



# Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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



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Very Reverend John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Timothy Martin, *Reader*  
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*  
Matthew Peifer, *Church Council President*  
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December 3, 2017

Volume III

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 9<sup>th</sup> Lukan Sunday / Forefeast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple / Venerable Gregory Decapolites (816)**

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 1

Liturgical Color: **Purple**

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19; Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

## SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday**, December 4 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos

**Wednesday**, December 6 – 7pm Exploring Orthodoxy at the Eat 'n Park in Wexford

**Friday**, December 8 – 9:30am Moleben of the Nativity Fast

**Saturday**, December 9 – 9am-noon – Nativity Church Clean-Up / 11am-1pm Mystery of Confession

*Holy Mystery of Confession available following every service.*

# Monday	New Martyr Priest Alexander of New York (1937)	1 Timothy 5:1-10	Luke 17:20-25
# Tuesday	Apostle Philemon (ca. 109)	1 Timothy 5:11-21	Luke 17:26-37
# Wed.	St. Alexander Nevsky (1263)	1 Timothy 5:22-6:11	Luke 18:15-17,26-30
# Thursday	Great-martyr Catherine of Alexandria (305)	1 Timothy 6:17-21	Luke 18:31-34
# Friday	Hieromartyr Clement, pope of Rome (101)	2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18	Luke 19:12-28
# Saturday	Venerable James the Solitary of Syria (457)	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 10:19-21

*# During the Nativity (Philip's) Fast, let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!*

Sunday, Dec. 10 – 27<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost / 10<sup>th</sup> Lukan Sun. / Great Martyr James the Persian (421)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 2

Liturgical Color: **Purple**

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17; Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

*Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund*

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## 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!

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*This Bulletin is offered:*

If you wish to sponsor a Bulletin, for specific prayers for someone (*birthday, anniversary, etc.*) 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 to the Church is requested.

## LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Tuesday, December 12 – 9:30am Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ / 7pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesdays, December 13 – 7pm Exploring Orthodoxy at Eat 'n Park in Wexford (*Last of the year*)

Thursday, December 14 – 9:30am Moleben for the Nativity Fast

Saturday, December 16 – 11a-1p Mystery of Holy Confession

Sunday, December 17 – YOUTH Sunday / St. Nicholas Breakfast

Monday, December 18 – 7pm Vespers at St Nicholas (903 Ann Street, Homestead, PA 15120)

Tuesday, December 19 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St Nicholas

Wednesday, December 20 – 9:30am Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ

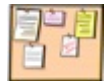
Saturday, December 23 – 11a-1p Mystery of Holy Confession

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## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



### 2017 NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENGE

– Bishop Gregory asks each member of our Diocese to pray the Prayer for Peace every evening of the Nativity Fast, either as a family or individually. Cut out and use the prayer daily (found on the last page). Let us unite our prayers for peace on earth! A special webpage (<http://www.acrod.org/consecration/prayerchallenge>) has been set up where additional information on this year's prayer challenge can be found.

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**Mystery of Holy Confession** – All are reminded that fasting from food goes hand-in-hand with fasting from sin. This is why the Church encourages us to receive the Mystery of Holy Confession during the Nativity Fast period. Confessions will be heard most Saturdays from 11a–1p. Other times are available by appointment. Please contact Father Dave to arrange a time. **A blessed Nativity Fast to all!**

**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered last week by Barbara Kirish, Joanne Nelson, Viola Peifer, Olga Radick, Eleanor Sanger, Theresa Sharpless, Melanie Shuster, 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."* - John 8:12**

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**Welcome to the Newly-Baptized!** Cora Loren Dzadony was baptized and initiated into the Orthodox faith yesterday. May God give strength to her as she begins her Christian life and bless her, her parents, God-Parents, and families!

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**Exploring Orthodoxy Discussions –**

We will meet on Wednesdays from 7p to about 8:15p thru Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at Eat 'n Park (2650 Brandt School Road, Wexford, Pa 15090 / 724-940-3270). We will continue our examination of the priestly prayers of St John Chrysostom's Divine Liturgy. We hope and pray that everyone is able to attend these tangent oriented discussions about Orthodoxy! Come for a bite to eat and learn about your faith! (If you need a ride, please contact Fr. Dave.)

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**Nativity Clean Up** – of the inside of the Church will be on Saturday, **December 9<sup>th</sup>** from 9am to noon. Here is the start to our "to-do" list:

- 1) change the foil under the candle stands,
- 2) wipe down the pews & windowsills (Murphy's oil soap)
- 3) clear out any spider webs in the vestibule and hall lights (and replace burned out bulbs)
- 4) mop the steps from the choir loft down to the bathrooms
- 5) "clean out" the pockets in the pews,
- 6) ? *more to come...* ?

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**Christmas at FOCUS** – We have offered to donate, as we did last year, 4 sheet cakes, 250 bottles of water, and napkins to FOCUS Pittsburgh for their annual Christmas Dinner for those in need. In addition, they are asking for \$25 gift cards from Target. Please see Kathy Schrmack if you are able to make a donation towards this wonderful event which will be held on **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated!



**Lots – O – Luck Calendars** – The National ACRY Lots-O-Luck Calendars are available. Only \$25 per ticket for a year's worth of prizes totaling \$10,000! Please see Theresa Sharpless for tickets.

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**ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH**



**Hosts Sing Alleluia:** 'Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!' – The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Nativity Concert of Orthodox Choirs from the Pittsburgh area to support the work of FOCUS Pittsburgh will be on **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30pm at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt. Lebanon across from the Galleria Mall (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15228). A free will offering will be taken. A reception will follow the concert at the church hall.

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**Orthodox Perspectives on the Reformation: A Symposium** - will be held on **Saturday, December 16** at St Nicholas Orthodox Church (320 Munson Ave, McKees Rocks, PA) beginning with Divine Liturgy at 9am and the Symposium beginning at 10:30am. Five speakers (*Dr John Burgess, Dr Edith Humphrey, Archbishop Melchisedek (Pleska), Dr Kristie Mertz, and Andrew Weaver*) will present. Admission is free. Breakfast and lunch will be served. For more information, visit [OrthodoxPittsburgh.org](http://OrthodoxPittsburgh.org).

**Our Stewardship Gift To God**

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 205
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 100
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 271
Monthly Community Outreach	\$ 108
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 684</b>

*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*

**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

December 10: **Open "Pot Luck"**  
December 17: **St Nicholas Breakfast**  
December 24: **Open "Pot Luck"**

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

**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* ☺) 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!

**Parish Stewardship Opportunities...**

*As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.*  
(Luke 6:31)

- Bring a bag of CALCIUM CHLORIDE
- Take a Coffee Social week
- Attend an additional service at Church
- Plan to help with the *Nativity Clean-Up*
- Donate to the FOCUS Christmas Dinner

**Snow Removal Team** – as temperatures have begun to drop, we are reminded that snow is on it's way. Just a reminder that we will be looking for folks, as in the past, to offer some of their time prior to people getting to church on Sundays to help with snow removal. *Please let Father know if you will be able to come earlier to Church to assist with keeping the sidewalks clear.* Ideally we will have a rotation of people so that the same person is not doing it each snowfall.

**Visit Our Diocese On-Line**

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddiocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
You Tube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](https://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

The Monk Gregory Dekapolites

Commemorated on November 20

The Monk Gregory Dekapolites was born in the city of Isaurian Dekapolis in the VIII Century. From the time of his childhood he was fond of the temple of God and church services. He read constantly with reverence in the Holy Scripture. In order to avoid the marriage which his parents had intended for him, he secretly left home. He spent all his life wandering: he was in Constantinople, Rome, Corinth, and he pursued asceticism for a certain while on Olympos. The Monk Gregory preached everywhere the Word of God, denouncing the Iconoclast heresy,



strengthening the faith and fortitude of the Orthodox, whom the heretics in those times were oppressing, torturing and imprisoning. Through his ascetic effort and prayer, Saint Gregory acquired the graced gifts of prophecy and wonderworking. Having attained to purity of heart, he was granted to hear Angelic singing in praise of the Holy Trinity. To better contend against the Iconoclast heresy, Saint Gregory left the monastery of Saint Minos where he had asceticised for a long while, and he set off again to Constantinople. At the capital, a grievous illness undermined his strength, and he expired to the Lord in the year 816.

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SAINT JOHN’S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the Nativity Fast, we are called to increase our Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be

- reaching out to **our homebound** parishioners,
- collecting for **Christmas at FOCUS** (donating 4 sheet cakes, 250 bottles of water, napkins, and \$25 gift cards from Target), as well as
- collecting donations for **ZOE for Life!** (our community outreach collection at the end of the month).



ZOE is a pan-Orthodox non-profit Christ-centered support organization with three major goals: (1) to help women who need confidential emotional and spiritual support during crisis pregnancies; (2) to assist Orthodox Christians seeking to adopt; and (3) to provide an education for Pure Living and other resources. *ZOE for Life!* through the Zoe House provides necessary baby supplies to mothers and babies in need. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

"Whose will those things be which you have provided? is the key to understanding the saving up of material goods. St. John Chrysostom writes that the only barns we need we already have: "the stomachs of the poor." St. Basil the Great taught that the bread in our cupboard belongs to the hungry man; the coat hanging unused belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in our closet belong to the one who has no shoes; and the money we hoard belongs to the poor. St. Ambrose teaches, "The things which we cannot take with us are not ours. Only virtue will be our companion when we die." Even when Joseph stored up grain in Egypt (Gen. 41), it was for the benefit of the whole nation. These teachings apply to parishes as well as to each person." – *Orthodox Study Bible, Luke 12:20*



MONDAY

"The all-pure Temple of the Savior, the precious Bridal Chamber and Virgin, the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is led today into the house of the Lord, and with her she brings the grace of the divine Spirit. Of her God's angels sing in praise: 'She is indeed the heavenly Tabernacle.'" - *Kondak from the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple*

TUESDAY

"Accustom the mind to living in the presence of God. Let him force himself to ceaselessly behold God, for He is near; and let him ascend to the feeling that he is seen by God. This practice is the doorway to God, the opening of heaven to the mind." +*St. Theophan the Recluse*

WEDNESDAY

"We receive salvation by grace and as a divine gift of the Spirit. But to attain the full measure of virtue we need also to possess faith and love, and to struggle to exercise our free will with integrity." +*St. Makarios of Egypt*

THURSDAY

"If a king wanted to take possession of his enemy's city, he would begin by cutting off the water and the food and so his enemies, dying of hunger, would submit to him. It is the same with the passions of the flesh; if a man goes about fasting and hungry the enemies of his soul grow weak." +*Abba John the Dwarf, "The Sayings of the Desert Fathers"*

FRIDAY

"Bodily purity is primarily attained through fasting, and through bodily purity comes spiritual purity. Abstinence from food, according to the words of that son of grace, St. Ephraim the Syrian, means: 'Not to desire or demand much food, either sweet or costly; to eat nothing outside the stated times; not to give oneself over to gratification of the appetite; not to stir up hunger in oneself by looking at good food; and not to desire one or another sort of food.'" +*St Nikolai Velimirovich, The Prologue from Ochrid (V4, p338)*



## SATURDAY

"Fasting is an exceptional virtue; it represses bodily impulses and gives strength to the soul to fight against the poisoning of the heart through the senses, and provides it with a remedy against any past poisoning. Fasting causes the mind to be cleansed constantly. It withers up every evil thought and brings healthy, godly thoughts - holy thoughts that enlighten the mind and kindle it with more zeal and spiritual fervour." +Elder Ephraim of Philotheou Mount Athos, "Counsels from the Holy Mountain"

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## LIVING ORTHODOXY IN REFLECTIVE PREPARATION:

meditating on the awesome miracle of the Son of God taking on flesh and becoming one of us

### Why Should We Fast?

The Nativity fast has begun and our Orthodox Church calls upon us to renew our spiritual struggle. So let us remind ourselves of the benefits of fasting.

Fasting from foods is intended as spiritual preparation for an experience of deeper communion with God. Each person is a unity of body and soul. A right spiritual diet and a discipline of fasting go together and strengthen each other. Just as prayer benefits not only the soul but also the body so also fasting from foods benefits not only the body but also the soul. Fasting and prayer make us more sensitive to God's personal presence. At important times of their lives the Prophets fasted and prayed. So did Jesus, the Apostles, Saints and Church Fathers.

Fasting must be undertaken willingly and not by compulsion. God doesn't need our fasting. We

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don't fast as a kind of personal punishment for our sins. We cannot pay God back for sins but we can only confess them to Him to receive forgiveness. Fasting with a willing spirit and not just with an attitude of fulfilling a religious obligation means that we keep the purposes of fasting always before us which is to develop self-control and to remember God and His Kingdom. That way we fast not only in what we eat but also in how much we eat. Fasting is simplicity of eating. We leave the table not with loaded stomachs. Being a little hungry during the day becomes a constant reminder of God, of our dependence on Him, and of the fact that the Lord alone can give us "food that lasts for eternal life" (Jn 6:27). In fasting and prayer, he reveals Himself to us as our true food and drink.

Source: <http://www.pantanassamonastery.org/why-should-we-fast.html>

## SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

*Father can be reached M-F 9a-4p or by appointment.*

**Online Community:** Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

**Phone Tree** – Please call Fr. Dave to be added.

**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.

**Mystery of Confession** – Opportunities are available after every service, Saturdays during fasting periods from 11:00am to 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

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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).

**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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## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19 (RSV)

<sup>8</sup>for once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; <sup>13</sup>but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. <sup>14</sup>Therefore it is said,

*"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light."*

<sup>15</sup>Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for

that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart

### Gospel: Luke 12:16-21 (RSV)

<sup>16</sup>And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; <sup>17</sup>and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup>And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup>So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

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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 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...** Mildred, Anna Mae, Julie, Jane, Eleanor D., Mark, Viola, Juliana, Nathaniel, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Teresa, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Fredrick, Helen B., Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Matthew, Patricia, Denise, Lino, John, Fr. Jonathan Tobias, Pañi Marsha Tobias, Cynthia, Mary, Thomas ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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**For the Special Intentions of...** *those working towards our Community Outreach*, Christ the Savior Seminary, for Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Amee, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Olga, John, Sarah, John S., *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Donald, Jane, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, Kenneth, Gina, Robert, Jillian, Wendy, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, 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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**Birthday Prayers for...** Lucy Jo Blobner (12/4), His Grace, Bishop Gregory (12/7), and Deborah Brancho (12/9)...*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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**For those preparing for Marriage...** ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia & all Holy Martyrs.*

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**Anniversary Prayers for...** ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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**For Expectant Mothers...** Pañi Ileana, Amee, Ashley, Katie, Harmonie ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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**For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...** ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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

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**For the souls of the newly departed...** ...*May the Lord God grant them 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 & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to Orthodox Christians.*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE NATIVITY FAST:



2017 NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENGE

Bishop Gregory asks each member of our Diocese to pray this **Prayer for Peace** every evening of the Nativity Fast, either as a family or individually.



Lord Jesus Christ, Son and Word of God, You became flesh and dwelt among us. You made the womb of Your most-pure Mother more spacious than the heavens. Yet You, the true light, were born in the darkness of a cave, thereby enlightening the world that was darkened by sin. To redeem us, You shared Your whole life. You submitted to death on the Cross and rose from the dead, bestowing life. We share in Your death and resurrection, that we may indeed be dead to sin and alive in You. As we fast and prepare to celebrate Your life-giving manifestation, we pray especially that our respect for life will prevail in the world. Directed by Your command to care for “the least of these,” may we and all people heed Your call to show care and concern for life in the womb; for the lives of the poor, oppressed, and suffering; and for the lives of the sick, the elderly, and the dying. May Your peace reign in our hearts and throughout world, especially in places of unrest, so that the shedding of blood in warfare, violence, terrorism, tyranny, and all manner of strife may come to an end. May aggression between neighbors and nations fade away. May love reign in the lives of families. O Savior, You have said “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” May we become partakers of Your abundant life, together with all the saints whose lives have pleased You from the beginning. For You are the way, the truth and the life, O Christ our God, and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your most-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. AMEN.