



# Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church



*A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*

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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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July 14, 2019

Volume V

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Wonderworking Unmercenaries Cosmas & Damian

9:15 - Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy                      Tone 3                      Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23; Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13  
*Additional collection for our Capital Improvement Fund*

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

Wednesday, July 17 – \* 7pm Moleben to St. Nectarios with holy anointing

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

Monday	St. Juvenal (1796)	Romans 12:4-5,15-21	Matthew 12:9-13
Tuesday	Martyr Hyacinth of Caesarea in Cappadocia (108)	Romans 14:9-18	Mt 12:14-16,22-30
* Wednesday	St. Andrew, archbishop of Crete (712-726)	Romans 15:7-16	Matthew 12:38-45
Thursday	Venerable Athanasius of Mt. Athos (1003)	Romans 15:17-29	Matthew 12:46-13:3
* Friday	Venerable Sisoos the Great of Egypt (429)	Romans 16:1-16	Matthew 13:4-9
Saturday	Venerable Thomas of Mt. Maleon (10th c.)	Romans 8:14-21	Matthew 9:9-13

\* Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!

## July 21 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Great-martyr Procopius of Caesarea (303)

9:15 - Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy                      Tone 4                      Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10; Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1  
YOUTH Sunday

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

### PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



**Moleben to St Nectarios** – Wednesday evening at 7pm we will have a Moleben to St. Nectarios (*the Patron Saint of those with cancer*) with anointing and brief discussion following. This beautiful prayer service is not only for the sick, but it is for all of us to pray for each other! (*The front door will be locked at 7:00 and the side entrance of the church will remain open.*)

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**Coat Drive** – Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? We are now collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to FOCUS Pittsburgh (who provide Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter to those who are in need). We will collect the clean coats on the coat rack in the hall through August.

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\* **Prayers Answered?** – From time to time our prayer list in our bulletin *Prayer Corner* needs to be updated. Have your prayers been answered? If any names need to be added/deleted from the list, please contact Father Dave so he can do so.



**\* New Style of Candle Lighters have arrived – Let's Be Safe!** – A donation was generously received of a rechargeable candle lighter. The Electric-Arc Lighter has no spark, no smell, and minimal "clicking" noise. Please Note that the arc will hurt if it hits your skin. The same safety precautions need to be taken as if it were a butane lighter that would burn you. \*\*\* If you go to use one and it does not light, then it needs recharged. PLEASE do not leave it where you found it. Rather, put it on the tetrapod and it will get recharged that week.

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**Relocation Update** – We have encountered a sewage/water issue with the parcel that we have been looking at on Shipley Lane. More details to come as we get them. Please pray for the future of our parish as we continue to look.

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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*)

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Eleanor Sanger; Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Kathy Schrmack; Joanne Nelson; Margaret Rusnak.

***"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 Tim Martin, In Memory of Mother, Anastasia as a Birthday Remembrance. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!


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**Thank You!** to everyone who brought food or other items to our Annual Patronal Feast Day Summer Picnic last week!

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**Journey to Orthodoxy** – Congratulations and God's choicest blessings to the Jesko family (Anthony, Anthony, Sheila, Anna Marie, Katie, Alexis, and Sophie) who were received into the Orthodox Faith and our parish family last week. (An emergency prevented them from being received on Pentecost.) May God grant to His newly-illuminated servants, Many Years of Peace, Health, Happiness and Salvation! Mnohaja L'ita! Many Years!

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 Our annual garage sale will be on **Friday-Saturday, September 6-7**. We are going to set up for it differently this year: *as a community*. Similar to how we have been cleaning up after the event during and after our coffee social, we are going to set up in this way as well.

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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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**Science and Nature Camp @ Camp Nazareth** - will take place **Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**. The Science and Nature Camp is a resident/sleep-away Camp for ages 8-18. It will take place on the 289 beautiful acres of Camp Nazareth (339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA). Visit [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org) to register. Email [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto:campnazareth@acrod.org) or call 724-662-4840 for more information.

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## LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



**Wed., July 24** – 9:30am Akathist to the Great-martyr Euphemia on the Commemoration of the miracle of 451


**Sunday, August 4** – Annual Blessing of Vehicles following Liturgy

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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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**Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:**

- **July 17-21** – Holy Trinity (2930 Beaver Rd., Ambridge) *Greek*
- **July 24-27** – St. Mary (116 Ellen St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136) *Ukrainian*

Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church hall for times and more information or visit [holytrinitypgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide](http://holytrinitypgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide)



### Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 725
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 397
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 95
Picnic Free-Will Offering:	\$ 100
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 1317</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 475</b>

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

### Coffee Social Steward Schedule

July 21: **Open / "Pot Luck"**  
 July 28: **Open / "Pot Luck"**  
 August 4: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

*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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**Ambridge** – Starting on August 1<sup>st</sup>, Fr. Vince and Pañi Christyn Dranginis will be at our sister parish of St John the Baptist in Ambridge. Let's welcome them to the Pittsburgh Deanery! Many Years!

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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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### Reader of the Third Hour:

July 21: *Available to you*  
 July 28: John Kirish  
 August 4: *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/acroddioecese](http://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese)  
 Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](http://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
 You Tube: [youtube.com/acroddioecese](http://youtube.com/acroddioecese)



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**Ukrainian Food Festival** (or *Ukie Fest* as it is affectionately known by locals) will offer the opportunity to eat, drink, dance and be merry in the McKees Rocks Bottoms **July 24–27** at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church (116 Ellen St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136). The event will include all your favorite Ukrainian dishes beginning daily at 5pm. Visit [www.ukiefestrocks.com](http://www.ukiefestrocks.com) for more information or call 412-331-2362.

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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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## 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 6:18-23*

<sup>18</sup>and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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**Gospel:** *Matthew 8:5-13*

**Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant**

<sup>5</sup>As he entered Caper'na-um, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him <sup>6</sup>and saying,

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"Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress."<sup>7</sup> And he said to him, "I will come and heal him."<sup>8</sup> But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed."<sup>9</sup> For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."<sup>11</sup> I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,<sup>12</sup> while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth."<sup>13</sup> And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

## 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 Holy Martyrs, Wonderworkers and UnMercenaries Cosmas and Damian**

*Commemorated on July 14/1, November 14/1*

The Holy Martyrs, Wonderworkers and UnMercenaries Cosmas and Damian – were brothers by birth, born at Rome, and physicians by profession. They accepted a martyr's death at Rome under the emperor Carinus (283-284). They were brought up by their parents in the rules of piety, they led strict and chaste lives, and they were granted by God the graced gift of healing the sick. By their good and unselfish attitude towards people, combined with their exceptional kindness, the brothers converted many to Christ. The saints usually said to the sick: "It be not by our power that we treat the sick, but by the power of Christ, the True God. Believe in Him and be healed". For their unselfish doctoring of the infirm, the holy brothers were called "unmercenary physicians".



the brothers. Hearing about this, Christians implored Saints Cosmas and Damian to hide themselves away for a while until they could render them help. But the soldiers, not finding the brothers, arrested instead other Christians of the settlement, where the saints lived. Saints Cosmas and Damian then came out of hiding and delivered themselves over into the hands of the soldiers, asking them to set free those arrested because of them.

At Rome, the saints were at first locked up in prison, and then were taken for trial. The saints openly confessed before the Roman emperor and the judge their faith in Christ God, having come into the world to save mankind and redeem the world from sin, and they resolutely refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. They said: "We have caused evil for no one, we have not involved ourselves with the magic or sorcery, of which you accuse us. We doctor the infirm by the power of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and we do not take any sort of recompense for rendering aid to the sick, because our Lord commanded His disciples: "Freely ye have received, freely give" (Mt. 10: 8).

Their active service towards neighbour and spiritual influence on the surroundings, leading many into the Church, attracted the attention of the Roman authorities. Soldiers were sent after

The emperor however continued with his demands. Through the prayer of the holy brothers, imbued with the power of grace, God suddenly struck Carinus blind, so that he too in his own experience might know the almightiness of the Lord, not forgiving blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The people, beholding the miracle, cried out: "Great is the Christian God and no other is God, except Him!" Many of those that believed besought the holy brothers to heal the emperor, and he himself implored the saints, promising to convert to the True God Christ the Saviour. The saints healed him. After this, Saints Cosmas and Damian were with honour set free and again they set about doctoring the sick.

But what the hatred of the pagans and the ferocity of the Roman authorities could not do, was done by black envy, one of the strongest passions of the sinful nature of man. An older physician – an instructor, under whom in their

time the holy brothers had studied the medical craft, became jealous of their fame. Driven to madness by this malice, and all overcome by passion, he summoned the holy brothers, formerly his most beloved students, that they should all get together for a gathering of various medicinal herbs, and setting far off into the mountains, he murdered them, throwing their bodies into a river.

Thus as martyrs ended the earthly journey of these holy brothers – the Unmercenary Healers Cosmas and Damian. They had devoted all their life to a Christian service to neighbour, having escaped the Roman sword and prison, but treacherously murdered by a teacher.

The Lord glorified His God-pleasing ones. And now through the prayers of the holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian is received healing from God for all, who with faith recourse to their saintly intercession.

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## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### Some thoughts on Venerating Icons

*Taken from various websites*

When you enter the church, it is traditional to venerate (*not worship*) the icons. Usually there are icons at the entrance to the church and many churches have icon stands in the front as well. Parishes that follow the Slavic tradition usually place an icon on a table (*the tetrapod*) in front of the solea, the elevated area in front of the icon screen (*iconostasis*).

When venerating (*kissing or placing your forehead on*) an icon, pay attention to where you kiss. It is not proper to kiss an icon in the face. You wouldn't go up and kiss the Lord or His mother on the lips, would you? You would kiss their hand, and only if they invited you would you even dare to kiss them on the cheek. Pay attention to what you are doing.

When you approach an icon to venerate it, kiss the gospel, scroll, or hand cross in the hand of the person in the icon, or kiss the hand or foot of the person depicted. As you venerate an icon, show proper respect to the person depicted in the icon – the same respect you would show the person by venerating him or her in an appropriate place. And remember, blot off your lipstick before kissing.

Venerate the icons by making the sign of the cross before and after your venerate.

Another custom is to make two *metanias* (made by crossing oneself and then bending down to touch the floor with the fingertips of the right hand, palm facing forward to give glory to God or

the saint in front of us), crossing yourself, offering a brief prayer, kissing the foot or hand in the icon, then crossing yourself and making another *metania* (these may be replaced by prostrations during the Great Fast outside of Sunday mornings).

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Our veneration icon stands (*Analogia*) were completed this past Lent. The higher Icon is the same as the lower icon so children can venerate on their own - and not need picked up. Parents, please teach your children to kiss the bottoms of the icons.

It is customary to venerate in this order: the icon at the entrance (Saint John the Baptist), the icon of the day (on the tetrapod), the Icon of Christ, and then the Icon of the Theotokos (Mary). When passing by the Altar, cross yourself once and bow toward the Altar as you pass from one side of the church to the other.

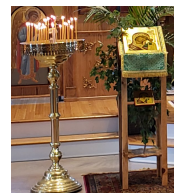
If you have any questions about venerating icons, please feel free to contact Father Dave.

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## ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

**Analogion** – An analogion (*plural: analogia*) is a lectern or slanted stand on which icons or the Gospel Book are placed for veneration by the faithful in the Orthodox Church. *It may also be used to read from liturgical books during the divine services.*

The analogion is often used in the veneration of icons, with a candle-stand either beside or behind it. The candle-stand may hold one candle and be used to shine light on the icon, or it may have places for the faithful to offer candles when they venerate the icon.



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## SPIRITUAL VITAMIN FOR THE WEEK

"Wherefore on no account suffer any evil habit to master thee; but, while it is yet young, pluck the evil root out of thine heart, lest it fasten on and strike root so deep that time and labor be required to uproot it."  
+St. John Damascene

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## PRAYER CORNER

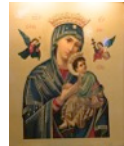
*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and Other Needs \**

**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...** Alisha, Emilia, Olga, 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, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* 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, Light of Life Missions ...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...** Ben Scherer, Sr. (7/14), Pañi Joanna Ferencz (7/17), Rebecca Horbal (7/17), Katie Jesko (7/17), Mark Tongel (07/17), Fr Michael Polanichka (7/17), Alaina Anton (7/18), Fr Michael Chendorain (7/18), Fr Luke Mihaly (7/18), Dustin Brozell (7/20/89) ...*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, Daniel ...*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...** Fred & Juliana Anton (7/20) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** ...*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...** +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:

### Psalm 62:5-8

Yes, my soul, find rest in God;  
my hope comes from Him.  
Truly He is my rock and my salvation;  
He is my fortress, I will not be shaken.  
My salvation and my honor depend on God;  
He is my mighty rock, my refuge.  
Trust in him at all times, you people;  
pour out your hearts to Him,  
for God is our refuge.  
Amen.