



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

714 Westmoreland Avenue  
PO Box 3  
Slickville, PA 15684-0003  
[www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org)  
Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor  
23 Station Street  
Carnegie, PA 15106-3014  
[412] 956-6626 cell  
[rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu](mailto:rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu)

**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 Yurij, 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 & Dan... We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.*

**Geronda, why is devoutness so hard to find nowadays? - Because people have stopped living spiritually. They interpret everything using worldly reasoning and banish divine Grace. In the past people were so devout! Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Counsels Vol. II Spiritual Awakening p.160**

**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 20**

**NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE**

**17<sup>TH</sup> 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**

**18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> 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

**SUNDAY, November 03 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM**

**19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT HILARION THE GREAT OF PALESTINE;  
MARTYRS DASIUS, GAIUS, & ZOTICUS AT NICOMEDIA; VENERABLE  
HILARION OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

*Tone 2*

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

Luke 16:19-31

*Litany in Blessed Memory of John Lopushanski, Samuel Kerr, Helen Likar, Harry  
Bunio, Mary Pekich, Constantine Hanczar, Anna Lotinsky, & Julia  
Golofski—Fr. Bob*

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 20 OCTOBER 2024**

### **NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE**

**17<sup>TH</sup> 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**

#### **TROPARION—TONE 8**

Thou didst descent from on high, O Merciful One!  
Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings!  
Our Lord, our Life and Resurrection, Glory to Thee!

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

#### **KONTAKION—TONE 8**

By rising from the tomb,  
Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.  
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,  
And the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead,  
O greatly Merciful One!

#### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 8**

**READER:** Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

**PEOPLE:** Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

**READER:** In Judah, God is known; His name is great in Israel!

**PEOPLE:** Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

**READER:** Pray and make your vows.

**PEOPLE:** Before the Lord our God!

#### **ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 8**

Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with psalms.



**“We should go to the Liturgy even if we stand there like logs. Someone might say: ‘I’m not what I should be, I don’t understand anything there, I can’t concentrate.’ But go as you are. An elder says: ‘When you enter a perfumery and then leave, your clothes will smell nice, even if you didn’t want them to, even if you didn’t buy anything.’ He says the same thing happens when you go to the Liturgy.**

**Maybe you couldn’t do anything spiritual, but it’s already something that you went, that you stood there like a log. So tell yourself: ‘I am going as I am—an unpolished log. Because God can work with an unpolished log.’ And if you don’t go because you say, ‘I can’t concentrate,’ things will get worse and worse, and you will never improve.”**

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost** Matthew 25:14-30

*For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (KJV)*

Each person is given gifts and talents from the Lord God. Each person has the freedom to use the gifts and talents as they choose. Using gifts and talents in ways pleasing to the Lord increases their value.

Two of the servants in the current Gospel made wise of their talents and multiplied their worth. The servant of the five talents earned five more. The servant receiving two talents doubled its worth to four.

The servant with the single talent buried his talent. No additional worth was added. Each person determines in life if they will increase the value of talents given by God.

Gratitude to God is demonstrated by the way the gifts and talents of life are used. A person using gifts and talents of life to benefit their family, friends and community increases the values of talents received.

A person with the attitude of the servant with one talent in the Gospel will bury his or her talent. Failing to make good use of talents from God reflects a lack of honor and gratitude.

The Church proclaims this Gospel for believers to assess the personal use of talents and gifts. Believers are responsible for making wise and beneficial use of the gifts and talents of life.

In the old state penitentiary on North Side, Pittsburgh, the staff dining room was adorned with a beautiful mural of the city of Pittsburgh covering all four walls. My understanding was the mural was painted by an inmate.

I admired the mural and thought the inmate would have made a good iconographer capable of painting frescoes in churches. The inmate's talent was hidden from a much wider audience.

The inmate with artistic talent had his talent buried behind the penitentiary walls. Too many people bury their talents in the ground and limit the value they could provide to themselves and others.

God's gifts to each person when used wisely increase in value and multiply in benefit. Good cooks making use of their gifts and talents bring joy to many diners.

Good teachers enrich the lives of their students.

Good mechanics make their customers happy. Nurses that take their work seriously enrich the lives of their patients. Believers recognizing their lives, skills and gifts come from God manage them in ways pleasing to God.

Parents grateful to God for having children love their children abundantly. The parental love will be reflected in the way the children grow and mature. God's Holy Church wants believers to take this Gospel message seriously.

God gives us the time and talents of life. Each person decides whether to invest the time and talents of life in the Kingdom of God. The way a person lives and uses his or her talents determines if the investment is in God's Kingdom.

Each person will face the Lord at the Great and Final Judgment. Each person will answer for the way he or she used the gifts and talents of life. At the final judgement, the Lord will determine if the person will enter the joy of the Kingdom.



Tomorrow God's Holy Church celebrates the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. We learn from the life of the Mother of God the way to live in purity and to love and honor the Lord.

We learn from the Mother of God the joy of being obedient. Now is the time to use life's gifts and talents in ways pleasing to the Lord. May our talents be multiplied in gratitude to God and in benefit others.

*The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Hieromartyr Gregory of Armenia. St. Michael, First Metropolitan of Kiev. September 30/October 13, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

**Sincere works of compassion cleanse the human heart from all sinful uncleanness, and those who have pure hearts are blessed because they will see God with their heart, as with a spiritual eye. Those who see God strive to emulate Him, to be like a son to Him Who united man with God, who brought peace to the human soul. They hate strife, and so become peacemakers, desiring to bring peace wherever they are. Archbishop Averky (Taushev), The Four Gospels: Commentary on the Holy Scriptures of the New Testament p.63**

### **To Judge Not**

***Matthew 7:1- Judge not, that ye be not judged. (KJV)***

With the help of and faith in Jesus Christ, believers live without judging others. Jesus Christ established the expectation to not judge others as being achievable. Immersing the self in Jesus Christ enables the believer to become non-judgmental. Occurrences in daily life are challenging and will tempt a believer to judge others. Judging others is a common occurrence but conflicts with Jesus' teachings. The Lord Jesus Christ spoke against judging others in the Sermon on the Mount. Wise believers utilize the Holy Scriptures to be strengthened in Christ's teachings.

***Luke 6:37- Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: (KJV)***

The Holy Scriptures set forth the known words of Jesus for believers to follow. The Scriptures nourish and enrich believers' lives for every day of earthly life. Believers heeding the Scriptures utilize them in journeying to God's Kingdom. The heart, mind and soul are nourished and enriched when the Scriptures are valued. The Lord Jesus Christ's teachings light the path to God's Kingdom and eternal life. Daily life continues to be enriched when believers have healthy relationships.

***Romans 14:13- Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling-block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. (KJV)***

Jesus Christ's teachings describe and define the expectations for daily relationships. Believers benefit by evaluating relationships to ensure they are God-pleasing. Deeply valuing Jesus' teachings is necessary not to judge others in daily life. Adhering to Christ's teachings results in the development of healthy relationships. Believers using Christ's teachings as the basis for relationships experience great joy. Refraining from judging others enables believers to see the good in human beings.

***James 4:11- Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. (KJV)***

Recognizing the presence of God in each person fosters healthier relationships. The hunger in the soul yearns for healthy and fulfilling personal relationships. Relationships founded in the teachings of Jesus Christ grow in a healthy fashion. The potential for enduring relationships based in Jesus Christ is unlimited. People working together with the love of Jesus Christ reflect indomitable unity. God's Holy Church is where to realize the indomitable relationships in Christ.

*Rest of the Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian. September 26/October 9, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



**Love is God. If you love God, God dwelleth in you, and you in God. Malice is the Devil. The instant you begin to feel malice against your neighbour, the Devil is in you, entering into you like a needle, and endeavouring to become a mountain within you, so greatly does he spread, and so heavy is he! *Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ p.508***

**Kindness, Compassion and Hospitality**

***Matthew 5:42-Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. (KJV)***

Being kind and hospitable is a real way to the serve the Lord God in active love. Humans are created in the image and likeness of God and worthy of respect (Gen. 1:26) Believers have multiple opportunities in a lifetime to be kind and hospitable. Parish churches have constant opportunities to demonstrate hospitality to strangers. Caring for and being hospitable to strangers is related to caring for Christ. (Mt. 25;31-46)

***Mark 9:41- For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward. (KJV)***

The Holy Scriptures include numerous references to kindness and hospitality. Believers learn and witness in God's Holy Church the practice of being hospitable. Individuals are welcomed into parish churches seeking the salvation of their souls. God's love is manifested through the acts of caring parishioners to new visitors. Healthy parishes establish a strong reputation of being hospitable to strangers.

***2 Corinthians 9:7- Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (KJV)***

The Lord God knows the thinking and motivation active in each human heart. The actions of a believer grow out of the content in the individual human heart. Acts of genuine compassion stem from the love present and nourished in the heart. God opens the hearts of compassionate believers to address needs that arise. Communities come together and demonstrate residual love in times of tragedies.

***Galatians 3:28- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (KJV)***

Jesus Christ is the bond bringing believers together to act in times of great need. Resources become available and are multiplied through the power of Jesus Christ. Active prayer unleashes forces hitherto latent and previously not considered. The effective power of prayer has been well-described and readily documented. Readers of the Holy Scriptures find examples of the documented value of prayer.

***Hebrews 13:2-Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (KJV)***

The Lord God is well-aware when believers act out of genuine love toward others. Interactions formed out of love for the Lord multiply in benefits for those involved. Believers acting out of love and compassion ignite love in human relationships. Kindness, compassion, and hospitality can be expressed by actions without words. Being helpful to strangers can have greater results than ever was anticipated.

*Transfer of the Relics of Archdeacon Stephen. August 2/16, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*



**We call the Lord our God, but in reality we have our own gods. That is why we do not do the will of God, but we submit to the will and desires of our flesh, our heart, our passions. Our gods are our flesh, amusements, money, and vanities. - St. John of Kronstadt**