



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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2019

Volume IV

FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY!

APRIL 21st
GREAT WEEK BEGINS



.....
GREAT AND HOLY WEEK
ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Reading: Philippians 4: 4-9
Gospel: John 12: 1-18

Place your palm branches
and pussywillows behind
an icon at home
and in your car!

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy (for Kvitna Nedilja) Tone 6 Liturgical Color: **Gold**
YOUTH Sunday / Blessing of Palms and Pussy Willows

SERVICES FOR GREAT & HOLY WEEK

Walk with Christ during this Higher Fast

(All services will be on the North Side)



The services of Holy Week offer us an opportunity to go with Christ to Jerusalem, the Judgment before Pilate, the Cross, the Tomb, and the Resurrection. It is the holiest time of the year, and one in which we have both a duty to God and to ourselves to attend as many of the services as possible. Make every effort to attend these services, and be fed by the holiness of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Holy Monday, April 22 – 7pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

(Fast from Noon if you are able or at least 3 hours before service when receiving the Eucharist, Holy Communion)

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

Holy Tuesday, April 23 – 7pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

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

Holy Wednesday, April 24 – 7pm Mystery (Sacrament) of Holy Unction (Anointing)

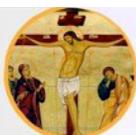
***** Final day for Confessions before Pascha *****

Holy Thursday, April 25 – 9:30am Vespertal Liturgy of St Basil (Mystical Supper)

7pm 12 Passion Gospels

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

APRIL 26th



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GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY
JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS
CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR
ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE

Refrain from TV, Internet, &
Phones to honor Christ's Death.

9:30am Royal Hours

7pm Vespers and Procession of the Holy Shroud (Plaschanitsa)

a day of strict fasting

Holy Saturday, April 27 – 9:30am Vespertal Liturgy of St Basil

a day of strict fasting

FEAST OF FEASTS!

APRIL 28th
NO FASTING!



.....
BRIGHT WEEK
HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)
Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1: 1-17

Greet everyone with
"CHRIST IS RISEN!"
& say it before
good morning and goodnight!

***** 8:45 am ***** Resurrection Matins / Paschal Divine Liturgy / Parish Family Photo /

Blessing of Paschal (Easter) Baskets / followed by Children's Egg Hunt / Paschal Pot-Luck

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory be to Jesus Christ! *(responded with: 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:

If you wish to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone, please do so by signing up on the sheet on the table in the Vestibule of the Church or by contacting Fr. Dave. An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

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 **LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY** 

Bright Monday, April 29 – 9:30am Paschal Divine Liturgy with Gospel Procession (Fast-Free Week)
St. Thomas Sunday, May 5 – Add'l Collection for our Community Outreach / Semi-Annual Meeting
Monday, May 6 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of St. George
Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women, May 12 – Add'l Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Barbara Kirish; Mary Jane Hudak; Carol Lorenzi; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavidonis.

"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 Cindy Pavidonis, In Memory of Grandmother, Barbara Pavidonis, Birthday remembrance; and by Theresa Sharpless, In Memory of Father, Nick Buhonick. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Jim Pamjat!

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Holy Week, the Higher Fast – With Great Lent behind us, we sense the nearness of Pascha, the Feast of Feasts! After the

'bridge' of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we'll arrive at the distinct point of Holy Week. It will be time for all of us to "go up to Jerusalem," sharing in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's Passion, Crucifixion, & triumphant Resurrection! The watchful disposition of the Church is, especially at this time, reflected in the home. Holy Week is a week that calls for prayer, focus, stamina, and, for most of us, planning and preparation! Arrange your schedules and come to as many services as you can! Continued Prayers to you on your spiritual journey - Fr Dave

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Relocation Update – ALL are invited to take a drive and look at the recent property that the Relocation Committee has discussed and that Father and Matt have looked at:

**1520 Shipley Lane
Franklin Park, Pa 15143**

The 17 acres is zoned as Residential-1 and a *Place of Worship* is "contingent". The owners just responded that they "would entertain an offer with a zoning contingency on it. In that case, the Church would be able to break the deal if the zoning application was denied." We look forward to discussing this more at our Semi-Annual Meeting!

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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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Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 95
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 149
Envelopes:	\$ 633
Presanctified:	\$ 275
Total Collections:	\$ 1152
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 75
Relocation Fund:	\$ 50

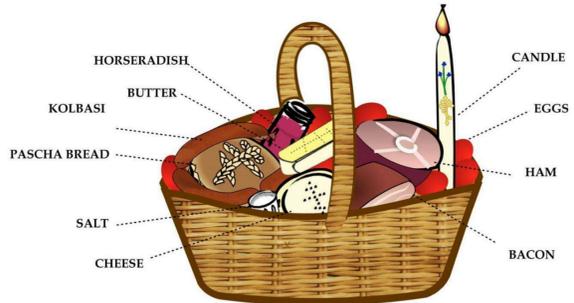
Give Generously: "For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own free will." 2 Cor 8:3

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

April 28: **Pascha Pot-Luck Surprises**
May 5: **OPEN**
May 12: **OPEN**

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Paschal (Easter) Baskets – In the Vestibule is a description of items in the 't'raditional Carpatho-Rusyn (or Slavic) Paschal (Easter) Basket. All are encouraged to have these items in their baskets on Pascha! These are the items (*the meats and dairy products*) that the church calls for us, with all of our strength, to fast from during the Great Fast. But what if you fasted and abstained from chocolate? Chewing gum? Pop? Etc.... did you ever think about including some of these in your basket? By doing this, you celebrate the difficulty and temptations that you conquered (*to the best of your abilities*) during the Great Fast! This allows us to reintroduce them into our lives (*in moderation*) and celebrate the Resurrection!

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2nd Official Notice – Our Parish Semi-Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday, May 5th** following the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to discussing current church topics with the congregation.

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Visit Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddioocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddioocese

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



Much has been talked about over the recent years about Orthodox Christian Stewardship. Your Church Council and Fr. Dave want to hear more from you about Stewardship. (Here is the 4th in a series of questions to reflect on.)

The Parish Stewardship Self-Assessment:

4. Creating an environment of overwhelming hospitality and evangelization.

- ✓ Do we treat those coming to our parish as if we would welcome them to our homes?
- ✓ When new people come to our parish do we notice them, greet them, invite them to be a part of our community?
- ✓ Are all people invited to use their gifts of time, talent, and treasure?
- ✓ Do we welcome diversity of people, ethnicities, and traditions in our community?
- ✓ Do we take advantage of being hospitable to fallen away Orthodox or Non-Orthodox families at the time of Divine Liturgies, funerals, or other family celebrations?

Over the past couple months, a series of stewardship questions or ideas have been posted in the bulletin. Please talk with members of the Church Council, Fr. Dave, or leave thoughts anonymously in an envelope on the desk in the vestibule as we continue to learn and grow in stewardship together.

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ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

Matins – (from the Latin, matutinae, "morning"), also called *Orthros* (from Greek, meaning "morning", "dawn" or "day break"), is the longest and most complex of the daily cycle of services. Matins is celebrated in the morning, unless it is celebrated as part of a vigil in the evening.

Matins services related to the Paschal feast:

- **Bridegroom Matins:** served on Great and Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- **Great and Holy Friday Matins:** there are twelve Gospel lessons; Antiphons are used (originating in a different office). The tropar sung at the 15th antiphon is, *Today is hung upon the cross...*
- **Great and Holy Saturday Matins:** This contains some elements of the old cathedral office: procession with the shroud (plaščanitsa), reading of three pericopes (*Old Testament, epistle, Gospel*) at the end.
- **Paschal Matins:** This is celebrated from Pascha Sunday until Thomas Sunday. The six psalms and the praises are not part of this service.

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

Camp Nazareth Work Day – The St. Nicholas Men's Club is going to camp **Saturday, May 4th** for a light duty maintenance day starting at 8am and working until about 4pm. Lunch will be provided by the camp. (You can either drive up Friday evening or Saturday morning.) Please contact Father TODAY if any men are interested.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

Saints Herodion (Rodion), Agabus (Ahab), Asinkritos, Rufus, Phlegontos and Hermas

Commemorated on April 21/8

Saints Herodion (Rodion), Agabus (Ahab), Asinkritos, Rufus, Phlegontos and Hermas are among the Seventy Disciples, chosen by Christ and sent by Him to preach.

The holy Disciple Herodion was a kinsman of the Apostle Paul and his companion on many journeys. When Christianity had spread to the Balkan Peninsula, the Apostles Peter and Paul established the Disciple Herodion as Bishop of Patara. The Disciple Herodion zealously preached the Word of God and converted many of the Greek pagans and Jews to Christianity.

Enraged by the preaching of the disciple, the idol-worshippers and Jews with one accord fell upon Saint Herodion, and they began to beat him with sticks and pelt him with stones. One of the mob struck him with a knife, and the saint fell down. But when the murderers were gone, the Lord restored him to health unharmed.

After this, Saint Herodion continued to accompany the Apostle Paul some years further. When the



holy Apostle Peter was crucified (+ c. 67), the Disciple Herodion at the same time also and with Saint Olympos was beheaded by the sword.

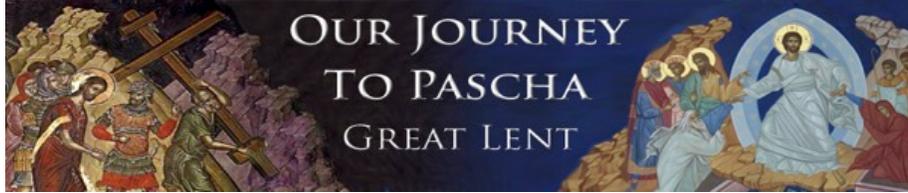
The holy Disciple Agabus was endowed with the gift of prophecy. He predicted (Acts 11: 27-28) the famine during the time of the emperor Claudius (41-52), and foretold the suffering of the Apostle Paul at Jerusalem (Acts 21: 11). The Disciple Agabus preached in many lands and converted many pagans to Christ.

The Disciple Rufus (Ruphus), to whom the holy Apostle Paul gives greeting in the Epistle to the Romans (Rom. 16: 11-15), was bishop of the Greek city of Thebes. The Disciple Asincritos (Rom. 16: 14) – was bishop in Hyrcania (Asia Minor). The Disciple Phlegontos – bishop in the city of Marathon (Thrace). The Disciple Hermas – bishop in Dalmatia (there is yet another Disciple from the Seventy by the name of Hermas, who occupied a cathedra-seat in the Thracian city of Philippopolis).

All these disciples for their intrepid service to Christ underwent fierce sufferings and were found worthy of a martyr's crown.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY



To assist the faithful in making the most of this holy season, additional resources have been added to our Diocesan Website at: <https://www.acrod.org/prayercorner/lentenresources/>

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Passport to Pascha

By Fr. Patrick O'Rourke

Palm Sunday

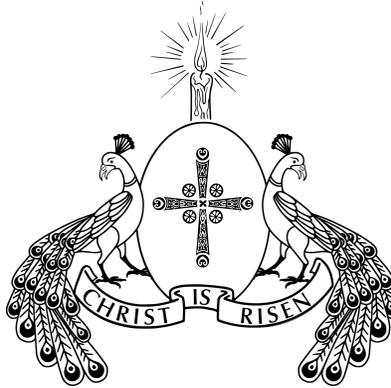
Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem by a very large crowd, who proclaim him to be the Messiah. They shout "Hosannah in the Highest!" and lay palms before him, as though he were a king.

The Bridegroom

Jesus taught us to be ready for Him to come to us at any time, and He used the image of a "bridegroom" to help us. Jesus comes to us, not dressed up for a wedding, but bound and mocked.

The Anointing

A woman who had sinned fell down in front of Jesus, and she washed his feet with her tears and her hair. She brought expensive anointing oils for his feet. She loved Him and wanted to show how much He meant to her.



The Mystical Supper

Jesus teaches his disciples about the Holy Eucharist, the new covenant between God and mankind. John, who loved Jesus, rests against His chest, while Judas hurries away to betray his friend.

The Crucifixion

Jesus is taken outside of the city, where he is executed like a criminal. The place is called "Golgotha" which means "the place of the skull".

The Resurrection

Having died on the cross, Jesus enters the realm of death. Because He is God, this pit cannot hold him. Shattering its doors, Binding death as a prisoner, and trampling on him, Jesus takes Adam and Eve by their wrists and brings them back to life, with Him.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

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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: Philippians 4:4-9

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

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Gospel: John 12:1-18

Mary Anoints Jesus

¹² Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Laz'arus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Laz'arus was one of those at table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the

ointment. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii [a day's wage] and given to the poor?" ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. ⁷ Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

The Plot to Kill Lazarus

⁹ When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Laz'arus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests planned to put Laz'arus also to death, ¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

¹² The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, ¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion;

behold, your king is coming,
sitting on an ass's colt!"

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been

done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

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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, Roberta, Gary, Lino, Louis, June, Helen, Steven, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N., Emily, Anthony, Eleanor, Daniel, Stephen, Alexander, Jane ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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For the Special Intentions of... Metropolitan Gregory, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Michael, Daniel, and Dylan *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Donald, Jane, Margaret, Eleanor, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) ...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): your name here – Saint ___ (*Please contact Fr Dave with your Patron Saint*)

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Birthday Prayers for... Max Anton (4/22), Fred Anton (4/24/37), Fr Peter Paproski (4/24), Donna Tongel (04/24), Jaxson Maruscak (4/25), Fr Christopher Rocknage (4/26)...*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, Anthony, Sheila, Anna Marie, Katie, Alexis, Sophie ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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Anniversary Prayers for... John & Theresa Sharpless (4/21)

...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For Expectant Mothers... Lauren, Faith, Pañi Eleni, Hayley, Carley, Lauren

...*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. Dzadovsky, 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 "Bratso" Wuchenich (3/15), +Rose Mary Radick (3/19), +William Littlemeyer, Jr. (3/28), +Leona Haynes (4/13) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal be their 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 FOR THE WEEK:

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian

in the Ruthenian tradition as found in St. Peter Mogila's 1639 Liturgikon (Sluzhebnyk)

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. + [Prostration]
But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. + [Prostration]
Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]

The following triplet is recited 4 times (making a total of 12 bows):

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [bow]

O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me. [bow]

O Lord, forgive me, for my sins are many. [bow]

Then the prayer again with only one prostration:

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]

