Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople 2688 California Avenue ather 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 1, 2019

A Two Week Bulletin

Volume V

Pittsburgh, Pa 15212

412-748-0148, Talk or Text

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24th Sunday after Pentecost / Martyr Platon of Ancyra (266)

9:15 - Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Liturgical Color: Purple Tone 7 Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22; Gospel: Luke 12:16-21 (9th Sunday of Luke) Godparent / Godchild(ren) Sunday / +Michaelene Paulick (12/1/17) / Church School



Wednesday, December 4 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos **Friday**, December 6 – 9:30am Akathist to Saint Nicholas

Saturday, December 7 – 9a-12p Winter Clean-Up & Nativity Decorating / 11a-1p Confessions offered

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

# Monday	Prophet Obadiah (Abdias) (9th c. B.C.)	2 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Luke 17:20-25
# Tuesday	Venerable Gregory Decapolites (816)	2 Thessalonians 1:10-2:2	Luke 17:26-37
# Wednesday	New Martyr Priest Alexander of New York (1937)	2 Thessalonians 2:1-12	Luke 18:15-17,26-30
# Thursday	Apostle Philemon (ca. 109)	2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5	Luke 18:31-34
# Friday	St. Alexander Nevsky (1263)	2 Thessalonians 3:6-18	Luke 19:12-28
# Saturday	Great-martyr Catherine of Alexandria (305)	Hebrews 2:2-10	Luke 10:19-21

* Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did! # Nativity (Philip's) Fast (Advent)

December 8 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost / Hieromartyr Clement, pope of Rome (101) Leave Taking of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

9:20 – Nativity Canon & Carols (Kol'ady); 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 8 Liturgical Color: **Purple** Epistle: Eph. 4:1-6 / Heb. 9:1-7; Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 (10th Sun. of Lk.) / Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund / Church School /

5pm St. Nicholas Deanery Charity Dinner (Edgewood Country Club) **DEADLINE IS DEC.** 1st

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Tuesday, December 10 – 9:30 Advent Paraklis to the Theotokos **Thursday**, December 12 – 9:30 Moleben for the Nativity Fast

Saturday, December 14 –11a-1p Mystery of Holy Confession offered

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

# Monday	Venerable James the Solitary of Syria (457)	1 Timothy 1:1-7	Luke 19:37-44	
# Tuesday	Great Martyr James the Persian (421)	1 Timothy 1:8-14	Luke 19:45-48	
# Wednesday	Martyr Stephen the New of Mt. St. Auxentius (767)	1 Tim 1:18-20,2:8-15	Luke 20:1-8	
# Thursday	Venerable Acacius of Mt. Latros (6th c.)	1 Timothy 3:1-13	Luke 20:9-18	
# Friday	Holy and All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called (62)	1 Timothy 4:4-8,16	Luke 20:19-26	
# Saturday	Prophet Nahum (7th c. B.C.)	Galatians 3:8-12	Luke 6:17-23	
* Lot us Imitate Christ and the Spints and East as they didl. # Nativity (Philip's) East (Advant)				

Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did! # Nativity (Philip's) Fast (Advent)

December 15 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost / Prophet Habakkuk (Abbacum) (7th c. B.C.) 9:20 – Nativity Canon & Carols (Kol'ady); 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Liturgical Color: Purple Tone 1

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19; Gospel: Luke 18:18-27 (11th Sunday of Luke) YOUTH Sunday / Panachida +Julia Potoski (12/14/18) / St Nicholas Breakfast / NO Church School +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

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!

This Bulletin Is Offered: In Honor of Anastasia Dzambo's Birthday (11/30). May God Grant Her Many Years!

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Nativity Winter Church Clean-Up and **Decorating** – will be **THIS Saturday**, **December** tentative to-do list is on the desk in the hall.

 $\mathbf{7}^{\text{th}}$ from 9am to noon(ish). A sign up sheet and



Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Viola Peifer; Shuster Family; Lawrence Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Kirish Family; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Tim Martin; Mirilovich Family; Joanne Nelson; Margaret Rusnak; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis

"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 Pavilonis, Birthday Remembrance of Aunt Helen; and Theresa Sharpless In Memory of Father, Nick Buhonick. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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Turkey Bingo – Thank you to everyone who shared their stewardship time for our annual Turkey Bingo!

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The Nativity Fast (Filipovka / Advent) Began Last Week - The Fast runs until the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord on Monday, January 6. As in Great Lent, you should establish for yourself a rule of fasting and stick to it. It is often said that the Nativity Fast is so much more difficult because of the nature of society around us (and being on the Old Calendar, the false thought of celebrating 'two Christmases'). We can enjoy the season with our extended family & friends and still keep the spirit of the Fast. Everyone should try, at a minimum, to keep Monday, Wednesday & Friday as fast days, no matter what is happening on the 'new calendar.' If you have questions, please talk with Father Dave. Prepare the Manger of your Soul for the coming of the new borne Messiah!

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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 after ALL services, from 11-1 on Saturdays Dec. 7, 14, 21, & Jan. 4, and by appointment. 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)

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated **Tuesday, December 3rd** following Thanksgiving after the widely recognized shopping events *Black Friday* and *Cyber Monday*, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-ofyear giving. Please remember the Orthodox organizations if you will be donating online.

"The saints were people like all of us. Many of them came out of great sins, but by repentance they attained the Kingdom of Heaven. And everyone who comes there comes through repentance, which the merciful Lord has given us through His sufferings." +St. Silouan the Athonite

Our Stewardship Gifts To God					
Stewardship:	\$	193			
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$	202			
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$	843			
Community Outreach (IOCC):	\$	153			
Total Collections:	\$	1391			
Fundraising Acc't (Turkey Bingo):	\$	2858			
Relocation Fund (*includes raffle):	\$	1960			
Give Generously: "For they gave according to their means and beyond their means,					

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Christmas at FOCUS – We have again offered to donate 4 sheet cakes, 300 bottles of water, 300 napkins, and 300 plastic-ware sets to FOCUS Pittsburgh for their annual Christmas Dinner for those in need. In addition, they are asking for \$25 gift cards from Target. Please see **Kathy Schrmack** if you are able to make a <u>physical</u> OR <u>monetary</u> donation towards this wonderful event which will be held on **Saturday**, **December 22nd**. *Your prayers and stewardship are greatly appreciated!*



2020 Yearbook, A.C.R.Y. Annual - If you would like to include a patron, booster, or memorial listing in this Year Book of the activities of our God-saved Diocese, a sign-up sheet has been placed in the Church Hall. Patron & Memorial listings are \$6, and Booster listings are \$3. Please see Theresa Sharpless with any questions. Deadline to sign-up is **December 1**st.

+++ Pill Bottle Collection – Our ACRY continues it's outreach to "Matthew 25: Ministries" who accepts donations of CLEAN AND EMPTY plastic medicine pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies to countries in need. PLEASE MAKE SURE THE LABEL IS REMOVED AND IT IS NOT STICKY. 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.

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

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December 8: Open / Meat-Free Potluck December 15: Parish St. Nicholas Breakfast December 22: Sharon and Matt

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!

+++ +++ +++ LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY 🗇

Tuesday, December 17 – 9:30 Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ

- Wednesday, December 18 7pm Vespers for the Feast of St Nicholas in Homestead
- ✤ Thursday, December 19 NO Liturgy this year
- ✤ Saturday, December 21 11a-1p Confessions

ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

Visitation of the Wonderworking Saint Anna Icon – The Icon will be at St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral (8290 Thompson Run Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237 / 412-366-4647) on Saturday, December 7 (5pm Great Vespers, moleben, and presentation on "Acquiring the mind of Christ.") and Sunday, December 8 (10am Divine Liturgy). Times for veneration and prayer will be abundant around the scheduled services. The icon has been manifested as being miraculous in helping those with cancer, family needs and +++ +++ +++ +++ ++++ especially for married couples having difficulty with conception. Each day, Father Archimandrite Sergius will offer talks on the icon. All are welcome to venerate and pray before this holy icon.

> 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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ST. JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the Nativity Fast, we are called to increase our Prayer, Fasting, <u>and</u> Almsgiving. This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be



- reaching out to **our homebound** parishioners (*Craft Project to be completed 12/7*),
- collecting for **Christmas at FOCUS** (see note in the bulletin board section)
- Food Drive Project for FOCUS (see the bulletin board in the church hall for details), as well as
- the ACRY Stewardship Campaign: Empowering the Saints for Ministry" (our community outreach collection at the end of the month). The National ACRY's goal is \$14,000 by February 15th. Please see the letters on the bulletin board in the church hall for more information.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!

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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: Ephesians 2:14-22

14 For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; 18 for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; 22 in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

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Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Next Sunday's Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

Unity in the Body of Christ

4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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Next Sunday's Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman

¹⁰ Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹ And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. ¹² And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." $^{\rm 13}\,\rm And$ he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. ¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." ¹⁵ Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" ¹⁷ As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The Holy Martyr Platon (Plato)

Commemorated on Dec. 1 / Nov. 18

The Holy Martyr Platon (Plato), brother of the holy Martyr Antiochos the Physician (Comm. 16 July), was born at the city of Ancyra in Galatia. While still a youth he left home and went

through the cities, inspiredly preaching the Word of God to pagans, amazing his audience with the persuasiveness and beauty of his speech, and his profound knowledge of Greek learning. Because of his preaching he was arrested and brought for trial to the temple of Zeus before the governor Agrippina. At first the judge attempted by flattery to sway the saint into a renunciation of Christ. He assured the youth, that he might be on a par of intellect with the greatest of the philosophers Plato, if he but worshipped also the pagan gods. To this Saint Platon answered, that the wisdom of the philosopher, although great, was but ephemeral and limited, whereas the true, eternal and unbounded wisdom comprised the Gospel teachings. Then the judge

as the reward for renunciation promised to give him as wife his beautiful daughter, but in case of refusal threatened him with torture and +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++



We often hear, better

Eternity is long, better prepare for it.

Life is short...

enjoy it

death. Saint Platon replied, that his choice was a temporal death for the sake of eternal life. The patience of the governor was exhausted, and he gave orders to mercilessly beat the martyr, and then send him off to prison.

When they led Saint Platon off to prison, he turned to the people, gathered about the temple, he called on all not to forsake the Christian faith. Seven days later they again led the Martyr Platon for trial before Agrippina in the temple of Zeus, where they had the

implements of torture already assembled: boiling cauldrons, redhot iron and sharp hooks. The judge offered the martyr a choice: to either offer sacrifice to the pagan gods or to feel on himself the effects of these implements of torture. Again the saint steadfastly refused to worship idols, and after his tortures they threw him in prison for 18 more days without bread or water. But seeing that this did not shake the martyr, they offered him in exchange for his life and freedom but to pronounce the words "great god Apollo". "I want not to sin by

word", - answered the martyr. By order of Agrippina the holy Martyr Platon was then beheaded (~ +302).

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Fasting is for both Body and Soul

"But as for me, when they (the demons) troubled me, I put on sackcloth. And I humbled my soul with fasting, and my prayer shall return to my bosom" (Psalm 34:13)

In order to be pleasing to the Lord, our fasting must be accompanied by mercy and kindness, and done without hypocrisy or pride. Fasting brings the passions under control by taming the body, for the body is brought under submission by fasting, gaining freedom, sobriety, purity and strength. Fasting is a good way to reign in our compulsive eating, and if accompanied by consuming only whole, organic foods, makes us feel lighter, and clears the mind. Fasting helps us open our hearts to the will of God, for our fasting brings healing to the life of the soul.

What we put into our bodies does matter, and the periods of fasting, given to us by the Church, afford us the opportunity to rid our bodies of toxins and

extra weight. Thus, an important element of fasting is the reduction of the amount of food we eat, not just the type of food. Some make the mistake of eating foods that are simply devoid of eggs, dairy, fish and meat, while replacing these food groups with soy products and other prepared foods. It is better for our overall health, and for our spiritual life, to replace non-fasting foods with beans, vegetables, soups, salads and whole whole grains.

Finally, periods of fasting should be approached with joy. This is not about deprivation, but about renewal of body and soul. We were not created for fasting, but fasting was created for us. Since the benefits are so plentiful, we should approach all fast periods, including the Wednesday and Friday fasts, with gratitude, thanking God for the opportunity to enter more deeply into communion with Him.

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

"We must begin with thanksgiving for everything The beginning of joy is to be content with your situation." +St. Ambrose of Optina

SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father can meet M-F 9:30a–4p or by appointment. Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

Phone Tree - Please call Fr. Dave to be added. Emergency Sick Calls - Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure so he can pray with you and you may receive the Anointing to be fully prepared. Mystery of Confession - Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment. Holy Communion/Eucharist - The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox

Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive a blessing from the chalice.

Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish

life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details. Baptisms - Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the

other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the

newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Father for more details.

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

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ance into the Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations; otherwise burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation. also required.

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 <u>name(s)</u>.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver him/her/them from sickness and bitter pain. Heal him/her/them so that he/she/they may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen. ++++++++

For the Health of... John, Alexandra D., Annie, Kelly, Aislinn, Emily, Fr. Dcn. Artemius, Pańi Marie, Michael, Daniel, Jake, Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Gary, Lino, Louis, June, Helen, Doug, Joanne ...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, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin our seminarians: Thomas, John, Daniel and Dylan and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee: Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Anthony, Mary Jane, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Margaret, John, John, Todd and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach, IOCC...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.



+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ yer Challenge (contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint) +++ +++ +++

Birthday Prayers for... Matthew Hanchulak (12/1), Stacy Dzambo (12/1), Joshua Winkler (12/1), *Father's Godson*, Joseph Sekerak (12/2), Lucy Blobner (12/4), His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory (12/7), Pańi Eleanor Herbert (12/8), Deborah Brancho (12/9), Alexis

Jesko (12/9/11), Father's God-sister, Lauren Babbie (12/12) ...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!

Marriages - are only solemnized on Saturdays or

Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods

and certain Feast Days. Please consult Father ASAP for

more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall).

Church Funerals - are provided for practicing

+++ +++ +++ *For our Catechumens & Inquirers*... Dustin, Stephen, Daniel ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magadalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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

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For Pregnant Mothers... Caitlinn, Allison, Pańi Ileana, Faith...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou. ++++++++

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.



For the souls of the newly departed...

+Kelly Leone (11/25), +Francis (Smoley) Zatorsky (11/19), +Evalyn T. Brudnak (11/14), +Barbara Wisnosky (10/31), +Michael Timko (10/24), +Evelyn Tihey (10/22) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May their Memory in God be Eternal*

