



CHRIST IS RISEN!
*Christ is Risen From The Dead, Trampling
 Down Death By Death and To Those In The
 Tombs Bestowing Life!*
INDEED HE IS RISEN!

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople</i></p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>2688 California Avenue Pittsburgh, Pa 15212 412-748-0148, Talk or Text OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149</p>	

April 15, 2018 Volume III

2nd Sunday of Pascha: St Thomas Sunday

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: Acts 5:12–20; Gospel: John 20:19–31

*YOUTH Sunday / Breaking of the Artos / Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund /
 Semi-Annual meeting following Liturgy*



SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR BRIGHT WEEK



Tuesday, April 17 – 9:30am Akathist to the Holy Resurrection of Christ

The Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

Monday	Venerable Nicetas the Confessor, abbot of Medikion (824)	Acts 3:19-26	John 2:1-11
Tuesday	Venerable Joseph the Hymnographer of Sicily (883)	Acts 4:1-10	John 3:16-21
* Wednesday	New Hieromartyr Alexis priest (1930).	Acts 4:13-22	John 5:17-24
Thursday	St. Methodius, Equal-to-the-Apostles, enlightener of the Slavs (885)	Acts 4:23-31	John 5:24-30
* Friday	Venerable George the Confessor, bishop of Mitylene (820)	Acts 5:1-11	John 5:30-6:2
Saturday	Venerable Rufus the Obedient of the Kiev Caves (14th c.)	Acts 5:21-33	John 6:14-27

* *Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!*

No Kneeling in Prayer for 50 Days – Replace “O Heavenly King” with the Paschal Tropar

Sun., Apr, 22 – 3rd Sun. of Pascha: Sun. of the Myrrhbearing Women; Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus

9:30 am – Deacon’s Service with Eucharist Tone 2 Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: Acts 6:1–7; Gospel: Mark 15:43–16:8

Earth Day

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Paschal Greeting (used instead of ‘hello’, before ‘good morning’, et cetera)

Christ is risen! (Indeed He is risen!) Christos Voskrese! (Voistinu Voskrese!)
Khristós Anésti! (Alithós Anésti!) Hristos a înviat! (Adevărat a înviat!)

If greeted in a language you are unfamiliar with, translate and respond in English (then learn the response)

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Christ is risen! (Indeed He is risen!)
Christos Voskrese! (Voistinu Voskrese!)

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 memory of
 +Nicholas Buhonick
 on the 9th Anniversary
 of his passing.
 May his memory
 be eternal!

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- Sunday, April 29** – Additional collection for our Community Outreach
 - Wednesday, May 2** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Mid Pentecost
 - Sunday, May 6** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St George / Cemetery Grave Blessings
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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Clergy Convocation – Fr Dave will be at Camp Nazareth from Tuesday to Friday, **April 17-20**. For hospital visits, please contact **Fr. Tom Soroka**

from our sister OCA parish (at **412-299-3942** or frthomas@OrthodoxPittsburgh.org). Please call the **camp** with any emergencies (**724-662-4840**).



Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Roberta Kruchkevich; Olga Radick; Mike Puhac; Carol Lorenzi; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; 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 Matthew Peifer, in Memory of Father, Jack. May His Memory Be Eternal!

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Vacation – Fr Dave will be unavailable from **April 21-28**. Please contact the following priests for any hospital visits or other emergencies:

- Fr. Robert Prepelka: 724-266-2879
- Fr. Nik Ferencz: 724-953-6046
- Fr. Michael Zak: 412-461-3264

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Congratulations! to Meredith and Ryan Blobner and their families on the birth of **Bryce James** born on April 10th. Welcome to our Parish Family!

"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 First Day after Childbirth*

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Welcome to the Newly-Baptized! Anthony Richard Winkler was baptized and initiated into the Orthodox faith yesterday. May God give strength to him as he begins his Christian life and bless him, his parents, God-Parents, and families!

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Photo Hunt – Do you have any photos from St. John's Parish events from between **1932 & 1937**? Please contact Fr Dave if you do.

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Calling All Graduates – if you will be graduating from High School, a University, or a Trade School this year, please contact Father ASAP.

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Cemetery Grave Blessing – We will bless graves this year on **Sunday, May 6th**. We will celebrate a Panachida at church following the Divine Liturgy and head to the cemetery after the coffee social. I pray that more of you will be able to join us!

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ACRY Booklet – The 70th ACRY Bowling Tournament will be held in Perth Amboy, NJ (May 25-28). There is a sheet in the Church hall for anyone who wishes to be a Patron (\$10), Booster (\$5), or have a Memorial listing (\$5) in the commemorative booklet.

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Designer Purse Bash – The 2nd Annual Purse Bash will be **THIS Saturday, April 21st** at St. Nicholas Church (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120). Doors open at 4pm with the Buffet served at 4:30. Tickets are \$30 per person and include 3 chances at the prizes plus a full meal. For more info, see the flyer in the Church Hall or contact Jessica Krchmar (412-290-3526 / jessicakrchmar@gmail.com).

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Young Adult Spring Retreat: "God's Plan... Your Plan: Will it ever make sense?" – Will be held at Camp Nazareth **May 4-6**. Keynote speakers will be His Grace, Bishop Gregory and Steven Christoforou. Open to young adults (19-35) of all jurisdictions. Fee is \$75 (Financial aid is available if needed, please contact Fr. Loposky at 724.662.4840 or fr.stephen.loposky@gmail.com). Register online at www.acrod.org and clicking the link. *The weekend event will be filled with learning, fun, fellowship, worship, and time for reflection and rejuvenation!*

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 393
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 290
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 4150
Patriarchal Pence:	\$ 109

Total Collections: \$ 4952

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

Family Day (June 3rd) Raffle Tickets are available from Theresa Sharpless. This is the only diocesan-wide fundraiser for camp and it is a significant source of income for the Camp Nazareth program and our children. Raffle tickets are \$20 each with prizes exceeding \$20,000. Support our camp: buy *(at least)* one. + + + The Family Day flyer is hanging in the church hall with details for that day!

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Italian Feast and Basket Raffle – This annual ACRY event will be held on **Saturday, May 19th**. Baskets are needed. There is a sign up sheet in the Church Hall with more details. All profits will go towards our church.

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Bulletin Sponsor – Please contact Fr Dave or sign up in the Vestibule to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone. An additional stewardship offering to the Church is kindly requested.

Visit Our Diocese On-Line

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

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.* (Lk. 6:31)
- Pray for our parish
- Assist with the Dinner & Basket Raffle
- Donate to our parish or one of it's outreaches
- Attend additional services
- Sponsor a Coffee Social

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

- April 15: **Open / "Pot Luck"**
- April 22: **Open / "Pot Luck"**
- April 29: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

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. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Acts 5:12–20

The Apostles Heal Many

¹² Now many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. ¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

The Apostles Are Persecuted

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sad'ucees, and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. ¹⁹ But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, ²⁰ "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

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Gospel: John 20:19–31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

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Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Patriarchal Encyclical for Holy Pascha

10 April 2018

To the Plenitude of the Church: May the Grace, Peace and Mercy

of Christ Risen in Glory be with you All

Dear venerable Hierarchs and beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

The experience of Christ's Resurrection, the all-saving victory of Life over Death, is the nucleus of faith, divine worship, ethos and culture of the Christ-loving orthodox people of God.

The life of the Orthodox faithful, in all its manifestations and dimensions, is nurtured and nourished by faith in the Resurrection, and constitutes a daily Pascha. This paschal experience is not simply a remembrance of the Lord's Resurrection but also a participation in our own renewal, and an unshakeable conviction about the eschatological perfection of all.

Primarily in the Eucharistic Liturgy, which is inextricably linked with the "chosen and holy day" of Sunday, the Orthodox Church celebrates this existential participation in Christ's Resurrection and experiential foretaste of the blessings of God's Kingdom. The resurrectional and delightful character of the Divine Eucharist is impressive, always occurring in an atmosphere of joy and gladness and depicting the ultimate renewal of all beings, the fulfillment of joy, the fullness of life and the future outpouring of love and knowledge.

It is about the redemptive vision of the present under the light of the end and the dynamic journey toward the kingdom. It is about the

indissoluble relation and interweaving of the presence and eschatological nature of our salvation and the world's transfiguration in Christ, which gives ecclesiastical life a unique dynamism and serves for the faithful as a stimulus of good witness in the world. The Orthodox believer has special reason and strong incentive to struggle against social wrongdoing because we are intensely conscious of the contrast between the end times and every historical event. From an Orthodox perspective, philanthropic service, helping our brothers and sisters in need—according to the Lord's words that "inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:40) and the tangible love of the Good Samaritan that was shown in deed (see Lk. 10:30-37), as well as in accordance with the Patristic saying that "you should consider all those in need as your neighbor and feel that you are called to come to their aid" (Isidore of Pelusium)—constitutes an extension and expression of the Church's Eucharistic ethos, a revelation that love is the quintessential experience of life in Christ, both in the present life and in the Kingdom of heaven.

It is in this context that we should also understand that liturgical life in the Orthodox Church is shaken by the experience of "common salvation", the gift of "common freedom" and a "common kingdom", as well as by the expectation of "common resurrection". What prevails is the "we", the community of life, co-participation and co-existence, as well as the sanctifying identification of freedom in Christ through sacrificial and doxological love. Such is the awe-



inspiring message of the radiant icon of the Resurrection in the Descent of Christ into Hades. The Lord of glory descended into the depths of the earth and shattered the gates of Hades, emerging victorious and luminous from the tomb, not alone and bearing a banner of victory, but along with Adam and Eve, raising them up with himself, holding them tightly and supporting them. And in their persons, all of the human race and creation is also raised, held and supported.

The gospel of the Resurrection, this “common feast of all”, the abolishment of the power of death by almighty love, resounds today in a society replete with social injustice and reduction of the human person, in a world that resembles a Golgotha of refugees with myriads of innocent children. It announces from the depths that, in the face of God, human life has absolute value. It proclaims that sufferings and trials, both Cross and Golgotha, do not have the final word. It is impossible for crucifiers to triumph over their tragic victims. In the Orthodox Church, the Cross lies at the center of piety; however, it is not the ultimate reality that determines the final point of orientation in church life. The essential meaning of the Cross is that it constitutes a way to the Resurrection, to the fullness of our faith. On this foundation, the Orthodox proclaim: “For behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world”. It is characteristic that in the Orthodox Church, the Service of the Passion is not depressing; instead, it is a mingling of the Cross and Resurrection, since the Passion is always approached and experienced through the Resurrection, which is our “ransom from sorrow”. For the Orthodox mindset, the enduring connection of the Cross and the Resurrection is



incompatible with every form of esoteric flight to any false mysticism or self-sufficient pietism, which usually tend to be indifferent to the misfortunes and misadventures of humanity in history.

In our age, the message of the Cross and the Resurrection challenges the human being’s self-centeredness and arrogant self-glorification in a secular and rationalistic world—a human being who is convinced of the dominating power of science and is attached to earthly and temporary things, without any desire for eternity. It also combats any attempted repulsion of the Incarnation of the Word and the “scandal” of the Cross in the name of the absolute transcendence of God and the unbridgeable distance between heaven and earth.

In all these things, dear venerable hierarchs and beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, we Orthodox faithful—filled with the experience of the luminous Resurrection, receive light from the unwaning light and give thanks for all things, keeping our mind on heaven and already possessing from here the pledge and assurance of the eschatological fulfillment of Divine Economy, while also publicly proclaiming: “Christ is Risen!” Therefore, we pray that our Lord who suffered, was buried and arose, may illumine our minds, hearts and whole life, guiding our steps toward every good deed and strengthening His people to witness the Gospel of Love “to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8) for the glory of His name that is “above all names”.

At the Phanar, Holy Pascha 2018
 + Bartholomew of Constantinople
 Your fervent supplicant to the risen Christ

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STEWARDSHIP: A Way Of Life



Thank you! to everyone who assisted with the Holy Week services, the Pascha Cover-Dish Coffee Social, and the egg hunt/activities for the kids! Your time committed to the church is much appreciated!

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6 Reasons Why Tithing is Good for an Orthodox Parish

Excerpt from Fr Andrew Stephen Damick

(...Continued from last week...)

...1. *tithing enables us to be saved...*

2. *tithing shows that we're serious.*

When I speak of tithing here, I am referring most obviously to giving 10% of income, but for this article, you can define tithing as **serious giving**. 10% is serious for most of us. For some of us who are more affluent, 10% is not that serious, and we should do more because we can. And for some of us, 10% is unaffordable, so we need to be serious with another percentage. But the point is to be serious. So if you're not serious, get serious.

How do you know if you're serious? Well, to start with, if you're spending more on cable TV or other forms of entertainment every month than you're giving to the Church, it's a safe guess that you're not being serious about giving.

I love the phrase “put your money where your mouth is.” It's definitely true. Jesus says almost exactly the same thing when He says, “Where

your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6:21, Luke 12:34). Where we put our money proves where are hearts are. Where is *your* heart?

[Have you noticed that our monthly financial summaries tend to be in the negative? Let's all take a step up]

Stewardship of Treasure Guide												
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?												
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe	Tithe	Upper Range Giving	Middle Range Giving	Lower Range Giving							
	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4	\$2
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6	\$3
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14	\$7
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18	\$9
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22	\$11
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).
 2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE% would be.

Continued Next Week With:

3. *tithing is absolutely orthodox.*
4. *tithing becomes ministry.*
5. *tithing ends money problems for the parish*
6. *tithing changes a parish culture.*

From: <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/roadsfromemmaus/2015/10/27/6-reasons-why-tithing-is-good-for-an-orthodox-parish/>

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The Apostle Thomas was one of the fishermen from the Sea of Galilee that surrendered everything he had and followed Christ. It is said in the Holy Scriptures that Thomas, among the other Disciples, refused to believe in the Resurrection of Christ, when he said: "Unless I see

in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." (John 20:25) This is the Gospel reading we repeat today. While we commonly

refer to him as "Doubting Thomas," in the Church Slavonic, his title is more accurately translated as "Believing Thomas," because it was as a result of his encounter with Christ that he came to his belief. It gives credence to the fact that his disbelief, by God's grace, gave way to even greater belief. In his preaching of the Gospel, Thomas eventually would die a martyr's death. He converted the wife and son of the prefect in the Indian City of Meliapur, for which he was locked up in prison, tortured, and pierced with spears.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

Thomas placed his restless hand into Your life-giving side, O Christ our God; and since You entered, although the doors were locked, he cried to You with the other Apostles: "You are my Lord and my God." – *Sunday's Kondak*

MONDAY

"Let listening to worldly news be bitter food for you, and let the words of saintly men be as combs filled with honey." +*St. Basil the Great*

TUESDAY

"God's will is the source of righteousness and the source of goodness" - *Priest Daniel Sysoev*

WEDNESDAY

"Love Christ and put nothing before His Love. He is joy, He is life, He is light. Christ is Everything. He is the ultimate desire, He is everything. Everything beautiful is in Christ." +*St. Porphyrios*

THURSDAY

"As medicines purge the body from the impurity of bad humours, so grievous afflictions purify the heart from evil passions." +*St Isaac the Syrian*

FRIDAY

"It is essential to delve into the law of God, to contemplate, to pore over it, always referring to the holy fathers." - *Priest Daniel Sysoev*

SATURDAY

"When someone abandons himself to God, God does not abandon him." +*Elder Paisios of Mount 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, Anna Mae, Andrew, Julie, Jane, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Matthew, Patricia, Lino, David, Fr James, Edward, and Melissa ...*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... Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, John S., Ameer, Joshua, Ashley, John, and Noella, *our seminarians:* Nathaniel, Vince, Michael, and Daniel, *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, *and for those working towards our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) ...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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Birthday Prayers for... *Father's Uncle Dan Urban (4/15), Father's Father Dave Urban (4/15), Father's Brother-in-law Christopher Ditmore (4/19), and Dr. Lawrence Martin (4/20) ...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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Anniversary Prayers for... John & Theresa Sharpless (4/21) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For those preparing for Marriage... Nicole & Seminarian Subdeacon Nathaniel, Kristyn & Seminarian Vince, and Nicole & Jeffrey ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia & all Holy Martyrs.*

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For Expectant Mothers... Brittany, Harmonie, Pañi Stacey, Aimee, and Lindsay ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Ashley and Patrick ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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For the souls of the newly departed...

...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal Memory!

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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 & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is **NOT** limited to Orthodox Christians.*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

A prayer for our Neighborhoods 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.