



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church
714 Westmoreland Avenue
PO Box 3
Slickville, PA 15684-0003
www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org
Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor
23 Station Street
Carnegie, PA 15106-3014
[412] 279-5640 home
[412] 956-6626 cell
rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, 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 Smoly nec, 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, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father Steve Hutnick [COVID-`9], Father Victor Wronskyj [COVID-19], Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Diakonissa Mary Ann Cherkas, 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, 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, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, 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 Slaughaupt, 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy

Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, 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 & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Micky Delans [COVID-19], Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Dolores Wachnowsky, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Deacon Joe Uzar—vocations, Tim—surgery, Archimandrite Raphael—COVID-19, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko [triple by-pass], John, Kris & Kait, Jeff & Mary Jane Double [COVID-19], Terri Crosby-Vega [COVID-19], Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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... 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.

SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS!!! 10:30 AM
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON; APOSTLE ONESIMUS OF THE 70; VENERABLE PAPHNUTIUS-MONK & DAUGHTER SAINT EUPHROSYNE-NUN OF**

ALEXANDRIA; VENERABLE EUSEBIUS-HERMIT OF SYRIA; VENERABLE PAPHNUTIUS-RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 5

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Luke 15:11-32

Litany in Blessed Memory of Milton G. Chicka, Daniel Pysh, Sara Chicka, Nikolai Pivtoraiko, Evelyn Burlack, Anne Cherepko Mazock, Roy Wyke, Katherine Debick, William Boretsky, & Mary Pelino—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, MARCH 07

OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS!!! 10:30 AM

MEATFARE SUNDAY; SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT; UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS OF HOLY MARTYRS AT GATE OF EUGENIUS AT CONSTANTINOPLE; SAINTS THALASSISUS, LIMNAEUS, & BARADATES-HERMITS OF SYRIA; SAINT ATHANASIUS THE CONFESSOR OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Tone 6

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Matthew 25:31-46

Litany in Blessed Memory of Milton G. Chicka, Daniel Pysh, Sara Chicka, Nikolai Pivtoraiko, Evelyn Burlack, Mary Lokie, Anne Cherepko Mazock, Roy Wyke, Katherine Debick, and Rose Zalenchak--Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS!!! 10:30 AM

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY; FORGIVENESS SUNDAY; EXPULSION OF ADAM & EVE FROM PARADISE; MARTYR EUDOCIA OF HELIOPOLIS; MARTYRS NESTOR, TRIBINIUS, MARCELLUS, & ANTHONY; MARTYR ANTONINA OF NICAEA IN BITHYNIA; VIRGIN DOMNINA OF SYRIA

Tone 7

Romans 13:11-14:4

Matthew 6:14-21

MONDAY, MARCH 15

THE GREAT FAST—GREAT LENT—BEGINS

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 28 FEBRUARY 2021

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON; APOSTLE ONESIMUS OF THE 70; VENERABLE PAPHNUTIUS-MONK & DAUGHTER SAINT EUPHROSYNE-NUN OF ALEXANDRIA; VENERABLE EUSEBIUS-HERMIT OF SYRIA; VENERABLE PAPHNUTIUS-RECLUSE OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

TROPARION—TONE 5

Let the faithful praise and worship the Word,
Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit;
Born for our salvation from the Virgin;
For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
To endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

KONTAKION—TONE 3

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father;
And among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me.
And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal:
I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father;
Receive me a penitent and make me as one of Thy hired Servants.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 5

Thou didst descend into Hell, O my Savior, Shattering its gates as almighty;
Resurrecting the dead as Creator, And destroying the sting of death.
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,
And we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 5

READER: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

READER: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

READER: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us...

PEOPLE: From this generation forever.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 5

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever, and my truth will be prepared in the heavens.

Strength

Psalm 8:2-Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. (KJV)

Young children speak with honesty in ways that are of great benefit to adults. Children reflect in their behavior and demeanor the love and care they receive. Adults learn valuable lessons for daily life by carefully observing children at play. God is at work and is fully present in the life of

each child wherever the child is. Be mindful of Jesus' love of children and Jesus' expectations for adults. (Lk. 18:15-17)

Psalm 18:1-I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. (KJV)

Wise individuals realize personal strength is from and is dependent on the Lord. All bodily movement and functioning are completely dependent on the Lord God. Muscles exist, develop and work because of the presence and action of the Lord. The mind is created by the Lord and mental strength develops due to the Lord. Wise believers remain conscious of the Lord as the continued Source of strength.

Psalm 18:2-The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. (KJV)

Serious believers are ever grateful to the Lord as the Source of personal strength. Believers seeking strength to deal with life's problems pray fervently to the Lord. Full confidence is well placed in the Lord God as the source of life's strength. Evil will never triumph over the believer placing full confidence in the Lord God. Lives of the saints and martyrs attest to the value of drawing strength from God.

Psalm 18:32-It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. (KJV)

Draw strength in full hope from the Lord to deal with the daily problems of life. Believers realizing God is the Source of strength for life experience internal peace. Learn from God the vital relationship necessary between humility and strength. The Lord's love is a manifestation of strength in lasting personal relationships. Holy Apostle Paul's Epistle testifies to the supreme power of love. (I Cor.13:1-13)

Psalm 18:39-For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me. (KJV)

St. John's Epistle describes the power of perfect love to triumph over fear. (I Jn. 4:18) Serious believers think about God as the Source of strength necessary for daily life. Fervent prayers to the Lord God will fortify believers against the wiles of the devil. The Holy Apostle Paul puts strength in perspective in times of weakness. (2 Cor.12:10) Believers immersing themselves in the Holy Scriptures experience God's peace.

*Venerable Isadore of Pelusium; Saint Nicholas the Confessor. February 4/17, 2021.
Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Luke 18:10-14

Two men went up into the temple to pray: the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes

of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (KJV)

Today believers have the opportunity to seek unity with the Lord God. This opportunity exists when the believer becomes like the publican in the current Gospel. The publican humbly sought the Lord's mercy.

The publican did not exalt himself. He did not boast nor tell God all the good he had done. The publican recognized and took responsibility for his own sinfulness.

Courage, faith, and trust in the Lord God are necessary to come before God and acknowledge personal sinfulness. Every person commits sins. Only the Lord Jesus Christ is perfect.

When believers acknowledge personal sins, repent, and seek the Lord's mercy, new beginnings in life occur. The Pharisee boasted to God about what he considered to be good. The Pharisee looked down upon the publican.

Love for the publican was absent in the Pharisee. Acknowledging personal sin, humility and repentance were absent in the Pharisee. The Pharisee did not seek to change and lead a more God-pleasing life.

The Pharisee determined he had done enough for God. The Pharisee did not view God-pleasing growth as a continuous process until departure from this life.

Christians are to seek growth from Holy Baptism until departure from this life.

The possibility to grow in Christ and be renewed in Christ exists throughout life. The Holy Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians describes the unlimited change possible for believers.

The Holy Apostle Paul stated: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Cor. 3:18)

Change by the Spirit of the Lord requires humility and personal understanding of sin. Change in the believer to the image of the Lord necessitates sin being expelled from personal life.

The publican desired the Lord's mercy. The publican wanted his life to change and become pleasing to the Lord. Arrogance and pride were absent in the publican. The publican was sorry for his sins.

God's goodness and mercy are everywhere. The humble see God at work in everyday life and at every moment of life. The arrogant and prideful Pharisee sees only himself and what he considers his own good.

The Pharisee was blinded to his own sin. The Pharisee was content with the way he lived. The Pharisee did not see the need to change. His heart was hardened and his mind was closed.

The publican felt in his soul the need for change. The publican yearned for the Lord's mercy to make a difference in his life. The publican's yearning for God was recognized.

The Gospel is clear in saying the publican is the example to follow to lead a God-pleasing life. God's Holy Church prescribes this Gospel to be read each year as Great Lent approaches.

Believers are to look carefully within the heart, mind, and soul. Pharisaic attitudes are to be immediately rejected with God's help. The humility of the publican is to become real in the believer's heart, mind, and soul.

Repentance involves a change in the heart, mind and soul. Love of God increases as the believer becomes more aware of God in personal and daily life.

Room is required in the heart, mind, and soul to see, love and experience God.

Great Lent redirects the believer to a life more pleasing to God. The Lenten journey in God's Holy Church is a journey of love and of the life in Christ. The Lenten journey is gentle, life-changing and life-renewing.

Believers are to welcome the desired change in the spirit of Great Lent. Joy is manifested and experienced among believers seeking to grow in Christ. The publican is the example of an open heart and love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

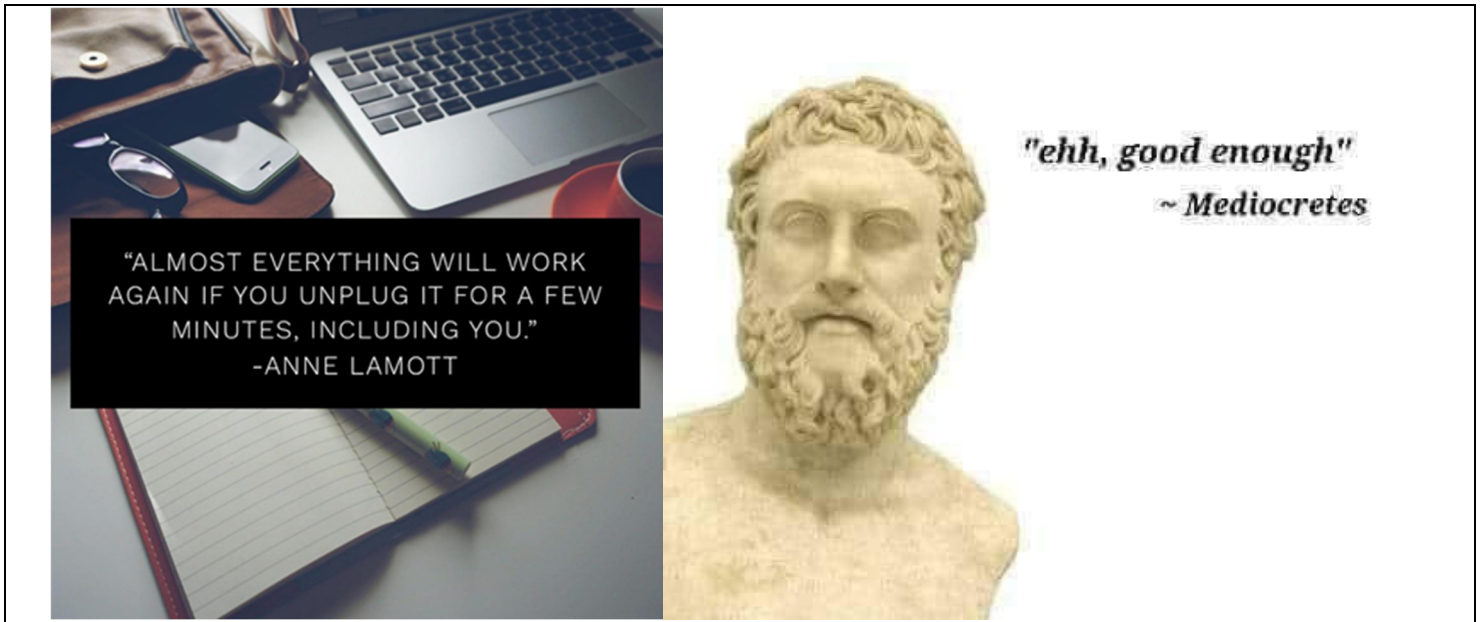
Worship in God's Holy Church is filled with pleas for the Lord's mercy. Believers actively participating in the worship immerse the heart, mind, and soul in the pleas for mercy.

Desiring God's mercy and the forgiveness of personal sins have a place in every moment of life. Everyday believers commit sins and benefit from repenting. New beginnings are always possible in Jesus Christ.

God's goodness, mercy and love are plentiful. The humble in heart and mind yearn for the peace that comes from repentance. Care of the soul is of paramount importance in the serious believer.

Today is the day to join with the publican in seeking God's mercy. Everyday seek God's mercy. Be grateful for the opportunity to repent and begin anew at every moment of life. Be grateful to the loving, forgiving, and merciful God.

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord. Great-martyr Theodore Stratelates. February 8/21, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic



Jawn, pronounced \ˈjän, is the Philadelphia all-purpose noun. It can refer to a single thing, or a collection or class of things, or a situation, or a person.

This past weekend, our family became part of the 53%.

We rescued a dog.

Tennille (Like Captain and Tennille) is two-year old mutt. She has some Shepherd in her, that's for sure. Maybe some Lab? Maybe some cattle dog? It's hard to tell, but her quirks tell us she is a little bit of all three. She's 35 pounds and all white, with these pointy ears that are always at attention, even when she is sleeping.

She likes to burrow in the snow. She meticulously hides her bone so she can find it the next day. She brings us presents, like our slippers, dish towels, and a boot. She loves to "wrestle" and bark at dogs from our bay window. She would prefer that we're all in the same room. She is very well behaved and listens way better than we could have ever hoped, even though we're pretty sure she has no idea what her name is. In fact, in a little under the week, we've pretty much changed her name to Tenny. She doesn't seem to mind.

Tenny was rescued as a stray somewhere down South. She was pregnant. While she was being fostered, she gave birth to 14 puppies. We're told she was a very attentive mother, which makes sense. The other night, our 4-year-old took a bit of a spill down the steps and Tenny was there by her side before we even got there. The instinct is strong with this one.

Tenny is very tolerant with our little one. (When do we get to stop calling them "our little ones?" Never? Good.). You see, she has never had a dog in the house. She's very selective about which dogs she likes. Now that she has Tenny, all she ever wants to do is hug, kiss, and play with her. Tenny is very sweet, although you get a sense that she would rather be napping than getting kisses.

This whole week has been a bit of a whirlwind with the new addition to our family, and it got me thinking: Why do we own pets? Companionship is probably near the top in terms of reasons. Maybe you just think pets are cool. Maybe we need them for a working reason, like a K-9 or therapy. Maybe you're a breeder?

I think there are a lot of parallels between pet ownership and working in emergency management, public safety, volunteer services, public health, and the like.

There's the camaraderie of it. Like a dog adopting us into their pack, we tend to work with the same folks over and over again, whether it be volunteering together, fighting fires together, working in an EOC together, or just meeting our friends at the FOP. or firehall. We have a professional pack.

We play together, too. Think of how many friends you've made through work, and how tight we all are? The softball leagues, the runs for charity, the fundraisers, the beef and beers, and blood drives. It feels like there's something every day, kind of like when Tenny drops her toy at my feet as soon as she's done her morning meal.

I can tell you one thing is certain: We certainly don't own a pet or work in public safety or public service for a life of luxury.

Here's my theory: We own pets, like we work in public safety and public service, because we want to do something bigger than ourselves. We consciously make a life choice to own a pet, walk them in the cold, spend money on them, and know that nothing lasts forever just like we consciously make a life choice to work the long hours of an emergency manager, fight the fires as a firefighter, walk the beat as a police officer, and give more than we get working for a non-profit.

That's why Tenny is so special. In just a few short days, she has evolved from a pet to a calling. That is incredibly powerful and enriching.

So, when the late-night call goes out for a deployment, the cell phone rings at 2:00 a.m., the EOC is activated for weeks on end, the flood waters rise instead of fall, or Tenny just won't stop barking because she sees a bird in the yard and you're on a Zoom call, remember this:

All of this is bigger than us. Sometimes, to rise above the stress and turmoil of the big moments, it's important to feel small every now and then.

John DiSpaldo, Teracore, Federal Emergency Management Agency- Region III



New in Christ

Romans 6:4-Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (KJV)

The Christian identity begins at Baptism and is to be honored throughout life. Believers begin the new life in Christ at Holy Baptism and are forever changed. The identity change occurring at Baptism is permanent for life's remaining days. Serious Christians measure all thoughts and actions with Jesus Christ's teachings. The heart, mind and soul consciously guide the believer in following Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17-Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (KJV)

Sin is resolutely rejected at Holy Baptism and afterwards is to be firmly avoided. When the believer becomes aware of committing sins,

repentance is necessary. Repentance and recommitment to Jesus Christ enable new beginnings to occur. Confession and Communion restore the desired unity with the Lord Jesus Christ. Revulsion of committing sins and desire to be with Christ will hasten repentance.

Ephesians 4:24-And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (KJV)

Peace, love, and joy abound when unity with the Lord Jesus Christ is experienced. Holiness occurs when all that is of Christ is fully a part of every aspect of life. Temptations and perils to the soul exist to destroy the believer's faith in Christ. Serious believers ardently cherish and are grateful for Christ's boundless love. Holiness and righteousness are compelling thoughts for believers serious in Christ.

Colossians 3:10-And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: (KJV)

Believers desiring to grow in Christ act to learn more from and about the Lord. The Creator of life and life are held dearly in the believer's heart and mind. Life emanates from Jesus Christ, exists in Christ and is directed toward Christ. The life in Christ is a great and wonderful mystery constantly being revealed. Attentive believers marvel at the Divine revelations occurring on a daily basis.

Hebrews 10:20-By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (KJV)

Partaking of Jesus Christ's Precious Body and Blood brings unity and new life. The Precious Body and Blood of Christi are available in each Divine Liturgy. Celebration of the Divine Liturgy creates newness of life for the community. Communities are lovingly transformed by the celebrations of the Divine Liturgy. Every Divine Liturgy is a celebration of thanksgiving to the living, loving God.

Holy Hieromartyr Anthimus, St. Joannicius, First Serbian Patriarch, September 3/September 16, 2020. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic



A life without sorrows is a sign of God's disapproval. We should not envy those who live without sorrows, for the end of their sorrowlessness is grievous.

- St Nikon of Optina

