

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
Celebrating 125 years witnessing to the Apostolic Faith



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Marblehead, OH 43440
Rev. Fr. Peter Tomas, Rector

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*Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,
Diocese of the Midwest*

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Liturgical Schedule

THURSDAY – SEPTEMBER 7

Forfeast: Nativity of the Theotokos

VESPERS, 6:00 PM

FRIDAY – SEPTEMBER 8

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

9:10 AM HOURS, 9:30 AM

DIVINE LITURGY

SATURDAY – SEPTEMBER 9

Saturday before Exaltation of the Holy Cross

NO VESPERS

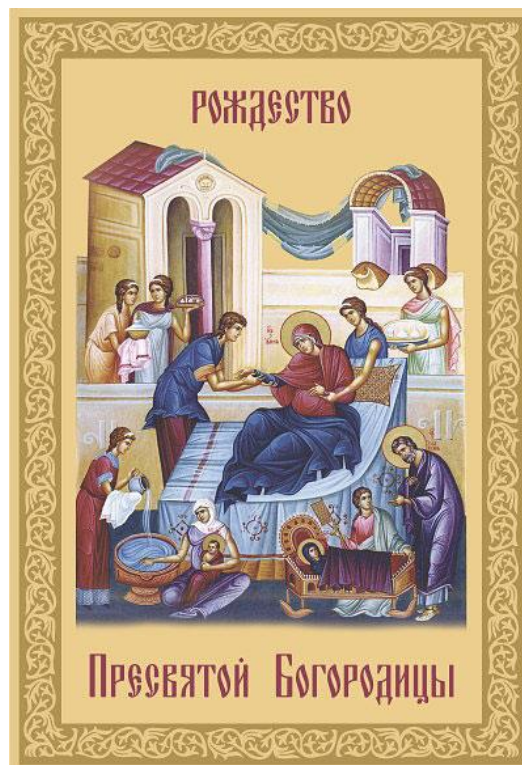
SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 10

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and
Nymphodora, at Nicomedia*

9:10 AM HOURS, 9:30 AM

DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee Hour



Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

Feast Day – September 8th

HAPPY NEW YEAR 7532!

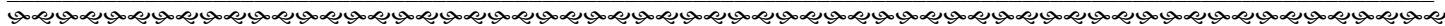
EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Brethren: Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for

what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore, acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-42

The LORS spoke this parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So, they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?’ They said to Him, ‘He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Basil Glovinsky, 1007 Glendale Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452; Subdeacon Roger Pinta, P.O. Box 39, Middle Bass, OH 43446; Diane Tryon, 109 Joslyn Street, Arcadia, OH 44804; Ed & Irene Vangeloff, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870



SEPTEMBER CANDLE SPONSORS

Altar Candles: In memory of Violet Bargdill & LaVerne Schutt (**\$50**); **Chandelier:** In memory of Rose Haburt (September 13) (**\$50**); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** In memory of Gordon Schutt (**\$25**); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, Birthday blessings to Fin and Jack (**\$15**); **Candles at St. Tikhon’s Icon:** For Safety and Health of Nicholas, Tikhon, Gleice, & Chloe (**\$15**)



VIGILS FOR AUGUST 27

Laura Kovach 3 For health and/or healing of Nick S., Barbara D., Pauline O., George K., Joe H., Margi H., Basil G., Kathie J., Diane T., Robin C., Betty K., Ben F., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Sharon D., John D., and Karen D., Special intentions, Special intentions

Sandy Martin 1 Special intentions

Ron & Bobbie Royhab 1 For healing of niece Stacy Kaplan

Natalie Twarek 8 God’s blessings to our grandkids and family and friends returning to school, In loving memory of Aunt Martha (8/23/2010), For God’s grace and peace for Ashley Mooney Below, For the health and recovery of Barbara, Health and recovery of Diane, and Basil, Health and recovery of

Don Kiser, Health of Roger, Carol, Tony, Irene, Father David, Diane, Marilyn, Pauline, Sandy, Judy, Mimi, Tina, Ed, Ron, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Kurt, Leslie, Amber, Zach, Jeanne, Dottie, Jamie, Ezra, David, Helen Lis and Tina's dad, Earl, Tom, Loren, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Chuck, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat, Karen, special intentions

Dennis Lapsos & Family - In Eternal memory of Annette Mary Ressetar



SEPTEMBER REPOSED

William Rose (1980) No date provided; **2-** David Douglas (2015); **4-** John Mataleska (1986); **4-** Archpriest John Grandziuk (1947) Former Pastor; **5-** Archpriest Michael Dziama (1944) Former Pastor; **7-** Lisa Monak (2020); **13-** Rose Haburt; **14-** Archpriest George Breyan (2009) Former Pastor; **14-** Mary Kamiotis (2017); **15-** Infant Sloane Swanton (2021); **15-** Eileen Libb (2022); **16-** John George Mazurik (1997); **18-** Bernie Labouda (2018); **19-** Peter Rindfleisch (2006); **20-** Nora Bird (2017); **21-** Joseph Mazur (2002); **26-** Pastor Kevin Brown (2020); **27-** Michael Itescu (1968); **27-** Alison Pickney (2017); **27-** Karen Milano (2017); **28-** William Felenchak (1977)

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Don Kiser / Ruth / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Jeanne Smith / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Subdeacon Roger Pinta / Ed Vangeloff / Irene Vangeloff / Diane Tryon / Sonja Rose / Ron Royhab / James Bargdill / John Beadle / Carole Conaway / Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Joseph Habegger / Elaine Hileman / Betty Kovach / Helen Lis / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Earl Rindfleisch / Helen Jean Rofkar / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Stephanie Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice & Chloe / Gabrielle and her newborn Josey / Carol / Debbie & Marco / Nora. **Other Requests:** Maxwell Chaney / Barbara Wroblewski / Sidharth Bijilani – friend of Subdeacon Roger and Debbie Pinta / Anthony / Archpriest David Lis / Bishop Matthias / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Marge Dziama / Kurt Franck / Ben Franklin / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Marsha / Mark Masica / Robert Piznar / Valerie Ritzenthaler / William / Rick Rowe / Chuck Wiedenhoft / Chris / Tamman Haddad. **Military:** Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military



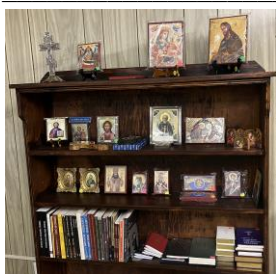
ATTENDANCE

8/26 Vespers, 11 attending (3 guest); 8/27 Divine Liturgy, 22 attending (5 guests); 8/28 Vespers, 14 attending; 8/29 Divine Liturgy, 12 attending



READERS LIST

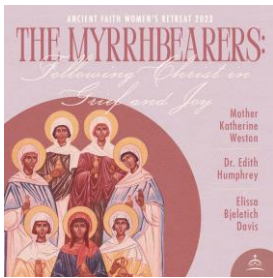
Sunday Sept 3 – Ron
Sunday Sept 10 – Natalie
Sunday Sept 17 – Jake
Saturday Sept 23 – Subdeacon Roger
Sunday Sept 24 – Joseph



HOLY ASSUMPTION BOOKSTORE - STOP BY TO SHOP!

Fr. Peter and Matushka Michelle have donated many great religious items to Holy Assumption Bookstore! Mostly from Ukraine and Russia, they include: icons; neck and wall crosses; large and small religious pouches; key rings; rope prayer bracelets from a monastery; men's leather bracelets; "egg" pendants; needlepoint crosses for refrigerator; a standing cross.

We also have purchased new icons. The bookstore/gift shop is a means of outreach of Holy Assumption Church. We sell items at cost and the church does not profit from sales.



2023 ANCIENT FAITH WOMEN'S RETREAT

The 2023 Ancient Faith Women's Retreat will be held Thursday Nov. 9 through Sunday, Nov. 12 at Antiochian Village Conference Center, 140 Church Camp Trail, Bolivar, PA. The retreat "seeks to create a peaceful, loving, and reflective gathering of women who have come to learn, worship, make friends, and rest at the entrance into the holy Nativity season." For more information see 3-page posting on bulletin board in church hall.



INVITATION, CEREMONY FOR FR. BASIL STOYKA

You are invited to the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy which will be celebrated by **His Eminence Archbishop Daniel** at Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Lorain, OH with the beginning at **9:30 AM** on **Saturday, September 9, 2023**. During the Divine Liturgy the **Very Reverend Archpriest Basil Stoyka** will be blessed to wear a Miter. The Luncheon will follow the Divine Liturgy. Please see the flyer in the vestibule.



2023 LIFE CONFERENCE

The 2023 Life Conference will take place on September 30, 2023 at Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Hall. For more information, please see the flyer in this bulletin and the schedule and speakers bios on the bulletin board in the church vestibule.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September **11** – David & Roddie Mazurik Anniversary; September **11** – Wayne & Heidi Golob Anniversary; September **13** – Tom & Jean Hileman Anniversary; September **19** – Cooper Kowal; September **24** – Mike & Diane Tryon Anniversary; September **25** – Subdeacon Roger Pinta; September **26** – Greg Twarek



KOLACHI BAKING – THANK YOU!

Sincere thanks to the following parishioners who came on Friday to bake Nut and Poppyseed Rolls for the Market Days: Tina, Laura, Fred, Roddie, Sandy, Mat. Michelle and Fr. Peter. May our Lord and God reward you all for your hard work and love for our church with His Special Blessings!



GIANT COOKIES BAKING – THANK YOU!

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Greg Mazur for baking the Giant Cookies for our Market Days last Wednesday and Thursday. May our Lord and God reward you for your hard work and love for our church with His special blessings!



MARKET DAY

Our next Market Day will take place on **Saturday, September 9th** starting with set up at **8:00 AM**. We will have perohi, kielbasa and kraut, spanakopita, and a large variety of baked goods. Your help is greatly appreciated!



CLEANING SCHEDULE

Sept 4, Sandy
Sept 11, Laura
Sept 18, Roddie
Sept 25, Laura



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Tithe	\$ 810.00
Candles	\$ 20.00
Vigils	\$ 60.00
Donations	\$ 70.00
Total:	\$ 960.00

May the Lord reward you for your financial and spiritual support!



HOLY ASSUMPTION CHURCH - 125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend our 125th Anniversary Celebration which will take place on **Saturday, September 23rd** with the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy to be celebrated at 10:00 am by **His Eminence, The Most Reverend Daniel**, Archbishop of Chicago, and the Midwest.

Please Note: The deadline to purchase your banquet tickets is September 10th!



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY – MEMORY ETERNAL!

We would like to offer our prayers and deepest sympathies to the family and friends of †**STACEY KAPLAN**, niece of Bobbie Royhab, who fell asleep in the Lord last **Sunday, August 27th**. “In blessed repose grant eternal rest, O Lord, to your ever-remembered servant †STACEY and make her Memory Eternal!

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Support our Seminarians” is the charity we donate to for the month of September.

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Sept. 8th** Nativity of the Theotokos (*Friday*)
- Sept. 9th** Market Day at 8 AM (*Saturday*)
- Sept. 14th** Exaltation of the Precious Cross (*Thursday*)
- Sept. 23th** 125th Anniversary Celebration (*Saturday*)
- Sept. 30th** Market Day at 8 AM (*Saturday*)
- Oct. 1st** Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (*Sunday*)
- Oct. 14th** Market Day at 8 AM (*Saturday*)
- Consider sponsoring a Sunday coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy



The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemorated on September 8

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness. The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feast days at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

**ARCHPASTORAL GREETINGS OF THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL,
ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE BEGINNING OF THE INDICTION
& THE ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR**



September 1, 2023

Beloved Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest:

*Thy Nativity, O Virgin Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole world,
for from thee hath shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,
Who annulling the curse hath bestowed blessing,
and destroying death hath granted us eternal life.*

–Troparion of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

For Orthodox Christians, September 1st marks the start of the New Church Year, also known as *the Beginning of the Indiction*. As we enter this New Year of Grace, the first Great Feast that we celebrate is the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, September 8.

In reflecting on the birth of Mary of Nazareth and her singular role in the history of salvation, we notice that the Gospel of John speaks of only two moments when the public life of Jesus directly intersects with His Mother. Of course, Mary's very life was intimately connected to that of her Son from the very moment of His conception, and Matthew and Luke make special note of this in their Infancy Narratives. However, John only mentions these two moments: the beginning of the Lord's public ministry at the wedding feast in Cana (John 2:1-12) and the moment when Mary stands beneath the Cross (John 19:25-27). Perhaps the Holy Evangelist wants to show us the Mother of Jesus in these two completely opposite situations in human life: the bright joy of a wedding feast and the profound sorrow at the death of a child.

Let us hone in, however, on the special place of Mary in John's account of the Lord's Passion and Death. The first thing that John mentions is Mary "standing near the cross of Jesus" (John 19:25), close to her Son as He suffered the pains of the Cross and shed His blood for the salvation of mankind. Mary stood there, at the foot of the cross, filled with sorrow—yet with unwavering conviction, courage, and fidelity. This is the main way that Mary appears in the Gospel of John: she stands near those who suffer and want, those rejected and marginalized by the world, those on the very fringes of our social and economic order. It is in this role as Mother that Mary stands close by us all, steadfast and faithful near the cross of human sorrow and suffering, yet ever under the shadow of the Cross of Her Son.

In this way, Mary also teaches us how to "stand near" these situations. It demands more than simply acknowledging the realities of human suffering; rather, those in painful situations should feel us standing faithfully and fearlessly at their side. All those suffer any pain or loss can experience the Mother who remains near them, for in their sufferings she sees the open wounds of her Son Jesus. She learned this at the foot of the cross. We too are called to respond to the sufferings of others. Following the example of Mary, let us go out to meet our suffering brothers and sisters, to console them and accompany them. Let us not be afraid to experience the power of tenderness, to be involved, even in the most uncomfortable of situations, and to let our lives become complicated for the sake of others. Inspired by Her, the Most Pure One, let us remain steadfast and faithful, our hearts at peace in God in even the most difficult circumstances of life. Let us be ever ready to lift up the fallen, raise up the lowly, showing them the love and that "peace beyond understanding" that only comes from God (*cf.* Philippians 4:7).

Grateful that the beginning of September brings with it this special Feast, let us also acknowledge that every day of every year, no matter the month or the season, offers us the grace-filled occasion to give thanks to God for His many blessings, just as each day presents the opportunity to be present with those who are suffering in any way. Every day of every year invites us to draw closer to Christ, to grow in holiness, to bear witness to our faith, and to continue *stand with* those who are suffering and in any kind of need. As we enter into the New Church Year, we look forward to another Year of Grace, living the Gospel, serving our brothers and sisters, and experiencing the Church's liturgical cycle which invites us to enter, ever more deeply, into the great mystery of our salvation.

In this new Ecclesiastical Year, let us entrust ourselves, our families and loved ones, our parishes, and all the world to the loving maternal care and protection of the Holy Theotokos.

With love in the Lord,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest



What Is the Meaning of 9 and 40 Days after Death?

By Reader John Malov

Death in Orthodox Christianity is not viewed as the end of our existence. After death, the soul is only temporarily separated from the body. During the first 40 days, it goes through certain trials and meets its Creator. During this period, a soul's posthumous fate is decided until it will be ultimately determined at the Final Judgement preceding the Universal Resurrection. The 3rd, 9th and 40th days after death are important for the posthumous existence of the deceased.

What is the meaning of 3 days after death?

The Venerable Macarius of Alexandria was once given a revelation from an angel. It revealed to the Saint what happens to the soul after death. Although the Bible says nothing about any particular days after death and their meaning for a human soul, this revelation resonates with biblical events (Christ rose from the dead on the 3rd day after the crucifixion, and ascended on the 40th).

The angel revealed to St. Macarius that in the first two days after death, a person's spirit remains on earth accompanied by angels and remaining free to travel wherever it wills. Many souls spend these days at their homes, next to their loved ones and their own coffin. On the third day, in parallel with the Resurrection of Christ, the angels ascend the soul to worship God.

After that, the spirit stays in heaven until the 9th day, dwelling among angels and saints. Seeing heavenly bliss makes the souls of the righteous rejoice, while the unrighteous lament their futile lives, realizing that heaven is beyond their reach.

Why are funerals held on the 3rd day after death?

In the first two days after death, a soul experiences separation from the body. Being able to stay with the body alleviates its suffering. After a spirit ascends to God on the third day, it will not return to earth until the Second Coming of Christ. Just as the spirit departs to God on the third day, so the body must be buried in the ground.

Significance of the 9th day after death

On the 9th day, the soul once again stands before God in worship. However, after the ninth day instead of contemplating the bliss of heaven, it goes to behold the torments of hell.

What happens to a soul on the 40th day after death?

On the 40th day, angels take a person to God once more, this time not for worship, but for a personal judgement. The Lord determines where each soul will dwell until the Second Coming, the General Resurrection and the Last Judgement.

During these 40 days, the prayers of the Church and loved ones are especially important for a deceased person's soul. During this period, prayer intercedes for a person before God and may influence his or her posthumous fate.

That said, prayers after 40 days are no less important. We have no way of knowing the outcome of God's judgement about a person's posthumous fate. Perhaps the Lord does not allow this to be known so that our prayers for the deceased do not cease and our love for them does not fade.

Even if a soul is condemned to posthumous suffering, the prayers of believers can influence the outcome of the Last Judgement and change the wrath of God into mercy.

Counting 3, 9 and 40 days after death

The day of death is the first day. For example, if a person dies on the 23rd, the third day after death falls on the 25th. The ninth and fortieth days are calculated in a similar way.



- Do not say, "this happened by chance, while this came to be of itself." In all that exists there is nothing disorderly, nothing indefinite, nothing without purpose, nothing by chance ... How many hairs are on your head? God will not forget one of them. Do you see how nothing, even the smallest thing, escapes the gaze of God? — St. Basil the Great

- If a man has no worries about himself at all for the sake of love toward God and the working of good deeds, knowing that God is taking care of him, this is a true and wise hope. But if a man takes care of his own business and turns to God in prayer only when misfortunes come upon him which are beyond his power, and then he begins to hope in God, such a hope is vain and false. A true hope seeks only the Kingdom of God... the heart can have no peace until it obtains such a hope. This hope pacifies the heart and produces joy within it. — St. Seraphim of Sarov

- You must love every man with your whole soul, but put your hope in the one God, and serve Him alone. For as long as He is protecting us and our friends (the angels) are helping us, our enemies (the demons) cannot inflict evil upon us. But when He forsakes us, they also our friends turn away from us, and our enemies receive power over us. — St. Maximus the Confessor

- He who busies himself with the sins of others, or judges his brother on suspicion, has not yet even begun to repent or to examine himself so as to discover his own sins. — St. Maximus the Confessor