



St. 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*
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
Timothy Martin, *Reader*
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
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SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 – “IOCC SUNDAY”

24th Sunday after Pentecost
Saint Nectarios of Aegina
9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22
Gospel: Luke 8:41-56 (7th Sunday of Luke)
Panachida for +Anna (Kostelnik) Winters (4-yr)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9-10:30am Church open for personal prayer
(enter from the side door)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 (THANKSGIVING)

9:30 Moleben of Thanksgiving

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Start of the Nativity Fast (Philip's Fast / Filipovka) / Advent

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 #NATIVITY FAST

25th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew
9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6
Gospel: Luke 10:25-37 (8th Sunday of Luke)
Tone 8; Liturgical Color: **Purple**
Additional offering requested for IOCC

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Live-Broadcast – We are blessed with the opportunity to watch our Diocesan Cathedral's services online (9:00 am Sunday Divine Liturgy). The best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist, but in the current scenario, please take the time Sunday morning and throughout the week to pray via the *live broadcast* on the web at:

www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wed.)

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Moleben of Thanksgiving – There is no better way to begin the day than giving Thanks to God. Let's gather this Thursday morning at 9:30 to begin Thanksgiving together in prayer. (*The Moleben service is not long...*)

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Nativity Fast begins this Saturday - The Fast runs for 40-days until the Eve of the Nativity on Monday, January 6. As in Great Lent, you should establish for yourself a rule of fasting and stick to it. It is often said that the Nativity Fast is so much more difficult because of the nature of society around us (and being on the Old Calendar, the false thought of celebrating 'two Christmases'). We can enjoy the season with our extended family & friends and still keep the spirit of the Fast. Everyone should try, at a minimum, to keep Monday, Wednesday & Friday as fast days, no matter what is happening on the 'new calendar.' If you have questions, please talk with Father Dave. **Prepare the Manger of your Soul for the coming of the new borne Messiah!** (Please read the article under "Living Orthodoxy" below for more about the Nativity Fast)

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“Happiness is found within ourselves,
and blessed is the man
who has understood this.”
+St. Nectarios of Aegina

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! 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 again soon! **If you have any questions** in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave.

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

Executive Parish Council Meeting Highlights:

✓ **Pre-Nativity Clean-Up and Decorating** will *not* happen as in the past. We will decorate the church after Liturgy on 2 consecutive Sundays this year.

✓ **St. Nicholas Breakfast** - will be canceled for this year.

✓ **Church Attendance** - As Allegheny County increases their restrictions for gathering in groups, we are going to continue to monitor our attendance. At this time, we are going to keep our doors open and continue to monitor Covid guidelines.

✓ **Church School** - Due to the increased attendance restrictions, we will continue to postpone the start of the Church School Program. At this time, online opportunities are being explored.

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Sr. ACRY NEWS

2021 Yearbook, A.C.R.Y. Annual - If you would like to include a *patron, booster, or memorial listing* in this *Year Book of the activities of our God-saved Diocese*, a sign-up sheet has been placed in the *Church Hall*. *Patron & Memorial listings* are \$6, and *Booster listings* are \$3. Please see *Theresa Sharpless* with any questions. **Deadline is December 1st.**

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Thank You for your prayers! My friend's husband, *Sean Carey*, went home this past *Wednesday* after 130 days in the hospital due to *Covid*. Thanks be to God, he received the okay to go home as he continues to recover and gain his strength back. Thank you again for your prayers!

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 570
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 364
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 297
Parish House Offering:	\$ 200

Total Collections: \$ 1431

Relocation Fund: \$ 90

We must give in trust that God will use it to produce fruit: "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your sowing (resources) and increase the harvest of your righteousness (benevolence)." - 2 Cor. 9:10

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Shuster Family; Viola Peifer; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Eleanor Sanger; Mirilovich Family; Cindy Pavilionis; Patty Watson.

"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 Helen Saraff, In Memory of Parents, +George & +Mary Huron, and siblings, +Anne Louise Pavilionis, +John, +Michael, and +Veronica Huron. Also by Matthew Peifer and Patty Watson in Memory of +Olga Radick. 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.

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✦ **Tuesday, December 1** – 9:30am Moleben of the Nativity Fast
- ✦ **Thursday, December 3** – 9:30am Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ
- ✦ **Friday, December 4** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos
- ✦ **Saturdays December 5, 12, and 19** - 11a-1p Mystery of Holy Confessions offered

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

SPF50

SCRIPTURE • PRAYER • FAMILY



SPF50 (Scripture, Prayer, Family): A Diocese Family Ministry - The 4th Issue of SPF50 is available! (If you are already participating, please contact Fr. Dave.) If you did not start with us on March 1, consider joining now. Make a commitment to reading Scripture and Praying together with your family. (Please contact Fr Dave to fill out the Commitment Card.) Visit the Diocesan SPF50 web page at 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.

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Parenting Workshop: "Raising Believing Children" - The next Diocesan workshop will be on **Saturday, December 5th** from 10am-12:30pm and will feature presentations by His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory and Fr. Stephen Loposky, small group discussions, and Q&A sessions. The workshops are designed to help parents learn more about the "craft" of parenting and help them raise their children in the Faith. The workshop's focus on the ways parents can help their children stay faithful to Christ and His Church in a world that is filled with doubt and most often works against

their Faith. The workshop is for parents of any age – you're never too old to be a parent! Register for the free workshop at: [Parenting Workshop - 12-5-20](http://ParentingWorkshop-12-5-20) Registration closes on 12/2. More information is available www.acrod.org (Look for the Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series logo.)

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The next **"The Vine and the Branches"** online Diocesan Youth event for youth ages 5-18 (K to 12th Grade) will be **Sunday, December 6** from 6p-7:30p for ages 5-12 and from 7p-8:30p for ages 13-18. His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory is calling all our youth to once again come together online in order to strengthen their faith and connect with their peers around the Diocese. This will be a special Christmas Version: Cocoa will be "served", a special Christmas performance will be offered, and there may even be a special Christmas Fireplace Scene! Registration is at: [The Vine and the Branches - 12/6/20](http://TheVineandtheBranches-12/6/20)

Registration closes on Thursday, December 3. This next Vine and Branches Event won't be until March 2021, so don't miss out on this one! His Eminence is looking forward to seeing all of you!!

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Christmas Food Festival at Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church (214 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, Pennsylvania 15106) will be on **December 12th**. Order in advance for pick-up only between 10a – 2p in the rear of the Church. Order at: <https://hvroc.org/foodfestival>

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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/acroddioocese
 YouTube: youtube.com/acroddioocese

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

14 For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; 18 for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; 22 in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

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Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

⁴¹ And there came a man named Ja'irus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, ⁴² for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. ⁴³ And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and could not be healed by any one, ⁴⁴ came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. ⁴⁵ And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" ⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." ⁴⁷ And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸ And he said to

her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." ⁴⁹ While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." ⁵⁰ But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." ⁵¹ And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. ⁵² And all were weeping and bemoaning her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." ⁵³ And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." ⁵⁵ And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. ⁵⁶ And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Our Father among the Saints Nectarius (Nektarios), bishop of Pentapolis, Wonderworker, and founder of the Monastery of the Holy Trinity on Aegina (1920)

Commemorated on November 22/9

"Saint Nectarius was born in Selyvria of Thrace on October 11, 1846. After putting himself through school in Constantinople with much hard labour, he became a monk on Chios in 1876, receiving the monastic name of Lazarus; because of his virtue, a year later he was ordained deacon, receiving the new name of Nectarius. Under the patronage of Patriarch Sophronius of Alexandria, Nectarius went to Athens to study in 1882; completing his theological studies in 1885, he went to Alexandria, where Patriarch Sophronius ordained him priest on March 23, 1886 in the Cathedral of Saint Sabbas, and in August of the same year, in the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, made him Archimandrite. Archimandrite Nectarius showed much zeal both for preaching the word of God, and for the beauty of God's house. He greatly beautified the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, and years later, when

Nectarius was in Athens, Saint Nicholas appeared to him in a dream, embracing him and telling him he was going to exalt him very high.

"On January 15, 1889, in the same Church of Saint Nicholas, Nectarius was consecrated Metropolitan of Pentapolis in eastern Libya, which was under the jurisdiction of Alexandria. Although Nectarius' swift ascent through the degrees of ecclesiastical office did not affect his modesty and childlike innocence, it aroused the envy of lesser men, who convinced the elderly Sophronius that Nectarius had it in his heart to become Patriarch. Since the people loved Nectarius, the Patriarch was troubled by the slanders. On May 3, 1890, Sophronius relieved Metropolitan Nectarius of his duties; in July of the same year, he commanded Nectarius to leave Egypt.

"Without seeking to avenge or even to defend himself, the innocent Metropolitan left for Athens, where he found that accusations of immorality had arrived before him. Because his good name had been soiled, he was unable to find a position worthy of a bishop, and in February of 1891 accepted the position of provincial preacher in Euboea; then, in 1894, he was appointed dean of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School in Athens. Through his eloquent sermons, his unwearying labours to educate fitting men for the priesthood, his generous almsdeeds despite his own poverty, and the holiness, meekness, and fatherly love that were manifest in him, he became a shining light and a spiritual guide to many. At the request of certain pious women, in 1904 he began the building of his convent of the Holy Trinity on the island of Aegina while yet dean of the Rizarios School; finding later that his presence there was needed, he took up his residence on Aegina in 1908, where he spent the last years of his life, devoting himself to the direction of his convent and to very intense prayer; he was sometimes seen lifted above the ground while rapt in prayer. He became the protector of all Aegina, through his prayers delivering the island from drought, healing the sick, and casting out demons. Here also he

endured wicked slanders with singular patience, forgiving his false accusers and not seeking to avenge himself. Although he had already worked wonders in life, an innumerable multitude of miracles have been wrought after his repose in 1920 through his holy relics, which for many years remained incorrupt. There is hardly a malady that has not been cured through his prayers; but Saint Nectarius is especially renowned for his healings of cancer for sufferers in all parts of the world." (*Great Horologion*)

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Make This a Season of Thanksgiving and Joy

Published on 11/3/20 by Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis, a Priest of St. John Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, FL

Who could have imagined at the beginning of 2020 that a global pandemic would take over many aspects of our lives? Mix in politics with social unrest and there is the perfect storm of frustration and anger. What will be our country's reaction after the election today? How will your mood be affected tomorrow? As I write this message, I have no way of knowing who will win the election, or what people will be doing tomorrow. I know what I'll be doing. I will be loving God and loving my neighbor, because those are the two things God told us to do. I will be serving to the best of my ability as a husband, a father and a priest, because those are the blessings God has granted to me. I don't know how I'll feel tomorrow. At some point I'll feel hungry, at some point I'll feel tired, at some point I'll probably feel frustrated or stressed. Because these are feelings I have at some point each day. Here's the thing about feelings—they ALL come and go. There are choices each of us has to make every day, regardless of how we feel. **Love is a choice.** We can choose to love no matter how we feel. And thankfulness is a choice. We can choose to be thankful no matter how we feel. As we enter into the final months of this season, I will choose to enter them with a

thankful heart. I want to focus on thankfulness, I want to choose thankfulness, and I invite you to make that choice as well. From Monday-Friday each week, we will reflect on "A Thankful Heart" on the Prayer Team. When there is a feastday, we will pause as always to reflect on that. Saturdays and Sundays will continue to reflect on the Epistle and Gospel of that Sunday.

November 15 [28] marks the beginning of the Nativity Fast, a 40-day period of preparation for the feast of the Nativity. In the Orthodox Church, we use "Nativity" or "the Incarnation" to describe the feast of Christmas, so in these writings you will see these terms, and only rare mentions of Christmas. "Advent" is also not an Orthodox word. The preferred term is "The Nativity Fast", though Advent will also be used occasionally. Advent in the non-Orthodox Churches is the four Sunday period prior to the Nativity. It is always four Sundays in length, usually commencing around December 1. There is no fasting component to Advent in the other denominations. In the Orthodox Church, the Nativity Fast is a period of fasting, similar to Great Lent. It is meant to be a period of spiritual reflection and purposeful preparation in anticipation of the great feast of December 25 [January 7]. The feasting and the joy of the season come on the twelve days following the Nativity.

Unfortunately, for many, Christmas has become a stressful season. And most of the stress relates to gift-giving. What do I need to buy? For whom do I need to buy? How much is this going to cost? I can't afford this! Why is there so much traffic at the mall? And how many days are left to get this all done? And as soon as the actual day of Christmas arrives, the season suddenly ends. Christmas music already fills the airwaves today, and it will abruptly stop after ONE day of the twelve days of Christmas.

The goal of this Prayer Team unit is to put our focus on "giving thanks." In this season of "gift giving," we must remember that the most important gifts are not things we can buy or

material gifts we will receive. The greatest gifts we have ever received are God's blessings, given to us in so many ways, large and small. In the period of the Nativity Fast, we prepare again to remember and relive the gift of the Incarnation. The greatest gift we can give to another person is to love our neighbor as God loves us.

Each of us has one heart. The heart is the most important part of the body, because without a heart, one has no life. The heart, then, sets the tone for the rest of the body. It also sets the tone for the spirit. If one has a stressful heart, the mind and the spirit are stressed as well. However, if the heart is joyful, then the mind and the spirit become joyful as well. And the key ingredient to joy is thanksgiving. Because thanksgiving includes both grace and joy, which lead us to God and to the kingdom of Heaven.

The Feast of the Nativity will be here before we know it. Ask yourself what kind of heart you will bring to the feast. Will it be a heart that is relieved the season is over? Will it be a heart that is stressed out? Will it be a heart that is angry? Or will it be a heart that is joyful, hopeful and thankful.

Our journey to the manger this year will focus on the thankful heart, offering practical ways to be more thankful and how to share gratitude with others. We will all come to the manger together on Nativity—will we come empty-handed?

Many of us have already given some thought to the gifts we will buy for people this Christmas. We are already planning and stressing and wondering how we will get it all done. As we begin this journey to the Incarnation, I begin by asking an important question:

What gift will you offer to Christ this Christmas?

We will learn in this unit that thanksgiving, grace and joy are all intertwined. And we will seek to wrap our hearts with all three to present to the Lord at His Nativity.

Lord, thank You for bringing me to the start of another Nativity season. Watch over me and bless me as I begin this journey. As I prepare to

celebrate Your Nativity, allow me to come before You with a thankful heart. Help me again to learn the meaning of the words thanksgiving, grace, and joy so that I may bring all three to the manger on the feast of Your Nativity. Amen.

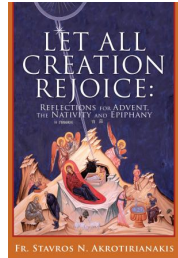
Let's each resolve to turn this season of stress into a season of joy by making it a season of thanksgiving. No matter the status of the pandemic, let's choose to be thankful.

I wish each of you a blessed Nativity Fast journey to the Nativity of Christ!

NATIVITY FAST BOOK SUGGESTION

LET ALL CREATION REJOICE:

Reflections for Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany by Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis
ISBN : 9781498484077



HEAR THE CHRISTMAS STORY AS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD IT BEFORE. MAKE THE JOURNEY TO THE MANGER ALONG WITH MARY AND JOSEPH, THE SHEPHERDS AND THE MAGI. Let All Creation Rejoice: Reflections for Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany is a series of short daily reflections on the scripture readings of the season, to be read during the Orthodox Nativity season between November 28 and January 20. Spending a few minutes each day reading and reflecting on these scriptures will not change your status. It will change your heart. You will better understand the "good news of a great joy," and why "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." AND AS YOU PREPARE TO AGAIN CELEBRATE GOD'S GREATEST GIFT TO US, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER WITH A MORE GRATEFUL HEART YOUR GIFTS TO HIM.

PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for
Special Intentions and Other Needs

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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... Beverly, Mark, Irene, Kristina, Georgia, Steve, Pañi Kathy D., Fr. Patrick C., Fr. George L., Brian, Douglas, Dacia, Sean, Julia, Theresa, John, Susan, John, Alexandra D., 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, Donald, Matthew, Matthew, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Daniel, Dylan, Thomas, and Nicholas *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, 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.*

“Deny yourself sensual delights in the hope that, instead of them, you will obtain higher spiritual, heavenly delights.” +St. John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt

Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):
Cindy Pavilonis - Saint Cyntianus (11/28)
(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... *Father's sister, Suzanne Verbanick (11/25), Stephen Brancho (11/26), Fr. Michael Ellis (11/26), John Gaydos Sr. (11/26), John Righetti (11/26), Pañi Peggy Teklinski (11/26), Victor Zerby (11/27), Pañi Ileana Bennett (11/28) ...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!*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers...
Dustin, Stephen, Susan, Marilynn, John ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky and Trevor Meegan ...*through the prayers of St. George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For those preparing for Marriage... Lexi & Patrick, Lauren & Corey, 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... Elaine (*due in November*), Marilynn (*April*) ...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For the souls of the newly departed...
+Mark Bodnar (11/19), +Donald Bodnar, Sr (11/18), +Olga Radick (11/4), +Metropolitan Maximos (11/2), 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*

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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.*

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“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endures forever!” (Psalm 106:1)

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK

IOCC Thanksgiving Prayer for Those in Need

O Heavenly King, Comforter, who grants all blessings, we thank You for Your abundant grace and mercies. Help us to be good stewards of Your treasury through the ministry of IOCC. Help us to strip ourselves of our earthly adornment, so that the poor may be sufficiently clothed and fed. And, by so loving our neighbor, adorn us with the everlasting pearls of virtue instead. Where there is suffering, help us to bring Your mercy; where there is despair, Your hope. Where there is war, allow us to present You who are the Prince of Peace; where there is pain, You who are the Comforter; Where there is hatred, You who are Love; where there is death and destruction; You who are the Resurrection and Life. Daily guide our work in and through IOCC so that we may do all things, in every place and at all times, for Your glory. Amen.