



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

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September 9, 2018

Volume IV

15th Sunday after Pentecost / Venerable Poemen the Great (450)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 6 Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

Additional collection for our Capital Improvement Fund /

“All-Hands-On-Deck” Garage Sale Clean-Up during Coffee Social

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, September 11 – A Day of Strict Fasting –

9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist and Panachida

Wednesday, September 12 – 7pm Exploring Orthodoxy (*in Wexford*)

Friday, September 14 – 9:30am a service for the Ecclesiastical New Year

The opportunity for the Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

Monday	Venerable Moses the Black of Scete (400)	Galatians 4:28-5:10	Mark 6:54-7:8
# Tuesday	New Martyr Anastasius of Bulgaria (1794)	Galatians 5:11-21	Mark 7:5-16
* Wednesday	St. Alexander (340), patriarch of Constantinople	Galatians 6:2-10	Mark 7:14-24
Thursday	New Hieromartyrs Michael & Myron priests (1937)	Ephesians 1:1-9	Mark 7:24-30
* Friday	Venerable Symeon Stylites (the Elder) (459)	Ephesians 1:7-17	Mark 8:1-10
Saturday	Martyr Mamas of Caesarea in Cappadocia (275)	1 Cor. 10:23-28	Matthew 24:34-44

A day of Strict Fasting * Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did.

Sunday, September 16 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost / Hieromartyr Anthimus, bishop of Nicomedia, (302)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 7 Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

YOUTH Sunday / Parish Annual Meeting following the Divine Liturgy

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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 Father 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



Wednesdays through October 10th – 7pm Exploring Orthodoxy Discussions at Eat 'n' Park in Wexford

Friday, September 21 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Monday, September 24 – 9:30am Akathist to St. Xenia of St Petersburg with holy anointing

Thursday, September 27 – A Day of Strict Fasting – 9:30am Procession of the Cross and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Sunday, September 30 – Additional collection for our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Fellowship / Noon to Dusk – Pittsburgh Deanery Family Picnic at Schenley Park

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

3rd Official Notice – Our Parish Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday, September 16th** 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! **In addition**, if you are unable to attend the meeting but interested in holding a Church Council position, please give your letter of acceptance to Matt or Tim.

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Exploring Orthodoxy – Every **Wednesday**

(*thru Oct. 10th*) from 7 to 8:15pm we will meet at the Eat 'n Park off of the Wexford exit of 79 (2650 Brandt School Road, Wexford, Pa 15090 / 724-940-3270) for our *Exploring Orthodoxy* Discussions. We will examine 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.*)



Axios! Axios! Axios! With great joy, the Diocesan Chancery has learned that the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople at its monthly meeting on August 29, 2018 voted to elevate His Grace, Bishop Gregory to the rank of Metropolitan. Learn more at:

www.acrod.org/news/2018-press/bg-elevation
Eis Polla Eti Despota! Mnohaja L'ita Vladikal!
Many Years, Master!

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+Michaelene Paulick – linked with our parish, but recently of Egg Harbor City, NJ, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, December 1, 2017 at the age of 80. Born in Homestead, PA and raised in Pittsburgh, PA before moving to Ventnor, NJ. She is survived by her sister Maryhelen Hoffman; her cat Tony; and many loving cousins, family, and friends. May her memory be eternal! Vičnaya Jej Pamjat!

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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 7th (A change for this year: Doors open at 4 / dinner at 5)** at the Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pgh, PA 15235). Please see Father or Larry Martin, our local ambassador, for more information.

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Remembering the Feast of the Beheading – Saint John was a holy prophet and an innocent man (see Mark 6:14-30). His beheading was a preview of the crucifixion of Our Lord; the Innocent Lamb Who is greater than all the prophets. **A Strict Fast from meat**

and dairy is observed on this day, **September 11th**, in commemoration of the murder of the man Jesus called, "the greatest man born of woman." Also, in commemoration of the way that St. John was martyred, pious Orthodox will not eat from a plate but only from a bowl, will not use knives to eat with, and will not eat foods that are round or come as a 'head' (cabbage, lettuce, etc.).

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

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

- Assist with the garage sale clean up
- Pray for our parish and it's future
- Sponsor a Coffee Social

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

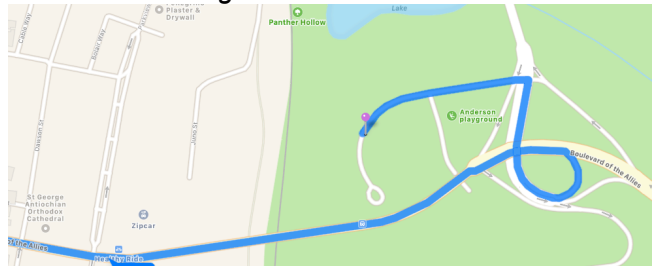
August Financial Report:
Donation Income = \$ 5186.72
***Expenses = \$ 4163.16**
Net Income = \$ 1023.56
**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 42

Relocation Fund – This restricted fund is for the future of our parish. It may be used as part of our Phase 1 research or Phase 2 of an opportunity that we pursue. The important goal is for this fund to grow so that our parish has a chance to grow. As a reminder, *monies that are donated towards this fund will strictly be used towards our relocation.* In the event that we do not relocate, the monies will be distributed between Camp Nazareth or Christ the Saviour Seminary. *Your kind generosity is greatly appreciated!*

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Inaugural Deanery Family Picnic will be held on **Sunday, September 30th** in Schenley Park at the Anderson Pavilion (199 Chas Anderson Memorial Bridge, Pittsburgh, PA 15213) from Noon to Dusk (*i.e., form after church till the start of the Steeler Game*). A food sign-up sheet is in the hall for pot-luck items that will be brought to the picnic. Plan to come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with our brothers and sisters from our sister Deanery Parishes. Get together with old friends and family! Make new friends! Come enjoy God's creation in one of the best parks in Pittsburgh! *Here are directions from downtown:*

- take 376 E
- take exit 72A onto Forbes Ave
- turn RIGHT onto Craft Ave
- turn LEFT onto Boulevard of the Allies
- go past St George Antiochian Orthodox Church
- in 0.4 miles, turn RIGHT onto Panther Hollow Rd
- loop around and in 800 feet turn LEFT (you will see the Anderson playground)
- continue straight to the Pavilion



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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

- September 16: **OPEN / "Pot Luck"**
- September 23: **OPEN / "Pot Luck"**
- September 30: **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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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give

the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to

God and not to us.⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.¹¹ For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak,¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

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Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him.³⁶ "Teacher, which is the

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great commandment in the law?"³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."³⁸ This is the great and first commandment.³⁹ And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

The Question about David's Son

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question,⁴² saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David."⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put thy enemies under thy feet?'

⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?"⁴⁶ And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.

ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

22nd Romanian Food Festival - to be held Saturday & Sunday, **September 15** (12 to 6) & **16** (12:30 to 5) at St. Andrew Romanian Orthodox Church (56 Glenn Way, McKees Rocks, PA 15136). Enjoy delicious home-made Romanian specialties: Mititei (skinless little sausages), tripe soup, bulz,savor Sarmale (Romanian stuffed cabbage), and tasty Frigarui (grilled chicken on a skewer). Don't miss the Carpathian Cheese Pastry, Dobos, Amandina, Savarina, Diplomat, and Crepes! Pre-orders at office@standrewpitt.org. Tell your friends, bring your kids, family, and roommates! www.standrewpitt.org

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Love & Marriage, But No Baby Carriage: New Reproductive Technologies in Light of Orthodox Christian Beliefs and Ethics – First comes love and then comes marriage, but what happens when there is no baby carriage? The grief and sadness of the barren womb, infertility, has been with us since the beginning of time. With the advent of new, assisted reproductive technologies, how are we to view them in light of Orthodox Christian beliefs and ethics? This presentation will be held on **Thursday, September 27th** at 7pm at St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral (8290 Thompson Run Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237). Join us and hear from our panel: Jennifer Lahl (*President Center for Bioethics and Culture Network, Pleasant Hill, CA*), Dr. Albert Rossi (*Dir. of Counseling and Psychological Services, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY*), and V. Rev. George Johnson (*Rector, St. John the Baptist Church, Conemaugh, PA*). Visit www.sanocpgh.org for more details.

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50th Anniversary – on **Friday, September 28th**, Transfiguration Monastery (321 Monastery Lane, Ellwood City, PA 16117) will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Monastery. 9:30am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Prayers of Thanksgiving followed by luncheon. 6:00 p.m. Blessing of church icon murals; 6:30 p.m. ILEANA, Principesa de Romania; Live performance by Romanian actress and playwright, Liana Ceterchi. Many Years! La Multi Ani!

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Five Ways to Stay Connected to Christ During the School Year

By Alexia Loughman

Even though we all strive to be like Jesus, not everyone always has a starring role. As your kids head back to school and schedules get more chaotic, take time to remind them that Christ is at the center of all that we do. To honor Him and his example they can do much more than crossing themselves before a test or a penalty kick.

Here are five ways your child or teen can keep Christ alive as they head back to class:

- 1. Support friends and classmates throughout the day.** Follow the teamwork mentality of Jesus's best friends, the Apostles.
- 2. Reach out to the new kid.** Jesus befriended

the people who were "sitting alone in the cafeteria." Building and cultivating friendships can be one of the most meaningful and rewarding parts of going to school.

- 3. Make a joyful noise.** Being shy is the easy way out. Christ gave us all unique gifts. Don't be afraid to let them shine!
- 4. Pray with your family.** A few minutes praying together every day—whether it's during breakfast or before bed—can help children and parents alike prioritize prayer.
- 5. Give to others.** During holiday breaks, take time to give thanks for your blessings by supporting those in need. Participating in a food drive during Thanksgiving break or donating clothes and toys to children in need at Christmastime can be a rewarding way to honor Christ.

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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 Pimen the Great

Commemorated on Sept. 9 / Aug. 27

The Monk Pimen the Great was born in about the year 340 in Egypt. With his two brothers, Anubias and Paisias, he went into one of the Egyptian monasteries, and all three accepted monastic tonsure. The brothers were such strict ascetics, that when their mother came to the monastery to see her children, they did not come out to her from their cells. The mother stood there for a long time and wept. Then the Monk Pimen said to her through the closed door of the cell: "If thou bearest with the temporal parting from us now, then in the future life wilt thou see us, since we do hope upon God the Lover-of-Mankind!". The mother was humbled and returned home.



Fame about the deeds and virtues of the Monk Pimen spread throughout all the land. One time the governor of the district wanted to see him. The Monk Pimen, shunning fame, reasoned thus: "If dignitaries begin coming to me with respect, then also many of the people will start coming to me and disturb my quiet, and I shalt be deprived of the grace of humility, which I have found only with the help of God". And so he relayed a refusal to the messenger. For many of the monks, the Monk Pimen was a spiritual guide and instructor. And they wrote down his answers to serve to the edification of others besides themselves. A certain monk asked: "Ought one to veil over with silence the sin of a transgressing brother, if perchance one see him?" The elder answered: "If we reproach the sins of brothers, then God will reproach our sins, and if thou seest a brother sinning, believe not thine eyes and know, that thine own sin is like a wood-beam, but the sin of thy brother is like a wood-splinter, and then thou wilt not come into distress and temptation". Another monk turned to the saint, saying: "I have grievously sinned and I want to spend three years at repentance. Is such a length of time sufficient?" The elder answered: "That is a long time". The monk continued to ask, how long a period of repentance did the saint reckon necessary for him – a year or forty days? The elder answered: "I think, that if a man repenteth from the depths of his heart and posits a firm intent to return no more to the sin, then God would accept also a three-day repentance". To the question, as to how to be rid of persistent evil thoughts, the saint answered: "If a man has on one side of him fire, and on the other side a vessel with water, then if he starts burning from the fire, he takes water from the vessel and extinguishes the fire. Like to this are the evil thoughts, suggested by the enemy of our salvation, which like a spark can enkindle sinful desires within man. It is necessary to put out these sparks with the water, which is prayer and the yearning of the soul for God".

The Monk Pimen was strict at fasting and did not partake of food for the space of a week or more. But

others he advised to eat every day, only but without eating one's fill. For a certain monk, permitting himself to partake of food only on the seventh day but being angry with a brother, the saint said: "Thou wouldst learn to fast over six days, yet cannot abstain from anger for even a single day". To the question, which is better – to speak or be silent, the elder said: "Whoso doth speak on account of God, doeth well, and whoso is silent on account of God – that one doth act well". And moreover: "It may be, that a man seems to be silent, but if his heart doth judge others, then always is he speaking. But there are also those, who all the day long speak with their tongue, but within themself they do keep silence, since they judge no one".

The saint said: "For a man it is necessary to observe three primary rules: to fear God, to pray often and to do good for people". "Malice in turn never wipes out malice. If someone doeth thee bad, do them good, and thine good will conquer their bad". One time, when the monk with his students arrived at an Egyptian wilderness-monastery (since he had the habit to go about from place to place, so as to shun glory from men), it became known to him, that the elder living there was annoyed at his arrival and also was jealous of him. In order to overcome the malice of the hermit, the saint set off to him with his brethren, taking along with them food as a present. The elder refused to come out to them. Thereupon the Monk Pimen said: "We shall not depart from here, until we are granted to see and pay respect to the holy elder", – and he remained standing in the bright heat at the door of the cell. Seeing such perseverance and lack of malice on the part of the Monk Pimen, the elder received him graciously and said: "It is right what I have heard about you, but I see in you the good deeds and an hundred times even moreso". Thus did the Monk Pimen know how to extinguish malice and provide good example to others. He possessed such great humility, that often with a sigh he said: "I shalt be cast down to that place, whither was cast down Satan!"

One time there came to the saint a monk from afar, to get his guidance. He began to speak about sublime matters difficult to grasp. The saint turned away from him and was silent. To the bewildered monk they explained, that the saint did not like to speak about lofty matters. Then the monk began to ask him about the struggle with passions of soul. The saint turned to him with a joyful face: "Here now thou well hath spoken, and I mustneeds answer", – and for a long while he provided instruction, as to how one ought to struggle with the passions and conquer them.

The Monk Pimen died at age 110, in about the year 450. Soon after his death he was acknowledged as a saint pleasing to God and received the title "the Great" – as a sign of his great humility, modesty, uprightness and self-denying service to God.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

"To learn whether any particular actions of ours is contrary to God's will we must ask ourselves two questions: 1) Is the action I am planning to take contrary to belief in Christ or not? 2) Is it contrary to the Lord's commandments?" - Priest Daniel Sysoev

MONDAY

"My advice to both the young and the elderly is for each one of you to make a prayer rope. Hold it with your left hand, and as you make the sign of the Cross with your right hand, say: Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me." +St. Kosmas of Aitolos

TUESDAY

"My God! Your name is Love: do not abandon, the erring. Your name is Strength: strengthen me, the stumbling and falling. Your name is Light: enlighten my soul, darkened by worldly passions. Your name is Peace: console my restless soul." +St. John of Kronstadt

WEDNESDAY

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." - Psalm 50:10

THURSDAY

"One must guard against complaining, as though it were a poisonous snake." - Abbot Nikon Vorobiev

FRIDAY

"Establish in your heart the following truth: one thing alone is worthy of all our hatred— that is, sin or vice; and towards men nourish exclusively love." +St. John of Kronstadt

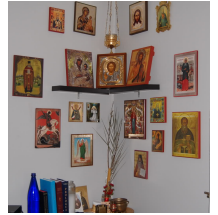
SATURDAY

"Every divulgence [confession] of sin accompanied by sincere repentance makes the sinner closer, dearer and more precious to a spiritual father. This is commonly observed. The enemy only frightens one with thoughts contrary to this." - Abbot Nikon Vorobiev

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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, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Gary, Lino, David, Melissa, Louis, Marjorie, Jonathan, Danielle, June, Helen, Alexander, Steven, Thomas, Doug, Joanne, Lynn ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; & 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, Rose *our seminarians:* 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, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) ...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... Tina Scherer (9/11), Pañi Andrea Cochran (9/14) ...*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... ...*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... Lindsay, Mary Ann, Elyse, 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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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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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. Eternal Memory!*

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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 OF THE WEEK:

A Prayer Toward the Unknown

O Lord, You who steadied the hand of Peter as he began to sink on the stormy sea, if you are with me, no one is against me. Grant to me the shield of faith and the mighty armor of the Holy Spirit to protect me and guide me to do Your will. The future I put into Your hands, O Lord, and I follow You to a life in Christ. Amen.

