



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church
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Palm Sunday—NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE

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, Anastasia [Metropolitan Yuriy's mom], Metropolitan Theodosius [OCA], Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, 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 & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, 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, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, 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], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, 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, Howard Simpson, 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, Virginia Catherine Pynch, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, 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, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, 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], Stella McKeag, 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 & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, 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, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's cousin], JoAnne & Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Cindy M., Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor

Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Bill Boretsky, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Steven—Harry Batch's cousin, Gary Drapcho, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Ann Kuznik's Cousin, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline and Walter Sakol. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ...Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! It appears at this point in time that we will not be able to celebrate Holy Week and Pascha in our parish church, and I am extremely doubtful we will be able to live-stream any services. That said, 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 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!

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, APRIL 12 **PALM SUNDAY—NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE**
SIXTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; PALM SUNDAY; ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM; VENERABLE JOHN CLIMACUS OF SINAI-AUTHOR OF THE LADDER; PROPHET JOAD; HOLY APOSTLES SOTHENES, APOLLOS, CEPHAS, CAESAR, &

**EPAPHRODITUS OF THE 70; SAINT EUBULA-MOTHER OF SAINT PANTELEIMON;
VENERABLE JOHN THE SILENT; VENERABLE ZOSIMAS-BISHOP OF SYRACUSE**

Philippians 4:4-9

John 12:1-18

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

12 PASSION GOSPELS—NO SERVICE

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

PLASCHENYTSIA—BURIAL OF OUR LORD—NO SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

PASCHA—NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE

**HOLY PASCHA—RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST;
SAINT EUTYCHIUS-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; SAINT PLATONIDA OF
NISIBIS; 120 MARTYRS OF PERSIA; MARYTRS JEREMIAH & ARCHILIAS-
PRESBYTER; SAINT METHODIUS-EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES AND TEACHER OF
THE SLAVS**

Acts 1:1-8

John 1:1-17

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE

**ANTIPASCHA—SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY;
HIEROMARTYR ARTEMON-PRESBYTER OF LAODICEA IN SYRIA; MARTYR
CRESCENS OF MYRA IN LYCIA; MARTYR THOMAS OF ALEXANDRIA**

Tone 1

Acts 5:12-20

John 20:19-31

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 12 APRIL 2020

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; PALM SUNDAY; ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO
JERUSALEM; VENERABLE JOHN CLIMACUS OF SINAI-AUTHOR OF THE LADDER;
PROPHET JOAD; HOLY APOSTLES SOTHENES, APOLLOS, CEPHAS, CAESAR, &
EPAPHRODITUS OF THE 70; SAINT EUBULA-MOTHER OF SAINT PANTELEIMON;
VENERABLE JOHN THE SILENT; VENERABLE ZOSIMAS-BISHOP OF SYRACUSE**

**DIRECTIVE OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE UOC OF THE USA
CONCERNING PALM/WILLOW SUNDAY AND THE GREAT FEAST OF ALL FEASTS—
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**



DIRECTIVE OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

IN TIME OF COVID-19

OF THE UOC OF THE USA CONCERNING PALM/WILLOW SUNDAY

AND THE GREAT FEAST OF ALL FEASTS –

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

АРХИПАСТИРСЬКІ ВКАЗІВКИ

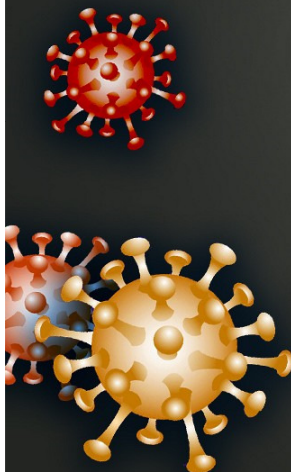
В ЧАС РОЗПОВСЮДЖЕННЯ КОРОНАВІРУСУ

СОБОРУ ЄПИСКОПІВ УПЦ США

ЩОДО МОЛИТОВНОГО СВЯТКУВАННЯ ВХОДУ ГОСПОДЬОГО В ЄРУСА

ТА СВЯТА НАД СВЯТАМИ –

ПАСХИ - ВОСКРЕСІННЯ ГОСПОДА БОГА І СПАСА НАШОГО ІСУСА ХРИ



2 April 2020

TO: **ALL CLERGY OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH–USA**

RE: **FEASTS OF PALM/WILLOW SUNDAY AND RESURRECTION**

Dear Brothers in service to our Lord,

CHRIST IS AMONGST US! IS AND ALWAYS SHALL BE!

As time has progressed, we now understand fully that the restrictions forced upon our lives by the COVID19 pandemic and the orders of federal, state, and local governments are not going away any time soon. Therefore, we are saddened to inform you that the present directives in force from our office will continue through the Feasts of Palm/Willow Sunday and the Resurrection of our Lord. You may celebrate the Liturgies and other liturgical services on these Holy Days, but behind closed doors. Following, however are our suggestions as to how you might at provide your faithful with at least some of the symbols of the Great Feasts, so that they are somewhat comforted by the loss of community liturgical worship.

PALM/WILLOW DIVINE LITURGY may be celebrated with the blessing of Palm/Willows, behind closed doors. These blessed symbols of our Lord’s triumphant Entrance into Jerusalem should be retained by you in Church to be distributed on that first Sunday, when we are all gathered together, once again, in our parish churches to worship together—regardless of the time of year it comes. **This late distribution THEN BECOMES A SYMBOL OF OUR OWN TRIUMPHANT ENTRANCE-OUR RETURN INTO OUR BELOVED PARISH TEMPLES FOLLOWING SAFE PASSAGE THROUGH THE PANDEMIC THREAT TO OUR LIVES.** The distribution of the branches to the faithful should be done as they enter church on that

Sunday and before the Divine Liturgy begins, the entire congregation, led by you dear Rev. Fathers, shall join together, holding the branches high above their heads, in the singing of the Palm/Willow Sunday Tropar (Tone 1) "Giving us before Your Passion an assurance of the general resurrection...", «Загальне воскресіння перед Своїм стражданням запевняючи...» - followed by the Paschal Tropar: CHRIST IS RISEN! ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD: All the liturgical services of Holy Week may be celebrated by you behind closed doors. For those expressing a desperate need to participate in Penance and the Eucharist for health reasons, you may schedule a visit to their homes—if you are in good health and feel unthreatened by the situation. Otherwise, you may schedule visits of these individuals to the parish church, if they are able, with no more than one person per hour. As we have discussed earlier, the space should be sanitized after each visitor.

BLESSING OF PASCHAL BASKETS: This tradition is one of the most treasured by all our faithful celebrating the FEAST OF FEASTS. We have struggled mightily to come up with a means of conducting this tradition. There are, however, just two possible methods, during this difficult time, to conduct this blessing—primarily out of complete caution and because of the severe shut-in orders of state and local governments. It must be noted that either of these is permitted ONLY this year because of the pandemic threat besieging us.

If you are live-streaming your Paschal-Resurrection services, Rev. Fathers, then following the dismissal of the Paschal Divine Liturgy, you may place your own basket on your Tetrapod in Church and encourage your faithful to gather their families around their own baskets at home. You will then read the Paschal Blessing Prayers and sprinkle your basket with Holy Water. At the same time, you should instruct your faithful to sprinkle their baskets at home, in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, with the Holy Water they received in Church on the Feast of Epiphany/Theophany. You should also send a copy of the Paschal Blessing prayers to all of your parish family members so that they are able to read them together as a family before the blessing.

If you are not able to live-stream your Pascha-Resurrection services, then please send a copy of the Paschal Blessing Prayers to all of your parish family members, notifying them of the exact time you will begin the blessing of your own basket following Divine Liturgy and invite them to gather with their families in their homes at that same time to read the prayers together, following which they will then sprinkle their baskets, in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, with the Holy Water they received on the Feast of Epiphany/Theophany.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO LIVE STREAM ALL LITURGICAL SERVICES BEHIND CLOSED DOORS FOR THE SPIRITUAL BENEFIT OF YOUR FAITHFUL. WE ALSO ADVISE YOU TO USE YOUR OWN PASTORAL JUDGMENT CONCERNING THE CELEBRATION OF PALM/WILLOW SUNDAY AND PASCHAL/RESURRECTION SERVICES.

YOU MAY CHOOSE TO INFORM YOUR FAITHFUL THAT ALL THE SERVICES, FROM PALM SUNDAY THROUGH HOLY WEEK, PASCHA AND BRIGHT MONDAY-TUESDAY, WILL BE LIVE STREAMED FROM ST. ANDREW UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX MEMORIAL CHURCH AT THE SPIRITUAL CENTER OF OUR CHURCH IN SOUTH BOUND BROOK, NJ. THE SCHEDULED TIMES FOR ALL THESE SERVICES WILL BE PUBLISHED ON FACEBOOK AND OUR CHURCH WEBSITE AND THEY WILL BE SENT TO YOU BY EMAIL. YOU MAY REFER YOUR FAITHFUL TO THESE SITES TO FIND THE SCHEDULE. THE LIVE STREAM WILL DEFINITELY BE OFFERED ON OUR CHURCH'S FACEBOOK PAGE AND WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF IMBEDDING THAT FEED TO OUR CHURCH WEBSITE. WE STILL CONTINUE IN THE HOPE THAT WE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO LIVE STREAM ON OUR YOUTUBE PAGE AS WELL.

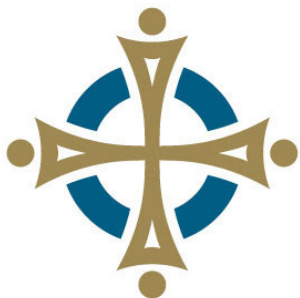
Our prayers are, dear Fathers, that you are working your way through this difficult, difficult period in the life of your parish, our Holy Church and all of mankind. You are in our prayers daily, believe us, because we are hurting as deeply as you are when serving in empty churches or isolated at home. May the celebration of the coming Feasts bring you much joy—enough to keep you filled with the Resurrection spirit each day of your lives, no matter how long the present threat continues.

MAY THE LIGHT THAT SHINES FORTH FROM THE EMPTY TOMB FILL YOUR HEARTS AND SOULS, YOUR FAMILY AND PARISH LIFE AND ALL YOU DO IN SERVICE TO THE FLOCK ENTRUSTED TO YOU BY OUR RISEN LORD FOR ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE.

In Our Lord's All-Encompassing Love,

+ ANTONY, *By the Grace of God, Metropolitan*

+ DANIEL, *By the Grace of God, Archbishop*



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Statement of the ACOB-USA Executive Committee Concerning Holy Week and Pascha (Easter)

Friday, April 03, 2020

To the Clergy and Faithful Orthodox Christians of the United States of America:

During this period of crisis, we, members of the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, are meeting in conference call sessions every Friday to continually monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we discuss both pastoral and practical matters concerning the operational situation of our churches. As such, allow us first to thank all the medical health professionals, first responders, delivery personnel, and clergy who put themselves on the front lines in a sacrificial manner for the protection of our health and salvation.

We are facing unprecedented circumstances in extraordinary times. Many guidelines from various jurisdictions, following State and Federal regulations as well as CDC recommendations, have been successfully implemented in parishes around the country, helping to slow the spread of COVID-19. After consultation with public health and insurance officials, law enforcement, theologians, and pastoral care professionals, we, members of the Executive Committee, have reached a consensus concerning Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha (Easter) and strongly encourage all Bishops of the Assembly to implement the following recommendations:

1. Services, celebrated by a maximum of five people consisting of a Priest, a Deacon, and/ or Server(s), continue in the churches and may be streamed online for the faithful to pray from their homes.
2. None of the traditional material offerings are to be distributed to the faithful in any way, including palms and/or pussy willows, flowers, candles, and eggs, etc.
3. Spiritual guidance may be heard over the phone, but the implementation of the Sacrament of Confession and Prayer of Absolution remains at the discretion of the local Bishop.

Whereas some Bishops might implement more stringent practices out of love and concern for their flock and broader society, less stringent approaches will put the Faithful and their Clergy at high risk and should be avoided by all Bishops.

These measures mitigate the risk of transmission due to proximity. We affirm that the Eucharist is truly the Body and truly the Blood of Christ. These measures should in no way be seen to diminish this sacred and eternal Truth.

The Church presently calls upon us, as the source of blessings, to nurture us in the commandments of Christ and lead us to His Kingdom. As the

Church tells us when to fast, and when not to fast, we listen and do our best to obey these instructions. In like manner, when we suffer together in our isolation and are unable even to receive the Eucharist because of mandated distancing, we are in reality, due to circumstance, also in full communion as the Body of Christ. As we unite—as faithful Christians, as a nation, and as a global community—to stop the spread of COVID-19, may the blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all!

Conveying our paternal blessings with love in the Lord,

Archbishop Elpidophoros, Chairman
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Metropolitan Joseph, Vice-Chairman
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Archbishop Michael, Treasurer
Orthodox Church in America

Metropolitan Gregory, Secretary
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA

Bishop Irinej
Serbian Orthodox Church in North, Central and South America

Metropolitan Nicolae
Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

Metropolitan Joseph
Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada, and Australia

Bishop Saba
Georgian Apostolic Orthodox Church in North America

Metropolitan Tikhon
Orthodox Church in America

The Reassuring Divine Presence

Matthew 28:20-Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (KJV)

The Lord Jesus Christ is always present to be experienced by all in strong faith. Place unyielding hope in the Lord God at all times and never give in to despair. When difficult times arise in life, draw strength from Jesus Christ and the martyrs. Pray with great fervor throughout life and experience the peace centered in Christ. Experience the joy of being in Jesus Christ regardless of the circumstances of life. Learn from the examples of the saints and martyrs of the Church to face adversity.

Matthew 11:28-29-Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (KJV)

When the stress levels rise in daily life, turn to the Lord God for abiding help. Keep the focus on Jesus Christ throughout the day and night

for actions to take. Be certain that every thought and action taken will be pleasing to Jesus Christ. Repent when failing to follow Christ, seriously seek forgiveness and begin anew. Begin every action by asking Jesus Christ for guidance and be a grateful adherent. Love the Lord Jesus Christ with a full heart and love everyone met in daily life.

Acts 17:28-For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. (KJV)

Keep the mind and senses open to discern the presence of God in everyday life. Give abundant thanks to God for His reassuring presence at all times of daily life. In the darkest moments of life, remember the brightness of the Resurrected Christ. Fill each day with thoughts of the Lord God and dispel all thoughts of gloom. Pain and suffering for Christ can be cleansing moments of joy to purify the soul. Find lasting value in and embrace the Church's teachings on prayer and fasting.

Matthew 18:20-For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (KJV)

Join with others in prayer at home, work, or the community during the week. Prayer is possible wherever a person is located and is heard by the Lord God. The life in Christ is intended to be throughout the week and throughout all of life. Don't limit the life in Jesus Christ to only personal Sunday church attendance. Invite others to join in prayer during the week to strengthen the life in Christ. Always love and give thanks to the Lord God for His goodness, mercy and love.

Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God. St. Patrick of Ireland. March 17/30, 2020. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

"Today many people no longer understand how important spiritual work is in everyday life. Without it, the life of a man is reduced to a struggle for the biological, to ensure a minimum of comfort and well being, and that's it. But this is not what every Christian should be concerned with; we should be concerned with salvation." (Hieroschemamonk Ștefan Nuțescu, interview in pravoslavie.ru)

"The enemies of the Church cruelly persecuted and tormented it, demolished it and buried it in darkness. But the Church, after such bruises and confinement, resurrected again with greater glory and power. Just as the church of His Body resurrected, so at the end of time the Church of His holy ones will resurrect in fullness and perfection." *Saint Nikolaj of Zica*

This is really beautiful (it is a post from The Orthodox Faithful).

We do not know what God looks like, as we read in John 1:18, No man hath seen God at any time. This is true, but we can meet with Him in prayer. Go into your room, into your chamber, into your heart, and above all, truly think of Whom you will speak, and then say as I, an old man, teach you: "I thank you, O Lord, for leading me to speak with You; me... the greatest sinner of all!" And then stand and speak with God.

After all, what does He want from us? That we should cast away from within us all the sin that defiles us. At midnight or even noon, because we sin throughout the day, enter into the depth of your soul and speak with Him who forgiveth all thine iniquities (cf. Ps. 103:2). And then say: "Forgive me, O Lord, forgive me, for I did not know that they occur before Your eyes! I was after all dead-hearted and did not think about You." Do that throughout the day and learn to stand before God, for thus will you cleanse yourself and prepare for the coming Judgment.

And again you will see not only your smallness and the abundance of your sins, but the also goodness of God, Who desires not the death of the ungodly, as that the ungodly should turn from his way and live (Ez. 33:11).

All prayers are beautiful, and it is good that you read both the Book of Hours and in the Supplicatory Canon to the Most Holy Mother of God. But if you have little time, stand before God as I taught you, and speak to Him from all the fullness of your heart. Do this and begin to feel God! And you will realize that everything that you do, you do before God!

And again, remember that when your prayers cease, then sin begins! Even the cessation of prayer itself is sin. Indeed, God said, "Be holy!" And I have never heard of such a thing as saints who did not pray. Even the Apostle Paul said to pray "without ceasing"! Without ceasing—not from time to time.

In previous centuries, there were no priests, no churches, no monasteries, just a community of believers amidst the pagan world. The apostle told them to pray without ceasing, and this exhortation also applies to you who do not have time for prayer. After all, even those who lived during the apostolic times did not know how much time they would have for prayer, because they were always persecuted.

Hieroschemamonk Julian (Lazar)

Pictured also Hieroschemamonk Julian (Lazar)



In Christ Service, Fr. George L. Livanos, Proistamenos
All Saints Greek Orthodox Church, Canonsburg, PA

PRAYER FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Lover of Mankind, Physician of our souls and bodies, who did bear the pain of our infirmities, and by whose wounds we are healed; Who gave sight to the man born blind; Who straightened the woman who was bent over for 18 years; Who gave speech and sight to the mute demoniac; Who not only forgave the paralytic his sins, but healed him to walk; Who restored the withered hand of a troubled man; Who stopped the flow of blood of her who bled for 12 years; Who raised Jairus' daughter to life; And brought the 4-day-dead Lazarus to life; And who heals every infirmity under the sun:

Do now, O Lord, grant Your grace to all those who have labored and studied hour upon hour, to go into all the world, and also to heal by the talent You have given to each of them. Strengthen them, by Your strength, to fear no evil or disease. Give to them wisdom, You Who are the source of all Wisdom. Give to them skill, You Who are the fountain of life, Who did bring all things from nothingness, into being. Enlighten them to resist any evil, that can affect the works of their hands, and preserve them and those they serve in peace; for You are our God, and we know no other, and to You we offer glory together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your most Holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen