



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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



Father Dave Urban, Pastor
Very Reverend Father John Brancho, Pastor Emeritus
Timothy Martin, Reader
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, Cantors
Matthew Peifer, Church Council President
www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

2688 California Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa 15212
412-748-0148, Talk or Text
OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com

June 10, 2018

Volume IV

2nd Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of Carpatho-Rusyn (Regional) Saints

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 1

Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16; Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23
Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Wed., June 13 – 7pm Moleben to St Nectarios with Holy Anointing followed by Parish Council Meeting
The Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

* Monday	Virgin-martyr Theodosia of Constantinople (730)	Romans 9:18-33	Matthew 11:2-15
* Tuesday	Martyr Natalius	Romans 10:11-11:2	Matthew 11:16-20
* Wednesday	Apostle Hermes of the Seventy (1st c.)	Romans 11:2-12	Matthew 11:20-26
* Thursday	St. Mertius the Farmer of Myra in Lycia (912)	Romans 11:13-24	Matthew 11:27-30
* Friday	St. Nicephorus the Confessor (829).	Romans 11:25-36	Matthew 12:1-8
* Saturday	Martyr Lucillian (270)	Romans 6:11-17	Matthew 8:14-23

* The Apostles' (Peter & Paul) Fast - Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did.

Sunday, June 17 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost / St. Metrophanes, 1st Patriarch of Constantinople (325)
9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 2

Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16; Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23
YOUTH Sunday / Father's Day Panachida

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)
Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava Na Viki!)

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:
In Memory of +Lawrence and +Anastasia Martin's Anniversary Date.
May Their Memory Be Eternal!

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Thursday, June 21 – 9:30am Moleben to the Theotokos with Holy Anointing
Saturday, June 23 – 11-1 Mystery of Holy Confession offered
Sunday, June 24 – 50th Wedding Anniversary Prayers for Dave and Andrea Urban following Liturgy
Wednesday, June 27 – 7pm Akathist to Saint Peter and Saint Paul
Sat., June 30 – 11am Mystery of Holy Baptism and Initiation into the Orthodox Faith of **Bryce James Blobner**

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Faith Night at PNC Park – is **Friday, July 27th** at 7:05 as the Pittsburgh Pirates battle the New York Mets. We are organizing a group of tickets in section 204. For \$30 we will have a discount on concessions and all-you-can-eat snacks. (We are going to extend this offer to our Pittsburgh and Tri-State Deaneries.) Please contact Wendy Martellotti (412-583-6254 or martellotti11@verizon.net) to reserve your ticket by July 8th. And *Let's Go Bucs!*

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Garden Blessings – A new opportunity this year – Father will come and bless your garden if you wish! The format of the blessing is very similar to our annual house blessing. Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested.

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Congratulations! to Harmonie and Tom Torchia and their families on the birth of **Maverick Thomas** born on June 6 at 3:45 am (9.3 lbs. and 21.5 in.). Welcome to our Parish Family!
"Preserve her and this child which she has borne. Cover her with the shelter of thy wings from this day until her final end, through the prayers of the most Holy Theotokos and of all the saints. Amen." – from a Prayer for a Woman on the First Day after Childbirth

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House Blessings Resume – For those who did not have their house blessed prior to the Great Fast, please contact Fr Dave to arrange a time.

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Joanne Nelson; Patty Watson; Melanie Paieski; Cindy Pavilonis.

***"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**

The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by John Gaydos, Sr., in Memory of Wife, Catherine and by Matthew Peifer, in Memory of Father, Jack. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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Matching Funds – Each month we take a collection on the Last Sunday of the month for our Community Outreach. It was decided at the recent Church Council Meeting that the parish will match the funds collected. These matching funds will come from our *Fundraising Account* which includes the profits from the Annual Italian Dinner/Basket Raffle, Garage Sale, and Turkey Bingo. Thank you for your support of these events so that we can then give back to the community – a beautiful form of stewardship from our parish!

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Collection for Holy Transfiguration Monastery – Speaking of Outreach, here is this year's list of needed items requested by the nuns:

Monastery Supplies:

- Toilet tissue
- Facial Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Paper napkins
- Tall Kitchen White Trash Bags
- Dessert size **paper** plates
- 9 in. and 12 in. **paper** plates

Cleaning Supplies:

- Clorox Bathroom Cleaner (not wipes)
- Clorox Bleach Cleaner
- 409 Cleaner
- Dish washing liquid (refill)

Food Items:

- sugar & creamers containers for coffee hour
- powdered sugar
- canola oil
- cooking spray
- salted canned nuts
- honey – large jars
- honey bear jars – small
- granola bars – snack bars
- small cans of chick peas (plain not seasoned)

Don't Forget:

Bring in your used greeting cards to the bin in the Vestibule

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Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 105
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 176
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 1110
Community Outreach:	\$ 70

Total Collections: \$ 1461

Italian Feast & Basket Raffle (fund. acc't): \$ 1689

Collection for the Saints: "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside,

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May Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 4631.49

***Expenses = \$ 5297.03**

Net Deficit = \$ 665.54

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 32

Annual Church Picnic – Just a reminder that our annual picnic to be held at The Cabin in North Park will be on **Sunday, July 8th** from Noon to about 5pm.

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Inaugural Deanery Picnic – Please save the date for the Inaugural Deanery Picnic to be held at The Anderson Shelter at Schenley Park on **Sunday, September 30th** from Noon to dusk.

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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

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

- Pray for our parish
- Attend additional services
- Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Donate towards Bibles for Babies

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

June 17: **Lynn Mainolfi**

June 24: **Ditmore / Urban / Verbanick**

July 1: **OPEN / Pot Luck**

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. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

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Visit Our Diocese On-Line

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

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16

¹⁰but glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹For God shows no partiality.

¹²All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have

the law. ¹⁵They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them ¹⁶on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

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Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and

Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zeb'edee and John his brother, in the boat with Zeb'edee their father, mending their nets, and he called

them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

²³And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **June 11-16** – Koimissis (2111 Davidson St., Aliquippa) *Greek*
- **June 12-15** – Holy Cross (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh) *Greek*
- **June 22-24** – Holy Dormition (12 Washington Ave., Oakmont) *Greek*



Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church hall for times and more information or visit holytrinitypgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Sunday Carpatho-Rusyn (Regional) Saints

St. Alexis Toth - Confessor of the Orthodox Faith in America (1854-1909)

By Very Rev. Edward Pehanich

Submitting my soul to the mercy of God, and asking everybody's forgiveness and forgiving everybody, and remaining faithful to the Orthodox Catholic doctrines up to my last minute, believing and professing myself, and submitting myself to the prayers of all....

With these words, our Holy Father Alexis Toth composed his last will and testament shortly before his death in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in 1909... we especially honor the memory of this Carpatho-Rusyn priest who was an inspiration, example and also a warning for the founding fathers of our Diocese.

St. Alexis was born in a Carpatho-Rusyn family of priests, both his father and brother were priests and his uncle was a bishop. Like most Carpatho-Rusyns of the time, the Toths were Eastern Rite - Uniate Catholics. After completing his seminary education, he married Rosalie Mihalich, the daughter of a priest in 1878, was ordained to the priesthood and assigned as the second priest in a Greek Catholic parish. While serving there, his wife and their only child died. Father Alexis was later appointed secretary to the Bishop of Presov and Chancellor of the Diocese and taught Church History and Canon Law in the Presov Seminary.

The pivotal time of Father Toth's life began with his arrival in America in November, 1889 to become the first pastor of the new Greek Catholic church in Minneapolis. Five weeks after his arrival, Father Toth, following Canon Law, presented his credentials to the local Roman Catholic bishop, Archbishop John Ireland. Learning that Father Toth had been married, the Archbishop refused to recognize him as a legitimate Catholic priest and forbade him to function as a priest anywhere in the Diocese. Archbishop Ireland was a leader among a movement in the Catholic Church aimed at Americanizing the Catholic Church. Their views had no place for the use of the Eastern rite in Liturgy by foreign speaking immigrants with married priests.

Having served as a professor of Canon Law,

Father Toth knew his rights and continued serving the needs of his flock. He set about raising funds for needed church items, purchased a house for use as a rectory and even opened a small grocery store for which he served as a baker. With his small income, he provided not only for himself but gave assistance for his poor parishioners and paid for a caretaker and cantor for the church. In 1890, all of the Uniate priests then serving in America gathered for a meeting in Wilkes-Barre to discuss the open hostility they were all receiving from the local Roman Catholic hierarchy. In response and as a punishment for this meeting, all the priests in attendance were recalled to Europe by their bishops.

Return to Orthodoxy

Recognizing that the Greek Catholic clergy and faithful would always be treated as inferiors in the larger Roman Catholic Church and that the Union with Rome had been forced upon the peasant Carpatho-Rusyns, Father Alexis relates:

I made up my mind to do something which I carried in my heart for a long time, for which my soul longed: that is, to become Orthodox. But how was it to be done. I had to be very cautious. The unfortunate Union, the source of our decline and all our ills, had been part of our people too long. We had already borne that yoke on our shoulders for 250 years. I fervently prayed God to grant me the power to make all this clear to my unenlightened parishioners.

After contacting the Orthodox Bishop Vladimir who was residing in San Francisco, Father Toth traveled there and was received into the Orthodox Faith by the bishop. An eyewitness of this event, the parish choir director Paul Zaichenko wrote:

In the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of San Francisco, Bishop Vladimir is serving the Divine Liturgy. The choir, under my direction, is singing splendidly. In the center of the church stands a stranger. He is clean shaven, with a short military haircut. He wears a cassock, fastened with a row of buttons, and around his waist is tied a wide purple sash...All eyes are on him, but no one knows who the stranger is. Bishop Vladimir, in all his vestments, comes forward from the altar, holding the Bible and the cross. According to the

Church ritual, the stranger is accepted into the Orthodox faith. In a loud voice, he renounces papism and enters the fold of the Holy Orthodox Church. At that moment his face lights up with an internal light. This new convert was Father Alexis Toth, young, handsome, and energetic...

Bishop Vladimir traveled to Minneapolis in March, 1891 and received 361 parishoners into the

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Orthodox Church. Uniate priests and people throughout America took note of Father Alexis' courageous action and he found ready listeners as he enlightened his Carpatho-Rusyn brethren of the false teachings and deceptions which had misled them for generations. Through his efforts, over 17 parishes returned to the Orthodox Faith and an estimated 25,000 people.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

HOW TO PROPERLY PREPARE FOR THE APOSTLES FAST, AND WHETHER A MODERN PERSON NEEDS TO FAST

In this brief interview, His Beatitude Metropolitan Onuphry of Kiev and All Ukraine speaks on fasting, modern man, and role models.

—Your Beatitude, Pentecost ends the Paschal cycle. We start counting anew from this week. How does this period differ from the other cycles of the year?

—The holy Church was born on [Pentecost](#), and after the feast it began to actively work and preach; similarly, after Pentecost, a new enumeration of every following Sunday begins in the Church's liturgical year, in which are recalled, besides the mystery of the Resurrection, notable Gospel events or events from Christian history. For example, on the first Sunday, the Synaxis of All Saints is remembered, and on the second, [All Saints Who Shone Forth in the Russian Land](#), and so on.

—The Apostles Fast begins today. Concerning fasting, you often hear that in our nervous age, fasting is just an additional stress. How is fasting useful for modern man?

—After the universal flood, due to man's infirmity, the Lord blessed meat; that is, people began to eat the flesh of animals and birds. But the former life expectancy of man was already gone. This shows us that fasting is not some kind of cruelty on the Lord's part towards His creation. The Lord wants us to return, through fasting, to the former order of this beautiful dispensation that man had in Paradise. In other words, fasting is not a stress for man, but a means that relieves stress.

—What is the proper way to prepare for a fast? What can we do during a fast, and what can we not do?

—In the fasts we limit ourselves, firstly from non-fasting food. Vegetation is natural for man and the most beneficial to his health. When people are seriously ill, or when old age sets in, even doctors don't recommend eating heavy meats. They're better for young people, for those who have strong bodies, and for those doing hard physical labor. And the holy Church, knowing what is good for man, advises to abstain from meat products during Great Lent to restore harmony to our body and that natural order that God established in every man. When we fast, our bodies restructure themselves. If someone always eats meat, it might be hard for him to live just on vegetation at first. But this is a positive reaction, and after a while,

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

“The Lord is so holy, so simple in His holiness, that one single evil or impure thought deprives us of Him, of

everything is restored, and he will feel fine. If someone who has smoked for a long time is forced to quit, he starts to have psychoses and some unpleasant changes in his body. But that doesn't mean he needs to smoke in such a malaise—it's just a positive reaction to his healing.

—What can happen to someone who doesn't fast?

—Someone who fasts has personal experience of overcoming various difficulties and temptations in life, but someone who doesn't fast is deprived of such experience. I wish that we would all be enriched by the experience of spiritual struggle, through which we travel to spiritual perfection. This is what the holy Church calls us to today through the blessing of the Apostles Fast. It should also be remembered that when a person joins in the bodily and spiritual fast, then an especially intensive spiritual development begins, ascending from degree to degree, or, as the holy Church says, spiritual perfection, which begins on Earth and continues eternally in the Heavenly life.

—And a final, personal question. Do you have a role model?

—All of us Christians try to emulate our Savior and Creator; after all, everyone has God within Himself: As soon as a man is born, the Godhead already sanctifies and fills him. Some saints had the opportunity to see God even with their own eyes; they were filled inside with Divine light, which expanded their hearts and souls until they could see God Himself. However, there were few such people to whom the Lord Himself appeared. Among them was [St. Silouan the Athonite](#). When the Lord was somewhat distant from him, St. Silouan suffered greatly because he no longer saw Christ during prayer, which was infinitely more difficult for him then. St. Silouan is a role model, for he shows us how we must draw nearer to Christ even in this earthly life through labors and prayer. Another example of holiness, very beneficial for modern man, is [St. Mary of Egypt](#), who through labors and prayer turned from a great sinner into a great saint. We are not capable of such *podvigs*, but we must know that when a person gradually, from fast to fast, from fasting day to fasting day, tries to abstain, to keep himself within the bounds of the Divine law, he also comes to his own measure of perfection, and is granted mercy from God both here, on Earth, and in Heaven—in the eternal Kingdom.

from: <http://orthochristian.com/113477.html>

the sweet and most sweet, of the pure and most pure peace and light of our souls." +St. John of Kronstadt

MONDAY

"Go to the ant, O sluggard, study her ways and learn wisdom" (Proverbs 6:6). "O what a terrible shame for man when an ant, an irrational creature, is used to emphasize an example of diligence. But when man does not know how to look up to the diligence of God, it is necessary to direct him, at least, to emulate the ant. An ant works all summer and prepares food for itself for winter. Brethren, do we also prepare winter stores that we will open and display after death? O, may we not come with empty hands before Him Who, with full hands, gives to us as long as we are in this life." - Prologue of Ochrid

TUESDAY

"What a husband ought say to his wife: I have taken you in my arms, and I love you, and I prefer youth my life itself. For the present life is nothing, and my most ardent dream is to spend it with you in such a way that we may be assured of not being separated in the life reserved for us... I place your love above all things, and nothing would be more bitter or painful to me than to be of a different mind than you." +St. John Chrysostom

WEDNESDAY

"Do not steal anything from anyone, and take nothing, and be content with what you earn by your own labors." +St. Theophan the Recluse

THURSDAY

"Without having freed itself from the world, the soul cannot love God sincerely. For worldly things, in the words of St. Antioch, are as it were a veil for the soul." +St. Seraphim of Sarov

FRIDAY

"Be diligent and avoid idleness. For as diligence is pleasing to God, so idleness on the contrary, as a source of every evil, is a sin very offensive to God." +St. Theophan the Recluse

SATURDAY

"It is no mean contest to overcome one's bad habits, for custom, strengthened by enduring a long time, takes on the force of [second] nature." +St. basil the Great

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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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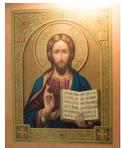


For the Health of... Julie, Jane, Mildred, Anna Mae, Andrew, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Matthew, Patricia, Lino, David, Edward, Melissa, Louis, Marjorie, Jonathan, Ivana, Donna, Doug, Danielle, Pañi Patty Patrick, Sharon, June, Helen, ...*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... Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, John S., Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Ashley, John, and Noella, *our seminarians:* Nathaniel, Vince, Michael, and Daniel, *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, *and for those working towards our Community Outreach, The Monastery of the Transfiguration ...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... Christina Chow (6/12), Makaela Kirish (6/12), Fr Nicholas Mihaly (6/13), Kylee Winkler (6/14), Rebecca Zak (6/15), Julia Lanick (6/16/27), Aaron Zak (6/16), John J Smoley (6/16/20)...*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... *Father's Parents, Dave & Andrea Urban (6/16/68) ...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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

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For Expectant Mothers... Brittany, Aimee, Lindsay, Mary Ann, and Lauren ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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

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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.