



# 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 Branco, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Timothy Martin, *Reader*  
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Branco, & John Radick, *Cantors*  
Matthew Peifer, *Church Council President*  
[www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149](http://www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149)

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September 20, 2020

Volume VI

## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Martyr Sozon of Cilicia (304);

### Sunday before the Universal Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

40-day Panachida for +Ruth Metil



## SERVICES, SAINTS, & READINGS FOR THE WEEK



**CANCELED: Monday, September 21** – 9:30 Liturgy on the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

**Tuesday, September 22** – Church will be open for personal prayer from 9am to 11am (*enter from the side door*)

**Thursday, September 24** – 9:30 morning Moleben (*Prayer Service*)

Additional services can be viewed online from our Cathedral at: [www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/)

A schedule can be found each week in the Cathedral bulletin: [www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/bulletins/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/bulletins/)

Monday	Venerable Lucian, abbot of Alexandrov (1654)	Galatians 4:28-5:10	Mark 6:55-7:8
Tuesday	Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim & Anna	Galatians 5:11-21	Mark 7:5-16
* Wednesday	Venerable Paul the Obedient (13th c.)	Galatians 6:2-10	Mark 7:14-24
Thursday	Venerable Euphrosynus the Cook (9th c.)	Ephesians 1:1-9	Mark 7:24-30
* Friday	Venerable Athanasius (1401)	Ephesians 1:7-17	Mark 8:1-10
Saturday	Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion (1st c.)	1 Corinthians 10:23-28	Matthew 24:34-44

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

\* Weekly Fasting Days: Let Us Imitate Christ & The Saints & Fast As They Did!

### September 27 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; St. Maria of Tarsus (607)

#### Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord

9:15 – Litiya Prayers; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 7 Liturgical Color: **Red**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

*Enthronement and Veneration of the Holy Cross will occur prior to the start of the Divine Liturgy*

*Additional request for our Community Outreach*

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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 contacting Fr. Dave (*email, text, or call*). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

## 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:** 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

<sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. <sup>11</sup>For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup>Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>For it is all for your sake, so

that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

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**Gospel:** Matthew 22:35-46

<sup>35</sup>And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. <sup>36</sup>"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" <sup>37</sup>And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

**The Question about David's Son**

<sup>41</sup>Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, <sup>42</sup>saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." <sup>43</sup>He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,



<sup>44</sup> ‘The Lord said to my Lord,  
Sit at my right hand,  
till I put thy enemies under thy feet?’

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<sup>45</sup> If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son? <sup>46</sup> And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.



## PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

**LAST CALL for the “Floor is now open”** – As previously noted, our Annual Meeting is canceled this year, BUT the “floor is now open” for questions, comments, or concerns to be addressed in the reports that will be shared later this month. Please contact Matt Peifer or Larry Martin with any of your thoughts. *Please continue to pray for our parish community and our future as we continue to look to grow Orthodoxy!*

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**LAST CALL** - 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 the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) [Formerly 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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**Congratulations** to the **Pittsburgh Forerunners** who completed the OCMC Trek 4 Missions! Our team of Gina Fall, Larry Martin, Tim Martin, Renee Mirilovich, Rich Mirilovich, Cindy Pavilonis, Liz Radomsky, Melanie Shuster, Fr. Dave Urban, and Patty Watson as they walked **2,119 miles!** (A donation total will be shared next week after it is figured out.) Bravo! May God grant you many years!

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**Weekday Services Returns** - At this time, we will return to having a weekday morning service on the North Side. (Research on Covid-19 living on surfaces has been downplayed as long as people are properly washing their hands and not touching their face.) If a Feast Day does not fall during the week, then a morning moleben (also called a service of intercession or service of supplication) will be offered. This is a devotional service in honor of either our Lord Jesus Christ, the Mother of God, or a particular saint or martyr for healing. (The front door will remain locked so please come in through the side door by the alley.)

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Our Stewardship Gifts To God	
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 131
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 549
Community Outreach:	\$ 5
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 685</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 20</b>

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Shuster Family; Margaret Rusnak; Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Mary Jane Hudak; Eleanor Sanger; Mirilovich Family; 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 Cindy Pavilonis, In Memory of Grandparents: George & Mary Huron, Anton & Barbara Pavilonis. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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**Weekly Offerings to God** – During this time, if you are not coming to the church, we request that all weekly donations be mailed to:

Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)  
For our parish to continue it’s ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

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**Axios! “He is Worth!”** to Father Marc Wisnosky on his ordination to the Holy Priesthood last week at St. Nicholas in Homestead by the laying on of hands by our Metropolitan Gregory. Also, congratulations to Nicholas Ditmore and John Fedornock, III who were ordained Readers during the same service.

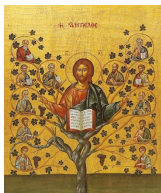
May God grant them many years!

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### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

✦ **Tuesday, October 6** – Feast of the Conception of St. John the Baptist

## ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH & OUR DIOCESE



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Calling all Diocesan Youth  
Ages 5-18 (K-12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
To Come be a part of...

### The Vine and the Branches

A First-of-its-Kind Diocesan Youth Event

When: **Sunday, September 27, 2020**

Where: Online from **6:30pm – 8pm**

See your friends and be together... meet new friends...

Have some fun... Learn a Little... Hear from His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory... And Much More!

The Event is Free-of-Charge. Please Pre-Register at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlf--trzgrE9FZAxyE1kEWLVkKcFMMY1D>

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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)



**SPF50 (Scripture, Prayer, Family):**

**A Diocese Family Ministry** - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Issue of SPF50 is available NOW!! It is another digital edition. If you didn’t start with us on March 1, consider joining now. Make a commitment to reading Scripture and Praying together with your family. (Commitment cards will be emailed out.) Visit the Diocesan Website at [acrod.org](http://acrod.org) and look for the SPF50 section or go directly to the SPF50 web page at [www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50](http://www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50) to find out more about SPF50 and how to help your family read Scripture and Pray together at home. (Don’t forget to fill out the Commitment Card and return it to Fr. Dave.)

“I wish for you neither riches, nor glory, nor success, nor even health, but only spiritual peace. This is the most important thing. If you have peace, you will be happy.” +St. Alexei



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## FEAST DAY FEATURE

### The Nativity of Our Most-Holy Lady Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemorated on September 21/8

The Nativity of Our MostHoly Lady Mother of God and EverVirgin Mary: The MostHoly Virgin Mary was born at a time, when people had reached such limits of decay of moral values, that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. The best minds of this era were aware and often said openly, that God mustneeds come down into the world, so as to restore faith and not tolerate the ruination of the race of mankind.

The Son of God chose for the salvation of mankind to take on human nature, and the All-Pure Virgin Mary, – alone worthy to contain in Herself and to incarnate the Source of purity and holiness, – He chose as His Mother.

The Birth of Our MostHoly Lady Mother of God and EverVirgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, on this radiant day was born the MostBlessed Virgin Mary, – having been forechosen through the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God, and She is revealed as the Mother of the Saviour of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ. The MostHoly Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joakim from the tribe of the King and Prophet David, and Anna from the tribe of the First-Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren. Having reached old age, Joakim and Anna did not lose hope on the mercy of God. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to solve the barrenness of Anna – even in her old age, as He had once solved the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joakim and Anna made a vow to dedicate the child which the Lord might bestow on them, into the service of God in the Temple. Childlessness was considered



among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joakim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastsdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joakim brought his sacrifice in offering to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, – considering him to be unworthy since he was childless. Saint Joakim in deep grief went into the wilderness and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for the granting of a child. Saint Anna, having learned about what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple, wept bitterly; never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed, asking God's mercy on her family. The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious spouses had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling – to be the parents of the MostHoly Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Archangel Gabriel brought Joakim and Anna the joyous message: their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a MostBlessed Daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World. The MostHoly Virgin Mary of Herself in purity and virtue surpassed not only all mankind but also the Angels; – She was manifest as the Living Temple of God, such that the Church sings in its festal verses of song: "the Heavenly Gate, bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I have cried", Tone 6).

The Birth of the Mother of God marks the change of the times, wherein the great and comforting promises of God begin to be fulfilled about the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil. This event has brought nigh to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, – a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and life immortal. Our Mother FirstBorn of All Creation is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we steadfastly recourse with filial devotion.

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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 Martyr Sozontes

Commemorated on September 20/7

The Martyr Sozontes, a native of Likaonea, was a shepherd. He read the Holy Scriptures attentively, and he loved to share his knowledge about the One God with the shepherds who gathered together with him. He brought many to the faith in Christ and to Baptism. By night-time once, when he sat under an oak tree, he had a vision foretelling his deed of martyrdom for Christ. He set off to the city of Cilician Pompeiopolis, where a festal pagan celebration was being prepared for a golden idol, standing in a pagan temple. Unseen by anyone, saint Sozontes went into the pagan temple and broke off the hand of the idol, and having smashed it he gave the gold to the poor. The missing hands of the idol caused an uproar and commotion in the city: many were under suspicion, given over to interrogation and torture. Not wanting to be the cause of suffering for other people, Saint Sozontes went to the emperor Maximian (284-305) and declared, that it was he that broke the hand from the idol. "I did this, – he said, – so that ye might see the lack of power of your god, which offered me no resistance. It is not a god, but rather a deaf and dumb idol. I wanted to smash it all into pieces, so that people would no longer worship its wrought hands". The emperor in a fitful rage commanded that Saint Sozontes



be tortured mercilessly. They hung him up and struck at him with iron claws, and then they put on his legs iron shackles with nails inside and took him through the city. After this they again suspended him and beat him with iron rods until his bones broke. In these terrible torments Saint Sozontes gave up his spirit to God (+ c. 304). By decree of the emperor, slaves set a strong fire so as to burn the body of the martyr, but suddenly lightning flashed, it thundered loudly and a strong rain poured down over the flames of the fire. Christians took the body of the martyr by night and gave it over to burial. By his grave and at the place where he had the vision, there occurred healing of many of the sick. A church later was built in memory of the sufferings of the holy martyr.

"Faith in the Lord Christ unites man with the eternal Lord Who, according to the measure of man's faith, pours out in his soul eternal life so that he then feels and realizes himself to be eternal. And this he feels to a greater degree inasmuch as he lives according to that faith which gradually sanctifies his soul, heart, conscience, his entire being, by the grace-filled Divine energies."  
+Venerable Justin (Popovic) of Chelije in Serbia

## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### A Deacon

(3<sup>rd</sup> in a series on the Orders of the Church)

The Deacon is the first step of the major orders of clergy in the Orthodox Church, following the bishop and the presbyter [priest]. The word deacon (*from Greek*) means “server” and originally it referred to a person who waited on tables.

In the Orthodox Church, the diaconate is not just a step to priesthood, many deacons have no intention of ever becoming priests. The diaconate itself is a permanent office, as a position for full or part-time service to the work of the Church.

Originally deacons of the Church assisted the bishops in good deeds and works of charity. But at some time in recent centuries the diaconate became an almost exclusive liturgical function where the deacons only assist at the celebration of the Church services, helping in other areas like any other knowledgeable member of the laity.

Sacramentally, all deacons are equal. However, they are ranked and serve by seniority according to the date of their ordination. Just as with bishops and presbyters, there are distinctions of administrative rank among deacons. A senior deacon of a cathedral or principal church may be awarded the title *protodeacon* and claim precedence when serving with other deacons. The chief deacon who is attached to the person of a bishop is called an *archdeacon*. A deacon who is also a monastic is called a *hierodeacon*.

All higher clergy, priests and bishops, must first be ordained and serve as deacons. Because Christ came not to be served, but to serve, so, too, all those who receive the grace of the Holy Spirit to Holy Orders must, likewise, pass through their service as deacons.

#### Ordination

A deacon’s ordination takes place after the consecration of the Holy Gifts during a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, by virtue of the fact that he does not participate in the consecration himself. After being led around the altar thrice, he kneels on one knee at the altar to await the laying on of hands. His first liturgical act is the final Litany of Thanksgiving before the dismissal of this Liturgy.

#### Vestments

The vestments of the deacon are the sticharion, the orarion, and the epimanikia.

All degrees of clergy wear the *sticharion* (Greek: sticharion (singular) / sticharia (plural); Slavonic stikhar / stikharii; Latin: dalmatic). The sticharion is a long-sleeved tunic that reaches all the way to the ground. It reminds the wearer that the grace of the Holy Spirit covers him as with a garment of salvation and joy. For deacons, the sticharion has wide sleeves and is made of a heavier fabric than that of the priest and bishop, who wear their sticharia under other vestments.

The distinctive vestment of the deacon is the *orarion*. The orarion is a narrow band of material that the deacon wears wrapped around his body and draped over his left shoulder. It represents the grace of the Holy Spirit that in ordination anoints the deacon like oil. It is the principal vestment of the deacon and without it he cannot serve.

When the deacon leads the people in prayers or invites them to attention he holds one end of his orarion in his right hand and raises it.

The final parts of a deacon’s vestments are the *epimanika*. The epimanikia are cuffs that are worn around the wrists, tied by a long cord. These are also worn by the bishop and priest. They serve the

practical purpose of keeping the inner garments out of the way during the services. They also remind the wearer that he serves not by his own strength but with the help of God. Only those in major orders wear the epimanika.

#### Duties

The deacon ministers to the priest and bishop in the divine services. This includes:

- Preaching the Gospel of Christ (with the blessing of the presiding priest or bishop)
- Assisting in the celebration of the all of the Holy Mysteries of the Church
- Leading the people in the collective prayers (with the blessing of the presiding priest or bishop)
- Reading from the Scriptures during the divine services (with the blessing of the presiding priest or bishop)
- Keeping the decorum of the public worship, including calling people to attention at appropriate times
- Any tasks of the subdeacon or reader
- Administrating the charitable and/or educational work of the Diocese, Deanery/Vicariate or Parish
- Other tasks related to Church life, with the blessing and direction of his priest or bishop.

In some jurisdictions, a deacon may be blessed by his bishop and parish priest to distribute the Eucharist to the faithful, either from a second chalice at a regular liturgy where a priest is serving or in connection with a typika service that is celebrated when the priest is absent.

What a deacon does may depend on jurisdiction – some consider the diaconate as a short interval before the priesthood – but, where permanency or longevity in the diaconate is prized, deacons will often head educational programs and youth groups, perform hospital visitation, missionary work, and conduct social welfare projects.

Deacons wear a cassock; this is done as a sign of his suppression of his own will and desires, and his canonical obedience to God, his bishop and the liturgical and canonical norms of the Church. Deacons are also permitted to wear the exoraso (or riassa). In jurisdictions that utilize clergy shirts, deacons generally wear a clergy shirt with collar.

In addition, to complete his duties, the deacon is permitted to touch the Table of Oblation, the Altar, and to move through the Royal Doors.

The place of a deacon is to serve the community and to lead prayers. He must have the blessing of the presiding priest or bishop to put on his vestments and serve. A deacon may not celebrate the sacraments by himself; he may not give blessings; he may not consecrate the Holy Gifts.

#### Contemporary Etiquette

For formal occasions (*for example, in the heading of a letter or when introducing a speaker*), one would politely address or refer to a deacon as "The Reverend Deacon [John]." *Deacon* is often abbreviated *Dcn.* Or *Dn.* (though the second is also used as an abbreviation for *dean*).

In informal settings, for example, in normal conversation, it is appropriate to simply refer to a deacon as "Deacon [John]" or "Father Deacon [John]", depending on the tradition.

Deacons cannot bless, so it is inappropriate to ask a deacon for his blessing; blessings are given only by bishops and priests.

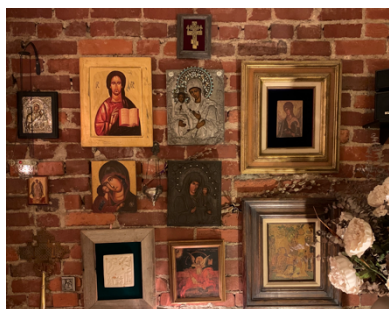
Sources: <https://goodguyswearblack.org/holy-orders/minor-orders/subdeacon/> and <https://orthodoxwiki.org/Subdeacon>





"I don't think about death. Whatever the Lord desires. I want to think about Christ. And you too, open your arms and throw yourselves into Christ's embrace. Then He lives within you."

+St. Porphyrios



## PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & 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...** Katie, Brian, Douglas, Thomas, Dacia, James, Sean, Michael, Julia, Theresa, John, Susan, John, Alexandra D., Pañi Marie, Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Lino, June, for all those battling viruses ...*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, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, 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 Outreaches ...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):

Maria Urban - Nativity of Mary (9/21)  
Sharon Peifer - Righteous Anna (9/22)

*(please contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

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**Birthday Prayers for...** Fr. Matthew Moriak (9/20), Fr. David Smoley (9/20), Mark Martellotti (9/22), *Father's brother-in-law*, Brian Verbanick, Sr (9/22), Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak (9/24), Fr. R. Michael Zak (9/24), AJ Ferraz (9/26)

*...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 Mnohaya I Blahaya 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...** Lauren & Corey, Ashley & Derek ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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**Anniversary Prayers for...** Ken & Paula Watson (9/24), Charles & Allison Kretchek (9/26/15)

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

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Brittany (*due in October*), Elaine (*November*) ...*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. Dzdovsky and Trevor Meegan ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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### For the souls of the newly departed...

+Dolores Smoley (8/22), +Ruth Metil (8/5), and those who have passed from the coronavirus ...*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.*

## DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

### A PRAYER FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF GOD'S WILL

O Lord, I do not know what to ask of You.  
You alone know what my real needs are.  
You love me more than I myself know how to love.  
Help me to see my real needs which are hidden from me.  
I am afraid to ask for either a cross or consolation.  
I can only wait on You.  
My heart is open to You.  
Visit me and help me for the sake of Your great mercy.  
Strike me and heal me, cast me down and raise me up.  
In silence I worship Your holy will and Your ways which are beyond my understanding.  
I offer myself as a sacrifice to You.  
I put all my trust in You.  
I want nothing more than to fulfill Your will.  
Teach me how to pray.  
Pray Yourself in me.  
Amen.

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