



# 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

Volume IV

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 here at St. John's  
2:30 - Confessions from Deanery Priests; 3pm - Lenten Vespers

## SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK



**Wednesday, April 17** – 9:30am Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos

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

\*\*\* **Thursday, April 18** \*\*\* – 9:30am Moleben to the Holy Cross

**Saturday, April 20** – 9:30am Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy / making of Palm Crosses /

11a – 1p Mystery of Holy Confession **The End of the Great Fast**

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



** M	Venerable Titus the Wonderworker (9th c.)	Is. 48:17-49:4	Genesis 27:1-41	Prov. 19:16-25
** T	Venerable Nicetas the Confessor (824)	Isaiah 49:6-10	Genesis 31:3-16	Proverbs 21:3-21
** W	Venerable Joseph the Hymnographer (883)	Isaiah 58:1-11	Gen 43:26-31; 45:1-16	Prov. 21:23-22:4
** T	New Hieromartyr Alexis priest (1930).	Isaiah 65:8-16	Genesis 46:1-7	Prov. 23:15-24:5
** F	St. Methodius, Equal-to-the-Apostles, (885)	Isaiah 66:10-24	Gen. 49:33-50:26	Proverbs 31:8-31
** S	Venerable George the Confessor (820)	Heb. 12:28-13:8		John 11:1-45

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

FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY!  
**APRIL 21st**  
GREAT WEEK BEGINS



**GREAT AND HOLY WEEK**  
**ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM**  
Reading: Philippians 4: 4-9  
Gospel: John 12: 1-18

Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!  
Liturgical Color: **Gold**

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil      Tone 6      Liturgical Color: **Gold**

*YOUTH Sunday / Blessing of Palms and Pussy Willows*

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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

**Walk with Christ during the Higher Fast of Holy Week** (All services will be on the North Side)

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

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

**Wednesday, April 24** – 7pm Mystery (Sacrament) of Holy Unction (Anointing)

\*\*\* Final day for Confessions before Pascha \*\*\*

**Thursday, 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

**Bright Monday, April 29** – 9:30am Paschal Divine Liturgy with Gospel Procession (Fast-Free Week)

**St. Thomas Sunday, May 5** – Add'l Collection for our Community Outreach / Semi-Annual Meeting



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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 Eleanor Sanger; Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Barbara Kirish; Mary Jane Hudak; Rich Mirilovich; Joanne Nelson; Patty Watson; 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 in memory of +William Littlemeyer, Jr; and by John Gaydos, Jr., In Memory of Mother, +Catherine. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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**Relocation Update** – ALL are invited to take a drive and look at the recent property that the Relocation Committee has discussed and that Father and Matt have looked at:

**1520 Shipley Lane  
Franklin Park, Pa 15143**

The 17 acres is zoned as Residential-1 and a *Place of Worship* is "contingent". The owners just responded that they "would entertain an offer with a zoning contingency on it. In that case, the Church would be able to break the deal if the zoning application was denied." We look forward to discussing this more at our Semi-Annual Meeting!

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Please continue to talk with the Relocation Committee or Father with any thoughts or concerns about our next steps in our journey together. (Committee includes: Sharon P, Larry M, Carol L, John K, John Righetti, Lynn M, Matt P, Peggy Rusnak, Rich M, Sharon D, Tim M, & Todd Tusick)

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**Thank You!** to everyone who came out to assist with our Pascha Spring Cleaning yesterday. "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." – Col. 3:23-24

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**Egg Hunt Help** – We are looking for someone to run the Easter Egg Hunt.

Please contact Theresa Sharpless if you would be willing to do it. Prizes are also kindly requested for this. Thank you!

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**Holy Week Change** – 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. For timing, we will begin Resurrection Matins at 8:45am and go right into the Paschal Divine Liturgy followed by our Basket Blessing. Let's make the best of it! **Please let Father know what you think about this and how you feel about it.**



**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 **NEXT WEEK, Palm Sunday (April 21)** and give an *additional free-will stewardship offering* to the Church.

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**Confessions** – will be heard this Saturday (from 11am – 1pm) and *following every service ONLY Through Holy Wednesday.*

Other times are available by appointment: please contact Fr. Dave to make arrangements.

### Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 706
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 252
Envelopes:	\$ 845
Presanctified:	\$ 256
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 2059</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 375</b>



**Palm Crosses** – On **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

### Coffee Social Steward Schedule

April 21: *OPEN*  
April 28: **Pascha Cover-Dish Surprises**  
May 5: *OPEN*



**Paschal (Easter) Baskets** – In the Vestibule is a description of items in the 'traditional Carpatho-Rusyn (or Slavic) Paschal (Easter) Basket. All are encouraged to have these items in their baskets on Pascha! These are the items (*the meats and dairy products*) that the church calls for us, with all of our strength, to fast from during the Great Fast. But what if you fasted and abstained from chocolate? Chewing gum? Pop? Etc.... did you ever think about including some of these in your basket? By doing this, you celebrate the difficulty and temptations that you conquered (*to the best of your abilities*) during the Great Fast! This allows us to reintroduce them into our lives (*in moderation*) and celebrate the Resurrection!

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**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 21: John Kirish  
 April 28: *replaced with Resurrection Matins*  
 May 5: *available*

**1<sup>st</sup> Official Notice** – Our Parish Semi-Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** following the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to discussing current church topics with the congregation.

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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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## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

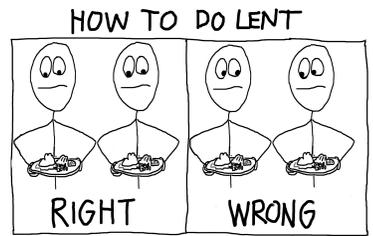
- ✓ *What is the role of our parish in the larger community?*
- ✓ *How do we, as a parish, serve those in the larger Church and wider community?*
- ✓ *How do we, as a parish, use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure for the larger Church and the world?*
- ✓ *If we ask our parishioners to tithe (giving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

**52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ukrainian Pysanky Sale** – Come and enjoy the biggest and best Pysanky Sale in Town! **TODAY, Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://www.OrthodoxCarnegie.org) or call 412-527-5359 for more info.



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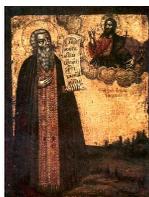
## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

### **The Monk Euthymius of Suzdal'**

*Commemorated on April 1*

The Monk Evphymii of Suzdal' was born in the year 1316 at Nizhnii Novgorod. From early childhood he was taught his letters and received a spiritual upbringing. He accepted monastic tonsure at the Nizhegorod Pechersk monastery under its founder, Saint Dionysii (later the Archbishop of Suzdal', + 1385, Comm. 26 June and 15 October). The efforts of the Monk Evphymii were so great, that Saint Dionysii counselled him to lessen them. In 1352 the Suzdal' prince Boris Konstantinovich sought to establish in his city a men's monastery, and he turned to the Nizhegorod Pechersk monastery with a request to send a monk for the establishing of the monastery. The choice of the saintly hegumen fell upon the Monk Evphymii. After the arrival of the Monk Evphymii, – in the northern part of the city, beyond the Kamenka River, the Suzdal' Santed-hierarch John (Comm. 15 October) – in front of a tremendous throng of the people erected a cross on the spot of the future monastery cathedral. The prince himself



began to dig the ground for the foundation, and the Monk Evphymii shaped for himself three grave stones, giving a vow to remain in the new monastery until the very end of his life. Thus was laid the foundation of the Saviour-Transfiguration Evphymiev monastery, where soon under the guidance of the monk gathered more than three hundred monks. At the monastery was adopted the common-life ustav (rule). In particular the monk insisted, that each of the monks be prepared to fulfill whatever the obedience. The Monk Evphymii went often to the Trinity-Sergiev monastery to the Monk Sergei of Radonezh (+ 1392, Comm. 25 September and 5 July). Saint Evphymii was a strict ascetic and a great man of prayer. He toiled incessantly for the benefit of all the brethren. The Monk Evphymii died in the year 1404, on 1 April.

On 4 July 1507 during the digging of a foundation trench for a new cathedral church, his incorrupt relics were uncovered. The saint was glorified at a Sobor (Council) in 1549.

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“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

### 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 9:11-14

<sup>11</sup> But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

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**Gospel:** Mark 10:32-45

#### A Third Time Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

<sup>32</sup> And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, <sup>33</sup> saying, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; <sup>34</sup> and they will mock him, and spit upon

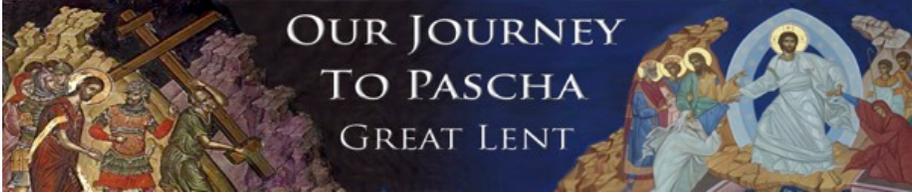
him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise.”

#### The Request of James and John

<sup>35</sup> And James and John, the sons of Zeb’edee, came forward to him, and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” <sup>36</sup> And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” <sup>37</sup> And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” <sup>38</sup> But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” <sup>39</sup> And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” <sup>41</sup> And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. <sup>42</sup> And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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### 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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#### EVEN SAINTS CAN MAKE MISTAKES:

Did you know that even saints can make mistakes? Today we remember a very special saint who made A LOT of mistakes.

When Saint Mary of Egypt was a young woman, she did not even try to be a good person. She had many, many sins and didn’t even care. But one day, she tried to go into a holy church in Jerusalem, and she felt a force that would not let her go in! She couldn’t see anybody pushing her out, but as hard as she tried, she still could not enter the church.

St. Mary then knew that she had to change her life. She left Jerusalem to live in the desert,



where she lived for 48 years! She spent her time there praying and asking God to forgive her. Finally, before she died, she received Holy Communion from a priest who found her in the desert.

Sometimes, when we think of the saints, we might think they were born perfect and were perfect all their lives! But then we know that only Christ lived a perfect life!

Today, let’s all remember that nobody is perfect. But God still wants us to try to be perfect, like He is! St. Mary of Egypt is a great example of somebody who changed her life so she could follow Christ.

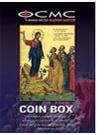
We celebrate St. Mary today, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent.

“The embrace of the Church is always open to us.” +St. Nectarios of Aegina

## ST JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)**. This is the organization that puts out the Coin Boxes that we have been using through the Great Lenten Fast. Please bring in your coin boxes on Palm Sunday. (There will also be an additional collection on the first Sunday of May.) *"Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" (1 Tim 6:18)*

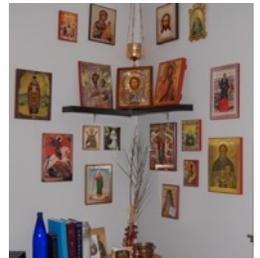


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### PRAYER CORNER

*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, Leona, Jane ...*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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**Birthday Prayers for...** Melanie (Gaydos) Paieski (4/14), *Father's Uncle Dan Urban (4/15), Father's Father Dave Urban (4/15), John Kirish (4/18), Father's Brother-In-Law Christopher Ditmore (4/19), Dr. Lawrence Martin (4/20)* ...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*

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**For our Catechumens & Inquirers...** Dustin, Stephen, Peter, Anthony ...*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, Lauren ...*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...** +John "Bratso" 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 PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

#### A prayer for our Neighborhoods by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

#### The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian

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

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]

