



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 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 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, 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 & Lisa 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, Gene Blair [Pani Gina's dad], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, 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, 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, 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, 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 Scharba [Metropolitan Antony's brother], George Lawrence, Edie McGrath, Samantha Lopez, Bob [cancer], Syble Elliott, Maria Ancevski, Krystyna, John, & Jeffrey, Dottie & family, Bonny Diver & Ashley Smock, Steve, Jill Morocco, Peter Popichak [Father Bob's cousin], Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Nicholas & Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], and Lauren & Dan... We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

**When someone stops facing things in a worldly manner, he finds himself at ease. *Saint Paisios of Mount Athos, Spiritual Councils IV: Family Life p.289***

**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, March 02      OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS    10:30 AM  
36<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; CHEESEFARE SUNDAY; FORGIVENESS  
SUNDAY; GREAT-MARTYR THEODORE THE TYRO; SAINT MARIAMNE-  
SISTER OF APOSTLE PHILIP; UNCOVERING THE RELICS OF MARTYR  
MENAS THE MELODIUS OF ALEXANDRIA; SAINT THEODORE THE SILENT  
OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

*Tone 3*

Romans 13:11-14:4

Matthew 6:14-21

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Mary Smith, John Metrick, Andrew Hanczar, Anna Lawrence, Daria Masur, Michael Cicio, Charles Shumsky, Terry Reinhart, Jean Stutchell, Joseph Vangrin, Frank Riznow, & Michael Holupka, Doris Stoll—[Father Paul's mother]—Fr. Bob***

***Monday, March 03***

***Great Lent—the Great Fast—Begins***

**SUNDAY, March 09      OBEDNITZA—SAINT BASIL THE GREAT—UPSTAIRS    10:30 AM**



**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY; TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY; ALL VENERABLE FATHERS; 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> FINDING OF THE HEAD OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST; SAINT ERASMUS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

***Tone 4***

***Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2; 2 Corinthians 4:6-15***

***John 1:43-51; Matthew 11:2-15***

**SUNDAY, March 16      OBEDNITZA—SAINT BASIL THE GREAT—UPSTAIRS      10:30 AM**

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS-ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONICA; SYNAXIS OF THE VENERABLE FATHERS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; MARTYRS EUTROPIUS, CLEONICUS, & BASILICUS; SAINT PIAMA-VIRGIN, SAINTS ZENO & ZOILUS**

***Tone 5***

***Hebrews 1:10-2:3; Hebrews 7:26-8:2; Galatians 5:22-6:2***

***Mark 2:1-12; John 10:9-16; Luke 6:17-23***

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 02 MARCH 2025**

**36<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; CHEESEFARE SUNDAY; FORGIVENESS SUNDAY; GREAT-MARTYR THEODORE THE TYRO; SAINT MARIAMNE-SISTER OF APOSTLE PHILIP; UNCOVERING THE RELICS OF MARTYR MENAS THE MELODIUS OF ALEXANDRIA; SAINT THEODORE THE SILENT OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

### **TROPARION—TONE 3**

Let the Heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!  
He has trampled down death by death!  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
And has granted the world great mercy!

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

### **KONTAKION—TONE 1**

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory,  
All things shall tremble  
And the river of fire shall flow before Thy Judgment Seat;  
The Books shall be opened and the hidden things disclosed;  
Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire  
And make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge.

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

### **KONTAKION—TONE 3**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One!  
Leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
With the prophets and patriarchs  
They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

**PROKEIMENON—TONE 3**

**READER:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King,  
sing praises!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our  
King, sing praises!**

**READER:** Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of  
joy!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our  
King, sing praises!**

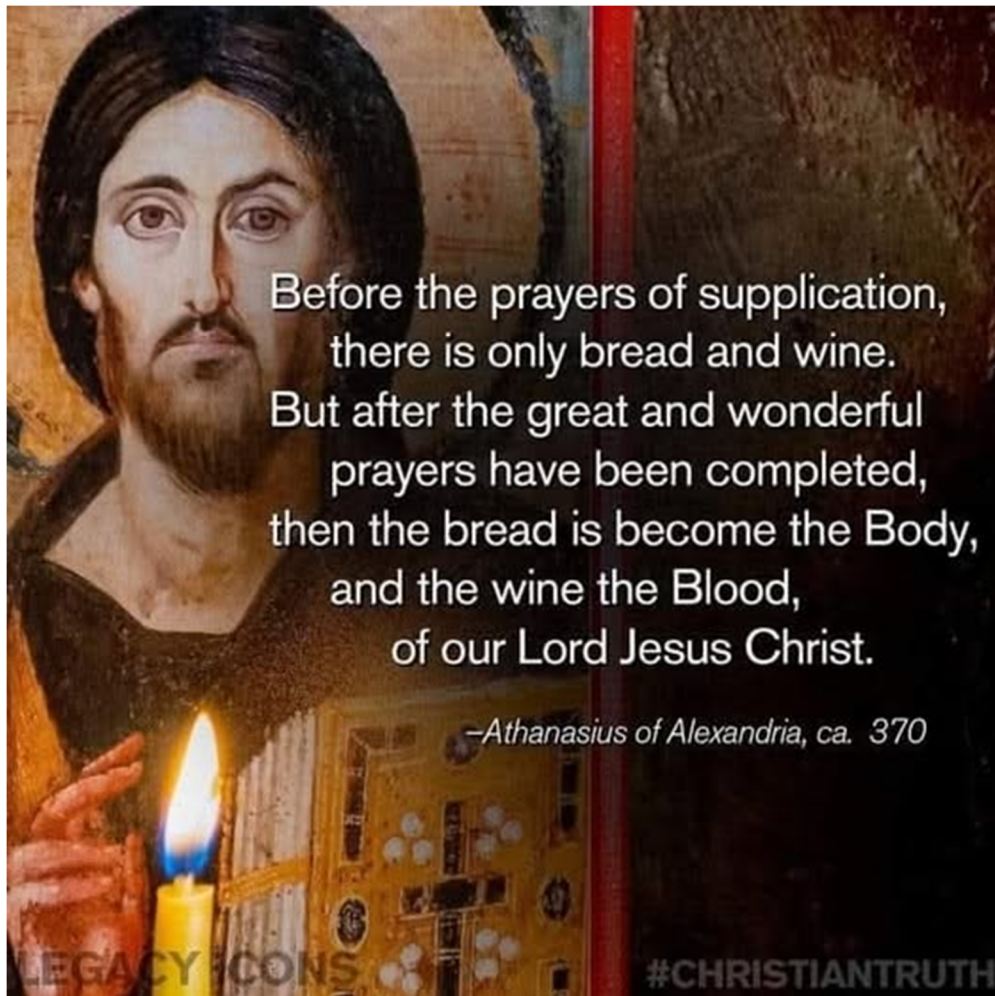
**READER:** Sing praises to our God, sing praises!

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

**ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 3**

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!

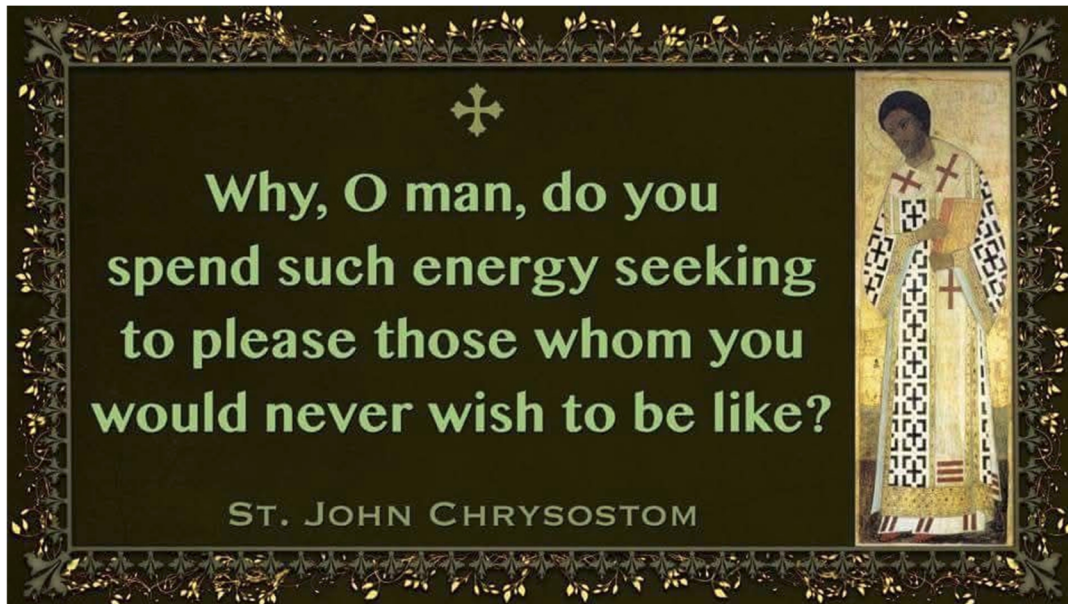


Before the prayers of supplication,  
there is only bread and wine.  
But after the great and wonderful  
prayers have been completed,  
then the bread is become the Body,  
and the wine the Blood,  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—Athanasius of Alexandria, ca. 370

**For certain success in the invisible battle with the lords of the air, with evil spirits and dark forces one needs armor, given to us by faith and by the power of Christ. *St. Ignatius (Brianchaninov), Bishop of the Caucasus and the Black Sea, Harbor for Our Hope: On Acquiring Peace Amidst Suffering p.30***

**Thus, out of desire to humble himself, he always sees himself in his own mind as a useless servant, extraneous to the rank he holds. We too should do the same, fleeing all honour and glory in the overflowing richness of our love for the Lord who loves us so greatly. *St. Diadochus, bishop of Photike in Epirus, Philokalia, Vol. 1 p.256***



### **Holiness**

***Romans 6:22-But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. (KJV)***

Christians are expected to seriously live in ways pleasing to the Lord God. The Holy Apostle Paul has set forth holiness as it applies to the Christian life. Holiness involves the constant care of the soul including firm repudiation of sin. Repentance throughout earthly life until the last breath is necessary for holiness. Daily choices and decisions determine the state of the life in Jesus Christ.

***2 Corinthians 7:1-Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (KJV)***

Living fully in Jesus Christ requires resolute actions by the dedicated believer. Jesus Christ is ever present to nourish, guide and cleanse the heart-felt believer. Serious self-examination with due honesty enables addressing personal sinfulness. Apostle Paul makes clear believers are required to act toward perfecting holiness. Believers decide each moment of each day whether to live in ways pleasing Christ.

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

Looking to God in all seriousness believers learn life's ultimate possibilities. The Lord God enables faithful believers to achieve life's promising possibilities. The lives of the saints and martyrs teach the paths to holiness in the Lord God. The heart, mind and soul work together in achieving the believer's goals in life. To overcome and be cleansed of sin, the believer must seriously turn to God.



***I Thessalonians 4:7-For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. (KJV)***

God's Holy Church provides the structure and teachings to effectively combat sin. Each person's choices, decisions and actions reflect the reply to the call to holiness. God's call to holiness contrasts greatly with the many different calls in the world. Temptations and perils in the world must be avoided on the path to holiness. With the Lord God's help, believers can respond well to the call to holiness.

***Hebrews 12:14- Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: (KJV)***

Each person determines the degree of adherence to following peace and holiness. Abundant are the many choices believers face during the days of earthly life. The world offers numerous different paths and choices for individuals to follow. Following the Lord God's path to holiness involves exercising wise choices. Experiencing the Lord in peace and holiness is the result of sound choices.

*Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord. St. Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus, Venerable Luke of Hellas. February 7/20, 2025. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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**“Do not foster hatred for the sinner, for we are all guilty... Hate his sins, and pray for him, so that you may be made like unto Christ, who had no dislike for sinners, but prayed for them.”**

*- St Isaac the Syrian -*

throughthegraceofgod.wordpress.com

**You may depend upon it that you are sent just as many opportunities for obedience as you need, and the very kind that are most suitable for you. But if you notice that you have let an opportunity slip by, reproach yourself; you have been like a sailor who has let a favorable wind go by unused. *Tito Colliander, Way of the Ascetics p.45***



### † Orthodox Sign of the Cross

We place our **thumb and first two fingers together in a point**, and our last **two fingers flat against our palm**. The **three fingers together** represent the **Holy Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit**, and the **two fingers in the palm** represent the **two natures of Christ**.

† We touch our forehead, then our belly, tracing the vertical part of the cross.

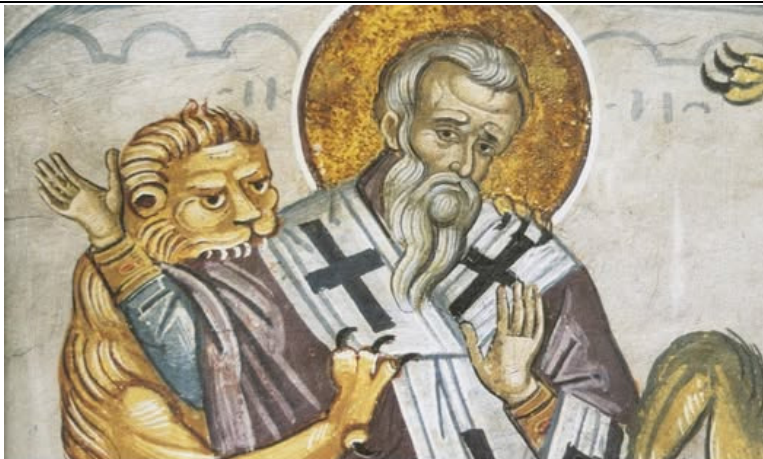
† From our belly, we bring our hand up to our **right shoulder**, touching it.

† We finish placing the cross on ourselves by touching our **left shoulder**.

The act of "Placing the cross on oneself" is a request for a blessing from **God**. We make the sign of the cross from **right to left** to **mirror the actions of the priest** when he blesses us. The **priest**, looking at the parishioners, **blesses from left to right**. Therefore, the parishioners, place the sign of the cross on themselves, from **right to left**.

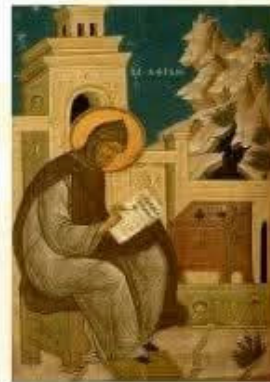


**The God-man made Love the essence and the method of the knowledge of God and of the knowledge of man. This is the main creative power of which the New Testament is composed. The mystery of the marvelous Person of Christ lies within love.**  
**Venerable Justin (Popovic) of Chelije in Serbia, Orthodox Faith and Life in Christ p.206**



**It is right, therefore, that we not just be called Christians, but that we actually be Christians.**

**St. Ignatius of Antioch**



**“O Lord and Master of my life,  
Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair,  
lust of power and idle talk;**

**But give rather the spirit of chastity,  
humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.**

**Yea, O Lord and King,  
grant me to see my own transgressions  
and not to judge my brother, for blessed  
art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.”**

**Let no one out of laziness or continuous worldly occupations miss these holy Sunday gatherings, which God Himself handed down to us, lest he be justly abandoned by God... If you are detained and do not attend on one occasion, make up for it the next time, bringing yourself to Christ's Church. Otherwise you may remain uncured, suffering from unbelief in your soul because of deeds or words, and failing to approach Christ's surgery to receive...holy healing. St. Gregory Palamas**

**The Sunday of the Last Judgment Matthew 25:31-46**

*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on*

*his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (KJV)*

For many years the present Gospel was my favorite. The imprisoned did not always receive much attention. Other than the Gospel being read, parishes for years did not give much attention to prisoners.

For nearly three decades, I was dealing with incarcerated individuals. It was and always is comforting to know the Lord Jesus Christ is identified with the imprisoned.

Orthodox parishes in America are now giving greater attention to the imprisoned. More parishes are reaching out to the jails and prisoners located near them. Prison ministry programs are getting attention in seminaries.

The way the imprisoned are treated affects how they behave while incarcerated and when and if released. Each human being, including the imprisoned, is created in the image and likeness of God. (Gen.1:27, Gen.5:1)

The imprisoned have families. Prisoners' families are affected by their incarceration. Families of the imprisoned are affected by how they are treated in parishes.

Correctional officers in jails and prisons do important work. Jail and prison work is very stressful. The Church offers nourishment and hope to counter the daily stress for staff working with the incarcerated.

Crime victims benefit from the healing that is possible in parish churches. Being a crime victim is traumatic and has lasting effects. The parish church can go a long way in healing victims.

Today's Gospel is about basic Christian love. The way each person is treated is a treatment of Jesus Christ. Prisoners, their families, crime victims, and correctional staff benefit from God's Holy Church.

We all experience poverty in the way we lead our Christian lives. We are all prisoners of sin more often than we realize. Our souls seriously hunger for the nourishment found in Jesus Christ.

We are exposed to the corrosive elements of the world. We benefit from the protective garments available in the Church. We all thirst for the Living Water coming from the Lord Jesus Christ.

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns at the Great and Glorious Second Coming, we all will stand before Him. We will answer for our relationships with each person in each day of our lives.

Our thoughts and our actions are known to the Lord God. Our thoughts and our actions manifest themselves in our daily relationships. Jesus Christ will weigh how we have related with Him in each person we meet.

Today's Gospel requires serious attention. Being a Christian involves the great responsibility of living in ways pleasing to the Lord Jesus Christ. We take on the responsibility to follow Jesus Christ at Baptism.

Believers are to be fully attentive and considerate in their personal daily relationships. Personal attitudes, thoughts, and actions factor into the Great and Last Judgment. Jesus Christ will weigh and evaluate them.

Repentance is possible and beneficial throughout life. God is good and merciful when the believer seeks to repent and repudiate ill thoughts or errors in relationships. The time to repent is before the Last Judgment.

God's forgiveness is a model for personal forgiveness. The heart, mind and soul filled with Jesus Christ manifests Christ's love and love for Christ in each person.

Great Lent is on the horizon. The time is at hand to ready the self for the life-renewing journey. Prepare to enter Great Lent with joy. Seek God's Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life each day.

May the personal relationships of earthly life be consistent with Christ's teachings in the Gospel. May the standards embraced in our hearts, minds and souls be those of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Meat-fare Sunday, The Sunday of the Last Judgment. Holy Hieromartyr Harlambos. February 10/23, 2025. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania, Father Rodney Torbic*