



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*
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SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

please wear masks following the CDC guidelines

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

10th Sunday after Pentecost
Translation of the Image *Not-Made-By-Hands*
Within the Feast of the Dormition
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

International Overdose Awareness Day
7 pm Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup
followed by a Panachida

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 CANCELLED

—9:30am Moleben to St Nectarios with anointing

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

11th Sunday after Pentecost
Leave-taking of the Feast of the Dormition
Martyr Lupus (306)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Cor. 9:2-12; Gospel: Mat. 18:23-35
Tone 2; Liturgical Color: **Blue**

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

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/

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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2021 Home Blessings – Two weeks ago we celebrated the Lesser Blessing of Water. Our annual Home Blessings have now begun! Please see Fr. Dave when he has his calendar (a.k.a. his phone) or email him today to schedule your Home Blessing.

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International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on **August 31st** each year that aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses. On this day, we will have an Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup at 9:30am on behalf of those who suffer from alcoholism and other addictions. All are encouraged to come and pray. We also encourage those who have friends or family members who struggle with addiction, as well as those who work in the field of recovery, to come and pray with us!

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Additional **custodial assistance** will be needed starting September 1. A few ideas were discussed at the recent Parish Council meeting including creating "Cleaning Teams" that can rotate each week (or month). Please contact Larry Martin (412-996-6938) to offer your time or if you have a suggestion.

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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! 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:

in memory of
+Helen Kailyar
(23-year anniversary)

May Her Memory
Be Eternal!

Moleben to St Nectarios – On **Thursday, September 2nd** at 9:30am, we will have a Moleben (*devotional service of supplication*) to St. Nectarios (*the Patron Saint of those with cancer*) with anointing. This beautiful prayer service is not only for the sick, but it is for all of us to pray for each other!

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THANK YOU to the beautiful stewards of their time who have been so dedicated to this community event! May God grant you many years! As of last week, \$2,274 has been collected from this community event for our outreach!

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Masks – Our Parish Council has discussed and agree that we should continue to follow the CDC guidelines. **We will return to wearing masks inside the church** (regardless of vaccination status). If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to anyone on the Executive Parish Council (Larry, Matt, Rich, Tim, Theresa, and Bob)

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Pittsburgh Forerunners – Join others from our parish in the Virtual Trek4Missions which supports *The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)*. To join, go to:

secure.ocmc.org/goto/Pittsburgh_4runners

Click: "JOIN A TEAM"

Then use the password "SJB2021Trek"

The trek will run now through 9/17. *This is an opportunity for individuals and parish communities to unite and demonstrate our commitment to Christ's Great Commission "to make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).*

Godparent Sunday – Our Annual Godparent Sunday celebration will be **Sunday, September 12th**, a day to honor them and to encourage the growth of this spiritual relationship. *We need to keep the Spiritual bonds alive with our God-parents and God-children. Even more important, we need to keep our life united with our Lord, Jesus Christ. This unites us with one another.*

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SJB Yearly Parish Meeting will be on **Sunday, September 19th** following the Divine Liturgy. **New Proposals** for the Meeting need to be submitted to *Larry Martin* or *Matt Peifer*. All proposals are much appreciated! This is the **1st Official Notice** for the meeting.

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Church School Teachers are needed. Please contact Fr. Dave or a Parish Council Member if you are interested. We will begin at the beginning of October.

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Fence Repair issues have prevented previous folks from repairing the fence on Woodland Avenue. If you have experience working with chain-link fences, please call Fr Dave or Larry Martin (412-996-6938)

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Spiritual Vitamin:

Feast of the Dormition Tropar (Tone 1)
O Birthgiver of God, in giving birth you retained virginity; and in your falling asleep you did not forsake the world. You are the Mother of Life and have passed into life, and by your prayers have delivered our souls from death.

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 57
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 200
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 280
Total Collections:	\$ 537
Fundraising Account (Garage Sale):	\$ 131
Relocation Fund:	\$ 150

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 Cor. 9:8-9

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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Peggy Rusnak; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Melanie Shuster; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavidonis

“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 and +Viola Peifer. May Their Memory Be Eternal!

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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 (2nd 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.

Coat Drive – 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)]. Please place your clean coat(s) on the coat rack in the hall

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LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD

Some 2021 dates of interest:

- **Sep/Oct - Home Blessings Continue**
- Sep 11 - Feast of the Beheading of St. John
- Sep 12 - God-Parents/God-Children Sunday
- Sep 19 - Yearly Meeting
- Sep 21 - Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
- Sep 27 - Feast of the Elevation of the Cross
- Oct 3 - 3rd Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic
- Oct 6 - Feast of the Conception of St. John
- Oct 14 - Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos
- Oct 16 - Diocesan Parenting Workshop
- Oct 23 - Found of St John’s Parish in 1932
- Oct 26 - Carpatho-Rusyn Day in North America
- Nov 8 - Feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius
- Nov 21 - Feast of the Holy Archangels
- Nov 21 - Turkey Bingo
- Nov 25 - Moleben of Thanksgiving
- Nov 28 - Nativity Fast begins
- Dec 4 - Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos
- Dec 12 - Seminary Benefit Dinner
- Dec 19 - Feast of St. Nicholas
- Jan 7 - Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Please, Save the Dates!

Spiritual Vitamin:

“The Most Holy Mother of God prays for us ceaselessly. She is always visiting us. Whenever we turn to her in our heart, she is there. After the Lord, she is the greatest protection for mankind. How many churches there are in the world that are dedicated to the Most Holy Mother of God! How many healing springs where people are cured of their ailments have sprung up in places where the Most Holy Theotokos appeared and blessed those springs to heal both the sick and the healthy! She is constantly, by our side, and all too often we forget her.” +Elder Thaddeus

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE ‘BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

Survey - The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA needs your input! Please take the **Orthodox Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey**, designed by experts on the Mental Health Task Force, takes only 15 minutes. *All information you provide is completely anonymous*, and the aggregate data will help the Task Force better understand the mental health needs and experiences of the faithful in order to develop resources and programs for enhanced ministry in our communities. Please take the survey. Scan the QR code or visit:



www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/mental-health-task-force/mental-health-needs-assessment-survey

VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

⁹For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. ¹¹To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, ¹²and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things.

Fatherly Admonition

¹⁴I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

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Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Jesus Cures a Boy with a Demon

¹⁴And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and kneeling before him said, ¹⁵“Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is demented and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. ¹⁶And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.” ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. ¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁰He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. ²¹But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting.”

Jesus Again Foretells His Death and

²²As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.

FEAST DAY FEATURE

THE TRANSFER FROM EDESSA TO CONSTANTINOPLE OF THE NOT-MADE-BY-HAND IMAGE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Commemorated on August 29/16

The Transfer from Edessa to Constantinople of the Not-Made-by-Hand Image of our Lord Jesus Christ occurred in the year 944. Tradition relates, that during the time of the preaching of the Saviour,

Abgar rules in Edessa. He was stricken all over his body with leprosy. Reports about the great miracles, worked by the Lord, spread throughout Syria (Mt. 4: 24) and reached even Abgar. Without having seen the Saviour, Abgar believed in Him as the Son of God and wrote a letter with a request to come and heal him. He sent with this letter to Palestine his own portrait-painter Ananias, having commissioned him to make a depiction of the Divine Teacher. Ananias arrived in Jerusalem and caught glimpse of the Lord, surrounded by people. He was not able to get close to Him because of the large throng of people, listening to the preaching of the Saviour. Then he stood on an high-up rock and attempted from afar to render the image of the Lord Jesus Christ, but this for him turned out in no wise successful. The Saviour Himself caught sight of him, called to him by name and gave over to him for Abgar a short letter in which, having praised the faith of this ruler, He promised to send His disciple for both healing from leprosy and guidance for salvation. Then the Lord asked that there be brought Him water and a cloth (linen, or washcloth). He washed His Face, drying it with the cloth, and upon it was imprinted His Divine Countenance. Ananias took the cloth and the letter of the Saviour to Edessa. With reverence Abgar took the holy thing and he received healing; only a small part of traces of the terrible affliction remained upon



his face until the arrival of the disciple promised by the Lord. He was the Disciple from the Seventy Saint Thaddeus, who preached the Gospel and baptised the believer Abgar and all the people of Edessa. Having inscribed upon the Image Not-Made-by-Hand the words "O Christ God, let no one hoping on Thee be ashamed thereof", Abgar adorned it and placed it in a niche over the city gates.

For many years the inhabitants kept a pious custom to bow down before the Image Not-Made-by-Hand, when they went forth from the gates. But one of the great-grandsons of Abgar, later ruling Edessa, fell into idolatry. He decided to take down the Image from the city wall. In a vision the Lord ordered the Edessa bishop to hide His image. The bishop, coming by night with his clergy, lit a lampada before it and walled it over with a pottery-board and bricks. Many years passed, and the people forgot about it. But in the year 545, when the Persian emperor Chosroes I besieged Edessa and the position of the city seemed hopeless, the MostHoly Mother of God appeared to Eulabios and ordered him to secure the Image from the walled-in niche, and it would save the city from the enemy. Having opened the niche, the bishop found the Not-Made-by-Hand Image: in front of it was burning the lampada, and upon the pottery-board, closing in the

niche, was the imaged likeness. After the making of church procession with the Image Not-Made-by-Hand along the city walls, the Persian army withdrew.

In the year 630 Arabs seized hold of Edessa, but they did not hinder the reverencing of the Image Not-Made-by-Hand, the fame of which had spread throughout all the East. In the year 944 the emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitos (912-959) wanted to transfer the Image to the then capital of Orthodoxy and he paid a ransom for it to the emir-ruler of the city. With great reverence the Not-Made-by-Hand Image of the Saviour and that letter, which He had written to Abgar, were transported by clergy to Constantinople. On 16 August the Image of the Saviour was placed in the Tharossa church of the MostHoly Mother of God. About what happened later with the Not-Made-by-Hand Image there exist several traditions. According to one, – crusaders ran off with it during the time of their rule at Constantinople (1204-1261), but the ship, on which the sacred thing was taken, perished in the waters of the Sea of Marmora. According to another tradition, the Image Not-Made-by-Hand was transported around 1362 to Genoa, where it is preserved in a monastery in honour of the Apostle Bartholomew. It is known, that the Image Not-Made-by-Hand repeatedly gave from itself exact imprints. One of these, named "On Ceramic", was imprinted when Ananias hid the image in a wall on his way to Edessa; another, imprinted on a cloak, wound up in Gruzia (Georgia). Possibly, the variance of traditions about the original Image Not-Made-by-Hand derives from the existence of several exact imprints.

During the time of the Iconoclast heresy the defenders of Icon-Veneration (Ikonodoules), having their blood spilt for holy icons, sang the tropar to the Not-Made-by-Hand Image. In proof of the veracity of Icon-Veneration, Pope Gregory II (715-731) dispatched a letter to the Eastern emperor, in which he pointed out the healing of king Abgar and the sojourn of the Not-Made-by-Hand Image at Edessa as a commonly known fact. The Image Not-Made-by-Hand was put on the standards of the Russian army, defending them from the enemy. In the Russian Orthodox Church it is a pious custom for a

believer, before entering the temple, to read together with other prayers the tropar of the Not-Made-by-Hand Image of the Saviour.

According to the Prologue there are known 4 Not-Made-by-Hand Images of the Saviour: 1) at Edessa, of king Abgar – 16 August; 2) the Kamulian, – Sainted Gregory of Nyssa wrote about its discovery, while according to the Monk Nikodemos of the Holy Mount (+1809), the Kamulian image appeared in the year 392, but it had in appearance an image of the Mother of God – 9 August; 3) in the time of emperor Tiberius (578-582), Saint Mary Syncletika received healing from this; 4) on ceramic tiles – 16 August.

The feast in honour of the Transfer of the Image Not-Made-by-Hand, made together with the After-Feast of the Dormition, they call the third-above Saviour Image, the "Saviour on Linen Cloth". The particular reverence of this feast in the Russian Orthodox Church is also expressed in iconography – the icon of the Not-Made-by-Hand Image was one of the most widely distributed.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MARTYR DIOMEDES

Commemorated on August 16

The Martyr Diomedes was born in Cilician Tarsus, and by profession he was a physician, but by belief a Christian, and he treated not only ills not only of body but also of soul. He enlightened many pagans with belief in Christ, and baptised them. The Church venerates him as an healer and summons his name during the making of the Sacrament of Oil-Anointing the Sick.

Saint Diomedes traveled much, converting people to the true faith. When he arrived in the city of Nicea, the emperor Diocletian (284-305) sent soldiers to arrest him. Along the way from Nicea to Nicomedia, he got down from the cart so as to pray, and he died. As proof of carrying out their orders, the soldiers cut off his head, but became blinded. Diocletian gave orders to take away the head back to the body. When the soldiers fulfilled the order, their sight was restored and they believed in Christ.

Spiritual Vitamin:

“Finally when blessed Mary having completed the course of this life, and was to be called from the world, all the Apostles gathered to her house from their different regions. And when they had heard that she was to be taken from the world, together they kept watch with her; and lo, the Lord Jesus came with His angels. Taking her soul, He gave it the Archangel Michael and withdrew. At dawn the Apostles raised her body with a pallet and they placed it in a vault and they guarded it awaiting the coming of the Lord. And lo, a second time the Lord stood by them and he ordered the holy body to be taken and borne to Paradise; there having rejoined the soul exultant with His elect, it enjoys the good things of eternity which shall know no end.” + St. Gregory of Tours, from The Book of Miracles

LIVING ORTHODOXY

What Does “Intercede” Mean? And Why Do We Need It?

From *The Children’s Word* By Presvytera (Pañi) Alexandra Houck

Have you ever tried to help a two year old do something? He usually ends up saying, “I want to do it by myself!”

Sometimes we sound like that, too! We want to do things all by ourselves. We want to do big things, important things, hard things. But we don’t want help. We want to do it all by ourselves.

For two weeks in August, we try hard to remember that we have a helper who is looking out for us. The Theotokos, the Mother of God, is our helper. During the special church services, we say again and again, “O Most Holy Theotokos, intercede for us” or “Pray for us.” We want her to ask her Son to help us.

This week, on the 28th, we remember how Mary, the Theotokos, died and went to heaven. She is so close to her Son there! She has a special relationship with Him, and He listens especially to her. When she asks Him for something, He listens. So, when she “intercedes,” she tries to persuade Him to do something for us.

Let’s not be like a two year old! It’s better to ask for help, especially when it is from the holy Theotokos! **Titles of the Mother of God in the Orthodox Church**

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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... Lawrence, Alli, Casey, Maria, Christopher, John, Frederick, Fr. Patrick, 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.*

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For the Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Photios, Fr. Theodore, Deacon Charles, Laura & family, Carlene, 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:* 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): Pañi Alexandra Urban – St. Alexander (8/30 NC) *(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

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Birthday Prayers for... Lucillia Mainolfi (8/29), Claudia (Herbert) Pido (8/29), Samuel Mainolfi (9/1), Timothy Martin, Reader (9/2), Ruth Herbert (9/2), Ashley Wertz (9/2), Fr. Bob Teklinski (9/3) ...*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, Marilynn, John ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

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... Harmonie (*due in Aug*), Pañi Davina (*Sept*), Meredith (*Dec*) ...*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... +John Urban (8/19), +Thomas Yawkey, the Deacon (8/6), +Henry (7/24), +Michael Petitta (7/19) ...*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.*

Spiritual Vitamin:

“It was right that the eyewitnesses and minsters of the Word should see the Dormition of His Mother according to the flesh, even the final mystery concerning her: hence, they might be witnesses not only to the Ascension of the Saviour but also it to the translation of her who gave Him birth. Assembled from all parts obey divine power, they came to Zion, and sped on her way to heaven the Virgin who is higher than the cherubim.” +St. John of Damascus

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS OF THE WEEK

A PRAYER TO THE THEOTOKOS

Hail Mary, full of grace, O Virgin Birthgiver of God, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to Christ, the Savior and deliverer of our souls.
(strive to pray this ten times a day during the Dormition Fast)

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A Prayer for College Students

Heavenly Father, please be with these students as they go where they do not know. As they seek to grow in knowledge, we ask that they grow in faith. As they start to conquer the world, we hope that they conquer their fears. As they strive to find their place, we pray that they find You. Please go where we cannot, protect when we cannot, give strength that we cannot, and bring them safely home. 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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“Thus thou art also the fountain of true light, the inexhaustible treasury of life itself, the most fruitful source of blessing, who has won for us and brought us all good things — though for a while thou was covered corporeally with death; nonetheless, thou dost pour out pure and inexhaustible streams of immense light, immortal life and true happiness, rivers of grace, fountains of healing and everlasting blessing.”

+ St. John of Damascus, *The Life of the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos*

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Spiritual Vitamin:

“Today the Holy Church solemnly glorifies the honorable Dormition or translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven. A wonderful translation — she died without serious illness, peacefully. Her soul is taken up in the divine hands of Her Son and carried up into the heavenly abode, accompanied by the sweet singing of angels. And then, her most pure body is transferred by the apostles to Gethsemane where it is honorably buried, and on the third day it is resurrected and taken up to heaven. You see this on the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos. On it is represented the life-bearing body of the Theotokos laying on a bier, surrounded by the apostles and hierarchs, and in the center of the icon the Lord holding in His hands the most pure soul of the Theotokos. The translation of the Mother of God is a paradigm of the translation in general of the souls of Christians to the other world.”

+St. John of Kronstadt,, Sermon on the Dormition of the Theotokos