



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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**ON THE MEND:** Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: 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, 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, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, 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, 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, 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 Strozsh [young lady with cerebral palsy], Patricia

Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Cher Mount, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, 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, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, 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 Zeliszczyk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Margie Sekelsky, Fran Fulton, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaugenhaupt, Louis Berceli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, 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, 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, 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, Maria Warholak, Christy, Mariruth, Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, Olivia—girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko, John, Kris, & Kait, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Amy Forbeck, David Salazar, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], 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, Barbette [cancer] & Scott, Kristin [cancer], Erm Hartmann, Barbara Bookser, Bob Mazzuca, Marko, Taylor, Terri Crosby-Vega, Christine Mohamed & family, Tammy Marsico, Terry & David Hartnett, Jamie Ball, Kay Williams, Hannah Stewart, Jim Wyko—Alex's friend, Dan Losego, Lisa Bruce, Yvette, Barry Bender, Andrew Zelleznick, Byron & Cecilia Scott, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Debbie—HTUCC, 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 & Colton Rosati, Jessica Shirley, Mark [kidney cancer], Steve Milcic, Wilbert Wagner, Bob Wojciechowski, Ashley, Beth, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, 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, Mary & Carl Stepanovich, Susie Fierst, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Kate Rapina & Mother Oksana, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, Steve & Vonnie Gerson, Eva, Pamela & Doug, Nora, Mike, & Jane, and Lauren, Dan, & Daphne Iona... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.*

**...every earnest prayer draws your heart nearer to God and makes it perpetually godly. *Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ*, p.15**

**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, September 21 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION; NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY**

*Tone 6*

Galatians 6:11-18; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Philippians 2:5-11  
John 3:13-17; Matthew 22:35-46; Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

**SUNDAY, September 28**

**\*\*\*\*\*NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE\*\*\*\*\***

**16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS; AFTERFEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS; GREAT-MARTYR NICETAS THE GOTH; UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF SAINT ACACIUS THE CONFESSOR-BISHOP OF MELITENE; MARTYRS THEODOTUS, ASCLEPIODOTUS, & MAXIMUS OF ADRIANOPOLIS; UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF THE HOLY PROTOMARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN**

*Tone 7*

Galatians 2:16-20; Corinthians 6:1-10  
Mark 8:34-9:1; Matthew 25:14-30

**SUNDAY, October 05 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM**  
**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; PROPHET JONAH; HIEROMARTYR PHOCAS-BISHOP OF SINOPE; VENERABLE JONAH-PRESBYTER-FATHER OF SAINT THEOPHANES THE HYMNOGRAPHER & SAINT THEODORE GRAPTUS; MARTYR PHOCAS THE GARDENER OF SINOPE; SAINT PETER-TAX COLLECTOR OF CONSTANINOPLE**

*Tone 8*

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1  
Luke 5:1-11

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Father Theodore Forosty, Johnathan Dorning, Catherine Behun, Mary Medich, Daniel Chicka, Mary Evaniuk, & Stancy Popichak—Fr. Bob***

# BULLETIN INSERT FOR 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

**15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE  
EXALTATION; NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS AND  
EVER-VIRGIN MARY**

**TROPARION—TONE 6**

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body.  
Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it.  
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.  
O Lord who didst rise from the dead: 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 6**

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,  
Raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,  
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.  
He is the Savior of all,  
The Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all!

**PROKEIMENON—TONE 6**

**READER:** O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

**PEOPLE: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.**

**READER:** To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

**PEOPLE: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.**

**READER:** O Lord, save Thy people.

**PEOPLE: And bless Thine inheritance.**

**ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 6**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of  
the heavenly God.

He will say to the Lord: My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in whom I  
trust.

**Having once begun, we must not cease to perform deeds  
worthy of our repentance. To rest is the same as to  
retreat. *Tito Colliander*  
Way of the Ascetics p.41**

**"The demons tremble at the following five things:**

- Fasting
- the Jesus Prayer
- the sign of the cross
- Frequent Communion
- the unshakable hope in God."

+Elder Efstratios of Glinsk



We must establish in ourselves an intention to love all people and to live in harmony with everyone. *Fr. Jack Sparks, Victory in the Unseen Warfare p.92*

“ We confess one and the same individual as perfect God and perfect Man. He is God the Word Which was [made] flesh...

For if He was not flesh, why was Mary chosen? And if He is not God, whom does Gabriel call Lord?

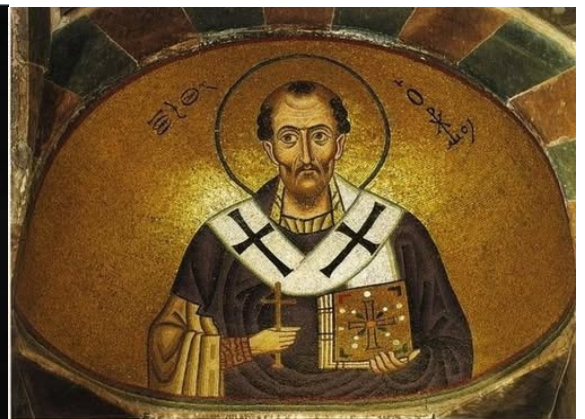
If He was not flesh, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes? And if He is not God, in whose honor did the star appear?

If He was not flesh, who was invited to the marriage in Cana of Galilee? And if He is not God, who turned the water into wine?

If He was not flesh, who slept in the ship? And if He is not God, who rebuked the waves and the sea?

If He was not flesh, who spat on the ground and made clay? And if He is not God, who gave sight to the eyes of the blind man with that clay?

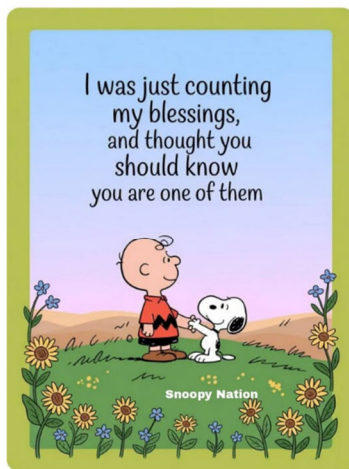
*St. Ephraim the Syrian  
Reflections on God #23*



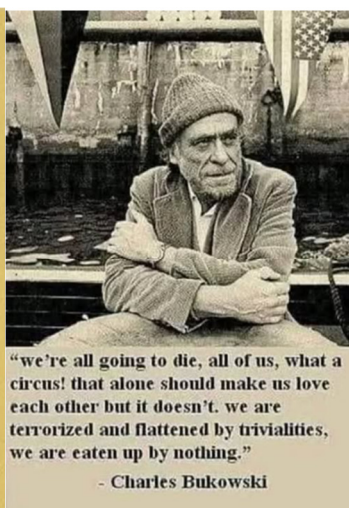
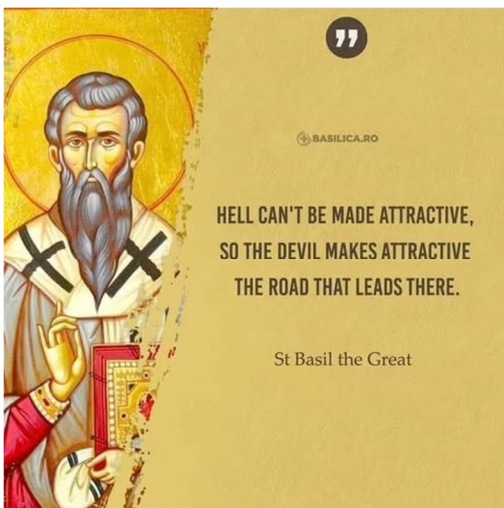
Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave.

**St. John Chrysostom**

...the action of the passions and demons is a combined action; the demons act by means of the passions. *St. Ignatius (Brianchaninov), Bishop of the Caucasus and the Black Sea, On the Prayer of Jesus p.29*



**When we become unduly distressed at falling ill, we should recognize that our soul is still the slave of bodily desires and so longs for physical health, not wishing to lose the good things of this life and even finding it a great hardship not to be able to enjoy them because of illness. If, however, the soul accepts thankfully the pains of illness, it is clear that it is not far from the realm of dispassion; as a result it even waits joyfully for death as the entry into a life that is more true. *St. Diadochus, bishop of Photike in Epirus, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.269***



**Don't become preoccupied with your child's academic ability, but instead teach them to sit with those sitting alone. Teach them to be kind. Teach them to offer help. Teach them to be a friend to the lonely. Teach them to encourage others. Teach them to think about other people. Teach them to share. Teach them to look for the good.**

**This is how they will change the world.**

**They should make every effort to seek the company of experienced spiritual fathers and to be guided by them. For it is dangerous to isolate oneself completely, relying on one's own judgment with no one else as witness; and it is equally dangerous to live with those who are inexperienced in spiritual warfare. For then we become**

involved in battles of other kinds, because the enemy has many hidden ways of attacking us and sets his snares around us on every side. *Saint Mark the Ascetic, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.158*



**We must be attentive to our thoughts, our mouth, our ears, our five senses. When we are not careful of these, then we think others are at fault. When divine grace comes, repentance and tears follow. Then a person desires to lie down so that everyone can trample on him, and he pays no attention to anything around him. When this light comes into our soul, we should embrace it. We then see the dust and the germs in our soul. *Gerondissa Makrina (Vassopoulou), Words of the Heart p.141***

**It is more serious to lose hope than to sin. *St. John of Karpathos, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.318***

### **Troubled**

**Mark 14:33-He took Peter, James, and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. (KJV)**

The Holy Scriptures give direction when believers feel personally troubled. Feeling deeply troubled can occur to anyone, even to the Lord Jesus Christ. When feeling troubled, the soundest action is always to seek God's will. Even when troubled, Jesus Christ set the example for believers to follow. (Mt.14:36) The mind well-focused on God's will for personal



actions leads to resurrection. Exercising control over the mind keeps it focused on the path to the Kingdom.

***Luke 6:18-who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, (KJV)***

We learn from St. Luke's Gospel that Jesus Christ healed troubled individuals. Jesus Christ is the Source of hope when believers feel personally troubled. St. Luke's Gospel describes that those feeling troubled went to Jesus to be healed. Believers can turn to Jesus Christ in the Church to seek help when feeling troubled. The Church has abundant prayers to benefit troubled believers seeking relief. Individuals benefit by taking initiative to experience the prayers of the Church.

***John 14:37-Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (KJV)***

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Source and Grantor of Peace for faithful believers. The nature of the believer's relationship with Jesus affects experiencing peace. Closed minds and cold hearts are unwelcoming to peace offered by Jesus Christ. Evaluation of the relationship with Jesus will reveal if the heart and mind are open. Authentic love for Jesus Christ brings peace to the believer's heart, mind, and soul. Repelling thoughts contrary to Jesus Christ facilitates peace within the believer.

***2 Thessalonians 1:7-and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. (KJV)***

The Holy Apostle Paul offers assurances of Jesus' relief to troubled Thessalonians. Nothing is preventing today's troubled believers from seeking peace from Jesus. Jesus Christ is within reach of each person seeking Him in prayer in the Church. Repentance has a place in experiencing lasting peace in the heart, mind, and soul. Troubled hearts, minds, and souls achieve peace through sincere repentance. Christ preached the importance of repentance, for the Kingdom was at hand. (Mt.4:17)

*St. Emilian the Confessor; Venerable Zosimas of Tuman; Venerable Jakov. August 8/21, 2025. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

**You see, the person who has felt the compassion of God will hold his tongue and be careful not to criticize another. When he listens to his conscience, he won't censure others. His conscience holds him back, and in this way his life passes pleasantly, and he is joyful. How beautiful is unity! How beautiful are love, good behavior, and courtesy! *Gerondissa Makrina (Vassopoulou), Words of the Heart p.211***

**With Gratitude to St. John the Baptist**

***Matthew 3:1-2—In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (KJV)***

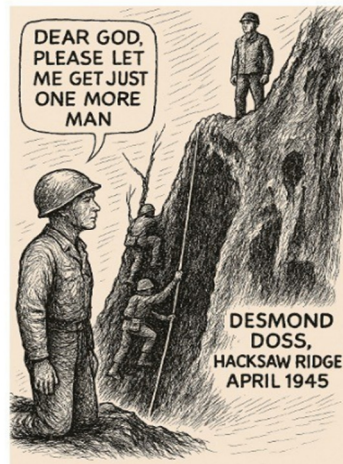
St. John the Baptist continues to be formidable through the centuries for believers. Believers learn valuable lessons from St. John and look to him in serious prayer. St. John preached about repentance with fervor and listeners do well to heed him. Jesus Christ preached about repentance and was consistent with St. John. (Mt. 4:17) Choosing to repent involves deep thought and careful personal self-examination. Believers choosing to repent place trust in God that their sins will be forgiven. God is forgiving and welcomes believers sincerely seeking to begin life anew. Newness in Jesus Christ becomes possible when the believer repents of sins. Willing believers are attentive to St. John the Baptist in today's difficult world.

***Mark 6:25—And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist. (KJV)***

St. John the Baptist was the victim of horrendous evil and experienced beheading. The United States of America experienced an evil attack on September 11, 2001. The 9/11 attack on America is intertwined with the Beheading of St. John. The attack on September 11 occurred while believers were in the Divine Liturgy. Evil continues to exist through the centuries and God will judge doers of evil. God provides the Church for believers seeking peace and refuge from evil. Churches were filled with believers following the attack on September 11, 2001. The victims of the attack are remembered to this day as are all who suffered. Christians have a responsibility to facilitate peace and healing in this society.

***Luke 7:28-For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. (KJV)***

One can only imagine how St. John's disciples greatly suffered at his beheading. Christ also was an innocent victim of a violent death that is very well remembered. Today believers are grappling with solving mass shootings in the present society. St. John the Baptist remains formidable and timely in his message of repentance. Jesus Christ's message of repentance is certainly relevant in today's world. Evil will continue to dominate the news until repentance is embraced world-wide. St. John the Baptist's message speaks to believers seeking to begin life anew. Lasting gratitude is due St. John for remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers benefit when regularly repenting and fostering a climate of peace.



### **Sacrifice: A Gift for Others**

Rev. Father Protodeacon **Peter M Danilchick**

Trustee Emeritus, St Vladimir's Seminary—September 11, 2025

True sacrifice is not transactional. It is the self-emptying gift of oneself for the good of another. It is one-way.

Christ modeled this in humble service, washing His disciples' feet, and in His ultimate act of love: laying down His life on the Cross. His command to "love one another as I have loved you" calls us into a love that sees others as God sees them.

St. Paul echoes this in urging us to offer our lives as living sacrifices, allowing Christ's own sacrifice to transform our separated brokenness into unity with God and one another. As Saint Nicholas Cabasilas, a fourteenth-century Orthodox theologian, beautifully observed, God does not wait for us to ascend to Him. He descends into our poverty, seeks us out, and bears rejection to show His abiding love.

### **Desmond Doss: The Weaponless Warrior of Okinawa**

Desmond Doss embodied sacrificial leadership in pure form. A devout Seventh-day Adventist, he entered World War II as a combat medic, a conscientious objector, refusing to carry a weapon or take a life. He was bullied by his fellow soldiers and threatened with death. However, he never reacted negatively. On the contrary, he would dash into danger to rescue and treat his fallen comrades. He put them before himself.

In the last months of the war in the Pacific, his unit was engaged in fierce fighting in Okinawa. At Hacksaw Ridge, under relentless enemy fire, he singlehandedly rescued over 50 trapped and wounded soldiers. As he lowered each one down a cliff to safety, he prayed, "Lord, help me get one more." Doss's unwavering courage earned him the Medal of Honor, making him the first conscientious objector to receive it. His life was a living story

of unbelievable strength and mercy in the midst of destruction. He stood firm in faith when compromise would have been easier. His legacy challenges us to lead with integrity, humility, and a love that risks everything for others.

### **Sacrifice in the Workplace and Family**

Sacrifice isn't confined to battlefields. It's woven into the quiet decisions of daily life. We offer it to God when we relinquish our rights, privileges, and comforts for the sake of others. Abba Poemen, an early fifth-century Desert Father, reminds us that enduring mistreatment without retaliation is itself a laying down of one's life.

In the workplace, this might look like a leader who gives up her own precious time to help a struggling colleague. It might be the subordinate who risks his own career to intervene and correct his supervisor (even if that's unwelcome) to save him from making a mistake. It might be one who chooses proximity over prestige by sitting among her team rather than in a higher-floor, fancier office.

In family life, it's the parent who listens patiently, the spouse who forgives silently, the sibling who yields first.

These hidden sacrifices shape our leadership character and draw us nearer to Christ, who emptied Himself for us.

**Questions for You:** *How have you put others first today? How have you given of yourself to them? Was it difficult?*

