

# 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

Matthew Peifer, Stephen Branco, & John Radick, Cantors

Matthew Peifer, Church Council President

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July 23, 2017

Volume III

## 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Venerable Anthony of the Kiev Caves

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 6

Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7; Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

11:30 am Mystery of Holy Baptism and Initiation into the Orthodox Faith of **Milena Elizabeth Petrovich**

### SERVICES AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Tuesday**, July 25 – 7pm Akathist to the Icon of the Inexhaustible Cup with holy anointing

**Thursday**, July 27 – 9:30am Moleben to the Holy Cross

Monday	1 Corinthians 9:13-18	<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>	Matthew 16:1-6
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10:5-12		Matthew 16:6-12
* Wednesday	1 Corinthians 10:12-22		Matthew 16:20-24
Thursday	1 Corinthians 10:28-11:7		Matthew 16:24-28
* Friday	1 Corinthians 11:8-22		Matthew 17:10-18
Saturday	Romans 13:1-10		Matthew 12:30-37

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

Sun., July 30 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 Councils

9:30 am – Typika Reader's Service

Tone 7

Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Add'l collection for our Community Outreach (Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery)

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### A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

**Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)**

**Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na v'iki!)**

**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 memory of  
+Jack Peifer

on the anniversary of  
his passing. (7/22/93)

May his memory be  
eternal!

### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



Wednesday, August 2 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Prophet Elias

Sunday, August 6 – Annual Blessing of Vehicles and Bicycles following the Divine Liturgy

August 9 – 7pm Akathist to St Panteleimon, Holy Great-Martyr and Healer

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### BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



#### Welcome to the Newly-Baptized!

**Penelope Jean Maruscak** was baptized and initiated into the Orthodox faith yesterday. May God give good strength to her as she begins her Christian life and bless her, her parents, God-Parents, and families!

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**Mixed Bowling League** – A new bi-weekly bowling league will begin this Fall every other Friday at 7pm at the Crafton-Ingram Bowling Lanes starting **August 25<sup>th</sup>**. Cost is \$15 bi-weekly (includes bowling & kitty). Please contact Alyson (Buhonick) Rinaldi at 412-401-6862 if interested.

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**Thank You!** Your outpouring of generosity in creating the “campership” last week was amazing. May God continue to bless our parish with such beautiful people!

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#### Annual Blessing of Vehicles - Immediately following Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>**

we will head to the streets for the annual blessing of our modes of transportation (cars, trucks, bicycles, etc.). *We bless vehicles in honor of the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias (Elijah) who was carried to heaven in a fiery chariot.* Please, head to your vehicle, open the hood & doors and wait near your car. Father will go to each vehicle and bless it with Holy Water. Clean and shine your means of transportation for this blessing, having all of your family members witness this meaningful ritual!

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**Coat Drive** – We are collecting coats and jackets, in good clean condition, to donate to FOCUS Pittsburgh this August. We will collect the coats on the coat rack in the church hall.

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**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Olga Radick; Barbara Kirish; Roberta Kruchkevich; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Cindy Pavilonis; and 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

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**1<sup>st</sup> Banns of Marriage are Announced** for **Robert Fall** and **Gina Mercurio** who will be united together in the Mystery of Holy Matrimony at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church on Sunday, August 6, 2017. If anyone has canonical reason why this Mystery should not be administered, please relay the objection to Father.

**Parish Stewardship Opportunities...**

- Take one of the coffee social weeks
- Bring in a lightly used coat for FOCUS
- Attend additional services
- Bring in items for the Garage Sale

**Science and Nature Camp @ Camp Nazareth**

Camp Nazareth is pleased to announce its **FIRST EVER Science and Nature Camp** from **Sunday, August 6 thru Saturday, August 12!!!**

Camp participants will learn all about Astronomy, Biology, Earth Science, Geology, Meteorology and SO MUCH MORE! Presentations and activities will be given and led by the Carnegie Science Center, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Jennings Environmental Center, as well as local high school teachers and college professors.

Participants will have the opportunity to use telescopes, microscopes, and water quality management technology as well as explore the trails, waterfalls, streams and geography of the Camp. Special emphasis will be placed on appreciating the beauty of nature and the wonder of the fields of science they will study.

The Science and Nature Camp is a resident (sleepaway) Camp for ages 8-18. It will take place on the 289 beautiful acres of Camp Nazareth (339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA).

Visit [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org) to register. Email [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto:campnazareth@acrod.org) or call 724-662-4840 for more information.

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**Garage Sale Items** – We ask that all garage sale donations be brought to the church by **Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for helping the Church!

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**ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH**



**Ukrainian Food Festival** (or Ukie Fest as it is affectionately known by locals) will again be offering the opportunity to eat, drink, dance and be merry in the McKees Rocks Bottoms. **July 26–29** at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church (116 Ellen St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136), the event will include all your favorite Ukrainian dishes. Doors open at 5pm (26<sup>th</sup> 7pm Parade; 26<sup>th</sup> 8:30p-10p Alan Free and his quartet will entertain you; 27<sup>th</sup> 7p-10p Justen Fabius; 28<sup>th</sup> 7p-10p Ryan Fennel; 29<sup>th</sup> 7p-10p The Marcells) For more information, call 412-331-2362.

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**"Camp Bible School"** - Fellowship, Learning, & Fun at the O.C.A. Archdiocese Center (8641 Peters Rd., Cranberry Twp., PA 16066). **Saturday, July 29** from 11am ~ 5pm with Vespers and Bonfire to follow. For all children K - 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Lunch, Dinner, and Desert by the campfire provided. RSVP to Nicole Yakich at 724-513-3489 by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

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**Our Stewardship Gift To God**

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 1547
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 121
<u>Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:</u>	<u>\$ 356</u>
<b>Total Donations:</b>	<b>\$ 2024</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 140</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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**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

July 30: **Melanie & Mareena Shuster**  
August 6: **"Pot Luck"**  
August 13: **Cindy Pavilonis**

*Thank you to all those who support this critical ministry of our Church!*

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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](http://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](http://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
You Tube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](http://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

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PRAY • VOLUNTEER • DONATE

Childhood hunger is a problem that affects over 13 million children in the United States, and too many of these children live right here in our community.

For eleven weeks this summer, the Orthodox churches of Pittsburgh will serve over 1,000 meals to children who suffer from childhood hunger.

We need volunteers to prepare and distribute meals!

**We need you June 13 - August 11!**

Sign up at [www.focusnorthamerica.org/summerfeeding](http://www.focusnorthamerica.org/summerfeeding).

For questions, email [apazzynski@focusna.org](mailto:apazzynski@focusna.org).

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## ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

**BORN AGAIN** Literally, "born from above." A person is born again to new life in Christ to enter God's eternal Kingdom. This new birth takes place through the MYSTERY of BAPTISM (Jn 3:16; Rom 6:3,4; Gal 3:27). Spiritual life begins by receiving the HOLY SPIRIT in baptism and CHRISMATION, and is a dynamic process which continues throughout life. (See article in the OSB, "The New Birth," at Jn 3.)

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### The Monk Anthony of Pechersk

Commemorated on July 23/10 and on September 15/2

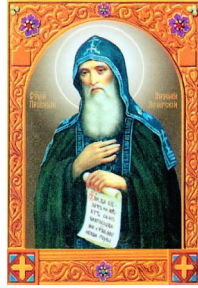
The Monk Antonii (Anthony) of Pechersk was born in the year 983 not far from Chernigov, at the locale of Liubech. Possessing the fear of God from his youthful years, he desired to be clothed in the monastic form. Attaining maturity of age, he set off wandering, and having reached Athos, he burned with the desire to emulate the deeds of its holy inhabitants. Here he received monastic tonsure and in everything the young monk pleased God in his asceticising upon the path of virtue; he thrived especially in humility and obedience, such that all the monks did rejoice to look upon his holy life.

The hegumen foresaw within Saint Antonii the great future ascetic, and on an inspiration from God, he sent him off back to his native land, saying: "Antonii! It is time for thee to guide others also into an holy life. Return to thine own Russian Land, and be thou upon thee the blessing of Holy Mount Athos, so that from thee shalt come a multitude of monks".

Having returned to Rus', Antonii began to make the rounds of the monasteries about Kiev, but nowhere did he find that strict life, which had drawn him to Athos.

Through the Providence of God, on one of the hills of Kiev at a steep bank of the River Dneipr, reminiscent for him of the beloved Athos, in a forested area near the village of Berestovo, he espied a cave, dug out by the Priest Ilarion (who afterwards became Metropolitan of Kiev, Comm. 21 October). He began to asceticise there in prayer, fasting, vigil and work, eating over the course of a day but a bit of food, and sometimes he did not eat throughout the week. People began to come to the ascetic for blessing and counsel, and some decided to remain thereafter with the saint. Among the first disciples of the Monk Antonii was Saint Nikon, who in the year 1032 tonsured at the monastery the similarly arrived Monk Theodosii (Feodosii) of Pechersk (+ 1074, Comm. 3 May).

The holy life of the Monk Antonii brightened all the Russian Land with the beauty of monastic striving. Saint Antonii received with love those yearning for monasticism. After instructions on how one ought to follow Christ, he bid Blessed Nikon to tonsure those willing. When 12 men had gathered about the Monk Antonii, the brethren together dug out a large cave and within it was built a church and cells for the monks. Saint



Antonii, having appointed Blessed Varlaam as hegumen over the brethren, himself withdrew from the monastery, and having dug out for himself a new cave, he secluded himself within it. But there also, around the place of his seclusion, monks soon began to settle. Thus were formed the Nearer and Farther Cave monasteries. Afterwards over the Farther Caves was built by the monk a small wooden church in honour of the Uspenie-Dormition of the Mother of God.

At the insistence of prince Izyaslav, the hegumen Varlaam withdrew to the Dimitriev monastery. With the blessing of the Monk Antonii and with the general agreement of the brethren, there was chosen as hegumen the meek and humble Theodosii. During this time the number of brethren had already reached an hundred men. The Kiev Great-prince Izyaslav (+ 1078) gifted to the monks the hill, on which was built the large church and cells, and around it was built a palisade wall. Thus was established the reknown monastery, which was called the Pechersk, foundationed over the caves. Giving the account of this, the chronicler remarks, that many a monastery exists built by rich emperors and nobility, they however cannot compare with those, which are built up by the prayers of saints, and by their tears, fasting and vigil. And thus though the Monk Antonii possessed not gold, he raised up by his efforts a monastery, incomparable with others, which became the first spiritual centre of Rus'.

For his holiness of life, God glorified the Monk Antonii with the gift of foresight and wonderworking. In an especial instance this occurred during their construction of the Great Pechersk church. The MostHoly Mother of God Herself stood before him and the Monk Theodosii in the Blakhernae church (in Byzantium), whither they had been miraculously transported and enraptured, without having left their Pechersk monastery (Vide account of this under 3 May, regarding the Kiev-Pechersk Icon of the MostHoly Mother of God). Having received gold from the Mother of God, the saints commissioned master-architects, who on the command of the Queen of Heaven set off (from Byzantium) to the Russian Land for building the church at the Pechersk monastery. During this appearance the Mother of God foretold the impending death of the Monk Antonii, which occurred at age 90 on 7 May 1073. The relics of the Monk Antonii, through Divine Providence, remain concealed.

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## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### Elder Paisios: Say This Prayer Every Day and God Will Always Be at Your Side

The love of the Elder Paisios for the whole world is well known. The Elder has helped a whole host of people before and after his physical death. But the question is from where did he receive his ability to help people and to perform miracles? He received this heavenly power through his fervent prayers to God.

The following prayer of his was given to a convent which had asked the Elder for a prayer

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### Happiness:

#### All we need for happiness is right in front of us

It is easy to resist taking care of oneself if we run at full speed as though we are the only one who can get things done. We all need to set priorities, making sure we focus on Christ and not let that which is transitory rule our lives. If we pay attention to our health, family and spiritual life, everything else will take care of itself. We shouldn't let life be so full of work that we don't have time to focus on the things that bring us joy. We must pay attention when the Lord is calling us to slow down.

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## SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

"The Church wisely established hymns and various troparia on account of the weakness of our mind, so that we, although foolish, might be attracted by the sweetness of the singing and thus praise God even against our will." +St. Peter of Damascus

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*On Infant Baptism:* "And they shall baptize the little children first. And if they can answer for themselves, let them answer. But if they cannot, let their parents answer or someone from their family." +St. Hippolytus

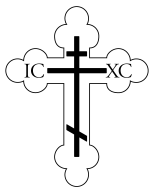
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## THINGS TO CONSIDER

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

**Online Community** – Please email Fr. Dave at [fr.sleepless@gmail.com](mailto:fr.sleepless@gmail.com) to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

**Phone Tree** – Please call Fr. Dave at 412-766-4691 to be added to our Phone Tree.



**Mystery of Confession** – Opportunities are available after every service, Saturdays during fasting periods from 11:00am to 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 and you may receive the Anointing to be fully prepared.

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

**Marriages** – Please consult Father ASAP for details (before arrangements are made for the hall).

**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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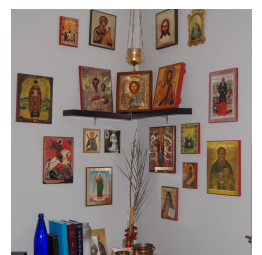
## PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & Other Needs \**

**A Prayer For The Sick:** O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her* so that *he/she* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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**For the Health of...** Ann, Eleanor D., Julie, Jane, Mildred, Mark, Viola, Juliana, Nathaniel, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Teresa, David, Susan, Anna Mae, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Lawrence, Fredrick, Iris, Helen B., Daniel, Maria, Matthew, Timothy, Steven, Bruce ...*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...** Lynn Mainolfi (7/23), Glenn Labas (7/25), Barbara Gedid (7/27), Ryan Gogal (7/27), *Pañi's father*, Stelian Popescu (7/27), Samuel Schrmack (7/27), Doug Delaney (7/28), Fr Stephen Loposky (7/28) ...*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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**For the Special Intentions of...** Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Ameer, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Olga, John, Sarah and our Church Council and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Jane, Sharon, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, John, Richard, John, Margaret, Sarah ...*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...** Maj. Michael Repasky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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

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**For those preparing for Marriage...** Gina Mercurio and Robert Fall ...*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 God to Always Be at Your Side***

Our Lord Jesus Christ:

Do not abandon Your servants who live far away from the Church. May Your love convict them and bring them back to You.

Lord have mercy on Your servants who are suffering from cancer.

On Your servants who suffer either from small or serious ailments.

On Your servants who suffer from physical infirmities.

On Your servants who suffer from spiritual infirmities.

Lord have mercy on our leaders and inspire them to govern with Christian love.

Lord have mercy on children who come from troubled homes.

On troubled families and those who have been divorced.

Lord have mercy on all the orphans of the world, on all those who are suffering pain and injustices since losing their spouses.

Lord have mercy on all those in jail, on all anarchists, on all drug abusers, on all murderers, on all abusers of people, and on all thieves. Enlighten these people and help them to straighten out their lives.

Lord have mercy on all those who have been forced to emigrate.

On all those who travel on the seas, on land, in the air, and protect them.

Lord have mercy on our Church, the bishops, the priests and the faithful of the Church.

Lord have mercy on all the monastic communities, male and female, the elders and eldresses and all the brotherhoods of Mt. Athos.

Lord have mercy on Your servants who find themselves in the midst of war.

On Your servants who are being pursued in the mountains and on the plains.

On Your servants who are being hunted like birds of prey.

Lord have mercy on Your servants who were forced to abandon their homes and their jobs and feel afflicted.

Lord have mercy on the poor, the homeless and the exiled.

Lord have mercy on the nations of the world. Keep them in Your embrace and envelope them with Your holy protection. Keep them safe from every evil and war. Keep our beloved Greece (or the country you live in) in Your protective embrace day and night. Embrace her with Your holy protection defending her from all evil and war.

Lord have mercy on those who have been abandoned and have suffered injustice. Have mercy on families that are going through trying times. Pour Your abundant love upon them. Lord have mercy on Your servants who suffer from spiritual and bodily problems of all kinds.

Lord have mercy on those who are despairing. Help them and grant them peace.

Lord have mercy on those that have requested that we pray for them.

Lord grant eternal rest to all those who have passed on to eternal life throughout the ages.

Amen.