



# 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 V

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of Carpatho-Rusin (Regional) Saints

9:15 - Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16 / Hebrews 11:33-12:2; Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Graduate Sunday / Additional Collection for our Community Outreach



## SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Wednesday**, July 3 – 9:30am Akathist in times of Sorrow and Depression

**Saturday**, July 6 – 11-1 Mystery of Holy Confession offered

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

* Monday	Martyrs Leontius, Ipatius and Theodolus (73)	Romans 7:1-13	Matthew 9:36-10:8
* Tuesday	St. John of Shanghai & San Francisco the Wonderworker (1966)	Romans 7:14-8:2	Matthew 10:9-15
* Wednesday	St. Nahum of Ochrid (910)	Romans 8:2-13	Matthew 10:16-22
* Thursday	Martyr Julian of Tarsus in Cilicia (305)	Romans 8:22-27	Matthew 10:23-31
* Friday	Hieromartyr Eusebius, bishop of Samosata (380)	Romans 9:6-19	Mt. 10:32-36; 11:1
* Saturday	Martyr Agrippina of Rome (253-260)	Romans 3:28-4:3	Matthew 7:24-8:4

\* The Apostles (Peter & Paul) Fast - Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!

## July 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

9:15 - Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 2 Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10 / Romans 13:11-14:4; Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33 / Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80

After Liturgy till 5pm-ish - Annual Parish Family Picnic at The Cabin, North Park

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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



**Friday**, July 12 – 9:30 Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

**Thursday**, July 18 – 9:30 Moleben to St. Nectarios with holy anointing

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## PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

**St John's Annual Parish Family Picnic** – Our annual parish picnic is next week! We will gather on **Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>** from after Liturgy till 5:00 at *The Cabin* in North Park (988 E Ingomar Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101). Everyone is welcome! Come and experience a day of fun amongst family and friends. We will share a pot-luck meal – so bring your favorite recipe to share (a sign up sheet is in the church hall so that we get a good variety). There will be activities for all! If you need directions, please see Fr Dave. For other questions, please see a Church Council member.

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**Garden Blessings** – How's your garden coming along? Time to get it blessed! Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested.

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**Home Blessings Resume** – For those who did not have their home blessed prior to the Great Fast, please contact Fr Dave to arrange a time.

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## ACRY NEWS



**Pill Bottle Collection** – Our ACRY continues it's outreach to "Matthew 25: Ministries" who accepts donations of clean empty plastic medicine pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies and for shredding and recycling. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment. *More information is on the bulletin board in the church hall.*



Our annual garage sale is **not finalized**. We are tentatively looking at having it on **September 6-7**. Can you help? We need to get a sense of who is willing to offer some time in the prep for and/or actual garage sale. **Please sign up on the sheet in the church hall.**

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**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Shuster Family; Lawrence Martin; Kirish Family; Theresa Sharpless; Mirilovich Family; Joanne Nelson; 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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**Flag Sale** – Fr. Dave did it again... he never sent in the flag order that we took awhile back! *Good news though - the price went down!* If you would like to purchase a Carpatho-Rusin Flag for only **\$16**, please let him know within the next couple weeks (or if you have any questions).

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**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

July 7: *Annual Family Picnic*  
July 14: **Open / "Pot Luck"**  
July 21: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

**Our Stewardship Gifts To God**

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 84
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 138
Envelopes:	\$ 496
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 718</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 1400</b>

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

**Reader of the Third Hour:**

July 7: *Available to you*  
July 14: John Kirish  
July 21: *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!*

**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)

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**ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE**

**Kennywood** – Visit Kennywood for there Heritage days with our Orthodox neighbors:

SERBIAN Day – **Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>** – Contact Natalie Wuchenich (412-458-5227) for discount tickets



GREEK Day – **Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** – contact Lucy Koutsavlis (412-824-9188 / lkoutsavlis@ypapanti.net). Credit Cards now accepted for phone orders. Ticket Prices:

Regular Day Pass - \$26.00, Seniors 55+ - \$16.00, Seniors 70+ - \$12.00 (Children 3 & under are free).

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**Christmas in July! Vendor & Craft Show** – St. Nicholas Church (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120) will have over 20 of your favorite vendors and crafters on **Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>** from 10am–2pm as well as a Russian Auction, Raffles, and Café Nikolai for your eating pleasure!

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**Diocesan Sobor Essay Contest** – High school juniors and seniors as well as college students are invited to participate in writing an essay about the Orthodox Christian perspective on one of the following topics: *Abortion; End of Life Issues; Same-sex Marriage; Wealth and Poverty; or Violence, Conflict and War.* All submissions are due no later than **August 31<sup>st</sup>**. Three monetary awards will be given: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$500; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place- \$400; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place- \$300. Please contact Fr. Dave for more details

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**CONGRATULATIONS 2019 GRADUATES!!!**

**From High School...**

**Annie Jesko**, daughter of our catechumens Tony and Sheila Jesko, graduated with honors from Pine Richland High School. She was in the School Plays, Women's Choral Ensemble, and Tennis Team. She plans to take some time off before continuing her education at Duquesne University studying speech therapy.



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**Emma Martellotti** graduated from Seton La Salle High School. She plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown campus this fall.



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**Andrew Mirilovich** graduated with Highest Honors from Seneca Valley High School. He was a member of the National Honor Society. In the fall he will be attending Penn State University majoring in Supply Chain Management.



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**Robert Paieski** graduated from North Allegheny High School. He played football and was on the Track Team. He has a certificate of Physical Therapy from Beatie Technical School. He is still exploring his options for in the fall including possible military service or studying physical therapy.

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**... And Beyond**

**Jack Scherer** graduated from La Roche University with a Bachelor's degree in chemistry. He will be starting a PhD program at the University of North Texas in the fall to obtain his PhD in physical chemistry.



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**Mareena Shuster** graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Doctorate of Pharmacy (PharmD). She will be starting her first-year post-graduate pharmacy residency at Allegheny General Hospital this summer.

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**May God Grant You Many & Blessed Years of Success & Happiness! Many Years!**

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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

### Sunday of Carpatho-Rusin (Regional) Saints Holy Martyr Maxim (Sandovich) of Gorlice (1886-1914)

By Archimandrite Orestes Binkewicz

One of the most glorified martyrs of Orthodoxy in the 20th century St. Maxim (Sandovich) serves as a reminder that true belief has a price. He was born to pious parents in Galicia in the Horlitsky district in the village of Zdyna. Having finished primary school and four years of study at the gymnasium, he entered the Pocheav Lavra in Russia as a novice. After several years at the monastery, he entered the seminary in Zhitomir. After completing his studies, he married a young Orthodox woman, Pelagia, and was ordained to the holy priesthood in 1911. He returned to his home-land to serve the growing number of Orthodox faithful who had fled the "Unia" and returned to the Orthodox Church. In less than one year, he was arrested by the Austro-Hungarian militia for his zealous activity among the Orthodox faithful, and taken to prison bound in chains. For two years, he languished in a Lvov prison without trial enduring horrible conditions and abuse. In early 1914, the holy priest was released from prison for lack of evidence, and he returned to his home village.

By the summer of 1914, the Austro-Hungarian authorities were suspicious of any persons involved with the Orthodox Church, especially the Priest Maxim Sandovich. Without warning, the

militia arrested Fr. Maxim, his Matushaka, and his parents, dragging them off in chains to the district prison. Forced to travel by foot the entire way, they suffered much at the hands of their captors. On Sunday, August 6th, just before dawn, the priest rose from his bunk, read his morning prayers and three akathists.



Having finished the third akathist, two soldiers dragged him from the cell and put him before Captain Deitrich, a man known for his cruelty. Saint Maxim stood silently before his accusers. Captain Deitrich read out the execution order and laughed heartily.

He approached the innocent priest, tore off his pectoral cross and letting it fall to the ground, trampled it under his feet. He then marked an "X" on Fr. Maxim's black riassa in the middle of his chest for the firing squad. Two soldiers, standing less than ten feet away, waited for the command. As Captain Deitrich began the customary command of orders to the two soldiers, St. Maxim cried out; "Long live the Rusin People! Long live Orthodoxy!" Shots rang out in the courtyard, and the newest martyr for Christ fell to the ground. One of the soldiers approached the dead priest and shot him three more times in the head with a revolver. His mother and father along with his Matuska wept as they watched the scene before them. The pious Orthodox faithful buried the holy priest under the watchful eye of those who had murdered him. To this day, many travel to his grave asking the holy martyr to intercede for them.

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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:** Romans 2:10-16

<sup>10</sup>but glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. <sup>11</sup>For God shows no partiality.

<sup>12</sup>All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. <sup>13</sup>For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. <sup>14</sup>When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. <sup>15</sup>They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them <sup>16</sup>on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

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**Gospel:** Matthew 4:18-23

### Jesus Calls the First Disciples

<sup>18</sup>As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zeb'edee and John his brother, in the boat with Zeb'edee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

### Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

<sup>23</sup>And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

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## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### WHY DO WE FAST?

*From Coffee with Sister Vassa on June 28*

*“Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, ‘Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. And no one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; if it is, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.’” (Matthew 9:14-17)*

Today, on the fifth day of the Apostles’ Fast, we have this reading on fasting. The Lord gives two reasons why the Apostles did not fast, as did John’s disciples and the Pharisees, while He was “with them”: **1.** It was not the appropriate time for them to do so, and **2.** They were not ready for the “new” forms of piety, including a “new” kind of fasting in the Era of the Church, in the “communion of the Holy Spirit”; of the “new” Comforter, Who was to be sent to them on Pentecost.

How is our kind of fasting, in the Era of the Church, “new”? It is closely connected to our

“new” kind of eating and drinking, which is sanctified and dignified, if you will, by our eating and drinking of the Body and Blood of Christ. We not only fast, but we also feast, as Church, “around,” or focused on, the celebration of the Eucharist. It is the Eucharist that is always the focal point of our celebration of church-feasts, and it (the Eucharist) is always preceded by shorter or longer periods of fasting.

Why is abstinence from, and partaking of, “food” a central part of our “new” life in the Church? Because it is our “bad food-choice” in the garden, when we chose to seek “nourishment” where God did not bless us to, that led to our brokenness (Gen 3). And this continues to be the case with us, that we get broken by seeking “nourishment” in the wrong places, – physically, spiritually, and intellectually. I mean, we might seek it in junk-food, harmful amounts of alcohol, or other drugs; in unhealthy relationships; and in noxious sources of information and entertainment. Through our communal, physical fasting-and-feasting, the Church offers us a useful instrument, which helps guide us also into spiritual fasting-and-feasting, that is, into the proper boundaries of our search for “nourishment.” Because the physical affects the spiritual, and vice-versa, as we learn if we try it.

**Glory be to God for our nourishing Tradition.**

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## SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

*Father can meet M-F 9:30a–4p or by appointment.*  
**Online Community:** Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

**Phone Tree** – Please call Fr. Dave to be added.  
**Emergency Sick Calls** – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure so he can pray with you and you may receive the Anointing to be fully prepared.

**Mystery of Confession** – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

**Holy Communion/Eucharist** – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged by all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive a *blessing* from the chalice.

**Lapsed Members** – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

**Baptisms** – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other

a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Father for more details.

**Adult Chrismation** – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

**Marriages** – are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Father ASAP for more details (before arrangements are made for the hall).

**Church Funerals** – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations; otherwise burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

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*“The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning.” - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*

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## SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

“Always remember that you were born into this world so that you may do good to all insofar as possible on every occasion.” +St. Theophan the Recluse

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“With patience, prayer, humility and thankfulness to the Lord, conquer your present state. The Lord is near. He is looking at your heart.” - Abbot Nikon Vorobiev

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“Through God’s great wisdom, sins and demons can contribute to man’s humility, and through that—to his salvation. This is why the Lord commanded not to pluck the tares from the wheat (Matt. 13:25); without the tares it would have been easy for pride to spring up, and God opposes pride. Pride and high-mindedness only lead to perdition.” - Abbot Nikon Vorobiev

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“Uproot from your heart, by every means, both bodily and spiritual pride, which resists the Holy Spirit; it lies imperceptibly hidden in your heart, and clearly shows itself in your intercourse with your fellow-men, or during prayer.” +St. John the Wonderworker of Kronstadt

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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...** Fr. Michael Rustick, David, John, Patricia, John, Jake, 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 ...through the prayers of *St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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**For the Special Intentions of...** 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,* Holy Transfiguration Monastery ...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...** Joanna Delaney (7/2) & Pañi Stacey Mihaly (7/5) ...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, Anthony, Sheila, Anna Marie, Katie, Alexis, Sophie ...through the prayers of *St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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**For those preparing for Marriage...** Andrew & Davina, Ashley & Derek ...through the prayers of *Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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**Anniversary Prayers for...** ...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Hayley, Alisha ...through the prayers of *St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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**For Our Graduates...** Annie Jesko, Emma Martellotti, Andrew Mirilovich, Robert Paieski, Jack Scherer, and Mareena Shuster ...may they be guided in His Light and God’s Will all the days of their lives.

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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...** Pañi Charlotte Conjelko (6/5), Jane Barclay (6/25) ...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal be their 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 FOR THE WEEK:

### Tropar for Carpathian Saints (Tone 8)

As a beautiful fruit of the sowing of Your salvation the land of Carpatho-Rus offers to You, O Lord, all the Saints that have shone in it. By their prayers, keep the Church and our homeland in deep peace through the Mother of God, O Most Merciful One. Amen.

