



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 Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father John Harvey, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Dragan Filipović, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Joe Nezolyk, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Linda Mechtly, Mary Mochnick, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], 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, John Sheliga, George Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop 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, Jean Stutchell, Esther Holupka, Wanda Mefford, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Betty O'Masta, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—21-year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Woloschak, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Pete Niederberger, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Diane McDaniel, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], Mel & Charlotte Malik, David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley

Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Susan "Billie" Mason, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Donald Griffey, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [child with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Chris, Pastor Ed Bowen, David Hiles, Karen Johnson, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Fred DeNorscia, Sandi Anderson, Donald Uebing, Sabrina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Barbara McDougall, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Virginia Catherine Pynch, Susan Lucas, Manny Lopez, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Judi Danser, Mira Filipovic, Lynn, Jacqueline, Irma Opacic, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Debby Novak, Jeff Jones, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Donna Cacioppo [Evelyn's niece], Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Stella Rossi, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Carol Mensing's Family, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Billy Sinclair, Evelyn Felouzis, Kyranna Cherpas, Lawrence Deuce Skurcenski, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Millie Koss Good, Mary Haraczy, Heather Ried, and Mother Ana. **ARNOLD:** Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our October Babies: Rachel Shirley on the 6th, Rich Previc on the 8th, Mother Alexandra on the 11th, Harley Katarina Frances Rahuba on the 24th, Greg Luciw on the 27th, and Michael Sheliga on the 29th. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless!

Please remember in your prayers—our dear 'Little Father' Emilian, who returned to Romania to undergo surgery for back pain. This particular procedure is not offered here in the United States. He asked for our prayers and expressed his thanks for the love and fellowship he has shared with the Holy Ghost Parish Family. He said he looks forward to returning to us pain-free in the springtime...may God watch over him and heal him...Fr. Bob

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: All Christians and the others in the Middle East who are suffering during this time of great tragedy and unrest. May God watch over and keep them safe! Lord have mercy!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR “BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION” AND CAMPBELL’S SOUP LABELS TO CHURCH. There is a shoebox in the basement for Debbie Paouncic’s class. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP!

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] 279-5640.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 04 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; APODOSIS OF THE EXALTATION OF THE
CROSS; APOSTLE QUADRATUS OF THE 70; HIEROMARTYR HYPATIUS-BISHOP
OF EPHESUS & PRESBYTER ANDREW; SAINTS ISAACIUS & MELETIUS-BISHOPS
OF CYPRUS; MARTYR EUSEBIUS OF PHOENICIA; MARTYR PRISCUS OF
PHRYGIA; UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF SAINT DEMETRIUS-METROPOLITAN
OF ROSTOV**

Tone 1

Galatians 2:16-20; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Mark 8:34-9:1; Matthew 17:14-23

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

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT CHARITON THE CONFESSOR-ABBOT OF
PALESTINE; PROPHET BARUCH; SYNAXIS OF THE SAINTS OF THE KIEVAN
CAVES MONASTERY: SAINT ANTHONY THE FOUNDER, PROCHORUS THE
GARDNER & WONDERWORKER, JOHN THE FASTER, AND OTHERS**

Tone 2

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Luke 5:1-11; Luke 6:17-23

Litany in Blessed Memory of Nicholas & Catherine Behun—the Behun family

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS SERGIUS & BACCHUS IN SYRIA;
MARTYRS JULIAN-PRESBYTER & CAESARIUS-DEACON AT TERRACINA; VIRGIN-
MARTYR PELAGIA OF TARSUS; MARTYR POLYCHRONIUS OF GAMPHANITUS;
SAINT SERGIUS THE OBEDIENT OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Tone 3

Colossians 1:1-2, 7-22

Luke 6:37-45

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 04 OCTOBER 2015

**18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; APODOSIS OF THE EXALTATION
OF THE CROSS; APOSTLE QUADRATUS OF THE 70; HIEROMARTYR
HYPATIUS-BISHOP OF EPHESUS & PRESBYTER ANDREW; SAINTS
ISAACIUS & MELETIUS-BISHOPS OF CYPRUS; MARTYR EUSEBIUS OF
PHOENICIA; MARTYR PRISCUS OF PHRYGIA; UNCOVERING OF THE
RELICS OF SAINT DEMETRIUS-METROPOLITAN OF ROSTOV**

TROPARION—TONE 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;
While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
Granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life:
Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!
Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with
Thyself.
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished!
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:
Thou are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 1

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on
Thee.

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

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

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

PEOPLE: As we have set our hope on Thee.

ALLELUIA VERSES

God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.

He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever!



Holy 70 Apostles

Wisdom of the Fathers

Because such is the obedience which Christ seeks of us, as that we delay not even a moment of time, though something absolutely most needful should vehemently press on us. **St. John Chrysostom Homily 14 on Matthew 4, 4th Century**

For now they were well instructed beforehand...But mark both their faith and their obedience. For though they were in the midst of their work when they heard His command, they delayed not, they procrastinated not, they said not, "let us return home, and converse with our kinsfolk," but "they forsook all and followed." **St. John Chrysostom Homily 14 on Matthew 4, 4th Century**

For many have taken part with the holy apostles in their labors, and still do so, especially those who inquire into the meaning of what is written in the holy Gospels ... For the net is still being drawn, while Christ fills it, and calls to conversion those who, according to the Scripture phrase, are in the depths of the sea, that is to say, those who live in the surge and waves of worldly things. **St. Cyril of Alexandria Homily XII, Taken from: Cyril of**

Memorial at Ground Zero: life will always triumph over the prophets of destruction

Vatican City, 26 September 2015 (VIS) – The Memorial at Ground Zero, built at the site where on 11 September 2001 the Twin Towers collapsed after being struck by two aircraft in a terrorist attack that caused 2,896 deaths, was the second stop of the Pope's visit to New York. The Memorial is now a park of almost 33,000 square metres with a grove of white oak trees and two artificial waterfalls that flow into two large pools where the Twin Towers were previously located. These are surrounded by a low bronze wall on which there are engraved the names of all the victims of the attacks on the World Trade Centre on 26 February 1993 and 11 September 2001. Below ground, where the foundations of the Twin Towers lay, there is a museum commemorating the tragic events.

Upon arrival Francis, accompanied by Cardinal Timothy Michael Dolan, archbishop of New York, left a flower near the waterfall and at the Memorial building where he was awaited by a rabbi and an imam of New York. He said a prayer for peace, which was followed by five meditations on peace (Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Christian and Muslim) and a Jewish prayer for the deceased, after which the Pope pronounced a discourse.

“I feel many different emotions standing here at Ground Zero, where thousands of lives were taken in a senseless act of destruction. Here grief is palpable. The water we see flowing towards that empty pit reminds us of all those lives which fell prey to those who think that destruction, tearing down, is the only way to settle conflicts. It is the silent cry of those who were victims of a mindset which knows only violence, hatred and revenge. A mindset which can only cause pain, suffering, destruction and tears. The flowing water is also a symbol of our tears. Tears at so much devastation and ruin, past and present. This is a place where we shed tears, we weep out of a sense of helplessness in the face of injustice, murder, and the failure to settle conflicts through dialogue. Here we mourn the wrongful and senseless loss of innocent lives because of the inability to find solutions which respect the common good. This flowing water reminds us of yesterday's tears, but also of all the tears still being shed today”.

He also recalled his meeting with some of the families of the fallen first responders, and emphasised that this “made me see once again how acts of destruction are never impersonal, abstract or merely material. They always have a face, a concrete story, names. In those family members, we see the face of pain, a pain which still touches us and cries out to heaven”. However, he added,

“those family members showed me the other face of this attack, the other face of their grief: the power of love and remembrance. A remembrance that does not leave us empty and withdrawn. The name of so many loved ones are written around the towers’ footprints. We can see them, we can touch them, and we can never forget them”.

Remembering the firefighters who, on 11 September entered the crumbling towers shortly before they fell, without considering the risk to their own lives, he spoke about “the palpable sense of the heroic goodness which people are capable of, those hidden reserves of strength from which we can draw”. He added, “This place of death became a place of life too, a place of saved lives, a hymn to the triumph of life over the prophets of destruction and death, to goodness over evil, to reconciliation and unity over hatred and division”.

“It is a source of great hope that in this place of sorrow and remembrance I can join with leaders representing the many religious traditions which enrich the life of this great city. I trust that our presence together will be a powerful sign of our shared desire to be a force for reconciliation, peace and justice in this community and throughout the world. For all our differences and disagreements, we can live in a world of peace. In opposing every attempt to create a rigid uniformity, we can and must build unity on the basis of our diversity of languages, cultures and religions, and lift our voices against everything which would stand in the way of such unity. Together we are called to say 'no' to every attempt to impose uniformity and 'yes' to a diversity accepted and reconciled”.

Francis invited all those present to pray in silence for peace: “Peace in our homes, our families, our schools and our communities. Peace in all those places where war never seems to end. Peace for those faces which have known nothing but pain”.

“In this way”, he concluded, “the lives of our dear ones will not be lives which will one day be forgotten. Instead, they will be present whenever we strive to be prophets not of tearing down but of building up, prophets of reconciliation, prophets of peace”.

The future of the Church requires more active participation of the laity
Vatican City, 27 September 2015 (VIS) – Pope Francis arrived in Philadelphia for the last stage of his apostolic trip yesterday at 9.30 a.m. local time (3.30 p.m. in Rome). His first act in this history city, where the Declaration of Independence was adopted and the United States Constitution was signed, was the celebration of Holy Mass at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, a votive mass to the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, attended by the bishops, clergy, and men and women religious of the state of Pennsylvania.

"This morning I learned something about the history of this beautiful Cathedral: the story behind its high walls and windows", said the Pope in his homily. "I would like to think, though, that the history of the Church in this city and state is really a story not about building walls, but about breaking them down. It is a story about generation after generation of committed Catholics going out to the peripheries, and building communities of worship, education, charity and service to the larger society. ... All of this is a great legacy which you have received, and which you have been called to enrich and pass on".

"Most of you know the story of Saint Katharine Drexel, one of the great saints raised up by this local Church", he continued. "When she spoke to Pope Leo XIII of the needs of the missions, the Pope ... asked her pointedly: 'What about you? What are you going to do?'. Those words changed Katharine's life, because they reminded her that, in the end, every Christian man and woman, by virtue of baptism, has received a mission. Each one of us has to respond, as best we can, to the Lord's call to build up his Body, the Church".

Those words were addressed to a "a young woman with high ideals, and they changed her life. They made her think of the immense work that had to be done, and to realise that she was being called to do her part. How many young people in our parishes and schools have the same high ideals, generosity of spirit, and love for Christ and the Church! ... To find ways of sharing their enthusiasm and gifts with our communities, above all in works of mercy and concern for others?" asked the Pope.

"One of the great challenges facing the Church in this generation is to foster in all the faithful a sense of personal responsibility for the Church's mission, and to enable them to fulfil that responsibility as missionary disciples, as a leaven of the Gospel in our world. This will require creativity in adapting to changed situations, carrying forward the legacy of the past not primarily by maintaining our structures and institutions, which have served us well, but above all by being open to the possibilities which the Spirit opens up to us and communicating the joy of the Gospel, daily and in every season of our life".

Francis remarked that "it is significant that those words of the elderly Pope were also addressed to a lay woman. We know that the future of the Church in a rapidly changing society will call, and even now calls, for a much more active engagement on the part of the laity. The Church in the United States has always devoted immense effort to the work of catechesis and education. Our challenge today is to build on those solid foundations and to foster a sense of collaboration and shared responsibility in planning for the future of our parishes and institutions. This does not mean relinquishing the spiritual authority with which we have been entrusted; rather, it means discerning and employing wisely the

manifold gifts which the Spirit pours out upon the Church. In a particular way, it means valuing the immense contribution which women, lay and religious, have made and continue to make, to the life of our communities”.

“During these days of the World Meeting of Families, I would ask you in a particular way to reflect on our ministry to families, to couples preparing for marriage, and to our young people”, he concluded. “I know how much is being done in your local Churches to respond to the needs of families and to support them in their journey of faith. I ask you to pray fervently for them, and for the deliberations of the forthcoming Synod on the Family”.

Icon of the Mother of God, the Milk-Giver

Icons of the Mother of God are dear to the hearts, minds and souls of Orthodox believers. The Icon of the Mother of God, the Milk-Giver is of particular interest to Serbian Orthodox Christians.

The Icon of the Mother of God, the Milk-Giver is identified with beloved St. Sava. The centuries old connection remains intact to the present. The account of the way the Milk-Giver Icon came into possession of St. Sava is mind-spelling.

The Icon of the Mother of God, the Milk-Giver is treasured on Holy Mount Athos. Believers blessed to visit the site hold the occasion as special in their lives.

Images of this special icon are circulated throughout the world.

The relationship between the Mother of God and Christ is singular. The unity experienced can never be exactly duplicated. Complete unity with Christ is desired by serious believers.

Serious believers look to the relationship between Christ and His Mother as a primary source for learning. The possibilities of earning from this particular relationship are constant and beyond measure.

Human and divine come together in the relationship with Christ and His Mother. Serious believers looking to be fully and forever united with Christ look to lessons from the relationship between Christ and His Mother.

The Mother of God nourished the Source of everlasting nourishment. The Mother of God is depicted in icons with the Christ-Child in God’s Holy Church. The Church holds these icons to be important through the centuries.

The Church exists through the centuries. The Church values the Mother of God through the centuries. The relationship between Christ and the Mother of God is historical and is ever-new in impact.

Believers have the opportunity to become new in Christ throughout their lives. Icons of the Mother of God with Christ inspire and often lead to newness in Christ.

The positive life-changing impact of icons on human lives continues to be expressed and recorded. What is known about this impact is likely only a fraction of the total positive impact taking place.

When monks on Mt.Athos pray before the Icon of the Mother of God, the Milk-Giver, the impact of their prayers is immeasurable. Individuals standing in prayer before replicas of the icon are affected in ways often not reported to others.

Praying before icons of the Mother of God is cherished by Orthodox Christians and non-Orthodox believers alike. God summons and encourages believers to draw near. Icons of the Mother of God foster the unity desired.

St.George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. September 11/24, 2015. Ven. Theodora, Ven.Sergius and Germanus. Father Rodney Torbic

The Feast of the Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-35

When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was Jesus Of Nazareth The King Of The Jews. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. The Jews

therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.(KJV)

Today is a major feast day in the Holy Orthodox Church. This day deserves believers' attention . The Cross rests in the center of the Church today and throughout the week.

The present Gospel focuses on the death of Christ upon the Cross. His death was voluntary. Christ had the power to avoid this death. He had the power to avoid the suffering upon the Cross.

Witnesses were present to view Christ's suffering and death. The Holy Gospel serves as the written record. The Holy Gospel communicates Christ's death throughout the world and through the centuries.

The suffering and death of Christ deserve constant attention. Believers do well by showing the greatest appreciation to Christ. Believers do well by living in ways pleasing to the Crucified and Resurrected Christ.

The Cross provides strength for believers. Christ on the Cross demonstrates convincingly the depth and extent of Christ's love. Joyful healing results when Christ's love is welcomed into the heart, mind and soul.

Believers focusing carefully on Christ increase their appreciation of Christ's love. Drawing closer to Christ makes a difference in personal life. Welcoming and appreciating Christ's love results in changes to personal life.

Willingness to change and live in ways more pleasing to Christ are constants in the serious Christian's life. Attentiveness to Christ leads believers through the growth process.

The Holy Gospel proclaimed in God's Church has definitive instructions for experiencing His Kingdom. Faith and hope in Christ are essential for the journey.

The Cross points the way throughout life. The Cross illumines the way during the darkest moments of life. The Cross clears the way when dense fog seems to prevail in life.

Jesus was clear in His words for those wanting to follow Him: "He said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.(Lk.9:23)

Constantly looking to Christ brings fullness of life. Drawing near to Christ reveals the changes necessary and brings personal change. Attentiveness to Christ accesses the nourishment necessary for the healthy soul.

The Cross communicates suffering. The Cross is the dominate sign of victory. The Cross reveals the humanity and divinity of Christ.

Each day of life is well invested when it is focused on Christ and in living in Christ. Focusing on Christ and living in Christ is completely voluntary. There is no better investment in life than to focus on Christ and fully live in Christ.

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. Feast of the Exaltation of the Honorable Cross. September 14/27, 2015. Father Rodney Torbic