Saint 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 Brancho, Pastor Emeritus

Timothy Martin, Reader

Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, Cantors

Matthew Peifer, Church Council President

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Volume III

13th Sunday after Pentecost / Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy (44) Liturgical Color: Blue

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy Tone 4 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24: Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

Blessing of Flowers & Herbs following the Liturgy / Panachida for Father's Grandmother, +Irene (Rusnak) Kurtz (20th Anniversary - 9/6/97) / Garage Sale cleanup begins during coffee social

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, September 6 – 7pm Akathist Hymn to Almighty God in times of Sorrow and Depression Friday, September 9 – 9:30am Moleben to St Nectarios with holy anointing

Monday	Martyr Gorazd of Prague and Bohemia (1942)	2 Corinthians 12:10-19	Mark 4:10-23
Tuesday	Martyr Lupus (306)	2 Corinthians 12:20-13:2	Mark 4:24-34
* Wednesday	Hieromartyr Maxim Sandovič of Gorlice (1914)	2 Corinthians 13:3-13	Mark 4:35-41
Thursday	St. Menas, patriarch of Constantinople (6th c.)	Galatians 1:1-10,20-2:5	Mark 5:1-20
* Friday	Martyrs Adrian & Natalia of Nicomedia (4th c.)	Galatians 2:6-10	Mark 5:22-24,35-6:1
Saturday	Venerable Poemen the Great (450)	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Matthew 23:1-12

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

Sunday, September 10 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost / Venerable Moses the Black of Scete (400). 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy Tone 5 Liturgical Color: Gold

> Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4; Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!) Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na v'iki!)

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! +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

This Bulletin is offered:

If you wish to sponsor a Sunday Bulletin, for specific 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. An additional stewardship offering is requested.

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Monday, September 11 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist / a day of Strict Fasting

Thursday, September 14 – 9:30am Moleben of Thanksgiving for the Ecclesiastical New Year Sunday, September 17 – YOUTH Sunday / Annual Meeting of St John the Baptist following Liturgy Thursday, September 21 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos Sunday, September 24 – Additional Collection for our Community Outreach /

Panachida for all deceased members of St John the Baptist / Church Anniversary Luncheon



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+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ **BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Garage Sale Clean-Up - The clean up from the garage sale needs to be a community effort! Over the next couple weeks, when you go to the hall for a coffee and snack, please grab a box and pack something up. Let's share our stewardship and Live Orthodoxy!

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Calendar Party - St Michael's (146 Third Ave., Rankin, PA 15104) is having their Calendar Party on Sunday, September 10th. Doors open at 12:30pm Luncheon at 1:00. \$18 donation. Fun games and as always, everyone takes home something. Anyone is welcome to call Carole for reservations at 412-351-1521.

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+++ +++ +++ 2nd Official Notice – Our Parish Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, September 17th following the Divine Liturgy. New Proposals for the Annual Meeting need to be submitted to Matt Peifer or Tim Martin. All proposals are much appreciated!

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80th Anniversary of St. John's Church - On Sunday, September 24th we will have a catered anniversary luncheon for the faithful of St. John's. A mere donation of \$10 will be requested for this wonderfully catered meal. Space will be limited. Please sign up on the sheet in the Church Hall to reserve your seat today. Patty Watson will be collecting for the luncheon.



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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Pańi Brancho; Cindy Pavilonis; 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." - John 8:12

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Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD) – We invite you to join with other St John's faithful in giving to the annual DDD program.

This program greatly supports our ministry at Camp Nazareth and other programs in our diocese. Those who give \$100 (& up) are invited to the Annual Banquet, which this year will be held on **Sunday, October 1**st at the Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pgh, PA 15235). Please see Father or Larry Martin, our new local ambassador, for more information.

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Annual Fall Bazaar – St. Michael's (146 Third Ave., Rankin, PA 15104) will hold its annual fall bazaar on **Sunday, October 8**th from 11am to 4pm. Food, crafts, raffles, bingo and fellowship!

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Looking FURTHER Ahead

Some 2017 dates of interest:

- ➤ Camp Nazareth 40th Anniversary Celebration: September 16
- ➤ Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos: Saturday, October 14
- ➤ God-Parents/God-Children Sunday: October 15
- > Annual Turkey Bingo: Sunday, November 19
- > Moleben of Thanksgiving: November 28
- Bishop Gregory's 5th Episcopal Anniversary: Monday, November 27 in Johnstown
- Nativity Fast begins: Tuesday, November 28
- Seminary Benefit Dinner: Sunday, December 3
 Please, Save the Dates!

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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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Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship:\$ 41Community Outreach:\$ 74Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:\$ 115Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:\$ 595Total Donations:\$ 825

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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August Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 4678

*Expenses = \$ 7401.45

Net Deficit = \$ 2723.45

*details listed on the church hall bulletin board Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: **44**

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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- Offer some of your time to clean up after the *Garage Sale*
 - Take one of the coffee social weeks
 Attend additional services

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**Coffee Social Stewards Needed – On weeks that no one signs up to host and organize our coffee social, we will have a 'pot-luck' meal. On these weeks, we ask that every household brings something small for a pot-luck surprise spread for the community to enjoy that week! (Don't over think the menu - Plan to keep it simple (a)) Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after. The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors. Lets keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

++++++++ Coffee Social Steward Schedule

September 10: "Pot Luck"
September 17 – Annual Mtg.: "Pot Luck"
September 24: catered luncheon

Thank you to all those who support this critical ministry of our Church!

ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

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Ukrainian Food Festival – Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106) will host its 6th Annual Ukrainian Food Festival on **Friday & Saturday, September 8th & 9th**, from 11am–7pm. Enjoy ethnic entertainment throughout the day on Saturday. Take-out is available. MC/Visa is accepted. For further information call 412-527-5359

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Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery Fundraiser – A dinner banquet will be on September 9th at St Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral (419 S Dithridge St, Pittsburgh, PA 15213). 3pm Vespers Service; 4pm Dinner (Fish or Chicken entrees). Tickets are \$100 each. RSVP by September 1 by calling Zelfa at 412-417-4706 or visiting https://www.eventbrite.com/e/all-generations-will-call-me-blessed-4th-annual-dinner-banquet-tickets-33474106955.

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Orthodoxy on Tap – POYA, the Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults, will host their next *Orthodoxy on Tap* on **Sunday, September 10**th at 6:30 pm at the Sharp Edge Beer Emporium in Shadyside (302 S St Clair St., Pgh., Pa 15206). The guest speaker will be His Grace, Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese who will speak on *"Orthodox Spirituality 101"*.

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The Orthodox Young Professionals Group is having their 3rd gathering on Saturday, September 16th at 7pm at Social in Bakery Square (6425 Penn Ave,, Pgh, PA 15206) for food and drinks. Bring one burning question you have always had about Orthodoxy and Fr. Dean Kokanos will be answering them. We will have a short discussion on a few questions over drinks and then spend the rest of the evening getting to know each other. RSVP by calling or texting Chris Burns at 330-603-6692.

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The Orthodox Family in a Changing World Conference – The Center for Family Care is hosting this conference in an effort to explore critical issues in the family life-cycle including elder care, addiction, special-needs families, the effect of technology on relationships, and sexuality. The conference will be held September 20-23 at The Hilton Garden Inn Southpointe (1000 Corporate Dr., Canonsburg, PA 15317). Please see the flyer in the Church Hall or contact Father Dave for more information.

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Annual Walk for Missions – Save the date for Sunday, October 8th. More details coming...

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ST JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF). The OCF is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of

America. OCF is charged with connecting Orthodox college students — and those interested in the Orthodox Christian faith — to Christ and His Church. OCF realizes this mission by:

- Supporting fellowships on college campuses, whose members experience and witness to the Orthodox Christian Church through community life, prayer, service to others, and study of the Faith;
- Providing a variety of thoughtful and innovative programming including College Conference and Real Break domestic and international service projects; and,
- Training lay and clergy volunteers as well as our students for leadership roles on campus and beyond. Visit http://www.ocf.net for more information. Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings later this month!

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

The Feast of the Dormition

The bodily resurrection of the Holy Virgin

According to the teachings of the Orthodox Church, Mary, having spent her life after Pentecost supporting and serving the nascent Church, was living in the house of the Apostle John, in Jerusalem, when the Archangel Gabriel revealed to her that her repose would occur three days later.

The apostles, scattered throughout the world, are said to have been miraculously transported to be at her side when she died. The sole exception was Thomas, who had been delayed. He arrived three days after her death and is said to have seen her body leaving to heaven. He asked her "Where are you going, O Holy One?" and then she took off her girdle (belt) and gave it to him and said "Receive this my friend" then she disappeared.

Thomas was taken to his fellow Apostles and asked to see her grave so that he could bid her +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

goodbye. Mary had been buried in Gethsemane. according to her request. When they arrived at the grave, her body was gone, leaving a sweet fragrance. An apparition is said to have confirmed that Christ had taken her body to heaven after three days to be reunited with her soul.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary died a natural death, like any human being; that her soul was received by Christ upon death; and that her body was resurrected on the third day after her repose, at which time she was taken up, bodily only, into heaven. Her tomb was found empty on the third day because she had already undergone the bodily resurrection which all will experience at the Second Coming, and stands in heaven in that glorified state which the other righteous ones will only enjoy after the Last Judgment.

A blessed feast to all of you! With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday

"The man represents God the Father, and the vineyard refers to God's people. The vinedressers are the leaders of the Jews entrusted to care for the people. Each servant (vv. 10- 12) sent by the owner stands for an OT prophet who comes to call people back to God, while the beloved son (v. 13) refers to Christ Himself. When the Son is cast out of the vineyard (v. 15) to be killed, this is understood on two levels: (1) that Jesus was killed outside Jerusalem; and (2) that Jesus was crucified by foreign soldiers, not by those of His own vineyard. The others (v. 16) who later receive the vineyard are the Gentiles brought into the Church." - Orthodox Study Bible, Matthew 21:33-43

Monday

"Your name, O Mary, is a precious ointment, which breathes forth the odor of Divine Grace. Let this ointment of salvation enter the innermost recesses of our souls." +St. Ambrose of Milan

Tuesday

"My heart only has entrances. It doesn't have exits. Whoever enters remains there. Whatever he may do, I love him the same as I loved him when he first entered into my heart." +Elder Epiphanios

Wednesday

"O Lord, my Lord, Who gave peace to Your world through Your Cross, send down Your peace into my troubled heart." From Ikos 1 of the Akathist Hymn to Almighty God in times of Sorrow and Depression

Thursday

"When the Church tells us in her hymns and icons that the Apostles were miraculously gathered from the ends of the earth in order to be present at the repose and burial of the Theotokos, we as Orthodox Christians are not free to deny this or reinterpret it, but must believe as the Church hands it down to us, with simplicity of heart." +St. John Maximovich, "The Orthodox Veneration of Mary the Theotokos"

Friday

"Pray to the Theotokos. She will intercede for you in this life, and, after death, she will help you reach the heavenly Kingdom." +St. Barsanuphius of Optina

Saturday

"A Christian must be courteous to all. His words and deeds should breath with the grace of the Holy Spirit, which abides in his soul, so that in this way he might glorify the name of God. He who regulates all of his speech also regulates all of his actions. He who keeps watch over the words he is about say also keeps watch over the deeds he intends to do, and he never goes out of the bounds good and benevolent conduct. The graceful speech of a Christian is characterized by delicateness and politeness. This fact, born of love, produces peace and joy. On the other hand, boorishness gives birth to hatred, enmity, affliction, competitiveness, disorder and wars." +St. Nectarios of Aegina, "The Path to Happiness"



O Theotokos, in giving birth you retained virginity; and in your falling asleep you did not forsake the world. You are the Mother of Life and have passed into life, and by your prayers have delivered our souls from death.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar

The Disciple from the 70, Thaddeus

Commemorated on Sept 3/Aug 21

The Disciple from the Seventy, Thaddeus, was by descent an Hebrew, and he was born in the Syrian city of Edessa. (The holy Disciple from the Seventy Thaddeus mustneeds be distinguished from

the Apostle from the Twelve, Jude, also called Thaddeus or Levi, Comm. 19 June). Having come to Jerusalem for a feastday, he heard the preaching of John the Forerunner and, having received from him baptism in Jordan, he remained in Palestine. In beholding the Saviour, he became His follower, and was chosen by the Lord amidst the number of the Seventy Disciples, which He sent by twos for preaching to the cities and locales, which He intended to visit (Lk. 10:1). After the Ascension of the Saviour to Heaven, the Disciple Thaddeus preached the good-news in Syria and Mesopotamia. He came preaching the

Gospel to Edessa and he converted to Christ king Abgar, the people and the pagan-priests. He backed up his preaching with many miracles (about which Abgar wrote to the Assyrian emperor Nerses); he established there priests and built up the Edessa Church. Prince Abgar wanted to

reward the Disciple Thaddeus with rich gifts, but he refused and went preaching to other cities, converting many pagans to the Christian faith. Having arrived preaching in the city of Berit (Beirut), he founded there the Church, and it was in this city that he peacefully died in the year 44. (This place for his death is indicated in the Slavonic Meneion, but according to other sources he died in Edessa. According to an ancient Armenian tradition, the Disciple Thaddeus after various tortures was beheaded by the sword on 21 December in the Artaz region in the year 50).

THINGS TO CONSIDER

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

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Online Community – Please email Fr. Dave at *fr.sleepless@gmail.com* to receive the weekly bulletin via email. **Phone Tree** – Please call Fr. Dave at 412-766-4691 to be added to our Phone Tree.



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 and you may receive the Anointing to be fully prepared.

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

<u>Holy Communion/Eucharist</u> – 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.

Baptisms – Please consult Father for details.

Marriages - Please consult Father ASAP for details (before arrangements are made for the hall).

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

"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 and Other Needs *

A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant <u>name</u>. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver <u>him/her</u> 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... Ann, Eleanor D., Julie, Jane, Mildred, Mark, Viola, Juliana, Nathaniel, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Teresa, Susan, Anna Mae, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Lawrence, Fredrick, Iris, Helen B., Steven, Bruce, Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Valerie, Michael, Peter, Fr John Baranik, John S. ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Great-Martyr & Healer.

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For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Amee, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Olga, John, Sarah and our Church Council and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Jane, Sharon, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, John, Richard, John, Margaret, Sarah, Patricia ...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... Maj. Michael Repasky ...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

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For Expectant Mothers... Sharon, Pańi Katie, Pańi Kristina, Pańi Ileana ...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.

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Birthday Prayers for... Danielle (Mushinsky) Yakemawiz (9/5) and Pańi Deborah Zak (9/7) ... May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

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Anniversary Prayers for... Michael & Melanie Shuster (9/5), Marianne & Steven Kubis (9/6), Father's sister, Suzanne & Brian Verbanick (9/8) ... May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!

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

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For the soul of the newly departed... ... May the Lord God grant him blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Memory eternal!

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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 PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

A Prayer in the face of inclement weather

O Master, Lord our God, Who through Thy consubstantial Word, Who is without beginning, and Thy lifegiving Spirit, Who is equal in honor, hast brought everything out of nothingness into being; Who hast set sandy barriers to the sea, and hast weighed the mountains and the valleys in a balance; Who hast measured the skies and holds the water in the palm of Thy hand; Who hast given to this visible world of the senses its law and rules, its harmony and order; Who hast appointed changes to the weather and variations in the orbit of the sun; Who, through the mingling of the elements, holds all things together by Thine inexpressible power and keeps them free from harm and intact: Do Thou Thyself, all-good King, extending to us Thine innate and customary love and goodness, visit the work of Thy hands. Do not deprive us of Thy mercies and Thy compassion, and do not destroy Thine inheritance, for Thou hast ineffably created us in Thine own image.

Thou hast given Thine only-begotten Son as a ransom for us, and through the mystical communion of Thy Spirit hast made us share in Thine own divinity; forgive, we pray, the multitude of our sins in the far greater multitude, of Thy mercies. Thou didst wash away the sins of humanity through the Cross and the Blood of Thy Son. Restore the world of nature, which has been grievously disturbed into an unnatural state, and restore it to its natural harmony and order. Make the great ocean return to its usual calmness, bring to end the tempest and the disturbance of the elements that threaten us, order the winds to blow once more with gentleness and moderation. Rebuke the raging of the sea and the unnatural violence of the gales; let the storm be stilled and the tempest return to tranquility, through the intercession of the most blessed Lady Theotokos, of all the Angels and Saints, and the good pleasure and love of Thine onlybegotten Son, with Whom Thou are blessed, together with Thine all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.