# Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Reverend Dave Urban, Pastor 2688 California Avenue Very Reverend John Brancho, Pastor Emeritus Pittsburgh, Pa 15212 Rectory: 412-766-4691 Timothy Martin, Reader OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, Cantors Matthew Peifer, Church Council President www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

#### October 8, 2017 Volume III 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 1<sup>st</sup> Lukan Sunday / St. Euphrosyne (445)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: Gold

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 Add'I collection for our Capital Improvement Fund / Panachida for the newly departed +Ann Sefscik

## SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, October 12 – 9:30am Akathist to the Theotokos, Healer of Cancer

Saturday, October 14 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos (Pokrov) Holv Mystery of Confession available following every service.

Monday	Repose of the Apostle John	Philippians 1:1-7	Luke 4:37-44	
Tuesday	Martyr Callistratus (304)	Philippians 1:8-14	Luke 5:12-16	
* Wednesday	Venerable Chariton the Confessor (350)	Philippians 1:12-20	Luke 5:33-39	
Thursday	Venerable Cyriacus the Hermit (556)	Philippians 1:20-27	Luke 6:12-19	
* Friday	Hieromartyr Gregory of Armenia (335)	Philippians 1:27-2:4	Luke 6:17-23	
Saturday	Venerable Romanus the Melodist (556)	1 Corinthians 15:58-16:3	Matthew 25:1-13	

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

Sunday, October 15 – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 2<sup>nd</sup> Lukan Sunday / Sts. Cyprian and Justina (304) 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy Tone 2 Liturgical Color: Gold

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9; Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

Youth Sunday / Godparent-Godchildren Sunday / Panachida for deceased Godparents & Godchildren +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

### 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!

### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Wednesday, October 18 - 9:30am Moleben to the Theotokos Wednesday, October 25 – 9:30am Akathist Hymn to Almighty God in Times of Sorrow and Depression (St. Anastasia, Patron Saint for those with mental disorders)

Thursday, October 26 - Carpatho-Rusyn Day in North America - 9:30am Akathist Hymn of Our Father Among the Saints, Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy in America

Sunday, October 29 – Additional collection for our Community Outreach, OCF

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Akathist to the Healer of Cancer -October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Our prayers continue to be needed. On Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> we will have the Akathist to the Theotokos at 9:30am. +++ +++ +++

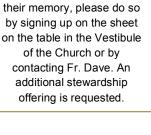
Feast of the Protection (Pokrov) - This Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> we celebrate this Feast. It's not often that Feast Days fall on Saturday come and celebrate the Divine Liturgy with us!

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Godparents / Godchildren Sunday -Our Annual Godparents celebration will be NEXT Sunday, October 15th, a day to honor them and to encourage the growth of this spiritual relationship. Personally invite your Godparents (or those of your children) and/or invite your Godchildren to come to Church and share this day with you. Please prepare yourself and join them in receiving the Eucharist (Holy Communion) on this day. We need to keep the Spiritual bonds alive with our God-parents and God-children. Even more important, we need to keep our life united with our Lord, Jesus Christ. This unites us with one another. Contact Fr Dave if you have ideas for the day or a desire to be involved in the planning of our Godparents Sunday.

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\*\*\* Front Door – The front door needs refinished. Please contact a Council member if you, or if you can recommend someone, who can do this.











This Bulletin is offered:

If you wish to sponsor a

Sunday Bulletin, for specific

prayers for someone or for

Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Joanne Nelson; Pańi 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

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**Painting** – We will be painting the foundation of the Parish House this fall. If anyone would like to assist with this upkeep project, please let one of the Church Council members know.

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**Moleben to the Theotokos** – On Wednesday, **October 18<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30am, we will have the same Moleben to the Theotokos that Fr Mark does in Taylor, PA with the weeping Icon of the Tender Heart.

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**Fall Festival** – St. Nicholas (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120) will have their Annual Fall Festival on **Friday & Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>** from 11am to 7pm each day. There will be a variety of Pirohi, Soups, Haluski, Stuffed Cabbage, and Kolbasi to enjoy. There will also be a Bake Sale and Basket Raffles. Saturday includes: Bingo (Donation is \$15 with Early Birds at 1pm & Regular Bingo at 2pm) and the "Haunted School House". Please call Tom Pingor (412-462-8462) for more information.

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**St. Anastasia** – On Wednesday, **October 25<sup>th</sup>**, we Commemorate St. Anastasia, Patron Saint for those with mental disorders. We will have an Akathist Hymn to Almighty God in Times of Sorrow and Depression at 9:30am in her honor.

+++ +++ +++ **Carpatho-Rusyn Day** – Thursday, **October 26**<sup>th</sup> is Carpatho-Rusyn Day in North America. We will have the Akathist Hymn of Our Father Among the Saints, Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy in America at 9:30am.

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**Ethnic Food Festival** – From 11a to 5p on **Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**, our Sister Parish of St. John's (211 Cable Ave., East Pittsburgh, PA 15112) will have Potato and Kraut Pirohi, Halupki (Stuffed Cabbage), Haluški, Kolbasi, Baked Goods, and Basket Raffle. Eat-in or Take-out. Call 412-829-2261 to order ahead.

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Blessing of new Church Council & Curators – Congratulations to our 2017-18 Church Council: *Matthew Peifer, John Radick, Timothy Martin, Reader, Patricia Watson, Theresa Sharpless, Lawrence Martin, Donald Gavulich, Jane Gaydos, Cynthia Pavilonis, Katherine Schrmack* and to our Curators: *Eleanor Sanger, Kenneth Dzadovsky, Gina Fall, Robert Fall, Jane Gaydos, Jillian Gaydos, Wendy Martellotti, Lawrence Martin, John Radick, Olga Radick, John Sharpless, Theresa Sharpless, Melanie Shuster, Michael Shuster, and Patricia Watson.* 

**Thank you!** for your dedication to our parish! The blessing of the Council & Curators will be on **Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>** during the Divine Liturgy.

Our Stewardship Gift To God					
Dues/Stewardship:	\$	83			
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$	90			
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$	528			
Community Outreach:	\$	50			
Banquet Meals:	\$	730			
Total Collections:	\$	1481			
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$	50			
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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**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. Here is the schedule for **Monday, November 27**<sup>th</sup>: 5:00pm

Prayers of Thanksgiving for His Grace at the Holiday Inn (250 Market Street, Johnstown, PA); 5:15 Cash Bar & Hors d'oeuvres; 6:00 Dinner (Salmon or Filet Mignon: \$50; Kid's Meal (12 Years & Under): \$20) Register NO LATER than **November 6<sup>th</sup>** (necessary for memento ordering purposes). Make checks payable to ACROD, 312 Garfield Street, Johnstown, PA 15906 ("Bishop's Anniversary" on Memo Line) If you wish to stay overnight, book at the Holiday Inn (814-535-7777) under 'ACROD' <u>No Later Than Nov. 6<sup>th</sup></u> to get the special rate (\$94.99+tax).

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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...
Plan to assist in painting the foundation of the parish house

Take a Coffee Social week
Attend an additional service at Church

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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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Coffee Social Steward Schedule October 15: Cindy Pavilonis

October 22: "Pot Luck" October 29: "Pot Luck"

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

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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#### IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

10 **COFFEE BAR** UIII

California Coffee Bar – About 6 months ago a new coffee shop opened down the street from our parish (3619 California Ave. - diagonally across the street from Kunsak's Funeral Home). They have a wonderful thing going! Take a coupon from the desk in the church hall and enjoy a bite to eat or a coffee when you are in the area! Here are some of their upcoming events:

- Thurs 10/12 6p-9p: Artists Appreciation Night Fri 10/13 5p-9p: Pumpkin Painting and Ghost Stories of Pittsburgh (for all ages)
- Wed 10/18 6p-9p: Open Mic Night (all ages) - Tues 10/24 11:30a-1p: Lunch & Learn -- Speaker Series: "Fall Plantings, Bulbs, and Dividing
- Sun 10/15 12p-2p: Paz & Ukulele Eddie Live Music
- Perennials" +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

### **ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH**

"Hawaiian" Iveron Icon - Here is the local Pittsburgh schedule of services for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Visitation Schedule of the Wonderworking and Myrrh-streaming "Hawaiian" Iveron Icon: October 10, 2017, Tuesday

Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery (121 St Elias Ln., Saxonburg, PA 16056) 724-352-3999; Divine Liturgy, 8:00am (Visitation till 5:00pm)

October 11, 2017, Wednesday

St. Gregory Church (214 E 15<sup>th</sup> Ave., Homestead, PA

Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration (321

Monastery Ln., Ellwood City, PA 16117) (724) 758-

15120) 412-819-0915; Moleben with Akathist, 6pm



4002; Greeting of the Holy Icon, 8:30am; Divine Liturgy, 9:00; Akathist Service. 12:00noon; Paraklesis to the Mother of God, 4:00pm; Departure of the Holy Icon, 5:30pm

#### October 12, 2017, Thursday

St. Sava Church (901 Hartman St., McKeesport, PA 15132) 412-664-0820; Paraklesis, 7pm

The full schedule can be found at: http://orthodoxhawaii.org/news 170925 1.html

"From thy Holy Icon. O Lady Theotokos, blessed myrrh has flowed abundantly. Thou hast thereby consoled those, in exile, faithful unto thee, and hast enlighten the unbelievers by thy Son's light. Therefore O Lady, with tears we bow down to thee. Be merciful to us in the hour of judgment. Lest having received thy mercy we be punished as those who have been contemptuous of it. But grant us through thy prayers to bring forth spiritual fruit, and save our souls" - Tropar to the Iveron Icon (Tone 7) +++ +++ +++



All In Good Taste: Dark Rum & Cigar Tasting to Benefit IOCC – Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 7p~10p at Leaf and Bean (3525 Washington Rd., McMurray, PA 15317). Tickets are \$50. Each guest will receive 3 cigars and 3 dark rums to sample. Light hors d'oeuvres will be available. Advance registration required to guarantee availability. Kindly register at: www.iocc.org/pittsburgh or contact Kevin (724-344-5610 / kevinsreck@gmail.com) by October 10th. Sponsorships also available. +++ +++ +++

Slavic Food Festival – St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (320 Munson Ave., McKees Rocks, PA 15136) will have all of your Slavic food favorites on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 11a to 7p. Eat-in & Take-out. +++ +++ +++

Fall Young Adult Retreat: "Trusting the Process" - will be held from October 27-29 at Camp Nazareth geared towards those 18-35. Please see the flyer in our hall for more details or email YoungAdultRetreats@gmail.com The weekend event will feature Keynote addresses given by Mr. Jacob Saylor, the Pastoral Assistant at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale, AZ. Mr. Saylor has worked extensively in the field of Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministry and will offer a unique perspective on the cosmic process of salvation. The weekend event will be filled with learning, fun, fellowship, worship, and time for reflection and rejuvenation! If you ever struggle with "staying on track", or if you ever feel like you don't know where you're headed in your life, then don't miss out on this unique retreat! It will give you some great insight and tools to help you navigate even the roughest times. Register today!

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Fall Youth Encounter – Save the dates of November 10-12 for the Youth Encounter at Camp Nazareth. More details coming soon...

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#### SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm OR by appointment. Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

Phone Tree - Please call Fr. Dave to be added.

*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. +++ +++ +++

"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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#### LIVING ORTHODOXY

### The Holy Spoon & Proper Hygeine

by Rev. Fr. Stylianos Muksuris at http://www.orthodoxresearchinstitute.org/articles/liturgics/muksuris\_holy\_spoon.htm

A concern often expressed by certain Orthodox Christians who attend the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and who receive the precious Body and Blood of our Lord, is having to share the same Communion spoon with others. Indeed, as concelebrating clergy commune from the same chalice, so too do the lay people commune from the same spoon. A fear often verbalized is contracting infection or germs or some other disease by coming into contact with another person's saliva or lipstick that may come off on the spoon when receiving the Eucharist. The question I would like to address in this article is: Is there any reason to fear such a possibility?

The immediate answer is no. From a purely microbiological perspective, the sweet red wine used in Communion is high in alcoholic content. This means that the chances of bacteria or germs surviving in it are virtually minimal to non-existent. Although each of us communes the Body and Blood of Christ, the invisible microbes that may enter our mouths from the previous communicant are harmless. From a purely experiential perspective, every chalice on Sundays is consumed in its totality by the priest, after several mouths have communed from it. No priest, including the writer of this column, has ever become ill or incapacitated after consuming the Holy Gifts. And finally, from a purely spiritual perspective, the Holy Gifts are exactly that: they are sacred, in that they have become imbued with the fullness of God's presence and +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ grace, and they are divine (not human) gifts, "for every good and perfect gift is from above, coming from [You] the Father of lights" (*Prayer behind the Amvon in the Divine Liturgy*). If we truly believe in God, we know quite well that God would never allow harm to come to us, most especially in the reception of the Eucharist.

While there is no fear then of disease, it is pertinent that all Orthodox Christians follow certain basic rules of hygiene before approaching the holy chalice. First, it is important for us to wipe our mouths well after receiving Holy Communion. This prevents the elements from accidentally dripping onto the ground. Also, it is important for women who wear lipstick to wipe it off before receiving Communion or not to wear any lipstick at all when attending church. Not only does this show the proper respect to the Body and Blood of Christ, but it also shows respect to the woman's fellow communicants who wish to commune the Holy Bread and Cup and nothing else! Finally, when receiving Communion, it is best to simply open your mouths wide, tilt your head back, and allow the priest to 'drop' the Eucharist into your mouths, thus not allowing the spoon to make contact with your mouths.

It is important for us to know that ... the Church adopted, in time, the use of tongs, with which the elements were mingled together and placed carefully into the mouths of the communicants through this instrument. By the ninth century, the Church changed over to the Communion spoon for the same practical reasons, and it is this practice that remains in place today.

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#### ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

The **HOLY SPOON** is used to administer the Eucharist (Holy Communion) to the Faithful. It symbolizes the tong that the Angel used to take the burning coal from the Altar in order to touch the lips of Isaiah to purify him from his sins (Isaiah 6:7).

### LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

#### The Nun Euphrosynia

Commemorated on October 8 / September 25

The Nun Euphrosynia was born at the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> Century in the city of Alexandria. She was the only child in her family of illustrious and rich parents. Her mother died early. She was raised by her

father, Paphnutios, a deeply believing and pious Christian. He frequented a monastery, the hegumen of which was his spiritual guide. When Euphrosynia turned age 18, her father wanted her to marry. He set off to the monastery to his spiritual guide to receive blessing for the planned wedding of his daughter. The hegumen conversed with the daughter and gave her his blessing, but Saint Euphrosynia yearned for the monastic life. Secretly having accepted tonsure from a wandering monk, she left her father's house and decided to enter a monastery in order to lead her life in solitude and prayer. She feared, however, that in a women's monastery her father would find her. Calling herself the eunuch Izmaragdos, she went to that very selfsame men's monastery, which since childhood she had visited with her father. The monks did not recognise Euphrosynia dressed in men's garb, and so they accepted her into the monastery. Here in a

solitary cell, in works, fasting and prayer, Saint Euphrosynia spent 38 years and attained to high spiritual accomplishment. Her father grieved over the loss of his beloved daughter and more than once, on the advice of the hegumen, he conversed with the monk Izmaragdos, revealing his grief and receiving spiritual comfort. Before her death, the Nun Euphrosynia revealed her secret to her grieving father and asked, that no one except him should prepare her body for burial. Having buried his daughter, Paphnutios distributed all his wealth to both the poor and to monastery, and then he accepted the monasticism. For ten years right up to his own death, he asceticised in the cell of his daughter.



### SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." "Launch out into the deep: St. Ambrose sees the spiritual meaning of this command as an invitation to give one's life over to the deep mystery of the knowledge of the Son of God." – Orthodox Study Bible, Luke 5:4

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"When you get angry, you're not possessed by the Spirit of God, but are enslaved by the spirit of revenge, pride, and vainglory, which urges you not to repent, not to forgive, and not to humble yourself. Let us flee from anger and revenge, and let us follow our Lord Jesus Christ." +Elder Paisius of Sihla Skete (Romania) +++ +++ +++

"Do You, O Sovereign Lady, by Your joy-bestowing honorable Icon "Queen of All," save those who with fervent desire implore Your grace; deliver from afflictions those who run to You; from all dangers do You guard Your flock, who ever call upon Your intercession." - Tropar to the Icon of the "Queen of All" +++ +++ +++

"When we or someone else are facing a problem let us ask others for their prayers and let us all entreat God with faith and love. Be sure that God is pleased with these prayers and intervenes with miracles. This is something we haven't understood properly. We say, 'say a prayer for me', but with out realizing 

#### 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. +++ +++ +++

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, John U., Regina, Pańi Connie ...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 ... All those affected by recent hurricanes, Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Amee, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Olga, John, Sarah, Sharon, Ryan, Cora and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Donald, Jane, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, Kenneth, Gina, Robert, Jillian, Wendy, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, 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... Pańi Katie, Pańi Ileana, Amee ...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.

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Birthday Prayers for... Father's sister, Melissa Ditmore (10/11), Father's mother, Andrea Urban (10/11), and Kevin Anton (10/12) ... 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... Chi-Wing & Deborah (Brancho) Chow (10/8), John & Jane Gaydos (10/9), and Meredith & Ryan Blobner (10/12) ... May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!

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For the soul of the newly departed ... + Ann Sefscik ... May the Lord God grant her blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Memory eternal!

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### **DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:**

A Prayer to the Theotokos

from the Akathist Hymn to the Most-Holy Theotokos, Queen of All (Pantanassa), "Healer of Cancer" O All-Good Mother of God Queen of All! I am not worthy for you to come under my roof, but, as the Mother of the Merciful God, say a word that my soul would be healed, and my weakened body would be strengthened. O Queen of All, You have an unconquerable might and You can ask always; ask for me, pray for me, that I would glorify Your Most Glorious name always, now and unto the ages of ages. Amen.