

INTERCESSION TO THE SAINTS

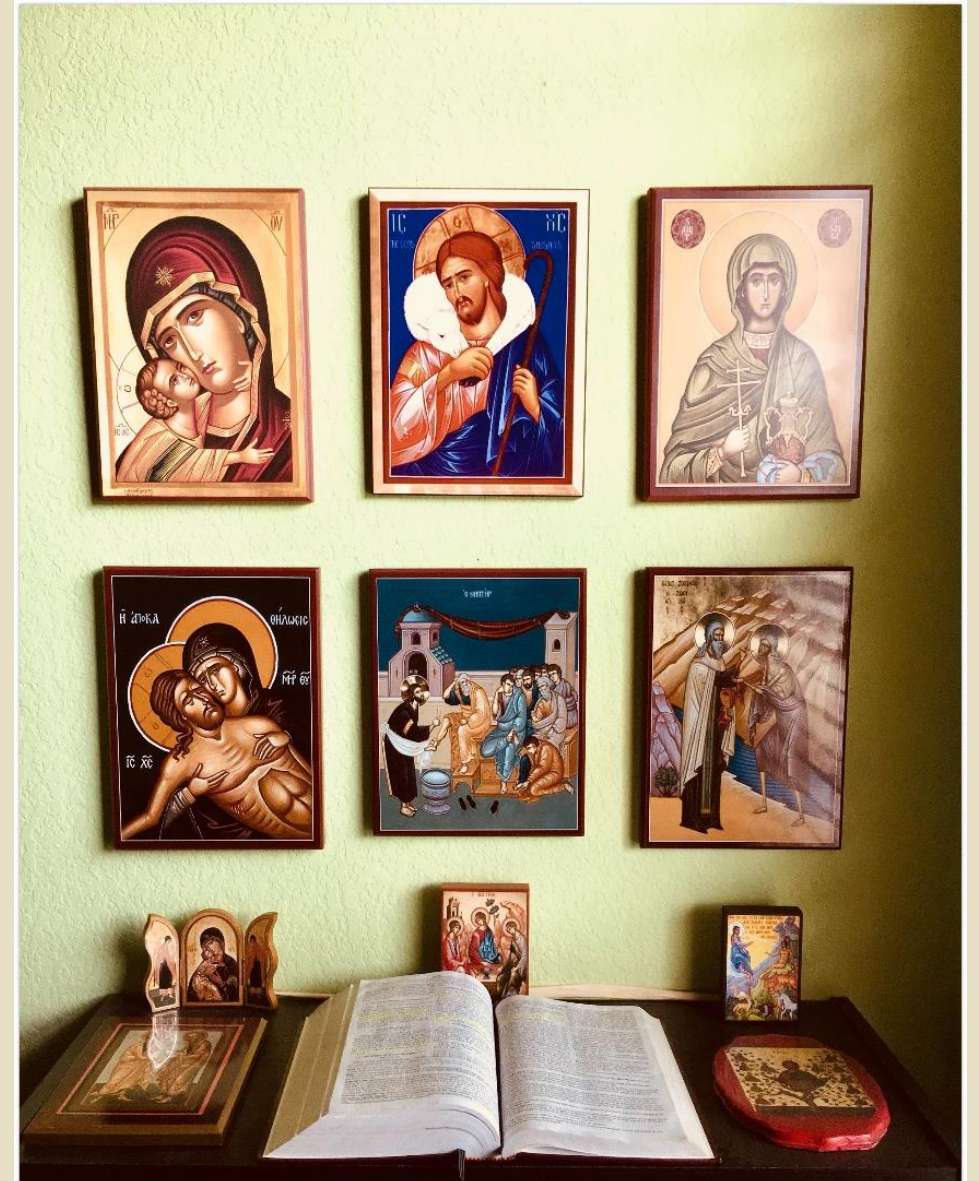
*‘Pray for us, O Holy Saints!
To him who’s will you fulfilled.
Keep from us all afflictions,
punishments and rods and wrath’*



SETTING THE FOUNDATION

Private/Individual

- “When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you”
(Mathew 6:6)



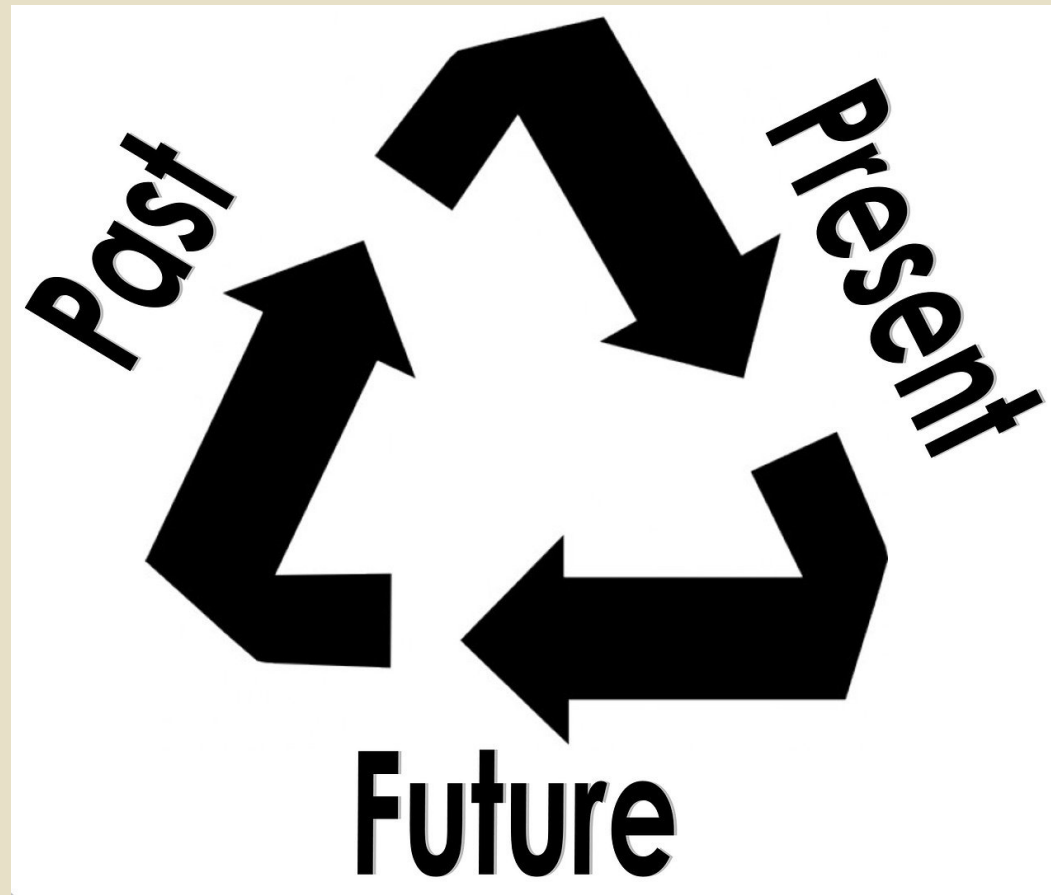
Communal/Corporate

- We are relational beings
- I know who I am in relation to another person.
- We are meant for some sort of community
- Ekklesia – Gathering/assembly
- Ephesians 4:16- from whom the whole body, joined and **knit together** by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.



Pre-Sanctus Prayer of St. Cyril

O You, O Lord, both heaven, which is the throne of Your Majesty, and the earth, which is the footstool under Your feet, sing praise. The earth glorifies Your Holy Name **in this church that chants the sound of glory to You from the mouth of her children;** by the succession of the prophets, the company of the apostles, the sufferings of the martyrs, the orders of the confessors, the theology of the **doctors**, the orderly standing of the ascetics, the endurance of the abstinents, the hosts of the just, the assemblies of the righteous and the faithful of all ages.



The Church includes us, those before us, and after us!



PRAYER VS. WORSHIP

Isn't prayer and worship the same?

Prayer (proseuchomai)

- properly, to exchange wishes

Worship (lateria)

- The service of God
- Same root word used for idolatry

Worship is for God **alone**, we do not worship saints but we seek their prayers



WHO IS A SAINT?

Who is a Saint?

- Active member in the body of Christ
- Someone who makes God's goodness attractive
- Real people who lived real lives with real temptations.
- One who has been made what Holy Baptism declares them to be; set apart for God
- Saint or saint

Set Apart

- Agios (Holy)
 - set apart by (or for) God, holy, sacred.



“saints” in the Scriptures

- Romans 1:7- To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:
- 1 Corinthians 1:2- To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:
- Ephesians 2:19- Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,



WHERE DO WE SEE
INTERCESSION IN THE
SCRIPTURES?

Exodus 22:30-32

Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.”

2 Maccabees 15:12-14

The vision he saw was this: Onias, who had been high priest, a true gentleman of modest and noble manner, one well-spoken and from childhood formed in all that pertains to virtue, was praying with hands outstretched for the whole nation of the Jews. Then in the same manner another man appeared, distinguished by his gray hair and glory, and having about him a certain astonishing and majestic preeminence. Onias then spoke, saying, “This is Jeremiah, the prophet of God, a man who loves his brothers and prays fervently for the people and the holy city.”

Acts 5:14-16

And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Revelation 6:9-10

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

Revelation 8:3

Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that **he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints** upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

This is the time of pray'er
And the time of forgiveness
This is the time of mercy
The time of supplication

-Holy Qurbono pg. 174



WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH DO?

Martyrdom of Polycarp

“took up his bones, which are more valuable than precious stones and finer than refined gold, and deposited them in a suitable place. **There, when we gather together as we are able, with joy and gladness, the Lord will permit us to celebrate the birthday of his martyrdom in commemoration of those who have already fought in the contest and also for the training and preparation of those who will do so in the future**”
(Chapter 18)



Clement of Alexandria

[The true Christian] prays in the society of angels, as being already of angelic rank, and he is never out of their holy keeping, and though he pray alone, he has the choir of the saints standing with him” (Miscellanies 7.12)





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Aren't the Saints dead? Why are we asking someone who is dead to pray for us?

- “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” (Mathew 22:32)
- The saints are alive in Christ!
- The Church is a living and breathing organism.

How do we know the Saints are *actually* with us?

- Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1)



Doesn't Paul say the only mediator is Jesus Christ?

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus. - 1 Timothy 2:5

- *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; (1 Timothy 2:1-4).*
- Mediator
 - One that mediates between two differing parties
- Christ mediates the atonement of our sins and our redemption, Christ being the one who died for us.
- We have **ONE** mediator but **MANY** intercessors.

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The (Resurrection) of Christ

Grants atonement for our souls

Cry out in faith to the Son

Who redeemed us by His cross”

”Bless’ed be Your salvation!”

Halleluyah, Halleluyah

- Holy Qurbono pg. 208

Why can't I just go straight to God?

- You can!
- Asking the saints for prayers only helps us and doesn't hurt us.
- We don't have to ask the saints **to** pray for us rather, we **get** the opportunity to do it.
- "For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through **your prayer** and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ..." - Phillippians 1:19
- "Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much...**" - James 5:16

ST. ZOSSIMA

ST. MARY of
EGYPT



Does God love the Saints more than us?

- God loves everyone equally
- A relationship takes two people to make work
- God wants to spend the entire time with all of us.
- Do we love other things/people more than God?



A true friend prays to God for his friend.
A true friend cares about the salvation of
a friend's soul. To draw a friend back
from false ways and set him on the true
path – that is precious friendship. The
Saints of God are man's greatest friends. –
St. Nikolai Velimirovic



