



# 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](http://www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149)

2688 California Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15212  
412-748-0148, *Talk or Text*  
[OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com](mailto:OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com)  
[www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com](http://www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com)



CHRIST IS RISEN!  
*Christ is Risen From The Dead, Trampling  
Down Death By Death and To Those In The  
Tomb Bestowing Life!*  
INDEED HE IS RISEN!

May 6, 2018

Volume III

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan Woman / Feast of St George

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 4

Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: Acts 11: 19– 26, 29– 30; Gospel: John 4: 5– 42

*Panachida for +Fr. Raphael Sotak, Fr +William George (5/5/17), and our loved ones in the cemeteries / Cemetery Grave Blessings following Coffee Social*



## SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK



**Monday, May 7 – 9:30am** Akathist to St Alexis of Wilkes-Barre

**Thursday, May 10 – 9:30am** Akathist in times of Sorrow and Depression

*The Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.*

|             |  |                     |                   |
|-------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Monday      | St. Alexis Toth, priest of Wilkes Barre, PA (1909) | Acts 12: 12– 17     | John 8: 42– 51    |
| Tuesday     | Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark (63)              | Acts 12: 25– 13: 12 | John 8: 51– 59    |
| * Wednesday | St. Stephen, bishop of Perm (1396)                 | Acts 13: 13– 24     | John 6: 5– 14     |
| Thursday    | Hieromartyr Symeon the Kinsman of the Lord (107)   | Acts 14: 20– 27     | John 9: 39– 10: 9 |
| * Friday    | Apostles Jason of the Seventy (1st. c.)            | Acts 15: 5– 34      | John 10: 17– 28   |
| Saturday    | Saint John of Romania                              | Acts 15: 35– 41     | John 10: 27– 38   |

*\* Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!*

*No Kneeling in Prayer for 50 Days – Replace “O Heavenly King” with the Paschal Tropar*

Sunday, May 13 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Blind Man

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 5

Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: Acts 16: 16– 34; Gospel: John 9: 1– 38

*Mother’s Day – come and receive a plant to take home / Additional collection for our capital improvement fund / Panachida for deceased mothers of our parish, family, and friends*

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**Paschal Greeting** (used instead of ‘hello’, before ‘good morning’, et cetera)

**Christ is risen! (Indeed He is risen!)**

**Christos Voskrese! (Voistinu Voskrese!)**

**Khristós Anésti! (Alithós Anésti!)**

**Hristos a înviat! (Adevărat a înviat!)**

*If greeted in a language you are unfamiliar with, translate and respond in English (then learn the response)*

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## A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

**Christ is risen! (Indeed He is risen!)**

**Christos Voskrese! (Voistinu Voskrese!)**

**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:*

In honor of  
Apryle Horbal’s  
Birthday!

May God grant her  
many blessed years!  
Christ is Risen!

## LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Thursday, May 17 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord

Friday, May 18 – 9:30am Akathist to the “Inexhaustible Cup” of the Theotokos with holy anointing

Saturday, May 19 – 4pm Italian Feast and Basket Raffle

Sunday, May 20 – YOUTH Sunday

Thursday, May 24 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius

Saturday, May 26 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy and Panachida for the 5<sup>th</sup> All Soul Saturday

Sunday, May 27 – Feast of Pentecost / additional collection for our Community Outreach

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## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered the last two weeks by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Joanne Nelson; Cindy Pavilonis; Patty Watson; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; and Michael Puhac.

***"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 the past two weeks by Jane and John Gaydos, Jr, in Memory of Grandparents; by John Gaydos, Sr., in Memory of Wife, Catherine; by John Gaydos, Jr., in Memory of Mother, Catherine; and by Tim Martin, in Memory of Grandmother, Helen Kailyar. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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**Retirement** – This past Sunday marked the retirement of our brother in Christ, Fr. Robert Prepelka from St. John the Baptist in Ambridge. Fr Bob was ordained 32 years ago and spent the past 12 years in Ambridge. May God bless Father with many years! Christos Voskrese!

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**Italian Feast and Basket Raffle** – This annual ACRY event will be held on **Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**. Baskets are needed. There is a sign up sheet in the Church Hall with more details. All profits will go towards our church.

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**Family Day (June 3<sup>rd</sup>) Raffle Tickets** are available from Theresa Sharpless. This is the only diocesan-wide fundraiser for camp and it is a significant source of income for the Camp Nazareth program and our children. Raffle tickets are \$20 each with prizes exceeding \$20,000. Support our camp: buy (at least) one. + + + The Family Day flyer is hanging in the church hall with details for that day!

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**84 Days Till Camp!** – Early bird discount rates are available through **May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Information regarding registration is available at: [www.CampNazareth.org](http://www.CampNazareth.org). Please act fast to save 20 bucks! Our ACRY is offering a partial 'Campership' for assistance and other assistance is also available. **Please talk with Fr Dave before registering to get the online code that you will need. If you have never been to Camp Nazareth, you do not know what you are missing!** Our Deanery Camping week is **July 29 – Aug 4**. Please talk to Fr Dave if you have any questions.

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**DATE CHANGE** – There has been a change of dates for the **Young Women's Encounter AND Altar Boy's Retreat**. They will now be on Sunday-Wednesday, **July 1 through 4**.

### Our Stewardship Gift To God

Sunday, April 22

|                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Stewardship/Dues:                     | \$ 20  |
| Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: | \$ 104 |
| Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:  | \$ 598 |
| Community Outreach:                   | \$ 49  |

**Total Collections:** **\$ 771**

Sunday, April 29

|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Stewardship/Dues:                     | \$ 140  |
| Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: | \$ 160  |
| Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:  | \$ 1042 |
| Community Outreach:                   | \$ 119  |

**Total Collections:** **\$ 1461**

**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*

### April Financial Report:

**Donation Income = \$ 12,807**

**\*Expenses = \$ 10,229.69**

**Net Income = \$ 2,577.31**

*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

**Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 50**



Our annual garage sale will be on **August 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**. Tax-deductible clean donations will be accepted starting on **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**. Let us collect what is 'extra' for us, as it may be needed by someone else! This stewardship community outreach is here to help others!

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### Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

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

- Pray for our parish
- Assist with the Dinner & Basket Raffle
- Donate to our parish or one of it's outreaches
- Attend additional services
- Sponsor a Coffee Social

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**Bulletin Sponsor** – Please contact Fr Dave or sign up in the Vestibule to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone. An additional stewardship offering to the Church is kindly requested.

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### Coffee Social Steward Schedule

May 13: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

May 20: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

May 27: **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](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddiocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
You Tube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](https://youtube.com/acroddiocese)



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## ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH



**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Slavjane Folk Ensemble Concert** will be on **Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** at 2pm at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart H.S. Auditorium (1504 Woodcrest Ave., Coraopolis, PA 15108). Immediately after the concert, join them for a dinner dance reception at Holy Trinity Social Hall (5720 Steubenville Pike, McKees Rocks, PA 15136) with homemade ethnic food and pastries will be available for purchase along with a Rusyn (*Chinese*) Auction. Entertainment will be provided by Orkestar Zabava. Concert tickets are \$10, student tickets are \$5, children 5 and under are free, and Reception only tickets are \$5. Please contact Dean Poloka at 412-877-9351 for more information.

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**Bulgarian Folk Ensemble "Otets Paissii"** – Come join us for a night of Bulgarian entertainment on **Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** at 6pm at West Mifflin Middle School (81 Commonwealth Ave., West Mifflin, PA 15122). A Vencherinka (dinner-dance) immediately follows at BMNECC (449-451 West Eighth Ave., West Homestead, PA 15120) There will be Live Music by "Nyama Signal" for dancing and listening pleasure

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**The Place of the Presence of God** – The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Lecture will be on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at St. John Cathedral Center (210 Greentree Rd., Munhall, PA 15120) Reception to follow. Guest Speaker will be Archbishop Alexander (Golitzin) presenting on: "The Place of the Presence of God: Aphrahat of Persia's Portrait of the Christian Holy Man."

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**Singles Gathering** - IOCC will be hosting an Orthodox Singles Gathering on **Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>** from 7–10 pm at Duke's Upper Deck (122 W 8th Ave., Homestead, PA 15120). Light appetizers will be served. Call Bob at 412-462-4133 for more info. Anyone from 21 to 30 is welcome! Meet new people, make new friends.

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## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Epistle: Acts 11: 19– 26, 29– 30**

### The Church in Antioch

<sup>19</sup> Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. <sup>20</sup> But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. <sup>22</sup> News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; <sup>24</sup> for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. <sup>25</sup> So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; <sup>26</sup> and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians.

<sup>29</sup> And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea; <sup>30</sup> and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

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**Gospel: Mark 15:43–16:8**

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

<sup>7</sup> There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our

father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet." <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" <sup>28</sup> So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" <sup>30</sup> They went out of the city and were coming to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, "Has any one brought him food?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. <sup>36</sup> He who reaps receives

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all

that I ever did.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”



cross has its power, not as an atonement sacrifice, but in the conquering of the power of death. The permanency of death has been destroyed by Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is by Christ's resurrection that a way has been made for us to be transformed by contact with the Living God, and thus becoming his children

by adoption. Since Christ's resurrection destroyed the power and permanency of death, His resurrection becomes our resurrection. With love in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, Abbot Tryphon

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: [www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar) © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

The Holy GreatMartyr George the Victory-Bearer  
Commemorated on May 6 / April 23

The Holy GreatMartyr George the Victory-Bearer, was a native of Cappadocia (a district in Asia Minor), and he grew up in a deeply believing Christian family. His father had accepted a martyr's death for Christ, when George was yet a child. His mother, owning lands in Palestine, resettled there with her son and raised him in strict piety. ...

Of the many miracles, worked by the holy GreatMartyr George, the most famous are depicted in iconography. In the native-region of the saint, at the city of Beirut, were many idol-worshippers. Outside the city, near Mount Lebanon, was situated a large lake, in which lived an enormous dragon-like serpent. Coming out of the lake, it devoured people, and there was nothing the people could do, since from one of its nostrils it infected the very air.

On the advice of the demons inhabiting the idols, the ruler there adopted this decision: each day the people would draw lots to give over as food their own children, and when the turn reached him, he promised to hand over his only daughter. That time indeed did come, and the ruler, having dressed her in her finest attire, sent her off to the lake. The girl wailed bitterly, awaiting the moment of death. Unexpectedly for



her, the GreatMartyr George rode up on his horse and with spear in hand. The girl implored him not to leave her, lest she perish. But the saint, having caught sight of the serpent, signed himself with the Sign of the Cross and with the words "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit", he rushed off after it. The GreatMartyr George pierced the throat of the serpent with his spear and trampled it with his horse. Then he bid the girl bind the serpent with her sash, and like a dog, lead it into the city. The people fled in terror, but the saint halted them with the words: "Be not afraid, but rather trust on the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in Him, since it be He Who hath sent me to you, to save you". Then the saint killed the serpent with a sword, and the people burned it outside the city. Twenty-five thousand men, not counting women and children, were then baptised, and there was later built a church in the name of the MostHoly Mother of God and the GreatMartyr George.

Saint George went on to become a talented military officer and to amaze the world by his military exploits. He died, when he was not even 30 years old. Hastening to unite with the Heavenly army, he entered into the history of the Church as the Victory-Bearer ("Pobedonosets"). With this title he was glorified in early Christianity and Holy Rus'.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY



Reared by God, you were a noble sower of piety harvesting sheaves of virtue. You sowed in tears but reaped in joy; and having honorably fought and given your blood, you were received by Christ. Through your prayers, O holy one, obtain the forgiveness of sins for all. – Kondak of Saint George

MONDAY

When the Samaritan woman came to the well with faith, she beheld You, O Water of Wisdom. You allowed her to drink in abundance and glorified her eternally, for she inherited the heavenly kingdom. – Kondak of the Samaritan Woman

TUESDAY

"...an untried man is unpracticed." +St. Barsanuphius

WEDNESDAY

"Anyone can keep a prayer rope in a pocket or some other discreet place where it can be easily used unnoticed when in situations where it is better to pray or remember prayer in secret, without attracting the attention of others." - A monk of the Holy Mountain

THURSDAY

"Pride, too, has its levels, just like humility. Outward pride is easier to cure, but pride of the mind is almost impossible to eradicate. No one can prove to such a person that he is on the wrong track. But outward pride is curable, because one can go from riches to rags in the twinkling of an eye and become humble whether he wants to or not!" - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

FRIDAY

"When bad thoughts surround us like a swarm of flies, we shouldn't become discouraged, but persevere in prayer and hold on." - Elder Sergei of Vanves





SATURDAY

"But the most important thing is to pray to God and ask Him to prolong this mercy of warmth in the heart." *From The Art of Prayer*

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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., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Matthew, Patricia, Lino, David, Fr James, Edward, Melissa, Louis, Marjorie, Fr John Baranik, Fr John Zboyovski, Fr. Thomas Blaschak, Pañi Magdeline Baschak, Fr James Dutko, Fr Lawrence Barriger, Fr Luke Mihaly, Fr Michael Psenechnuk, ...*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, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, John S., Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Ashley, John, and Noella, *our seminarians:* Nathaniel, Vince, Michael, and Daniel, *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, Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) ...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...** Apryle Horbal (5/6), Fr Thomas Soroka (5/6), Ethan Gogal (5/7), Ella Kovats (5/9), and Phillip Labas (5/10) ...*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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**Anniversary Prayers for...** Father's Godparents, Dick & Andrea Babbie (5/7) and Joe & Sarah Lavra (5/7) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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

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**For Expectant Mothers...** Brittany, Harmonie, Aimee, and Lindsay ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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**For our Catechumens & Inquirers...** Ashley and Patrick ...*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...** ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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**For the souls 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:

A Prayer for Vocations

Master of all, You promised us, "I will be with you always, even until the very end of the world," and You have taught, "I will build My Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Mindful of this pledge, we beseech Your great goodness to inspire men to the Holy Priesthood, the service of Your Holy Orthodox Church, so that she may properly be able to fulfill Your will for Your people in this age. There are children to baptize, the sick to heal, and the dying to care for. There is the Bread of Life to distribute, and the Word of God to teach. There are sins to forgive, and charity to be done in Your Name. Send Your Church in this hour and in every age "vessels of clay" to be instruments of Your presence. Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy. Amen.