

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Rev. Fr. Dave Urban, *Pastor*
Very Rev. Fr. John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*
Timothy Martin, *Reader*
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
Matthew Peifer, *Church Council President*
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*** **NEW** *** www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com

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CHRIST IS RISEN!
*Christ is Risen From The Dead, Trampling
Down Death By Death and To Those In The
Tombs Bestowing Life!*
INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Sunday, April 23 – 2nd Sunday of Pascha: St Thomas Sunday

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 5:12–20; Gospel: John 20:19–31
Breaking of the Artos / Semi-Annual meeting following Liturgy

Tone 1
Liturgical Color: **White**

READINGS AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Acts 3: 19–26	<i>All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. – 1 Tim.3:16-17</i>	John 2: 1–11
Tuesday	Acts 4: 1–10		John 3: 16–21
* Wednesday	Acts 4: 13–22		John 5: 17–24
Thursday	Acts 4: 23–31		John 5: 24–30
* Friday	Acts 5: 1–11		John 5: 30–6:2
Saturday	Acts 5: 21–33		John 6: 14–27

** Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did.*

No Kneeling in Prayer for 50 Days – Replace “O Heavenly King” with the Paschal Tropar

Sunday, April 30 – 3rd Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women;
Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 6:1–7; Gospel: Mark 15:43–16:8
Additional Collection for our Community Outreach (OCMC) / ACRY Meeting following the Coffee Social

Tone 2
Liturgical Color: **White**

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Christos Voskrese! (Voistinu Voskrese!) (Church Slavonic)

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 Fr. 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

Khristós anésti! (Alithós anésti!) (Greek)



Wednesday, May 10 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for Mid Pentecost
Saturday, May 13 – 9:30am Grave Blessings
Sunday, May 14 – Mother’s Day / add’l collection for our *Capital Improvement Fund*
Thursday, May 18 – 7pm Akathist to “Inexhaustible Cup” & brief discussion
Saturday, May 20 – 4pm Italian Feast and Basket Raffle

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH



Orthodox Food Pantry – Volunteers are needed every Thursday from 5:15 to 6:45 to assist at **St Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry** based out of St. Mary’s Orthodox Church (105 S. 19th St, Pittsburgh, Pa). If interested, please contact Fr Patrick at 412-431-6428.

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This Bulletin is offered...
If you wish to sponsor a Sunday Bulletin, for prayers for someone or for their memory, please do so by signing up on the sheet on the table in the Vestibule of the Church or by contacting Fr. Dave.



Orthodoxy on Tap - The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) will host their next "Orthodoxy on Tap" on **Sunday, May 21st** at 6:30 pm at the Sharp Edge Beer Emporium (302 S St Clair St., Pgh., Pa 15206). Guest speaker will be Fr Stephen Loposky, the director of our Camp Nazareth. All young adults ages 21-39 are welcome!



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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Anastasia Dzambo; Kathy Schrmack; Jane Barrett; Linda Gavulich; Eleanor Sanger; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Steve Buhonick; Julie Potoski; Pani Branchio; Cindy Pavilonis; Patty Watson.

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***"I am the light of the world;
he who follows Me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life." - Jn 8:12***

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The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by Viola Peifer, In Memory of Deceased Members of Radick and Peifer Families; by John Gaydos, Sr., In Memory of Wife, Catherine; by Melanie Paieski, In Memory of Mother, Catherine Gaydos, and Father-in-Law Joseph Paieski. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Jim Pamjat!

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Thank You! to the anonymous donor of our new blue clergy vestments! We will bless these on August 13th, the Sunday before the Dormition Fast, later this Summer.

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OCMC Coin Boxes – Please do not forget to bring in your coin boxes by next week to contribute towards our Community Outreach to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). *"Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" (1 Tim 6:18)*

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***** Parish Website** – Our new Parish Website, www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com, is live! Visit everyday! View our parish monthly calendar and there are links to other calendars that have the daily lives of the saints and other great material!

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**** Calling All Graduates** – if you will be graduating from High School, a University, or a Trade School, please contact Father ASAP.

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Diocesan Clergy Convocation – Fr Dave will be at Camp Nazareth from **April 25-28**. In an emergency, please do not hesitate to call him at camp (724-662-4840) or our brother from the OCA, Fr Thomas Soroka (412-299-3942).

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***** ACRY Booklet** – The National ACRY Bowling Tournament will be held in Rockaway, NJ Memorial Day Weekend. There is a sheet in the Church hall for anyone who wishes to be a patron (\$6), booster (\$3) or have a memorial listing (\$6) in the tournament booklet. These are due by **April 26th**.

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ACRY Meeting will be on **Sunday, April 30th** following our coffee social.

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Cemetery Grave Blessing – We will bless graves this year on **Saturday, May 13th**. We will meet at 9:30am at the Uniondale Cemetery and celebrate a Panachida there before blessing the graves. Contact Fr Dave with any questions.

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 1370
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp:	\$ 289
Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 283
Feast Day Envelopes:	\$ 160
Pascha Envelopes:	\$ 3923
Holy Week Envelopes:	\$ 205
<u>Loose Money:</u>	<u>\$ 30</u>
Total Donations:	\$ 6307

Collection for the Saints:

"On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper." 1 Cor 16:2

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Akathist to the "Inexhaustible Cup"

– This is a Prayer Service for Those Who Struggle with Addiction and for their Friends & Family. We offer this service on **Thursday, May 18th** at 7pm on behalf of those who suffer from alcoholism and other addictions. We also encourage those who have friends or family members who struggle with addiction, as well as those who work in the field of recovery, to come and pray with us!

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Italian Feast & Basket Raffle,

hosted by our ACRY, will be held in St John's Hall on **Saturday, May 20th** from 4-6:30pm (doors open at 3pm). Over 25 Amazing Gift Baskets to be raffled! Ticket Prices are: Adults - \$20; Youth (6-17) - \$10; and a Family Admission - \$50. Tickets include: Admission, 8 Basket Raffle Tickets, 2 Drink Coupons, and a homemade Italian Pasta Dinner with Appetizer, Salad Bar, and Dessert. *(Extra Raffle tickets may also be purchased.)* Reservations can be made by **May 17th** by signing up on the sheet in the church hall or contacting Fr Dave. *Come spend an Italian evening out with friends while supporting a great cause!*

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Faith Night at PNC Park – is Thursday, August 17th at 7:05 this year. **We are looking for someone to organize this parish outing!** Please contact either

Matt or Fr Dave if you are able to!

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**** Coat Drive** – Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn in years – but it still looks good and you don't want to get rid of it? We are now collecting coats and jackets, in good condition, to donate to FOCUS Pittsburgh this August. We will 'store' the clean coats on the coat rack in the church hall.

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Visit Our Parish & Diocese On-Line

St John's: www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com

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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CN Family Camp – Our Diocese is pleased to announce its 5th Annual Family Camp from **Friday, June 9th – Sunday, June 11th** at Camp Nazareth in conjunction with Family Day. The event is exactly what it sounds like: *Families “camping” together in the Camp cabins and participating in a weekend of services, games, discussions, activities and challenges that are all designed to help families deepen their relationship with God and with one another in the peaceful environment of our camp.* This year’s theme is – **“Your Family’s Sacred Story”**. Come learn about families of great faith in the Scriptures and be inspired. Share your own “Sacred Story” and help other families be inspired. Don’t miss out on this opportunity for you and your family. Space is limited to the first 10 families, so register soon. **Register online at www.campnazareth.org**. Registration closes after Friday, June 2.



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Family Day (June 11th) Raffle Tickets are available from Theresa Sharpless. This is the only diocesan-wide fundraiser for camp and it is a significant source of income for the Camp Nazareth program and our children. Raffle tickets are \$20 each with prizes exceeding \$20,000. Support our camp: buy (*at least*) one by **Sunday, May 26th**. +++ The Family Day flyer is hanging in the church hall with details for the day!

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STEWARDSHIP: A Way Of Life

From: <http://www.acrod.org/ministries/stewardship/stewardship-blog/>

Christ Is Risen! *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.” (2 Cor 4:7)*

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! This most glorious of Christian feast days is celebrated with great joy, peace, and love! We have experienced the resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and He has brought salvation to us.

What a wonderful and spiritually rewarding time this week and this day have been for us! When our clergy walk up and down the aisles proclaiming, “Christ is Risen” with the throng responding, “Indeed He is Risen” the smiles and joys are on the faces of all. The fast is over, and now the feast begins, but for how long is this joy with us? We become intoxicated living and remembering what Christ has accomplished, for us! How long does it take us to once again become intoxicated with the opportunities to fill up our lives once again with distractions of the secular world forgetting that my life has only one goal: to know God!

Fr. Barnabus Powell in his blog, *Faith Encouraged Daily*, states that “when we forget that our true life is a gift from God, our abilities



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90 Days Till Camp! – Early bird discount rates are available through **May 15th**. Information regarding registration is available at: www.CampNazareth.org. Please act fast to save 20 bucks! Our ACRY is offering a partial ‘Campership’ for assistance ☺ and other assistance is also available. **Please talk with Fr Dave before registering to get the online code that you will need.** *If you have never been to Camp Nazareth, you do not know what you are missing!* Our Deanery Camping week is **July 23-29**. Please, consider sending your children to Camp this summer! Please talk to Fr Dave if you have any questions. *A week at Camp Nazareth has the potential to bring a child who is quickly falling away from the faith and transform them into a spiritual guide for your family.* Please, believe me, it is that important!

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Altar Boy Retreat – the Annual Altar Boy Retreat will take place from **Sunday June 25th to Wednesday, June 28th** at Christ The Saviour Seminary (Johnstown, PA). Registration information will be coming soon.

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Young Women’s Encounter – the 4th Annual YWE will take place from **Sunday June 25th to Wednesday, June 28th** at the Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Christian Church in Windber, PA. The YWE is designed specifically for our young women to provide them an opportunity to spend time in fellowship with each other, have fun, and pray together. We learn about our faith and to listen for God’s call to each of us to use our unique gifts and abilities. Young women in our Diocese ages 12-18 are encouraged to attend. You may contact Pañi Eleni Stagon, acrodywe@gmail.com for more information.

are a gift from God, our world is a gift from God, we start forgetting our dependence on God for our very breath.” We slip into choices and behaviors that lead us back into the self-centered life that we have just forgotten on this wonderful and glorious day of Our Lord’s Resurrection. Our forgetfulness directs us once again into ungratefulness and into believing that we can do it all ourselves.

Christ has defeated the power of death. He has, “Trampled down death, by death!” **We have no excuses, no distractions, no forgetfulness to bind us.** There is no reason for us to go back to putting our secular lifestyles before our Christian life. The Holy Spirit fills us, is promised to us, “and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him” (Acts 2:38-39). We are also told that the Holy Spirit is all truth and knowledge.

So on this Holy and wonderful day of Our Lord’s resurrection let us pray that we continually

remember what this day means to us and that we use those gifts that He has given us to change our lives that we might be in communion with God and also use them for helping others on the path to Theosis. We have but one physical life to live. Let us use it and the gifts God has given us to be **“perfect as God is perfect.”** Let us be servant stewards and serve others as Christ serves us.

Hristos a înviat! (Adevărat a înviat!) (Romanian)

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Shine, Shine! by Sr Vassa



“Shine, shine (Светися, светися), O New Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. O Zion, sing with joy and rejoice. And you, pure Mother of God, rejoice in the Resurrection of your Son!”

(Paschal Canon, Irmos of Ode 9)

Here are some fun facts about this well-known hymn of our Paschal services. It begins by paraphrasing the words of Isaiah 60:1, according to the Septuagint: “Shine, shine, O Jerusalem,” says Isaiah, “for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.” The hymn is referring these words to the “new” Jerusalem or

- Parish Stewardship Opportunities...
- Organize the Pirate Tickets for Faith Night
 - Assist with the Dinner & Basket Raffle
 - Bring in a lightly used coat for FOCUS or items for our Garage Sale
 - Join the ACRY
 - Attend additional services
 - Donate to our parish or one of it's outreaches

Zion, – the Church, – in other words, **all of us.**

And finally the hymn addresses yet another image of the Church, the Mother of God. She classically signifies the Church, because the Church, i.e., each of us, is called to give birth to the Word of God in this world. So let me do so today, and let me “shine,” as I am called to, with and in my risen Lord. Because “my light is come,” as prophesied by Isaiah, and He is risen indeed!

(Please note, you can get these reflections daily via email, simply by typing in your email-address at our website: www.coffeewithsistervassa.com)

Kristo Amefufukka! (Kweli Amefufukka!) (Swahili)

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Why do we omit "O Heavenly King" from Pascha until Pentecost?



During the season following Pascha, we omit "O Heavenly King", and substitute the Paschal Troparion, which we say three times:

"Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs, bestowing life".

Everything we do in the church is for a reason. "O Heavenly King" is our most important prayer to the Holy Spirit.

After Pascha, and especially after Ascension, the apostles and disciples waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit, as promised by Jesus Christ:

"If ye love me, keep my commandments. And ***I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter***, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but ye know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you." (John 14:15-17)

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26)

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, he shall testify of me:" (John 15:26)

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." (John 16:7)

"Howbeit ***when he, the Spirit of truth, is come,*** he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you." (John 16:13-14)

We are like the Apostles during this period, "waiting" for the Holy Spirit to come, and the absence of this prayer makes a strong statement of our profound need for the Holy Spirit.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

“Christ very successfully called the Holy Bible a door for it leads us by the hand and takes us close to God, it formulates our character and makes us meek like the sheep, and it protects us from various adversaries.” +St. John Chrysostom

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“We must be super conservative in preserving the Orthodox faith, and super-modern in propagating it.” +St. Nikolai Velimirovich

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“The rule of piety admits nothing new. All things are to be delivered to those who come after us with the same fidelity with which they were received by us. It is our duty to follow religion, not make religion follow us.” +St. Vincent of Lerins

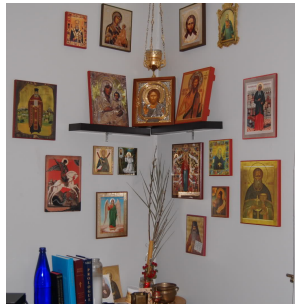
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PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & Other Needs *

NO KNEELING IN PRAYER – We will offer prayers to God in a standing position for the next **50** days. As you pray at home, please remember that you should be praying in a standing position. The reason for standing is that kneeling indicates a kind of *penitential position* and with the Resurrection of Christ we are in a *joyful season* and have no need of having sorrow in our hearts.



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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... Helen, Jason, Ann, Eleanor D., Julie, Jane, Mildred, Mark, Viola, Juliana, Nathaniel, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Jayne, Ann, Teresa, David, Larry, Susan, Anna Mae, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Lawrence, Fredrick, Donald, Iris ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Great-Martyr & Healer.*

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Birthday Prayers for... Fred Anton (4/24), Donna Tongel (04/24), Fr Peter Paproski (4/24), Jaxson Maruscak (4/25), Fr Christopher Rocknage (4/26), Sharon Peifer-Robinson (4/29), Fr Jonathan Bannon (4/29)...*May God allow them to grow in peace & love all the days of their lives & may He grant them many & blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*

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Anniversary Prayers for... Mark & Donna Tongel (04/27) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Scott, Sarah, Nancy, Amee, Andrea, Christopher, Ryan, Marianne and our Church Council and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Jane, Sharon, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, John, Richard, John, and Margaret ...*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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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Sgt. Walter Dylan Mushinsky, Maj. Michael Repasky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For Expectant Mothers... Nicole, Jessica, Sharon, Roxanne, & Pañi Katie ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*



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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene & St. John Maximovitch.*

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

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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 and sisters in Christ. Those whom we add to the list do NOT need to be Orthodox Christians.

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS OF THE WEEK:

A prayer for our Neighborhoods by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. *Amen.*

Prayer After Meals During the Paschal Season

O shine, O shine, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. O Zion, sing with joy and rejoice. And you, pure Mother of God, rejoice in the Resurrection of your Son. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Lord, have mercy! (3 times) O Lord Bless! (bow)
O Christ God, bless the food and drink of Thy servants, for Thou art holy, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.