



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*
Timothy Martin, *Reader*
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*
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SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 #NATIVITY FAST

30th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord
Sunday of the Holy Fathers
Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (304)
9:15 – Nativity Canon & Carols (*Kol'ady*);
9:30 – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25
Panachida for +Stelian Popescu (1-year) and
+Jack Scherer (9-month), +Alexander Salio,
(40-day), +Mark Bodnar (40-day), +Donald
Bodnar, Sr. (40-day)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 #NATIVITY FAST

9:30am Prefestive Moleben of the Nativity

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 ## STRICT FAST DAY

9:30am Royal Hours of Nativity

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9:30am Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 – 2ND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

9:30am Divine Liturgy: Synaxis of the Theotokos

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 – 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS

9:30am Divine Liturgy: Feast of St. Stephen

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 - 4TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

31st Sunday after Pentecost

Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, Holy Righteous
David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord
(movable holiday on the Sunday after Nativity)

9:15 – Nativity Canon & Carols (*Kol'ady*);

9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Nativity Fast - This Fast runs until the Eve of the Nativity on Wednesday, January 6 when we have a day of strict fasting. If you have questions, please talk with Father Dave. **Prepare the Manger of your Soul for the coming of the new borne Messiah!**

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Did you know... On the two days following Christmas, the special Antiphons and Nativity Tropar continue to be sung. Also, on January 8th (the 2nd day of Christmas) the Entrance Hymn is repeated. If you are unable (or uncomfortable) to come to church on January 7th, please consider coming on the 8th or 9th.

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On-Line Giving is now available from our parish website! The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple. Now you can also donate from your home and set up a recurring donation. (There was a glitch so only donations to the General Stewardship Fund are available at this time. This will hopefully be figured out within the week.)

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New Sticharion (dalmatic / robe) – We have been blessed to acquire gently used vestments for our Reader, Tim. We also have on order new Gold, Purple, and Burgundy Altar Boy Sticharion. The total for everything mentioned is \$3,600. Thanks to an anonymous donor, any balance that remains after today will be covered. Glory to God and Thank You for your kind generosity!

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.

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/

Here is the upcoming Cathedral Schedule:

Wed. Jan. 6 at 8pm – Great Compline
9pm - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Thu. Jan. 7 at 9am – Divine Liturgy

Fri. Jan. 8 at 9am – Divine Liturgy

Sat. Jan. 9 at 9am – Divine Liturgy

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Twitter - Our parish now has a Twitter account: @sjb_orthodoxpgh or sjb_orthodox_pittsburgh. Any changes to our service schedule or information about a feast day will be shared through this platform.

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Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh Icons – A very generous anonymous donation was recently made: an icon of the Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh for the households of the parish! These beautiful icons are now blessed and ready to be taken home. May God bless the donor of these icons and may He bless all of the homes where the icons are going!

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Calcium ice melt (salt) for sidewalks – This year, the church *does not* need any ice melt for the sidewalks. (We still have last year's.)

Parish Precautions – If you were curious, here are a few of the precautions that the parish has been taking and will continue to take as we err on the side of caution with Covid:

- the open pews, door handles, and light switches are sanitized weekly,
- pans on top of the radiators are being filled with water to increase the humidity in the air (denser air falls to the ground faster taking germs with it)
- the ceiling fans run on low pushing the heat down (and preventing the air to be stagnant)
- 4 windows are cracked in the nave of the church (bringing in fresh air)
- we also continue to wear our masks and keep safe-distancing

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Father or a member of the Parish Council. And as always, if you are feeling ill or have a fever, please stay home and let Father know so that we can pray for you!

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 2140
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 152
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 522
New Sticharion Robes:	\$ 750
Community Outreach:	\$ 265

Total Collections: \$ 3829

Relocation: \$ 50

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

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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; 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 Michael Spirnak in memory of: +Olga Radick, +Anna Mae Gogal, and +Mildred Gavulich; by Kathy Schrmack Birthday Remembrance for +Eleanor Dussling. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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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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Stewardship Envelopes – The 2021 Stewardship Envelopes are in the church hall to be picked up. If you would like your envelopes mailed to you, please contact Father Dave or Theresa Sharpless.

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Confessions are available following every service.

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✦ **Thursday, January 14** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord - Feast of St Basil the Great
- ✦ **Tuesday, January 19** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water on the Feast of the Theophany of our Lord
- ✦ **Wednesday, January 20** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Synaxis of St. John

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

Infant clothing and diaper drive - *The recently formed Pittsburgh Chapter of Zoe for Life!* (www.zoeforlifepgh.org) in conjunction with "Choices Pregnancy Services" (new Pittsburgh

Center on the South Side, 2429 East Carson Street, Suite #301, Pittsburgh, PA, 15203), is having a drive for NEW baby clothing (up to size 18 months including "onesies," sleepers, blankets, outfits, etc.), diapers (newborn to size 5), and wipes. They have posted a "wish list" on Amazon: <https://a.co/8e0CKOG>, if donors would like to order online rather than buying in stores.

We respectfully ask that you please inform your parishioners of this drive and that the donated items be collected at the Choices Center on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Please access: <http://zoeforlifepgh.org/infant-clothing-and-diaper-drive> for further info.

VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

⁹By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ³²And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated— ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy—

wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

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January 5: Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

¹The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab, and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa, ⁸and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, ⁹and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, ¹⁰and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi'ah, ¹¹and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. ¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of She-al'ti-el, and She-al'ti-el the father of Zerub'babel, ¹³and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, ¹⁵and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; ¹⁹and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; ²¹she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman'u-el" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Week of the Holy Fathers

Commemorated on the Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ "the Holy Fathers have instituted the Commemoration of the Genealogy of our Saviour Jesus Christ, in which we include not only His ancestors according to the flesh from Adam to Joseph the Betrothed of the Mother of God, but all the Righteous and the Prophets, who, by their words or deeds, announced the coming in the flesh of the Son of God." (from the Synaxarion) As baptized Christians, we ourselves are by adoption children of the Father and brethren of Christ, as the Apostle says, and are therefore a continuation of this spiritual lineage. May we be made worthy! Since the Jews did not trace genealogies in the mother's

line, the Scriptures do not give us the lineage of Christ according to the flesh, which was through his mother Mary; but instead list the forebears of Joseph the Betrothed, who served according to the Law as husband of Mary and father of Jesus. According to the Fathers, the blessed Virgin was the daughter of Joachim, son of Bar-Panther, son of Panther, son of Levi, son of Nathan, son of King David. Thus as prophesied, the Messiah was of the house and lineage of David.

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The Holy Martyress Juliana

Commemorated on January 3 / December 21

The Holy Martyress Juliana, daughter of an illustrious pagan named Africanus, was born in the city of Nicomedia. In her adolescent years she was betrothed to a certain Eleusios. Saint Juliana was endowed with a profound intellect and an inclination to goodness of soul, and she saw through the delusion and deception of the pagan faith. She secretly accepted holy Baptism. When the time of the wedding approached, Juliana resolutely refused to be married. Her father began to urge her not to break the long engagement but, not getting his wish, he began to beat her viciously. Then Africanus handed his daughter over to the magistrate of the city, – which was that very Eleusios, the former fiancée of Juliana. Eleusios heatedly asked Juliana to marry him, promising not to require of her a change of faith. Saint Juliana refused and preferred the torture. They beat the saint both long and harshly, but after each beating she received from God healing and new strength. Her beating was done before a large number of people. Of these, 500 men and 150 women came to confess Christ – having witnessed the steadfastness and courage of the holy virgin miraculously healed from her wounds. They were beheaded, having been baptized in their own blood. Convinced finally of his own hopeless attempt to tear the holy virgin away from her Heavenly Bridegroom, Eleusios sentenced Juliana to death. She accepted the sentence with joy and glorified the Lord for permitting her to receive a martyr's crown in the year 304.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

THE CANON OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

Ode 1: Christ is born, glorify him! Christ comes from heaven, meet Him! Christ is an earth, be exalted! O all the earth, sing to the Lord, and sing praises in gladness, all people, for He has been glorified.

Ode 3: To the Son Who was begotten of the Father without change before all ages, and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin, to Christ our God, let us cry aloud: You have raised up our horn, holy are You, O Lord!
Ode 4: Rod of the root of Jesse, and flower that blossomed from his stem, O Christ, You have sprung forth from the Virgin. From the mountain overshadowed by the forest You came, made flesh for her that knew not wedlock, O God not formed from matter. Glory to Your power O Lord!
Ode 5: As You are God of Peace and Father of mercies, You have sent to us Your Angel of Great Counsel, granting unto us peace. So are we guided towards the light of the knowledge of God. And watching by night, we glorify You, O Lover of mankind.

Ode 6: The sea monster spat forth Jonah as it had received him, like a babe from the womb: while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh: came forth from her yet kept her undefiled. For being Himself not subject to decay. He preserved His Mother free from harm.
Ode 7: Scorning the impious decree, the three children brought up together in godliness feared not the threat of fire: but standing in the midst of the flame they sang: "O God of our fathers, blessed are You!"

Ode 8: The furnace moist with dew was the image of a wonder past nature. For it burned not the children whom it had received, even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which It had descended. Therefore in praise, let us sing: let the whole creation bless the Lord, and exalt Him above all forever.

Ode 9: I behold a strange and wonderful mystery. The cave has become heaven, the throne of the Cherubim, the Virgin. The manger a noble place where lies Christ our God Who cannot be contained. Let us praise Him in song and magnify You!

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... Suzanne, Stacy, Allen, Jerry, Allen, Thomas, Jerry, Andrew, Brian, Kristina, Fr. Patrick C., Fr. George L., Brian, Douglas, Dacia, Sean, Julia, 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, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Elizabeth, Donald, 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.*

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Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day): Juliana Anton – Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (1/3) Stephen Brancho - Holy Protomartyr & Archdeacon Stephen (1/9)

(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Joshua Mainolfi (1/3), Anna Martellotti (1/4), Steven Buhonick (1/7), Jason Shelpman (1/9) ...*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... Marilynn *(due in April)* Pani Dutko *(June)* ...*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... +Fr. John Baranik (12/20), +Alexander Salio (11/30), +Mark Bodnar (11/19), +Donald Bodnar, Sr (11/18), 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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**DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE
NATIVITY FAST**

**NATIVITY FAST
PRAYER CHALLENGE 2020**

Metropolitan Gregory asks each member of our Diocese, either as a family or individually, to pray this every evening of the Nativity Fast.

O Physician of Souls and Bodies: we pray that You continue to come to our aid now during the global spread of the Coronavirus.

May the sick regain their strength and health, and as they worry and grieve, defend them from further illness and despair. We offer thanks to You for those who have recovered.

Grant rest to those who have reposed. Be with the families of those who are sick and those who have died.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Remove from us all pride, which can make us claim immunity to a disease that knows no borders.

Give wisdom and strength to our President, our federal government, our state governments, together with the leaders of all nations, and give them foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they serve.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, we pray that You stay by our side and grant us courage and peace.

AMEN.