



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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



Reverend Dave Urban, Pastor
Very Reverend 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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October 15, 2017

Volume III

19th Sunday after Pentecost / 2nd Lukan Sunday / Sts Cyprian & 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-Godchild Sunday / Panachida for deceased Godparents & Godchildren

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, October 18 – 9:30am Moleben to the Theotokos with holy anointing
Holy Mystery of Confession available following every service.

Monday	Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite, (96)	Philippians 2:12-16	Luke 6:24-30
Tuesday	Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bp. of Athens (1st c.)	Philippians 2:17-23	Luke 6:37-45
* Wednesday	Martyr Charitina of Amisus (304)	Philippians 2:24-30	Luke 6:46-7:1
Thursday	Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas (1st c.)	Philippians 3:1-8	Luke 7:17-30
* Friday	Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus in Syria (290-303)	Philippians 3:8-19	Luke 7:31-35
Saturday	Venerable Pelagia the Penitent (457)	2 Corinthians 1:8-11	Luke 5:27-32

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

Sunday, October 22 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost / 3rd Lukan Sunday / Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787) / Holy Apostle James, son of Alphaeus (1st c.)

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

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

Panachida for Richard Radick, husband of Olga Radick and father of John Radick (27th anniversary)

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)
Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na v'iki!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! Please join us downstairs for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon!

If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

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This Bulletin is offered:

In Honor
of all of our
Godparents!

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

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 Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy in America

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

Thursday, November 2 – 9:30am Moleben to St Nectarios with holy anointing

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Painting – We will be painting the foundation of the Parish House **Tuesday** and **Friday** morning/afternoon this week. If anyone would like to assist with this upkeep project, please contact Kathy Schmack.

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Moleben to the Theotokos – On Wednesday, **October 18th** 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 20th & 21st** from 11am to 7pm each day. There

will be a variety of foods 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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ACRY – will have their local meeting on Sunday, **October 22nd** following Coffee Hour. If you would like more information about joining this philanthropic group, please plan to stay!

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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.

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; June Sefscik; Viola Peifer; Olga Radick; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Steve Buhonick; Cindy Pavidonis; 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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Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh Icon – This Icon (*the centennial icon of St. Mary Orthodox Church, Southside Pittsburgh*) is being reproduced by the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery (Saxonburg, PA) with all proceeds going to the monastery to help rebuild after their lightning strike and fire. Please email Father for an order form or see the sheet in the hall as sizes and prices vary from 11"x14" for \$65 to 18"x24" for \$290 (there are 5 different styles to choose from).

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St. Anastasia, Patron Saint for those with mental disorders, is Commemorated on Wednesday, **October 25th**. We will have an Akathist Hymn to Almighty God in Times of Sorrow and Depression at 9:30am in her honor.

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Carpatho-Rusyn Day in North America is Thurs., **October 26th**. We will have the Akathist Hymn to St. 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 28th**, 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 Pavidonis, 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 29th** during the Divine Liturgy.

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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Luke 6:31)
- 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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Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 18
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 228
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 278
Community Outreach:	\$ 100
Total Collections:	\$ 724
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 54
<i>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</i>	

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Bulletin Sponsor – Please contact Fr Dave to sponsor a bulletin *In Memory* of someone or *In Honor* of (anniversary, birthday, etc.). Additional stewardship offering is kindly requested.

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Legacy Gift to our Church – We have been blessed with the generosity of the Estate of George Wills (Stim) as we have received \$2,500. May his memory be eternal!

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****Stewardship Offerings** – Thank you and God Bless you for your continued Stewardship offerings. Your donations to our Church assist in the ministries of our parish, to keep the lights on, and other expenses that we incur. Your commitment financially is needed for the financial health of our parish. We appreciate all that you do with your time, talent, and treasures towards our present and future. Please continue your support each month as you manage your budget.

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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. Here is the schedule for **Monday, November 27th**: 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 6th** (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' No Later Than Nov. 6th to get the special rate (\$94.99+tax).

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

- October 22: **Olga and John Radick**
- October 29: **Gina and Bob Fall**
- November 5: **"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

Spaghetti Dinner – St. Mary’s Orthodox Church (105 S. 19th St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203) will have a Spaghetti Dinner on **Saturday, October 21st** from 11a to 6p featuring Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Dessert, and Coffee. Adults: \$10 and Children under 12: \$4. Call 412-431-6428 with any questions.

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Fall Young Adult Retreat: “Trusting the Process” – will be held from **October 27-29** at Camp Nazareth geared towards those 18-35. The weekend event will feature Keynote addresses given by Mr. Jacob Saylor who 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. *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! Email YoungAdultRetreats@gmail.com.*

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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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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Pirohi Fest – St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church (3455 California Avenue) will be having their Fall Pirohi Festival on **Saturday, November 4th** from 11a-6p. For more information on this event please call the parish office at 412-766-8801. Here is the menu that I have come across: **7** Varieties of pirohi: potato and cheese, sauerkraut, half and half, loaded potato, jalapeno, farmer’s cheese, lekvar (prune plum); **3** Kinds of Soup: borscht, chicken noodle, mushroom barley; and Baked goods

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Walk To End Alzheimer’s will be on **Saturday, November 4th** (Registration @ 7:30am; Ceremony @ 9:30; Walk Begins @ 10) at Stage AE on the North Shore. There is a 1 mi. or 2.5 mi. route. A few folks from our parish will be participating. Please see Fr Dave if you are interested in walking or donating to this great cause!

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

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.

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.

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

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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.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

The Godparent: The role of godparent is an awesome responsibility

Since many baptisms took place on Holy Saturday, it is a good idea to revisit the important role godparents play in the life of the newly baptized child. Godparents are also expected to play an important role in the religious and spiritual life of adult converts who’ve been received into the Orthodox Church through the Mystery of Baptism.

The institution of godparents (sponsors) is one that dates back to the first century of the Christian Church. Anyone approaching baptism, be they infant or adult, was required to have a godparent. In the case of an infant, it is the godparent that speaks for the child, answering the questions posed by the priest during the baptismal service. But it doesn’t stop there! The godparent is charged by the Church with the duty to make sure the newly baptized is instructed in the teachings of the Church, remains a frequent communicant within the Church and remains active in the Church. In the case of a child, it is to the godparents that the parents entrust their

child, knowing that the godparent will remain actively supporting the child within the life of the Church. Should something happen to the parents, it is traditionally the godparent who will make sure the child continues to be taken to church, and remains Orthodox.

Because of the awesome responsibility of godparents, it is all the more important that great care be taken when choosing someone who will take on this role. The Church does not allow anyone to become a godparent who is not Orthodox, for how can one who is not himself a pious, active Orthodox Christian give witness to living a life immersed in the Orthodox faith? The godparent must therefore be a person of high moral character, and able to inspire the newly baptized to fulfill their baptismal vows.

When the newly baptized approaches the holy chalice for the first three consecutive Sundays following baptism, it is the godparent who accompanies them to receive the Holy Mysteries. The godparent must, therefore, be someone who himself/herself is a frequent communicant. Additionally, the godparent must be someone

who is active in the life of the Church, supporting the Church with their tithe, keeping the fasts, and otherwise living in all piety and holiness.

The person chosen to act as a godparent must be someone willing to honor their commitment to the newly baptized for a lifetime, and willing to help nourish the spiritual life and development of the child throughout their life. Thus, it is a very bad idea to pick someone as a godparent simply because they are a good friend. Godparents are duty bound to continue giving support to their godchild, even into adulthood. They must be someone who will remember to honor their godson or goddaughter on special occasions, such as a birthday or namesday. They should be a part of the godchild's life during the great feasts of the Church, such as Pascha or Nativity. They should commemorate the anniversary of their godchild's baptism by giving them a Christian gift, such as a Bible, prayer book, or icon.

Everything should be done to strengthen the

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bond between the godparent and the godchild throughout the ensuing years. They can take each other out to a restaurant for dinner, or receive communion together when possible (if living in different cities). Time should be allotted to cultivate a unique spiritual bond, and the godparent should assist the godchild's parents whenever possible – especially when doing so enhances the godchild's commitment to their Orthodox faith.

Because baptism has been called Illumination, and brings us out of the darkness of sin and into the light of Christ, the role of the godparent is critical. The godparent must ensure that the Light of Christ continues to shine in the soul of the godchild. Thus, this role as godparent is an awesome responsibility, and is not to be considered a one-day event. If you've been asked to be a godparent, but are unwilling to see this as a lifelong vocation, please decline the honor.

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

The Priest Martyr Cyprian, the Holy Martyress Justina & the Martyr Theoktist

Commemorated on October 15/2

The PriestMartyr Cyprian, the Holy Martyress Justina and the Martyr Theoktist perished at Nicomedia in the year 304.



Saint Cyprian was a pagan, a native of Antioch. While still in early childhood he was given over by his misguided parents for service to the pagan gods. From seven years of age until thirty, Cyprian studied at the most outstanding centres of paganism – on Mount Olympus, in the cities of Argos and Tauropolis, in the Egyptian city of Memphis and at Babylon. Having attained to eminent wisdom in pagan philosophy and the sorcerer's craft, on Olympus he was consecrated into the pagan priesthood. Having discovered great power by the summoning of unclean spirits, he beheld the very prince of darkness, and conversed with him and received from him an host of demons in attendance.

Having returned to Antioch, Cyprian became revered by the pagans as an eminent pagan priest, amazing people by his ability to conduct spells, to summon pestilence and plagues, and to seance the dead. The mighty pagan priest brought many an human soul to ruin, teaching them magic-spells and service to demons.

But in this city there lived a Christian – the Virgin Justina. Having turned her own father and mother away from pagan error and led them to the true faith in Christ, she dedicated herself to the Heavenly Bridegroom and spent her time in fasting and prayer, remaining a virgin. When the youth Aglaides proposed marriage to her, the saint responded with a refusal. Agalides turned to Cyprian and sought his help for a magic-spell to charm Justina into marriage. But no matter what Cyprian tried, he could accomplish but nothing, since the saint by her prayers and fasting wrecked all the wiles of the devil. By his conjured spells Cyprian set loose demons upon the holy

virgin, trying to rouse in her the fleshly passions, but she dispelled them by the power of the Sign of the Cross and by fervent prayer to the Lord. Even one of the demonic princes and Cyprian himself, by the power of sorcery having assumed various guises,

were not able to sway Saint Justina, guarded round about by her firm faith in Christ. All the spells dissipated, and the demons fled at the mere look or even name of the saint. Cyprian in a rage sent down pestilence and plague upon the family of Justina and upon all the city, but this was beaten back by her prayer. Cyprian's soul, corrupted by its domination over people and by its incantations, showed up in all the depth of its downfall, and the abyss of nothingness of that which he served. "If thou dost take fright at even the mere shadow of the Cross and the Name of Christ indeed maketh thee to tremble, – said Cyprian to Satan, – then what wilt thou do, when Christ Himself is come before thee?" The devil thereupon flung himself upon the pagan priest who was in the process of repudiating him, and began to beat and strangle him. Saint Cyprian then first tested for himself the power of the Sign of the Cross and the Name of Christ, in guarding himself from the fury of the enemy. Afterwards, with deep repentance he went to the local Bishop Anthymos and consigned all his books to the flames. And the very next day, having gone into the church, he did not want to emerge from it, though he did not yet accept Holy Baptism.

By his effort to follow a righteous manner of life, Saint Cyprian discerned the great power of fervent faith in Christ, and redeemed his more than thirty year service to Satan: seven days after Baptism he was ordained reader, on the twelfth day – sub-deacon, on the thirtieth – deacon, and after a year he was ordained priest. And in a short while Saint Cyprian was elevated to the dignity of bishop. The PriestMartyr Cyprian converted to Christ so many pagans, that in his diocese there was no one left to offer sacrifice to

idols, and their pagan-temples fell into disuse. Saint Justina withdrew to a monastery and there was chosen hegumeness. During the time of the persecution against Christians under the emperor Diocletian, Bishop Cyprian and Hegumeness Justina were arrested and brought to Nicomedia, where after fierce tortures they were beheaded with the sword. The Soldier Theoktist, looking upon the guiltless sufferings of the saints,

declared himself a Christian and was executed together with them. Knowing about the miraculous conversion to Christ of the holy PriestMartyr Cyprian, a former servant of the prince of darkness and by faith shattering his grip, Christians often resort to the prayerful intercession of the saint in their struggle with unclean spirits.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

“And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.” “This “Golden Rule” is a minimum of Christian virtue, as it places man’s desire for goodness (“the natural law of self-love,” St. Cyril of Alexandria) as a basic standard of how to treat others. It is but the first step on the path to the perfection of virtue; this perfection is found in v. 36 (*Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.*), where God’s mercy, rather than man’s desire, is the standard.” – *Orthodox Study Bible, Luke 6:31*

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"The Jesus Prayer is the heaviest weapon against the thoughts of the enemy." +*Elder Paisios of Mt Athos*

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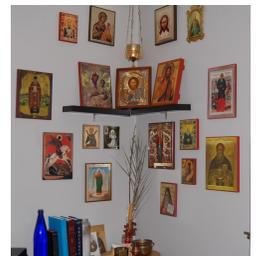
PRAYER CORNER

*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... Mildred, Julie, Jane, Eleanor D., Mark, Viola, Juliana, Nathaniel, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Teresa, Susan, Anna Mae, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Fredrick, Helen B., Steven, Bruce, Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Valerie, Michael, Peter, John S., Matthew, John U., Regina, James, Patricia, ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the 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, Ameer, 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 Expectant Mothers... Pañi Katie, Pañi Ileana, Ameer ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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Birthday Prayers for... Frank Martellotti (10/15), Cameron Watson (10/17), Rhonda Gogal (10/19), Dan Urban, Jr (10/19), Fr. Robert Buczak (10/20) ...*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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FEAST DAY FEATURE

Tropar from the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos (Pokrov)

Protected by your coming, O Birthgiver or God, the faithful people solemnly celebrate today; and gazing upon your most pure image, they humbly say: “watch over us with your noble protection, and deliver us from all evil by asking your Son, Christ our God, to save our souls.”

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

A Prayer for Godparents

Lord Jesus Christ Our God, we thank You for all good things that You have shown upon us from above, blessings seen and unseen and for the sacred task that You have placed before us as Godparents of our spiritual children. Recalling Your words to let the little children come unto You and that it is not the will of our heavenly Father that one of these little ones should perish, we beg You to look upon our spiritual children and have mercy on them.

Grant them the grace to know You and the desire to serve You. Inscribe their names in Your book of life. Let no evil thought find a place in their hearts and become a passion that brings destruction. Rather surround our Godchildren with Your heavenly angels. Having been baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire, guide them toward Your blessed commandments and burn up the weeds of all their offenses. Forgive us, also, Lord, for all of the ways in which we have neglected, in thought, word or deed, to set and example of repentance and devotion for our spiritual children to follow. Enlighten our hearts and minds with the will and knowledge, from this moment forward, to fulfill our holy calling as the sponsors of their birth on high. Amen.