



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 23, 2018

Volume IV

17th 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 7 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 Church Council / Panachida for +Anastasia Martin (7 year anniversary)



SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK



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

Wednesday, September 26 – 7pm Exploring Orthodoxy (in Wexford)

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

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

Monday	Venerable Euphrosynus the Cook (9th c.)	Ephesians 4:25-32	Luke 3:19-22
Tuesday	Venerable Athanasius (1401)	Ephesians 5:20-26	Luke 3:23-4:1
* Wednesday	Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion (1st c.)	Ephesians 5:25-33	Luke 4:1-15
# Thursday	St. Maria of Tarsus (607)	Ephesians 5:33-6:9	Luke 4:16-22
* Friday	Great-martyr Nicetas the Goth (372)	Ephesians 6:18-24	Luke 4:22-30
Saturday	Great-martyr Euphemia the All-praised (304)	1 Corinthians 15:39-45	Luke 4:31-36

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

Sunday, September 30 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost / Martyrs Sophia & her 3 daughters: Faith, Hope, & Love (137) / Sunday after the Universal Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: **Red**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 / Galatians 2:16-20; Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35 / Mark 8:34-9:1

Add'l collection for our community outreach, Orthodox Christian Fellowship / Blessing of our new Chalice set / Panachida for +Bishop John R Martin (34 years anniversary) / Noon to Dusk – Pgh Deanery Picnic

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

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

Thursday, October 11 – 9:30am Akathist to the Theotokos, Healer of Cancer, with holy anointing

Sunday, October 14 – Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos (Pokrov) / Additional collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to our 2018-2019 **Church Council**: President: Matthew Peifer; Vice-President: Lawrence Martin; Treasurer: Timothy Martin, Reader; Financial Secretary: Patricia Watson; Recording Secretary: Theresa Sharpless; Chief Auditor: Rich Mirilovich; Auditors: Gina Fall, Robert Fall, Donald Gavulich, Jane Gaydos; and to our dedicated **Curators**: Eleanor Sanger, Steven Buhonick, Kenneth Dzadoovsky, Gina Fall, Robert Fall, Jane Gaydos, Jillian Gaydos, John

Gaydos, Wendy Martellotti, Lawrence Martin, John Radick, Olga Radick, John Sharpless, Theresa Sharpless, Melanie Shuster, Michael Shuster, and Patricia Watson. Thank you! for your dedication to our parish!

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Thank You! To those who have previously served on the Church Council! Your time and talents helped in many many ways! Thank you!

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Barbara Kirish; Eleanor Sanger; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis; 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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Reading (or Chanting) of the Third Hour

– Beginning soon, we will begin having the 3rd Hour read prior to the start of the Divine Liturgy. This will begin about 9:15. If you are interested in this prayerful stewardship of the church, please contact Fr Dave.

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Candle and Cleaning Assistance Needed – On Saturday October 13th and 20th, Cindy will not be available to do the weekly maintenance around the church. If you are able to be a steward of your time and help these weeks, please contact Fr Dave this week.

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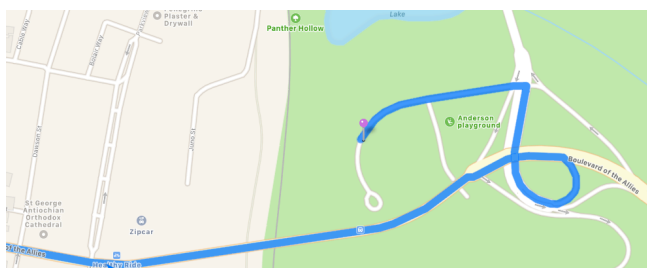
Exploring Orthodoxy for teenagers through senior (citizens)

– We will meet every **Wednesday** (*thru Oct. 10th*) 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 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:*

- from 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



President's Corner

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (*Glory Be Forever!*) Dear Parishioners,

I too wish to follow Father Dave with my thank you's to all who help everyday, every event every year. I give a shout out to Makeala Kirish and John Radick for singing, either with me or singing when I am not available. Its great to hear everyone else join in as well. Anyone who wishes to join Makeala and I on Sunday's please come to the choir loft, we would love to have you sing with us. Lets keep singing our praises.

A Special welcome to our community for our new members: the Kirish and the Mirilovich Family's. Please take some time to welcome them. They join us in seeing a future for our church and we are blessed to have them.

I am encouraged to see an average of 38-40 souls each Sunday. I am Equally encouraged to see everybody after for the coffee social. This time can't be emphasized enough! It is needed for the future of the church. It is great fellowship and stewardship! Please continue to attend both!!

I have to say that it is a bit frustrating, at times, to see our annual and semi-annual meetings falling off in attendance after such a great attendance for Liturgy. We need your support at these meetings!! We have made some big strides towards our future with the vote to relocate. WE need and want your input to help with the decision making process towards that end. It's hard for that to happen when only 16 people sign in for the meeting. I am grateful for those that stay and voice their opinions. Decisions must be made and those that do not attend leave us 16 people to make those decisions. Truly we could use more voices. I know everyone is busy and it's hard sometimes to work everything into your day. You work towards an end, a FUTURE, with just about everything, please continue to work towards a future for our church and do your best to attend future meetings and help with the decision making process for our relocation.

I look forward to serving you all again for another year. Thanks to all the officers, newly and reelected, that were voted onto our council. It will be a great coming year! Please feel free at anytime to call, email, or speak to me about anything. I welcome your thoughts and could use your prayers as well!

Matthew Peifer, Church Council President

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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
- Offer to help with candles and cleaning October 13th and/or 20th
- Offer to Read/Chant the Third Hour

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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

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Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 544
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 135
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 976
Total Collections:	\$ 1650
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 225
Relocation Fund:	\$ 20
<i>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</i>	

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

September 30: **OPEN / "Pot Luck"**
 October 7: **OPEN / "Pot Luck"**
 October 14: **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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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Love & Marriage, But No Baby Carriage: New Reproductive Technologies in Light of Orthodox Christian Beliefs and Ethics

–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). www.sanocpgh.org

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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 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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Spaghetti Dinner – will be held on **Saturday, September 29th** from 11a-6p at St Mary Orthodox Church (105 South 19th St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203). Adult meals are \$10 and Children 12 and under are \$4. Call 412-431-6428 with any questions.

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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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The Miraculous Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Theotokos will be visiting the Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery (121 St. Elias Lane, Saxonburg, PA 16056 / 724-352-3999) on **Saturday, October 6th** from 8:15a to 1:30p. (Divine Liturgy will be at 8:30.) The Monastery will provide hospitality throughout the visitation. They ask for your continued prayers for their Monastery. In Christ's Love, Gerontissa THEophano & her Sisterhood. www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org

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Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **October 11-12** – All Saints (601 West McMurray Rd., Canonsburg) *Greek*
- **October 12-13** – St. Nicholas (903 Ann St., Homestead) *Carpatho-Rusyn*
- **October 14** – St. Michael (146 3rd Ave., Rankin) *Carpatho-Rusyn*



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25th Annual 7-K Walk/Run for Missions "Fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission" – will be on **Sunday, October 14th** at South Park Children's Playground Pavilion (Corrigan & Brownsville Rd., South Park, PA 15129) sponsored by the *Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh*. Pre-register by Oct. 1st at www.holycrosspgh.org/events OR register at 1pm at South Park. Walk begins at 2pm. There will be complimentary refreshments before the walk and a light lunch following the walk. **FREE T-Shirt** for children 8 years and under who raise \$50 or others who raise \$100 or more. Bring your pledge forms and collected money to the event (make checks payable to "Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood"). Even if you are unable to be with us in person, your donation will be extremely helpful in carrying out this important and necessary work of the Church. For more information, email faith.williard@pittsburghmoves.com or stevekrakora@hotmail.com, or call 412-251-3207. Proceeds earmarked for the Guatemalan Seminarians and Mission work of Fr. John and Presbytera Sandy Chakos. Visit www.TheWordFromGuatemala.com to follow the blog of this mission!

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Final Admonitions and Benediction

¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves

keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. ¹⁴ But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶ Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the

Israel of God. ¹⁷ Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

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Gospel: John 3:13-17

The Parable of the Talents

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. ¹⁴ And as

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Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Ways to Celebrate the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross

From: ORTHODOX MOTHERHOOD: Living the Ancient Faith in the Modern World By Sarah Wright

This week we will celebrate one of the 12 major feasts of the Church year!

The feast of the Elevation of the Life-Giving Cross is celebrated very early in the Church year on September 27/14. **In this feast we celebrate both the power of the Cross and Christ’s crucifixion in our salvation and the finding of the Cross by Saint Helen in the 300s.**

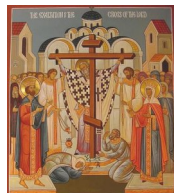


In the fourth century, the first Christian emperor, St. Constantine, and his mother, St. Helen, wanted to find important relics from the life of Christ in the Holy Land. Because Jerusalem had been utterly destroyed in 70 A.D. by Titus, the search was difficult. While Saint Helen was searching for the cross, she smelled a sweet plant on a hill outside of Jerusalem. She then asked those with her to dig underneath this herb and discovered the Cross. Because of this, the herb was named “basil” from the Greek vasiliko or “of the King.”

According to tradition, Saint Helen had found three crosses on Golgotha and needed to determine which was the true Cross of Christ. She spoke with Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, who concluded that the true cross would heal the sick. They brought the sick (or the dead according to another account) to touch the three crosses. **Much joy abounded when a person was healed (or raised from the dead) after being touched by the Cross.**

The church celebrated with a procession of the true Cross. Patriarch Makarios held up, or elevated, the Cross for the faithful to venerate. The people repeatedly chanted, “Lord have mercy” as they were filled with reverence, awe, and joy at being in the presence of the Cross of Christ.

On this feast we celebrate the Cross as the meeting of heaven and earth—the very means of our salvation through Christ’s death



Ways to Celebrate the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross:

1. Have a Cross Scavenger Hunt

Young children love to find things. For this feast you can ask the children to search the house to find all of the crosses that they can. These may include crosses in icons, on the wall, as necklaces, etc. Or, you can buy some cheap small plastic crosses and actually hide them around the house. Give each child a bag, set a timer, and see how many they can find in five minutes. When the timer goes off, bring

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them all to the couch and tell the story of St. Helen and the finding of the True Cross.

2. Explore Basil

This is a great day to do a scientific exploration of basil. If you have the herb in your garden, you can go out and observe it growing. If not, the whole family can go to the store to purchase some. Have the kids describe its appearance, its smell, its taste, and its texture. You can even let them help you put it into your lunch or dinner that day. While you are examining its scientific properties, be sure to talk about its role in the finding of the Cross and explain its Greek name.

3. Make a Cross

If you are at all crafty (or even if you, like me, are not!), this feast lends itself easily to a craft project. Children can make crosses out of virtually any material. You can use card stock and have children decorate and cut out crosses. Or, many crafting stores have foam paper that would make lovely crosses. Young children can adorn them with glitter, stickers, beads, or whatever you have on hand. You can even go on a nature walk, gather wildflowers, and glue them on as well.

4. Practice Making the Sign of the Cross

This is also a perfect day to practice making the sign of the cross. With very young children (1-3), hold their hands and physically move them as they practice. You can explain that Orthodox Christians make the sign of the cross to ask for God’s blessing and protection and to show our love for Christ.

5. Practice Venerating Crosses

Families can also practice how to venerate crosses, the way to make a bow, and having a reverent attitude when kissing the cross.

6. Read about Christ and the Cross

Read the Gospel of Christ’s crucifixion to the children. You can use a children’s Bible with illustrations or read from the Bible while the children look at an icon of the crucifixion. The children will likely have many questions about the Cross, about Jesus’s death, and even about death itself. This is a fantastic time to talk about Christ’s love for humanity and his victory over death.

7. Go to Church

Last, but not least, attend the Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day! Most churches will have a beautiful procession with the Holy Cross prior to the Liturgy. If you are not able to attend church on the Feast Day, try your best to go the Sunday before and/or after the Feast as hymns for the Cross will also be sung.

SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

"God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination."
+St St. Augustine of Hippo

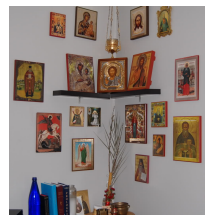
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"Do not do anything without signing yourself with the sign of the Cross! When you depart on a journey, when you begin your work, when you go to study, when you are alone, and when you are with other people, seal yourself with the Holy Cross on your 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

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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, Mary, Kathy N. *...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., Amee, 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... Fr. R. Michael Zak (9/24), Cora Dzadony (9/28), Andrew Mirilovich (9/28), Shane Yakemawiz (9/28), Juliana Anton (9/29), Wendy Martellotti (9/29) *...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... Ken & Paula Watson (9/24), Charles & Allison Kretchek (9/26), John & Barbara Kirish (9/28) *...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. Dzadovsky *...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), The Priest, Fr. +Dragan Filipovic *...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal Memory!*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

Amvon Prayer from the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross

Lord, Thou dwell in the heights and it is Thou Who exalt all, for by Thy own will Thou endured being lifted up upon the Cross, so that by Thy pure outstretched hands Thou might draw all men to Thyself. Thou entirely humbled Thyself, going down as far as Hades, so that Thou might be lifted up and lift up our souls beyond the falsehood of pride and the vanity of conceit. By theology Thou art lifted up before the nations of the world, as Thou art glorified by the lifting up of hands on high in sacrifices of praise to the Father. Thou wast denounced by being raised upon the Cross, and by being taken down Thou destroyed the power of hell, triumphed over death and ransomed Thy people from the original fall. We celebrate today Thy divine victory and bow before the manifestation of Thy sign of victory.

Do not ignore our prayers, for we ask Thee, and have asked Thee, in Thy compassion and mercy, to be a strong help for us against the rational powers threatening to corrupt our souls. Be kind to us as Thou wast to the Israelites of old, who were healed from the bite of serpents by looking up at a bronze serpent raised by the hand of Moses. Humble those who raise up against us in sin, and lift us up in valour against him who would throw obstacles on our path. Lord, quiet the uprisings of barbarous people, crush weapons of hatred and the arrogance of tyrants on behalf of those whose only boast is the Cross. For the hands of Moses lifted up were a type of the Cross and when his hands were lifted up the Israelites turned back the onslaughts of Amalek. Throw down all those who lift their hands against Thy Church, destroy all instigations raised against Thy wisdom, bar up all mouths opened in blasphemy, but enlighten all those darkened by ignorance, and open our minds to Thy thoughts, that strengthened by meditation on Thy heavenly and blessed good gifts, we may come to that true exaltation of those of Thy flock who enjoy Thy pasture and live in the happiness of Thy kingdom. For it is Thou Who raise up and bring low, and we give glory to Thee, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

