

# 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*  
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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!**

May 21, 2017

Volume II

## 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

### SERVICES AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, May 25 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord**

Monday	Acts 17: 1– 15	<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 11: 47– 57
Tuesday	Acts 17: 19– 28		John 12: 19– 36
* Wednesday	Acts 18: 22– 28		John 12: 36– 47
Thursday	Acts 1: 1– 12		Luke 24: 36– 53
* Friday	Acts 19: 1– 8		John 14: 1– 11
Saturday	Acts 20: 7– 12		John 14: 10– 21

\* 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 28 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy Tone 5 Liturgical Color: White

Epistle: Acts 20: 16– 18, 28– 36; Gospel: John 17: 1– 13

*additional collection for our Community Outreach*

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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...*

In dedication it to all those that are struggling with addiction and for their families that they will find strength in the Risen Lord!

### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

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

Tuesday, May 30 – 7 pm Moleben to St Nectarios with anointing and brief discussion

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

Monday, June 5 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for Holy Spirit Day with Gospel Procession

Sunday, June 11 – add’l collection for our *Capital Improvement Fund* / Family Day at Camp Nazareth

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### BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



**Thank You to everyone** who supported our annual **Italian Feast & Basket Raffle** yesterday! It takes a loving community to work together to pull off such an event. God Bless You!

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**Our Graduates** – Congratulations to this year’s graduates from our parish! Jillian Gaydos, Genny Martelotti, and Mareena Shuster – May God bless you in your future endeavors and guide you along His path!

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**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Kathy Schrmack; Viola Peifer; Lawrence Martin; Eleanor Sanger; Roberta Kruchkevich; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Melanie Paieski; Patty Watson.

***"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 John Gaydos, Sr., in Memory of Wife, Catherine; and by Tim Martin, In Memory of Mother, Anastasia. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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**Holy Fire from Jerusalem for your home** - If you would like to take the Holy Fire home, one option is to purchase a 6-day candle (that fits nicely in the cup holders) and take the Light home. *(It's not recommended to drive with the windows open!)* When the candle is out, we'd appreciate it if you brought the empty glass back to church with you the following week. (Purchase multiple candles and keep the flame going!)

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**Chinese Auction** to be held at our sister parish of St John's in East Pgh **TODAY, 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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**Coffee Social Stewards Are Needed!** The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love with our parish family and visiting neighbors. We thank the ACRY who has hosted the social since October. Please sign up on the list in the church hall to keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

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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

**Orthodoxy on Tap** - The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) will host their next "Orthodoxy on Tap" **TONIGHT, 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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**Spring Retreat** - "*Humility and Obedience,*" by Dr. Christopher Veniamin (from St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary) will be on **Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>** from 10:30am to 2:30pm at the St. John the Divine Orthodox Church (42 McKee Ave., Monessen, PA 15062). Registration is \$20 and is due by June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact Archpriest William Evansky (724-266-5009 / [frbill158@verizon.net](mailto:frbill158@verizon.net)) for more details. *Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Pgh and W PA (OCA)*

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#### Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 140
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 224
Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 796
Feast Day Envelopes:	\$ 20
<u>Loose Money:</u>	<u>\$ 40</u>

**Total Donations: \$ 1351**  
**Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 131**

*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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**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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**Family Day 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>**.



**Family Day** - Plan now to attend Family Day at Camp Nazareth on **June 11<sup>th</sup>**. Either attend Liturgy on the North Side and drive up to camp for lunch and a relaxing afternoon *(it takes about an hour and 10 minutes to make the trip)* or go to camp for Liturgy at 10am. The flyer is hanging in the church hall with additional details for the day!

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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)



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## STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

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

### Two Paths “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” (Genesis 1:26)

God having made man in His image gave man the unique ability of free choice. Freedom to choose is a divine attribute of those whose purpose is to become sons and daughters of God. We have two choices that present themselves to us: the **good path or the bad path**.

Many of us have chosen the path that leads into the secular world and all the desires and passions that accompany it. **Self-love and self-centeredness guides our way**. We rely on our rational mind to know right from wrong. Going to church is something that we just do and holds no true meaning or impact on our daily lives. We seek our own enjoyment, entertainment, comfort and wellbeing with little concern for our neighbors. We use the gifts that God has given us for selfish reasons, that is if we even realize what gifts He has given us.

There are those that chose a different path. God becomes the center of their life. The many gifts which God has bestowed upon them by His grace when they were baptized become apparent to them and they use these gifts in their journey to **Theosis**, being in communion with God, as well as **sharing** these gifts with others, who also are on their journey to Theosis. God made us to be “**persons in communion**” with Him and with the body of Christ, the Church. Sharing the gifts that He gave each of us is **essential and necessary** for the health of the Church as well as our own physical and spiritual health.



Our life on earth is ephemeral, it is gone in the blinking of an eye. Eternity is forever and we will all be there, some enjoying it while others are relegated to the “**smoking**” section. God gave us the freedom to choose as He did Adam. Adam made the wrong choice. What about you? Can you say you made the correct choice? Did you choose the good path? Do you recognize the gifts God has given you and are you gratefully returning them to the glory of God and the body of Christ? Or, are you selfishly using them for your own self-aggrandizement? The choice is yours, **smoking or non-smoking!**

If you have made the wrong choice until now, there is hope. True repentance is the medicine the Church prescribes for taking the wrong path. We do not know the day or time that our judge will come so if you are on the wrong path make the change of direction, **metanoia**, to the correct path. Be a **good steward** of all that He has given you!

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

#### Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- Take one of the coffee social weeks
- Bring in a lightly used coat for FOCUS
- Join the ACRY
- Attend additional services
- Donate to our parish
- Donate to our Monthly Community Outreach

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## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### A Peaceful Heart: Counteracting paralysis of the soul

Each day brings on new challenges regarding the health of your soul. Those moments when a family member or coworker makes a remark that are meant to anger you, are those times you need to guard your heart. When those around you are gossiping about someone, that is an opportunity for you to keep silent. The driver who's just cut you off on the freeway; the woman who pushes her way in front of you in the check out line; the rude neighbor; all are moments in time when you can take control and grow stronger spiritually.

Trials and temptations, when confronted with a peaceful heart, bring forth healing and make the soul that much stronger and healthier. Reacting does nothing but bring forth paralysis of the soul, binding us to our fallen nature. Receiving all these temptations with a peaceful heart and not reacting to outside negative stimulus, helps strengthen you for the next round of trial and temptation. Little by little, you will find that the Peace of Christ fills your every waking moment, bringing on a joyful spirit and a peaceful heart.

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

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### Loving One's Neighbor: Loving our neighbor requires commitment

When we commit to behaving as though we love others, making every effort to be kind and generous towards them, a wonderfully surprising thing happens. We eventually actually do love others. Learning to truly love our neighbor takes commitment on our part. We must will ourselves to learn to love everyone. With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

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### Daily Entrances From Coffee with Sister Vassa

“I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (Jn 10: 9-10)

“If any one enters by me...” – Enters what? Everything: every new day, every daily responsibility, relationship, conversation, online or face-to-face, or any situation, be it a business-

meeting, a job-interview, an evening with friends, a blind date, a trip to the mall, a vacation, or just the daily traffic jam on my way to work. Christ invites me to “go in and out” of everything “by Him,” so I don’t have to do it alone, in meaninglessness and self-isolation. Everything has abundant meaning and purpose, leading me to “salvation,” when I let God be part of it, shedding the light of His word and presence on

my every day. I can “have life, and have it abundantly,” rather than “life and life only,” as Bob Dylan sadly observed.

So let me not deny myself this abundance of life, in Him, as I enter this sunny Thursday in the

middle of a beautiful city. I re-connect with God in a bit of heartfelt prayer and quiet-time with His word, carrying it with me, and letting Him be with me, in whatever situations or traffic-jams I might enter into today.

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**The Orthodox Christian College Student:** Staying Orthodox in an Anti-Christian Environment

Many young people are facing college for the very first time. A scripture passage comes to my mind as I think of these wonderful young people preparing to leave home: “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves (Matthew 10:16).” College professors almost universally enjoy challenging young college students to question authority, yet are taken aback when their own authority is questioned. They know they are addressing a class of impressionable minds and almost make sport of attacking the positions of their students.

When I was an undergraduate, I clearly remember a professor contemptuously asking if there were any students who believed in a personal God. I was the only student who answered in the affirmative, and I was therefore subjected to a rather humiliating taunt (it turned out there were many Christians in the class, all admitting privately to me they thought they would do poorly in his class if he knew). I did manage to recover from his taunting, for unknown to this man I had been a champion high school debater and knew one could win a debate by taking any side, even the side of falsehood. Over the year I grew more confident, and would routinely spar with this professor. In the end, we become friends and he joined the Lutheran church!

My advice to Orthodox students is to refuse to be intimidated and don't be discouraged. Most of these professors took years to acquire the knowledge and the skill to successfully defend their belief system, or lack thereof, including atheism. These professors usually only ask you to question the authority of those who have instructed you thus far, such as your parents or your religious leaders, but are highly indignant when someone questions their authority. Their pattern of teaching is nothing new, for there have been antagonists like them from before recorded history. Furthermore, their arguments are nothing new, for there were teachers of atheism and other false teachings who confronted the Apostle Paul when he was preaching the gospel in Athens. The arguments may be new to you, but suffice to know these challenges to your faith



have been answered by a great many apologists since the beginning of Christianity.

Textbooks, be they geared towards history, science, or philosophy, have always tended to expound anti-Christian viewpoints, and it is important to remember that publishing companies produce textbooks that will sell to such academic mindsets. Christianity may be ridiculed as being closed minded and backward looking, but academics can not claim to be insulated from the same unhealthy trait. Some of the most closed minded individuals I have ever known were academics. I find it interesting that Christian writers expounding the Christian Faith are often accused of being biased, while secularists thinkers expose their own arrogance, hypocrisy and narrow mindedness, disallowing others their freedom of opinion. Dismissing the faith of young people, these pompous academics move to crush that which they themselves do not understand.

The best advice I can offer the young Orthodox Christian heading off to college is this: Don't allow yourself to be intimidated or humiliated. Know from the moment you enter the classroom that the professor is a better debater than you, so don't place yourself in his scope. If you do, expect to be blown out of the water. Secondly, don't be embarrassed by your commitment to your Orthodox faith. My experience teaching on both secular and religious campuses is that most students are secretly wishing to find a spiritual basis for the meaning of life. They may secretly envy you for your faith. My final advice, “Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love (Eph 4:2).”

Build a support system for yourself by gathering together with other college students to form a chapter of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Meet on a weekly basis for worship, study, and networking. Get to know your faith to the degree that you can stand up to the best of them when defending your beliefs. If you do, you may one day be the reason an atheist professor finds Christ, and becomes an Orthodox Christian.

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

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**SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK**

“Let us be satisfied simply with what sustains our present life, not with what pampers it.” +*St Maximos*

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“Nothing comes without effort. The help of God is always ready and always near, but is given only to those who seek and work, and only to those seekers who, after putting all their powers to the test, cry out with their whole heart: ‘Lord, help us!’” +*St Theophon the Recluse*

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“Don't pressure your children. In your prayers say the things that you want to tell them. Children don't listen through their ears, but only when divine grace comes to enlighten them do they listen to the things we want to tell them. When you want to say something to your children, tell it to the Panagia [Theotokos] and she will bring it to pass. This prayer of yours will be like a spiritual caress which embraces your children and will grab their attention. Sometimes we try to caress them and they react against it, but they never react against the spiritual caress.” +*St Porphyrios the Kapsokalyvite*

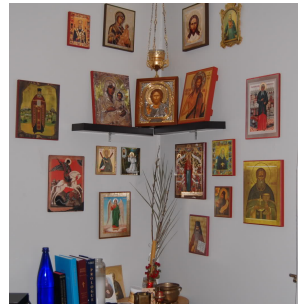
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### PRAYER CORNER

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

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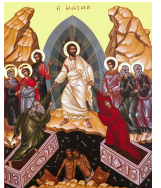
**Birthday Prayers for...** Elias Mainolfi (5/24), Fr Jonathan Tobias (5/27)...*May God allow them to grow in peace & love all the days of their lives & may He grant them many & blessed years!*

*Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*

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**Anniversary Prayers for...** Fr Dave & Pañi Alexandra (5/25), Jim & Kathy Schrmack (5/26), Anthony & Donna Horbal (5/27) ...*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, Jason 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:

#### **Blessings for our Graduates (and for all)**

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” *Jeremiah 29:11*

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“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.” *Proverbs 3:5-6*

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“Asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.” *Colossians 1:9-12*

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Amen.