



# 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  
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Volume IV

## 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 6<sup>th</sup> Lukan Sunday / Venerable Abramius (1073)

9:15am – 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 7

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22; Gospel: Luke 8:26-39  
Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund



### SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, November 15 – 9:30am Moleben to the Theotokos with holy anointing  
The opportunity for the Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

Monday	Hieromartyr Zenobius of Aegae, Cilicia (285)	2 Thess 1:1-10	Luke 11:29-33
Tuesday	Venerables Spyridon & Nicodemus the Proshporabakers (1148)	2 Thess 1:10-2:2	Luke 11:34-41
* Wednesday	Holy Wonderworkers Cosmas & Damian (3rd c.)	2 Thess 2:1-12	Luke 11:42-46
Thursday	Martyrs Aphthonius, Elpidophorus, & Anempodistus (341)	2 Thess 2:13-3:5	Luke 11:47-12:1
* Friday	Martyrs Acepshimas, Joseph, and Aeithalasthe (376)	2 Thess 3:6-18	Luke 12:2-12
Saturday	Venerable Ioannicius the Great of Bithynia (846)	Hebrews 2:2-10	Luke 9:1-6

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

Sunday, November 18 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost / 7<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Luke / St. Paul the Confessor (350)

9:15am – 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 8

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6; Gospel: Luke 8:41-56  
YOUTH Sunday / 2pm Turkey Bingo

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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:

If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please do so by signing up on the sheet on the table in the Vestibule of the Church or by contacting Fr. Dave. An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Thursday, November 22 (Thanksgiving) – 9:30am Moleben to St. Nectarios with holy anointing

Sunday, November 25 – God Parent/Child(ren) Sunday / Additional Collection for our Community Outreach (IOCC) / Panachida for deceased God Parents and Children

Wednesday, November 28 – Nativity Fast Begins – 9:30am Moleben for the Nativity Fast

Saturday, December 1 – 11a-1p Mystery of Holy Confession offered

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### PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



**Godparents / Godchildren Sunday** – Our Annual Godparents celebration will be **Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**, 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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**Relocation Update** – The question has been recently asked a few times: Are utilities included in the monthly lease at 110 VIP Drive in Wexford? YES. Gas, electric, and water are included.

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#### Reader of the Third Hour:

November 18: Available to you  
November 25: Available to you  
December 2: Available to you

This should begin by 9:15 and can be read or chanted. Please contact Fr Dave if you are interested in participating in this wonderful stewardship prayer opportunity!

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**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Barbara Kirish; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilionis

***"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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**Congratulations!** to Marianne and Steve Kubis and their families on the birth of **Nicholas Joseph Kubis** born on 11/6 (7 lb 10 oz and 19.5 in). 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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**Annual Turkey Bingo** – will occur on **Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Donation is \$10 for admission which includes 3 cards. The doors will open at **2pm** and the games begin at 3pm. All Bingo winners will receive a turkey as a prize. Plan to have supper at the church hall as the *Carpathian Kitchen* will be open and plenty of refreshments will be available.

In conjunction with the bingo, we will also have an Auction, Food Basket Raffle, and baked goods available.

We ask you to help to **donate unexpired food and/or paper products to be a part of the food basket raffle**, and to prepare some homemade baked goods to be sold the afternoon of the bingo.

*Advertising flyers have been made. Please let Father know how many you want and he will print them for you. \*\*\* Form letters are also available to approach businesses for supplies or donations.*

**WE NEED STEWARDS (VOLUNTEERS)**  
**To Step Forward With Your Time, Talents,**  
**And God Given Gifts To Make This A**  
**Successful Community Event!**

Please see a Church Council member to offer your help

*Thank you in advance for your support!*

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### ACRY NEWS



**Lots-O-Luck Calendars** – *The National ACRY Lots-O-Luck Calendars are available. \$25 per ticket for a year's worth of prizes totaling \$10,000! Please see Theresa Sharpless for tickets.*

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**ACRY Annual / Diocesan Yearbook** - This will be the 1<sup>st</sup> year that the Annual will be published in COLOR. It will also be provided for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in a digital format online for worldwide accessibility. Non-ACRY members can purchase an Annual for \$15. Please contact Theresa Sharpless if you are interested.

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**Soup or Chili Sale** – Our ACRY will be selling soup for \$4 a pint on **Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**. Plan to take home a couple varieties home to keep you warm.

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### Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues: \$ 772  
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: \$ 140  
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special: \$ 356  
**Total Collections: \$ 1268**

**Relocation Fund: \$ 150**

*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*



### Moleben Thanksgiving Morning –

There is no better way to begin the day than in prayer. This year, the Feast of St. Nectarios falls **on Thanksgiving**.

Let's gather at 9:30am for a Moleben to St. Nectarios, Patron Saint of those battling cancer or for Meeting a Difficult Situation. *(The Moleben service is not long... plan your Thanksgiving Dinner cooking around coming to church to pray in community.)*

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### St Nicholas Charity Dinner

for the Pittsburgh Deanery will be on **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** at Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pittsburgh, PA

15235). Doors open at **4pm** with a Buffett Dinner at **5**. This annual dinner benefits our *Christ the Saviour Seminary*. Adults - \$30; Children 6-12 - \$10; Under 5 Free. *(Please make checks payable to "Pittsburgh Deanery".)* Please see Fr Dave by **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** for your ticket(s). *Auction Prize Donations (\*which may be combined with other donations\*) to be raffled off at the dinner can be given to Father.*

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**Christmas at FOCUS** – We have again offered to donate 4 sheet cakes, 300 bottles of water, 300 napkins, and 300 plasticware sets to FOCUS Pittsburgh for their annual Christmas Dinner for those in need. In addition, they are asking for \$25 gift cards from Target. Please see **Kathy Schmack** if you are able to make a physical or monetary donation towards this wonderful event which will be held on **Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**. *Your prayers and stewardship are greatly appreciated!*

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### Winter Church Clean-Up & Nativity Decorating

– will be on **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** from 9am to noon(ish). More details to come...

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### Coffee Social Steward Schedule

November 18: ??? *(Turkey Bingo Day)*

November 25: *Available to you*

December 2: *Available to you*

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### Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

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

- Pray for our parish and it's future
- Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Offer to Read/Chant the Third Hour

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### Visit Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddiocese](http://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](http://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
You Tube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](http://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

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## ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Orthodoxy on Tap – Scheduled for today, **November 11<sup>th</sup>**, has been postponed.

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**Becoming Truly Human - Small Group Leaders Workshop** - You are invited to attend a very special workshop on **Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>** (10:30 am - 4 pm) to train those interested in knowing more about reaching out those in our community who are NOT Orthodox and likely have little or no church background. This 5-hour workshop being held at St. George Orthodox Cathedral (3400 Dawson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213) is open to all of those who would like to learn more about introducing their friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to the Orthodox church using a very relational approach which demonstrates respect and builds trust. We ask that those attending bring a \$25 donation to "Truly Human, LLC" to help cover some of the costs of the materials related to this workshop. Please go this link to register: [www.becomingtrulyhuman.com/register](http://www.becomingtrulyhuman.com/register).

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## IN THE COMMUNITY

**Christmas Around the World** – The National Slovak Society presents Christmas Around the World on **Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>** from 1p-5p at the NSS Heritage Museum (351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317). There will be ethnic trees on display, photos with St. Nicholas (bring your own camera), old world bake sale, kid's arts & crafts, food, and a hand carved animated Nativity display. FREE admission & Family Fun. Call 1-800-488-1890 for more information.

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: [www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar) © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

### **The Monk Avramii (Abraham), Archimandrite of Rostov**

*Commemorated on Nov 11 / Oct 29*

The Monk Avramii (Abraham), Archimandrite of Rostov, in the world Averkii, in his youth left from his parental home and entered upon the path of Christian asceticism. Having assumed the monastic form, Avramii settled at Rostov on the shore of Lake Nero. In the Rostov lands there were then yet many pagans, and the monk worked intensely at spreading the true faith. Not far off from the cell of the Saint there was a pagan temple, where the pagans worshipped a stone idol of Veles (Volos), which caused fright among the inhabitants of Rostov. In a miraculous vision the Apostle John the Theologian came to stand before Avramii, and gave him a staff crowned with a cross atop, with which the monk destroyed the idol. At the place of the pagan temple, Saint Avramii founded a monastery in honour of the Theophany and became its head. And in memory of the miraculous appearance, the monk erected a church in the name of the Apostle John the Theologian. Many of the pagans were persuaded and baptised by Saint Avramii. Particularly great was his influence with



the children: he taught them reading and writing, he instructed them in the law of God, and tonsured monastics from amongst them. Everyone coming to the monastery of the saint was lovingly accepted. His life was a constant work of prayer and toil for the benefit of the brethren: he chopped firewood for the oven, he laundered the monks clothing and carried water for the kitchen. The monk reposed in old age and was buried in the church of the Theophany (+ XI Century). His holy relics were uncovered during the time of Greatprince Vsevolod (1176-1212). In the year 1551 tsar Ivan the Terrible, before his campaign against Kazan, made the rounds of holy places. At the Theophany-Avramiev monastery the showed him that staff, with which the Monk Avramii had destroyed the idol of Veles. The tsar took the staff with him on the campaign, but the cross remained at the monastery. And returning again after the subjugation of the Kazan khanate, Ivan the Terrible gave orders to build at the Avramiev monastery a new stone church in honour of the Theophany, with four chapels, and he sent there books and icons.

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## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*"Of all the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures."* +Saint John Chrysostom

### **Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22**

14 For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace

to those who were near; 18 for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; 22 in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

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**Gospel: Luke 8:26-39**

**Jesus Heals the Gerasene Demoniac**

26 Then they arrived at the country of the Ger'asenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 And as he stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." 29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) 30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. 32 Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them

leave. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 36 And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Ger'asenes[b]asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but he sent him away, saying, 39 "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

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**SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK**

**SUNDAY**

"Anger is by nature designed for waging war with the demons and for struggling with every kind of sinful pleasure. Therefore angels, arousing spiritual pleasure in us and giving us to taste its blessedness, incline us to direct our anger against the demons. But the demons, enticing us towards worldly lusts, make us use anger to fight with men, which is against nature, so that the mind, thus stupefied and darkened, should become a traitor to virtues." - Abba Evagrius the Monk

**MONDAY**

"Let this always be the aim of your conduct: to be courteous and respectful to all." +St. Isaac the Syrian, bishop of Nineveh

**TUESDAY**

"Our soul is simple, as the image and likeness of God; therefore, when it is well-regulated and is living in accordance with the will of God, then it is peaceful, easy, and joyous; whilst, on the contrary, when it consents to sin, commits sin, or is forced into sin by the Enemy, then it becomes disturbed, darkened, and heavy. Thus, always do the will of God, and you will be simple and quiet; but if you sin you will have no peace." +St. John of Kronstadt

**WEDNESDAY**

"True fasting lies in rejecting evil, holding one's tongue, suppressing one's hatred, and banishing one's lust, evil words, lying, and betrayal of vows." +St. Basil the Great

**THURSDAY**

"God in His goodness has arranged things perfectly, so that with our gifts, we can help each other, and with our faults, we can be humbled by each other. For every person has some gifts; but everyone also has some faults which one must struggle to overcome." +St. Paisios of Mount Athos

**FRIDAY**

"The cross is not only a place of divine justice; it is also a place for love to the point of death." – Metropolitan Saba (Esber)

**SATURDAY**

"Everything we do, our every objective, must be undertaken for the sake of... purity of heart... we must practice the reading of the Scripture, together with all the other virtuous activities... to hold our hearts free of the harm of every dangerous passion and in order to rise step by step to the high point of love." +St John Cassian

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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, June, Helen, Steven, Thomas, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N., Danielle ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; & St. Panteleimon, the Healer.

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**For the Special Intentions of...** Bishop Gregory, Marianne, Steve, Christopher, Nicholas, 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, Lawrence, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Donald, Jane, Eleanor, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Margaret, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach, IOCC ...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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**Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):** . (Please contact Fr Dave with your date.)

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**Birthday Prayers for...** Dustin Kovats (11/12), John Sharpless (11/13), Cindy Pavilonis (11/14)...*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 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 preparing for Marriage...** ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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**Anniversary Prayers for...** Thomas & Harmonie (Scherer) Torchia (11/12) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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**For Expectant Mothers...** Lindsay, Elyse, Lauren, Pañi Marianna, Faith, Pañi Eleni  
...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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**For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...** Thomas R. Dzadoovsky, Devin Meegan, and Trevor Meegan ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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**For the souls of the newly departed...** +Susan Semancik ...*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:

### **Psalm 16 from the Third Hour**

#### *Prayer Against Persecutors*

Lord give heed to my righteousness, attend to my supplication.

Consider my prayer, which does not come from dishonest lips.

Let my judgment ensue directly from Your attention, let my eyes behold uprightness.

You have proved my heart, You have visited me in the night,

You have tried me with fire, and have found no unrighteousness in me.

In order that my mouth might not speak about the accomplishments of mankind,

I have struggled on hard paths for the sake of the words of Your lips.

Set my footsteps in Your paths, that my steps may not falter.

I have cried out to You because You have heard me.

O God, listen in my favor and hear my words.

Let Your mercies be made wonderful, O Lord, Who save those who hope in You.

From those who have resisted Your strength, keep me, O Lord, as the apple of Your eye.

In the shelter of Your wings, protect me, from the pretense of the ungodly who have oppressed me.

My enemies have surrounded my soul.

They have enclosed themselves with their own fat, their mouths have voiced arrogance.

They who have cast me out have now encircled me,

They have set their eyes to look askance on the earth.

They have taken me as might a lion ready for its prey, and as might a lion's whelp that lurks in hiding.

Arise, O Lord, overtake them and trip their heels;

deliver my soul from ungodly men, Your sword from Your enemies.

O Lord, from Your chosen ones separate them from the earth during their life;

indeed, they have filled themselves with Your hidden treasures.

They have satisfied themselves with swine and have left the remnants to their children.

But as for me, I shall appear in righteousness before You.