

# 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 Branco, *Pastor Emeritus*  
 Timothy Martin, *Reader*  
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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, May 14 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy Tone 4 Liturgical Color: White  
 Epistle: Acts 11: 19– 26, 29– 30; Gospel: John 4: 5– 42  
*Add'l collection for our Capital Improvement Fund / Panachida for All Departed Mothers*

### SERVICES AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Thu., May 18** – 7pm Akathist to the Icon of the “Inexhaustible Cup” for those struggling with addictions

Monday	Acts 12: 12– 17	<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 8: 42– 51
Tuesday	Acts 12: 25– 13: 12		John 8: 51– 59
* Wednesday	Acts 13: 13– 24		John 6: 5– 14
Thursday	Acts 14: 20– 27		John 9: 39– 10: 9
* Friday	Acts 15: 5– 34		John 10: 17– 28
Saturday	Acts 15: 35– 41		John 10: 27– 38

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

*No Kneeling in Prayer – Replace “O Heavenly King” with the Paschal Tropar, ‘Christ is Risen’*

Sunday, May 21 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Blind Man

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy Tone 5 Liturgical Color: White  
 Epistle: Acts 16: 16– 34; Gospel: John 9: 1– 38  
**YOUTH Sunday / Graduate Sunday**

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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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*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.

### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

**Khristós anéstí! (Alithós anéstí!) (Greek)**



Saturday, May 20 – 4pm Italian Feast and Basket Raffle  
 Thursday, May 25 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

Sunday, May 28 – additional collection for our Community Outreach

Saturday, June 3 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the 5<sup>th</sup> All Souls Saturday

Sunday, June 4 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Pentecost

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### BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



**Happy Mother’s Day** to all the grandmothers, mothers, godmothers and spiritual mothers out there! Most of all, let’s praise our great and holy mother, **the Theotokos**, who in Christ is truly our mother and the Mother of the Church!



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**\*\*\* Flag Sale** – A sign up sheet is in the church hall to purchase a Carpatho-Rusyn Flag for \$25. Orders are due by next week, **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**. If you have any questions, please contact Father.

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**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Eleanor Sanger; Theresa Sharpless; Pani Brancho; 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

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**Akathist to the Icon of 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 18<sup>th</sup>** 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 20<sup>th</sup>** 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 17<sup>th</sup>** 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 17<sup>th</sup>** at 7:05 vs the St Louis Cardinals. Please contact **Wendy Martelotti** (martelotti11@verizon.net) if you are interested in getting a ticket. *More details coming in the near future... and Let's Go Bucs!*

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### ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

**Chinese Auction** to be held at our sister parish of St John's in East Pittsburgh on **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** around 11:30. The \$5 ticket will get you 25 auction tickets, a slice of cake, and a beverage. There will be a number of delectable food items for sale, wonderful auction items, great fellowship, and fun!

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**Orthodoxy on Tap** - The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) will host their next "Orthodoxy on Tap" on **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** 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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**Calendar Party** will be held at our sister parish of St Michael's in Rankin on **Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**. Doors open at 12:30, luncheon at 1:00 with an \$18 donation requested. Fun! Games! and Fellowship!

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### STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

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

**Unimaginable Potential** *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."* (Genesis 1:26)

What an amazing revelation we find in the first book of the First (Old) Testament. God made us to be like Him! Our potential is infinite, we have the potential to be sons and daughters of God! God gave us rule over all creation that we might steward it, multiple it and give it back to God in gratitude. Have we lived up to that unimaginable potential that God provide for us?



You see, there is nothing that we cannot do if only we placed God as the center of our life. Christ came to us healing the sick and the lepers, casting out demons and exposing injustice. **If only we could do that?** Newsflash, we can! What you say? What was Christ comment to the disciples after they had witnessed the healings and casting out of demons? After giving them the new

### Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 135
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 71
Sunday Envelopes:	\$172.35
Special Monthly Envelopes:	\$ 30
Community Outreach (Coin Boxes):	\$ 97.50
<u>Loose Money:</u>	<u>\$ 15</u>
<b>Total Donations:</b>	<b>\$ 520.85</b>

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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### Family Day (June 11<sup>th</sup>) 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 26<sup>th</sup>**. +++ The Family Day flyer is hanging in the church hall with details for the day!



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

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### Visit Our Parish & Diocese On-Line

- St John's: [www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com](http://www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com)
- Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)
- Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)
- FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddiocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)
- You Tube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](https://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

commandment, He tells them in John 14:12, **“Truly, truly I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do.”** Can you only imagine what potential we have? To do works greater than what Christ has done!

So what limits us from using all the gifts that God has given us to do greater works than Jesus Christ? In order to reach that unimaginable potential, we have to over a lifetime learn to be grateful. We have to learn how to take the gifts God has given to us, multiply them and return them to God so that He may multiply them and give them back to us. We have to learn to be the sons and daughters, the kings/queens and priests of creation and offer the creation which He gave us rule over back to the Creator as gift and thanksgiving.

We will never reach our full potential by being intoxicated by our own passions, desires and hungers. We will never reach our full potential by being **self-centered and ungrateful**. We were made in the image of God, each person is our brother or sister yet we do not treat all people in the same way, even though all were all made in the image of God. In 1 John 4:20 we read, “If any one says I love God and hates his brother, **he is a liar**; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.” Ghandi had rephrased

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## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### **A Sunday Off: When our church attendance drops off**

It seems we all go through periods in our lives when our church attendance drops off. Work and home life can seem hectic, and we fall into the trap of letting ourselves feel overwhelmed. Given the fast pace of our active lives, and feeling like we just don't have enough time in the day, it is easy to let the Sunday Divine Liturgy fall the the wayside. We convince ourselves that we need to have "Sunday off."

Saint Gregory Palamas, begs to differ with us! He calls our failure to keep our Sunday obligation for what it is, "laziness." This great hierarch of the Church, even goes so far as to remind us that our very belief in God is in jeopardy, for we are not availing ourselves to "Christ's surgery to

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### **Avoiding Hypocrisy: Avoiding hypocrisy in our journey to God**

It is very easy to live our lives in hypocrisy if we are not mindful of the pitfalls of the spiritual life. We can become Pharisees without even noticing, if we let our Christianity be artificially lived. Living our lives as though we have been rehearsed by a stage director, we will have accomplished nothing, and will remain no more than an actor. Putting on the mask of Christianity, is not living in Christ. An honest, daily examination of our conscience, together with regular guidance by our confessor, is the only way we can live a Christian life that will lead to transformation of the heart.

If we simply put on a show of being a Christian, without any true repentance, we will remain mired in false religiosity, and our heart will grow dark. Christ must be invited into the heart on a

this passage in this way, “If you haven't found God in the faces of those around you, don't bother looking for Him anywhere else.”

We show our love for God by keeping His commandments. We received the fullness of grace at baptism along with the many gifts God has given us to live to the fullness of our potential. St. Maximus the Confessor states, **“Each of us possesses the manifest energy of the Spirit in proportion to the faith that is in him. Each person thus is the steward of his own grace.”** And St. John Chrysostom further elaborates, **“After God's grace, everything depends on us and our application.”**

If we don't truly love God (we show this by disregarding His commandments), can we really expect to live to our full potential? How many gifts has He given us that we will never realize when we don't obey His commandments. And if we don't realize those gifts, how will that affect the body of Christ with whom we are commanded to share our gifts. Will we ever reach our full potential?

#### **Parish Stewardship Opportunities...**

- Assist with the Dinner & Basket Raffle
- Bring in a lightly used coat for FOCUS
- Join the ACRY
- Attend additional services
- Donate to our parish
- Donate to our Monthly Community Outreach

receive...holy healing."

The saint tells us, "Let no one out of laziness or continuous worldly occupations miss these holy Sunday gatherings, which God Himself handed down to us, lest he be justly abandoned by God... If you are detained and do not attend on one occasion, make up for it the next time, bringing yourself to Christ's Church. Otherwise you may remain uncured, suffering from unbelief in your soul because of deeds or words, and failing to approach Christ's surgery to receive... holy healing."

Love and blessings,  
Abbot Tryphon

daily basis, through prayer, and honest examination of our conscience, without which there can be no spiritual growth. We can not play at being a Christian, for to do so will lead to spiritual death.

We must "put on Christ" daily, and make sure our public expression of our faith is not being acted out for others, but is ever entering into a deeper relationship with this very Christ. Playing at spirituality only leads to spiritual death. If our life does not give witness to Christ in us, and if our attention is given over to self promotion, or a desire to please others, but avoids honest examination of our sins, we will be like fruit that dies on the vine.

With love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon

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### Science and Religion: Natural Science and the Vision of God

Orthodoxy does not exclude from the theological vision of God the findings of natural science. Science and faith can be in concert with one another and our desire to reinstate our communion with God can involve both natural science, and the science of the soul. An Orthodox Christian does not have to suspend scientific knowledge in order to adhere to faith. "Only with a superficial knowledge do there arise false contradictions between faith and knowledge, between religion and science (I.M. Andreyev)."

To many Orthodox theologians, science and theology are compatible, and seen as complementary revelations of God. Because God is the source of both His specific revelation of Himself in the Christian faith and the source of the general revelation of Himself in nature, the findings of science and theology cannot really contradict.

With love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon

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

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### SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK



"In ancient times before the divine sojourn of the Savior took place, even to the saints death was terrible; all wept for the dead as though they perished. But now that the Savior has raised his body, death is no longer terrible; for all who believe in Christ trample on it as it were nothing and choose rather to die than deny their faith in Christ. And that devil that once maliciously exulted in death, now that its pains were loosed, remained the only one truly dead." +*St Athanasius of Alexandria*

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"All of us sin constantly. We slip and fall. In reality, we fall into traps set by the demons. The Holy Fathers and the saints always tell us, "It is important to get up immediately after a fall and to keep on walking toward God." Even if we fall a hundred times a day, it does not matter; we must get up and go on walking toward God without looking back. What has happened has happened - it is in the past. Just keep on going, all the while asking for help from God." - *Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*

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"Thanksgiving to God and patience in affliction - these are the things we need above all else. Let our mind be directed constantly toward Christ. This is the only way we will acquire steadfastness in trials and temptations." - *Gerontissa Theosemni of Chrysopigi Monastery in Xania Crete*



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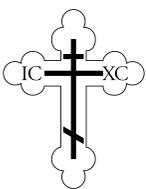
"Love is the joining of two lives into one life, a common life, a new life; in this joining are revelation and bliss, and the torments of love which are experienced when for some reason this unity is not realized." - *Bulgakov, "The Burning Bush"*

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"Every virtue is a good thing, but most of all gentleness and meekness. This shows us men; this makes us to differ from wild beasts; this fits us to vie with Angels. Wherefore Christ continually expends many words about this virtue, bidding us be meek and gentle. Nor doth He merely expend words about it, but also teaches it by His actions; at one time buffeted and bearing it, at another reproached and plotted against; yet again coming to those who plotted against Him. For those men who had called Him a demoniac, and a Samaritan and who had often desired to kill Him, and had cast stones at Him, the same surrounded and asked Him, "Art thou the Christ?" Yet not even in this case did He reject them after so many and so great plots against Him, but answered them with great gentleness." +*St. John Chrysostom*

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### THINGS TO CONSIDER



**Office Hours** – Monday-Friday from 9am–4pm OR by appointment.

**Mystery of Confession** – Opportunities are available after every service, Saturdays during fasting periods from 11:00am – 1:00 pm, OR by appointment.

**Holy Communion/Eucharist** – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged by 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.

**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 & you may receive the anointing so you are properly prepared.

**Baptisms** – Please consult Father for details.

**Marriages** – Please consult Father for details.

**Church Funerals** – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations; otherwise burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

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"The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times.

The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning." - *Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*

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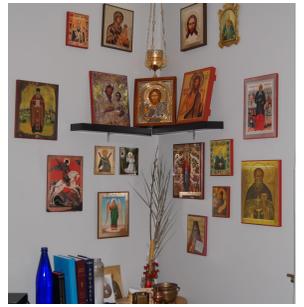
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### PRAYER CORNER

*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.

**Kristo Amefufukka! (Kweli Amefufukka!) (Swahili)**



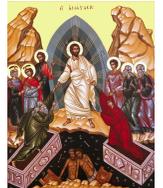
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**A Prayer For The Sick:** O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her* so that *he/she* may sing to 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...** Jillian Gaydos (5/14), Robert Mozes (5/16), Pañi Alexandra Urban (5/16), Linda Gavulich (5/20) ...*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...** Christopher and Melissa Ditmore (5/17) ...*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, Ameer, 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, and 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 PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

#### **Beatitudes for Mothers**

Blessed are Mothers Who did without for us, they will be rewarded.

Blessed are Mothers Who lost sleep when we were sick, they will find rest.

Blessed are Mothers Who taught us how to pray, they will share God's Kingdom.

Blessed are Mothers Who comforted us, they will be comforted.

Blessed are Mothers Who taught us right from wrong, they will know justice.

Blessed are Mothers Who showed us Christian life by example, they will live forever.

Blessed are Mothers Who shared with us the meaning of peace, they shall know peace.

Blessed are Mothers Who taught us the importance of loving God and each other, they shall see God.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Remember them, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.