



# 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  
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September 16, 2018

Volume IV

## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Blessed John the Merciful of Rostov (1580)

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



### SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, September 19 – 7pm Exploring Orthodoxy (in Wexford)

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

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

Monday	Hieromartyr Babylas, bishop of Antioch (251)	Ephesians 1:22-2:3	Mark 10:46-52
Tuesday	Holy Prophet Zacharias and Righteous Elizabeth (1st c.), parents of St. John the Forerunner	Ephesians 2:19-3:7	Mark 11:11-23
* Wednesday	Martyr Zeno of Melitene (311)	Ephesians 3:8-21	Mark 11:23-26
Thursday	Martyr Sozon of Cilicia (304)	Ephesians 4:14-19	Mark 11:27-33
* Friday	Venerable Lucian, abbot of Alexandrov (1654)	Ephesians 4:17-25	Mark 12:1-12
Saturday	Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim & Anna	1 Corinthians 14:20-25	Matthew 25:1-13

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

Sunday, September 23 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / within the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

/ Sunday before the Universal Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord /

Venerable Paul the Obedient (13th c.)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 8

Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 / Galatians 6:11-18; Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28 / John 3:13-17

Blessing of our new Chalice set

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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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This Bulletin Is Offered:

For the health of our Grandparents. Many Years! Or in memory of our Grandparents who have passed away. May their memory be eternal!



### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



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

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

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 (directions below)

Friday, October 5 – 9:30am Akathist to St. John the Baptist for the Feast of his Conception

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### PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



Happy New Year! A belated Happy Liturgical New Year to all! (September 14<sup>th</sup>)

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Thank You! Recently the parish received a generous \$10,000 anonymous donation for the Relocation Fund. May God grant you many years!

“when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (Matthew 6:3-4)



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 will be held on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> (With new times: Doors open at 4 / Dinner at 5) at the Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pgh, PA 15235). Please see Father Dave or Larry Martin, our local ambassador, for more information.

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**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered the last week two weeks by Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Pañi Brancho; Deborah Brancho; Olga Radick; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis; Tim Martin; Barbara Kirish; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Rich Milirovich; John Radick.

***"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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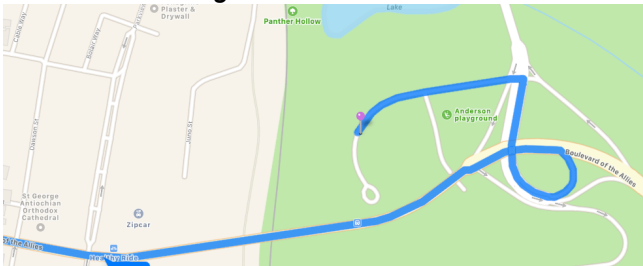


**Exploring Orthodoxy for teenagers through senior (citizens) –** We will meet every **Wednesday (thru Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>)** from 7 to 8:15pm at the Eat 'n Park off of the Wexford exit of 79 (2650 Brandt School Road, Wexford, Pa 15090 / 724-940-3270) for our *Exploring Orthodoxy* Discussions. We will 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.)

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**Inaugural Deanery Family Picnic** will be held on **Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>** 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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**Parish Stewardship Opportunities...**

- As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Lk. 6:31)*
- Pray for our parish and it's future
  - Sponsor a Coffee Social

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**ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH**

**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 27<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm at St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral (8290 Thompson Run Road

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**Our Stewardship Gift To God**

**September 2**

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 1074
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 117
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 473

<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 1644</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 20</b>

**September 9**

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 1056
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 114
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 378

<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 1548</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 10,340</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*

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**Fiscal Year Financial Report (Sep-Aug):**

**Donation Income = \$ 80,113**

**\*Expenses = \$ 76,998**

**Net Income = \$ 3115**

*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

**Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 41**

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**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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**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

September 23: **OPEN / "Pot Luck"**

September 30: **OPEN / "Pot Luck"**

October 7: **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](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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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](http://www.sanocpgh.org) for more details.

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**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – on **Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**, 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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**Young Adult Fall Retreat** - Clear your schedules for **October 5-7** and come join us for a weekend of fellowship and discussions on **how your faith and politics relate to one another**. The weekend will consist of small discussion groups with special guest moderators Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Fr. Stephen Loposky and Fr. Nicholas Halkias. Get the chance to explore Camp Nazareth during the Fall and take part in additional activities including making your own Raku pottery and growing closer with fellow participants on the Low Ropes Course. See Father Dave for more information.

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## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation."

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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### Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

#### The Parable of the Talents

<sup>14</sup>"For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, <sup>[a]</sup>to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also, he who had the two talents made two

talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'

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## STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a Christ-centered lifestyle, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a call to all of the faithful to share willingly and cheerfully the gifts that God has bestowed on them including sharing these gifts for God's work in His Church.

Stewardship of Treasure Guide												
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?												
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe		Tithe	Upper Range Giving			Middle Range Giving			Lower Range Giving		
	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4	\$2
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6	\$3
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14	\$7
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18	\$9
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22	\$11
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).
2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE% would be.

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

**Blessed John the Merciful of Rostov (also known as "Vlasaty" – "the Hairy")**  
Commemorated on September 16 / 3



Blessed John the Merciful of Rostov (also known as "Vlasaty" – "the Hairy") asceticised at Rostov in the exploit of holy folly (iurodstvo), in it enduring deprivation and sorrow. He did not have a permanent shelter and at times took his rest at the house of his spiritual father – a priest at the church of the All-Holy ("Veskhsvyatsk"), or with one of the aged widows. Living in humility, patience and unceasing prayer, he spiritually nourished many a person, in which number was also the Monk

Irinarkh, Hermit of Rostov (Comm. 13 January). After his lengthy life of pursuing asceticism he died on 3 September 1580 and was buried, according to his final wishes, alongside the church of Saint Blaise beyond the altar.

He had "hair upon his head abundantly", wherefore he was called "Vlasaty" or "Hairy". The title "Merciful" was bestowed upon Blessed John for the many healings that occurred at his grave, and also in connection with the memory of the holy Patriarch John the Merciful (VII Century, Comm. 12 November), whose name he had in common.

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## SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father can meet M-F 9:30a–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.

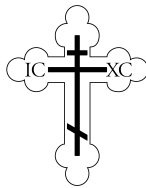
**Emergency Sick Calls** – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure so he can pray with you and you may receive the Anointing to be fully prepared.

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

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

**Lapsed Members** – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine

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services are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

**Baptisms** – Please consult Father for details.

**Adult Chrismation** – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

**Marriages** – Are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. 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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## SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY

"Do not forget prayer - it is the life of the soul." +St Nikon of Optina

### MONDAY

"Pay at least some attention to your soul; this is a command of God and the holy fathers." - Abbot Nikon

### TUESDAY

"The problem of our life is union with God, and sin completely prevents this; therefore flee from sin as from a terrible enemy as from the destroyer of the soul, because to be without God is death and not life." +St. John of Kronstadt

### WEDNESDAY

"– Staretz [Elder], what should one think about on his birthday? – He should be thinking about the day of his death and be preparing for the great journey." +St. Paisios of Mount Athos

### THURSDAY

"Do not do anything without signing yourself with the sign of the Cross! When you depart on a journey, when you begin your work, when you go to study, when you are alone, and when you are with other people, seal yourself with the Holy Cross on your forehead, your body, your chest, your heart, your lips, your eyes, your ears. All of you should be sealed with the sign of Christ's victory over hell. Then you will no longer be afraid of charms, evil spirits, or sorcery, because these are dissolved by the power of the Cross like wax before fire and like dust before the wind." - Elder Cleopa

### FRIDAY – THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

"The constraints of infertility were destroyed — prayer, upright manner of life, these rendered them fruitful." +St. Andrew of Crete

### SATURDAY

"It is only we who brood over our sins. God does not brood over them, God dumps them at the bottom of the sea." +St. Benedict of Nursia

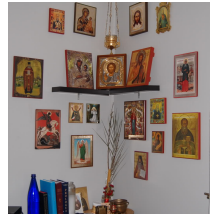
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## PRAYER CORNER

*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, 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...** Pañi Daria Loposky (9/16), Cindy Morrison (9/17), Fr Dave Urban (9/19), Fr Matthew Moriak (9/20), Fr David Smoley (9/20), Mark Martellotti (9/22), *Father's brother-in-law,* Brian Verbanick, Sr (9/22) ...*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...** Barbara & Richard Gedid (9/17), Patricia & Louis Deluca (9/17), Thomas & Carol Lorenzi (9/19) ...*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, Lauren, Pañi Marianna ...*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. Dzadoovsky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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**For the souls of the newly departed...** +Anna Evanisko (Pañi Miloro's mother) ...*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:

### **Amvon Prayer from the Nativity of the Theotokos**

Lord Christ our God, Thou art without beginning and surpass all essence. Thou see and rule all. Thou art a God Who work wonders and make the unexpected come to pass. Alone Thou accomplish great deeds. Lord, Who hear our petitions, Thou art the Savior of those in despair and confusion. Thou reward good desires arising from prayer. For Thy servants Joachim and Anna, who lived blamelessly together, Thou changed the sorrow of barrenness to the joy of children.

Thou gave them a beautiful offspring, a shoot growing from the root of Jesse mystically foretold by lips inspired by God. From this shoot Thou planned that the flower guiding the world aright would be born according to the flesh. Now Thou, a fountain of all goodness and enlightenment and giver of riches have sprung up. Born of a Virgin, Thou filled the community with grace and showed forth the birth of salvation.

As we partake of Thy divine Mysteries and deifying Liturgy, deliver us from a sterile barrenness in good works and deem us worthy to make virtues our offering to Thee always, that we may have a right to a place in the land of the just in Thy kingdom.

Free us from bitter and continual warfare, relieve all oppression and lift the yoke of slavery from all men, that all may be wholly free from tyranny and judgment. Bless Thy people and protect Thy inheritance, save us from all temptations of the enemy, and from afflictions. Increase the glory of people under the law of Christ and exalt them. Give them earthly and heavenly good things, and an abundance of crops. For Thou provide and, indeed, create all that is good.

Through the prayers of Thy all-pure Mother and our Lady, with whom we return worship and adoration to Thee, together with Thy eternal Father, and Thy life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.