



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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2019

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Volume IV

4th Sunday of Lent

APRIL 7th



ST JOHN of the LADDER

Reading: Hebrews: 6:13-20
Gospel: Mark 9: 17-31

Every time you climb stairs this week
ask St. John to help you reach
Paradise with the sign of the cross!

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Tone 4 Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Panachida for +William Littlemeyer, Jr. (3/28)

5pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA)



SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Wednesday, April 10 – Excerpts from the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete /

7pm – Presanctified Liturgy at the Hampton Inn (2622 Wexford Bayne Road, Sewickley, PA 15143)

Friday, April 12 – 9:30am Akathist to St. Panteleimon with holy anointing

Saturday, April 13 – 8:30 am Parish Spring Cleaning / 11a – 1p Mystery of Holy Confession

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

** Mon	Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel	Is. 37:33-38:6	Gen. 13:12-18	Prov. 14:27-15:4
** Tue	St. Matrona of Thessalonica (4th c.)	Isaiah 40:18-31	Genesis 15:1-15	Proverbs 15:7-19
** Wed	Venerable Stephen the Wonderworker (815)	Isaiah 41:4-14	Genesis 17:1-9	Prov. 15:20-16:9
** Thu	Martyr Mark, bishop of Arethusa (364)	Isaiah 42:5-16	Gen. 18:20-33	Prov. 16:17-17:17
** Fri	Venerable John of the Ladder (649)	Isaiah 45:11-17	Genesis 22:1-18	Prov. 17:17-18:5
** Sat	St. Innocent, enlightener of Alaska (1879)		Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 8:27-31

**** The Great Fast - Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did!**

5th Sunday of Lent

APRIL 14th



ST MARY of EGYPT

Reading: Hebrews 9: 11-14 & Heb 2:11-18
Gospel: Mark 10: 32-45 & LK 1:24-38

Ask the Theotokos to offer you
and the world pure thoughts
and ideas this week.

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Tone 5 Liturgical Color: **Purple**

Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement

Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Mission: Confession, Service, & Fellowship 2:30 - Confessions from Deanery Priests / 3pm - Deanery Lenten Missions here at St. John the Baptist, North Side

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory be to Jesus Christ! (*responded with: 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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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



Wednesday, April 17 – 9:30am Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos / 7pm – Presanctified Liturgy (Wexford)

Friday, April 19 – 9:30am Moleben to the Holy Cross

The End of the Great Fast & the Beginning of the Higher Fast of Holy Week

(All services will be on the North Side)

Saturday, April 20 – 9:30am Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy / making of Palm Crosses / 11a – 1p Mystery of Holy Confession

Sunday, April 21 – Feast of Palm (flowery) Sunday with blessing of Palms and Pussy Willows

Monday, April 22 – 7pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Tuesday, April 23 – 7pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Wednesday, April 24 – 7pm Mystery of Holy Unction / *****Final day for Confessions before Pascha**

Thur., April 25 – 9:30am Vespertal Liturgy of St Basil (*Mystical Supper*) / 7pm 12 Passion Gospels

Friday, April 26 – 9:30am Royal Hours / 7pm Vespers and Procession of the Holy Shroud

Saturday, April 27 – 9:30am Vespertal Liturgy of St Basil

Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ - Sunday, April 28 –

**** 8:45am** Resurrection Matins / Paschal Divine Liturgy / Blessing of Paschal Baskets



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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Barbara Kirish; Rich Mirilovich; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Mark Tongel; 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

The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by John Gaydos, Jr., In Memory of Mother, Catherine. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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**** Holy Week Change** – Due to the current state of parishes in the Pittsburgh area, our Resurrection Matins will be moved to Sunday morning prior to our Paschal Divine Liturgy. Matins is sometimes separated from Liturgy, but most times Matins leads right into Liturgy. Traditionally, our parishes have split the two services up between Saturday night and Sunday morning, but a majority of parishes begin the Resurrection Matins closer to sunrise on Pascha morning. (Father Dave will be doing the same services in Ambridge Saturday evening.) This is what we will need to do. For timing, we will begin Resurrection Matins by 9:00am and go right into the Paschal Divine Liturgy followed by our Basket Blessing. This is brought to us out of necessity. Let's make the best of it! **Please let Father know what you think about this and how you feel about it.**

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Paschal Commemorations – We offer you the opportunity to sponsor items to be used during Holy Week and Pascha as commemorations: *anonymously, for the health of loved ones, OR in memory of departed loves ones.* If you are interested in making any of these commemorations, please sign up on the sheet in the Vestibule **by Palm Sunday (April 21)** and give an *additional free-will stewardship offering* to the Church.

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Confessions – will be heard following every service and on most Saturdays during the Great Fast from **11am – 1pm** (the side gate and side door will be open).

Other times are available by appointment: please contact Fr. Dave to arrange this. Confessions will only be heard through Holy Wednesday.

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Church & Grounds Spring Maintenance will be **Saturday, April 13th** beginning at **8:30am** (with breakfast) till noon-ish. A "to-do list" is being put together. Please sign up in the church hall, as we want to have enough food available, if you are able to share your time and talent on this day as we clean up what God has shared with us. Contact Kathy Schrmack (kschrmack@verizon.net) if you have any questions. "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." - Colossians 3:23-24

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Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 568
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 154
Envelopes:	\$ 586
Presanctified:	\$ 230
Community Outreach:	\$ 102
Parish House Renal Offering:	\$ 50
Total Collections:	\$ 1690
Relocation Fund:	\$ 400

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

March Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 5290.47

***Expenses = \$ 6657.17**

Net Deficit = \$ 1366.70

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: **37**



Palm Crosses – On **Saturday, April 20th**, we will be making crosses out of the palms following the Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday. This activity is geared towards the youth, but all are welcome to come!

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**** Garage Sale Chairperson Needed** – Please contact a member of the church council or Father if you would be willing to chair our annual garage sale this year.

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**** Palms & Pussywillows** – We are collecting in the Church Hall our Palms and Pussywillows from prior years. These will not be simply thrown away, but they will respectfully be taken care of. Please bring yours in so that your house will be ready for the new ones in a few weeks!

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

April 14: OPEN

April 21: OPEN

April 28: **Pascha Cover-Dish Surprises**

Pascha cover-dish coffee social – Just a quick reminder/request that we are all asked to participate and bring something in for the coffee social following the Feast of Feasts.

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Reader of the Third Hour:

April 14: John Kirish

April 21: John Kirish

April 28: *replaced with Resurrection Matins*
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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Book Suggestion for the Great Fast:

"When You Pray: A Practical Guide to an Orthodox Life of Prayer"

by L. Joseph Letendre (ISBN # 978-1944967239)

Grab it from our bookstore for \$5 or go to

www.smile.amazon.com (then link it to "American

Carpatho-Russian Orthodox") and get the audiobook.

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
- Offer your time for the Spring Cleaning
- Bring in your clean used pill bottles
 - Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Offer to read the Third Hour prior to Liturgy

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

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



Much has been talked about over the recent years about Orthodox Christian Stewardship. Your Church Council and Fr. Dave want to hear more from you about Stewardship. (Here is the 3rd in a series of questions to reflect on.)

The Parish Stewardship Self-Assessment:

**** 3. Evaluate how outward looking our parish is: a good steward shares all good things with others.**

- ✓ What is the role of our parish in the larger community?
- ✓ How do we, as a parish, serve those in the larger Church and wider community?
- ✓ How do we, as a parish, use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure for the larger Church and the world?
- ✓ If we ask our parishioners to tithe (giving 10%), how does the parish tithe its resources?

Over the next couple months, a series of stewardship questions or ideas will be posted in the bulletin. Throughout this series, please talk with members of the Church Council, Fr. Dave, or leave thoughts anonymously in an envelope on the desk in the vestibule as we continue to learn and grow in stewardship together.

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE



Pan-Orthodox Sunday Lenten Vespers - The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh is pleased to offer for the first time in the Pittsburgh region a series of Sunday Lenten Vespers services to be held in Orthodox parishes of various jurisdictions around the Pittsburgh area. Each service will take place at **5:00pm** and will be followed by Lenten refreshments. All Orthodox Christians in the area are invited to join the Orthodox clergy of the area in praying these beautiful Lenten services together. The order of services and their locations is as follows:

- **TODAY:** Sts. Peter & Paul Ukranian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA)
- **April 14:** St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church (3230 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA)

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Support Orthodox Church "Fish Fry's" – This time of year many churches sell food on Friday's to help support their missions. Please consider visiting one of our sister parishes:

- **St. George**, New Kensington – 11a-5p – www.SaintGeorgeOrthodox.org
- **St. Mary**, South Side, Pittsburgh – 11a-7p – www.stmaryorthodoxchurch.net
- **St. John the Baptist** (722 5th St., Ambridge, PA 15003) – Food and Bake Sale **ONLY** on **Friday, April 19th** 10a-3:30p Please see the flyer in the hall for a list of food and more details. Call Tim Polas between 5p and 9p at 724-462-3942 to preorder.

* If you know of another one to be listed here, please Father know.

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52nd Annual Ukrainian Pysanky Sale – Come and enjoy the biggest and best Pysanky Sale in Town! **Sunday, April 14th** from 11a - 4p at Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church (200 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106). Over 1,200 Pysanky– Over 300 specialty eggs– Folk Arts & Crafts from the Ukraine. There will be basket raffles, Door Prizes, Coloring Contests, Ukrainian Kitchen, Church Tours, & Parish Museum display throughout the day. Visit www.OrthodoxCarnegie.org or call 412-527-5359 for more info.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

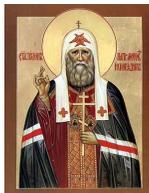
Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

New Hieromartyr Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (1925)

Commemorated on April 7 / March 25

Born in 1865, he was tonsured a monk in 1891, and consecrated a Bishop in 1891. From 1900, he was Bishop of Alaska, with oversight of the Church throughout North America. In America, he consecrated the first Orthodox monastery on the continent and worked tirelessly to unite all ethnic groups as one flock. In 1907 he was made Bishop of Yaroslavl and returned to Russia.

In 1917, he was elected to be the first Patriarch of Moscow since the abolition of the Patriarchate by Tsar Peter the Great more than 200 years before.



Almost immediately, the Russian Church was plunged into new and terrible persecution as an atheist and totalitarian government seized control. Patriarch Tikhon always sought not to quarrel with the Communist government, but his refusal to deny his faith or his Church marked him in their eyes as an enemy. In 1925 he died under mysterious circumstances, and is generally thought to have been murdered by the Soviets. He is commemorated as a Confessor, and by many as a Martyr also.

Note: because his commemoration falls on the Feast of the Annunciation, his service is usually transferred to the day before or after the Feast.

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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: Hebrews 6:13-20

The Certainty of God's Promise

¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." ¹⁵And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. ¹⁶Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. ¹⁷So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, ¹⁸so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. ¹⁹We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, ²⁰where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchiz'edek.

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Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

¹⁷And one of the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; ¹⁸and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." ¹⁹And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring



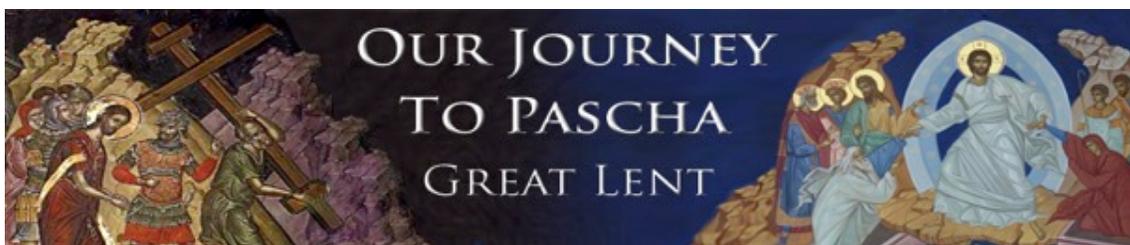
him to me." ²⁰And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. ²²And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." ²³And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." ²⁶And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

"We should do one hour of Bible reading for every hour we spend watching television [or surfing the internet]." – Joseph Letendre, *When You Pray: A Practical Guide to an Orthodox Life of Prayer*, pg. 32

LIVING ORTHODOXY



To assist the faithful in making the most of this holy season, additional resources have been added to our Diocesan Website at: <https://www.acrod.org/prayercorner/lentenresources/>

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The role of suffering and sorrows in the spiritual life

Why do men learn through pain and suffering, and not through pleasure and happiness? Very simply, because pleasure and happiness accustom one to satisfaction with the things given in this world, whereas pain and suffering drive one to seek a more profound happiness beyond the limitations of this world.

I am at this moment in some pain, and I call on the Name of Jesus—not necessarily to relieve the pain, but that Jesus, in Whom alone we may transcend this world, may be with me during it,

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and His will be done in me. But in pleasure I do not call on Him; I am content then with what I have, and I think I need no more.

And why is a philosophy of pleasure untenable [unsustainable]? — because pleasure is impermanent and unreliable, and pain is inevitable. In pain and suffering Christ speaks to us, and thus God is kind to give them to us, yes, and [allows] evil too—for in all of these we glimpse something of what must lie beyond, if there really exists what our hearts most deeply desire.

+St. Seraphim Rose

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FEAST DAY FEATURE: Amvon Prayer from the Feast of the Annunciation (9 months till Nativity)



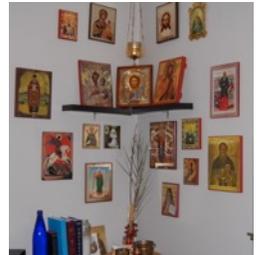
Lord our God and Ruler of all, You were pleased that Your only-begotten Son took flesh from a Virgin, and became man for our salvation. You sent Your archangel Gabriel to the holy Virgin Mary, to break the good news of this conception without seed. Before all ages You predetermined she would be the vessel of such a fearful mystery, foreknown to You and to Your Word glorified with You. Through her prayers, and the prayers of all the saints, now break the good news to us, of the forgiveness of sins through Your grace, and of the joy that has appeared today. Speak peace to Your people, and make known to us the way to travel to be accepted into Your heavenly Kingdom. Through the mercies of Your Christ, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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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, Roberta, Gary, Lino, Louis, June, Helen, Steven, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N., Emily, Anthony, Eleanor, Daniel, Stephen, Alexander, Gregory, Daniel ...*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, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Michael, Daniel, and Dylan *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Donald, Jane, Margaret, Eleanor, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Todd *and for those who labor 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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Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day): your name here – Saint ___ (*Please contact Fr Dave with your Patron Saint*)

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Birthday Prayers for... Bryce Blobner (4/10), Jenelle Speca (Petrovich) (4/10), Rich Mirilovich (4/13) ...*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, Stephen, Peter ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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For Expectant Mothers... Lauren, 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 "Brats" Wuchenich (3/15), +Rose Mary Radick (3/19), +William Littlemeyer, Jr. (3/28) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal be their Memory!*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE GREAT FAST:

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian

in the Ruthenian tradition as found in St. Peter Mogila's 1639 Liturgikon (Sluzhebnik)

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. + [Prostration]
But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. + [Prostration]
Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]

The following triplet is recited 4 times (making a total of 12 bows):

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [bow]

O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me. [bow]

O Lord, forgive me, for my sins are many. [bow]

Then the prayer again with only one prostration:

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]

