

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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September 17, 2017

Volume III

15th Sunday after Pentecost / Hieromartyr Babylas, bishop of Antioch (251)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 6 Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

YOUTH Sunday / Annual Meeting following the Divine Liturgy / Assembly of IOCC Hygiene Packets

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, September 21 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Monday	Holy Prophet Zacharias and Righteous Elizabeth (1st c.), parents of St. John the Forerunner	Galatians 4:28-5:10	Mark 6:54-7:8
Tuesday	Martyr Zeno of Melitene (311)	Galatians 5:11-21	Mark 7:5-16
* Wednesday	Martyr Sozon of Cilicia (304)	Galatians 6:2-10	Mark 7:14-24
Thursday	Venerable Lucian, abbot of Alexandrov (1654)	Ephesians 1:1-9	Mark 7:24-30
* Friday	Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim & Anna	Ephesians 1:7-17	Mark 8:1-10
Saturday	Venerable Paul the Obedient (13th c.)	1 Cor. 10:23-28	Matthew 24:34-44

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

Sunday, September 24 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost / Venerable Euphrosynus the Cook (9th c.) /
 Sunday before the Universal Elevation of the Precious and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord /
 within the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 7 Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

YOUTH Sermon / Additional Collection for our Community Outreach / Panachida for all deceased members of St John the Baptist / Anniversary Luncheon of our parish

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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



Wed., Sept. 27 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross / Strict Fast Day

Friday, October 6 – 9:30am Akathist to St John the Baptist on the Feast of his Conception

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD)

– We invite you to join with other St John's faithful in giving to the annual DDD program. This program greatly supports our ministry at Camp Nazareth and other programs in our diocese. Those who give \$100 (& up) are invited to the Annual Banquet, which this year will be held at **3pm on Sunday, October 1st** at the Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pgh, PA 15235). Please see Father or Larry Martin, our new local ambassador, for more information.

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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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Hurricane damage – His Grace, Bishop Gregory would like to share some good news. After contacting the Deans of the Florida and the Washington, DC Deaneries, the Chancery has learned that there was no significant damage to our parish properties in Hollywood, FL; Spring Hill, FL; Lakeland, FL; Woodstock (Atlanta), GA; Asheville, NC; or Murphy, NC. Neither was there any loss of life nor significant damage to parishioners' homes. Thank God! We continue to pray for all who were affected by hurricanes Irma and Harvey.

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Barbara Kirish; Joanne Nelson; Melanie Paieski; 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 by John Gaydos, Sr., in Memory of Wife, Catherine; Melanie Paieski, In Memory of Mother, Catherine Gaydos; and Tim Martin, In Memory of Grandparents. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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Congratulations! – to Fr. Paul (Spiritual Leader of FOCUS Pittsburgh) and Paři Kristina and their families on the birth of **Thomas Abernathy** born on 8/23 (6 lb 6 oz & 19 in). God bless them all!

"Preserve her and this child which she has borne. Cover her with the shelter of thy wings from this day until her final end, through the prayers of the most Holy Theotokos and of all the saints. Amen" – from Prayers for a Woman on the 1st Day after Childbirth

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****Power Washer** – we are currently looking to borrow a power washer for a couple minor maintenance things around the church. Please contact a member of the Church Council if you know of one that we can use.

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Annual Fall Bazaar – St. Michael's (146 Third Ave., Rankin, PA 15104) will hold its annual fall bazaar on **Sunday, October 8th** from 11am to 4pm. Food, crafts, raffles, bingo and fellowship!

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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- Assist in painting the foundation of the parish house
- Take one of the coffee social weeks
 - Attend additional services
 - Give financially to our parish

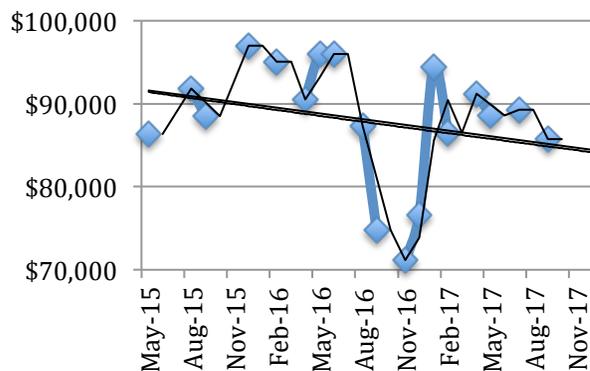
Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 456
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 187
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 328
Community Outreach (IOCC):	\$ 160
Total Donations:	\$ 1131

*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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Total Church Monies



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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

- September 24: **catered luncheon**
- October 1: **"Pot Luck"**
- October 8: **"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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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Choir Concert – *"From Mysticism to Jubilation: Orthodox Christian Sacred Chant"* will be presented by the Pittsburgh Pan-Orthodox Choir and the Byzantine Choir of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh **NEXT Sunday, September 24th** at 4:00 pm at St Bernard Roman Catholic Church in Mt Lebanon (311 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15216).

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Annual 7-K Walk/Run for Missions "Fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission" – will be on **Sunday, October 8th** at South Park Children's Playground Pavilion (Corrigan & Brownsville Rd., South Park, PA 15129) sponsored by the *Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh*. Pre-register by Oct. 1st at www.holycrosspgh.org/events OR register at 1pm at South Park. Walk begins at 2pm. There will be complimentary refreshments before the walk and a light lunch following the walk. FREE T-Shirt for children 8 years and under who raise \$25 or others who raise \$50 or more. Bring your pledge forms and collected money to the event (make checks payable to "Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood"). Even if you are unable to be with us in person, your donation will be extremely helpful in carrying out this important and necessary work of the Church. For more information, email faith.williard@pittsburghmoves.com or stevekrakora@hotmail.com, or call 412-251-3207. Proceeds earmarked for the Guatemalan Seminarians and Mission work of Fr. John and Presbyteria Sandy Chakos. Visit www.TheWordFromGuatemala.com to follow the blog of this mission!

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ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

INTERCESSION – Supplication [petition/request] to God in behalf of another person. Christ intercedes before God the Father in behalf of the repentant sinner, and God's people intercede for one another. (See *Is 53:12; Jer 27:18; Dan 9:3-19; Rom 8:34.*)

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

FINDING TIME FOR PRAYER *By Sister Vassa*

“As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to serve them. That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” (Mk 1: 29-35)

I love getting this glimpse into both the “private” and “public” life of the enormously-popular and busy Jesus of Nazareth, in our Church’s reading for this Thursday. He spends “private” time with close friends, in the home of Simon and Andrew. But even there, He is of service, doing “His thing”

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A Peaceful Heart: Don’t react, be at peace

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

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and healing Simon’s mother-in-law (who then, in her turn, is of service to Him, as friends are to one another). And even there, “the whole town” imposes upon His “private” time, gathering at the door.

So, when does such a popular-and-busy Man find time for solitary prayer? In the early morning, “while it was still dark.” Did the God-Man, Who is “of one essence with the Father,” really “need” to do this? Well, yes, I think He “needed” to do this, – not for Himself, but for us; to show us how, even amidst a busy schedule, we might get creative and carve out some alone-time with God, perhaps when everyone else is still sleeping, or when everyone else is otherwise-occupied. Let me go and do likewise, as best I can, in a schedule far less busy than the one my Lord endured in our midst, but one complicated by our 24/7 Internet-culture. Let me switch off my mobile-devices for a while today, letting others be otherwise-occupied, and me be occupied in some “solitary place” of heartfelt, quiet prayer, for just a while.

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 us for the next round of trial and temptation. Little by little, we will find that the Peace of Christ fills our every waking moment, and brings on a joyful spirit and a peaceful heart.

Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The Priest Martyr Babyla and with him the 3 Lads Urban, Prilidian, Eppolonias and their Mother Christodoula

Commemorated on September 17/4

The PriestMartyr Babyla and with him the 3 Lads Urban, Prilidian, Eppolonias and their Mother Christodoula died as martyrs under the emperor Decius (249-251). During a time of his stay at their city of Antioch, the emperor arranged for a large festival in honour of the pagan gods. During this same time the holy and God-fearing bishop of Antioch, Babyla, was making Divine Liturgy in church; he prayed for his flock and taught it bravely to undergo all the tribulations for the faith in Christ. After his abomination of idol-worship, Decius– wanting to behold the making of the Divine Mysteries, decided to enter the church and by his visit to defile the Sanctuary of the Lord. News of this reached the bishop, and he, not wanting to permit impiety in the temple of God, went out to meet him and block the path to the church. When the emperor tried to get closer to the church doors, Saint Babyla shoved him



away with his hands, such that the emperor had to forego his intent. He wanted to take his revenge on the saint right away, but seeing the large throng of Christians, he feared having them riot.

The next day the angry emperor gave orders to set fire to the Christian temple, and to bring Bishop Babyla before him. To the question about why he should insult the imperial dignity, and not allow the emperor into the church nor render him due respect of position, the holy bishop answered: “Anyone that would rise up against God and want to desecrate His sanctuary, – such an one not only is not worthy of respect, but is become the enemy of the Lord”.

The emperor demanded, that the holy bishop worship the idols and in such manner redeem his offence against the emperor, or else face execution. But having convinced himself that the martyr would remain steadfast in his faith, he commanded the military-commander Victorinus to put him in heavy chains and lead him through the city in disgrace. To this the holy martyr

replied: "Emperor, for me these chains be as venerable, as for thee is thine imperial crown, and the suffering for Christ for me is as acceptable, as is the imperial power for thee; death for the Immortal King for me is as desirable, as thine life be for thee".

At the trial with Bishop Babyla were three young brothers, who did not forsake him even in this most difficult moment. Seeing them, the emperor asked: "Who are these children? " "These are my spiritual children, – answered the saint, – and I have raised them in piety, I have nourished them with an education, cultivated them with guidance, and here in a small body before thee are these great young men and perfect Christians. Test and see".

The emperor tried in all sorts of ways to entice the youths and their mother Christodoula into a renunciation of Christ, but in vain. Then in a rage he gave orders to whip each of them in a number equivalent to their years of age. The first they whipped with 12 blows, the second – 10, and the third – 7. Having dismissed the mother and children, the torturer again summoned the bishop, telling him that the children had renounced Christ. But the lie quickly unraveled and brought no success. Then in a rage he commanded all the martyrs be tied on a tree and burnt at with fire. But seeing the stoic bravery of the saints, the emperor finally condemned them to the death of martyrdom by beheading with the sword (+c.251). © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday

"This 2nd commandment must be understood as written: You shall love your neighbor as yourself, or more clearly, "as being yourself." It is often misinterpreted, "You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself," which destroys the force of the statement. How much we love ourselves is not the standard by which Christ is calling us to love others. Rather, we are called to love our neighbor as being of the same nature as we ourselves are, as being created in God's image and likeness just as we are. As the Fathers teach, we find our true self in loving our neighbor." – *Orthodox Study Bible, Matthew 22:39*

Monday

"No human being can take God as his Father unless he takes the Church as his mother." +*St. Cyprian*

Tuesday

"What is the Orthodox Church? **The Orthodox Church is a body or community of people, who:** 1) correctly believe in divine revelation; and 2) who obey a lawful hierarchy instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ himself, through the holy apostles. In order to belong to the Orthodox Church two principal conditions are required: 1st - to accurately accept, rightly understand and truthfully confess the divine teaching of faith; and 2nd - to acknowledge the lawful hierarchy or priesthood, to receive from it the holy mysteries and generally to follow its precepts in matters concerning salvation." +*St. Sebastian Dabovich*

Wednesday

"When your children are still small, you have to help them understand what is good. That is the deepest meaning of life." +*Elder Paisios*

Thursday

"The Lord remained silent before Pilate and Herod; He made no attempt to justify Himself. You must imitate His holy and wise silence when you see that your enemies accuse you, with every intention of certain conviction; they accuse only with the purpose of hiding their own evil intention under the guise of judgment." +*St. Ignatius Brianchaninov, The Cup of Christ*

Friday

"Concerning prayer in church, know that it is higher than prayers at home, for it is raised by a whole group of people, among which many are most pure prayers, offering to God from humble hearts, which He accepts as fragrant incense. Along with these our prayers are also accepted, even though they are feeble and worthless." +*St. Macarius of Optina*

Saturday

"Speak well of those who speak evil of you. Pay good for evil. Pray for those who cause you various offenses, wrongs, temptations, persecutions. Whatever you do, on no account condemn anyone; do not even try to judge whether a person is good or bad, but keep your eyes on that one evil person for whom you must give an account before God–yourself." +*St. Ignatius (Brianchaninov), The Arena, Guidelines for Spiritual and Monastic Life*

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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.

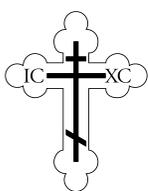
Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, Saturdays during fasting periods from 11:00am to 1:00 pm, OR by appointment.

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 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.



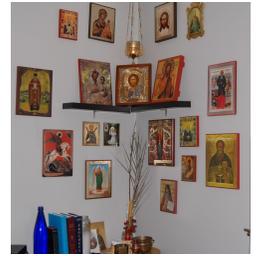
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PRAYER CORNER

*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, Fredrick, Iris, Helen B., Steven, Bruce, Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Valerie, Michael, Peter, John S., Matthew ...*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 those preparing for Marriage... ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia & all Holy Martyrs.*

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

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Birthday Prayers for... Cindy Morrison (9/17), Fr Dave Urban (9/19), Fr David Smoley (9/20), Mark Martellotti (9/22), *Father's brother-in-law*, Brian Verbanick, Sr (9/22) ...*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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Anniversary Prayers for... Barbara & Richard Gedid (9/17), Patricia & Louis Deluca (9/17), Thomas & Carol Lorenzi (9/19)...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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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 the soul of the newly departed... ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Memory eternal!*

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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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FEAST DAY FEATURE: Tropar from the Feast of the Beheading of St. John

The remembrance of the Just is worthy of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner; for it has shown that you are indeed more worthy of honor than the Prophets. You were found worthy to baptize the Lord Whom you foretold.

Thereafter, you suffered for the truth and, rejoicing, also announced the good news to those in the abyss that God had appeared as man taking away the sins of the world and granting to all of us the abundance of mercy.

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

A Prayer for our Neighborhood by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems.

Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know.

O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector.

Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.