



**Holy Ghost Orthodox Church**  
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**ON THE MEND:** Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, 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, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smoly nec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father Steve Hutnick [COVID-19], Father Victor Wronskyj [COVID-19], Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Fr. Volodymyr Muzychka [COVID-19], Diakonissa Mary Ann Cherkas, Father Harry Linsinbigler [COVID-19], Archimandrite Raphael [COVID-19], 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], 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 Slaugenhaupt, 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, 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, Father Joe Uzar—newly ordained, Tim—surgery, 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], Mike, Amy, Nathan, & Ben Forbeck [COVID-19], David Salazar, Ann Zurasky [knee replacement], James Mary, Barb Bookser, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Carolyn Strittmatter, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Candace Irvin, Dollie Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [newborn], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Pani Cathy Danczak, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob’s cousin, car accident], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], 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.



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!



OA/D.Panagos

**His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America  
Homily for the Vespers of the Dormition  
Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church  
Southampton, New York  
August 14, 2021**

Beloved in Christ,

As I stand here tonight with all of you, under this magnificent dome, in this Church of exquisite beauty and deep theology, I cannot help but call to mind a verse from a Psalm of David. He speaks of the Mother God as the “daughter of the King.” And this is because the Prophet David sings her praises before the Incarnation and her holy Motherhood, and even before her betrothal to God, when she was received into the Temple of the Lord at the tender age of three.

Remember, my dear Christians, that at the moment of the Incarnation, the Holy Virgin Mary—this teenaged girl who was yet a woman—was at one and the same moment:

The Daughter of God;

The Bride of God;

And the Mother of God!

No wonder that the hymns of this Great Vespers cry out:

Ὡ τοῦ παραδόξου θαύματος!

What a strange and marvelous wonder![\*]

But to return to the mystery of the Virgin’s relationship to God, as exclaimed by the Prophet David and witnessed in the beauty of this church in Southampton, the Psalmist says:

All the glory of the daughter of the King is within...

Πᾶσα ἡ δόξα τῆς θυγατρὸς τοῦ Βασιλέως ἔσωθεν...[†]

What a truth and a reality for this very Temple in which we pray. Yes, the architecture of your Church is wonderfully inspired by the greatest model of our Church, Hagia Sophia. But the glory is within. The story is

within. The λόγος of the Church, her message and, indeed, her Good News is within.

This is why the Virgin is the par excellence model of the Church, because her glory and beauty are inside, wrapped in godly virtues:

Like mercy, compassion, forgiveness, generosity, fidelity and, above all, love.

All the glory and beauty that we behold in the adornments of your Church—the holy icons and carved embellishments of the liturgical furnishings—are designed to reflect the inner beauty of heart and soul that the Virgin exemplifies. Together with the comeliness and grace that we are called to as well.

Therefore, my dear sisters and brothers,

I invite you to a new experience of this magnificent edifice that you have built, under the guidance and wise counsel of Father Alex and Father Constantine, as well as the Committee of your fellow parishioners.

They selected a world-class expert to help you prepare the vision of this temple—His Grace Bishop Joachim of Amissos, who is presently guiding the reconstruction of Saint Nicholas National Shrine. And you chose an extraordinary iconographer, too, our dear friend, George Philippakis, to execute this vision.

But it is all of you who bring this glory to life, by the very living of its message! Every icon tells a story. Every image in this Church, each a visual feast for the eyes, is designed to nourish your souls. And from this spiritual sustenance, we are called to grow into living icons of God, who exemplify and practice all the virtues of the Holy Virgin. And just like her, this cultivation is within our hearts, our minds, and our deepest selves.

Thus, my friends, the story of our lives becomes like hers—redemptive, salvific, and inclusive of others and their needs. She gave the greatest gift ever received by the human family: God enfleshed in human nature. And because of her faithfulness and her love as a Mother, now she reigns in Heaven, a celestial Queen and Advocate for us all.

For the Theotokos accomplishes great things for those who will follow in her ways of love and compassion. As the Psalm concludes:

“Those who follow after her shall be brought unto the King, those near her shall be brought unto You [O God].

They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing, they shall be brought into the Temple of the King.” [†]

May it always be so for all of you, too, my dear friends.

May you always enter into this earthly Temple with gladness and rejoicing, that you may one day enter into the Heavenly Temple of our King and our God, to live with our Panagia and Her Son throughout eternity.

Χρόνια Πολλά!

Ἄμην.

[\*] Great Vespers of the Feast, first of the stichera.

[†] Psalm 44:12 (LXX).

[‡] Psalm 44:12 (LXX).



**The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost** Matthew 14:22-34

*And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But*



*straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God. And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret. (KJV)*

The present Gospel offers a reassuring vision of peace centered in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ's peaceful presence manifests and exists when the days of life are tumultuous and stormy as the sea in the present Gospel.

The disciples were in rough waters. Jesus walked upon the waters. The tumultuous sea was not an impediment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus told the disciples to not be afraid.

Times in life can become very difficult and fear can arise within believers. Jesus Christ is the reassuring presence in these unsettling moments. Keeping the focus on Christ enables the believer to remain calm.

Keeping the focus on Jesus Christ enables believers to see beyond the threats and concerns to see the way to the heavenly Kingdom. Remaining focused on Jesus Christ enables believers to carefully and fully analyze the existing threats to security.

The present world is faced with numerous unsettling situations. Believers are confronted with an abundance of information. At times it is difficult to sift through the facts.

Taking time to be in God's Holy Church and taking time at home to pray to the Lord God leads believers to God-pleasing conclusions for life. The Church provides the Dormition Fast for believers to refocus the direction of daily life.

This is a time to cut out from life those parts of daily living which have nothing to do with the Holy Gospel. This is the time to reject and repel personal inclinations and interests which are perilous to the soul.

The hunger in the soul is satisfied only in the Lord Jesus Christ. Full peace within the heart, mind and soul comes only through Jesus Christ. Strong faith in Jesus Christ brings believers through difficulties in life.

Fervent prayer and fasting keep the person focused on Christ. Peter began to sink in the current Gospel when he began to doubt. When doubt arises in believers, the soul is in peril.

When doubt arises, the Lord Jesus Christ's hand is outstretched to save the believer. The believer needs only to reach out to Jesus Christ and move safely forward.

Joy and peace arise when the believer firmly clings to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace and joy are found in God's Holy Church. The Church is a strong ship impervious to the tumultuous waters of life. The Church will protect believers sailing to the heavenly Kingdom.

The rough waves of life will not overcome believers finding security in Jesus Christ. The storms of life do not overpower the presence of Christ. Believers find and experience Christ's enduring presence in the Church.

The Holy Gospel offers the nourishing lessons that keeps life secure. The Holy Gospel navigates believers through difficult waters. The Holy Gospel gives the wisdom necessary to have internal peace.

Believers need to sift through the facts of daily life. The Gospel helps believers to keep the eye on Christ. When the Gospel fills the mind, heart and soul, the believer has the life-saving equipment to deal with any storms that arise.

The Holy Gospel offers lasting truths. The Holy Gospel provides enriching words of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel leads believers through difficult waters to the Kingdom of God.

During this time of the Dormition Fast, take time to concentrate on Jesus Christ. Take extra time to pray and fill the mind, heart, and soul with the Gospel. Increase daily prayer.

Remove from life those interests that have nothing to do with the Kingdom of God. Be careful in what is eaten, what is read and what is watched. Take care about the images and thoughts permitted to enter the heart and mind.

Seek purity and safety in the Lord Jesus Christ. Seek peace in the heart, mind and soul. Draw strength from Jesus Christ to confront the problems in daily life. The present Gospel offers reassurance in Jesus Christ in difficult waters.

Keep the present Gospel in mind when storms arise during life. Reach out to Jesus Christ in prayer at all times and in all circumstances. Jesus Christ is always ready to lead us to peace and safety.

Joy and peace are experienced when we are firmly united with Jesus Christ. We are able to walk through the storms of life when we are firmly united with the Lord Jesus Christ. The decision to walk with Jesus Christ remains with each believer.

At Holy Baptism, each believer is united with Christ. This unity continues when the believer consciously chooses unity. Let us remain unified with Jesus Christ and the storms of life will subside and peace will exist within the heart, mind and soul.

## Fr Dave Urban

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Just as we get tired from our work, schedule, stressors—in His humanity, so did Jesus! From yesterday's gospel:

*"And after He [Jesus] had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray." (Matthew 14:23)*

He did this after feeding the 5,000+. He took an opportunity to pray as we should also.

"For what purpose does He [Jesus] go up into the hills on the mountain? To teach us that solitude and seclusion are good, when we are to pray to God. With this in view, you see, we find Him continually withdrawing into the wilderness. There He often spends the whole night in prayer. This teaches us earnestly to seek such quietness in our prayers as the time and place may afford. For the wilderness is the mother of silence; it is a calm and a harbor, delivering us from all turmoils." (+Saint John Chrysostom)

The following did not make into the bulletin:

**2021 Romanian Food Festival—pre-order only due by Sunday, August, 29 - pick-up in McKees Rocks on Saturday or Sunday, September 11 or 12. Click this link for more details: [www.standrewpitt.org](http://www.standrewpitt.org)**

We have all had Slavic Foods. You have seen the Greek Food Festivals around. This food festival is my favorite as it is different and worth trying! (Bring any menu questions to Pani on Sunday)

Have a blessed week and enjoy the attached bulletins!

With Love in Christ, Fr Dave Urban

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