



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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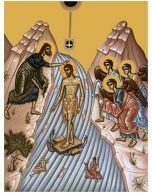
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January 27, 2019

Volume IV

35th Sunday after Pentecost / Leavetaking (Otdanije) of Theophany / St Nina (Nino), equal-to-the-Apostles, enlightener of Georgia (335) and St Sava enlightener of Serbia (1235)

Additional Collection for our Community Outreach / 40th Day Panachida offered by families



SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Annual Home Blessings through March 9

Thursday, January 31 – 9:30am Moleben to St. Nectarios with holy anointing

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

Monday	St Paul of Thebes (341) & St John Calabytes (450)	Heb. 11:17-23,27-31	Mark 9:42-10:1
Tuesday	Blessed Maximus of Totma (Vologda), fool-for-Christ (1650)	Heb. 12:25-26,13:22-25	Mark 10:2-12
* Wednesday	Venerable Anthony the Great (356)	James 1:1-18	Mark 10:11-15
Thursday	St Athanasius the Great (373) & St Cyril of Alexandria (444)	James 1:19-27	Mark 10:17-27
* Friday	Venerable Macarius the Great of Egypt (390)	James 2:1-13	Luke 2:1-20
Saturday	Venerable Euthymius the Great (473)	Galatians 3:8-12	Mt 2:1-12

* Let us imitate Christ & the Saints & Fast as they did!

Sunday, February 3 – 36th Sunday after Pentecost / Venerable Maximus the Confessor (662)

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 3

Liturgical Color: Gold

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

Souper Bowl of Caring canned soup collection

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Christ Is Baptized! (responded with: In the Jordan!)

Christos Kreščajetsja! (Vo Jordaňi!)

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



Wednesday, February 6 – 9:30am Akathist to St. Xenia of Petersburg with anointing

Sunday, February 10 – Zacchaeus Sunday / Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

Tuesday, February 12 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Commemoration of the Three Holy Hierarchs

Friday, February 15 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple

Sunday, February 17 – Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee / YOUTH Sunday

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



Kidney Donor Needed - From the office of our Diocesan Chancellor, Very Rev. Protopresbyter Frank P. Miloro: We have received a request from our parishioners – Anna, Ron and Jacob Markosky – at St. John's Church in Ligonier (Wilpen), PA. Their son, Jacob (age 33) was born with Polycystic Kidney Disease, a genetic disorder in which there is growth of multiple cysts in the kidneys. At the age of 3, Jake had a transplant from his dad which has lasted for 30 years. It's now failing. Jake's mother, Anna, intended to be a donor, but after testing she was not found to be compatible. They are now looking for a donor.

Any interested person may call Living Donor – Pittsburgh UPMC at (412) 864-5475 or go on-line for more information. God bless them in their search. Sincerely, Fr. Frank Miloro, Chancellor.

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Third Hour – Next Sunday (1/27) is the last week for the Theophany Canon to be sung prior to the Divine Liturgy, we will return to having the Third Hour. This can be read or chanted. Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested in participating in this wonderful stewardship prayer opportunity!

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Welcome to the Newly-Baptized! Nicholas Joseph Kubis was baptized and initiated into the Orthodox faith yesterday. May God give strength to him as he begins his Christian life and bless him, his parents, God-Parents, and families!

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40th Day Panachida (Memorial Service) – In a string of just over a week in mid-December, multiple folks passed away from our parish and in my life (+*John Smoley*, +*Julia Potoski*, +*Beatrice Stagon*, +*Charles Maresh*, +*Mildred Gavulich*, +*Carl Magidc*). The practice in the Orthodox Church is to remember them in each Liturgy for 40 days and to have a Panachida on (or around) the 40th day. (*This is in the memory of our Lord's Ascension 40 days after His Resurrection.*) May their memory be eternal! Vičnaja Jim Pamjat!

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Souper Bowl of Caring – On **Sunday, February 3rd** we will kick off our February Community Outreach collection for St Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry at St Mary's Orthodox Church on the South Side. Please bring in unexpired canned soups **next Sunday!**

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Home Blessing Update:
9 homes (and 256 miles)
Please talk with Fr Dave today to schedule yours. He is interested in visiting and catching up with EVERYONE this Theophany season.



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Holy Water Reminders:

Do Not Hoard Old Holy Water:

While Holy Water does not "go bad", it is best to refresh your water each year. Holy Water from the previous Theophany should be poured outside (preferably on the corner of your house or in a garden where people are not going to walk on it). The best scenario is to drink the water in the mornings, use in cooking, etc.

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH



Orthodoxy on Tap - The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) are heading to the South Hills. We will gather on **Tuesday, February 5th** at 7pm for the Pens Game and an informal Q&A with the clergy at Primanti Brothers (1539 Washington Rd, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228). All young adults ages 21-39(ish) are welcome! Please email poyapittsburgh@gmail.com with suggestions for future locations and activities!

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Soup Sampling to benefit IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) will be on **Saturday, February 9th** from 11am-2pm at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt. Lebanon across from the Galleria Mall (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15228). *Sample five homemade soups for \$10 and then take a quart home for a \$10 donation.*

Youth Groups & Children's Ministries from all jurisdictions will be assembling health kits. All area youth are invited! Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies. To sponsor kits, call Nick Terezis at 724-282-5198. You can register to purchase soup at: iocc.org/Pittsburgh

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"Orthodoxy and the Scriptures" - A symposium will be held on **Saturday, February 16th** at 2:00 pm at St Nicholas Orthodox Church (320 Munson Ave, McKees Rocks, PA). Featured speakers will be Fr Bogdan Bucur of Duquesne University, Dr Edith Humphrey of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and Andrew Weaver of Christ our Savior Church in Indiana PA. This regional event is **free** and open to the public. Visit orthodoxpittsburgh.org for more information.

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2019 Holy Water Available To Take Home:

Please plan to take Holy Water home with you! Bring in a container and fill it up. Holy Water can be drank when we are feeling under the weather. You may bless one another with holy water (together with the sign of the Cross) prior to tests for our children in school, big days at the office, or before doctor appointments.

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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 take 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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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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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

- February 3: Kathy Schrmack
- February 10: **Available to you**
- February 17: **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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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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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 3:12-16

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, ¹³ forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

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Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

The Rich Ruler

¹⁸ And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" ²¹ And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." ²² And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²³ But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. ²⁴ Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Why Do Orthodox Christians Bless Homes?

by Fr. Sergei Sveshnikov

from: <http://holytrinity-oca.org/why-do-orthodox-christians-bless-homes/>

The Orthodox Church teaches that we do not have two separate lives — a secular one and a spiritual one — but one human life, and that all of it must be holy. We must not be Christians for just a few hours on Saturday and Sunday, spending the rest of our life godlessly that is to say, without God. The person who has united with Christ in the sacrament of baptism cannot be a part-time Christian, but must be faithful to Christ everywhere and at all times — in church, at work, at home, in relationships with other Christians, and in those with non-Christians. We must be faithful to Christ in the fullness of our life.

The Orthodox Church teaches us that a temple is not only a building in which we worship, but that we are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16); that the Body of Christ is not only that of which we partake at the Divine Liturgy, but that we are the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27). And just as the Gifts of the Eucharist are treated with reverence and kept in sanctified vessels in the altar, so should every Christian's life be full of reverence and sanctity not only during a church service, but likewise outside the walls of the temple. A Christian's home must become a small temple, a small Church.

The Church blesses the very foundation of a home in the same way that it blesses the foundation of a church; it blesses a new Christian home in the same way that it blesses a new temple; and yearly, after the blessing of a parish temple with the water of Theophany, the Church brings this holy water into the homes of the faithful. The prayers for the blessing of a temple are different from those for the blessing of a home, because the function of a home is different from that of a temple, but the sanctifying

2019 Theophany Home Blessings



How to prepare for your home blessing before the Priest arrives?

- ✓ Please have a white cloth placed on the table, an icon and/or a cross, and a candle to be lit.
- ✓ Have a list of names of all those who live in the home (*including your pets*) and a list of the departed members of your family and friends you would wish to have remembered during the service.
 - ✓ (*I will provide the Holy Water.*)
- ✓ Have all TVs, radios, and cell phones turned off.
 - ✓ If you have anything to be blessed (*Icon, Cross, etc.*), have it on the table where the blessing will take place.
- ✓ Participation is important! Have everyone gather around the table and join in the blessing.
- ✓ Feel free to invite neighbors and friends over to be a part of this beautiful tradition!
 - ✓ If you need to discuss a personal matter, this is a good time to do so!

Home blessings will take place from January 19 thru March 9.

It would be ideal if I were able to come between 9:30am and 4pm on a weekday.

If this is not possible, certain evening, Saturday and Sunday times will be available.

Please Email (fr.sleepless@gmail.com) or Call/Text (412-748-0148) me with your preferred windows of time.

I will call or email you a couple days before I will be in your area. I look forward to spending this time with your family! - Fr Dave



action of the Holy Spirit is one. And just as in the baptism of our Lord all of creation is washed clean and sanctified, every year after the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 19), Christians sanctify themselves and their homes with the water of Theophany.

The Church teaches us to sanctify everything: dwellings, places of work, all our pursuits, and the fruits of our labor. And just as a temple and sacred vessels, once sanctified and set aside for sacred use, can no longer be used for anything profane, in the same way a

Christian washed in the baptismal waters, and his home, and all his works can no longer be the dwelling of sin and the works of Satan, but only and always the temple of the Holy Spirit and the fulfillment of the will of our Heavenly Father. This is why the Church blesses everything that can be found in a Christian home; and if something is not worthy of being blessed, then there should not be a place for it in the home of a Christian.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

St. Sava I, enlightener and first archbishop of Serbia (1235)

Commemorated on January 27/14

This best-loved Saint of the Serbian people was born in 1169, the son of Stephen Nemanja, Grand Prince of Serbia. He was named Rastko by his parents. At the age of fifteen he was appointed governor of the province of Herzegovina, but worldly power were of no interest to him, and he began to wish to give himself more fully to God. He secretly left home and traveled to Mount Athos, where he became a novice at the Monastery of St Panteleimon. His father learned where he had gone and sent soldiers to bring him back, but before the soldiers could claim him, he was tonsured a monk with the name of Sabbas (Sava), after St Sabbas the Sanctified (December 5).

In time, under the influence of his son, Stephen Nemanja abdicated his kingship, and in 1196 he became a monk under the name of Symeon, traveling to the Holy Mountain to join his son. Symeon was quite old, and unable to endure all the ascetic labors of long-time monks, so his son redoubled his own ascetical struggle, telling his father, "I am your ascesis." The two



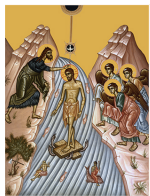
monks together founded the Chilandar Monastery, which became the center of Serbian piety and culture. Saint Symeon reposed in 1200, and his body soon began to exude a miracle-working myrrh; thus he is commemorated as St Symeon the Myrrh-streaming (February 13).

Saint Sava retired to a hermit's life in a cell on the Holy Mountain, but was compelled to return to the world: his two brothers were at war with one another, causing much bloodshed in Serbia. The Saint returned home with his father's holy relics, mediated between his brothers, and persuaded them to make peace with one another over their father's tomb, restoring peace the Serbian land. At the pleas of the people, St Sava remained in Serbia thereafter. He persuaded the Emperor and the Patriarch of Constantinople to grant autocephaly to the Church in Serbia. Against his will, he was ordained first Archbishop of his land in 1219. He labored tirelessly to establish the Orthodox Faith, for, though his father had been a Christian, many of the people were still pagan. In old age he resigned the episcopal throne and went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. While returning from his pilgrimage, he fell asleep in peace in 1236.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY – LEAVETAKING OF THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY



"On Theophany, the Day of the Lord's Baptism, every year a great miracle is performed. The Holy Spirit, coming down upon the water, changes its natural properties. It becomes incorrupt, not spoiling, remaining transparent and fresh for many years. This Holy Water receives the grace to heal illnesses, to drive away demons and every evil power, to preserve people and their dwellings from every danger, to sanctify various objects whether for church or home use. Therefore, Orthodox Christians with reverence drink Holy Water — a great holy thing!" +St John of San Francisco

MONDAY

"God in His goodness has arranged things perfectly, so that with our gifts, we can help each other, and with our faults, we can be humbled by each other. For every person has some gifts; but everyone also has some faults which one must struggle to overcome." +St. Paisios of Mount Athos

TUESDAY

"Peace is defined as harmony among those who are divided. When, therefore, we end the civil war within our nature and cultivate peace within ourselves, we become at peace." +St. Gregory of Nyssa

WEDNESDAY

"You don't need to say much to someone who is suffering or try to instruct him. He understands that you feel his pain and care about him, and he is helped by this. Feeling his pain is everything. If we feel compassion for others, we forget ourselves and our problems." +St. Paisios of Mount Athos

THURSDAY

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" – Psalm 133:1

FRIDAY

"If we do commit some sin again, we should without delay ask forgiveness once again, and the Lord will forgive us, for He came not to save the righteous but the sinners, i.e., those who acknowledge their sins." - Abbot Nikon Vorobiev

SATURDAY

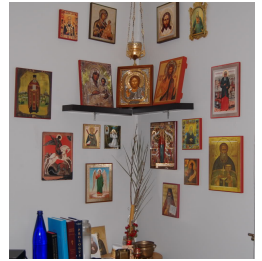
"Drink Holy Water as often as possible. It's the best and most effective medicine. I say this not as a bishop, but as a doctor, from my experience in medicine." +St. Luke of Simferopol

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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, Mark, Anthony, Fr. Joseph Cervo ...*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, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Margaret, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) ...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): Ashley Wertz - Venerable Anthony the Great (1/30)
Anthony Winkler - Venerable Anthony the Great (1/30)

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Birthday Prayers for... Roberta 'Bobbie' Kruchkevich (1/27), Allison Kretchek (1/29), Scott Robinson (1/30), Anthony Winkler (2/1), Fr Dcn Marc Wisnosky (2/1) ...*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, Stephen, Peter
...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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

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For Expectant Mothers... 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 Magdic, His Grace, +Bishop Athanasios, +Patricia French, the Priest +Nicholas Palun, Archon +Michael Serko Jr ...*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 Before Partaking Of Holy Water

O Lord, my God, may this Holy Water be for the remission of my sins,
for the enlightenment of my mind,
for the strengthening of my soul and body,
for the health of my soul and body,
for the conquering of my passions and infirmities,
according to Your mercy that has no limit,
through the prayers of Your Most Pure Mother and all Your Saints.
Amen.