



# 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*  
Lawrence Martin, *Parish 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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## SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

*please wear masks following the CDC guidelines*

### SUNDAY, JULY 25

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Righteous Veronica  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Panachida for +Andrew Gogal (3-yr), +Anna Mae Gogal (1-yr), and the newly departed Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday; Additional offering requested for our Community Outreach

### TUESDAY, JULY 27

7:00 pm Moleben to St. Nectarios w/ holy anointing

### THURSDAY, JULY 29

9:30 am Morning Moleben

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils  
Venerable Macrina  
9:30 am Reader's Service  
Epistle: Rom. 12:6-14 / Heb. 13:7-16 (Fathers)  
Gospel: Matt. 9:1-8 / Jn. 17:1-13 (Fathers)  
Tone 5; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

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**Future Services** are listed on our online "Parish Calendar" which is continually updated at:

[www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar)

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**Live-Broadcast** – If you are unable to attend church on Sunday morning, please pray along with our Cathedral's services online at **9:00 am**.

[www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/)

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## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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**Thank You** to everyone who was involved in planning, bringing things, as well as participating in our parish picnic last week!

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

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### LET'S EMPTY THE BOXES -

Many items have been offered to us from outside of our parish. Please empty a box or two each time you are at the church. The Garage Sale will be from **August 13-15**: Friday and Saturday from 9am to 3pm and, *new this year*, Sunday from 12-noon to 3pm.

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**Stewards needed for each day** – whether you can offer your time all day or even just for 2 hours, please sign up on the sheet in the hall as we prepare for the return of our garage sale.

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**Pussy Willow Bush** – *There are two bushes that took root and are ready for a new home. Please let Fr. Dave know if you are interested.*

## 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.

**Speaking With Your Priest** - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers.

With love in Christ, Fr. Dave

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**Congratulations!** to Lindsay Matolyak and AJ Ferraz and their families on the birth of **Felix Alexander Matolyak-Ferraz** born on July 6 (7 lb 9 oz and 20 in). Welcome to our Parish Family!

*"Preserve her and this child which she has borne.*

*Cover her with the shelter of thy wings from this day until her final end, through the prayers of the most Holy Theotokos and of all the saints. Amen"* – from *Prayers for a Woman on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day after Childbirth*

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**Congratulations** to Alexei Kroh and Patrick Wertz who were united together in the *Mystery of Holy Matrimony* yesterday. *Through the prayers of Saints Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs, May God grant you many years!*

*Monday's Spiritual Vitamin:*

"If you see a man who has sinned and you do not pity [*have compassion for*] him, the grace of God will leave you. Whoever curses bad people, and does not pray for them, will never come to know the grace of God." +St. Silouan the Athonite

## OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 375
<i>(\$50 In Memory of +Olga Radick)</i>	
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 138
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 1387
Community Outreach:	\$ 40
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 1940</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 40</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 150</b>

*(\$50 In Memory of +Viola Peifer)*

*In faith that God provides: "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'" – 2 Corinthians 9:8-9*

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**Did you get behind?** - If you by chance got behind in your weekly stewardship offerings to the church, please catch up as we are approaching our "fiscal" year-end in August.

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**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Shuster Family; Mary Jane Hudak; 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 Matt Peifer, in memory of Parents, +Jack & +Viola Peifer; and by Melanie Paieski, in memory of Mother, +Catherine Gaydos. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

**Weekly Offerings to God** – During this time, if you are not yet coming to the church, we request that weekly donations be mailed to Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)



**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 (2<sup>nd</sup> best is to mail it in). Now you can also donate from your home and set up a recurring donation to the:

- ✘ General Stewardship Fund,
- ✘ Capital Improvement Fund, or
- ✘ Relocation Fund.

If you miss coming to church for a week, this allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship. For our parish to continue it’s ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

*Tuesday’s Spiritual Vitamin:*

“One who strictly prosecutes the misdemeanors of others will find not condescension towards his own.” +St. John Chrysostom, *On the Statutes*

### ORTHODOXY AROUND THE ‘BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

**SPF50 (Scripture, Prayer, Family): A Diocese Family Ministry** - The 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of SPF50 is available! As you are aware, praying together and reading Scripture together are pillars of a Christ-centered Orthodox Christian family. While families may desire to have these activities in their home, they may not be sure how to start. SPF50 intends to help our families bridge that gap. (*If you are already participating, please contact Fr. Dave.*) If you did not start with us last year, 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](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.

**A Virtual Young Women’s Encounter (YWE)** has been organized for August 15-17. All of our parish daughters, ages 12-18, are encouraged to participate as much as possible in this retreat. Please contact Fr Dave or email Pañi Eleni Stagon at [acrodywe@gmail.com](mailto:acrodywe@gmail.com) for more information.

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**Deanery Picnic** – Please save the date for the Deanery Picnic to be held at The Veterans Pavilion at Schenley Park on **Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** from Noon to dusk. This will be the third time that we get together in recent years and pray that it will be the biggest turn-out yet!

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**Online Women’s Retreat: *The Joy of Resolving the Unresolved: Navigating Life’s Stages More Peacefully*** with Fr. Joshua Makoul. It is hard to get through life without accumulating life experiences that leave a mark on us. If we move through our lives and those life experiences remain unresolved, they can resurface later and make our transition into later life stages more painful and difficult. By learning to unpack and heal from painful life experiences, we will be able to make life stage transitions more easily, peacefully, and joyfully. By embracing humility, insight, self-awareness, and no small amount of motivation, we can learn to navigate any life crisis.

The retreat will be **Saturday, November 13** from 11 am to 3:30 pm and costs \$35. Register at <https://store.ancientfaith.com/2021-womens-retreat/> by November 10.

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*Wednesday’s Spiritual Vitamin:*

“Do not lose your temper with those who sin. Do not have a passion for noticing every sin in your neighbor and judging it, as we usually do. Everyone will give an answer for himself before God. Especially, do not look with evil intention on the sins of those older than you, with whom you have no business. But correct your own sins, your own heart.”

+St. John of Kronstadt, *My Life in Christ*

### 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/acroddioocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioocese](https://youtube.com/acroddioocese)

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*Thursday’s Spiritual Vitamin:*

“Do not be angry at anyone and do not hate anyone, neither for their faith, nor for their shameful deeds...”

Do not foster hatred for the sinner, for we are all guilty... Hate his sins, and pray for him, so that you may be made like unto Christ, who had no dislike for sinners, but prayed for them.”

+St. Isaac the Syrian

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### SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Epistle: Romans 10:1-10**

Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup>I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. <sup>3</sup>For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. <sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified.

**Salvation Is for All**

<sup>5</sup>Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, “Who will ascend into heaven?” (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>or “Who will descend into the abyss?” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); <sup>9</sup>because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

**Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1**

**Jesus Heals the Gadarene Demoniacs**

<sup>28</sup>And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. <sup>29</sup>And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?” <sup>30</sup>Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. <sup>31</sup>And the demons begged him, “If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine.” <sup>32</sup>And he said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. <sup>33</sup>The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. <sup>34</sup>And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. <sup>9</sup>And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

### LIVING ORTHODOXY

**Would you be ready to greet a released felon?**

*From Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry on 4/15/21*  
After serving six years in prison, Greg was a free man. But freedom did not mean that the “residue” of prison life was suddenly gone. He would need months, perhaps even years, to fully adjust to life on the outside. For one thing, he still felt deeply ashamed of the crime he had committed and desperately needed forgiveness and acceptance from God and society. While still experiencing the disorientation of his release, relocation and reintegration, Greg nevertheless made it a priority to find an Orthodox parish. He had discovered Orthodoxy while in prison through *Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry*. Through our Correspondence Ministry, Greg completed a catechism course. We also provided him with icons, books, and the writings of the Church Fathers. And crucially, an Orthodox priest who had been trained in prison ministry visited him in prison.

All of this had a life-changing impact on Greg. Having experienced various non-Orthodox prison fellowships, he came to believe that Orthodoxy was the true Apostolic Church, offering the fullest expression of Christianity.

So with no car, and only Google to help him find the location of the Orthodox parish, Greg took a series of buses and walked two miles to reach the church. He stood to the side, experiencing his first ever Divine Liturgy.

When the service was over, a man approached him and asked him *if he was new to Orthodoxy*. When Greg said, “yes,” the man then asked him *how he had heard about the Orthodox Church*. “*I paused for a moment*,” recalls Greg, “*considering my options. The open kindness of his eyes softened my heart and I told him that I learned about it in prison. He did not even skip a beat, then he said that there have been a number of people who found Orthodoxy in prison.*”

The man who approached Greg probably doesn't realize just how crucial his actions were. If he had rejected Greg, Greg may well have despaired. But by warmly welcoming him, the man made himself God's instrument to bring healing to Greg.

Greg returned to that parish and met more people. When they asked him what brought him to the area, Greg admitted that it was parole. “*That's okay*,” they responded, “*Orthodoxy is full of repentant sinners.*”

“*I weep now as I realize the love and acceptance that was freely offered to me*,” says Greg.

Would you have been ready had God brought Greg to your parish? Would you have freely welcomed someone who had served time for committing a crime? **When God brings people our way for the first time, we have no way of knowing where they have been and what they have experienced.** In preparation for Great Lent, we read of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Like the loving father who waits to welcome home the prodigal son, God may bring a “prodigal” to us and waits to see if we will welcome them back home for peace and repentance.

*Friday's Spiritual Vitamin:*

“To judge sins is the business of one who is sinless, but who is sinless except God? Whoever thinks about the multitude of his own sins in his heart never wants to make the sins of others a topic of conversation. To judge a man who has gone astray is a sign of pride, and God resists the proud. On the other hand, one who every hour prepares himself to give answer for his own sins will not quickly lift up his head to examine the mistakes of others.” +St. Gennadius of Constantinople, *The Golden Chain*

**LIVES OF THE SAINTS**

**RIGHTEOUS VERONICA**

*Commemorated on July 25/12*

Righteous Veronica was, according to tradition, that woman with the issue of blood, who received healing by a touch to the hem of the robe of Christ (Mt. 9: 20-22). She gave the Lord a veil, with which the Lord wiped His face, when He went to crucifixion. On the veil was imaged the Face of the Lord.

**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...** Fr John P, Pañi Eleanor P, John, Pañi Deborah, Christopher, John, Michelle, Frederick, Fr. Patrick, Joseph, Joanne, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, and Roberta *...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

**For the Special Intentions of...** His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Photios, Fr. Theodore, Deacon Charles, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Elizabeth, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Dylan, Thomas, Nicholas, and Aydin *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):**

Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak & Mareena Shuster - Great Martyr Marina of Antioch (7/30) *(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

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**Birthday Prayers for...** Glenn Labas (7/25), Barbara Gedid (7/27), Ryan Gogal (7/27), Samuel Schrmack (7/27), Doug Delaney (7/28), Fr Stephen Lopusky (7/28), Luke Tongel (7/30), Pañi's brother, Florin Popescu (7/30), Fr. George Ellis (7/31) *...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...** Susan, Marilyn, John *...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, Nicole & Dustin *...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...** Theresa *(due in August)*, Pañi Davina *(September)* *...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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

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**For the souls of the newly departed...** +Michael Petitta (7/19), and +George Livanos, the Priest (7/1) *...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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*Saturday's Spiritual Vitamin:*

“If you see your neighbor in sin, don't look only at this, but also think about what he has done or does that is good, and infrequently trying this in general, while not partially judging, you will find that he is better than you.  
+St. Basil the Great

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**DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS OF THE WEEK**

**A Prayer for Prisoners**

Almighty God, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, come to the aid of those in prison and grant them Your peace in the midst of this difficult time in their lives.

I believe Lord, that all of the trials of life are under Your care and that all things work for the good of those who love You.

Take away from those in prison all fear, anxiety, and distress. Help them to face and endure incarceration with faith, courage, and wisdom. Grant that this trial may bring them closer to You for You are our rock and our refuge, our comfort and our hope, our delight and our joy.

I trust in Your love and compassion. Blessed is Your name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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### A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (*name*), and our spiritual father (*name*), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

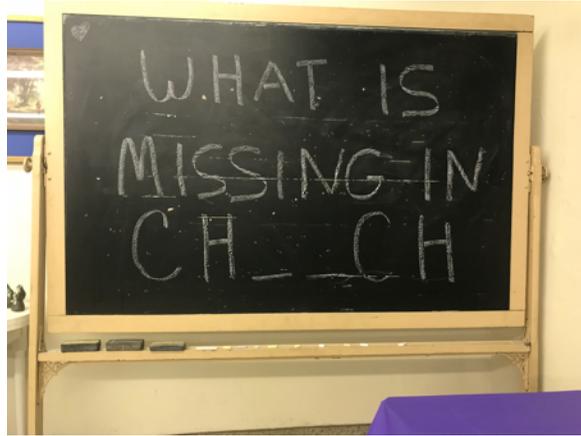
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\* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (*in the case of answered prayers*) 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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“Never confuse the person, formed in the image of God, with the evil that is in him: because evil is but a chance misfortune, an illness, a devilish reverie. But the very essence of the person is the image of God, and this remains in him despite every disfigurement” (St. John of Kronstadt).

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“Let there always be a preponderance of mercy with you, even though you don't feel such mercy in yourself, as God has for the world ... A cruel and merciless heart is never purified. A merciful man is the doctor of his own soul because as a strong wind from his heart, he drives out the darkness of the passions.” +St. Isaac the Syrian