



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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GREAT LENT—THE GREAT FAST

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Father Bob, Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Father Angelo Artemas, Father John Haluszczak, Dr. Christina Nellis, Father Joshua [Anna], Father Justin (Todd) Mokhiber, Pani Cathy Danczak, Protopresbyter Gerald Ozlanski, Father James Norton Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, 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, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Yvonne Christy, Father Deacon Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Gaele 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, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [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, 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, 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 Zeliszczyk, 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 & Terri Berceli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, 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, 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 & Jan Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Sharon Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Theresa Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra

& Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Father Joe Uzar, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia— young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko, John, Kris & Kait, Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Amy Forbeck, David Salazar, Kitty Mary, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Alexandra Roberts, Candace Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [infant], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob's cousin], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], Donna [dementia] & Darla, Adam Snow, the McKenna family, David Gazella, Brian & Michele Cannone, Robert Rodrigues & family, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry & Shirley Tkacik, Diane & Arthur Chaklis, Denny Mader, Zoe Oswald—Fr. Bob's cousin [cancer], Barbetta [cancer] & Scott, Kristin [cancer], Erm Hartmann, Barbara Bookser [cancer], Bob Mazzuca [cancer], Marko, Taylor, Terri Crosby-Vega [knee replacement], Christine Mohamed & family, Sue Demko, Tammy Marsico, Terry & David Hartnett, Jamie Ball, Kay Williams, Hannah Stewart, Jim Wyko—Alex's friend, Dan Losego, Lisa Bruce, Yvette, Barry Bender, Scott McDougall, Andrew Zelleznick, Byron & Cecilia Scott, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Alby Oxenreiter, Debbie—HTUCC [knee], Jackie May, Barbara Morvay, David Salsar, N&O, Randy & Adrienne Kuny, Vince Berardinelli, Mason Martin [Karns City HS QB] & family, Martin Mrvos, Jeff McCoy, Lauren & Sloane Valentina Persico, Alexis & baby Colton Rosati, Jessica Shirley, Mark [kidney cancer], Steve Milcic, Wilbert Wagner, Bob Wojciechowski, Ashley, Beth Skowvron, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Baby Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, Richard & Daniel Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brothers], and Jill Morocco. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our April babies: Robert Chicka on the 13th, Reader Alexander Popichak on the 15th, Matthew Popichak on the 18th, Kim Shirley on the 18th, and William Kuznik on the 26th. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them, their families, and friends!

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] 956-6626.

SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE

SUNDAY, April 14 OBEDNITZA—SAINT BASIL THE GREAT—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
4TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; VENERABLE JOHN CLIMACUS-JOHN OF THE
LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT; VENERABLE MARY OF EGYPT; MARTYRS
GERONCIUS & BASILIDES; RIGHTEOUS ACHAZ; VENERABLE MACARIUS-
ABBOT OF PELECETE; VENERABLE GERONTIUS-YOUTH-CONONARCH OF
PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 4

Hebrews 6:13-20; Ephesians 5:8-19

Mark 9:17-31; Matthew 4:25-5:12

Litany in Blessed Memory of Frank Pendlyshok, John Cherepko, Ollie
Pendlyshok, Stella Peanoske, Rose Lopushanski, Mary Haluszczak,
Vladimir Hanczar, Michael Brittan, Deacon Dennis Lapushansky, & Lynne
Giglione—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, April 21 OBEDNITZA—SAINT BASIL THE GREAT—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; VENERABLE MARY OF EGYPT; APOSTLES
HERODION, AGABUS, ASYNCRITUS, RUFUS, PHLEGON, & HERMES OF THE
70 & THOSE WITH THEM; MARTYR PAUSILIPPUS OF HERACLEA IN
THRACE; SAINT CELESTINE-POPE OF ROME; VENERABLE RUFUS THE
OBEDIENT OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 5

Hebrews 9:11-14; Galatians 3:23-29

Mark 1:32-45; Luke 7:36-50

SUNDAY, April 28 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM

6TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; PALM SUNDAY; ENTRY OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM; APOSTLES ARISTARCHUS, PUDENS, & TROPHIMUS OF THE 70; MARTYRS BASILISSA & ANASTASIA OF ROME; MARTYR SUCHIAS & COMPANIONS; MARTYR SABBAS THE GOTH OF BUZAU IN WALLACHIA

Tone 6

Philippians 4:4-9

John 12:1-18

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 14 APRIL 2024

4TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; VENERABLE JOHN CLIMACUS-JOHN OF THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT; VENERABLE MARY OF EGYPT; MARTYRS GERONCIUS & BASILIDES; RIGHTEOUS AHAZ; VENERABLE MACARIUS-ABBOT OF PELECETE; VENERABLE GERONTIUS-YOUTH-CONONARCH OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

TROPARION—TONE 8

O Light of Orthodoxy! Teacher of the Church! Its confirmation!
O Ideal of Monks and invincible Champion of Theologians!
O wonder-working Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and Preacher of Grace!
Always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

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

KONTAKION—TONE 4

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors!
So let us rise and fast, offering alms with tears of compunction and crying:
Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea;
But forgive us, O Master of All,
So that we may receive the incorruptible crowns.

PROKEIMENON—TONE 5

READER: Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever!

PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shall 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, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever!

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

PEOPLE: From this generation forever!

ALLELUIA VERSES

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

The righteous will be remembered forever; he is not afraid of evil things!

Thus, I must now give thanks for what seemed then to be a crying misfortune... Elder Barsanuphius of Optina

Pray

Psalm 4:1- Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. (KJV)

The Church encourages believers to increase their prayers during Great Lent. The Psalms offer proven and enduring nourishment for those seeking to pray. The Psalmist speaking from his heart has crafted prayerful messages to the Lord. Believers do well to become familiar with the Psalms when desiring to pray. The Psalms are a regular part of daily life for serious believers engaged in prayer.

Psalm 5:2- Harken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. (KJV)

Believers profess belief in Jesus Christ as King and as God at Holy Baptism. It is clearly appropriate to address Jesus as King and as God in daily prayers. The Psalmist shows the way for believers to turn to the Lord as King and as God. Sincerely crying in prayer from deep in the heart is a way to approach the Lord. The Lord determines when and how to respond to prayers from deep in the heart.

Psalm 5:3- My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. (KJV)

Patience is required from believers seeking answers from prayers to the Lord. Beginning each morning in prayer sets a good direction for the rest of the day. Faithful believers seek God's guidance by praying before each undertaking. Beginning activities with prayer keeps God's Kingdom in focus as the goal. Following the narrow path to God's Kingdom requires constant prayer. (Mt.7:13-14)

Psalm 6:9- The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer. (KJV)

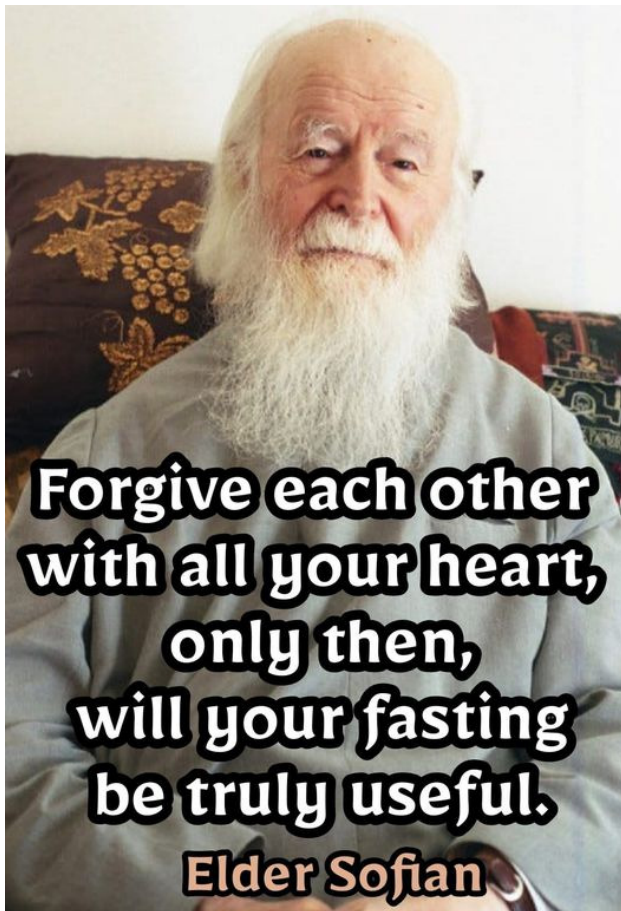
The Lord's response to prayers provides the direction for the believer to follow. Believers can expect crosses in daily life just as Jesus faced the Cross. Jesus is always within prayerful reach when crosses arise in daily life. Believers seek beneficial outcomes when facing crosses responsibly. The Lord is present to strengthen believers addressing the crosses in daily life.

Psalm 17:1- Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips. (KJV)

Effective prayer entails uniting the heart, mind, and soul in a concerted effort. Resolutely focusing the mind on the Lord is the way to ward off distractions. The Scriptures show that resolute prayer makes a beneficial difference in life. The Holy Prophets are sources of nourishment for life-changing prayer. The Holy Prophet Elijah illustrates the essential value of prayer in life. (James 5:15-17)

The Second Week of Great Lent. Venerable Benedict of Nursia. March 14/27, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

The mind that realizes it's own weakness has discovered whence it might enter upon salvation and draw near to the light of knowledge and receive true wisdom which does not pass away with this age. **St. Gregory Palamas**



5 CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

IC XC NI KA
Monogram
means "Jesus Christ conquers"
IC XC are the first and last letters of the Greek words *Ἰησοῦς Χριστός* (Jesus Christ)
NI KA comes from the Greek verb "to conquer"

⊕ BASILICA.RO

Ⲡ
Monogram
the first two letters, X and P (pronounced chi-rho), of the Greek word *Χριστός* (Christ)

+
the Holy Cross
the symbol of Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection

ΑΩ
Alpha and Omega
the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet
symbol of Christ, the beginning and end of all things

ⲓϥ
the Fish
the Greek word for "fish", *ἰχθύς*, is an acronym of the phrase: Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Saviour

The Feast of the Annunciation Luke 1:24-38

And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men. And in the sixth

month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom, there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. (KJV)

The Third Sunday of Great Lent—Veneration of the Holy Cross Mark 8:34-38, 9:1

And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. (KJV)

We gather today in God's Holy Church to celebrate the Major Feast of the Annunciation. We come to church for the benefit of our souls and to seek the Kingdom of God.

At Holy Baptism we committed our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. We choose to follow the narrow path to God's Heavenly Kingdom. During our journey we have departed from the path on too many occasions.

Repentance enables us to return to the narrow path and restores our unity with Jesus Christ. We find joy in the life in Jesus Christ that exceeds all joy. Jesus Christ offers us peace in the heart, mind, and soul.

The Feast of the Annunciation celebrates the announcement to Mary, a virgin, that she would give birth to Jesus. The birth would be possible through the action of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel is clear all things are possible with God.

Mary received God's message from the angel Gabriel with complete obedience. She established the enduring example for believers through the centuries. Mary agreed to honor the word of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ taking on human flesh for our salvation changed the world forever. Jesus' humble birth, His miracles, and teachings continue to amaze believers and inspire them.

Jesus' willingness to go to the Cross, to die, be buried, and rise from the Tomb exceeds the capacity of the human mind. Jesus offers unconquerable hope for eternal life by His defeat of death.

Each believer has died with Christ and has risen with Christ at Holy Baptism.

Each believer has been baptized under the Sign of the Cross. The Sign of the Cross is the Sign of Victory.

Today, during the Third Sunday of Great Lent, the Cross is prominently in the middle of the Church as a source of strength for believers journeying to Pascha.

Believers embracing the Cross demonstrate their love for Jesus Christ.

Christ's love for each believer was verified and manifested when He voluntarily ascended the Cross. Christ bore the shame of being tortured and crucified. He revealed He was stronger than death.

The Cross provides strength for believers embracing Christ's love and loving Christ completely. Martyrs of every century prove the value of the Cross and the love of the crucified and risen Christ.

The remaining days of Great Lent are opportunities for believers to live fully in Jesus Christ. Believers are encouraged to demonstrate their love for Christ and their love for their neighbors.

Believers are expected to continue to fast, increase daily prayers, and give alms cheerfully during the days leading to Holy Week and Pascha. God's Church freely offers the necessary nourishment for the journey to Pascha.

Mary was chosen from among all women of all the centuries to give birth to Jesus. She has carried this singular honor without blemish through the centuries.

She intercedes in behalf of believers before the Lord.

May the joy of the announcement of Jesus' birth fill our hearts, May the honor given to Mary be held dear in our hearts and minds.

May the Cross in the middle of the church benefit our souls as we continue the journey to Holy Week and Pascha.

*Feast of the Annunciation. The Third Sunday of Great Lent. Veneration of the Holy Cross. March 25/April 7, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.
Father Rodney Torbic*

Be at Peace

Job 22:21- Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. (KJV)

Believers are to be at peace with God, his or her neighbor and his or herself. Great Lent provides the opportunity for believers to repent of hurtful relationships. The opportunity exists for believers to renew and develop peaceful relationships. God's teachings, guidance and presence foster peaceful human relationships. The personal relationship with God shapes peaceful relationships in daily life.

Psalms 54/55:20- He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath broken his covenant. (KJV)

Self-examination during Great Lent identifies needed changes in relationships. Repentance and forgiveness in relationships are part of the Lenten journey. The Church encourages repentance, forgiveness and improving relationships. Dangers exist for individuals creating and facilitating hostile relationships. Being hostile toward God or others in daily life is perilous to the human soul.

Proverbs 16:7-When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him (KJV)

The Lord is fully aware of the person's innermost thoughts and motivations. The contents of the heart, mind and soul determine if relationships are peaceful. Love is the consistent and defining standard for peaceful Christian relationships. Being at peace with God, the self and each other requires constant fervent effort. The Holy Scriptures offer the guidance and nourishment for peaceful relationships.

Isaiah 42:14- I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once. (KJV)

Honoring Great Lent is a way for husbands and wives to pursue marital peace. Family peace can increase when members seriously participate in Great Lent. Open communication founded in love minimizes conflicts and promotes peace. Practicing forgiveness is essential for healthy long-term family relationships. The Lord is attentive to family members' prayers seeking peace in the home.

Jeremiah 4:19- My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. (KJV)

Feeling pain in daily relationships is the motivator to look to the Lord for help. Heeding wisdom from the Prophets spurs repentance among attentive believers. Being open to repentance is necessary for establishing daily peace with others. Renewal is required of nations, communities and families if they are to be at peace. The Church provides the definitive pathways for peace in human relationships.

*Holy Hieromartyr Basil, Presbyter of Ancyra. March 22/April 4, 2024.
Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

Father Dave Urban offers for your consideration:

**The entire Bible
explained in one Facebook post.**

This guy nails it.

Genesis

God: All right, you two, don't do the one thing.
Other than that, have fun.

Adam and Eve: OK.

Satan: You should do the thing.

Adam and Eve: OK.

God: What happened?

Adam and Eve: We did the thing.

God: Guys ...

**The rest
of the Old Testament**

God: You are my people, and you should not do
the things.

People: We won't do the things.

God: Good.

People: We did the things.

God: Guys

The Gospels

Jesus: I am the Son of God, and even though you
have done the things, the Father and I still love
you and want you to live. Don't do the things
anymore.

Healed people: OK! Thank you!

Other people: We've never seen him do the
things, but he probably does the things when
no one is looking.

Jesus: I have never done the things.

Other people: We're going to put you on trial
for doing the things.

Pilate: Did you do the things?

Jesus: No.

Pilate: He didn't do the things.

Other people: Kill him anyway.

Pilate: OK.

Jesus: Guys....

Paul's letters

People: We did the things.

Paul: Jesus still loves you, and because you love

Him, you have to stop doing the things.

People: OK.

Paul's letters, Part II

People: We did the things again.

Paul: Guys ...

The Revelation

John: When Jesus comes back, there will be no
more people who do the things. In the
meantime, stop doing the things.

The end



“Face to face, mouth to mouth, we, Orthodox Christians, converse with the Lord, Our Lady, the Holy Angels, and all the saints. This is what it means, according to Orthodox Christian custom, to pray reverently before holy icons in spirit and truth. This is why we supply them in churches and houses of worship (chapels) and in our homes. We believe in the closeness

of the Lord and His saints to us and that we are one spiritual body with them, one Church, just as there is one Head of them and ours, the Lord Jesus Christ." **+St. John of Kronstadt**

Sinners

Psalm 1:1-Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. (KJV)

Christians are expected to consciously reject and avoid sinful thoughts and actions. Persons and places that foster sinful thoughts and actions are to be firmly avoided. From the time of Holy Baptism believers are to pursue a life embracing Christ. Every believer sins intentionally or unintentionally and is to immediately repent. The Jesus Prayer fortifies believers in combating sin and in seeking Christ's mercy.

Psalm 1:5-Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous (KJV)

The Jesus Prayer keeps the believer focused on Jesus Christ and away from sin. Saying "Lord Jesus Christ Son of God have mercy on me a sinner" instills armor. Believers resolutely repel and firmly fight against sin by reciting The Jesus Prayer. Temptations and perils to the soul are readily overcome by using The Jesus Prayer. Fervently saying The Jesus Prayer is effective for cleansing and purifying the soul.

Psalm 24/25:8-Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. (KJV)

The Lord Jesus Christ unites with the believer in the recitation of The Jesus Prayer. Believers learn from the Lord Jesus Christ the way to the Heavenly Kingdom. The path to eternal life and the Heavenly Kingdom requires focus on Jesus Christ. Fervently focusing on Jesus Christ is accomplished through The Jesus Prayer. Personal relationships are well-managed through reliance on The Jesus Prayer.

Psalm 25/26:9-Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men (KJV)

Conflicts become manageable and put in perspective by use of The Jesus Prayer. The Jesus Prayer helps believers navigate perilous moments arising in daily life. Perilous temptations to become angry are overcome by using The Jesus Prayer. Believers retreating into personal prayer avoid dangerous circumstances in life. Serious prayer's value is ultimately verified in the results manifested in daily life.

Psalm 50/51:13-Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. (KJV)

God's Holy Church proclaims the benefits of fervent prayer through the centuries. Attentive believers learn from Jesus Christ to seriously pray.

(Mt.14:23, Mt.26:36. Lk. 5:16) Focused prayer enables believers to deal with life's occurring daily challenges. Jesus Christ teaches believers to repent and seek God's Heavenly Kingdom. (Mt.4:17) Joy comes by fully embracing Jesus Christ in prayer and in Holy Communion.

*Venerable Father Chariton the Confessor. Martyr Mark the Shepherd.
September 28/October 11, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father
Rodney Torbic*