



# 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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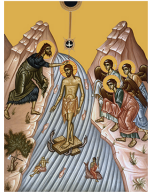
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January 20, 2019

Volume IV

## 34<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday after Theophany of our Lord / Feast of the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

9:20am – Canon; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: Gold  
Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Sunday After / Acts 19:1-8 Forerunner; Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17 / John 1:29-34  
Youth Sunday



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

Annual Home Blessings through March 9

Tuesday, January 22 – Parastas for all aborted babies

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

Monday	Venerable Domnica of Constantinople (395)	Hebrews 8:7-13	Mark 8:11-21
Tuesday	Martyr Polyeuctus of Melitene in Armenia (259)	Hebrews 9:8-10, 15-23	Mark 8:22-26
* Wednesday	St. Gregory of Nyssa (395)	Hebrews 10:1-18	Mark 8:30-34
Thursday	Venerable Theodosius the Great, the Cenobiarch (529)	Hebrews 10:35-11:7	Mark 9:10-16
* Friday	Martyr Tatiana of Rome (226-235)	Hebrews 11:8, 11-16	Mark 9:33-41
Saturday	Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus at Belgrade (315)	Ephesians 5:1-8	Luke 14:1-11

\* Let us imitate Christ & the Saints & Fast as they did!

Sunday, January 27 – 35<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Leave-taking (Otdaniye) of the Feast of Theophany / St Nina (Nino), equal-to-the-Apostles, enlightener of Georgia (335)

9:20am – Canon; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 2 Liturgical Color: Gold  
Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16; Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

Additional Collection for our Community Outreach / 40<sup>th</sup> Day Panachida offered by families

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### A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Christ Is Baptized! (responded with: In the Jordan!)

Christos Kreščajetsja! (Vo Jordaňi!)

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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Thursday, January 31 – 9:30am Moleben to St. Nectarios with holy anointing

Wednesday, February 6 – 9:30am Akathist to St. Xenia of Petersburg with anointing

Sunday, February 10 – Zacchaeus Sunday / Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

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### PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



Parastas – We will have a Parastas (Memorial Service) for all aborted babies on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30am. The Orthodox Church believes in the sanctity of life and that life begins at conception. In the Gospel of Luke, we read of Mary's visit to Elizabeth when both were pregnant (with Jesus and John the Baptist): "For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (Luke 1:44) Let's gather in prayer on Tuesday morning.

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40<sup>th</sup> Day Panachida (Memorial Service) – In a string of just over a week in mid-December, multiple folks passed away from our parish and in

my life (+John Smoley, +Julia Potoski, +Beatrice Stagon, +Charles Maresh, +Mildred Gavulich, +Carl Magidc). The practice in the Orthodox Church is to remember them in each Liturgy for 40 days and to have a Panachida on (around) the 40<sup>th</sup> day. (This is in the memory of our Lord's Ascension 40 days after His Resurrection.) We will have this on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> following the Divine Liturgy. May their memory be eternal!

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Home Blessings have begun. Fr Dave is interested in visiting and catching up with EVERYONE this coming Theophany season. Please talk with him to set up a time.



**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Barbara Kirish; Kathy Schrmack; Joanne Nelson; Rich Milirovich; Cindy Pavilonis.

***"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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**Thank You!** to everyone who offered items and/or purchased tickets for the ACRY Christmas Raffle! It was successful and, again, lots of fun for all!

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**Holy Water Reminders:**

Do Not Hoard Old Holy Water:

While Holy Water does not "go bad", it is best to refresh your water each year. Holy Water from the previous Theophany should be poured outside (*preferably on the corner of your house or in a garden where people are not going to walk on it*). The best scenario is to drink the water in the mornings, use in cooking, etc.

2019 Holy Water Available To Take Home:

Please plan to take Holy Water home with you! Bring in a container and fill it up. Holy Water can be drank when we are feeling under the weather. You may bless one another with holy water (*together with the sign of the Cross*) prior to tests for our children in school, big days at the office, or before doctor appointments.

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**Sign Up Sheets** – *The much-anticipated 2019 sign up sheets for our Coffee Social Ministry and Sponsoring Bulletins are available in the church hall and vestibule.*

*IF every family takes the coffee social for one week – the year will be filled! Please consider being a part of this stewardship ministry of our church.*

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**Kidney Donor Needed** - From the office of our Diocesan Chancellor, Very Rev. Protopresbyter Frank P. Miloro: We have received a request from our parishioners – Anna, Ron and Jacob Markosky – at St. John's Church in Ligonier (Wilpen), PA. Their son, Jacob (age 33) was born with Polycystic Kidney Disease, a genetic disorder in which there is growth of multiple cysts in the kidneys. At the age of 3, Jake had a transplant from his dad which has lasted for 30 years. It's now failing. Jake's mother, Anna, intended to be a donor, but after testing she was not found to be compatible. They are now looking for a donor. Any interested person may call Living Donor – Pittsburgh UPMC at (412) 864-5475 or go on-line for more information. God bless them in their search. Sincerely, Fr. Frank Miloro, Chancellor.

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**ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH**



**Orthodoxy on Tap** - The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) are heading to the South Hills. We will gather on **Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm for the Pens Game and an informal Q&A with the clergy at Primanti Brothers (1539 Washington Rd, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228). All young adults ages 21-39(ish) are welcome! Please email poyapittsburgh@gmail.com with suggestions for future locations and activities!

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**Soup Sampling** to benefit IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) will be on Saturday, **February 9<sup>th</sup>** from 11am-2pm at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt. Lebanon across from the Galleria Mall (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15228). *Sample five homemade soups for \$10 and then take a quart home for a \$10 donation.* Youth Groups & Children's Ministries from all jurisdictions will be assembling health kits. All area youth are invited! Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies. To sponsor kits, call Nick Terezis at 724-282-5198. You can register to purchase soup at: iocc.org/Pittsburgh

**Our Stewardship Gift To God**

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 101
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 113
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 511
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 725</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 100</b>

*Give Generously: "For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own free will." 2 Cor 8:3*

**Third Hour** – Next Sunday (1/27) is the last week for the Theophany Canon to be sung prior to the Divine Liturgy, we will return to having the Third Hour. *This 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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**Snowed In? Physically unable to make it to church?** – Our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to watch our Cathedral's Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9am. Of course, the best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist. When limitations occur, please take the time Sunday morning to pray with our brothers and sisters via the web. Go to [www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/) to watch the *live broadcast*.

**Parish Stewardship Opportunities...**

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

- Bring in a bag of CALCIUM CHLORIDE
- Pray for our parish and it's future
- Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Offer your time to help with possible snow

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**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

- January 27: **Available to you**
- February 3: Kathy Schrmack
- February 10: **Available to you**

*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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**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](https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)
- You Tube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](https://youtube.com/acroddiocese)



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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

### **Assemblage ("Sobor" or Synaxis") of the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. Martyr Athanasias of Attaleia (+ 1770)**

*Commemorated on January 20/7*

Assemblage ("Sobor" or Synaxis") of the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. Martyr Athanasias of Attaleia (+ 1770).

In the Orthodox Church the custom was established, that on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, would be remembered those saints who most essentially participated in whichever the sacred event. And thus, on the day following after the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honours he that participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, indeed placing his own hand upon the head of the Saviour. Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, termed by our Lord the greatest of the prophets, both concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens up the epoch of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John gave witness concerning the arrival on earth of the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnated humanly in the flesh. Saint John was deemed worthy to baptise Him in the waters of the Jordan and he was a witness of the Theophany or Manifestation of the MostHoly Trinity on the day of the Baptism of the Saviour. The holy Prophet John was a kinsman of the Lord on His mother's side, the son of the Priest Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth. The holy Forerunner of the Lord, John, was born six months earlier than Christ Jesus. The Archangel Gabriel was the messenger of his birth, in the Jerusalem Temple revealing to his father, that for him a son was to be born. Through the prayers offered up beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saint John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people. At the age of about 30 years he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared at the banks of the Jordan, by his preaching to prepare the people for acceptance of the Saviour of the world. In the expression of churchly song, Saint John was a "bright morning star", whose gleaming outshone the shining of all the other stars, announcing the coming morning of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Son, – our Lord Jesus Christ. Having baptised the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of king Herod in fulfilling the request of his daughter Salome. (About Saint John the Baptist, vide: Mt. 3: 1-16, 11: 1-19, 14: 1-12; Mk. 1: 2-8, 6: 14-29; Lk. 1: 5-25, 39-80, 3: 1-20, 7: 18-35, 9: 7-9; Jn. 1: 19-34, 3: 22-26).

On this day is commemorated also the Transfer of the Right Hand of the holy Forerunner from Antioch to Tsargrad (956) and the Miracle of Saint John the Forerunner against the Hagarites (Mahometans) at Chios:



The body of Saint John the Baptist was buried in the Samaritan city of Sebasteia. The holy Evangelist Luke, in making the rounds preaching Christ in various cities and towns, came in time to Sebasteia, where they gave over to him the right hand of the holy Prophet John, the very hand with which he had baptised the Saviour. The Evangelist Luke took it with him to his native city of Antioch. When the Mahometans centuries later seized possession of Antioch, a deacon named Job transported the holy hand of the Forerunner from Antioch to Chalcedon. From there, on the very eve of the Theophany of the Lord, it was transferred to Constantinople (956) and kept thereafter. In the year 1200 the Russian pilgrim Dobrynya – who was later to become the holy Archbishop of Novgorod Antonii (Comm. 10 February), saw the right hand of the Forerunner in the imperial palaces. From the Acts of the Saints it is known, that in the year 1263 during the seizure of Constantinople by the Crusaders, the emperor Baldwin gave over one bone from the wrist of Saint John the Baptist to Ottonus de Cichon, who then gave it over to a Cistercian abbey in France. The right hand continued to be kept in Constantinople. And at the end of the XIV thru beginning XV Centuries the holy relic was seen at Constantinople in the Peribleptos monastery by the Russian pilgrims: Stefan Novgorodets, deacon Ignatii, the cantor Alexander and deacon Zosima. But with the capture of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453, sacred objects were gathered up at the whim of the conqueror and preserved in the imperial treasury, all locked up.

In the Acts of the Saints is presented clear testimony, that in the year 1484 the right hand of the holy Forerunner was given away by the son of the Mahometan sultan Bayazet to the Rhodes knights to gain their good-will, since a dangerous rival for Bayazet – his own brother, had situated himself amongst them. And about this event there speaks also a contemporary participant, the Rhodes vice-chancellor Wilhelm Gaorsan Gallo. The Rhodes knights, having established their base on the island of Malta (in the Mediterranean Sea), then transferred to Malta the sacred relic they had received. When the Russian emperor Paul I (1796-1801) became grand-master of the Maltese Order in honour of the holy Prophet John, the right hand of the Baptist, part of the Life-Creating Cross and the Philermian Icon of the Mother of God were transferred in the year 1799 [because of the Napoleonic threat] from the island of Malta to Russia, to the chapel at Gatchina (Comm. 12 October). In the same year these sacred items were then transferred into the church in honour of the Saviour Icon Not-Made-by-Hand at the Winter palace. And for this feast was compiled a special service.

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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 4:7-13 (Sunday after)**

<sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

<sup>9</sup> (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ

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### **Epistle: Acts 19:1-8 (John the Forerunner)**

Paul in Ephesus

**19** While Apol'los was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup> And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup> And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup> And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve of them in all.

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## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### 2019 Theophany Home Blessings



#### **How to prepare for your home blessing before the Priest arrives?**

- ✓ Please have a white cloth placed on the table, an icon and/or a cross, and a candle to be lit.
- ✓ Have a list of names of all those who live in the home (*including your pets*) and a list of the departed members of your family and friends you would wish to have remembered during the service.
  - ✓ (*I will provide the Holy Water.*)
  - ✓ Have all televisions, radios, and cell phones turned off.
- ✓ If you have anything to be blessed (Icon, Cross, etc.), have it on the table where the blessing will take place.
  - ✓ Participation is important! Have everyone gather around the table and join in the blessing.
  - ✓ Feel free to invite neighbors and friends over to be a part of this beautiful tradition!
  - ✓ If you need to discuss a personal matter, this is a good time to do so!

#### **Home blessings will take place from January 19 thru March 9.**

It would be ideal if I were able to come between 9:30am and 4pm on a weekday.

If this is not possible, certain evening, Saturday and Sunday times will be available.

Please Email ([fr.sleepless@gmail.com](mailto:fr.sleepless@gmail.com)) or Call/Text (412-748-0148) me with your preferred windows of time.

I will call or email you a couple days before I will be in your area.

I look forward to spending this time with your family! - Fr Dave



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## SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

“On Theophany, the Day of the Lord's Baptism, every year a great miracle is performed. The Holy Spirit, coming down upon the water, changes its natural properties. It becomes incorrupt, not spoiling, remaining transparent and fresh for many years. This Holy Water receives the grace to heal illnesses, to drive away demons and every evil power, to preserve people and their dwellings from every danger, to sanctify various objects whether for church or home use. Therefore, Orthodox Christians with reverence drink Holy Water — a great holy thing!” +St John of San Francisco

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“Let us therefore understand our destination; let us always remember that our common Master calls us to union with Himself.” +Saint John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt

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“There is no question about that which is bred in the uterus, both growing and moving from place to place. It remains, therefore, that we must think that the point of *commencement of existence* is one and the same for body and soul.” +St. Gregory of Nyssa (4<sup>th</sup> century)

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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...** Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Jane, Roberta, Gary, Lino, David, Louis, June, Helen, Steven, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N., Luca, Barbara, Francis, Mark ...*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...** Metropolitan Gregory, Marianne, Steve, Christopher, Nicholas, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles *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, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Margaret, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach,*

Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) ...*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):** John Sharpless - St John the Baptist (1/20)

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**Birthday Prayers for...** Kathy Schrmack (1/22), *Father's niece*, Abiageal Verbanick (1/22), Thomas Lorenzi (1/23), Mary Ann Brady (1/26), Fr Frank Miloro (1/26) ...*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...** Dustin and Stephen

...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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**For Expectant Mothers...** Lauren, Pañi Marianna, Faith, Pañi Eleni, Hayley, Carley ...*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. Dzadovsky, 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...** +John Smoley, +Julia Potoski, +Beatrice Stagon, +Charles Maresh, +Mildred Gavulich, +Carl Magidc, His Grace, +Bishop Athanasios, +Patricia French ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal Memory!*

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## DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

### A Prayer For The Sanctity Of Life

O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, Who are in the bosom of the Father, True God, source of life and immortality, Light of Light, Who came into the world to enlighten it: You were pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls by the power of Your All-Holy Spirit. O Master, Who came that we might have life more abundantly, we ask You to enlighten the minds and hearts of those blinded to the truth that life begins at conception and that the unborn in the womb are already adorned with Your image and likeness; enable us to guard, cherish, and protect the lives of all those who are unable to care for themselves. For You are the Giver of Life, bringing each person from non-being into being, sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be merciful, O Lord, to those who, through ignorance or willfulness, affront Your divine goodness and providence through the evil act of abortion. May they, and all of us, come to the light of Your Truth and glorify You, the Giver of Life, together with Your Father, and Your All-Holy and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

