



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: 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 Smolynech, Father Lawrence Daniels, Father Joe & Protinica Linda Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Father Vasyly 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 Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaugenhaupt, Louis & 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, Susan & Greg Heinen & Jeannie, 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], Barbetta [cancer] & Scott, Kristin[cancer], Erm Hartmann, Barbara Bookser [cancer], Bob Mazzuca [cancer], Marko, Taylor, Terri Crosby-Vega, 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, Kathy, Brian, & Heather Simpson, 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, Mike Pelino, Maddie Stewart, Hutchinson Family, David Urban, Vicky Moore, Casi [cancer], Ashley & Andy, Marion Mamula, Dominic [cancer], Diane Hughes, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... 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 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, April 06 OBEDNITZA—SAINT BASIL THE GREAT—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT MARY OF EGYPT & SAINT ZOSIMOS;
FOREFEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION; VENERABLE ZACHARIAS THE
RECLUSE OF EGYPT; SAINT ARTEMON-BISHOP OF SELEUCIA; VENERABLE
JAMES THE CONFESSOR-BISHOP OF CATANIA; VENERABLE ZACHARIAH-
FASTER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 8

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

Mark 10:32-45; Luke 7:36-50

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 13 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
6TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; PALM SUNDAY-ENTRANCE OF THE LORD INTO
JERUSALEM; SAINT HYPATIUS THE WONDERWORKER-BISHOP OF

**GANGRA; VENERABLE APOLLONIUS-ASCETIC OF THE THEBAID; MARTYRS
ABDAS-BISHOP & BENJAMIN-DEACON OF PERSIA; VENERABLE HYPATIUS
THE HEALER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Philippians 4:4-9
John 12:1-18

WEDNESDAY, April 16 UNCTION—UPSTAIRS 6:30 PM

FRIDAY, April 18 PLASCHENYTSIA—UPSTAIRS 6:30 PM

**SUNDAY, April 20 PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
PASCHA—RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

Acts 1:1-8
John 1:1-17

*******BLESSING OF BASKETS AND PASCHAL FOODS DOWNSTAIRS AFTER
LITURGY*******

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 06 APRIL 2025

**5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT MARY OF EGYPT & SAINT ZOSIMOS;
FOREFEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION; VENERABLE ZACHARIAS THE
RECLUSE OF EGYPT; SAINT ARTEMON-BISHOP OF SELEUCIA; VENERABLE
JAMES THE CONFESSOR-BISHOP OF CATANIA; VENERABLE ZACHARIAH-
FASTER OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

TROPARION—TONE 8

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother,
For you took up the Cross and followed Christ.
By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away;
But to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal.
Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

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

KONTAKION—TONE 3

Having been a sinful woman, you became through repentance a Bride of
Christ.
Having attained angelic life, you defeated demons with the weapon of the
Cross!
Therefore, O most glorious Mary, you are a Bride of the Kingdom!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 4

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on
Thee.

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

READER: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

READER: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel!

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

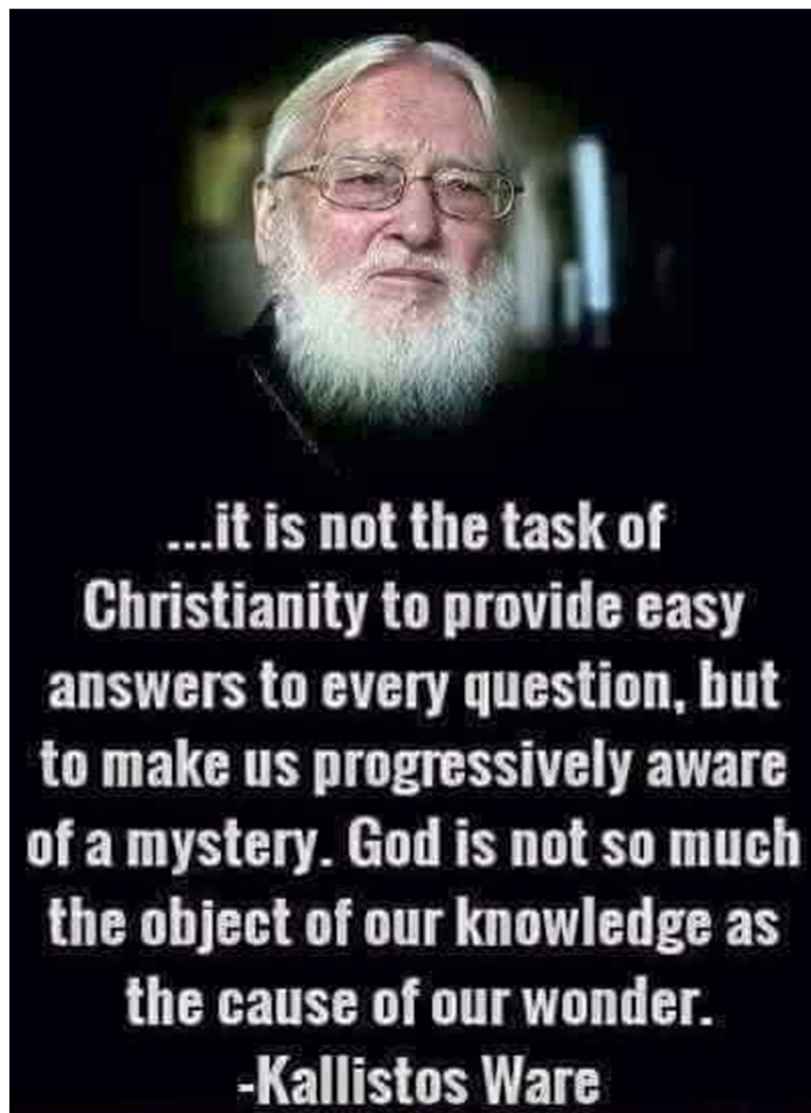
READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

PEOPLE: As we have set our hope on Thee.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 1

God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.

He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever!



The word "humility" comes from the Latin word 'humus' which means fertile ground. To me, humility is not what we often make of it: the sheepish way of trying to imagine that we are the worst of all and trying to convince others that our artificial ways of behaving show that we are aware of that. Humility is the situation of the earth. The earth is always there, always taken for granted, never remembered, always trodden on by everyone, somewhere we cast and pour out all the refuse, all we don't need. It's there, silent and accepting everything and in a miraculous way making out of all the refuse new richness in spite of corruption, transforming corruption itself into a power of life and a new possibility of creativeness, open to the sunshine, open to the rain, ready to receive any seed we sow and capable of bring thirtyfold, sixtyfold, a hundredfold out of every seed... Learn to be like this before God; abandoned, surrendered, ready to receive anything from people and anything from God... This is the weakness in which God can manifest His power and this is the situation in which the absence of God can become the presence of God. We cannot capture God. But whenever we stand outside the realm of 'right', only in the realm of mercy, we can meet God. *Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom), "Beginning to Pray"*

**"For Thy servant Thy grace has become a refuge, strength, a defense, ennoblement, praise, and food for the whole of his life."
*Saint Ephraim the Syrian***



Nothing will divide the
church so much as the love
of power.

St. John Chrysostom

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)

God's Holy Church has come to the Third Sunday of Great Lent. The intensity of Great Lent increases with each day of the journey. Believers participating in the Lenten journey will seriously make the effort to grow in Christ.

Each believer is to complete the Lenten journey in greater conformity with the ways and teaching of Jesus Christ. The Lenten journey is beneficial when the believer seriously repents of sin and unites completely with Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ's Cross stands in the middle of the church as the reminder of Christ's great love. The Cross offers strength and direction for believers for the remainder of the Lenten journey.

The Cross points in anticipation to the ultimate joy of the celebration of Jesus Christ's Resurrection. The Cross offers hope when darkness exists in life. The Cross stands for triumph when believers feel at a loss in life.

Jesus Christ being nailed to the Cross seemed to be a great ending point. The Cross revealed the ultimate truth about Jesus Christ. Death could not contain Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ triumphed over death.

The Lenten journey and Holy Week offer the highest levels of education. Great Lent and Holy Week offers inexhaustible learning for attentive believers. Attentive believers find authentic nourishment for the soul during this time in the Church.

The Church's Divine services provide instructional value of the highest order. No university degree equals the life-transforming and renewing experience coming from repentance and complete unity with Jesus Christ.

Repentance and unity with Christ transform believers of all educational levels. Great Lent fosters repentance and unity with Christ. Believers journey through Great Lent to Holy Week and the ultimate celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

The remaining three weeks of Great Lent and Holy Week will enrich and change the lives of believers seriously embracing life in the Church. Jesus Christ's love abounds in the Church at every moment.

Jesus Christ is present at every moment of life. Great Lent heightens awareness of Jesus' presence at all times. If Jesus feels distant in personal life, serious self-examination will reveal if the believer has moved away from Christ.

Great Lent is the annual call for believers to reunite fully with Jesus Christ. Great Lent is the time to actively repent of sins and to reject aspects of life having nothing to do with Jesus Christ.

The Gospel for today encourages believers to deny the self for the betterment of the life in Christ. The Gospel instructs believers to freely and fully confess Jesus Christ in daily living.

The world has temptations and attractions to draw the believer away from Jesus Christ. Evil exists to tarnish the souls of believers. Temptations and attractions perilous to the soul abound.

Great Lent is the time for increased vigilance and resoluteness to remain on the narrow path to God's Kingdom. Each day is an opportunity to invest in treasures in heaven and seek the path to eternal life.

God's Holy Church offers the love of Christ for believers with eyes to see and ears to hear. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving facilitate the successful and beneficial Lenten journey.

Attentive believers will look to the teachers of the Church and the examples of believers through the ages to learn how to benefit from Great Lent. The Church offers Great Lent each year as a time of renewal in wisdom.

The Church offers continuity that will continue until Jesus' Second Coming. Each day is an opportunity to prepare for the Second Coming and the Great and Final Judgment.

Care and value of the soul are emphasized in the present Gospel. The soul's value exceeds the value of the whole world. Believers are to care for the soul at every moment of life.

Every thought and action in life are to be weighed against the benefits and dangers to the soul. Believers are reminded of the immeasurable value of the soul today.

Thank God for the present Gospel. Thank God for the Cross in the center of the Church. Thank God for the opportunity to repent. May the Lenten journey lead to renewal and unity in Jesus Christ for each believer.

*Third Sunday of Great Lent. Veneration of the Holy Cross. Martyr Quadratus of Corinth. March 10/23, 2025. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.
Father Rodney Torbic*

Whoever loves truth and strives to do the will of God, the same will believe in Christ, while whoever loves evil and does the work of darkness, the same will hate Christ and will slander Him in any way possible, if only to justify his own hatred. This happened in actual fact with the many scribes and Pharisees who hated Him, and it continued to happen in the face of all atheists and despisers of Christ. *Archbishop Averky (Taushev), The Four Gospels: Commentary on the Holy Scriptures of the New Testament p.16*

IF YOU HAVE TIME TO WORRY,
YOU HAVE TIME TO PRAY.



God's Mercy and Truth

Psalm 25:10- All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. (KJV)

Believers seeking the Lord's mercy and truth are expected to act responsibly. Embracing Jesus Christ entails living faithfully to Christ's ways and teachings. Christians are to adhere to the way and teachings of Christ in all relationships. The Lord's mercy and truth shape the journey to the Heavenly Kingdom. God's mercy and truth fill life with joy for believers faithful in their actions.

Psalm 33:18- Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy (KJV)

Baptism changes a person's identity and life's expectations forever and ever. Valuing God's mercy and truth requires careful conscious use of the human mind. Appreciating God's mercy and truth is best demonstrated in daily relationships. God's mercy and truth enable believers to address and deal with daily challenges. Believers sin constantly and need God's immeasurable mercy to begin life anew.

Psalm 57:3-He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth. (KJV)

God's mercy and truth lead to the washing away of sins and create newness in life. Mercy and truth remove the paralysis of sin and give new freedom to the believer. New found freedom granted by God's mercy and truth brings certain expectations. Believers grateful for forgiveness of sins

will show the appreciation in daily life. The good and merciful God will be praised abundantly by grateful believers.

Psalm 62:12- Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work. (KJV)

The Psalms speak clearly about the manifestation of God's mercy and truth. Those blind to and opposing the Lord will deny the existence of mercy and truth. Each day offers life's enrichment through the experience of God's mercy and truth. Embracing the way of life in Jesus Christ necessitates constant renewal in Christ. Sins create a distance between the believer and unity with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 66:20- Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me. (KJV)

The Lord's mercy and truth remove the gap separating the believer from the Lord. Great Lent serves as a call to all believers to unite and reunite with Jesus Christ. Evil is always present seeking to separate the believer from the Lord Jesus Christ. God's mercy and truth exceed the power of evil lurking to destroy human souls. The Lord's mercy and truth restores believers' confidence to address daily life.

Transfer of the Relics of St. Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople. March 13/26, 2025. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

No one heals
himself by
wounding
another.

— St. Ambrose





Ballads Of The Green Berets by SSgt Barry Sadler

In the midst of a deeply divisive Vietnam War, one military anthem rose above the controversy to capture America's heart. "The Ballad of the Green Berets," written and performed by Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler while recovering from a combat injury, became an unexpected phenomenon in 1966. The patriotic ballad honoring U.S. Army Special Forces topped the Billboard Hot 100 for five consecutive weeks and was officially recognized as the #1 song of 1966, selling over nine million copies when public support for the military was waning.

Sadler's journey to musical success began in a military hospital bed after a punji stick trap nearly cost him his leg during his service as a Green Beret medic. While recuperating, he composed songs for fellow wounded soldiers, catching the attention of a TV news crew whose footage catapulted him into the national spotlight. With help from "The Green Berets" author Robin Moore, Sadler refined his lyrics and secured a recording contract with RCA Records, ultimately recording the song in New York City in December 1965.

The ballad's impact extended far beyond music charts. It inspired John Wayne's film "The Green Berets," became a staple performance on premiere television shows like Ed Sullivan, and has endured as one of the primary marching tunes for the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band since the 1980s. Written partly to honor U.S. Army Specialist James Gabriel Jr., the first native Hawaiian to die in Vietnam, the song remains one of the few popular military-positive anthems from the Vietnam era.

Tragically, Sadler's life ended in heartbreak when he was shot during a robbery attempt at his Guatemala home in 1988, returning to America only to succumb to heart failure the following year. His musical legacy, however, continues to resonate as a unique cultural artifact from one of America's most turbulent periods, standing as the #21 song of the entire decade according to music historian Joel Whitburn.