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## **APOSTLES' [Saints Peter and Paul] FAST**

**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 Yurij, Metropolitan Theodosius [OCA], Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, 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 Smolynech, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Father George Livanos, Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, 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, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik's Cousin, Stella McKeag, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra, 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.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our July babies: Harry Batch on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Natasha Sudol on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zach Sudol on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Andrew Torick on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Matthew Brunermer on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Sabrina Sudol on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and Katrina Scott on the 25<sup>th</sup>! May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them all!**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is NOTHING to keep us from praying...for each other, for our family and friends, and most of all for the first responders—EMTs, nurses, doctors, firefighters, police officers, and members of our military who keep us safe. Be well, and be SAFE!!! God Bless!**

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

**REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!**

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

**AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.**

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

**SUNDAY, JULY 05**                      **OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS!!!**                      **10:30 AM**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HIEROMARTYR EUSEBIUS-BISHOP OF SAMOSTA; MARTYRS ZENO & HIS SERVANT ZENAS OF PHILADELPHIA; MARTYRS GALACTION, JULIANA, & SATURNINUS OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

*Tone 3*

Romans 6:18-23

Matthew 8:5-13

*Litany in Blessed Memory of Olga Stock, Anna Kitch, Joseph Yarmeak, Sr., Sophie Carrera, Susan Justina Sredich, Stella E. Cherepko, Joseph Paouncic, Igumen George [Owen], and Claudia Horvath—Fr. Bob*

**SUNDAY, JULY 12**                      **OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS!!!**                      **10:30 AM**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; THE HOLY, GLORIOUS, AND ALL-PRAISED LEADERS OF THE APOSTLES—SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL**

*Tone 4*

Romans 10:1-10; 2 Corinthians 11:21-12:9

Matthew 8:28-9:1; Matthew 16:13-19

**SUNDAY, JULY 19**                      **OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS!!!**                      **10:30 AM**

**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; VENERABLE SISOES THE GREAT OF EGYHPT; MARTYRS MARINUS & MARTHA & CHILDREN AUDIFAX & ABBACUM & THOSE WITH THEM AT ROME-CYRINUS, VALENTINE THE PRESBYTER, & ASERIUS; VENERABLE SISOES OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF HOLY PRINCESS JULIANA VILSHANSKA**

*Tone 6*

Romans 12:6-14

Matthew 9:1-8

**BULLETIN INSERT FOR 05 JULY 2020**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HIEROMARTYR EUSEBIUS-BISHOP OF SAMOSTA; MARTYRS ZENO & HIS SERVANT ZENAS OF PHILADELPHIA; MARTYRS GALACTION, JULIANA, & SATURNINUS OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

**TROPARION—TONE 3**

Let the Heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!  
He has trampled down death by death!  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
And has granted the world great mercy!

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

### **KONTAKION—TONE 3**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One!  
Leading us from the gates of death.  
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
With the prophets and patriarchs  
They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 3**

**READER:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King,  
sing praises!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our  
King, sing praises!**

**READER:** Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of  
joy!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our  
King, sing praises!**

**READER:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

### **ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 3**

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!



*Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople lowered his voice,  
"What can I say as a Christian clergyman and the Greek patriarch in  
Istanbul? Instead of uniting, a 1,500-year-old heritage is dividing us. I am  
saddened and shaken."*

## **Why Istanbul's historic Hagia Sophia could be in a fight against time**

By Asli Aydintasbas *The Washington Post*

The 80-year-old spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide was referring to the Turkish government's plans to convert Hagia Sophia, a 6th-century Byzantine cathedral and one of the most precious architectural wonders of the world, into a mosque. For centuries, the terra-cotta-colored building served as the largest church in the Christian world. When Ottomans conquered Istanbul in 1453, they carefully covered the mosaics and turned it into a mosque. In 1934, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the modern Turkish state, turned it into a museum—both as a testament to the country's new secular principles, but also as a signal of its desire to be anchored to the Western world.

Not surprisingly, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan now wants to turn it back into a mosque and has instructed aides to find a legal formula. Hagia Sophia has long been a coveted symbol for Islamists who resented Ataturk's desire for a West-leaning and secular society, but no Turkish government had so far touched his legacy. Erdogan's move this time is partly driven by a populist desire to consolidate conservative Muslims at a time of declining votes for his party.

But what is particularly troubling about the Hagia Sophia debate is the toxic language, which echoes centuries of religious rivalry in this part of the world. In late May, Erdogan participated by video in a Koranic reading of the "Conquest" verse ("surah") at Hagia Sophia, "We will leave behind a Turkey befitting of our ancestor Fatih [the Conqueror]," referring to the Ottoman sultan who captured Istanbul in 1453.

Under Erdogan's resurgent Turkey, "conquest" is a useful theme to rally nationalist sentiments. Before each incursion into Syria by the Turkish military, Turkey's Directorate of Religious Affairs instructs mosques to read the "conquest" verse from the Koran. The ministry of culture and Istanbul municipality have been celebrating the "conquest of Istanbul" each May 30, with greater and greater ferocity over the past decade. Erdogan's nationalist ally, Devlet Bahçeli, has called the opening of Hagia Sophia as a mosque "the gain of the sword."

"But who is this conquest against?" asked a Greek Orthodox friend of mine from Istanbul. Turks have been running Istanbul for nearly six centuries, and the handful of Christians left in the country pose neither a cultural nor a political challenge to anyone. Out of a population of 82 million, there are less than 90,000 non-Muslims living in Turkey at the moment—including Armenians, Jews, Assyrians and a few thousand Greeks—and in the words of Hrant Dink, a journalist of Armenian descent assassinated by a nationalist in 2007, most live "with the trepidations of a dove."

Christians in the Middle East, with the exception of Lebanon, have every reason to have trepidations. Their experience for the past century is marked by pogroms, property confiscations and discrimination. Secular Turkey has not been that different. While the Ottoman Empire practiced religious tolerance, the modern republic was founded after a war of liberation against an invasion from Greece and Western powers at the end of World War I—and the regime suspected Christians of disloyalty. There were population exchanges between Turkey and Greece and a deliberate effort to reduce the role of non-Muslims in bureaucracy and business. Thousands of churches across Anatolia were deserted and eventually destroyed. In 1955, a pogrom in Istanbul led to the exodus of the remaining Christians.

Ironically, it was Erdogan himself who pushed back against some of these oppressive policies early in his tenure. He brought non-Muslim leaders into the state protocol, showed flexibility to faith-based foundations, returned some of their confiscated properties and, during a honeymoon with Europe, even entertained the idea of opening the Greek Orthodox seminary in Istanbul closed by the Turkish state in 1974. But in reality, Erdogan and other Turkish politicians have little use for old churches and aging priests, other than as a tourist attraction and a token of diversity.

All of that makes the Hagia Sophia debate sad—a fight against time. With a handful of Greeks left in Turkey, how long can empty churches survive?

Patriarch Bartholomew believes forever. “We survived for 17 centuries and we will stay here forever, as God wants us to,” he said when I visited him last week.

I hope he is right, but fear that in the long run this is fighting a losing battle—at least on Hagia Sophia. Turkey’s Christian community is vanishing, and with it the diverse fabric of our country. Turkey will be immeasurably poorer if that heritage is lost. Converting Hagia Sophia into a mosque would also feed anti-Muslim sentiments among the far right in Europe and the United States. I hope Turkish leaders can acknowledge that—and pause the Hagia Sophia debate.

When Ottomans came to Istanbul, which they called Konstantiniyye after the name of its Byzantium founder, there was no mosque here. Today, there are almost 3,500. Let this remain a monument to our rich history.

### **Truth from the Psalms**

***Psalm 14/15:2-He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. (KJV)***

The Psalms offer believers nourishment, comfort and direction throughout life. Seekers of the truth and practitioners of truth hold the Psalms dearly in the heart. Attentive believers will focus the mind and heart on truths found in the Psalms. Serious believers find truth and wisdom in the Psalms and apply them in daily life. The deep hunger of the soul is nourished by the truth and wisdom of the Psalms.

***Psalm 24/25:5-Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. (KJV)***

The Psalms firmly guide believers in taking the Lord God's honored paths in life. Believers find strength in the Psalms to resist daily temptations and false teachings. The Lord God's enduring and lasting truths are continually revealed in the Psalms. Generation after generation benefits from the rich wisdom and truth of the Psalms. God's Holy Church extensively incorporates the Psalms into the Divine services.

***Psalm 24/25:10-All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. (KJV)***

Following the Lord's paths requires the commitment to adhere to God's teachings. Saints and martyrs' lives through the centuries validate the value of the Psalms. Utilizing the Psalms in prayer enables believers to remain true to the Lord God. Truth revealed in the Psalms protects believers confronted with daily falsehoods. The believer's life in Christ is enriched by serious study of the truth in the Psalms.

***Psalm 25/26:3-For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth. (KJV)***

Believers are expected to be true to the Lord, to loved ones in life and to the self. Remaining grounded in truth entails being truly grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is always equated with truth and is the embodiment of truth. Life lived in truth is the life lived in Christ and manifested in daily relationships. Relationships formed in truth blossom and grow fruit nurtured by the Lord God.

***Psalm 29/30:10/9-What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth? (KJV)***

The Lord's truths are revealed in the Christian relationships formed in daily life. Love is manifested in relationships fully embodying Christ as the true foundation. We learn from the Psalms the truths of God that exceed full human understanding. Joy abounds in the lives of believers living and adhering daily to the Lord's truths. Seriously studying the Psalms results in Christ's truths being revealed in daily life.

*Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas. June 11/24, 2020. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



*Prayer to Accept the Will of God  
by Metropolitan Philaret*

**L**ord, I do not know what to ask of You. You alone know what I need. You love me more than I am able to love You. Father, give Your servant that for which I am unable to ask. I do not dare to ask either for a cross or for consolation: I only stand before You. My heart is open to You, and You Yourself see needs of which I am unaware. See and do according to Your mercy. Strike me and heal me; knock me down and lift me up. I show reverence and keep silence before Your holy will: Your destiny for me is beyond understanding. I offer myself as a sacrifice to You. I have no other desire besides the desire to carry out Your will. Teach me how to pray – and You Yourself pray in me! Amen.

**The Third Sunday after Pentecost** Matthew 6:22-33

*The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall*

*he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (KJV)*

**Vidovdan** John 15:17-16:2

*These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. (KJV)*

**The Third Sunday after Pentecost—Vidovdan**

Today Vidovdan is celebrated in the Serbian Orthodox Church. Resolute commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ is remembered and reaffirmed. Saint Lazar and the martyrs of Kosovo chose the Heavenly Kingdom over the earthly.

Believers face the difficult choices each day as to whether to succumb to earthly temptations and perils or to be resolute for the Lord Jesus Christ. Today's society is rapidly changing and consistently challenging.

Christianity is under attack in many overt and subtle ways. Threats to the Serbian Orthodox Church in Montenegro is currently in the news. Laws exist in America legalizing actions condemned or considered sinful by the Church.

Believers are required to be continuously cautious in daily decision-making. Words expressed are to be carefully chosen. Each believer does

well to examine his or her own personal integrity and resoluteness in following Jesus Christ.

St. Matthew's Gospel speaks about first seeking the Kingdom of God (Mt.6:33). The believer's thoughts and actions are to be directed to the Kingdom. The eye will direct the believer in daily life. Where the eye is directed, the actions will follow. (Mt.6:22)

Love of the Lord Jesus Christ will take the believer to the Church. Love of the Lord Jesus Christ will be manifested in personal relationships. Believers are challenged in today's society as the Lord was challenged when He took on flesh.

Believers with fortitude and faith in the Lord will meet the challenges with confidence. The world is changing rapidly. A believer can easily get lost, face peril or be overwhelmed if not grounded in the Lord.

The martyrs of Kosovo were prepared to battle against evil. Martyrs throughout the Church's history faced evil. Civilization has progressed in material comforts and developments of life, but evil is still present.

Evil cannot be sugarcoated. Evil cannot be denied. Believers hear of evil and the threats of evil. The Lord God provides the protection, strength, and wisdom of dealing with evil.

The Lord Jesus Christ experienced evil when He was crucified. His death on the Cross was soon followed by His Resurrection. Jesus Christ is to be followed by all resolute believers. Martyrs through the centuries serve as enduring inspiration.

Martyrs are complete witnesses for the Faith. Martyrs teach the continuing value of loving Christ at all costs. Contemporary believers do well to draw strength from the martyrs of Kosovo and Christian martyrs through the centuries.

The world needs believers firmly planted in Christ today. Opponents of evil demonstrate love as taught and exemplified by Christ. We learn from Saint Lazar and the martyrs of Kosovo that love for Christ makes a lasting and decided difference.

*The Third Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Prophet Amos. Saint Lazar and All Serbian Martyrs. Vidovdan. June 15/June 28, 2020. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

### **Today's Word...29 June 2020 (2 Timothy 3-16)**

Everyone who wants to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it. From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every Good work. Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only. Otherwise you are deceiving yourselves. For anyone who hears the Word but does not carry it out is like a man who looks at his face in the mirror, and after observing himself forgets what he looks like. But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom, and continues to do so not being a forgetful hearer, but an effective doer, he will be blessed in whatever he does. (James 1-22-25)

Brothers and Sisters, We must approach the Word of God, with an open Heart and a willingness for God to teach us. If we do that, we'll never reach the bottom of the truth God has placed in His Word. Doers of the Word is a call to action. Satan doesn't care if we study God's Word, as long as we don't apply it to our lives. Our Lord taught just the opposite: Now that we know these things, you will be blessed if we do them. (John 13-17)

"Until we can receive with an open Heart, we are never really giving with an open Heart." (Brene Brown)

We must remember to give without remembering, and receive without forgetting. Please remember the sick and suffering.

Wherever you are this morning, whatever circumstances you find yourself in, be assured the Lord is right there with you. Be Blessed. Brothers and sisters, I am asking for your prayers, bad right foot! Have a terrific day! Lazarus [Manny Lopez, Samantha's husband] 😊😞🙏