

# Saint 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  
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August 20, 2017

Volume III

## 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / St. Dometius

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 2 Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12; Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

*YOUTH Sunday / Blessing of First-Fruits following the Divine Liturgy / Panachida for the Priest, +Paul Herbert (8/21 - one year anniversary) and for members of the Radick family, offered by family*

### SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday**, August 21 – 9:30am Akathist to the Theotokos: Healer of Cancer

**Wednesday**, Aug. 23 – 7pm Paraklis to our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos

**Thursday**, August 24 – 9:30am Moleben to the Theotokos



* Monday	St. Emilian the Confessor	2 Corinthians 5:10-15	Matthew 23:13-22
* Tuesday	Apostle Matthias	2 Corinthians 5:15-21	Matthew 23:23-28
* Wednesday	Blessed Laurence, fool-for-Christ at Kaluga	2 Corinthians 6:11-16	Matthew 23:29-39
* Thursday	Virgin-martyr Susanna	2 Corinthians 7:1-10	Matthew 24:13-28
* Friday	Martyrs Anicetus and Photius of Nicomedia	2 Corinthians 7:10-16	Matthew 24:27-33,42-51
* Saturday	Venerable Maximus the Confessor	1 Corinthians 1:26-29	Matthew 19:3-12

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

Sunday, August 27 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost / Forefeast of the Dormition / Prophet Micah

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 3 Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

*Additional collection for our community outreach / Blessing of Anonymous Donors*

7:00 pm – Vespers for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

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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:

If you wish to sponsor a Sunday Bulletin, for specific 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. An additional stewardship offering is requested.

### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- Friday & Saturday, August 25 & 26 – 9am to 3pm Annual Garage Sale
- Sunday, August 27 – 7 pm – Vespers for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos
- Monday, August 28 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos and Blessing of flowers and herbs
- Thursday, August 31, *International Overdose Awareness Day* – 9:30am Akathist to the Theotokos, the Inexhaustible Cup
- Friday-Monday, September 1-4 – National ACRY Convention hosted by St. Nicholas in Homestead
- Sunday, September 3 – Blessing of Flowers and Herbs following the Divine Liturgy
- Wednesday, September 6 – 7pm Akathist Hymn to Almighty God in times of Sorrow and Depression
- Sunday, September 10 – Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

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### BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Upcoming Blessings** – This time of year we are blessed with multiple Feast Days. Along with them, there are additional ways for us to participate in these feasts! On the **Feast of the Dormition, August 28<sup>th</sup>**, (and the Sunday after) we will bless Flowers. **Please** bring to church flowers and herbs from your garden (or from the store) to be blessed. ... **Let's Live Orthodoxy!**

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**MORE Helpers Needed** – The Annual Garage Sale will happen again, but the same few people cannot "run it as usual". Consider helping even just for a couple hours! Please talk with Theresa Sharpless with the times that you can help out with this great effort of our church to help those searching for new treasures!

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**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Pani Brancho; Joanne Nelson; Cindy Pavilonis; 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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**Icon Reminder** – it is inappropriate to venerate an Icon with lipstick on. If you have lipstick on, venerate the Icon by placing your forehead on the Icon rather than kissing the base of the Icon.

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**We Need Your Help In Advertising!** –

Flyers are available in the Church Hall to post in the community. We have advertised in Bellevue, the Tribune Review, the Pennysaver, on [garagesalecow.com](http://garagesalecow.com), [garagesalefinder.com](http://garagesalefinder.com), and on [Craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org). If you know of another great place to advertise, please let Fr Dave know. Also, please spread by word of mouth with your family and friends to encourage more people to come!



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**Healer of Cancer** – on **Monday, August 21**, as we continue our additional Dormition Fast services, we will have an Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos, *Healer of Cancer*. We invite

all to come who are in need of the healing touch of the *Queen of All*. This Akathist is dedicated to the Theotokos and is specifically asking for her intercessions for healing of cancer and all ailments. The hymns of this particular Akathist will console anyone who is suffering from cancer or who has loved ones that are ill. Come and bring a friend for this service that gives strength and hope during a time of suffering and pain.

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**Liver Donor** – Gary Fall, brother of Bob Fall, has liver cancer. He is currently on the Liver Transplant List. If you are interested in becoming his donor you must be between the ages of 18-55 and have blood type 'A' or 'O'. (You can donate a portion of your liver and it will regenerate in months.) For more information, visit [UPMC.com/LivingDonorLiver](http://UPMC.com/LivingDonorLiver) or call 412-647-5800. Prayers are much appreciated at this time!

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**International Overdose Awareness Day**

– is a global event held on **August 31<sup>st</sup>** each year that aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses. On this day, we will have an Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup at 9:30am on behalf of those who suffer from alcoholism and other addictions. All are called to come and pray. 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!

**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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**Our Stewardship Gift To God**

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 235
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 151
<u>Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:</u>	<u>\$ 573</u>
<b>Total Donations:</b>	<b>\$ 959</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 40</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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**Calendar Party** – St Michael's (146 Third Ave., Rankin, PA 15104) is having their Calendar Party on **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**. Doors open at 12:30pm Fun begins at 1:00!

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**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon** – Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** as plans are in the works for a catered anniversary luncheon for the faithful of St. John's. A mere donation of \$10 will be requested for this wonderfully catered meal. Space will be limited. Please sign up on the sheet in the Church Hall to reserve your seat today.

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**Bishop Gregory's 5th Episcopal Anniversary** – The Diocese will honor His Grace, Bishop Gregory on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the Episcopate. The evening event will take place on **Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>** in Johnstown. Save the date! More details to come...



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**Parish Stewardship Opportunities...**

- Become St John's DDD Ambassador (See Father for details)
- Offer some of your time on the days of the *Garage Sale* and leading up to it
- Take one of the coffee social weeks
- Attend additional services

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**DDD Ambassador wanted** – Our community outreach collection at the end of the month is to subsidize our parish' contribution to the Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD) fund. We can also, and are encouraged to, individually be a DDD contributor. We are currently looking for a parish ambassador to help answer any questions that someone may have about this. (Don't worry – Father has a letter explaining everything to help you answer the questions.) Please let Father know if you are willing to be our ambassador!



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**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

August 27: **"Pot Luck"**  
September 3: **"Pot Luck"**  
September 10: **"Pot Luck"**  
*Thank you to all those who support this critical ministry of our Church!*

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## ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

**Ukrainian Food Festival** – Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106) will host its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ukrainian Food Festival, featuring delicious homemade Ukrainian foods and pastries from our kitchen. Sit outside or enjoy our air-conditioned parish hall (handicap accessible). The Food Festival is **Friday & Saturday, September 8 & 9**, from 11 am – 7 pm. Enjoy ethnic entertainment throughout the day on Saturday. Take-out is available. MC/Visa is accepted. For further information call 412-527-5359

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**Nativity of the Theotokos Fundraiser** – On June 15th the monastery was struck by lightning that caused the main building to catch fire. As a result, the sisters temporarily have no place to sleep and are in need of mobile homes to be set up on the property until their building can be repaired. While insurance should cover the cost of the damages, it won't cover the cost of temporary housing. To raise funds to build a new monastery, a dinner banquet will be on **September 9<sup>th</sup>** at St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral (419 S Dithridge St, Pittsburgh, PA 15213). 3pm Vespers Service; 4pm Dinner Banquet (Fish or Chicken entrees). Tickets are \$100 each. RSVP by **September 1** by calling Zelfa at 412-417-4706 or visiting [www.2017DinnerBanquet.eventbrite.com](http://www.2017DinnerBanquet.eventbrite.com).

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### FEAST DAY FEATURE: *Tropar* from the *Transfiguration of our Lord*

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, revealing as much of Your glory to Your Disciples as they could bear. Through the prayers of the Birth-giver of God, let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners. O giver of Light, glory be to you!

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## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### Icon of the Theotokos “Czestochowa”

*Commemorated on March 19/6*

The wonderworking Czestochowa Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos is to be found in a Roman Catholic monastery at Yasna Gora near the city of Czestochowa, Petrov Province. It is believed to be one of the seventy icons painted by the holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke. Tradition says that the icon was taken from Jerusalem when the Romans conquered the city in the year 66, and was hidden in a cave near Pella. The icon was given to Saint Helen when she visited the Holy Land in 326, and she brought it back to Constantinople with her.

Starting in the eighth century the icon traveled to various places, including Galicia, Bavaria, and Moravia. Prince Leo, who founded the city of Lvov, brought the icon to Russia and placed it in the fortress of Belz. There many miracles took place before the holy icon.

Prince Vladislav of Opolsk acquired the icon when the Poles captured southwestern Russia. At the time that Vladislav ruled in Poland, the Tatars invaded Russia and soon appeared before the gates of the fortress of Belz. The prince ordered the icon to be placed atop the city walls as the Tatars began their siege of the fortress. Blood began dripping from the icon where it had been struck by an arrow or some other projectile. Those who witnessed it were fearfully amazed at the sight. The Tatars began to retreat when a dark haze covered them, and many of them died. Following this miraculous deliverance, Prince Vladislav planned to take the icon to Siesia and to place it in his castle at Opolsk. As preparations for the transfer were being made, Vladislav was overcome with an inexplicable fear. He began to pray before the holy icon, and that night he was told in a vision to take the icon to Yasna Gora



near Czestochowa. Vladislav built a monastery at Yasna Gora in 1382 and gave the icon to an order of Roman Catholic monks.

Many years later, followers of John Hus attacked Czestochowa and plundered the monastery. When they attempted to carry the Czestochowa Icon away in a cart, the horses refused to move from the spot, held back by some invisible power. One of the Hussites became angry and threw

the icon onto the ground, while another stabbed the face of the Virgin with his sword. The first man was struck dead, and the hand of the second man shriveled up.

The other invaders also suffered punishment from God. Some of them died on the spot, while others became blind. Although many of the monastery's treasures were stolen by the Hussites, the wonderworking Czestochowa Icon was left behind.

King Carl X Gustav of Sweden occupied most of Poland in the seventeenth century, and his forces remained virtually undefeated until they fought a battle near Yasna Gora and the monastery where the icon was kept. With the help of the Most Holy Theotokos, the Poles were able to overcome the Swedes and end the war in 1656. At Lvov, King Jan Casimir officially decreed that the Theotokos was the Queen of Poland, and that the nation was under her protection.



Many miracles have been worked by the Czestochowa Icon, and are recorded in a book which is kept at the Czestochowa monastery. Copies of the icon are found in many Orthodox and Roman Catholic monasteries. Some of these copies are venerated in the village of Pisarevkain in the Volhynia Province, at Verhnaya Syrovatka in the Kharkov Province, at Tyvrov in the Vinitz Province, in the Kazan Cathedral at Saint Petersburg, and in several other places.

Source: <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2013/03/06/103919-icon-of-the-mother-of-god-czestochowa>

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### His Transfiguration, Our Transfiguration

“And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.’ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and have no fear.’ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, ‘Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead.’” (Mt 17: 1-9)

We have this reading as we’re celebrating the great feast of our Lord’s Transfiguration. But what does that mean, to “celebrate” a certain moment in Salvation History, like the Transfiguration?

First of all, it means to gather together, because the word “celebrate” comes from the Latin

“celebrare,” which means “to assemble to honor.” We “honor” the Transfiguration by “remembering” it, – hearing this well-known account of it, passed on to us by eye-witnesses; seeing and venerating an icon of the Transfiguration, brought out to the center of the church; by singing and reading hymns that help us gratefully to understand and internalize the meaning of the feast for us; and, finally, to re-connect, in Holy Communion, with the Triune God revealed to us in this event – the Father, in His “voice from the cloud,” the Son, in His beautiful, transfigured face, and the Holy Spirit, in His uncreated, divine light. Today we are all made privy to an event witnessed, at that time, only by three disciples. We are all invited up the mountain, to witness that our God is “a God of the living, and not of the dead,” in this light-filled conversation of His Son with Moses and Elijah.

Let me not miss out today, and open up to the vision of this feast, which reminds me of my calling: to be transfigured in the light and lightness of Christ. This doesn’t happen overnight, or just on certain feast-days, because I am a work-in-progress, called to return, daily, through my ups and downs, to the Light of His way and His Word. “This is my beloved Son,” my Father in heaven says to me again today, “Listen to Him!”

*From Coffee with Sister Vassa*

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## SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday

"Paul's apostleship is under attack; in this chapter he defends it. The effectiveness of the clergy is certified by the spiritual condition of the sheep. (v. 2) Clergy must be given material support to be free to sow spiritual things. God saw to this under the Old Covenant (vv. 8, 9), and Paul implies that most Christian pastors are similarly supported (vv. 5, 6)." – *Orthodox Study Bible, 1st Corinthians 9:1-11*

### Monday

Blessing of Grapes at the Feast of the Transfiguration: "Grapes are brought to temple because they are directly related to the Eucharistic sacrament; that is why in the prayer for consecration of grapes the priest says, "Bless, Lord, this new fruit of vine which reached ripeness because Thou kindly provided good weather, drops of rain and stillness. Let eating this fruit of vine make us joyful. And give us the honor of offering this fruit to Thee, as the gift of purging of sins, altogether with the Holy Body of Thy Christ." - *Bishop Alexander (Mileant) of blessed memory*

### Tuesday

"Thus though art also the fountain of true light, the inexhaustible treasury of life itself, the most fruitful source of blessing, who has won for us and brought us all good things — though for a while thou wast covered corporeally with death; nonetheless, thou dost pour out pure and inexhaustible streams of immense light, immortal life and true happiness, rivers of grace, fountains of healing and everlasting blessing." +*St. John of Damascus, from The Life of the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos*

### Wednesday

"I prayed and strove with all my might that I might prove a Christian." +*St Justin the Martyr (100-165 AD)*

### Thursday

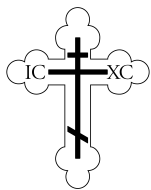
**The Demons Misrepresent Christian Doctrine** "We who hated and destroyed one another, and on account of their different manners would not live with men of a different tribe [race], now, since the coming of Christ, live familiarly with them, and pray for our enemies, and endeavour to persuade those who hate us unjustly to live conformably to the good precepts of Christ, to the end that they may become partakers with us of the same joyful hope of a reward from God the ruler of all." +*St Justin*

### Friday

"Merciful and full of love, she [Theotokos] manifests her love towards her Son and God in love for the human race. She intercedes for it before the Merciful One, and going about the earth, she helps men. Having experienced all the difficulties of earthly life, the Intercessor of the Christian race sees every tear, hears every groan and entreaty directed to her. Especially near to her are those who labour in the battle with the passions and are zealous for a God-pleasing life. But even in worldly cares she is an irreplaceable helper." +*St John Maximovitch*

### Saturday

"Separate yourselves in time from everything connected with National Socialism. In the aftermath a terrible but just judgment will be meted out to those who stayed in hiding, who were cowardly and hesitant." +*St Alexander of Munich*



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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.

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### LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: <http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar>

#### The Monk Dometios

Commemorated on August 20/7

The Monk Dometios lived during the IV Century, and he was by birth a Persian. In his youthful years he was converted to the faith by a Christian named Uaros. Forsaking Persia, he withdrew to the frontier-city of Niziba (in Mesopotamia), where he accepted Baptism in one of the monasteries and was tonsured into monasticism. But then fleeing the ill-will of the monastery inhabitants, the Monk Dometios moved on to the monastery of Saints Sergios and Bacchus in the city of Theodosiopolis. The monastery was under the guidance of an archimandrite named Nurbelos – a strict ascetic, about whom it was reported, that over the course of 60 years he did not taste of cooked food, nor did he lay down for sleep, but rather took his rest standing up, supporting



himself upon his staff. In this monastery the Monk Dometios was ordained to the dignity of deacon, but when the archimandrite decided to have him made a presbyter, the saint in reckoning himself unworthy hid himself away on a desolate mountain in Syria, in the region of Cyr. Reports about him constantly spread about among the surrounding inhabitants. They began to come to him for healing and for help. Many a pagan was brought to the faith in Christ by Dometios. And one time, in the locality where Saint Dometios asceticised with his disciples, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363) arrived, journeying along on his campaign against the Persians. By order of the emperor, soldiers searched out Saint Dometios praying with his disciples in a cave, and stoned them to death (+ 363). © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos.

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### PRAYER CORNER

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



**A Prayer For The Sick:** O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *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, Wendy, Gary, Sophia, Barbara, Valerie, Michael, Peter, Fr John Baranik, John S. ...*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...** Ana Karen Peña-Juarez (8/21), Maria Urban (8/21), Sophia Urban (8/21), Everly Torchia (8/22) ...*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...** Karen & Dylan Mushinsky (8/22) and Sharon & Ryan Dzadony (8/25) ...*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, 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, Patricia ...*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, Pañi Ileana ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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### DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

#### Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to Christ, the Savior and deliverer of our souls.