



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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December 30, 2018

Volume IV

30th Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, the Patriarchs

9:10am – Canon of Nativity & Carols (Koljady); 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 6 Liturgical Color: Purple

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11; Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Reception of Ashley Wertz & Patrick Wertz into the Orthodox Faith /
Additional collection for our Community Outreach



SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, January 2 – 9:30 Pre-festive Moleben of the Nativity

Friday, January 4 – A Day of Strict Fasting / 9:30 Royal Hours of the Nativity

Saturday, January 5 – 11-1 Holy Mystery of Confession offered

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

# Monday	Martyr Sebastian at Rome and his companions (287)	James 2:14-26	Mark 9:42-10:1
# Tuesday	Martyr Boniface at Tarsus in Cilicia (290)	James 3:1-10	Mark 10:2-12
# Wednesday	Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch (107)	James 3:11-4:6	Mark 10:11-15
# Thursday	Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (304)	James 4:7-5:9	Mark 10:17-27
### Friday	Great-martyr Anastasia of Rome (304)	Hebrews 13:7-16	Luke 2:1-20
# Saturday	St. Nahum of Ochrid, enlightener of the Bulgarians (910)	1 Thess 5:14-23	Matthew 2:1-12

During the Nativity Fast (Filipovka), lets imitate Christ & the Saints & Fast as they did! ### Strict Fast

Sunday, January 6 – 32nd Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of the Holy Fathers

9:10am – Canon of Nativity & Carols (Koljady); 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 7 Liturgical Color: Purple

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40; Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

about 11:45am Vigil Service for the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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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:

In Memory of
+Ronald Dzadovsky.
May his memory
be eternal!



LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Monday, January 7 – 9:30a Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Tuesday, January 8 – Afterfeast of the Nativity / 2nd Day of Christmas /

9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos

Wednesday, January 9 – No Fasting / Afterfeast of the Nativity / 3rd Day of Christmas /

9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Saint Stephen

Sunday, January 13 – 7th Day of Christmas / Additional collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

Monday, January 14 – 9:30 Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord and for the Feast of St Basil the Great

Friday, January 18 – A Day of Strict Fasting / 9:30 Royal Hours of the Feast of Theophany

Saturday, January 19 – 9:30 Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water on the Feast of Theophany / Annual House Blessings Begin

Sunday, January 20 – Youth Sunday / Feast of the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

A REMINDER TO MAKE TIME FOR YOUR NATIVITY FAST CONFESSION: DON'T WAIT

"There is more mercy in God than there are sins in us. Confess your sins at once, whatever they may be." +St Tikhon of Zadonsk
Fr. Dave will be available for confessions on Saturday, Jan. 5th, by appointment, or after ALL services.

Let us begin to shine in spirit once again, being made free of the weight and stain of our own faults!

"Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." (Luke 5:12)

Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Barbara Kirish; Olga Radick; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Melanie Paieski; Cindy Pavilionis.

"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 Melanie Paieski, in Memory of Mother, Catherine Gaydos. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Jej Pamjat!

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Journey to Orthodoxy – Congratulations and God's choicest blessings to Ashley Wertz and Patrick Wertz who were received into the Orthodox Faith and our parish family this morning. May God grant to His newly-illuminated servants, Ashley and Patrick, Many Years of Peace, Health, Happiness and Salvation! Blessings also to their sponsor, Sharon Peifer. Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!

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Nativity Commemorations – We offer you the opportunity to sponsor items to be used for Nativity as commemorations: *anonymously, in memory of departed loves ones, OR for the health of loved ones.* If you are interested in making any of these commemorations, please sign up on the sheet in the Vestibule and give an *additional free-will stewardship offering* to the Church.

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Stewardship/Dues are due - *The end of the civil calendar year is here. Have you made a contribution to your parish yet? Please fulfill your financial responsibility to your community Church.*

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2019 Calendars have arrived and are in the Church Vestibule to be picked up.

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Great Compline - *This year, with Christmas Eve being on a Sunday, we will have the Vigil Service at approximately 11:45am. After the Divine Liturgy, we will have our regular coffee social and then head back upstairs. Please plan to stay.*

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Nativity Coffee Social – *will be a cover-dish surprise supplied by everyone in the parish. Bring in your favorite dish and let's celebrate the Feast with a feast!*

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Pill Bottle Collection – Our ACRY is starting a new outreach.



"Matthew 25: Ministries" accepts donations of clean empty plastic medicine pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies and for shredding and recycling. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment. *More information is on the bulletin board in the church hall.*

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

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

- Bring in a bag of CALCIUM CHLORIDE
- Pray for our parish and it's future
- Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Offer your time to help with possible snow

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 391
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 172
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 378
Total Collections:	\$ 941
Relocation Fund:	\$ 350

Give Generously: "For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own free will." 2 Cor 8:3

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Relocation Updates – Reminder, we will **NOT** be moving to the rental space in Wexford. As our relocation committee continues to work with our realtor, it is important that all of our community continues to pray for God's guidance (and patience as this takes time). God has a better plan and it will work in His time.

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Please continue to talk with the Relocation Committee or Father with any thoughts or concerns about our next steps in our journey together. (Committee includes: Sharon P, Larry M, Carol L, John K, John Righetti, Lynn M, Matt P, Peggy Rusnak, Rich M, Sharon D, Tim M, & Todd Tusick)

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

- January 6: Available to you
- January 7: **Community Pot Luck**
- January 13: Available to you
- January 20: Available to you

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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Snowed In? Physically unable to make it to church? – Our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to watch our Cathedral's Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9am. Of course, the best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist. When limitations occur, please consider taking the time Sunday morning to pray with our brothers and sisters via the web. Go to www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/ to watch the *live broadcast*.

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

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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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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH



Orthodoxy on Tap - We are starting the new year off trying a couple different things - The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) will have the next "Orthodoxy on Tap" on a weeknight and in a different location: **Thursday, January 3rd** at 7pm at The Clubhouse

Gibsonia (5301 Ranalli Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044 / 724-449-9090 / www.theclubhousegibsonia.com). Please email poyapittsburgh@gmail.com if you are able to make it (or to be added to the email list for updates on future events). Guest speaker this month will be Fr. Stevo Rocknage who will have an interactive discussion on "The Great Commission Of Our Lord: What Does It Mean For Your Life?". All young adults 21-39 are welcome! Come for fellowship and to learn more about your faith!

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael

Commemorated on December 30/17

The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Misael: In the years following 600 B.C. Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians, the Temple built by Solomon was destroyed, and many of the Israelite people were led away into the Babylonian Captivity. Among the captives were also the illustrious youths Daniel, Ananias, Azarias and Misael. The emperor of Babylon, Nebuchadnessar, gave orders to instruct them in the Chaldean wisdom, and to dress them in finery at his court. But they, in cleaving to the commandments of their faith, refused the extravagance and led a strict manner of life; they indeed sustained themselves on only vegetables and water. The Lord granted them wisdom, and to Saint Daniel – the gift of perspicacity and the interpretation of dreams. The holy Prophet Daniel, having preserved sacred faith in the One God and trusting on His almighty help, in his wisdom surpassed all the Chaldean astrologers and sorcerers, and was made a confidant to the emperor Nebuchadnessar. One time Nebuchadnessar had a strange dream, which terrified him, but upon awakening he forgot the details of the vision. The Babylonian wise-men seemed powerless to learn what the emperor had dreamt. Thereupon the holy Prophet Daniel gave glory before all to the power of the True God, revealing not only the content of the dream, but also its prophetic significance. After this Daniel was elevated by the emperor to be a lord of the realm of Babylonia.

During these times the emperor Nebuchadnessar gave orders to erect in his likeness – an huge statue, to which it was decreed to accord the honours befitting a god. For their refusal to do this, the three holy lads – Ananias, Azarias and Misael – were thrust into a burning fiery furnace. The flames shot out over the furnace 49 cubits, felling the Chaldeans standing about, but the holy lads walked amidst the flames, offering up prayer and psalmody to the Lord (Dan. 3: 26-90). The Angel of the Lord in appearing made cool the flames, and the lads remained unharmed. The emperor, upon seeing this, commanded them to come out, and was

converted to the True God.

Under the following emperor Balthasar, Saint Daniel interpreted a mysterious inscription ("Mene, Takel, Phares"), which had appeared on the wall of the palace during the time of a banquet (Dan. 5: 1-31), which foretold the downfall of the Babylonian realm. Under the Persian emperor Darius, Saint Daniel was slandered by his enemies, and was thrown into a den with hungry lions, but they did not touch him, and he remained unharmed. The emperor Darius then in rejoicing over Daniel gave orders throughout all his realm to worship the God of Daniel, "since that He is the Living and Ever-Existing God, and His Kingdom is unbounded, and His sovereignty is without end" (Dan. 6: 1-29). The holy Prophet Daniel sorrowed deeply for his people, who then were undergoing



righteous chastisement for a multitude of sins and offenses, for transgressing the laws of God, – resulting in the grievous Babylonian Captivity and the destruction of Jerusalem: "My God, incline Thine ear and hearken, open Thine eyes and look upon our desolation and upon the city, in which is spoken Thine Name; wherefore do we make our supplication before Thee, trusting in hope not upon our own righteousness, but upon Thy great mercy" (Dan. 9: 18). By his righteous life and prayer for the redeeming of the iniquity of hispeople, there was revealed to the holy prophet the destiny of the nation of Israel and the fate of all the world.



During the interpretation of the dream of the emperor Nebuchadnessar, the Prophet Daniel declared about the kingdoms replacing one another and about the great final kingdom – the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (Dan. 2: 44). The prophetic vision about the seventy of weeks (Dan. 9: 24-27) tells the world about the signs of the First and the Second Comings of the Lord Jesus Christ and is connected with those events (Dan. 12: 1-12). Saint Daniel interceded for his people before the successor to Darius, the emperor Cyrus, who esteemed him highly, and who decreed freedom for the Israelite people. Daniel himself and his fellows Ananias, Azarias and Misael, all survived into old age, but died in captivity. According to the testimony of Sainted Cyril of Alexandria (Comm. 9 June), Saints Ananias, Azarias and Misael were beheaded on orders of the Persian emperor Chambyses.

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

"Of all the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures." +Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

⁴When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you once walked, when you lived in them. ⁸But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scyth'ian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

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Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

¹⁶But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; ¹⁷and at the time for

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the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.'¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.'¹⁹ And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.'²⁰ And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'²¹ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.'²² And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.'²³ And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.'²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet."

LIVING ORTHODOXY

PREPARING OUR "BETHLEHEM"

By Sister Vassa

"Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! / Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the tree of life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! / Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit: / If we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. / Christ is coming/being born (γεννᾶται) to restore (ἀναστήσων) the image/icon (εἰκόνα) which He made in the beginning!" (Troparion-hymn, Forefeast of Nativity)

Christ comes into our world to turn things around; to transfigure the previously death-bringing into the life-bringing. He comes and creates in us a new "spiritual paradise," gifting us a new kind of



productivity, by His grace, in which His word "blossoms forth" from us in ever-new ways. As He promises anyone who believes in Him, "the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." *Jn 4:14*

In the above-quoted hymn, the Church calls each of us to identify with "Beth-le-hem," meaning "House of Bread" in Hebrew (and interestingly, "House of Meat" in Arabic), preparing our own "house," as unseemly as it may be, to receive the Bread of Life, now "opened to all." This doesn't mean mustering up "the Christmas spirit" by my own, Christmas-related efforts, but rather opening my heart to Christ, in a bit more stillness, gratitude and humility before the Mystery of the upcoming feast. "Christ is coming to restore the image which He made in the beginning."

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

"Without winter there would be no spring, and without spring there would be no summer. So it is also in the spiritual life: a little consolation, and then a little grief—and thus little by little we work out our salvation. Let us accept everything from the hand of God. If He comforts us, let us thank Him. And if He doesn't comfort us—let us thank Him." + Saint Anatoly of Optina

MONDAY

"God has multiplied our trials, says St. Isaac, so that out of fear of them we may take refuge in Him." +St. Peter of Damaskos

TUESDAY

"Ones picture of reality, of the world, definitely influences ones view of God." +Fr. Seraphim (Rose)

WEDNESDAY (Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ)

"Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the tree of life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit: If we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ is coming to restore the image which He made in the beginning!" – Tropar hymn for the Forefeast of Nativity

THURSDAY (Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ)

"Experience of the Lord's gift engenders hope; he who is without experience remains in doubt." +John Climacus

FRIDAY (Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ)

“Is some poor person asking you for help? Even if you doubt his situation, you should still help him discreetly so that you are not tempted by negative thoughts.” + Saint Paisios of Mount Athos

SATURDAY (Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ)

“Ultimately Confession needs to be understood as the work of God, not the work of the Father Confessor, no matter how skilled he might be. The Priest even recognizes his humble role in the prayer of forgiveness “I have no power to forgive sins, only God can do that.” The Priest, as Bishop Kallistos Ware observes, “is no more than God’s usher, introducing us to the divine presence.” All the other physical signs that surround us: the icon of Christ, the Cross, the Epitrachelion are all underlining for us the same presence of Christ in the Sacrament. The fear of Confession starts fading only when we are past the point of understanding Confession as a human interaction and we acknowledge it as an act of Christ. We can still feel remorse and shed tears of repentance for our sins but we also know now that the encounter is not just with an imperfect human being, but we primarily come to meet a loving God that waits for us like the Father of the prodigal Son, knowing not just the external appearance but the intimate core of our problems. There is no shame in that, only love everlasting.” - Fr. Vasil /stjohndfw.info/

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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... Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Jane, Roberta, Gary, Lino, David, Louis, June, Helen, Steven, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N., Luca, Barbara, Francis, Megan ...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... Metropolitan Gregory, Marianne, Steve, Christopher, Nicholas, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles *our seminarians:* Michael and Daniel, *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Donald, Jane, Eleanor, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Margaret, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach, National ACRY ...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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Patronal Feast Days (Name’s Day): Juliana Anton – Virgin martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (1/3).

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Birthday Prayers for... Carol Lorenzi (1/2), Jane Barrett (1/3), Joshua Mainolfi (1/3), Anna Martellotti (1/4) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L’ita!*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Dustin

...through the prayers of *St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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For Expectant Mothers... Lindsay, Elyse, Lauren, Pañi Marianna, Faith, Pañi Eleni, Hayley, Carley ...through the prayers of *St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadoovsky, Devin Meegan, and Trevor Meegan ...through the prayers of *St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For the souls of the newly departed... +John Smoley, +Julia Potoski, +Beatrice Stagon, +Charles Maresh, +Mildred Gavulich, +Carl Magidc ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal Memory!*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE NATIVITY FAST:

Prayer for Peace - 2018 NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENGE

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

O Lord, You told us through the Psalmist David to be still and know that You are God. (Ps 46:10) Yet, in our weakness, that stillness is far from our hearts and minds. We are restless in soul and body. The constant noise of the world drowns out Your still, small voice. (1 Kg 19:12) Even as we prepare during this season to remember Your Birth, we are diverted by many cares. We are anxious and troubled, neglecting the one thing needful. (Lk 10:41- 42) Holy Master, keep us away from those things which distract us from knowing Your Presence. Grant us the stillness, silence, peace, and calm that only comes from You. Help us to be diligent in prayer and attentive to the needs of others. As Your Holy Mother beheld the great mystery of Your Incarnation, she silently pondered it in her most- pure heart. (Lk 2:19) Allow us to reach the celebration of Your coming in the flesh so that, silently contemplating it in our own hearts, we too may be filled with every grace and blessing and give glory to You forever. Amen.

