

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
 Matthew Peifer, Church Council President
www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

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August 27, 2017

Volume III

11th 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

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

Monday	St. Stephen, elder of Vyatka (1890)	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 3:6-12
Tuesday	Martyr Diomedes the Physician of Tarsus	2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5	Mark 3:13-19
* Wednesday	Martyr Myron of Cyzicus (250)	2 Corinthians 9:12-10:7	Mark 3:20-27
Thursday	Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria	2 Corinthians 10:7-18	Mark 3:28-35
* Friday	Martyr Andrew Stratelates (3rd Century)	2 Corinthians 11:5-21	Mark 4:1-9
Saturday	Prophet Samuel (6th c. B.C.)	1 Corinthians 2:6-9	Matthew 22:15-22

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

Sunday, September 3 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost / Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy (44)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 4 Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24; Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

Blessing of Flowers & Herbs following the Liturgy / Garage Sale cleanup begins during coffee social

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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

Wednesday, Sept. 6 – 7pm Akathist Hymn to Almighty God in times of Sorrow and Depression

Sunday, September 10 – Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

Monday, September 11 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist / a day of Strict Fasting

Sunday, September 17 – YOUTH Sunday / Annual Meeting of St John the Baptist following Liturgy

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Thank You! To everyone who assisted in any way with the Garage Sale. From Theresa Sharpless, who chaired the event, to those who helped set up, to those who worked in the kitchen, to everyone who spent some time with this wonderful outreach to our community! Many were happy to find the treasures that they took home with them.

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Upcoming Blessing – On the **Feast of the Dormition, August 28th**, (and next Sunday) we will bless Flowers. **Please** bring to church flowers and/or herbs from your garden (or from the store) to be blessed. ... **Let's Live Orthodoxy!**



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Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD) – Today our community outreach collection was to subsidize our parish' contribution to the DDD fund. We can also, and are encouraged to, individually be a DDD contributor. Please see Father or Larry Martin, our new local ambassador, for more information.

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1st Official Notice – Our Parish Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday, September 17th** following the Divine Liturgy. **New Proposals** for the Annual Meeting need to be submitted to *Matt Peifer* or *Tim Martin*. All proposals are much appreciated!

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Roberta Kruchkevich; Theresa Sharpless; Pani Brancho; 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

The Eternal Lamp was offered last week in Memory of Father Peter and Pani Emily Molchany by friends. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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Congratulations to **Ernest (EJ) & Lara Pido** who were united together in the Mystery of Holy Matrimony yesterday. EJ is the grandson of Pañi & +Father Herbert. Through the prayers of Saints Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs, May God grant you many years!

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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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International Overdose Awareness Day – is a global event held on **August 31st** 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!

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Coffee Social Stewards Needed – On weeks that no one signs up to host and organize our coffee social, we will have a 'pot-luck' meal. On these weeks, we ask that every household brings something small for a pot-luck surprise spread for the community to enjoy that week! (Don't over think the menu - Plan to *keep it simple* ☺) Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after. *The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors.* Lets keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

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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 or call 412-647-5800. Prayers are much appreciated at this time!

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Ukrainian Food Festival – Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106) will host its 6th 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 Festival is **Fri. & Sat., Sept. 8th & 9th**, from 11am–7pm. Enjoy ethnic entertainment throughout the day on Saturday. Take-out is available. MC/Visa is accepted. For further information call 412-527-5359

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship: \$ 380
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: \$ 224
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special: \$ 764
Total Donations: \$ 1368

*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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80th Anniversary Luncheon – Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 24th** 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. Patty Watson will be collecting for the luncheon.

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Calendar Party – St Michael's (146 Third Ave., Rankin, PA 15104) is having their Calendar Party on **Sunday, September 10th**. Doors open at 12:30pm Fun begins at 1:00!

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



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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- Offer some of your time to clean up after the *Garage Sale*
- Take one of the coffee social weeks
- Attend additional services

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

September 3: **"Pot Luck"**
September 10: **"Pot Luck"**
September 17: **"Pot Luck"**

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
Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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Nativity of the Theotokos Fundraiser – To raise funds to build a new monastery, a dinner banquet will be on **September 9th** 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 **Sept 1** by visiting www.2017DinnerBanquet.eventbrite.com or calling Zelfa at 412-417-4706.

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The Young Professionals Group is having their 3rd gathering on **Saturday, September 16th** at 7pm at Social in Bakery Square (6425 Penn Ave., Pgh, PA 15206) for food and drinks. This time, they are asking everyone to bring one burning question they have always had about Orthodoxy and Fr. Dean Kokanos will be answering them. We will have a short discussion on a few questions over drinks and then spend the rest of the evening getting to know each other. - Don't know anyone? Don't worry! You will... We love to meet new people! - Don't have a sitter? Social is a restaurant, so it's kid friendly! - Not Orthodox? No worries! We would love to share it with you! RSVP by calling or texting Chris Burns at 330-603-6692.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

GLORY—The Dormition of the Virgin Mary

The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is celebrated on August 28, and continues through the leave-taking (or Apodosi) of the feast on September 4. For this past week, we've discussed the five feasts of the Virgin Mary, ascribing an important aspect of the Christian life to each of these feasts.

We discussed first her nativity, and the lesson was faith, specifically the faith of her parents. We need to have a strong foundation of faith, especially for the times when life doesn't go as we wished it would. We need to have faith to trust in God that He has a plan for us. We reflected on her entrance into the temple, and the lesson of that feast was devotion. We need to be devoted to learning about our faith, so that we can live our faith and in turn, teach it to other people.

When we discussed the Annunciation, the lesson was about service. We are called by God to do something. The Virgin Mary was given a very unique role, but also one that was the most challenging role any human being has ever been called to play. And she said YES. Will we say yes to God's call to serve others by choosing to thrive with the unique talents He has blessed us with?

The theme of the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple was pain. There is no authentic Christian life that is lived without some pain. Because being a true follower of Christ is going to come with its share of bumps and bruises. For the Virgin Mary, her path saw her witness the death of her Son. And yet she didn't lose faith in God's overall plan for salvation, or for her salvation, and continued to embrace the role she played in it.

Which brings us to the final feast, the Dormition of the Theotokos, and the final step in the life of the faithful Christian, glory. After the Ascension, the Virgin Mary was helping to establish the early church. History records that John, the beloved Disciple, who was entrusted with the care of the Virgin Mary, went and preached in Ephesus, often leading to the tradition that she also was living in Ephesus. Though some historians disagree on whether she died in Ephesus or in Jerusalem, we know that she died a natural death. And she was buried near Jerusalem near the Mount of Olives. All of the Apostles came

from their various cities to be present for her funeral, except for Thomas, who was spreading the Gospel in India, tradition holds. When Thomas arrived in Jerusalem, the Disciples opened the tomb for him to offer his prayers and respects. Upon opening the tomb, they found only the belt of the Virgin Mary. Her body was gone. This has led to the belief that she was "assumed" into heaven (hence the name "Assumption" is often given to this feast, especially in the Roman Catholic Church), prefiguring OUR resurrection not only in soul but in body.



The icon of the Dormition shows the funeral bier of the Theotokos. Surrounding it are the Apostles. Behind it is Christ, surrounded by angels. And in His arms, He holds the soul of the Virgin Mary. She is wrapped in white cloths—burial bands, but they also look like the swaddling clothes from the Nativity of Christ. They are pure white, reflecting the state of her soul at death. This is the goal of every human life, to have our souls carried to heaven by Christ, and for them to be pure white, as was the soul of the Virgin Mary. This is the ultimate glory that every faithful human being can share in. But first we must have faith, devotion, live a life of service and remain faithful in life's difficult moments and then we can enjoy the glory of everlasting life.

The Virgin Mary models the perfect life for us, and her feasts remind us of not only the events of her life but the events of our lives that lead us to His glory. The greatest feast of the Theotokos is her Dormition because the greatest thing in life for us is seeing the eternal glory of God, which is only possible at the end of our lives. We celebrate her entrance into God's Kingdom with the joy and the hope that we can follow her example.

In giving birth you retained your virginity, and in dormition you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, being the Mother of Life. And thus by virtue of your intercessions you deliver our souls from death. (Apolytkion of the Dormition of the Theotokos, First Tone)

Live your life today with faith, devotion and service, survive its challenges and you are one day closer to eternal glory!

+Fr. Stavros

BLESSED WITH HER

Source: *Coffee with Sister Vassa*

“As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, ‘Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!’ But he said, ‘Yes rather (Μενοῦν), blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!’” (Lk 11:27-28)

Is our Lord denying the “blessedness” of His Mother, in reply to the woman in the crowd who just “blessed” the Theotokos? No. But He is drawing the attention of this woman-in-the-crowd to the kind of “blessedness” she, personally, and everyone else in the “crowd” of Christ’s followers, including us today, are called to share with the Birth-giver of God. Lest we subtly dismiss the journey of the Holy Virgin, as one irrelevant to us, made in a galaxy far, far away.

While nobody shares in the Theotokos’s unique vocation, to be “the womb that bore” Christ and

nursed Him, when “the word became flesh,” we do all share a common, human vocation with the Ever-Virgin from Nazareth. And that is, to “hear” and internalize the word of God, “keeping” it or nurturing its light and life within us. It is in this way, in the various contexts of our specific vocations, that we become “blessed” birth-givers and spreaders of the word of God in our world. Because, when that light is burning inside us, nobody is going to put it “under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.” (Mt 5:15)

So today, as we celebrate the great feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, and we bless the uniquely Blessed Among Women, let me not dismiss myself from the “blessedness” we are all invited to share with our one-and-only, more-glorious-than-the-cherubim Lady. “Blessed are those,” my Lord reminds me, a woman in His “crowd” today, “who hear the word of God and keep it!”

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday

“Thus thou 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 was 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, *The Life of the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos*



Monday

“Our Panagia hastens everywhere. She bestows her grace abundantly upon anyone who fervently cries out to her. She is a mediatrix to Christ for everyone, because she was deemed worthy to give birth to the Lord and to become the Theotokos. She carries Him in Her arms and continuously entreats Him. Since we sinners do not have the boldness to run directly to God from the start, we cry out to His Mother. She regenerates us; she intercedes; she anticipates all our afflictions. She is our protectress and helper, more honorable than all the angels, beyond compare more glorious than the Cherubim and Seraphim, second in rank only to the Holy Trinity. Oh, but she is so good, so sweet, that you want to embrace her at every moment and obtain consoling grace. The more you love, the more you are loved.” +Elder Joseph the Hesychast, *“Monastic Wisdom”*

Tuesday

“Prayer is the flower of gentleness and freedom from anger.” - Evagrius the Solitary 300’s

Wednesday

“When you turn to God in prayer, be in your thoughts as an ant, as a serpent of the earth, like a worm, like a stuttering child. Do not speak to Him something philosophical or high-sounding, but approach Him with a child’s attitude” +St. Isaac the Syrian (*Homily 49*)

Thursday

“God gave people the word “love” so that they could call their relationship to Him by this name. When people misuse this word to refer to their relationship with earthly things, it loses it’s meaning.” +St. Nicholas Velimirovich

Friday

“To bear a grudge and pray, means to sow seed on the sea and expect a harvest.” +St. Isaac of Syria

Saturday

“Pride makes us forget our sins, for the remembrance of them leads to humility.” +St. John the Ladder

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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 to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

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

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.

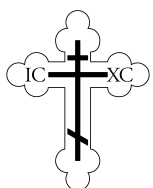
Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, Saturdays during fasting periods from 11:00am to 1:00 pm, OR by appointment.

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.

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.



LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The Prophet Micah

Commemorated on August 27/14

The Prophet Micah, the 6th of the 12 Minor Prophets, was descended from the Tribe of Judah and was a native of the city of Morastha, to the south of Jerusalem, wherefore he was called a Morasthite. His prophetic service began around the year 778 before the Birth of Christ and continued for almost 50 years under the kings of Judah: Joatham, Akhaz, & Righteous Hezekiah (721-691 BC). He was a contemporary of the Prophet Isaiah. His denunciations and predictions were in regard to the separate kingdoms both of Judah and of Israel. He foresaw the misfortunes, threatening



the kingdom of Israel before its destruction, and to Judah, during the incursions under the Assyrian emperor Sennacherib. To him belongs a prophecy about the birth of the Saviour of the world: "And thou, Bethlehem, house of Euphratha, though small wilt be in the thousands of Judah, from thee to Me wilt come an eldest, that will be King in Israel, Whose coming forth is from the beginning of days forever" (Mic. 5:2). From the words of the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 26:18-19), the Jews evidently were afraid to kill the Prophet Micah. His relics were discovered in the IV Century after the Birth of Christ at Baraphsatia, through a revelation to the bishop of Eleutheropolis, Zeuinos. © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos.

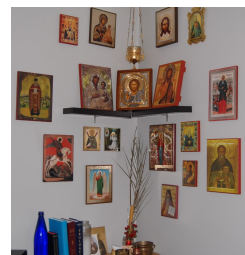
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PRAYER CORNER

*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, Susan, Anna Mae, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Lawrence, Fredrick, Iris, Helen B., Daniel, Timothy, Steven, Bruce, Wendy, Gary, 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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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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Birthday Prayers for... Meredith Blobner (8/28), Adam Zak (8/28), Andrew Gogal (8/29), Lucillia Mainolfi (8/29), Samuel Mainolfi (9/1), Timothy Martin (9/2)...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*



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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:

A Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion by St. Cyril of Alexandria to the Theotokos

O most holy Lady Theotokos, the light of my darkened soul, my hope, my protection, my refuge, my rest, and my joy. I thank you, for you have permitted me, the unworthy, to be a partaker of the most pure Body and precious Blood of your Son. Give the light of understanding to the eyes of my heart, you who gave birth to the True Light. Give life to me who am deadened by sin, you who gave birth to the Fountain of Eternal Life. Have mercy on me, O loving Mother of the merciful God. Grant me compunction and contrition of heart, humility in my thoughts, and a release from the slavery of my own reasoning. And enable me, even to my last breath, to receive the sanctification of the most pure Mysteries, for the healing of soul and body. Grant me tears of repentance and confession, that I may glorify you all the days of my life, for you are blessed and greatly glorified forever. Amen.