



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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January 26, 2020

Volume V



32nd Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday after the Feast of Theophany Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus at Belgrade (315)

9:20 – Theophany Canon; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 7 Liturgical Color: **Gold**
Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13; Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17
Add'l Collection for our Community Outreach / Panachida for Pañi +Patricia Patrick (1-year) / Church School

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Annual Home Blessings Through February 26

CANCELLED: Thur., Jan. 30—9:30am Parastas following International Holocaust Remembrance Day
The opportunity for the Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

Monday	St Sava enlightener of Serbia (1235)	James 2:14-26	Mark 10:46-52
Tuesday	St Paul of Thebes (341) & St John Calabytes (450)	James 3:1-10	Mark 11:11-23
* Wednesday	Blessed Maximus of Totma, fool-for-Christ (1650)	James 3:11-4:6	Mark 11:23-26
Thursday	Venerable Anthony the Great (356)	James 4:7-5:9	Mark 11:27-33
* Friday	St Athanasius the Great (373) & St Cyril of Alexandria (444)	Hebrews 13:7-16	Mark 12:1-12
Saturday	Venerable Macarius the Great of Egypt (390)	1 Thessalonians 5:14-23	Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

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

February 2 – 33rd Sunday after Pentecost / Zacchaeus Sunday / Venerable Euthymius the Great (473)

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 8 Liturgical Color: **Gold**
Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15; Gospel: Luke 19:1-10



40-day Panachida for +Stelian Popescu / Church School / Annual Home Blessings

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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 Dave by Wednesday.)



Souper Bowl of Caring – On **Sunday, February 2nd** we will kick off our February Community Outreach collection for St Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry at St Mary's Orthodox Church on the South Side. Please plan to bring in unexpired canned soups.

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Ice Skating – The Jr. ACRY hosted Ice Skating event has been rescheduled for **Sunday, February 9th** (weather pending). Additional details are coming soon

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LAST CALL: Any Changes to our Parish Directory – Has any of your information changed since our 2018 Parish Directory was published? Please contact Father Dave this week. Thank you!

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Home Blessings have begun. Let's schedule your annual home blessing today! Fr. Dave is interested in visiting and catching up with EVERYONE this coming Theophany season. Please grab Father when he has his calendar (*a.k.a. his phone*) or email him to schedule.

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Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of the Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in the home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy.

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Holy Water Reminders: Do Not Hoard It!

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



Third Hour Returns – Next Sunday we will return to having the Third Hour prior to the Divine Liturgy. *This can be read or chanted. Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested in participating in this wonderful stewardship prayer opportunity!*

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Shuster Family; Lawrence Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Kirish Family; Eleanor Sanger; Mirilovich Family; Theresa Sharpless; 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 John Gaydos, Jr., In Memory of Mother, Catherine. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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Orthodox Scouting Sunday – We will observe Scout Sunday on **February 9th** where we pause from our busy routine to remember the many contributions that the Scouting Community has made to make our world a better place to live.



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Coffee Social Ministry & Sponsoring Bulletins – *The sign up sheets are available in the church hall and vestibule. For the coffee social, IF every family takes one week – the year will be filled! Please consider being a part of this stewardship ministry of our church.*



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Snowed In? Physically unable to make it to church? – Our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to watch our Cathedral's Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9am. Of course, the best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist. When limitations occur, please take the time Sunday morning to pray with our brothers and sisters via the web at www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/ to watch the *live broadcast*.

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Greeting Cards – Please consider repurposing your greeting cards and prior church calendar icon tops after the season concludes. Our collection box is in the vestibule for the *Holy Transfiguration Monastery*. Thank you for giving back!

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Blessing of Candles – We will bless candles following the Feast Day Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple on **Saturday, February 15th** *as well as* after the Liturgy on **Sunday February 16th**. All are encouraged to bring in candles from home to be blessed after these two Liturgies. Let's light up the world with our blessed candles!

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

February 2: Fr. Dave and Pañi Alexandra

February 9: **Open / Potluck**

February 9: **Open / Potluck**

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

The Pan-Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh will be singing the responses to Vespers on Sunday, March 9, the Sunday of Orthodoxy. They will be holding weekly rehearsals beginning **Saturday, February 1** from **Noon to 2:00 pm** at St Nicholas Orthodox Church (320 Munson Ave, McKees Rocks PA). All singers in the Pittsburgh area are strongly encouraged to participate. Please contact Fr Thomas Soroka at frthomas@orthodoxpittsburgh.org with any questions

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The International Soup Sampling to benefit IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) will be on Saturday, **February 8th** from 11a to 2p at Holy Cross (123 Gilkeson Road, Mt. Lebanon)

Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 271
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 154
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 530
Total Collections:	\$ 955
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 45
Relocation Fund:	\$ 300

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

Gertrude Hawk Candy – Our Easter Candy Sale forms have arrived and are in the Church Hall. Please see Tim Martin with any questions.

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Prayer requests – During the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, prayers are said for the sick and those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin. If silent prayers are requested, they will be offered quietly at the altar at all services. All those listed in the "Prayer Corner" are prayed for during the Proskomedia (*Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion*). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our prayer list.

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Special Intentions – Did you ever wonder for what reasons would a person's name go under "For the Special Intentions of..." on our Prayer Page? A special intention request is very diversified! It could be when one is under extreme job stress, struggling with spiritual issues, infertility, dealing with the loss of a loved one... the list goes on. As with the other lists on our page, one does not have to be Orthodox to be added.

Reader of the Third Hour:

February 2: John Kirish

February 9: *Available to you*

February 16: *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!

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✘ **Thursday, February 6** – 9:30am Akathist to St. Xenia of Petersburg, Fool-for-Christ
- ✘ **Wednesday, February 12** – 10:00am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs at St. Nicholas in HOMEASTEAD.
- ✘ **Saturday, February 15** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple

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"**Orthodox Christian Perspectives on Prayer**" will be presented at the 4th Annual St. Nicholas Symposium on **Saturday, February 22** from 2 to 4pm at 320 Munson Ave., McKees Rocks, PA. Please visit www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.org or call 412-331-1053 for more information.

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Visit Our Diocese On-Line

- Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
- Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
- FB: www.facebook.com/acroddioocese
- Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
- You Tube: youtube.com/acroddioocese

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures.” +Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

⁷ But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

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

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Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; ¹³ and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Caper'na-um by the sea, in the territory of Zeb'ulun and Naph'tali, ¹⁴ that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "The land of Zeb'ulun and the land of Naph'tali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

Our Gifts From God

"But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.'" (Eph. 4:7-8)

Here are some questions to ponder with the above scripture in mind:

- 1 What gifts or talents has God given to you? How to you use your gifts? How do you share your gifts with others or what's stopping you from sharing your gifts?
- 2 Name a time when someone shared their gift with you? How did you feel? How did it create a bond between you and the person who

Please talk with members of the Church Council, Fr. Dave, or leave thoughts/questions anonymously about stewardship in an envelope on the desk in the vestibule as we continue to learn and grow in stewardship together.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

"Destroy within you the devil's rule over you; destroy all his influence over you; acquire spiritual freedom. The foundation for your struggle is the grace of holy baptism; your weapon is the prayer of Jesus." +St. Ignatius Brianchaninov

2020 Theophany Home Blessings



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

- ✓ Call/Text (412-748-0148) or Email (fr.sleepless@gmail.com) Fr. Dave today with your preferred windows of time.
- ✓ Have a white cloth placed on the table, an icon and/or a cross, and a candle to be lit.
- ✓ Have a list of names of all those who live in the home (*including your pets*) and a list of the departed members of your family and friends you would wish to have remembered during the service.
 - ✓ (*I will provide the Holy Water for the blessing.*)
- ✓ Have all TVs, radios, and cell phones turned off.
 - ✓ If you have anything to be blessed (*Icon, Cross, etc.*), have it on the table.
- ✓ Participation is important! Have everyone gather around the table and join in the blessing.
- ✓ Feel free to invite neighbors and friends over to be a part of this beautiful tradition!
 - ✓ If you need to discuss a personal matter, this is a good time to do so!

Home blessings will take place from **January 19 thru February 26.**

It would be ideal if I were able to come between 9:30am and 4pm on a weekday. IF this is not possible, certain evening, Saturday, and Sunday times will be available. I look forward to spending this time with your family! - Fr Dave

seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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shared their gift?

- 3 What sorts of gifts do you think the Church needs? Which ones can you help with? How will you go about sharing your gift with your church?

Further in St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians he wrote: "From [Christ], all of the body — fitted together and knitted together by every joint provided, according to its operation, in the measure proper to every single part — effects the body's growth [the Church], for the sake of building itself up in love." (Eph. 4:16)

Excerpt from: www.dustinlyon.org/unity-through-diversity/

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MONDAY – LEAVETAKING OF THEOPHANY

"Drink Holy Water, the more often, the better. It is the best and most effective medicine. I'm not saying this as a priest, I'm saying it as a doctor, from my medical experience." +St. Luke the Surgeon and Archbishop

TUESDAY

"Whoever is at peace in the material world and is not concerned about the salvation of his soul is like the senseless birds who don't make a noise from within the egg." +St. Paisios the Athonite, *Precious Vessels of the Holy Spirit*

WEDNESDAY

"One should preach not from one's rational mind but rather from the heart. Only that which is from the heart can touch another heart." - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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THURSDAY

"Pray persistently about everything, and then you will never do anything without God's help." +St. Mark the Ascetic

FRIDAY

"The purpose of life must be to live in communion with God." - Elder Sergei of Vanves

SATURDAY

"Faith gives rest and joy; unbelief: troubles and wounds." +St. John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt,

LIVING ORTHODOXY

SIX ACTION STEPS

For An Intentional And Joyful New Year

By Stacey Dorrance from www.filledwithless.com

#1 - Thank God For Our Blessings

#2 - BE PRESENT

If each day is a gift, then we need to "show up" for that gift. That means not living in the past or worrying about the future. It means living our life and not following how everyone else is living theirs.

Being present means being alive each moment of our life... feeling it, being in awe of it, treasuring it and being intentional about it. It means purposely being

aware of God's presence in our lives and seeking His will in all things.

In order to be present, we must clear our heads of all the thoughts that sabotage living in the moment. **We do this by adding prayer to our life.** No one can have empty minds, but we can be watchful of negative thoughts through prayerfulness and fill our minds with thankfulness and noble thoughts.

St. Paul says, "Now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2) Nobody promised us tomorrow.

Let's embrace and thank God for each day of our life, as if it is our last day on earth.

Next Week: #3 - FORGIVE & SHOW MERCY

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Why Do Orthodox Christians Have their Homes Blessed?

by *Phyllis Meshel Onest, M.Div.*

Continued From Last Week...

The Great Blessing of Water and the Home

The Great Blessing of Water takes place at the end of that day's Liturgy. Since our homes cannot be brought to the Church, the Church – through the priest and cantor – go to the homes. There the service of blessing, which began in the church, is finished with the sprinkling of water in the home. Traditionally, in most Orthodox parishes, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany (January 6/13). By sanctifying our living quarters, our private place, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. (In very large parishes a yearly visit may not be possible. In areas of the country where the winter is harsh, I know of at least one parish where houses are blessed at the beginning of the ecclesiastical year in September.)

We also bring the blessed water to our homes to use throughout the year to bless our homes and to drink whether we are ill or as part of our daily prayer life. "There are many occasions in family life when a sip of holy water can help to remind us of the blessing that was given 'to bestow sanctification', 'unto healing of soul and body', 'to be a fountain welling forth unto life



eternal', as the priest prayed in the litany of Epiphany day." (Little Falcons: Water, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1998, p.33.)

Weaving Christ into Our Lives

The blessing of homes by these holy waters maintains the spiritual association between the 'family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. ... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings." (Marriage and the Christian Home, p.25.)

If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They can show him their rooms or pets or favorite toys. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

In Summary

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year!

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The Holy Martyrs Ermil and Stratonik

Commemorated on January 26 / 13

The Holy Martyrs Ermil and Stratonik, by origin Slavs, lived at the beginning of the IV Century during the time of persecution against Christians

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

by the emperor Licinius (307-324). They were friends. Saint Ermil served as deacon in the city of Singedonum (Belgrade). Condemned by Licinius to imprisonment, he was long and cruelly tortured for the Name of Christ, but he remained unyielding. Saint Stratonik was



a superintendent of the prison and a secret christian. Seeing the agonising torments of his friend, he was not able to keep from weeping, and he revealed that he was a christian. They subjected him also to torture. After the torturing, they put the martyrs into a net and threw them

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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(s).

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver him/her/them from sickness and bitter pain. Heal him/her/them so that he/she/they may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Kevin, Daniel, John, Susan, John, Alexandra D., Sonja, Pañi Marie, Jake, Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Gary, Lino, June, Doug ...*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:* Thomas, John, Daniel and Dylan *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Anthony, Mary Jane, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Margaret, John, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach ...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):

Ashley Wertz & Anthony Winkler - Venerable Anthony the Great (1/30) *(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

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Birthday Prayers for... Mary Ann Brady (1/26), Fr Frank Miloro (1/26), Roberta Kruchkevich (1/27), Allison Kretchek (1/29), Scott Robinson (1/30),

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:



A Prayer To End Abortion

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Who did shed Your precious blood upon the Cross for the salvation of all mankind: receive the souls of all the innocent pre-born babies, who have been, are being, or will be slaughtered today in the hospitals and abortion chambers throughout our nation and the world.

And as their untimely deaths have prevented them from receiving the grace of Holy Baptism, I entreat You to accept their innocent blood as their Baptism (as You did with the early Martyrs); so that they can share eternity with You.

To the doctors, nurses, parents, and hosts of accomplices responsible for this infanticide, grant tears of repentance; so that they can run to You for forgiveness and healing, and thus avoid the eternal death of their souls.

I believe that all things are possible with You, O Lord.

Therefore, I entreat You on this day, through Your divine Grace, to convince at least one mother in every state to cancel her abortion and bring her child to full term; and to convince one doctor in every state to repent of his actions, and never again kill a child in the womb.

Receive my prayer, O Lord, even though it is offered to You from such a sinful and unworthy servant; and unit my entreaty with those of all the other brothers and sisters that are crying out today on behalf of all Your little ones, who are now being formed in the wombs of their mothers.

Deliver us, our nation, and the world, O Lord, from this shedding of innocent blood!

Forgive us! Heal us! Save us! Amen.

into the Danube/Dunai. On the third day, the bodies of the saints were discovered on the bank of the river by christians and buried near Singedonum. Their venerable heads are located in the Church of Saint Sophia, where the Russian pilgrim Antonii saw them in the year 1200.

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Anthony Winkler (2/1), Fr Dcn Marc Wisnosky (2/1) ...*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, Daniel, Susan ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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

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For Pregnant Mothers... Mallory Ann, Caitlinn, Allison, Pañi Stacey, Pañi Ileana, Faith...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & 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...

+Robert Perevuznik, Sr. (1/21) +Father Michael Shuster (1/21), +George Rocknage (1/19), +Edward Pehanich, Sr. (12/30), +Stelian Popescu (12/30), +Archpriest Stephen Shuga (12/16)

...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May their Memory in God be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!*

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you 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 only Orthodox Christians.