



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: Father Bob, Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Metropolitan Savas, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul & Pani Judy 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 Smolynech, 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, Father 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, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Father Joe Uzar, Father Deacon James & Diakonissa Kari Rossetti, Pastor Terry Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, 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, 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, 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, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, 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, 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, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Rita & Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen,

Katherine Kulik, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—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, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, 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, the Rodrigues family, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry Tkacik, Diane & Arthur Chaklis, Denny Mader, Zoe Oswalt—Fr. Bob's cousin [cancer], Barbette [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 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 & Cindy 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, Acolyte Photios & family [Joanne, Richard, Heather, Keith, James, Debbie, James, Sophia, Zachary, Tabitha, Arqynios, Barbara, Aristotle, Alexander, Kalev, Nina, Elias, Elijah, Jessica], Richard & Daniel Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brothers], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, and Lauren S. & Dan... We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our October babies: Rachel Shirley on the 6th, Rich Previc on the 8th, Patrick Felice on the 9th, Mother Alexandria on the 11th, Henry Tkacik, Jr., on the 14th, Henry Tkacik on the 20th, Harley Katarina Frances Rahuba on the 24th, and Greg Luciw on the 27th. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy,

Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families...

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 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, October 13 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HIEROMARTYR GREGORY-BISHOP OF
GREATER ARMENIA; MARTYRS RHIPSIMA, GAIANA, & COMPANIONS OF
ARMENIA; SAINT MICHAEL-FIRST METROPOLITAN OF KIEV**

Tone 7

2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Hebrews 7:26-8:2
Luke 6:31-36; John 10:1-9

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Father Theodore Forosty, Johnathan Dorning,
Catherine Behun, Mary Medich, Daniel Chicka, Mary Evaniuk, and Stancy
Popichak—Fr. Bob***

SUNDAY, October 20

NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE

**17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS SERGIUS & BACCHUS IN SYRIA;
MARTYRS JULIAN-PRESBYTER & CAESARIUS-DEACON AT TERRACINA;
VIRGIN-MARTYR PELAGIA OF TARSUS; MARTYR POLYCHRONIUS OF
GAMPHANITUS; SAINT SERGIUS THE OBEDIENT OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Tone 8

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1
Luke 7:11-16

SUNDAY, October 27 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL
COUNCIL; MARTYR NAZARIUS, GERVASE, PROTASE, & CELSUS OF MILAN;
HIEROMARTYR SILVANUS OF GAZA; VENERABLE PARASKEVA OF
EPIBATIMA IN THRACE; SAINT MYKOLA SVIATOSHA-PRINCE OF
CHERNIHIV & WONDERWORKER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 1

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Luke 8:5-15

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 13 OCTOBER 2024
16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HIEROMARTYR GREGORY-BISHOP
OF GREATER ARMENIA; MARTYRS RHIPSIMA, GAIANA, &
COMPANIONS OF ARMENIA; SAINT MICHAEL-FIRST METROPOLITAN
OF KIEV

TROPARION—TONE 7

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death!
To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise!
For the Myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy.
And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
To proclaim that Thou art risen, granting 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 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
For Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers!
Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry:
The Savior has come to those in faith!
Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 7

READER: The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless
His people with peace!

PEOPLE: **The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall
bless His people with peace!**

READER: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the
Lord!

PEOPLE: **The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall
bless His people with peace!**

READER: The Lord shall give strength to His people!

PEOPLE: **The Lord shall bless His people with peace!**

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 7

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High!

To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night!

Taking Up One's Cross Is Essential

Matthew 10:38- And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. (KJV)

Responsibly taking up one's personal cross is essential in following Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is ever-present to help believers in taking up personal crosses. Jesus Christ is the Goal and the Constant Presence of believers following Him. The Lord Jesus Christ reassures believers of the value of taking up his or her cross. The Holy Scriptures attest to and educate believers on taking up the personal cross.

Mark 8:34-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. (KJV)

The personal cross in life may seem excessively burdensome to each believer. The weight, stress and pain associated with the personal cross can appear too great. Jesus Christ is present with the believer united with Him in faith going forward. The Lord Jesus Christ established the primary example of taking up the Cross. Believers do well to look to Jesus' example in dealing with life's personal crosses.

Luke 14:27-And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. (KJV)

Believers enter the life in Jesus Christ at Baptism under the Sign of the Cross. Christ's Cross is present during the believer's life from Baptism unto life eternal. Taking up the personal cross in life is inseparable with Christ Crucified and Risen. Believers experience new life in Jesus Christ when taking up the personal cross. Jesus Christ transforms the believer responsibly taking up his or her personal cross.

John 19:17-And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures serve to inform and guide believers about the crosses in life. Attentive believers find strength and nourishment for life in the Holy Scriptures. God's enduring love and presence are revealed and verified in the Holy Scriptures. Christ on the Cross is the irrefutable

evidence of His Divine Love for each person. Faith in the Crucified and Risen Christ is revealed in taking one's personal cross.

1 Corinthians 1:18-For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (KJV)

Believers learn and appreciate the power of God centered in the Cross of Christ. Jesus Christ revealed His power over death when He was voluntarily crucified. The Lord Jesus Christ rose from the Tomb following His crucifixion and burial. The joyous Paschal declaration "Christ is Risen" continues to renew the world! Believers taking up their crosses believe in and rejoice in the Risen Christ.

Afterfeast of Exaltation of the Precious Life-giving Cross. Holy Greatmartyr Eustatius(Placidus). September 19/October 2, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

...after having woken and washed, we should immediately stand before the Lord God with our morning prayers. And we would never dare to appear before even any of our lower-ranking earthly bosses without having dressed properly. Metropolitan Gregory (Postnikov) of St. Petersburg

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 22:35-46

Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked Him a question, tempting Him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer Him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask Him any more questions. (KJV)

Complete love for the Lord God with all the heart, mind, and soul is the expectation set forth in the current Gospel. Believers are reminded of this great commandment each year on the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

Christians benefit by continually assessing their love for the Lord. If growth in Jesus Christ is to occur, believers are to consistently take steps during earthly life to increase their love for the Lord until it is complete.

Maintaining complete love for the Lord in the heart, mind, and soul requires conscious commitment. Believers need to be vigilant to achieve complete love for the Lord. Weakened love for the Lord can occur in subtle ways unintentionally.

Peril to the believer's heart, mind, and soul always exists in the world. Threats to the heart, mind, and soul are often disguised and not readily recognized. Being completely loving of the Lord requires vigilance and keenness of mind.

Consistent nourishment from the Lord and clinging to the Lord keeps the believer firmly united and protected. Prayer and fasting and the Divine services of the Church strengthen the believer in the daily battle to fully love the Lord.

The world is full of deception, temptations, and perilous attractions that will ruin maintaining the pure life in Jesus Christ. The believer is challenged to always be careful.

The current Gospel also describes the importance of showing love for one's neighbor in the same way one loves the self. God's help is absolutely needed to ensure love for one's neighbor occurs.

When love for God fills the heart, mind, and soul, the believer realizes the value of love for one's neighbor. Love for God and love for neighbor are inseparable for the resolute Christian.

Being a resolute Christian takes work. Prayer, fasting, and attending the Divine services is work. Honoring and adhering to Jesus Christ's teachings and expectations requires serious effort.

To experience growth in Jesus Christ involves enduring effort. A believer can live many, many years from the time of baptism until departure from this life. Believers have extensive challenges as life progresses

Looking deep within the self enables believers to assess and measure the degree of love for the Lord in the heart, mind, and soul. Being honest with the self will reveal if the believer loves his or her neighbor as much as loving the self.

The Kingdom of God and eternal life are the primary goals for believers established at baptism. Daily thoughts and actions are to be directed toward seeking God's Kingdom and eternal life.

Assessing life each day determines if the believer is true to Jesus Christ's teachings. When a believer realizes love for God is not complete, and love for neighbor is less than it should be, repentance and changes are required.

Each person decides deep within the heart, mind, and soul whether complete love for God is truly desired. Each person determines for the self the degree of interest in loving his or her neighbor.

Being a lukewarm Christian denies the self of the beauty, joy, and fulness of living completely in Jesus Christ. Complete love for the Lord God and love for one's neighbor are completely free and voluntary decisions.

Great joy abounds in adhering to and following Jesus Christ's teachings. Loving God completely brings peace and joy to the heart, mind, and soul. Loving one's neighbor results in healthy and joyous relationships.

Today the Church celebrates the Conception of St John the Baptist. John the Baptist was honored to Baptize the Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan. He was blessed to know and experience Jesus Christ in the flesh.

Believers today and every century until the Second Coming experience Jesus Christ. Believers "put on Christ" at Baptism. The Lord Jesus Christ is alive in the hearts, minds, and souls of believers.

Believers experience Jesus Christ in the Holy Mysteries of the Church. In the Divine Liturgy, believers partake of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ. On this Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Jesus Christ is in our midst.

Today is the day to love God completely with heart, mind, and soul. Now is the time to love one's neighbor. Enter into the joy of the Lord through loving God and neighbor.

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Conception of the Glorious Prophet and Baptist John. September 23/October 6, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

A man who is wrathful with us is a sick man; we must apply a plaster to his heart—love; we must treat him kindly, speak to him gently, lovingly. And if there is not deeply-rooted malice against us within him, but only a temporary fit of anger, you will see how his heart, or his malice, will melt away through; your kindness and love—how good will conquer evil. *Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ p.117*

Resolute Faith Expected

1 Peter 1:5-Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (KJV)

Resolute faith is expected of believers as made clear in Apostle Peter's message. Believers encounter trials in earthly life and are to address them through faith. Faith placed in the Resurrected Lord serves the believer in difficult circumstances. Hope increases when faith remains resolute and becomes realized with God's help. The heart, mind and soul act in unison

with resolute faith in the Resurrected Christ. Resolute faith in the Resurrected Lord yields benefits to the heart, mind and soul.

1 Peter 1:7-That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (KJV)

The Resurrected Lord knows the full depth of faith exercised by the believer. God responds to the believer's resolute faith in traveling the path to the Kingdom. The Lord is aware of the believer's need for strength to endure the trials of life. The trials of faith reveal the essence of the believer's resolute faith in the Lord. Believers acting in resolute faith are unyielding in the face of life's adversities. Resolute believers maintain full confidence in the ways of the Resurrected Lord.

1 Peter 1:9-Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. (KJV)

God does not disappoint honorably motivated believers acting in resolute faith. The believer's soul is of utmost importance and is always to be protected. Hope and love combine with faith in guiding the actions of the resolute believer. Salvation of the soul is a life-long journey of faith until the very last breath. The Holy Scriptures provide ample lessons in resolute faith to guide the believer. Lessons of faith have been guiding lights for the attentive believer for centuries.

1 Peter 1:21-Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. (KJV)

Believers do well to turn to the Scriptures for strengthening personal faith. The saints and martyrs through the centuries validate the value of resolute faith. Believers mature in the life in Jesus Christ through the practice of resolute faith. Jesus' abiding presence is manifested to believers acting in resolute faith. Christ reassures believers of the soundness of resolute faith in following Him. The Resurrected Lord grants joy in the heart, mind and soul to the resolute in faith.

Afterfeast of the Transfiguration. St. Emilian the Confessor. Venerable Zosimas of Tuman; Venerable Jakav. August 8/21, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

If you sweep the floor once, twice, or three times, God will write it down. As much as you can, you will wash a few dishes, a few clothes, and God will record it. Gerondissa Makrina (Vassopoulou), Words of the Heart p.514

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Mt.21:33-42

Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? (KJV)

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Precious Cross John 3:13-17

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (KJV)

Yesterday God's Holy Church celebrated the Nativity of the Mother of God. This celebration of Mary's Nativity continues in the Church until Wednesday. Believers benefit by reflecting deeply on the birth of the Mother of God.

The birth of the Mother of God set in motion the events leading to the birth of the Christ Child. Believers enrich their lives when considering how highly honored the Mother of God is to be chosen from all women of all centuries.

The Virgin Mary was honored to give birth to the Christ-Child. She has a lasting presence in God's Holy Church. The Mother of God is ever accessible to believers in prayer. Miracles continue to be attributed to her.

There is a place for the Mother of God in the hearts and minds of all believers. Being conscious of the Mother of God enables believers to focus on her purity and the importance of purity in daily life.

The Mother of God is a fervent intercessor before the Lord for believers turning to her in prayer. Wise believers cherish their relationship with the Mother of God and keep her firmly in mind.

Today also is the Sunday before the Elevation of the Precious Life-giving Cross. The Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Life-giving Cross will be celebrated this coming Friday.

The Lord Jesus Christ's love for each person of each century was verified and validated when He voluntarily ascended the Cross. St. John's Gospel for today states believers in Jesus Christ experience eternal life.

God's Kingdom and eternal life are goals for believers established at Holy Baptism. Every thought and action in daily life are to be measured, weighed, and considered as they apply to the goals of seeking the Kingdom and eternal life.

The world is filled with peril and confusion. Distortions, lies, and violence abound. The threat of war exists in several areas. Jesus Christ provides vision, certainty, and direction in the midst of today's uncertain world.

Jesus Christ offers hope. He offers eternal life. Believers are challenged to be resolute in focusing on Christ and following the narrow path to the Kingdom. Firmness of mind and intentions are necessary to navigate life's daily perils.

The Church brings the Gospel to believers throughout the year. The Gospel nourishes and strengthens believers in the journey from the baptismal font to the Kingdom of God. Each person chooses the degree to take the Gospel to heart.

The length of life's journey is uncertain. Jesus Christ provides certainty throughout life for the focused heart, mind, and soul. Jesus Christ defeated death. Jesus Christ is the Light in the darkest moments of life.

Mary, the Mother of God, had the immeasurable joy to be the Birth-giver of the Christ-Child. She experienced the pain of seeing Jesus on the Cross, She was blessed to know the joy of Jesus' defeat of death and His Resurrection.

The Divine Liturgy today is a celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. Each Divine Liturgy is a time of great hope and joy. The Divine Liturgy is a certain preparation as the Church moves toward Jesus Christ's Second Coming.

Believers remaining vigilant and focused experience Christ's reassuring presence in the journey to the Kingdom. Jesus Christ's presence is manifested for believers with eyes to see.

The Cross is the sign of ultimate victory over death. The Cross revealed Jesus' power over death. Jesus' victory over death gives believers indomitable reason to cling to Jesus Christ and follow Him throughout life.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God whose Nativity is being celebrated at this time, may we focus on the power of the Life-giving Cross and Christ's Victory over death all the days of our lives.

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Mother of God. Sunday before the Elevation of the Precious Cross. Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna. Holy Martyr Severian. September 9/22,2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic