



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



Reverend Dave Urban, *Pastor*
Very Reverend John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*
Timothy Martin, *Reader*
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
Matthew Peifer, *Church Council President*
www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

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Normal Fast Week
FEBRUARY 4th



The Prodigal Son Returns!

Reading: 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20
Gospel: Luke 15: 11-32

Schedule a Confession.
Use up/freeze meats this week.

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 2

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Annual House Blessings Continue

Tuesday, February 6 – 9:30am Akathist to St Xenia of St Petersburg

Saturday, February 10 – 9:30am All Soul Saturday (*Zadušna Subota*) Divine Liturgy and Panachida (I)
The Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

Monday	Hieromartyr Clement, bishop of Ancyra (296)	1 Jn. 2:18-3:10	Mark 11:1-11
Tuesday	St. Xenia of Petersburg, fool-for-Christ (18th c.)	1 John 3:11-20	Mark 14:10-42
* Wednesday	St. Gregory the Theologian (389)	1 John 3:21-4:6	Mark 14:43-15-1
Thursday	St. Paula of Palestine (404)	1 Jn. 4:20-5:21	Mark 15:1-15
* Friday	Venerable Peter of Egypt (5th c.)	2 John 1:1-13	Mark 15:22-25, 33-41
Saturday	Venerable Ephraim, wonderworker of Novy Toržok (1053)	1 Cor. 10:23-28	Lk 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

** Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did!*

Meatfare

FEBRUARY 11th

FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY



The Last Judgment

Reading: 1 Corinthians 8: 8-9: 2
Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

Pray facing East this week.
Christ is returning from the East and
we wait for Him!
Use up/freeze dairy this week.

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 3

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Additional collection for our Capital Improvement Fund / Pre-Lenten Breakfast

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)
Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na v'iki!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! **Please join us downstairs** for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon!

If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

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This Bulletin Is Offered:

If you wish to sponsor a Bulletin *In Memory of* someone or *In Honor of* (anniversary, birthday, new job, etc.), please do so by signing up on the sheet on the table in the Vestibule of the Church or by contacting Fr. Dave. An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Monday, February 12 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs

Thu., Feb. 15 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord followed by blessing of candles

Sunday, February 18 – Youth Sunday / Chees Fare Sunday / Forgiveness Sunday Prayers following Liturgy

Monday, February 19 – the start of the Great Fast (Lent) – “CLEAN WEEK” Begins –

9:30am The Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete (I)

Tuesday, February 20 – 9:30am The Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete (II)

Wednesday, February 21 – 9:30am The Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete (III)

7pm – Presanctified Liturgy at the Hampton Inn, Wexford

Thursday, February 22 – 9:30am The Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete (IV)

Friday, February 23 – 9:30am Lenten Third Hour with reading of the Kathisma (*Book of Psalms*)

Sat., Feb. 24 – 9:30am All Soul Saturday (*Zadušna Subota*) Divine Liturgy and Panachida (III *transferred*)

Sunday, February 25 – Sunday of Orthodoxy / Additional collection for our Community Outreach /

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at Holy Cross in Mt. Lebanon

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



2018 Annual House Blessings – *If you are not already scheduled for or already had your house blessing*, please contact Fr Dave to set up a time. House blessings will continue through Saturday, February 18th. Fr Dave is interested in visiting and catching up with everyone this Theophany season!



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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Joanne Nelson; Roberta Kruchkevich; Cindy Pavilonis; 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**

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Congratulations! to Amy Francken and Joshua Winkler and their families on the birth of Anthony Richard born on February 1 (6 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 First Day after Childbirth*

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Holy Water Reminders:

Do Not Hoard Old Holy Water:

While Holy Water does not "go bad", it is best to refresh your water each year. Holy Water from the previous Theophany should be poured outside (preferably on the corner of your house or in a garden where people are not going to walk on it). The best scenario is to use the water in the mornings, in your cooking, etc.

2018 Holy Water Available To Take Home:

Please plan to take Holy Water home with you! Bring in a container and fill it up. Holy Water can be drank when we are feeling under the weather. You may bless one another with it (together with the sign of the Cross) prior to tests for our children in school, big days at the office, or before doctor appointments.

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Akathist to St. Xenia – This Akathist covers many topics. Within it, Orthodox Prayers are offered to Find a Job, a Spouse, or a Home, to Save a Marriage, and for the Healing of Mental Illness! (St Xenia is the patron saint for finding employment.) Whether any of these areas are a concern for you or not, come and pray on **Tuesday, February 6th** for those who it will benefit!

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All-Soul Saturday (Zadušna Subota) Liturgies and Panachidas - On these days, we especially pray for the departed loved ones of our families. *If you are not working on Saturday, come to church and pray with us, light a candle, and remember your departed loved ones.* Please inform Fr Dave if there are any additions to be made to the Commemoration Diptychs (Hramoty) from last year.

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Pre-Lenten Breakfast – will be on **Sunday, February 11th**, Meatfare Sunday, immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

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Blessing of Candles – We will bless candles following the Feast Day Divine Liturgy on **Thursday, February 15th** as well as after the Liturgy on the following **Sunday (Feb. 18th)**. All are encouraged to bring in candles from home to be blessed after these two Liturgies. Let's light up the world with our blessed candles!

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Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 28
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 103
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 409
Community Outreach:	\$ 83

Total Collections: \$ 623

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 40

Collection for the Saints: "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper." 1 Cor 16:2

January Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 8,606

***Expenses = \$ 13,404.38**

Net Deficit = \$ 4,798.38

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 52

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Gertrude Hawk Candy – Our Easter Candy Sale is underway! Order forms are in the Church Hall. Orders will be due by **February 18th** and will be delivered in time for Pascha. Please see Tim Martin with any questions.

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"Clean Week" – Looking ahead to the first week of the Great Fast, also known as "clean week", this year there will be a service each day of the week in the morning at the church. The Wednesday evening Presanctified Liturgy will be at the Hampton Inn off of the Wexford exit of 79 (2622 Wexford Bayne Road, Sewickley, PA 15143).

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Orthodoxy Sunday February 25th – In 3 weeks we will be celebrating Orthodoxy Sunday. On this Sunday, you are encouraged to bring an icon from home for you to use in the procession of icons. *(See below for the details for the Pan-Orthodox Vespers to be held later in that day.)*

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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.
(Luke 6:31)

- Take a Coffee Social week
- Attend additional services
- Donate towards a Study Bible

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

February 11: **Pre-Lenten Breakfast**

February 18: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

February 25: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

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Visit Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

The Pan-Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh have begun weekly rehearsals on Saturdays for the upcoming 2018 Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers. The choir cordially invites new singers from every parish to join with them in this inspiring experience. The two-hour rehearsals will be held at St Nicholas Orthodox Church, 320 Munson Ave, McKees Rocks PA 15136 beginning at 11:00 am. The choir sings music from every tradition. For more information write to OrthodoxChoirPgh@gmail.com.

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A Journey through Serbian Song & Dance: "Ruku pod ruku" - Saturday, February 17th, 7pm at the University of Pittsburgh, Bellefield Hall. Featuring performances by: *Sumadija Serbian Folk Dance Ensemble (from Milwaukee, WI), Academy of Serbian Folk Dancing Association "Miroslav Bata Marcetic" (Toronto, Canada), and Carica Milica Choir (Pittsburgh, PA). Tickets for the concert are \$15. Tickets for the concert and the post-concert reception at the Serb Club are \$20. (23% of our online ticket sales profits go towards LifeLine Humanitarian Organization - Chicago!) Tickets may be purchased at: www.talentshadows.events/event/sumadija-and-academy-of-serbian-folk-dance. For further information and questions, please call Aleksandra Sretenović at 440-520-9064.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

The Holy Disciple Timothy

Commemorated on Feb 4 / Jan 22

The Holy Disciple Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor. Saint Timothy was converted to Christ in the year 52 by the holy Apostle Paul (+ c. 67, Comm. 29 June). When the Apostle Paul and Barnabas first visited the Lycaonian cities, the Apostle Paul at Lystra healed one crippled from birth; many of the inhabitants there then believed in Christ, and among them was the future youthful disciple Timothy, his mother Eunice and grandmother Loida (Lois) (Acts 14:6-12; 2 Tim. 1: 5). The seed of faith, planted in the soul of Saint Timothy by the Apostle Paul, brought forth abundant fruit. He became a zealous student of the Apostle Paul, and later his constant companion and co-worker in the preaching of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul loved Saint Timothy and in his Epistles called him his beloved son, with gratitude remembering his devotion and fidelity. He wrote to Timothy: "Thou hast followed me in teaching, in life, in disposition, faith, magnanimity, love, and patience in afflictions and sufferings..." (2 Tim. 3: 10-11). The Apostle



Paul in the year 65 ordained Saint Timothy as bishop of the Ephesus Church, which the saint administered for 15 years. And finally the holy Apostle Paul, situated in prison and knowing, that the act of martyrdom was before him, summoned his faithful student and friend, the Disciple Timothy, for a last farewell (2 Tim 4: 9).

Saint Timothy ended his life as a martyr. At Ephesus the pagans made a feastday in honour of their idols and they carried them through the city, accompanied by impious ceremonies and songs. The holy Bishop Timothy, zealous for the glory of God, attempted to halt the procession and reason with the spiritually blind idol-worshipping people, by preaching the true faith in Christ. The pagans dashed angrily upon the holy disciple, they beat him, dragged him along the ground, and finally, they stoned him. The holy Disciple Timothy's death by martyrdom occurred in the year 80. In the IV Century the holy relics of the Disciple Timothy were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles. Holy Church venerates Saint Timothy as amongst the number of the Seventy Disciples.

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Glorify God in Body and Spirit

¹²"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. ¹³"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." ¹⁷But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

¹¹And he said, "There was a man who had two sons; ¹²and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' ²⁰And he arose and came to his father.

But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet;²³ and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry;²⁴ for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry.²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant.²⁷ And he said to him,

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ST JOHN’S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry** (at Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church, 105 S. 19th St., Pgh, PA 15203). Volunteers are needed every Thursday from 5:15 to 6:45 to assist in the distribution of these goods. (If interested, please contact Fr Patrick at 412-431-6428.) Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! Here is a list of food items that they are looking for:

- ✓ Ready to eat canned fruit or vegetables

✓ Peanut Butter

✓ Jelly

✓ Canned Soups

✓ Canned Chili

✓ Macaroni & Cheese

✓ Spaghetti Sauce

✓ Pasta

✓ Noodle/Rice Mixes

✓ Small Package of Rice or Noodles

✓ Canned Stews
- ✓ Canned or Pouches of Tuna, Salmon or Chicken

✓ Boxed Meals ready to be prepared

✓ Baked Beans

✓ Canned and Boxed 100% Juice

✓ Crackers

✓ Tuna Helper Box

✓ Instant Cereal

✓ Boxed Cereal

✓ Canned Pastas (Chef Boyardee, Ravioli, etc.)

✓ Canned Meats

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Wise answers of Monk Simeon of Mt. Athos

- Which teacher is the best?

Suffering.
- Which teacher is the worst?

Pleasure.
- What is the most rare skill?

Ability to give.
- What is the best skill?

The ability to forgive.
- What is the most difficult skill?

The ability to keep quiet.
- What is the most important skill?

The ability to ask.
- What is the right skill?

The ability to listen.
- What is the most dangerous fight?

Fanatical. [obsessiveness]
- What is the most harmful habit?

Talkativeness.
- Which person is the strongest?

He who is capable of comprehending the truth.
- Which person is the weakest?

He who considers himself the strongest.

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- What kind of person is the most sensible?

He who watches his heart.
- What is the most dangerous attachment?

Attachment to your body.
- Which man is the poorest?

The one who loves money most.
- Which man is closer to God?

Merciful.
- Which person is the weakest?

The winner of others.
- Which person is the strongest?

The winner of himself.
- What to resist trouble?

With joy.
- How to withstand suffering?

With patience.
- What is the sign of a healthy soul?

Faith.
- What is the symptom of a sick soul?

Hopelessness.
- What is the sign of wrong actions?

Irritation.
- What is the sign of good deeds?

The world of the soul.

SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

"Came to himself. A person immersed in sin is living outside his true self (Rom 7:17-20). The prodigal realizes his hopeless condition. The bread symbolizes Christ, who is known through the Scriptures and the Eucharist." – Orthodox Study Bible, Luke 15:17

MONDAY

"Fleeing the cross is equivalent to fleeing from the glory of God." - Metropolitan Saba (Esber)

TUESDAY

“Provided they live a worthy life, both those who choose to dwell in the midst of noise and hubbub and those who dwell in monasteries, mountains and caves can achieve salvation. Solely because of their faith in Him God bestows great blessings on them. Hence those who because of their laziness have failed to attain salvation will have no excuse to offer on the day of judgment. For He who promised to grant us salvation simply on account of our faith in Him is not a liar.” +St. Symeon the New Theologian

WEDNESDAY

“We must understand that the human person in reality does not die. Death is simply a transfer from one life to the other.” +St. Paisios of Mount Athos

THURSDAY

"Every Christian is given an angel from God to guard him all his life (unless, through evil deeds, he drives him away). But as smoke drives away bees and an evil smell drives away doves, so is the guardian angel of our life driven away by our sins: drunkenness, adultery, anger and so forth. The angel of every faithful man leads him to every good deed, while the demons labor to scandalize the faithful ones and deprive them of the Kingdom of Heaven.” +St. Athanasius of Sinai

FRIDAY

“The rule of life for a perfect person is to be in the image and likeness of God.” +St. Clement of Alexandria

SATURDAY

“Let us always try to do good without expecting anything in return.” +St. Paisios of Mount Athos

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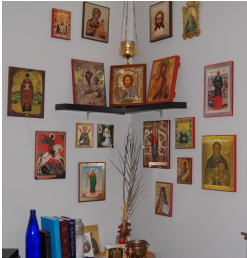
PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and Other Needs *



A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant name. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver him/her from sickness and bitter pain. Heal him/her so that he/she may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Mildred, Anna Mae, Andrew, Julie, Jane, Eleanor D., Mark, Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Matthew, Patricia, Lino, Mary, Michael, Pañi Connie, Joshua, Eli, Samuel, Lucy, and everyone battling the flu ...*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... Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, John S., Amee, Joshua, and Anthony and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Donald, Jane, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, Kenneth, Gina, Robert, Jillian, Wendy, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, John, Richard, John, Margaret, Sarah, Patricia, and for those working towards our Community Outreach, St. Cyril of the White Lake Food Pantry...*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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Birthday Prayers for... Pañi's mother, Alexandrina Liana Popescu (2/6), Charles Kretchek (2/8), Richard Gedid (2/9) ...*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! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*

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For those preparing for Marriage... Nicole & Seminarian Nathaniel and Kristyn & Seminarian Vince ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia & all Holy Martyrs.*

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Anniversary Prayers for... Cynthia & Jeffrey Morrison (2/5) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For Expectant Mothers... Pañi Ileana, Pañi Svetlana, Ashley, Katie, Meredith, Brittany, Harmonie, Aimee ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For the soul of the newly departed...

...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal Memory!*

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you would 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 Orthodox Christians.*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

Akathist Hymn to St. Xenia of St. Petersburg, Kondak 1

Blessed Mother Xenia, Holy Fool for the sake of Christ, you elected to undergo the struggle of patience and the suffering of affliction. We therefore honor your sacred memory with hymns of praise.
Help us against our enemies, visible and invisible, that we may cry to you:
Rejoice, O blessed Xenia, faithful intercessor for our souls!