



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

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*******MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23—GREAT LENT BEGINS!*******

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, 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, Father Christopher Bender, Dr. Christina Nellis, Father Joshua [Anna], Father Justin (Todd) Mokhiber, Pani Cathy Danczak, Monk Andrew, Father Dan & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Pastor Terry & Lisa Polen, Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu & Genie Ford, Father Alexis Clodfelter—Military Chaplain Training, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, 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, 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, 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], Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Cher Mount, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, 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, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, 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, Margie Sekelsky, Fran Fulton, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaugenhaupt, Louis Berceli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, 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, 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, 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, Maria Warholak, Christy, Mariruth, Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Tim—surgery, Olivia—girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko, John, Kris, & Kait, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Amy Forbeck, David Salazar, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Alexandra Roberts, Candace, Dave, Jared, & Beth Irvin,

Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr., Elizabeth, Susan & Greg Heinen & Jenette Wittik, 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, Barbette [cancer] & Scott, Kristin [cancer], Erm Hartmann, Barbara Bookser, Bob Mazzuca, Marko, Taylor, Terri Crosby-Vega, Christine Mohamed & family, Tammy Marsico, Terry & David Hartnett, Jamie Ball, Kay Williams, Hannah Stewart, Jim Wyko—Alex's friend, Dan Losego, Lisa Bruce, Yvette, Barry Bender, Andrew Zelleznick, Byron & Cecilia Scott, Vespina, Michelle Russo, Julie Tripodi, Debbie—HTUCC, 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 & Colton Rosati, Jessica Shirley, Mark [kidney cancer], Steve Milcic, Wilbert Wagner, Bob Wojciechowski, Ashley, Beth, Sharon Svitek, Laura, Christopher, & Jane Dickson, Luke D, Diane Murphy, Kristin Vaughn [Harry's daughter], George Petronsky, Doug & Darcie Burkholder, Michael, Jeane, and Katie Byerly, 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, Mary & Carl Stepanovich, Susie Fierst, Edward Poturich, Jeff, Chris, & Mills family, Kate Rapina & Mother Oksana, Sarah's son, Rachel, Alex, & little Charlie, Steve & Vonnie Gerson, Eva, Pamela & Doug, Nora, Mike & Jane, Mary Ann [Stage 4 cancer] & Lisa, Barbara Gardner & Mark Egleton, Donna Karas & Ross Rawe, Susan [cancer], Rose Marie, Tim Pruss, Donna & Laura Kloock, Tom Katona, Chris & Elisa Astorino, Dale & Nancy Burns, Cathy Metrick [Fr. Bob's cousin], Brianna [cancer] & Amanda, Jim Lea [knee replacement], and Lauren, Dan, & Daphne Iona... We pray that God will grant them all a complete and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our February babies: David Shirley on the 1st, Kevin Tkacik on the 6th, and Kyle James Weiser on the 12th. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless their families and friends...

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, February 22 OBEDNITZA—SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
CHEESEFARE SUNDAY; FORGIVENESS SUNDAY; EXPULSION OF ADAM FROM
PARADISE; MARTYR NICEPHORUS OF ANTIOCH; HIEROMARTYRS
MARCELLUS-BISHOP OF SICILY, PHILAGRIUS-BISHOP OF CYPRUS, &
PANCRATIUS-BISHOP OF TAOMINA- DISCIPLES OF APOSTLE PETER;
VENERABLE PANCRATIUS-HIEROMONK OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Tone 4

Romans 13:11-14:4

Matthew 6:14-21

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Milton G. Chicka, Nickolai Pivtoriako, Evelyn
Burlack, Anne Cherepko Mazock, Roy Wyke, Katherine Debick, & Bonnie
Blair [Pani Gina's mom]—Fr. Bob***

*******MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23—GREAT LENT BEGINS!*******

SUNDAY, March 01 ***NO SERVICE IN SLICKVILLE*****
1ST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY; MARTYRS PHAMPHIUS-
PRESBYTER, VALENS-DEACON, PAUL, SELEUCUS, PORPHYRIUS, JULIAN,
THEODULUS, ELIAS, JEREMIAH, ISAIAH, SAMUEL, & DANEIL AT CAESAREA
IN PALESTINE**

Tone 5

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

John 1:43-51

*******Sunday of Orthodoxy—All Saints GO Church, Canonsburg—4:00 PM*******

SUNDAY, March 08 OBEDNITZA—SAINT BASIL THE GREAT—UPSTAIRS 10:30 AM
2ND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS; SYNAXIS OF ALL
FATHERS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA; HIEROMARTYR POLYCARP-BISHOP OF
SMYRNA; SAINT JOHN, ANTIOCH, ANTONINUS, MOSES, ZEBINAS,
POLYCHRONIUS, MOSES, & DAMIAN-ASCETICS OF THE SYRIAN DESERT;
SAINT ALEXANDER-FOUNDER OF THE ORDER OF THE UNSLEEPING ONES

Tone 6

Galatians 5:22-6:2; Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Luke 6:17-23; John 10:9-16

*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, & Joseph
Nezolyk—Fr. Bob*

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 22 FEBRUARY 2026

**CHEESEFARE SUNDAY; FORGIVENESS SUNDAY; EXPULSION OF
ADAM FROM PARADISE; MARTYR NICEPHORUS OF ANTIOCH;
HIEROMARTYRS MARCELLUS-BISHOP OF SICILY, PHILAGRIUS-
BISHOP OF CYPRUS, & PANCRATIUS-BISHOP OF TAOMINA-
DISCIPLES OF APOSTLE PETER; VENERABLE PANCRATIUS-
HIEROMONK OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

*******MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23—GREAT LENT BEGINS!*******

TROPARION—TONE 4

When the women disciples of the Lord
Learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection;
They cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles:
Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,
Granting the world great mercy.

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

KONTAKION—CHEESEFARE SUNDAY—TONE 6

O Master, Teacher of Wisdom, Bestower of virtue,
Who teaches the thoughtless and protects the poor:
Strengthen and enlighten my heart, O Word of the Father,
Let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee:
Have mercy on me, a transgressor, O Merciful Lord.

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

KONTAKION—TONE 4

My Savior and Redeemer,
As God rose from the tomb
And delivered the earthborn from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of Hell,
And as Master, He has risen on the third day!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 4

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

READER: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works!

PEOPLE: In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 4

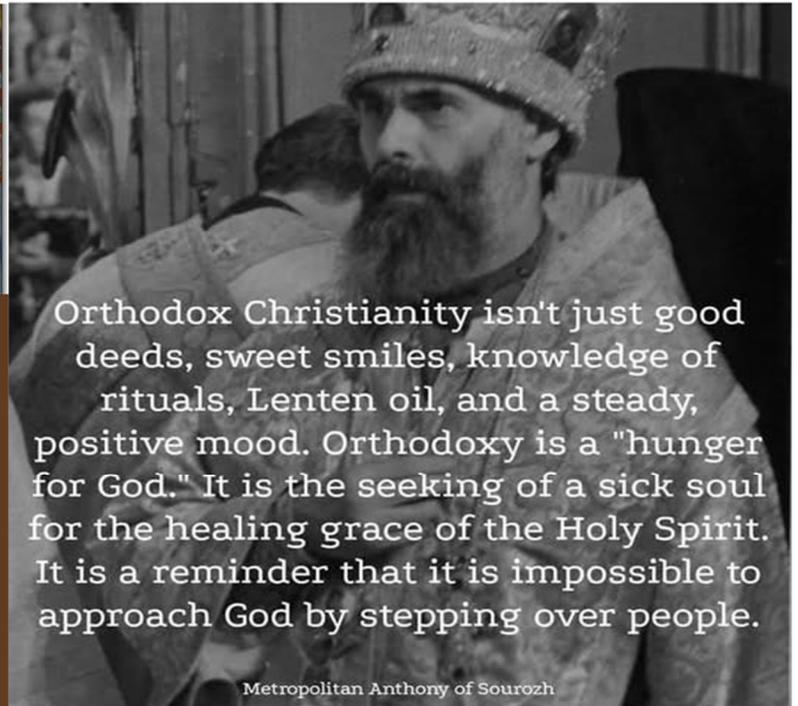
Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.

You love righteousness and hate iniquity.



The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God. ... I do not worship matter. I worship the Creator of matter who became matter for my sake, who willed to take His abode in matter, who worked out my salvation through matter. Never will I cease honoring the matter which wrought my salvation! I honor it, but not as God. Because of this I salute all remaining matter with reverence, because God has filled it with his grace and power. Through it my salvation has come to me.

St. John of Damascus



Orthodox Christianity isn't just good deeds, sweet smiles, knowledge of rituals, Lenten oil, and a steady, positive mood. Orthodoxy is a "hunger for God." It is the seeking of a sick soul for the healing grace of the Holy Spirit. It is a reminder that it is impossible to approach God by stepping over people.

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

To the Reverend Clergy and Beloved Faithful of our Holy Church:

CHRIST IS AMONG US!

With pastoral love in Christ and prayerful concern for your spiritual lives, we address you at the threshold of the Great and Holy Lent – this sacred season of repentance, renewal, and return to the living God. Once again, the Holy Church lovingly calls us into the spiritual wilderness, not as a place of abandonment, but as a space of encounter, where the human heart is purified and made receptive to the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Great Lent is not merely a change in diet, schedule, or external practice. It is a profound invitation to inner transformation - to the restoration of the image of God within us, obscured by sin yet never destroyed. Through prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and repentance, we are called to re-center our lives on Christ, the Source of Life, Truth, and Love.

At the heart of the Lenten journey stands the virtue of self-discipline.

The Church, in her wisdom, teaches us restraint - not as punishment, but as healing. In a world marked by excess, noise, and constant distraction, self-discipline becomes an act of freedom. It frees us from enslavement to our passions and re-orientes our hearts toward God and neighbor.

We are called during this holy season to exercise self-restraint in all things:

- restraint of the body, through fasting that humbles yet strengthens;
- restraint of the mind, by guarding our thoughts and intentions;
- restraint of the tongue, by paying careful attention to our words, tone, and manner of speech.

The passions of verbal expression - anger, judgment, gossip, careless speech - wound not only others but our own souls. The Apostle reminds us that life and death are in the power of the tongue. During Lent, let our words be fewer, gentler, and prayerful; let silence teach us humility; let listening become an act of love.

Equally important is our attention to prayer. Prayer is not an obligation imposed from without, but the breath of the soul. In prayer, we learn again who we are and to Whom we belong. Whether in the stillness of our homes, in the sacred beauty of the temple, or in the quiet prayer of the heart throughout the day, let us guard time for communion with God. Without prayer, fasting becomes empty; with prayer, even small efforts are filled with divine grace.

The Great Fast also reminds us of our responsibility toward the gift of life entrusted to us by the Lord Himself. Our bodies are not our own; they are sacred vessels, temples of the Holy Spirit, sealed in Baptism and nourished by the Holy Mysteries. To practice restraint and care for our bodies is to honor the Creator, who fashioned us in love and calls us to holiness. Caring for our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being is not self-indulgence - it is stewardship.

This responsibility extends beyond ourselves. We are accountable for the way we live in relationship to the world around us. The Christian life is never isolated. Our fasting must open our eyes to the suffering of others; our prayer must soften our hearts; our restraint must cultivate compassion. In caring for one another's lives - through mercy, forgiveness, patience, and concrete acts of love - we bear witness to the Kingdom of God already present among us.

Beloved in the Lord, as we enter the Great and Holy Lent, let us walk this path together as one Body in Christ. Let us fall and rise again through repentance, trusting not in our own strength but in the boundless mercy of God. May this sacred season become for each of us a time of genuine renewal, healing of the soul, and restoration of joy in the Holy Spirit.

Entrusting you all to the loving protection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we invoke upon you His abundant grace and peace.

With archpastoral love and prayer,

+ANTONY

Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

+JEREMIAH

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America

+DANIEL

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

WHAT IS PANAKHYDA?

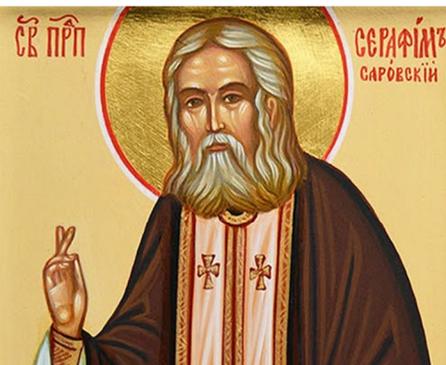
A panakhyda is the Church's prayer for the repose of the souls of the departed. The word comes from Greek and means "all-night chanting," since in the first centuries Christians celebrated such services at night, in the catacombs, during times of persecution. Over time, the panakhyda became a distinct memorial service, during which the Church prayerfully commemorates those who have fallen asleep and asks the Lord to grant them forgiveness of sins and eternal life. It is an expression of our love for those who can no longer pray for themselves.

Panakhydas are served before burial and afterward—usually on the 3rd, 9th, and 40th day, as well as on the anniversary of death, on the birthday, or on the name day of the departed. For a Christian, the day of death is the day of birth into eternity; therefore, each year we pray especially on that day. Church-wide commemorations take place on memorial (Parents') Saturdays: Meatfare Saturday, Trinity Saturday, Demetrius Saturday, the Saturdays of Great Lent, and on Radonitsa. On the eve, a Parastas (Great Panakhyda) is served, and on the Saturday itself - a panakhyda after the Divine Liturgy. On great feasts and during certain festive periods of the year, panakhydas are not served.

A panakhyda may be served in a church, at a cemetery, or at home, by prior arrangement with a priest. There is also a shorter service - the litiya, which means "intensified supplication."

The most important things we bring to a panakhyda are sincere prayer and love. If desired, offerings may be brought (bread, grains, oil, wine, etc.), which are directed toward the needs of the church and assistance to those in need. At the same time, the absence of an offering is not an obstacle to prayer.

Maya Angelou once said: "Do the best you can until you know better. And when you know better, do better."



Those who have truly decided to serve the Lord God should practice the remembrance of God and uninterrupted prayer to Jesus Christ, mentally saying: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

St. Seraphim of Sarov



"The husband and wife should be like the hand and eye. When the hand hurts, the eyes should be crying, and when the eyes cry, the hand should wipe away the tears."

-St. John Chrysostom-

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple Luke 2:22-40

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the

custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, **Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.** And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

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)

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord/The Sunday of the Last Judgment

Today God's Holy Church celebrates the Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple. The Church focuses on the young Jesus brought by his parents and being placed in the arms of devout Simeon.

The devout Simeon inspired by the Holy Spirit said Jesus would be a light for the Gentiles and the glory of the people of Israel. The Church has preserved Simeon's words and incorporated them into the Divine services to be fully remembered.

God's Holy Church has also arrived at the Sunday of the Last Judgment. The Gospel for today reminds believers that encounters with the sick, the suffering, the stranger, and the imprisoned are encounters with Jesus Christ.

Words and behavior towards people met in daily life are important and factor into the Last Judgment. Each person accrues and develops a record in life from birth until departure from this life. The record developed during earthly life is known to the Lord.

When Jesus Christ returns and each person is judged, some will experience eternal life. Others will face everlasting punishment. Believers having the Kingdom of God in mind are attentive to each person met in daily life.

Concerned believers see and perceive Jesus Christ in each person. Making sure that Jesus Christ is cherished and fills the heart, mind, and soul enables believers to see Christ in the people met each day. Being a serious and believing Christian is not easy.

Work is involved in being a serious and believing Christian. The serious believing Christian works to keep the soul pure and clean. The serious and believing Christian seeks nourishment to be strong to face life's challenges.

Keeping the soul pure and clean and seeing the image of Jesus Christ in others prepares the believer for the coming judgment. Avoiding stereotypes and looking carefully at each person makes a difference.

Negative thoughts and attitudes may arise in the believer about a stranger, a certain sick person, a needy person, or a prisoner. Today's Gospel reminds believers to look for Jesus Christ in each person.

While there is life in the body and the mind functions well, individuals have opportunities to follow Jesus Christ with certainty. The Church guides

and instructs believers seeking God's Kingdom. Perils exist on the path to the Kingdom.

Failure to help a sick or needy person when the opportunity exists for a believer creates a record for the Last Judgment. Condemning a prisoner without knowing the prisoner becomes part of the record on Judgment Day.

Thank God for the opportunity to learn from each proclamation of the Gospel. Thank God for the patience shown with each person. The Lord wants each believer to have relationships that are God-pleasing.

Heeding today's Gospel will affect the believer's daily relationships. Rejecting the message of the Gospel puts the soul in peril. God's Kingdom and Eternal Life are the goals established at Baptism.

No person sets out with the goal of everlasting punishment. Decisions made each day determine where eternity will be experienced. Act carefully and wisely when relating with the stranger, the sick, the needy, or the prisoner. Eternity rests in the relationships.

The Meeting of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the Temple. The Sunday of the Last Judgment. February 2/15, 2026, Father Rodney Torbic

Pope Leo XIV on Lent, "I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander, and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media, and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

O! we must labour unceasingly all our life, until death, for future blessedness, for our future union with God. *Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ p.127*

UPCOMING SERVICES SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS

***** MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 GREAT LENT BEGINS *****

SUNDAY, MARCH 01 NO SERVICE

SUNDAY, MARCH 09 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS

SUNDAY, MARCH 16 NO SERVICE

SUNDAY, MARCH 23 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS

SUNDAY, MARCH 30 NO SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 05, PALM SUNDAY

OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS

*******SUNDAY, APRIL 12 PASCHA!!!*******

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 NO SERVICE

SUNDAY, MAY 03 OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS

SUNDAY, MAY 10 NO SERVICE