



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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



Father Dave Urban, Pastor
Very Reverend Father John Brancho, Pastor Emeritus
Timothy Martin, Reader
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, Cantors
Matthew Peifer, Church Council President
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August 12, 2018

Volume IV

11th Sunday after Pentecost / Apostles Silas and Silvanus of the Seventy

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 2

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12; Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

*Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund / following Coffee Social:
Mystery of Holy Baptism and Initiation into the Orthodox Faith of Noella Gaydos*

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, August 14 – Dormition Fast Begins / 9:30am Akathist in Honor of the Dormition

Thursday, August 16 – 9:30am Akathist to the Theotokos, Healer of Cancer

Saturday, August 18 – 11-1 Mystery of Holy Confession offered

The opportunity for the Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

Monday	Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia (9th c.)	2 Corinthians 5:10-15	Mark 1:9-15
* Tuesday	Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord (1164)	2 Corinthians 5:15-21	Mark 1:16-22
* Wednesday	Blessed Basil of Moscow, fool-for-Christ (1552)	2 Corinthians 6:11-16	Mark 1:23-28
* Thursday	Venerable Anthony the Roman (1147)	2 Corinthians 7:1-10	Mark 1:29-35
* Friday	Holy 7 Youths (the "7 Sleepers") of Ephesus	2 Corinthians 7:10-16	Mark 2:18-22
* Saturday	Martyr Eusignius of Antioch (362)	1 Corinthians 1:26-29	Matthew 20:29-34

* *Dormition (Theotokos) Fast - Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did.*

Sunday, August 19 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost / Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 3

Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12/2 Peter 1:1-19; Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35/Matthew 17:1-9

YOUTH Sunday / Blessing of Grapes and other Fruits and Vegetables / Blessing of Students

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

**Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)
Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava Na Viki!)**

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 Father 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:
for prayers for Good
Health of
granddaughter,
Noella Gaydos,
on her day of Baptism
and Chrismation.
May God grant her
many and blessed
years!*

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Friday/Saturday, August 24/25 – 9a-3p Annual Garage Sale (*Helpers are needed!*)

Sunday, August 26 – Fr Robert Prepelka to serve / Additional collection for our Community Outreach

Sunday, September 2 – Blessing of Flowers and Herbs / Panachida for +Andrew Gogal (40th day)

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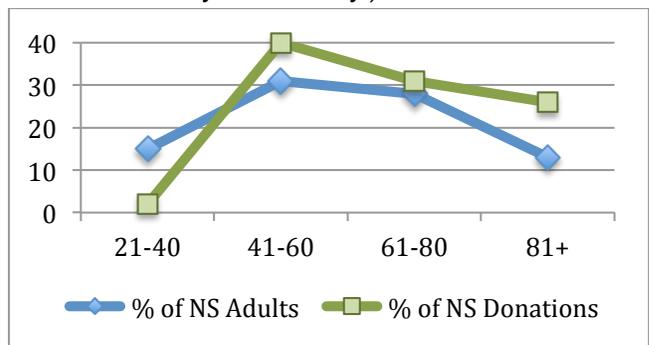
PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

2017 Donation Summary by Age Group

	21-40	41-60	61-80	81+	non-NS
% of adults	15	31	28	13	13
% of Donations	2	40	31	26	1

I found this interesting. This chart shows us that our adult participation in Liturgical services is like a "bell curve" (see the blue line on the chart). In the spirit of stewardship, we are called to share our time, talents, and treasures with God and the Church. In terms of treasures, we can see from what age groups our charity and bills are paid. Let us encourage and teach our children the importance of giving back to God for everything we have comes from Him.



Offering (from My Little Bible ABC's):
God said, "Bring me an offering, from all those whose hearts make them willing to give."
(Exodus 25:2)

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Joanne Nelson, Cindy Pavilionis, Viola Peifer, Olga Radick, Theresa Sharpless, Melanie Shuster, 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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Relocation Update – After the architect gave us a preliminary zoning analysis, the relocation committee discussed this past week that the 1.9 acres is too small to allow enough parking spaces and the necessary green space needed (*according to Franklin Park*). The next step is to pursue an abutting property to eliminate this issue. *More updates will continue to come...*

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Garage Sale Helpers Needed! – There is a sign up sheet in the church hall looking for helpers for the upcoming Garage Sale at the end of August. Items will need to be cleaned, organized on the tables, priced, then assistance will be needed the weekend of the sale, and it also takes time to pack everything up after the sale. Please sign up and give a little of your time towards this wonderful stewardship event of our parish!

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Additional Dormition Fast Services – on **Tuesday and Thursday** we will have additional services for the Dormition Fast: (1) the Akathist in Honor of Her Dormition and (2) an

Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos, *Healer of Cancer*. We invite all to come who are in need of the healing touch of the *Queen of All*. The 2nd service is dedicated to the Theotokos and is specifically asking for her intercessions for healing of cancer and all ailments. The hymns of this particular Akathist will console anyone who is suffering from cancer or who has loved ones that are ill. Come and bring a friend for this service that gives strength and hope during a time of suffering and pain.

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The Blessing of the First Fruits – Next week, **Sunday, August 19th**, we will bless our 'first fruits' from our gardens (or purchased from the grocery store). **Everyone** is encouraged to bring in a bowl, basket, or bushel of fruits and/or vegetables!

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Student Blessing – Next Sunday we will also have the blessing of students before the school year begins.

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Exploring Orthodoxy Returns! – Beginning Wednesday, September 5th at 7pm we will meet at the Eat 'n Park off of the Wexford exit of 79 for our Exploring Orthodoxy Discussions. I pray that you will be able to join us! There will be 6 sessions total this fall.

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Prayer Request – Please continue to pray for our parish community and the journey that we are on together!

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Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 354
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 92
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 163
Total Collections:	\$ 629
Relocation Fund:	\$ 20
<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>	

Relocation Fund – This restricted fund is for the future of our parish. It may be used as part of our Phase 1 research or Phase 2 of an opportunity that we pursue. The important goal is for this fund to grow so that our parish has a chance to grow. As a reminder, *monies that are donated towards this fund will strictly be used towards our relocation*. In the event that we do not relocate, the monies will be distributed between Camp Nazareth or Christ the Saviour Seminary. *Your kind generosity is greatly appreciated!*

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July Financial Report:
Donation Income = \$ 6383.78
*Expenses = \$ 6197.61
Net Income = \$ 186.17
<i>*details listed on the church hall bulletin board</i>
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 42

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Coat Drive – *Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before the last coat drive? (...but it still looks good and you don't want to get rid of it?) We are now collecting clean coats and jackets, in good condition, to donate to FOCUS Pittsburgh this August. We will collect the clean coats on the coat rack in the hall.*

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Flea Market
F • U • N
MARSHALL
SHADELAND AREA
ETHIC FOOD KITCHEN

Eat in or Take Out
August 24th & 25th
Fri. 9am-3pm, Sat. 9am-3pm
St John The Baptist Orthodox Church
2688 California Ave, 15212
"LOOK FOR THE GOLD DOMES!"
Plus FLEA MARKET with 100's of items \$1.00 or less
Lots of Great Items.
All Welcome!

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

August 19: **OPEN / "Pot Luck"**
August 26: **OPEN / "Pot Luck"**
September 2: **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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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Lk. 6:31)

- Sign up to help at the garage sale
- Pray for our parish and it's future
 - Sponsor a Coffee Social
 - Donate towards our coat drive

Visit Our Diocese On-Line

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

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **August 14-16** – International Village (Eden Park Boulevard and University Drive, McKeesport, PA 15132)
- **August 16-19** – Presentation of Christ (1672 Electric Ave., East Pittsburgh) *Greek*
- **August 17-18** – St Spyridon (1207 Grand Blvd., Monessen) *Greek*
- **August 29-September 2** – Holy Trinity (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh) *Greek*



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Russian Balalaika Orchestra of Pittsburgh Concert – The R.B.O.P. has received rave reviews from folk music aficionados since its formation in 2014. They will perform this free concert on **Sunday, August 26th** from 2-3pm at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213). Call 412-622-3114 with any questions.

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

²If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴Do we not have the right to our food and drink? ⁵Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

⁸Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? ⁹For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. ¹¹If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? ¹²If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

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Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; ²⁵and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; ³³and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The Holy Disciple from the Seventy: Silas

Commemorated on August 12 / July 30

The Holy Disciple from the Seventy, Silas, was a disciple of the Saviour.

The Disciple from the Seventy, Saint Silas, was a respected figure in the original Church at Jerusalem, "of the chief men amongst the brethren" (Acts 15:22). The Council of the



Apostles was convened at Jerusalem in the year 51 to deal with the question, whether it be necessary for Christians converted from among the Gentile-pagans to observe the (Old Testament) Mosaic Law [the Law-code contained in the Pentateuch, or Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament]. The Apostles afterwards sent a message with Paul and Barnabas to the Antioch

Christians, in which they reported by resolve of the Council, Christians of Gentile-pagan origin were free from having to observe the precepts of the Mosaic Law. But it was prescribed for them, nonetheless, that they refrain of partaking of foods offered to idols, from things strangled and from blood, to refrain from fornication, and to do naught else than that which be seemly (Acts 15: 20-29). Together with Saints Paul and Barnabas, the Council of the Apostles sent along members of the Jerusalem Church, Saints Silas and Jude, to explain the message in greater detail, since they both were filled with the indwelling grace of the Holy Spirit. Saint Jude thereafter was sent back to Jerusalem, but Saint Silas remained at Antioch and zealously assisted Saint Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, on his missionary journeys preaching the Gospel. They visited Syria, Cilicia, Macedonia.

In the city of Philippi they were accused of inciting unrest among the people, and for this they were arrested, thrashed with canes, and then thrown into prison. At midnight, when the holy saints were at prayer, suddenly there occurred a strong earthquake, their chains fell off from them and the doors of the prison opened. The prison guard, supposing that the prisoners had fled, wanted to kill himself, but was stopped by the Apostle Paul. Then, all atremble he fell down at the feet of the saints, and with faith accepted their "good-news" about Christ. He then led them out of the prison and took them to his own home, where he washed their wounds, and was baptised together with all his household.

At Corinth the holy Disciple Silas was ordained bishop, and he there worked many a miracle and sign, and there too he finished his life.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Family Fasting Tips for the Dormition Fast

By Sarah Wright: an Orthodox Christian, a wife, a mother of three, a teacher, and a writer.

Summer is almost over. Back to school sales abound. Teachers are busy prepping rooms, lessons, and materials. And children everywhere are getting in the last bits of vacation that they can.

In the Church we have another sign that summer is nearly over—the Dormition Fast begins. In the Orthodox Church, we observe this fast from **August 14th to August 28th** in preparation for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. This is the feast where we remember the falling asleep of the Mother of God.

As with other fasts, during this time Orthodox Christians abstain from all meat, [and strictly speaking, dairy, oil, and wine]. **We simplify our diets in order to focus on the spiritual life.** Here are a few tips that may help you and your family:

1. Keep Meals Simple

During fasting seasons, we are called to simplify our meals and focus on the spiritual realities of life. This can be hard to do if we are constantly trying to research great-tasting fasting meals, finding substitutes for our favorite treats, or spending hours in the kitchen each day. **My advice? Keep the meals extremely simple and inexpensive.**

Our family will be eating a lot of fresh produce (*one of the best things about fasting at this time of the year!*). We're talking corn on the cob, salads, peaches and other fruits, etc. I try to add a bit of protein to each meal with some beans or nuts. One of our favorite meals is beans and rice with grilled veggie kabobs. So easy and so tasty!

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Orthodoxy is Not Magic: Our Orthodoxy must not be allowed to be mere formulas

We can't just order up that which God has for us, but we must make sure we are open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Making life around the Church a high priority in our week can serve as a good start, but Orthodoxy is by nature a faith that demands full participation and deep commitment, otherwise it becomes just

2. Try to Lower Your Grocery Bill and Give the Difference

During the fasting seasons, the Church invites the faithful to enter more deeply into a life of prayer and almsgiving. **One easy way to do this is to eat more simply and inexpensively during this time. Then, we can give the money that was saved to the poor.**

For example, we currently have a \$100 a week grocery budget in our house. If I can manage to save \$20 each week since I won't be buying dairy and meat, we can give \$40 to our church or a charity. We could even use that money to buy canned goods to donate to a local food bank.

3. Study the Life of the Theotokos Together as a Family

It's important to remember that fasting is not all about the food. We abstain from foods as we try to abstain from sin. We also focus our attention on the spiritual disciplines. **One great discipline to practice as a family is that of spiritual study.** Read the Bible or Bible stories at meal times, read the lives of the saints, and study spiritual texts.

4. Pray Together More Frequently

The fasts are also a good time to start, renew, or revamp your family prayer routine. If you currently do not pray together as a family, perhaps you could start praying at mealtimes. If you pray before dinner, could you try to pray the Evening Prayers together afterward? If your Evening Prayer routine is solid, what about trying to begin a habit of Morning Prayers?

May God bless your fasting and your feasting!

www.orthodoxmotherhood.com/family-fasting-tips-dormition-fast/

another religion, devoid of salvific, transformational value.

If Orthodoxy is to be something other than mere magic, with the priest as some sort of wizard who performs the right formulas, thus allowing us to feel we've done all that is needed, our Orthodoxy will have failed us. Do we read the daily prescribed scripture readings? Do the lives of the saints impact our lives, because we read about

them? Are we preparing ourselves for the Saturday night confession by taking note of our sins during the week, and being ready to be accountable before God, with the priest as our witness? Are we holding up the Orthodox standard in our public life, or do we allow ourselves to be lost in the crowd, dismissing our obligations to God during the week?

It is always good to have a spiritual father or regular confessor, but the absence of one can not be an excuse for living our Christianity lite. If we allow our pride to keep us from disclosing our sins in confession, we doom ourselves to mediocrity, and will see no spiritual growth whatsoever. If we feel we need not challenge ourselves to a deeper

walk with Christ, because others probably won't notice, we cheat both God and ourselves.

The spiritual life is an adventure, full of pitfalls AND great heights. If we take this journey as the prime reason for living, the reward will be great. If we try living our life with the Church placed in a secondary roll, we will end our lives as losers, and having lost the battle and the reward. The road to paradise must begin with a commitment to make this journey our main priority. We are on a journey, and it begins with that first step. Christ stands with us, ready to lift us up when we fall, and even pull us along when we stumble or grow fainthearted.

With Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

"If we have a strong relationship with God, this will distinguish our relationship with others. We will be able to be a source of peace, tranquility, and comfort to them." +St. Anthony the Great

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"One evil reinforces another; likewise, good things also increase because of each other and urge the person who shares in them on to better things." +St Mark the Ascetic

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"The knowledge of God does not dwell in a pleasure loving body, and the man who loves his own body will not obtain divine gifts." +St Isaac the Syrian

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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... Julie, Jane, Mildred, Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Gary, Lino, David, Melissa, Louis, Marjorie, Jonathan, Danielle, June, Helen, Alexander, Steven, Thomas, Bishop Antony, Doug ...*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, John, Kathryn, Ashley, John, and Noella, Rose *our seminarians:* 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, Todd *and for those working towards our Community Outreach, The DDD (Distinguished Diocesan Donors) ...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... Nicole Martellotti (8/12), Jim Schrmack (8/12), Jane Gaydos (8/13), Wade Winkler (8/14), Donna Horbal (8/17), Emma Martellotti (8/18) ...*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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For those preparing for Marriage... Nicole & Jeffrey ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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For Expectant Mothers... Lindsay, Mary Ann, Elyse, and Lauren ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and 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 those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

A prayer from the Akathist to the Theotokos, 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.