

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Rev. Fr. Dave Urban, *Pastor*

Very Rev. Fr. John Branco, *Pastor Emeritus*

Timothy Martin, *Reader*

Matthew Peifer, Stephen Branco, & John Radick, *Cantors*

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CHRIST IS RISEN!
*Christ is Risen From The Dead, Trampling
 Down Death By Death and To Those In The
 Tombs Bestowing Life!*
INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Sunday, April 30 – 3rd Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy Tone 2 Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: Acts 6:1–7; Gospel: Mark 15:43–16:8

Additional Collection for our Community Outreach (OCMC) / ACRY Meeting following the Coffee Social

READINGS AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60	<i>All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. – 1 Tim.3:16-17</i>	John 4: 46– 54
Tuesday	Acts 8: 5– 17		John 6: 27– 33
* Wednesday	Acts 8: 18– 25		John 6: 35– 39
Thursday	Acts 8: 26– 39		John 6: 40– 44
* Friday	Acts 8: 40– 9: 19		John 6: 48– 54
Saturday	Acts 9: 19– 31		John 15:17–16:2

* *Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did.*

No Kneeling in Prayer – Replace “O Heavenly King” with the Paschal Tropar, ‘Christ is Risen’

Sunday, May 7 – 4th Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Paralytic

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy Tone 3 Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: Acts 9: 32– 42; Gospel: John 5: 1– 15

Responses to the Divine Liturgy will be led by the St Nicholas Choir of Homestead

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Christos Voskrese! (Voistinu Voskrese!) (Church Slavonic)

We are happy that you have joined us today! **Please join us downstairs** for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God’s Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon! **If you have any questions** in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Khristós anéstí! (Alithós anéstí!) (Greek)

Wednesday, May 10 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for Mid Pentecost

Saturday, May 13 – 9:30am Grave Blessings

Sunday, May 14 – Mother’s Day / add’l collection for our *Capital Improvement Fund*

Thursday, May 18 – 7pm Akathist to “Inexhaustible Cup” & brief discussion

Saturday, May 20 – 4pm Italian Feast and Basket Raffle



This Bulletin is offered...
 If you wish to sponsor a Sunday Bulletin, for prayers for someone or for their memory, please do so by signing up on the sheet on the table in the Vestibule of the Church or by contacting Fr. Dave.



BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions for this section to Father by Wednesday.)

Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Lawrence Martin; Barbara Kirish; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; and Patty Watson. **“I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” - Jn 8:12**

***** Calling All Graduates** – if you will be graduating from High School, a University, or a Trade School, please contact Father ASAP.

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St Nicholas Choir – The responses to Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, May 7th** will be led by the Homestead Choir.



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Thank You! to everyone who stayed for last week's semi-annual meeting! Without everyone's participation, progress towards the future of our parish for future generations would not have been made towards relocation, stewardship, and the other topics that were presented to the floor. Please continue to read the bulletin, check the website and bulletin board at the parish to continue to stay apprised of happenings with the life and growth of the parish!

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Cemetery Grave Blessing – We will bless graves this year on **Saturday, May 13th**. We will meet at 9:30am at the Uniondale Cemetery and celebrate a Panachida there before blessing the graves. Contact Fr Dave with any questions.

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Akathist to the "Inexhaustible Cup" – This is a Prayer Service for Those Who Struggle with Addiction and for their Friends & Family. We offer this service on **Thursday, May 18th** at 7pm on behalf of those who suffer from alcoholism and other addictions. We also encourage those who have friends or family members who struggle with addiction, as well as those who work in the field of recovery, to come and pray with us!

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Italian Feast & Basket Raffle, hosted by our ACRY, will be held in St John's Hall on **Saturday, May 20th** from 4-6:30pm (doors open at 3pm). Over 25 Amazing Gift Baskets to be raffled!

Ticket Prices are: Adults - \$20; Youth (6-17) - \$10; and a Family Admission - \$50. Tickets include: Admission, 8 Basket Raffle Tickets, 2 Drink Coupons, and a homemade Italian Pasta Dinner with Appetizer, Salad Bar, and Dessert. *(Extra Raffle tickets may also be purchased.)* Reservations can be made by **May 17th** by signing up on the sheet in the church hall or contacting Fr Dave. *Come spend an Italian evening out with friends while supporting a great cause!*

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Flag Sale – A sign up sheet is in the church hall to purchase a Carpatho-Rusyn Flag for \$25. Orders are due by **Sunday, May 21st**. If you have any questions, please contact Father.

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Faith Night at PNC Park – is **Thursday, August 17th** at 7:05 vs the St Louis Cardinals. Please contact **Wendy Martelotti** (martelotti11@verizon.net) if you are interested in getting a ticket. *More details coming in the near future... and Let's Go Bucs!*

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**** Coat Drive** – Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn in years – but it still looks good and you don't want to get rid of it? We are now collecting coats and jackets, in good condition, to donate to FOCUS Pittsburgh this August. We will 'store' the clean coats on the coat rack in the church hall.

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Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 90
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp:	\$ 207
Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 483
Feast Day Envelopes:	\$ 32
Pascha Donation:	\$ 755
<u>Loose Money:</u>	<u>\$ 30</u>
Total Donations:	\$ 1507

Collection for the Saints:

"On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper." 1 Cor 16:2

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Family Day (June 11th) Raffle

Tickets are available from Theresa Sharpless. This is the only diocesan-wide fundraiser for camp and it is a significant source of income for the Camp Nazareth program and our children. Raffle tickets are \$20 each with prizes exceeding \$20,000. Support our camp: buy *(at least)* one by **Sunday, May 26th**. + + + The Family Day flyer is hanging in the church hall with details for the day!



90 Days Till Camp! – Early bird discount rates are available through **May 15th**. Information regarding registration is available at: www.CampNazareth.org. Please act fast to save 20 bucks! Our ACRY is offering a partial 'Campership' for assistance and other assistance is also available. **Please talk with Fr Dave before registering to get the online code that you will need.** *If you have never been to Camp Nazareth, you do not know what you are missing!* Our Deanery Camping week is **July 23-29**. Please talk to Fr Dave if you have any questions.

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Altar Boy Retreat – the Annual Altar Boy Retreat will take place from **Sunday June 25th to Wednesday, June 28th** at Christ The Saviour Seminary (Johnstown, PA). Registration information will be coming soon.

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Young Women's Encounter – the 4th Annual YWE will take place from **Sunday June 25th to Wednesday, June 28th** at the Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Christian Church in Windber, PA. The YWE is designed specifically for our young women to provide them an opportunity to spend time in fellowship with each other, have fun, and pray together. We learn about our faith and to listen for God's call to each of us to use our unique gifts and abilities. Young women in our Diocese ages 12-18 are encouraged to attend. You may contact Pañi Eleni Stagon, acrodywe@gmail.com for more information.

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Visit Our Parish & Diocese On-Line

- St John's: www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com
- Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
- Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
- FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
- Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
- You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Purse Bash – The Senior ACRY of Homestead (Chapter #11) is hosting the National ACRY Convention this September and desires the assistance of all our Pittsburgh Deanery parishes in raising the funds needed to assume this awesome responsibility. On Saturday, May 6th they will be hosting a Purse Bash. Tickets are \$35 which include four raffle numbers and dinner. Doors open at 3:00pm and the appetizing buffet-style meal shall begin at 4:00. The drawings shall take place at every 20-minute interlude, starting at 4:40. (Winners need not be present!) Please email Fr Michael at fmzak@gmail.com, or call the Homestead church at (412) 461-3264 for more information.



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STEWARDSHIP: A Way Of Life

From: <http://www.acrod.org/ministries/stewardship/stewardship-blog/>

An Inviting Church “Come and See.” (John 1:39)

As Orthodox, we have one of the greatest gifts that God can bestow upon us, our Orthodox faith. As members of the body of Christ, we are commanded to use our gifts to further our journey to Theosis as well as using those gifts to help and support other members of the body of Christ on their journey. This includes reaching out to those who have yet to begin their journey or have become “stuck in a rut.”



Are you an inviting parish? Do you set an environment that will make visitors feel welcome and desire to return? Do you have an invitational culture in your parishes? If not, why not?

In a recent Gallup poll, the question was asked, “In the last month, I invited someone to participate in a parish service or function.” The results showed that 23% responded that they strongly agree with that statement, and 15 % agreed with it. So, 38% have invited somebody to the parish in the last month. If we asked that same question in our parishes, what would the result be?

In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) Christ commands us to spread the good news to the world. He gives us the power to do this, so the first thing we must understand in developing an inviting culture is that it is God who gives growth to our parishes. We are responsible for using our gifts and inviting people, but we are not responsible for the responses we receive. Gallup poll also shows that it takes asking a person five times before getting a positive response to the invitation. So yes, you will hear “no” much more often than “yes.” That is okay; our job is to plant the seed and let the Holy Spirit do its work. With that knowledge, we should not fear rejection! The person who receives the most “no” answers ultimately is also the one who

receives the most “yes” responses.

The truth is, in my humble opinion, that many parishioners would love to share the gift of Orthodoxy with friends, relatives, and neighbors but do not know how to invite them. They fear being considered odd, creating discomfort in the relationship or being considered “one of those people.” We need to bring this fear to our prayers and hear God telling us, “Do not be afraid.” We are doing His work, He sent us so why should we have fear?

The key is to be natural. Look to the Gospel, Andrew in a natural conversation brings Peter to Jesus, and Philip says to Nathaniel, “come and see.” If you are thankful for the gift of Orthodoxy, don’t be fearful of asking others to “come and see.”

Can you only imagine that if 38% of our parishioners used their God-given talents and love for Orthodoxy to invite one person, once a month, that would mean, each month we would see 1540 visitors to our Diocesan parishes. The numbers are astonishing. If even one-quarter of those are touched and continue their journey in Orthodoxy that is potentially 385 catechumens each month in the Diocese.

Use the gifts God has gifted you to be Stewards of the Church and to help bring others to the greatest gift God gave us, ORTHODOXY!

Hristos a înviat! (Adevărat a înviat!) (Romanian)

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- Take charge of the Flag sale
- Assist with the Dinner & Basket Raffle
- Bring in a lightly used coat for FOCUS
- Join the ACRY
- Attend additional services
- Donate to our parish or one of it’s outreaches

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LIVING ORTHODOXY



The Coat of Arms of Carpathian Ruthenia

The coat of arms were created after the end of the First World War, when the region of Carpathian Ruthenia was transferred from Hungary to the newly created state of Czechoslovakia. It was designed by Gustav Friedrich. The Rusyns (Ruthenians) had been promised autonomy within the new country and therefore arms were created for their land.

The arms show the Ukrainian tinctures (heraldic colors) of blue and gold in its first (dexter) field and a red bear on silver in its second field. The bear is perhaps a symbol for the Carpathian wildlife. The horizontal lines (in heraldry called fesses) could perhaps have been inspired by the partitions per fess in the coat of arms of Hungary, to which the territory had belonged.

From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coat_of_arms_of_Carpatho-Ukraine

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Outreach and Evangelism in Orthodox Parishes in the US

The first ever, national study on evangelization and outreach in Orthodox parishes in the United States has been released by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA.



• Six "lessons" that Church leadership (bishops) can learn from the "exemplary" parishes.

[The Executive Summary is printed and hanging on the church hall bulletin board! If you would like a copy, please let Father know.]

The report "**Go and Make Disciples: Evangelization and Outreach in US Orthodox Parishes**" explores the practices and strategies developed by some Orthodox parishes that can be viewed as "exemplary" in their missionary and outreach efforts. Examples of what the readers will find in the report include:

- The "secrets" of being a parish that attracts and welcomes new members;
- Eight good practices of welcoming first-time visitors and inquirers about the Faith;
- How do "exemplary" parishes achieve a high degree of involvement of their members in parish life;
- Four distinct features of religious education in the "exemplary" parishes;

Parishes of seven Orthodox jurisdictions participated in this study. The report was prepared by Alexei Krindatch, the Assembly's Research Coordinator in cooperation with Fr. Eric Tosi (OCA), Fr. John Parker (OCA) and Adam Roberts (Antiochian Archdiocese). The study was initiated and sponsored by the Committee for Agencies and Endorsed Organizations (Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Chairman).

Download the reports at:

<http://acrod.org/news/2017/evangelism-outreach-study>

Kristo Amefufukka! (*Kweli Amefufukka!*) (Swahili)

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK



"Do not ask me if you should go to church. I would answer that the spiritual life is not possible if you don't. But even this is not enough. One has to experience worship as a mystery, and mystery through worship. This is the supreme way to enter into the realm of the Kingdom of Heaven." - *Metropolitan Nikolaos of Mesogaia, If There is Life I Want to Live*

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"Often our knowledge becomes darkened because we fail to put things into practice. For when we have totally neglected to practice something, our memory of it will gradually disappear." +*St. Mark the Ascetic*

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"The Lord has said: "But I say unto you, you shall not lust." How then can he live according to God's will who surrenders himself to every desire?" +*St. Clement of Alexandria*

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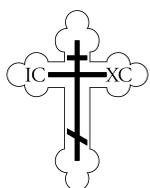
"Love. With love for God and your neighbor in your heart you will possess all things and will lack nothing; for where there is love, there is God; and God is everything to us, and chiefly our life, peace, sweetness, and blessedness." +*St. John of Kronstadt, "My Life in Christ"*

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"The Resurrection of Christ is something that you either believe in or deny, just like Pentecost. There is nothing greater for any person than a relationship of communion with Christ and the acquisition of the Holy Spirit. But you need a humble spirit and a pure heart, and consistency in the spiritual life, in order for faith to be granted to you as illumination, power and sanctification." - *Metropolitan Nikolaos of Mesogaia, "If There is Life I Want to Live"*

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THINGS TO CONSIDER



Office Hours – Monday-Friday from 9am–4pm OR by appointment.

Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, Saturdays during fasting periods from 11:00am – 1:00 pm, OR by appointment.

Holy Communion/Eucharist – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged by all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive a *blessing* from the chalice.

Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure so he can pray with you & you may receive the anointing so you are properly prepared.

Baptisms – Please consult Father for details.

Marriages – Please consult Father for details.

Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations; otherwise burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

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"The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times.

The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning." - *Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*

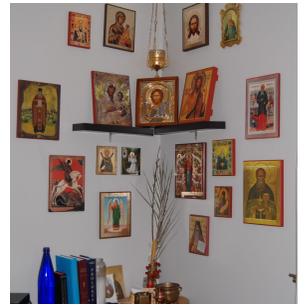
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PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & Other Needs **

NO KNEELING IN PRAYER – We will offer prayers to God in a standing position for the next **50** days. As you pray at home, please remember that you should be praying in a standing position. The reason for standing is that kneeling indicates a kind of *penitential position* and with the Resurrection of Christ we are in a *joyful season* and have no need of having sorrow in our hearts.



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A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her* so that *he/she* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Helen, Jason, Ann, Eleanor D., Julie, Jane, Mildred, Mark, Viola, Juliana, Nathaniel, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Jayne, Ann, Teresa, David, Larry, Susan, Anna Mae, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Lawrence, Fredrick, Donald, Iris, Maria, and Sophia *...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Great-Martyr & Healer.*

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Birthday Prayers for... Anna Karoline Dzadony (5/3), Fr Thomas Soroka (5/6), Apryle Horbal (5/6) *...May God allow them to grow in peace & love all the days of their lives & may He grant them many & blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*

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For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Scott, Sarah, Nancy, Ameer, Andrea, Christopher, Ryan, Marianne and our Church Council and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Jane, Sharon, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, John, Richard, John, and Margaret *...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Sgt. Walter Dylan Mushinsky, Maj. Michael Repasky *...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For Expectant Mothers... Nicole, Jessica, Sharon, Roxanne, & Pañi Katie *...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*



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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... *...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene & St. John Maximovitch.*

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For those preparing for Marriage... *...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia & all Holy Martyrs.*

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you would wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: it is good to pray for one another. Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Those whom we add to the list do NOT need to be Orthodox Christians.

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS OF THE WEEK:

A prayer for our Neighborhoods by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

Prayer for the Beginning of the Day

O Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace.
Help me in all things to rely upon Your holy will.
In every hour of the day, reveal Your will to me.
Bless my dealings with all who surround me.
Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul and with firm conviction that Your will governs all.
In all my deeds and words, guide my thoughts and feelings.
In unforeseen events, let me not forget that all are sent by You.
Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering and embarrassing others.
Give me strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring.
Direct my will, teach me to pray, and, Yourself, pray in me. Amen.