



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: 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 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 Slaughaupt, 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, Susan & 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, 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, Jenny Case, John Chovanes, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, and Lauren, Dan, & the baby... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

**A false understanding or conception of prayer always leads to a fruitless or harmful practice of it. St. Ignatius (Brianchaninov),**

***Bishop of the Caucasus and the Black Sea, On the Prayer of Jesus  
p.75***

**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, June 15 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM  
1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT NICOPHORUS  
THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; GREAT-MARTYR  
JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA**

*Tone 8*

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38-19:27-30

**MONDAY, June 16 APOSTLES' FAST/SAINTS PETER & PAUL FAST BEGINS**

**SUNDAY, June 22 \*\*\*\*\*NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE\*\*\*\*\*  
2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA,  
UKRAINE, CARPATHO-RUS; SAINT CYRIL-ARCHBISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA;  
5 NUNS BEHEADED IN PERSIA; MARTYRS THECKLA, MARIAMNE, MARTHA,  
MARY, & ENMATHA**

*Tone 1*

Romans 2:10-16; Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Matthew 4:18-12; Matthew 4:25-5:12

**SUNDAY, June 29 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT TYCHON-BISHOP OF AMATHUS IN**  
**CYPRUS; MARTYRS TIGRIUS & EUTROPIUS OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

*Tone 2*

Romans 5:1-10

Matthew 6:22-33

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 15 JUNE 2025**

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS; SAINT  
NICOPHORUS THE CONFESSOR-PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE;  
GREAT-MARTYR JOHN THE NEW OF SUCEAVA**

### **TROPARION—TONE 4**

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,  
Thy Church has been adorned with Thy Martyrs blood  
Shed throughout the world  
She cries to Thee, O Christ God: send down Thy bounties on Thy people,  
Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

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**

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing martyrs  
As the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.  
Through the Theotokos and their prayers establish Thy Church in peace.

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 4**

**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:** God is wonderful in His saints, the God of 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 4**

The righteous called, and the Lord heard them.



Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers them out of them all.

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

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

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

**My heart sighs and my eyes long for tears, but my sin holds my mind captive, that I might not feel contrition and beseech the Lord not to cast me into outer darkness. *Venerable Ephraim the Syrian, A Spiritual Psalter or Reflections on God p.153***

## 6 facts about the icon of the Ascension of the Lord



The representation of Christ is similar to that of the Second Coming, illustrating the words of the angel:

*'This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'* (Acts 1:11)



The angels that escort Christ are the Archangels Raphael and Uriel.



The angels in white that frame the Theotokos are the Archangels Michael and Gabriel.



St Paul appears in the icon, although he wasn't present, because this is not a historical representation, but rather a depiction of the Church in its whole.



The apostles are depicted in a state of confusion, without halos because they had not yet understood the mysteries of Christ. This will change at Pentecost.

 **BASILICA.RO**



The Mother of God is depicted in a praying, calm pose, because the Holy Spirit had already descended upon her and she understood the mysteries of her Son.

**When you pray for the repose of the soul of the departed, force yourself to pray with your whole heart, remembering that to do so**

is your essential duty, and not only that of a priest or ecclesiastic.. Represent to yourself how necessary repose is to the departed one, and how greatly he (or she) needs the prayers for him (or her) of the living, being a member of the one body of the Church;  
*Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ p.521*

The most important thing of all is for people to love Christ, and all problems will be solved... *Elder Porphyrios*

## 6 facts about the icon of the Pentecost



The Holy Spirit is represented through the 12 rays coming from the mandorla (the semicircle at the top) or through the tongues of fire shown above each Apostle, or through both elements in some icons.



The position of the Apostles seated in a semicircle suggests harmony.



The inverse perspective prevents the apostles in the back from being painted smaller. They are actually depicted slightly larger, particularly Sts Peter and Paul.



BASILICA.RO



The empty seat in the middle belongs to Christ who is invisibly present.



Although St Paul was not present, he is included to show he was in complete communion with the others.



The kingly figure at the bottom is Cosmos, who personifies all people of all nations.

Prayer is one of the greatest gifts that God has given man, and if man experiences a taste of it, he will not want anything else except to have solitude and silence in order to soar spiritually and hymn God. *Gerondissa Makrina (Vassopoulou), Words of the Heart p.374*



**Instead of love for one's neighbor—comradeship within a party, the support of those who share one's political views, even to the point of self-sacrifice. These surrogates for love of God and neighbor are nothing other than obvious proof that man has an innate need for love and that he cannot exist by breathing solely the atmosphere of malice and hatred. *Archbishop Averky (Taushev), The Struggle for Virtue: Asceticism in a Modern Secular Society p.55***

### **Archbishop Elpidophoros Message on Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine, Mount Sinai—Published 5/29/25**



*Photos: Courtesy of Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine; Nadir Smile Fotos/Orthodox Observer*

It is with profound concern and deep sorrow that I address the grave situation facing the Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine at the God-trodden Mount Sinai, following the recent judicial decision by Egyptian authorities that threatens to seize the monastery's property and disrupt its sacred mission.

The Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine, nestled at the foot of Mount Sinai, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of faith, scholarship, and interreligious harmony. Established in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian I, it is the oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery in the world. The monastery is situated at the very place where God appeared to Moses in the Burning Bush and beneath the Mount of the Decalogue where the Law was given. This sacred ground has nurtured saints honored by the Church, including Saint John Climacus, author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, and Gregory of Sinai, who transplanted Hesychast traditions to the Slavic peoples. The monastery has preserved Christianity's most precious archaeological and spiritual heritage, including the celebrated Sinai library with its ancient manuscripts and the world's most important collection of pre-iconoclastic panel icons.

Throughout eighteen centuries, this spiritual institution has maintained harmonious relations with various administrations and regional authorities, who have consistently confirmed and protected its traditional order and

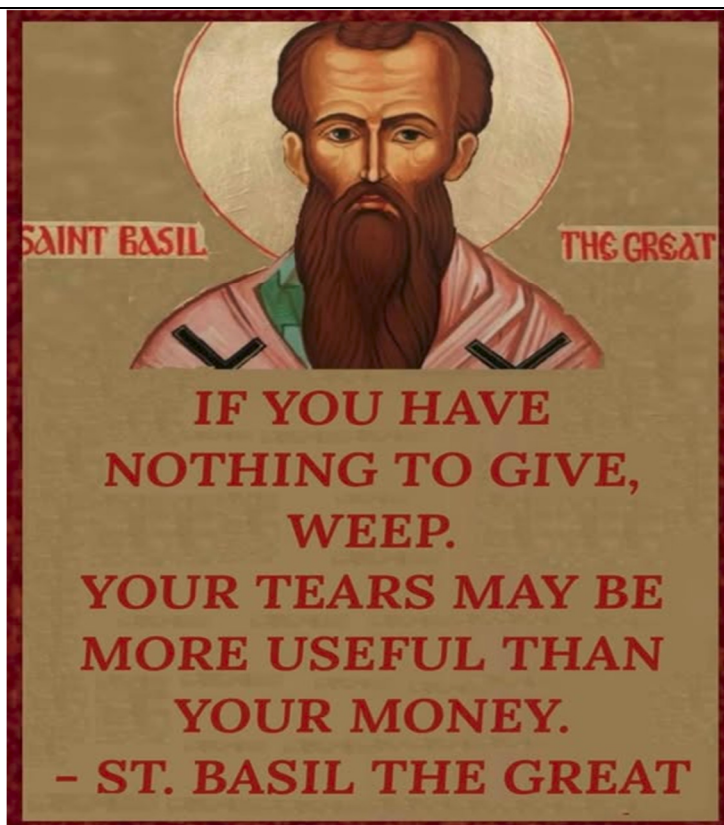


sacred character. Its walls have witnessed centuries of devotion and peace among Muslims, Christians, and Jews alike. The monastery's significance transcends religious boundaries, symbolizing a shared heritage of humanity.

In May 2023, I had the profound honor of leading a pilgrimage of Greek Americans to this sacred site. Together, we venerated the Chapel of the Burning Bush, ascended Mount Sinai, and engaged with the monastic community that has preserved this beacon of spirituality through the ages. Our visit reaffirmed the monastery's role as a living monument to faith and resilience.

The recent judicial actions which threaten to confiscate the monastery's property and disrupt its spiritual mission are deeply troubling. Such measures not only violate religious freedoms but also endanger a site of immense historical and cultural importance. It is imperative that the Egyptian government honors its previous commitments to protect the monastery's autonomy and heritage.

I call upon religious leaders, international organizations, and all people of faith, to join in advocating for the preservation of the Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine. Let us work collectively to ensure that this sacred institution continues to inspire and unite people of all faiths for generations to come.



Pastor interrupts sermon to ask 3 men in the front row: "What would you want your loved ones to say as they are looking down at you in your coffin?"

Tom: That I was a good husband and father.

Bill: That I lived a good life of kindness to others.

Dan: "Look. He's moving!"

**The chief form of moral perfection which belongs to one who has preserved himself whole in the years of youth is a certain unshakability in virtue for his whole life. *St. Theophan the Recluse, bishop of Tambov, Raising Them Right: A Saint's Advice on Raising Children* p.73**



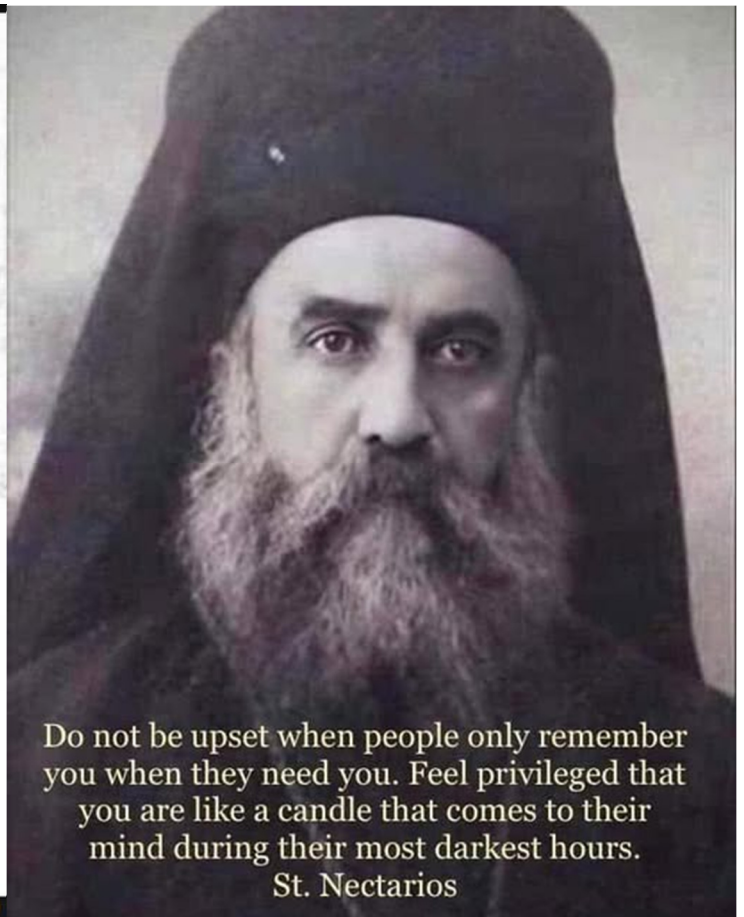
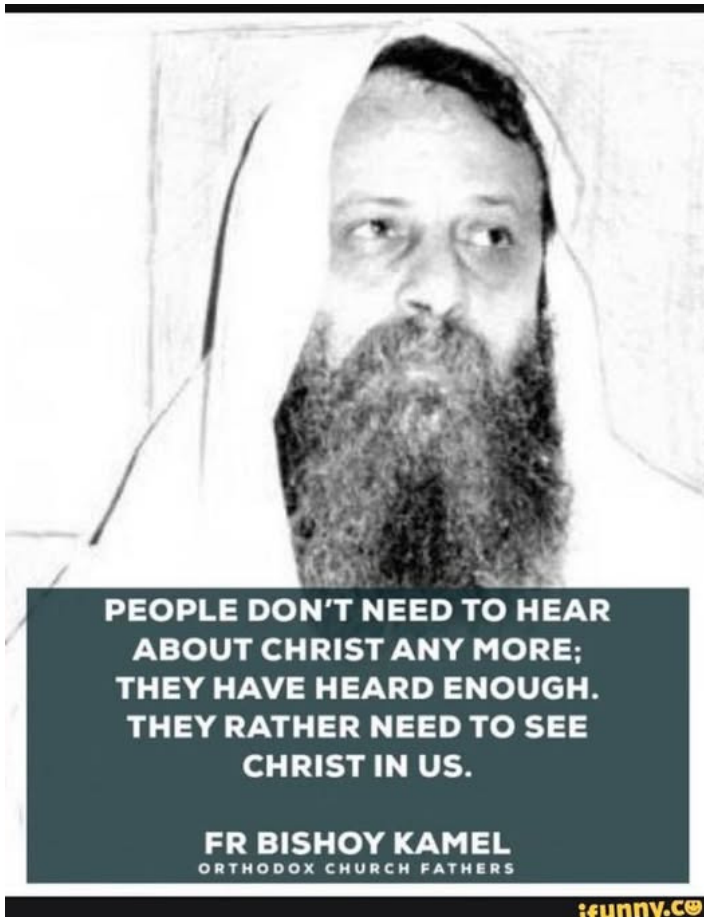
You arrived naked.  
You will pass out naked.  
You arrived without goods or money.  
You will also leave without goods or money.  
Your first bath? Someone has washed you.  
Your last bath? Someone will wash you.  
This is life.  
So why so much malice?  
Why so much envy?  
Why so much hate?  
Why so much resentment?  
Why so much selfishness?  
Be good to each other.  
Do the right things.  
We have limited time on earth.  
Do not waste it on useless things.

D-Day 6th of June 1944



Upon the 6th of June  
Remember them with pride  
Men from many nations  
Fighting together side by side  
Let us never forget  
Their bravery and sacrifice  
We may have our freedom  
But they paid the price

By John F Connor



“Love one another” (John 13:34)  
“Love one another” (John 13:35)  
“Love one another” (John 15:12)  
“Love one another” (John 15:17)  
“Love one another” (Rom 12:10)  
“Love one another” (1 Thess 3:12)  
“Love one another” (1 Peter 1:22)  
“Love one another” (1 John 3:11)  
“Love one another” (1 John 3:23)  
“Love one another” (1 John 4:7)  
“Love one another” (1 John 4:11)  
“Love one another” (1 John 4:12)  
“Love one another” (2 John 5)

### *The Orthodox Christian Way*

## **How Do Orthodox Christians Make the Sign of the Cross? Is There Only One Correct Way?**

This often comes up, especially among converts and those from different Orthodox cultures.

### **The Basic Form (Most Common):**



Most Orthodox Christians make the Sign of the Cross by bringing together three fingers (thumb, index, and middle), symbolizing:

The Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit),  
And the two natures of Christ (divine and human), represented by the ring and pinky fingers pressed to the palm. We touch the forehead, chest, right shoulder, then left shoulder—confessing our faith through our body.

### **Differences between Laity & Clergy**

Laity: Bless themselves using the three fingers. In many traditions (especially Greek or Antiochian), they may bless others (like children) reverently with the same hand gesture. In Slavic churches, the faithful usually do not bless others sacramentally.

Priests: Use a specific ICXC formation when blessing others:

I (index finger straight)  
C (middle finger curved)  
X (thumb and ring finger cross)  
C (pinky curved)

This hand forms the abbreviation IC XC—Jesus Christ in Greek. This blessing is reserved for clergy, as part of their ordination.

Bishops: Bless with both hands simultaneously in the ICXC form. During services, they may use candles (dikēro–trikēro) or their episcopal staff.

### **Variations in Orthodox Tradition:**

Orthodoxy is rich with tradition, and not every local practice is identical:

Old Believers (Russia): use two fingers together, reflecting an older rite.

Copts and others Orthodox: may use an open hand, especially when touching holy things.

Parents in Slavic lands: sometimes use the flat hand to bless children reverently.

Priests and bishops: bless people with their fingers shaped into the name of Christ, not just a Sign of the Cross.

So, while the three-finger form is the most widespread, the Orthodox Church has never issued a universal canon law mandating this gesture in one fixed way for all time and all places.

The most important part of the Sign of the Cross isn't just the fingers—but the faith and reverence behind it. Whether you're crossing yourself before a prayer, venerating an icon, or receiving a blessing from a bishop, it's a holy act of witness and worship.

***"Let all that you do be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Colossians 3:17)***



