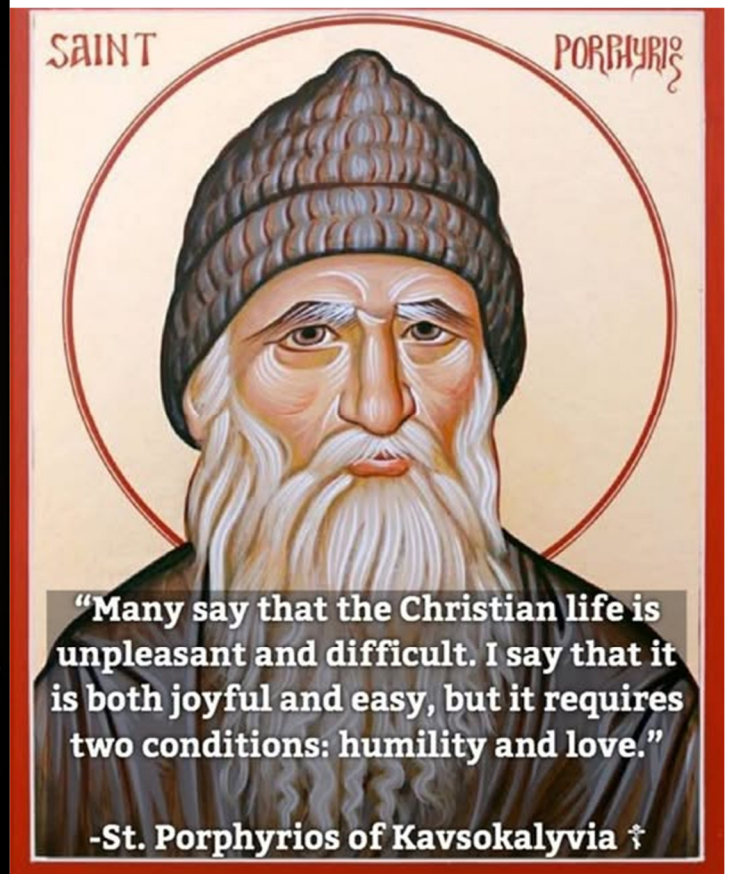
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

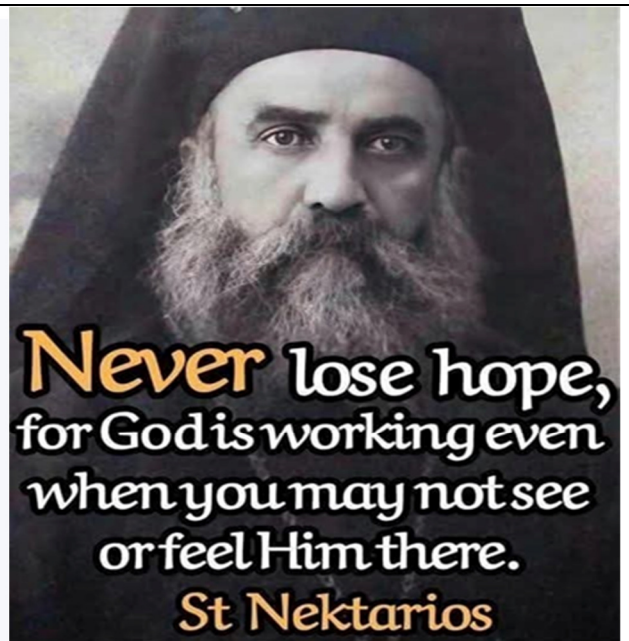
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 Slausenhaupt, 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

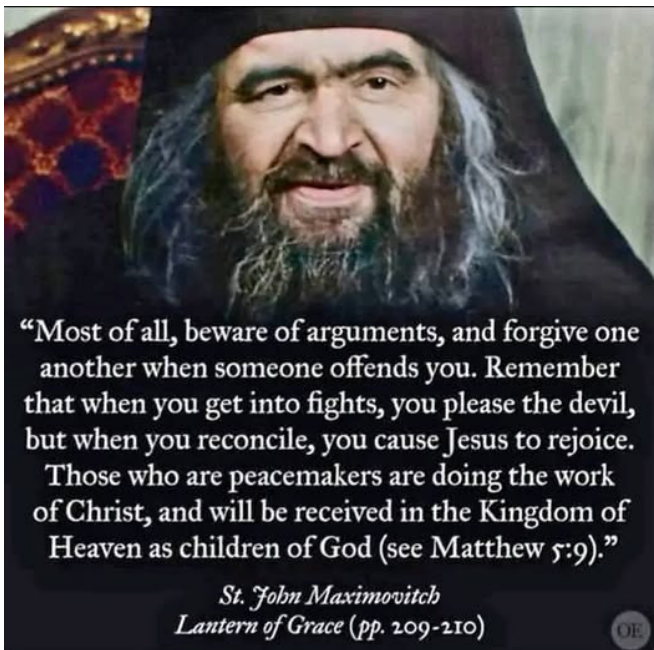
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

*St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)*



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

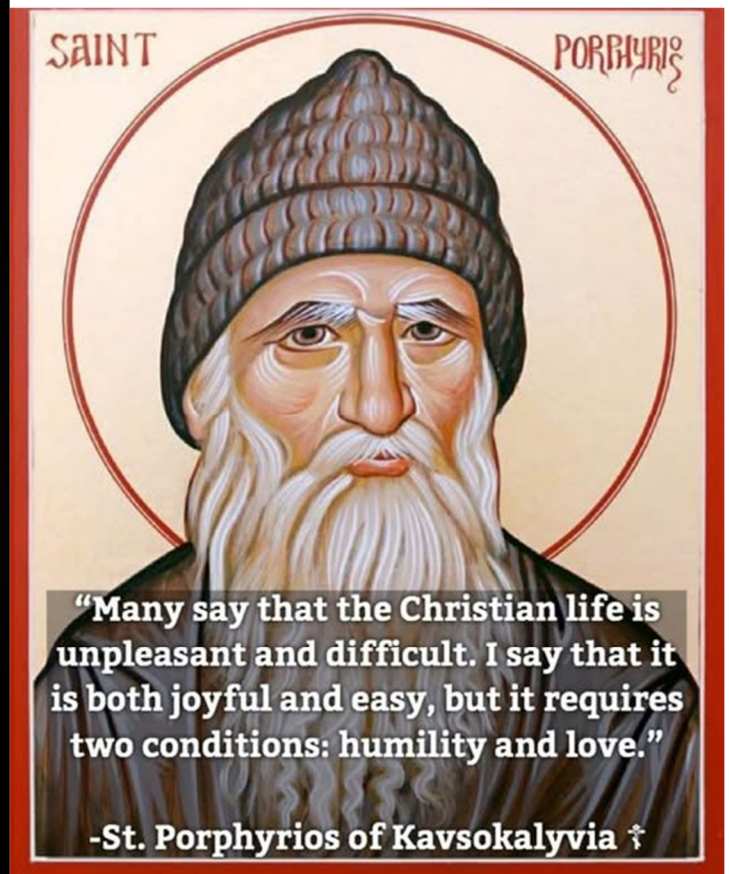
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

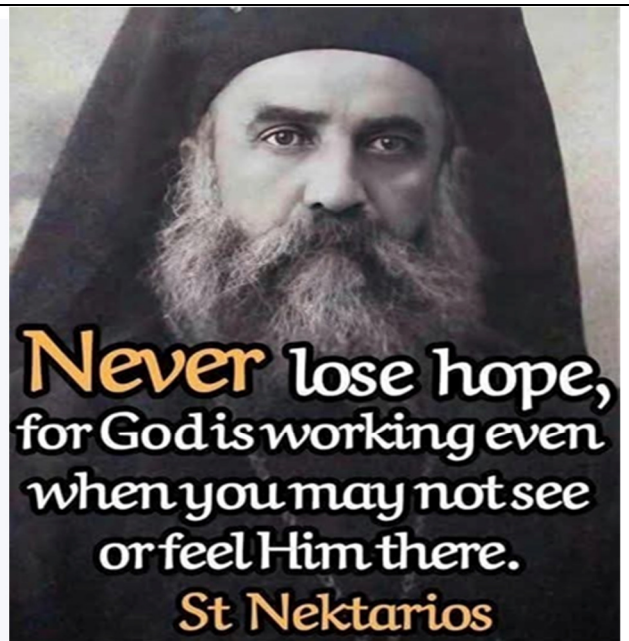
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHs IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

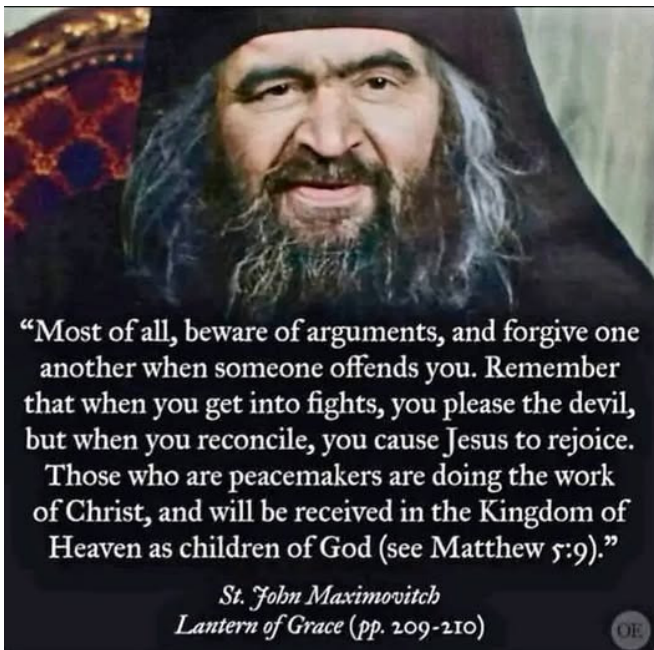
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

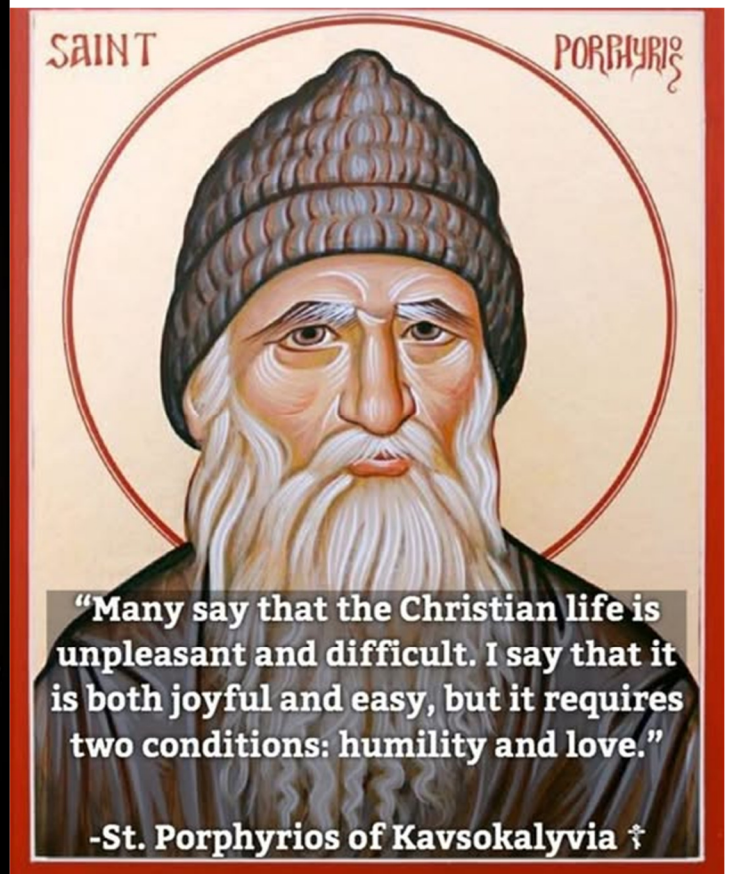
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

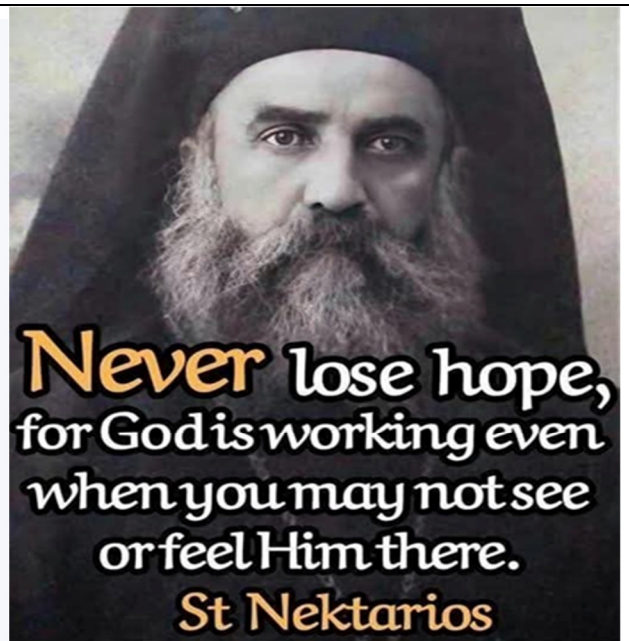
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

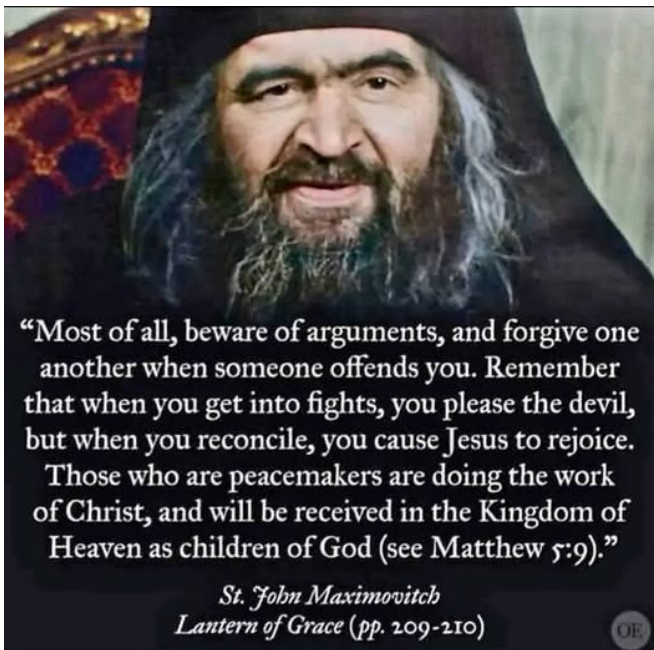
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

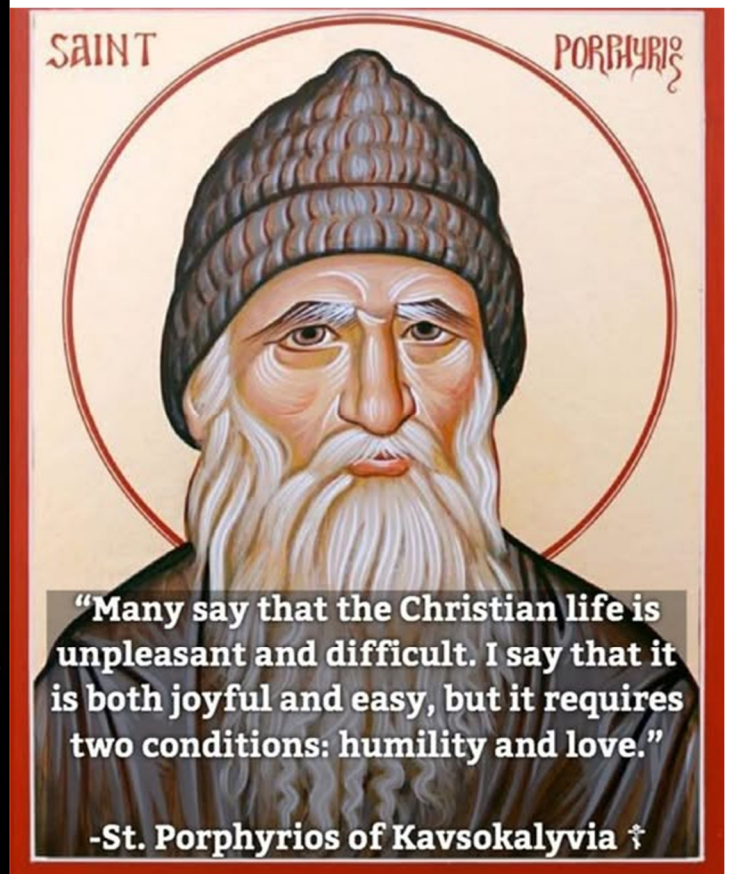
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

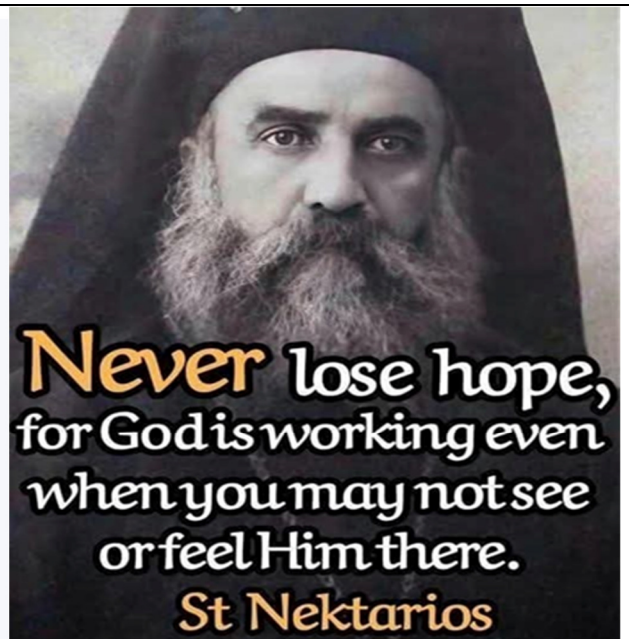
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHs IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

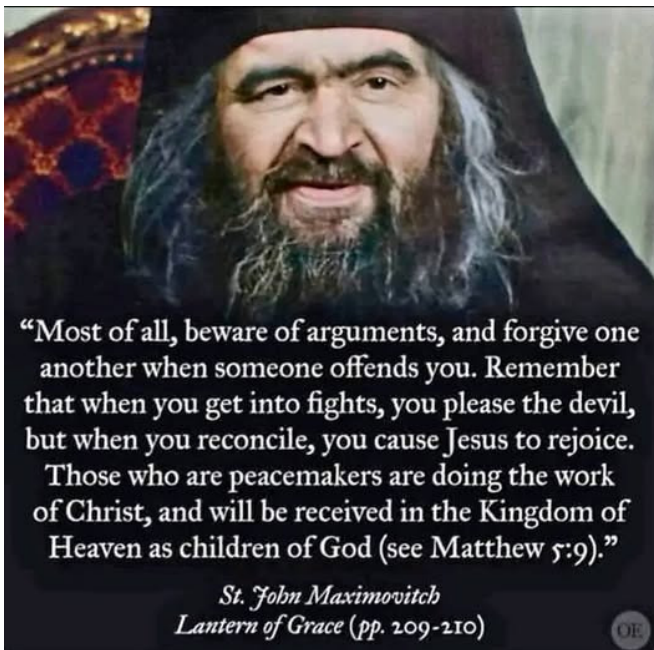
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

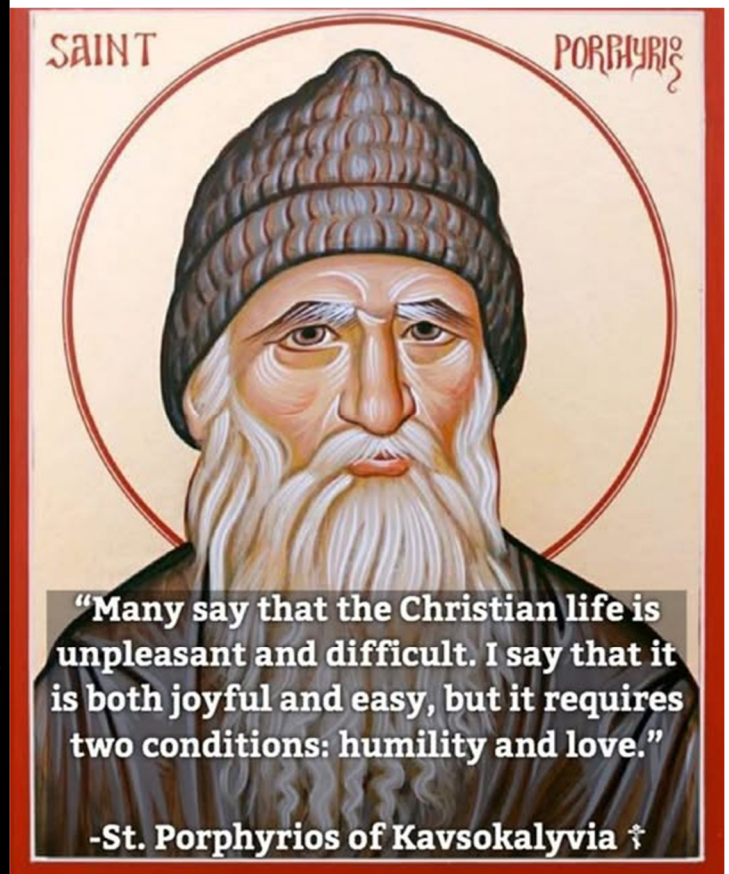
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. ***Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.***

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

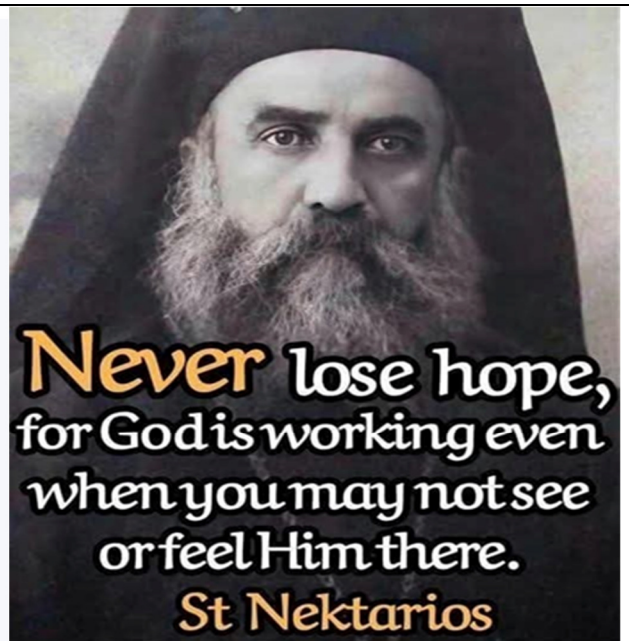
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

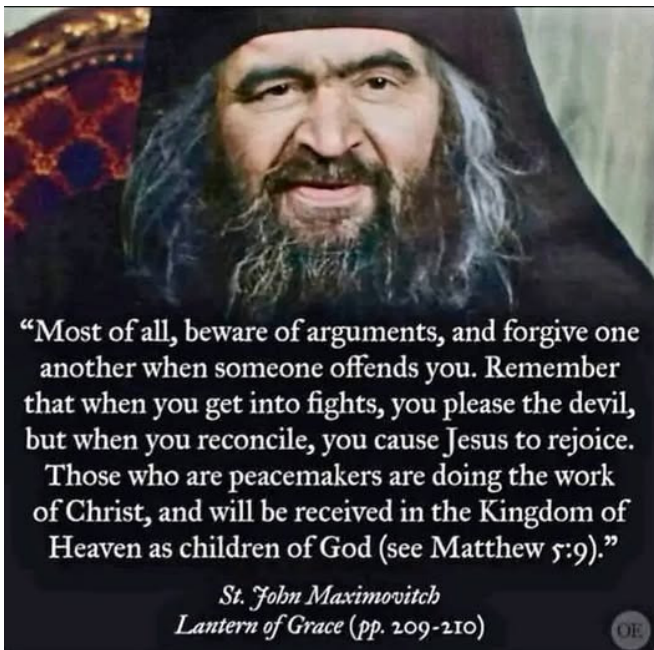
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

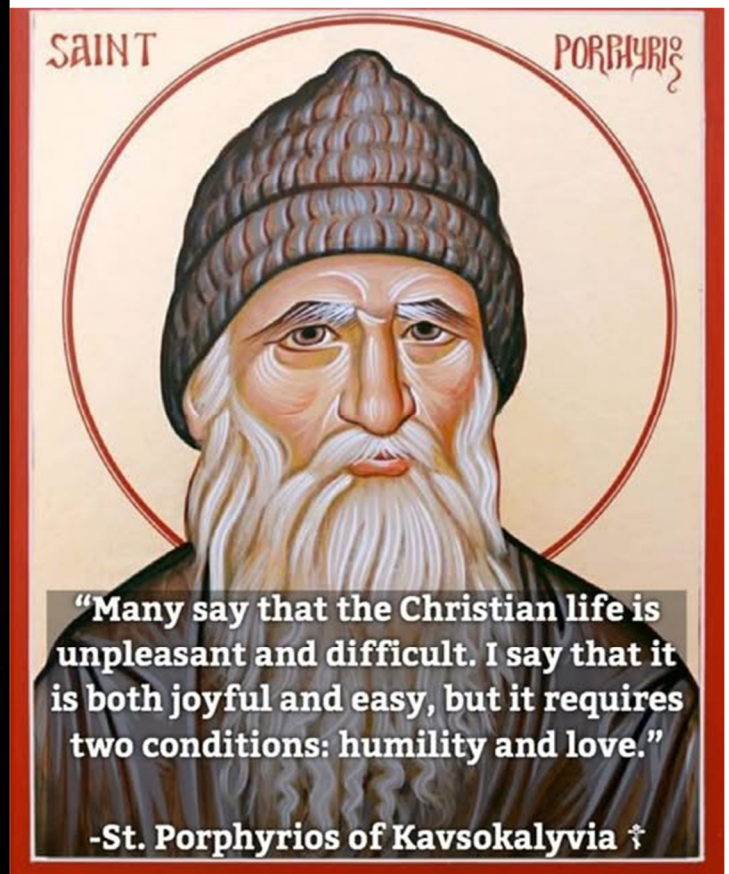
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

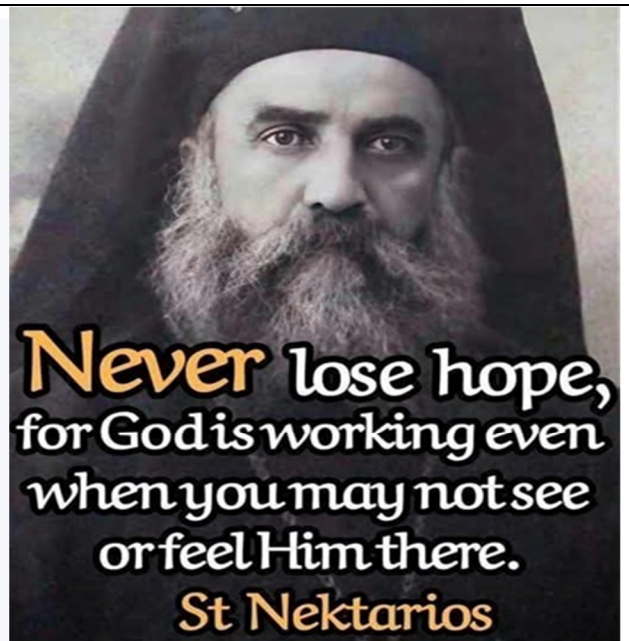
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHs IN CRIMEA
*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

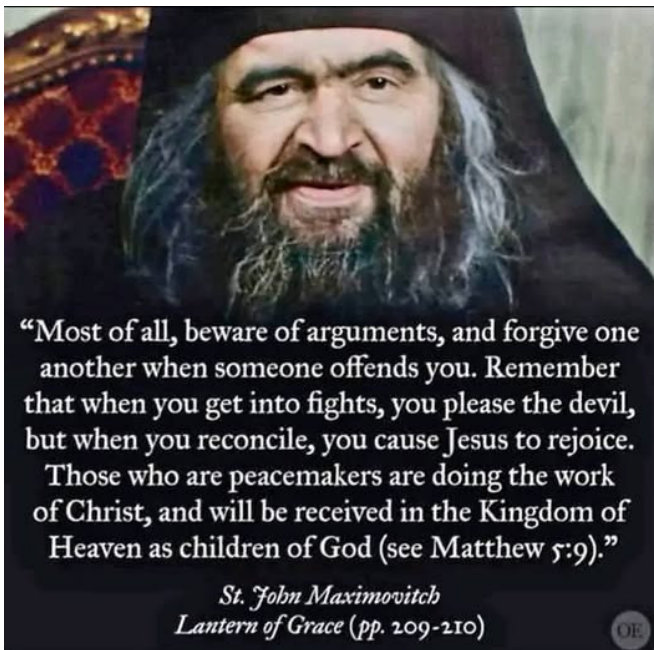
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

*St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)*



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

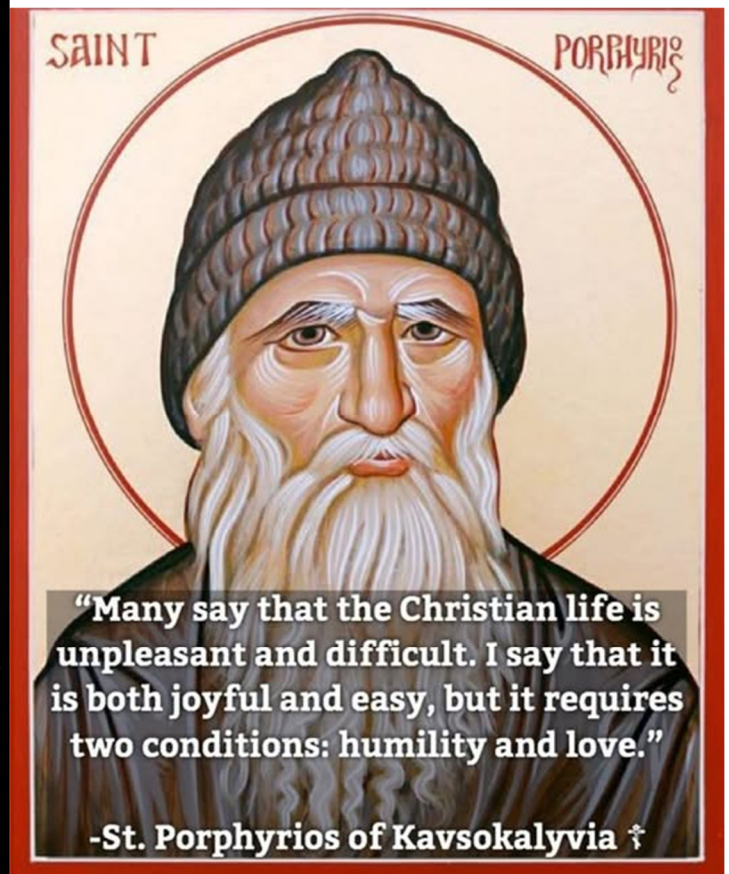
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

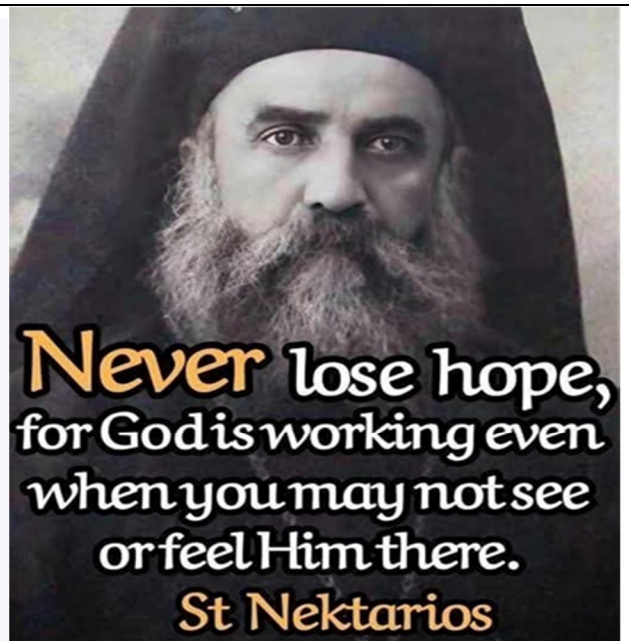
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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[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: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

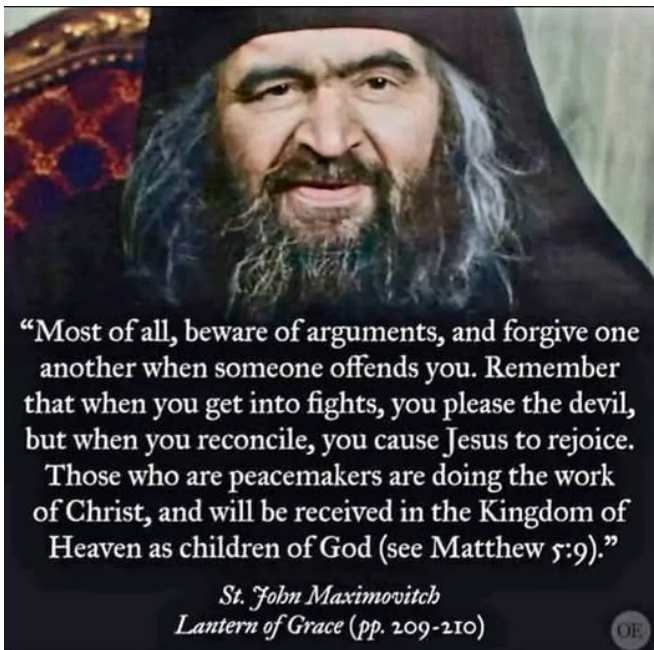
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

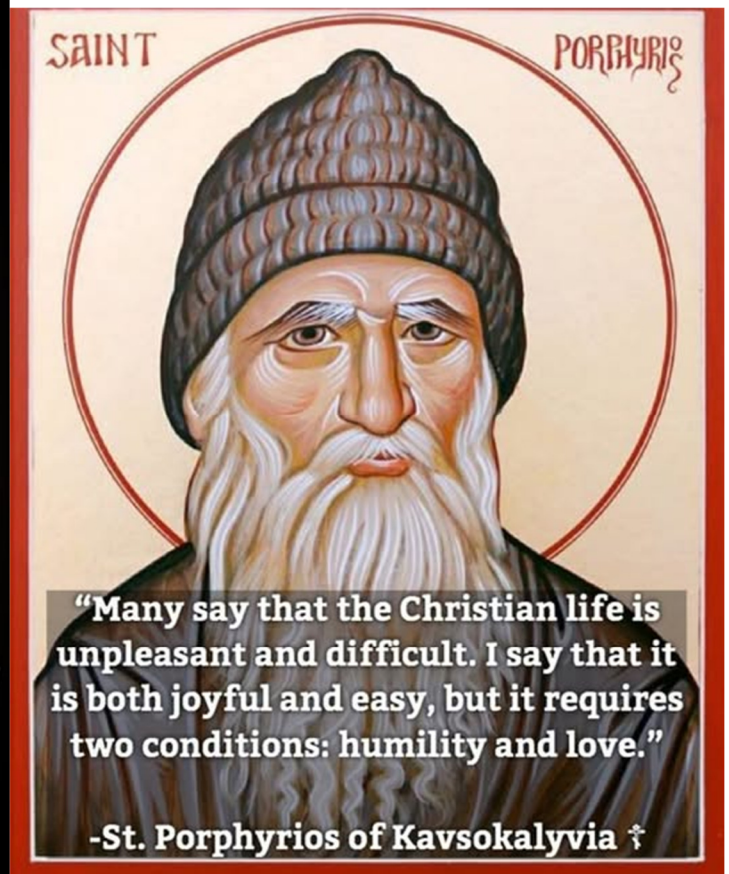
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

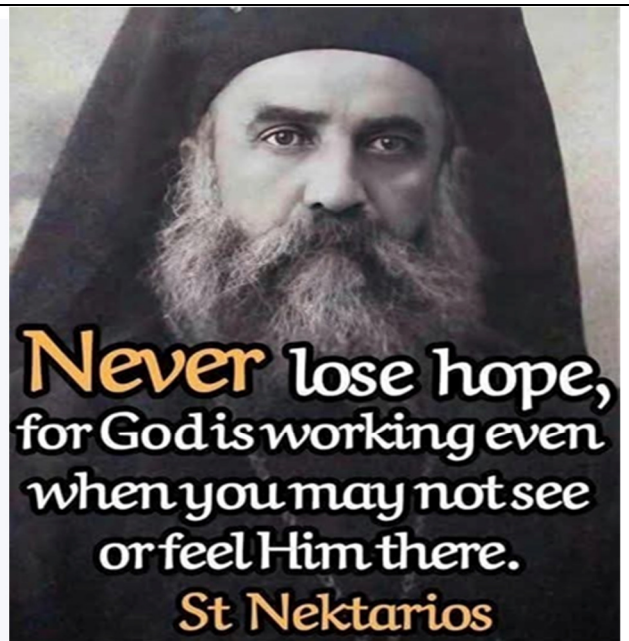
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 Slausenhaupt, 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryasso for nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill's vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction's uncanonical defrocking of clerics for "disobedience" to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on "Holy War." Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich's Institute of

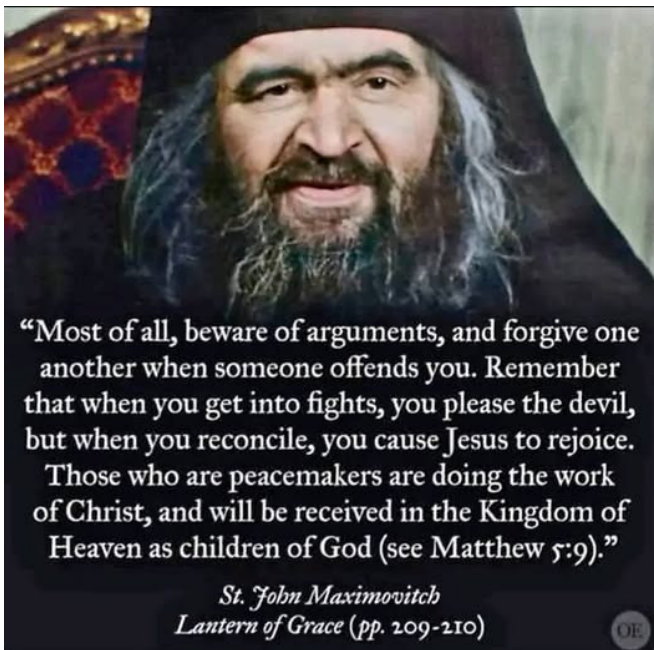
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

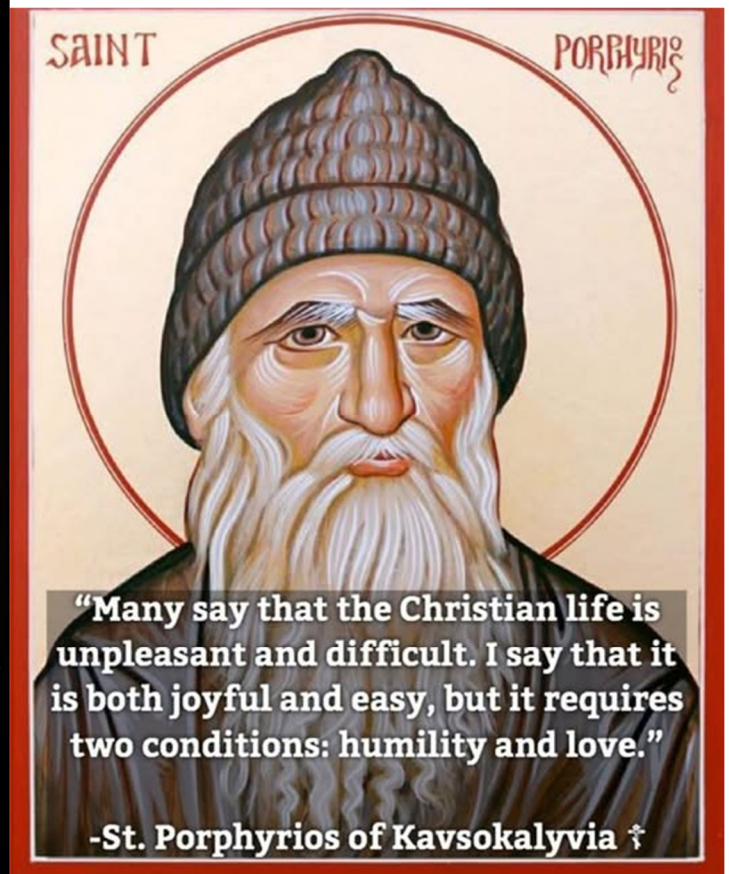
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

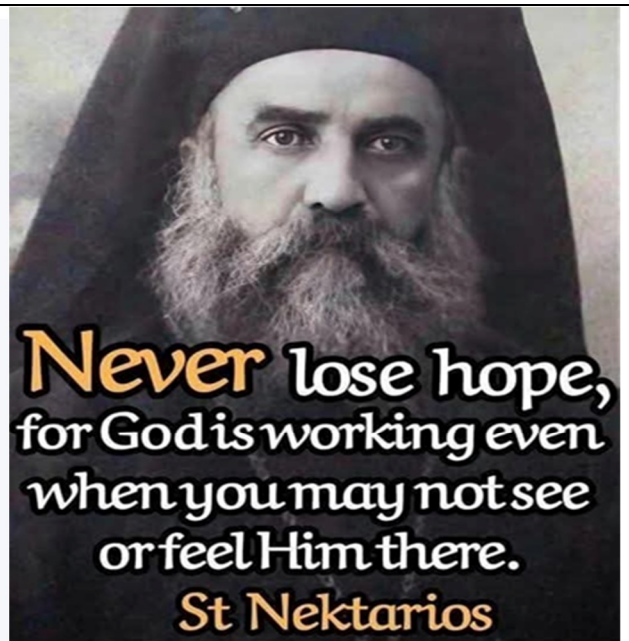
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHs IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

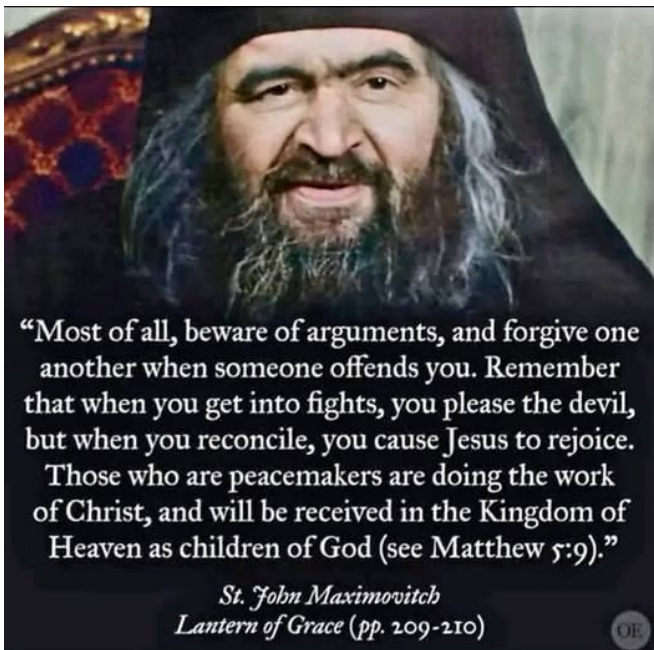
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





“Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9).”

*St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)*



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

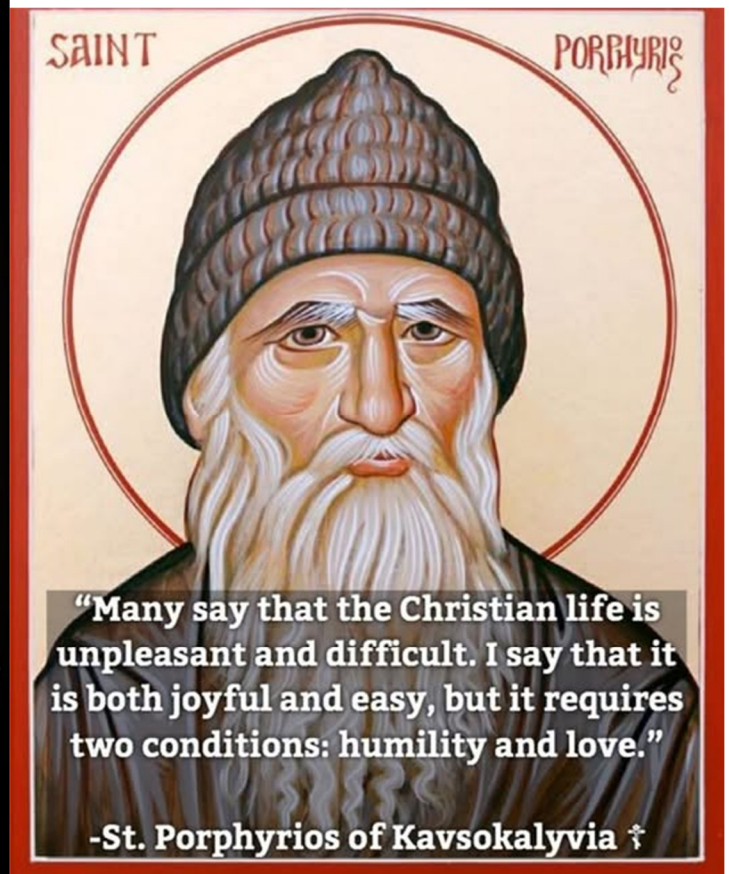
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

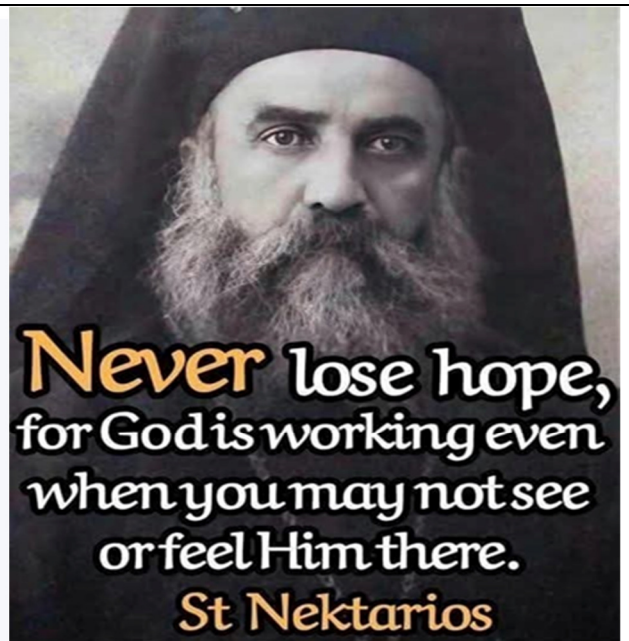
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

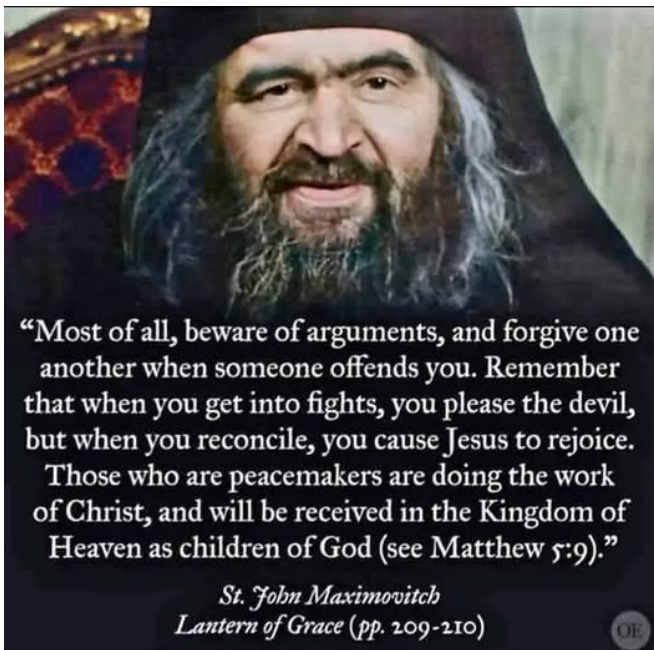
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

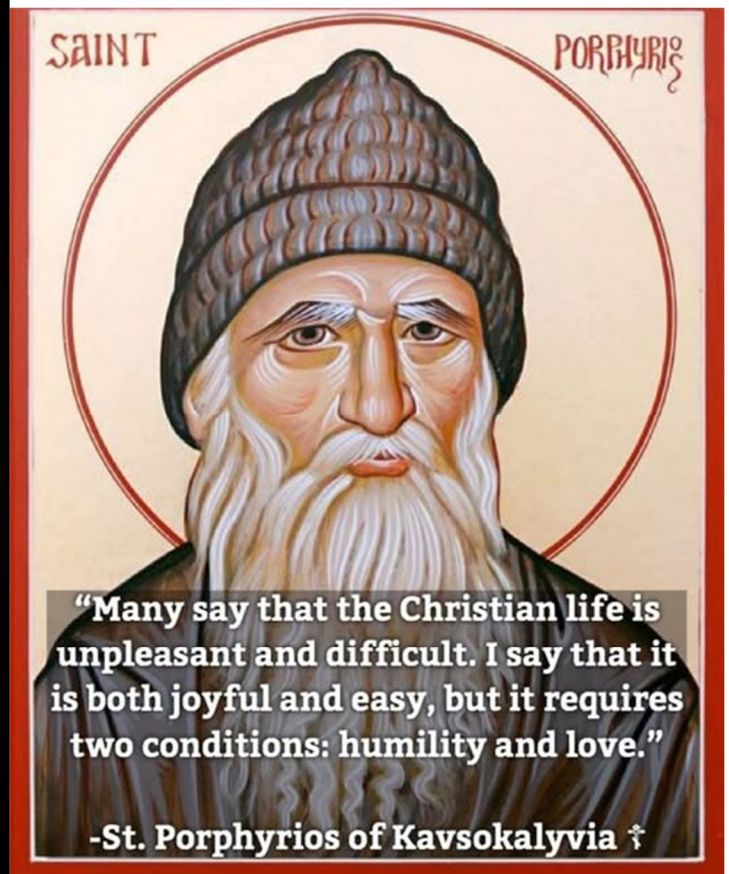
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

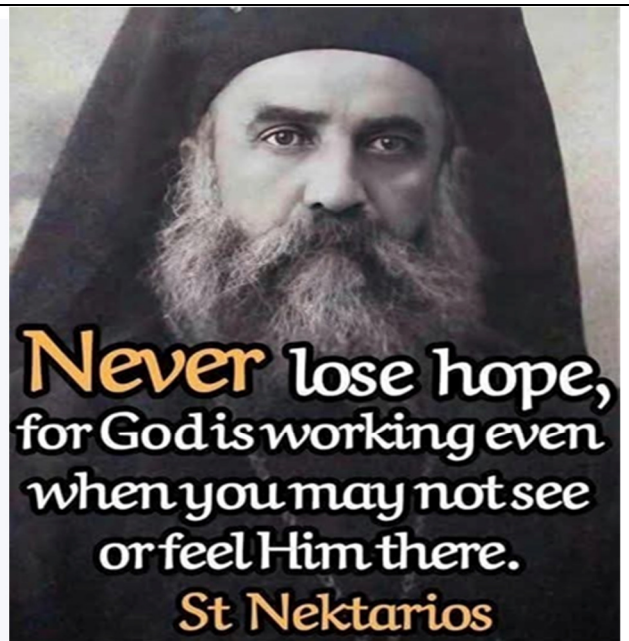
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 Slausenhaupt, 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
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*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

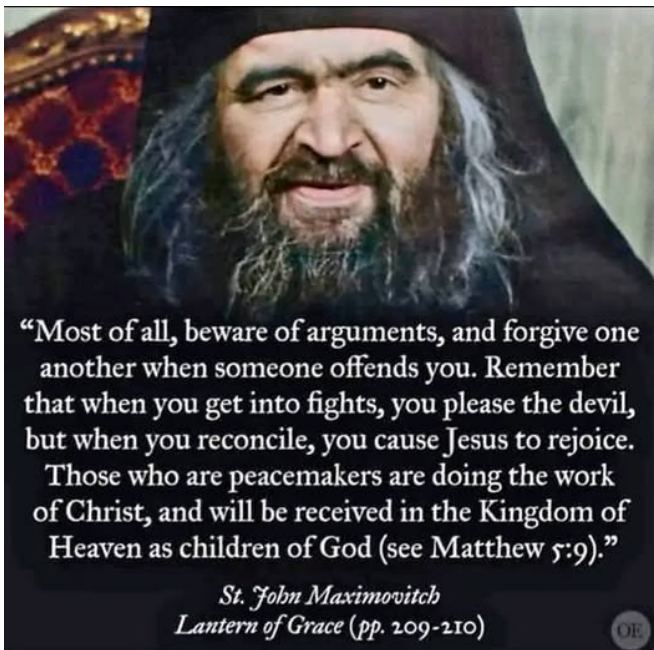
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

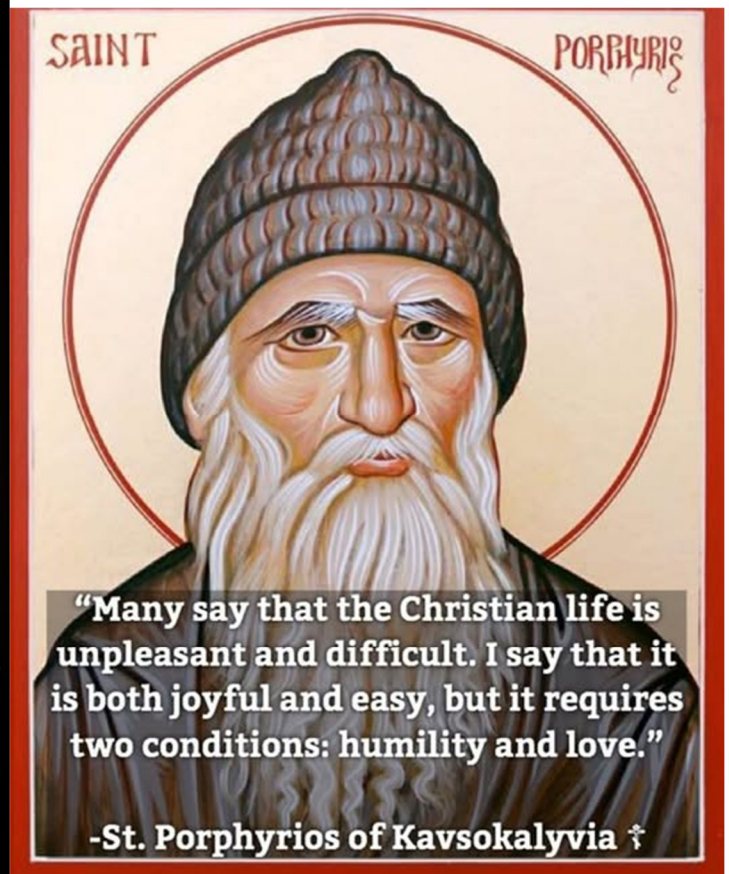
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

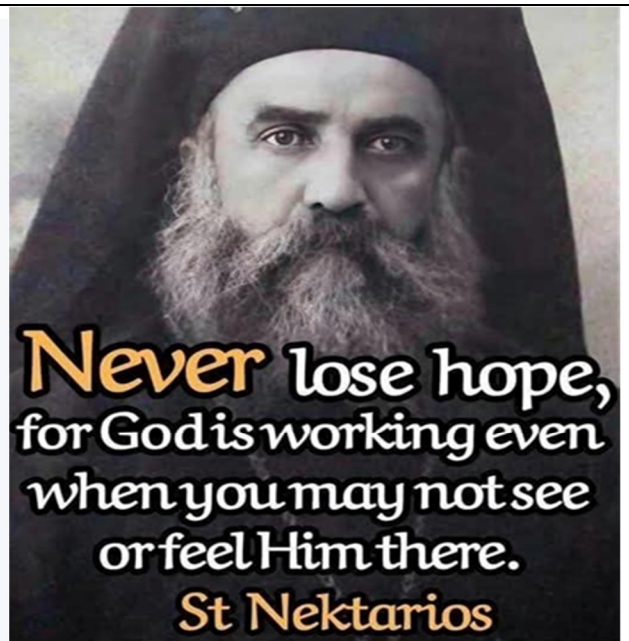
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA
*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

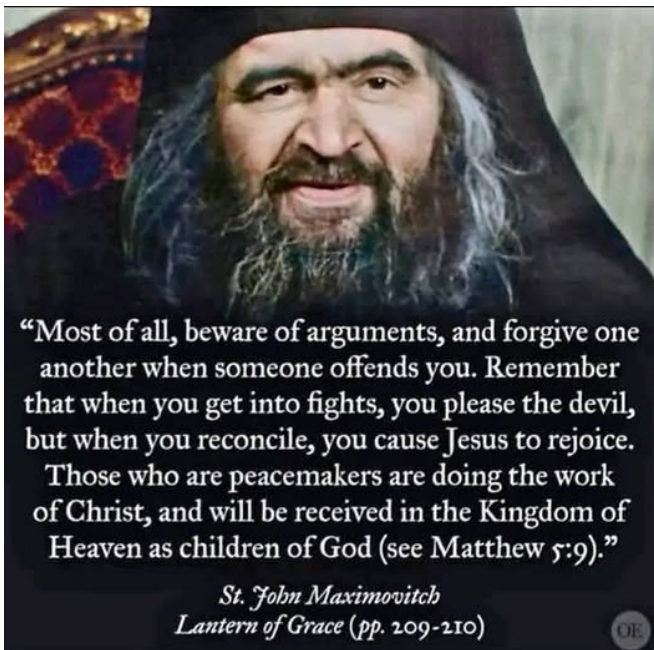
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

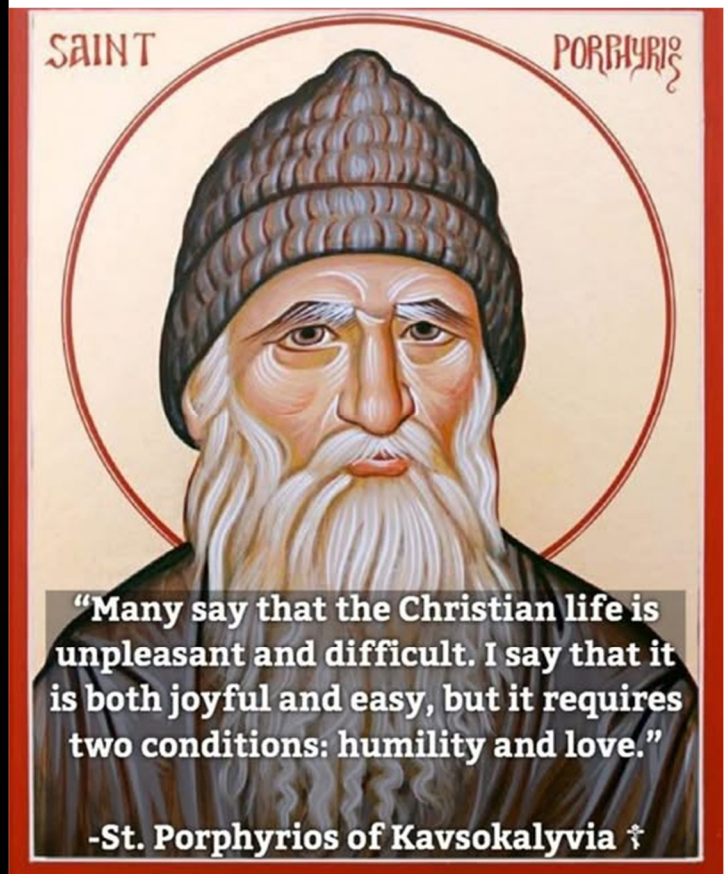
James 5:16- Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much: (KJV)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



**"A righteous wife is wealth to the house and salvation to the husband."
† Saint Gregory the Theologian.**



"Many say that the Christian life is unpleasant and difficult. I say that it is both joyful and easy, but it requires two conditions: humility and love."

-St. Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia †

Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

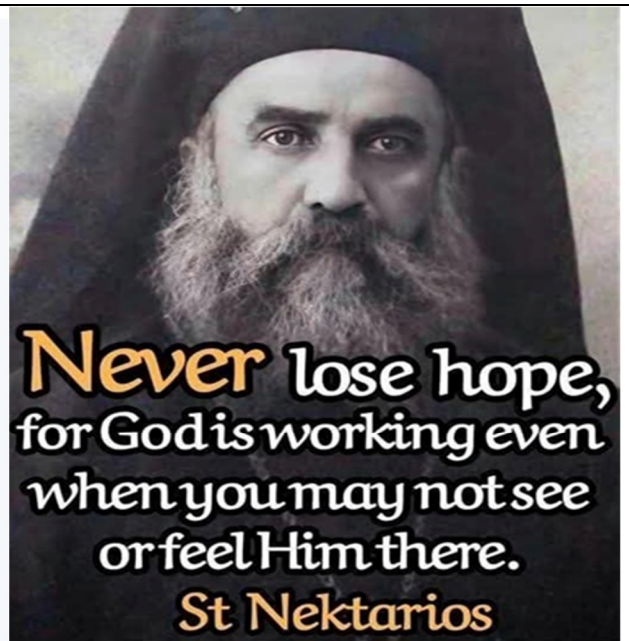
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 & 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

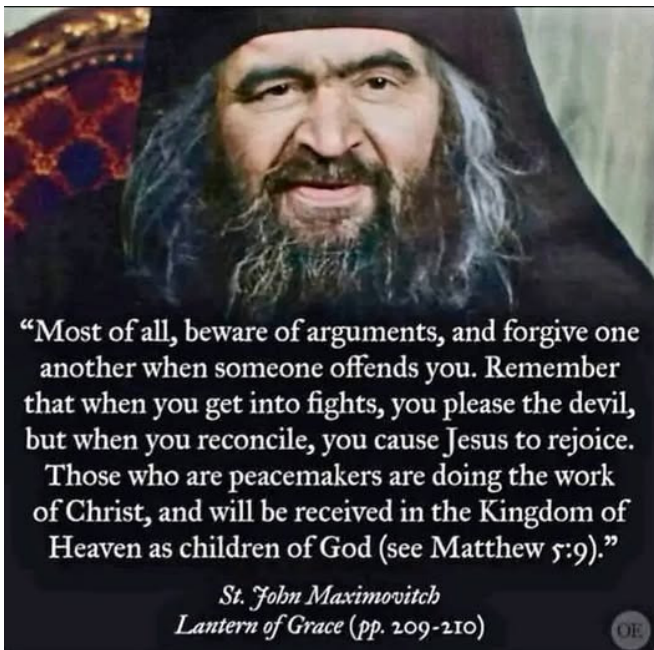
Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!





"Most of all, beware of arguments, and forgive one another when someone offends you. Remember that when you get into fights, you please the devil, but when you reconcile, you cause Jesus to rejoice. Those who are peacemakers are doing the work of Christ, and will be received in the Kingdom of Heaven as children of God (see Matthew 5:9)."

*St. John Maximovich
Lantern of Grace (pp. 209-210)*



Healed

Matthew 15:30- And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Healer enduring forever through the centuries. Believers benefit from learning about Jesus Christ as The Ultimate Healer. Jesus Christ provides suffering believers with hope in all circumstances. The Holy Scriptures provide an authentic record of healings by Jesus Christ. God's Holy Church witnesses to the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:34- And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures give a glimpse of the variety of ailments healed by Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ heals illnesses affecting the body, the mind and the soul. Believing parents are confident in turning to Jesus Christ when their child is ill. Husbands and wives with marital afflictions look to Jesus Christ for healing. Individuals suffering a guilty conscience or ill thoughts turn to Jesus for help.

Luke 4:40- Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.: (KJV)

People have been turning to Jesus Christ for healing down through the centuries. Miraculous healings by Jesus Christ are well-documented in the New Testament. God's Holy Church preserves extensive records of healings by Jesus Christ. Prayers of the Church give believers firm hope for healing

to take place. Holy Unction is a Mystery of the Church with specific intent for healing to occur.

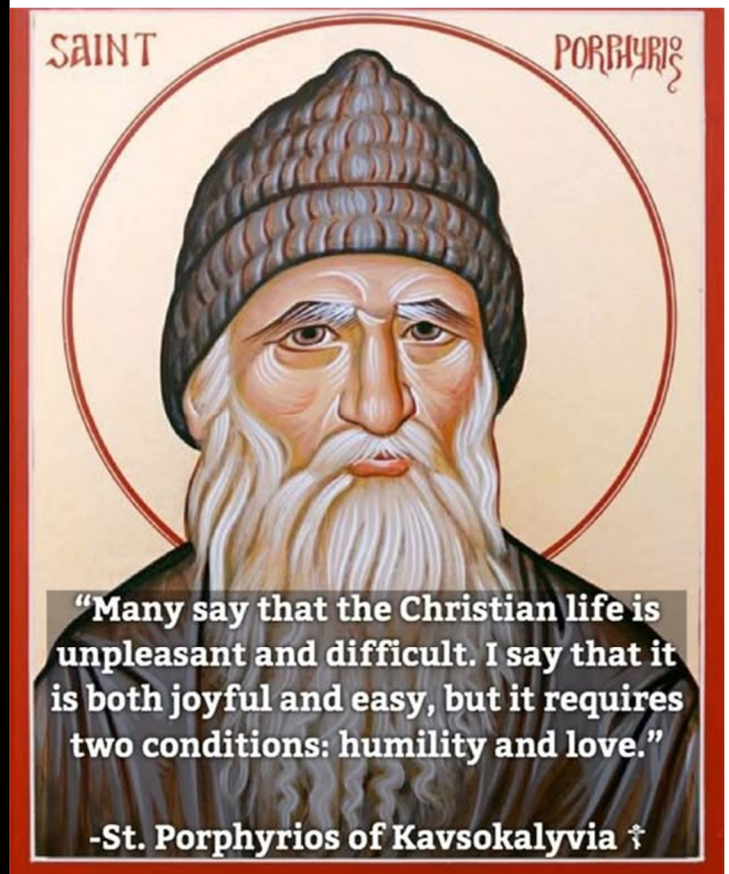
John 5:13- And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.: (KJV)

Healings by Jesus Christ are not always visible or even known to the person. Jesus can heal a person of an ailment without the person being fully aware. Some illnesses are silent and are unknown to the believer but known to the Lord. The Lord has complete knowledge of the health and wellness of each person.

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)

Illness of the soul has a definite effect on the person's physical condition. Sincere repentance and confession are positive steps for healing the believer. Repentance and confession free the believer of the profound paralysis of sin. Sin will imprison the believer and severely limit personal growth in Christ. **Good health necessitates the believer maintaining a clear and guilt-free conscience.**

*Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Mid-Pentecost. Holy Prophet Jeremiah May 1/14, 2025. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



Be vigilant in prayer and avoid all rancour. Let the teachings of the Holy Spirit be always with you; and use the virtues as your hands to knock at the doors of Scripture. Then dispassion of heart will arise within you, and during prayer you will see your intellect shine like a star. *Evagrios the Solitary, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.52*

From Tourist to Pilgrim

**Ep. 22: Maria Salus Populi Romani's healing beauty
Jesus looks at Mary as Mary looks at us. This dialogue of gazes invites each of us to walk this same path.**

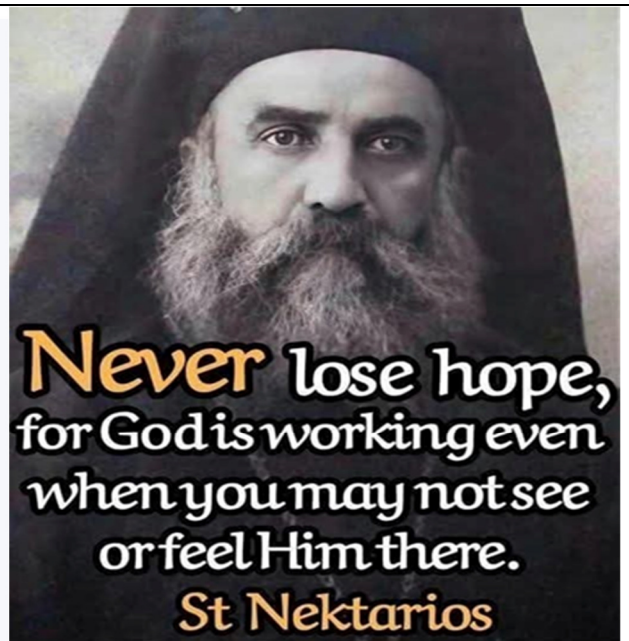
Maria Salus Populi Romani is Latin for "salvation of the Roman people," a title indicating not a geographical limit but a universal expanse of the Christian world, as told by Andreas Raub, Artistic-Scientific Director of the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.



But he must have such faith that if he hears, for example, that a miracle has taken place, and the sea has emptied, and people are ploughing it with tractors and hauling the fish with trucks, he will believe it. He will not want to go and see for himself. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.303*

After close study,
I have concluded that Jesus
believed there are two kinds
of people:

- 1) your neighbors,
whom you are
supposed to love;
- 2) your enemies,
whom you are
supposed to love.



The pastor cannot stray from participating in social life, but must participate in his capacity of the bearer of the laws of Christ and a

representative of the Church. A clergyman cannot turn into a simple political or social activist, forgetting the main essence of his service, and his task. The kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Christ did not establish an earthly kingdom.

Refraining from becoming a political leader and avoiding partisan conflicts, the pastor can cast spiritual light upon the phenomena of this world, so that his flock could know the way to which to adhere, and would be Christians in both their personal and their social lives.

St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco



Scoutmaster Minute 5/19/25

The Pencil & the Eraser

"Hey, how are you?" the eraser asked the pencil kindly.

"I'm not your friend," the pencil snapped. "I hate you."

Surprised and hurt, the eraser asked, "Why?"

"Because you erase everything I write."

"I only remove the mistakes," the eraser replied gently.

"That doesn't make it right," said the pencil.

"But that's what I'm here for. It's my purpose."

"Then your job is meaningless," grumbled the pencil. "Writing is more important than erasing."

"To erase the wrong is just as important as writing the right," the eraser said.

The pencil paused, then quietly said, "But I see you getting smaller each day..."

"That's because I give a little bit of myself every time I help correct a mistake."

"I feel smaller too," the pencil admitted.

"We can't do good for others unless we're willing to sacrifice something," the eraser smiled.

Then she looked at him and softly asked, "Do you still hate me?"

The pencil smiled back:

"How could I hate someone who gives so much of themselves?"

Each day we wake up with one day less.

If you can't be the pencil that creates joy for others, be the eraser that wipes away their pain, planting hope and reminding them:

The future can still be better than the past.

Be grateful. Always.— at Sellersville Scout Cabin.

Exactly 1,700 years ago, on May 20, the First Ecumenical Council (of the entire Church) was convened in Nicaea—a foundational moment in shaping Christian doctrine.

The Arian doctrine, which claimed that God the Son does not share the exact nature as God the Father, was the main reason that made a universal meeting of all bishops of the Christian Church necessary.

However, Patriarch Daniel explained during the international theology symposium held in Bucharest that the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea was not merely an episode of doctrinal confrontation with the heresies of the time.

The First Council was "a fundamental and necessary step in the dogmatic formulation of the Orthodox faith and its confession as salvific truth, following three centuries of harsh persecution and hostility against Christians in the Roman Empire, and amid a context marked by intense theological controversies," said the Patriarch of Romania.

The Council was convened by the Holy Emperor Constantine the Great, who had issued the Edict of Milan more than a decade earlier—the first official act granting Christians full of religious freedom.

Among those present at the Council were Saints Athanasius, Nicholas, Spyridon of Trimythous, and even hierarchs from the territory of present-day Romania. A total of 318 Holy Fathers participated, a number confirmed by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria.

REMINDERS: NO KNEELING until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost Sunday. We can now sing "Vechnaya Pam'yat" at the end of a Parastas or during a funeral service. However, we do not say the prayer to the Holy Spirit "O Heavenly King" until Pentecost Sunday.



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father 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, Father James Norton, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], 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 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, Mike Ruzzi, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich

& Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry 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, Christine Mohamed & family, 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, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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 & Cindy Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our June babies: Andrea Weiser on the 2nd, Luke Brunermer on the 13th, and Allison Chicka on the 14th. May

God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families!

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 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, June 01 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION; HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHs IN CRIMEA

Tone 6

Acts 20:16-18,28-36

John 17:1-13

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK
AND SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*******

SUNDAY, June 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PENTECOST; TRINITY SUNDAY; DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; OUR PARISH NAME'S DAY; APOSTLES CARPUS OF THE 70 & ALPHAEUS; MARTYRS ABERCIUS & HELEN; VENERABLE JOHN OF PSICHIATA THE CONFESSOR; MARTYR GEORGE

Tone 7

Acts 2:1-11

John 7:37-52-8:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Ann Roman, Millie Kerr, Andrew Torick, Stella Rossi, Mary Maolie, Dianne Waryanka, Joseph Karas, & Mary "Maxine" Kitch—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA

Tone 8

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

MONDAY, June 16
BEGINS

APOSTLE'S FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 JUNE 2025

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL; AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION;
HIEROMARTYR PATRICK-BISHOP OF PRUSSA & COMPANIONS-
PRESBYTERS ACACIUS, MENANDER, & POLYENUS; MARTYR
ACOLUTHUS; SAINT JOHN-BISHOP OF THE GOTHES IN CRIMEA

*******BETROTHAL OF ALEXANDER POPICHAK AND**
SYDNEY KAHLER SCHOFF*****

TROPARION—TONE 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God!
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth!
Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith!
O greatly Compassionate One, 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 8

The apostles' preaching and the fathers' doctrines
Have established one faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology;
Great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

PROKIEMENON—TONE 4

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and
glorified is Thy name forever.

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: for Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

People: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers.

People: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1—PSALM 50

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gather to me my venerable ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS—REPLACES “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One!

COMMUNION HYMNS [PSALM 148 AND 32]

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just.

Sister Vassa [Larin]:

To anyone wondering, I am fine. I am Sister Vassa, a ryassofof nun in the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

For the last two years, the ROCOR hierarchy has attempted to silence me on the issues connected to Patriarch Kirill’s vocal and even heretical support of the criminal Russian aggression against Ukrainians. And his jurisdiction’s uncanonical defrocking of clerics for “disobedience” to his anti-Christian agenda and teaching on “Holy War.” Now the ROCOR has issued a decree (that was sent to me in Russian, using the old, pre-revolutionary Russian orthography, which is the only not-Soviet aspect of the decree) that is meant to unmake-me a nun and to tell me how to dress. For some reason it has been posted on the ROCOR website, perhaps to assure the Kremlin that the ROCOR has nothing to do with me anymore.

As one who has studied Orthodox Canon Law for decades (it made up a third of my doctoral exam at the University of Munich’s Institute of

Orthodox Theology), and was for years a member of the Moscow Patriarchate's Interconciliar Presence Commission for Canon Law (and its Commission for Liturgy and Church Art), I could not be silent about the church-canonical and liturgical propagation of the MP's ideology within our church-communion. This includes the manipulation of church-canon to force clergy into "obedience" to Putin's and Patriarch Kirill's agenda, and the use of liturgical prayer and symbolism to justify and promote the killing of innocent people. I never signed up for that. I took no vows either to defend it, or to represent it, to be "obedient" to it, or to cover it up by sharing in the silence of the ROCOR hierarchy about it.

My vocation, which is from God and not from men, is that of a nun living and working (and even tonsured into the ryassofof-status, which does not involve the taking of any vows) outside any monastery, in "the world." I have been living and working in "the world" for 27 of the 34 years of my monastic life. What I wear or do not wear is dictated by common sense as it is in the case of any adult living in the free world. I don't consult a bishop across the ocean about it, because I am not mentally impaired.

Today I thank God for my vocation, and for His people whom I am privileged to serve in the small ways that I do, mostly online, and who continue entirely to support through crowd-funding our little online mission of Coffee with Sister Vassa, which was never supported by the ROCOR in any way. God bless us all, at this time of robust growth in faith, in our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven, Who does not abandon His Church by the abundant grace of His Spirit. Thank You, God, for all of it.

Below I post a few photos of me, one in my habit today and one not in my habit (on the bus on my way to Kyiv last week). It's me, Sister Vassa, who I am in both photos. Nobody changes that, not any clothing nor any decree, - and certainly not the uncanonical, shameful one issued recently by a ROCOR hierarchy that has lost its way. Christ is risen, dear friends!

