



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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



Father Dave Urban, Pastor
Very Reverend Father John Brancho, Pastor Emeritus
Timothy Martin, Reader
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, Cantors
Matthew Peifer, Church Council President
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February 3, 2019

Volume IV

36th Sunday after Pentecost / Venerable Maximus the Confessor (662)

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Tone 3

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Galatians 5:22-6:2; Gospel: Luke 6:17-23

Souper Bowl of Caring canned soup collection



SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Annual Home Blessings through March 9

Wednesday, February 6 – 9:30am Akathist to St. Xenia of Petersburg with anointing

The opportunity for the Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

Monday	Apostle Timothy of the Seventy (~96)	James 2:14-26	Mark 10:46-52
Tuesday	Hieromartyr Clement, bishop of Ancyra (296)	James 3:1-10	Mark 11:11-23
* Wednesday	St. Xenia of Petersburg, fool-for-Christ (18th c.)	James 3:11-4:6	Mark 11:23-26
Thursday	St. Gregory the Theologian (389)	James 4:7-5:9	Mark 11:27-33
* Friday	St. Paula of Palestine (404)	Hebrews 13:7-16	Mark 12:1-12
Saturday	Venerable Peter of Egypt (5th c.)	1 Thessalonians 5:14-23	Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

** Let us imitate Christ & the Saints & Fast as they did!*

Sunday, February 10 – 37th Sunday after Pentecost / Zacchaeus Sunday / Venerable Ephraim the Syrian

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Tone 4

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15; Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory be to Jesus Christ! (*responded with: Glory be forever!*)

Slava Isusu Christos! (*Slava Na Viki!!*)

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 Father 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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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



Tuesday, February 12 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Commemoration of the Three Holy Hierarchs

Friday, February 15 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple

Sunday, February 17 – Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee / YOUTH Sunday

Sunday, February 24 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son / additional collection for our Community Outreach

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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Home Blessing Update:

13 homes (367 miles) and 2 scheduled

Please talk with Fr Dave today to schedule yours. He is interested in being with EVERYONE this Theophany season.

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Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of the Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in the home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy.

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Akathist to St. Xenia with anointing –

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 **Wed., February 6th** for those who it will benefit!

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Third Hour – We have returned to having the Third Hour prior to Liturgy. This can be read or chanted. **Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested in participating in this wonderful stewardship prayer opportunity!**

Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Carol Lorenzi; Joanne Nelson; John Kirish; Patty Watson; Rich Mirilovich; 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

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Greeting Cards – Please bring in and repurpose your greeting cards and prior church calendar icon tops. The collection box is in the vestibule for the *Holy Transfiguration Monastery*. Thank you for giving back!

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Blessing of Candles – We will bless candles following the Feast Day Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple on **Thursday, February 15th** as well as after the Liturgy on the following **Sunday (February 17th)**. 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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Food Drive – For the month of February we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry on Pittsburgh's South Side. Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! The list of food items that they are looking for is available in the church hall or at: <http://stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html>

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ACRY News – New members are always welcome! Come join us!

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Pill Bottle Collection is our ACRY's new outreach. "Matthew 25: Ministries" accepts donations of clean empty plastic medicine pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies and for shredding and recycling. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment. *More information is on the bulletin board in the church hall.*

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Journey to Orthodoxy! – Congratulations and God's choicest blessings to Fredrick Anton who was officially received into the Orthodox Faith **this past week**. May God grant to His newly-illuminated servant, Fredrick, Many Years of Peace, Health, Happiness and Salvation! Blessings also to his sponsor, Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

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

- Pray for our parish and it's future
- Donate to the food drive
- Bring in your clean used pill bottles
- Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Offer to read the Third Hour prior to Liturgy

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE



Orthodoxy on Tap - The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) are heading to the South Hills. We will gather on **Tuesday, February 5th** at 7pm for the Pens Game and an informal Q&A with the clergy at Primanti Brothers (1539 Washington Rd, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228). All young adults ages 21-39(ish) are welcome! Please email poyapittsburgh@gmail.com with suggestions for future locations and activities!

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 818
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 115
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 541
Community Outreach:	\$ 118
Total Collections:	\$ 1592
Relocation Fund:	\$ 440

Give Generously: "For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own free will." 2 Cor 8:3

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January Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 7964.13

***Expenses = \$ 14,096.74**

Net Deficit = \$ 6,132.58

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 38

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

February 10: **Available to you**

February 17: **Available to you**

February 24: **Available to you**

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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Reader of the Third Hour:

February 10: *Available to you*

February 17: *Available to you*

February 24: *Available to you*

This should begin by 9:15 and can be read or chanted. Please contact Fr Dave if you are interested in participating in this wonderful stewardship prayer opportunity!

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Diocesan Lenten Retreat - sponsored by the National ACRY, will be on **Saturday, April 6th** from 9a-5p at St Nicholas Church (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA). Presenters will be Metropolitan Gregory, "Focusing on the Ladder of Divine Ascent and Our Spiritual Journey One Step at a Time", and Fr. Dave Urban, "Windows to Heaven – Icon of Divine Ascent and the Feasts of the Church". Registration Deadline is March 31st.

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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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Soup Sampling to benefit IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) will be on **Saturday, February 9th** from 11am-2pm at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt. Lebanon across from the Galleria Mall (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15228). *Sample five homemade soups for \$10 and then take a quart home for a \$10 donation.* Youth Groups & Children's Ministries from all jurisdictions will be assembling health kits. All area youth are invited! Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies. To sponsor kits, call Nick Terezis at 724-282-5198. You can register to purchase soup at: iocc.org/Pittsburgh

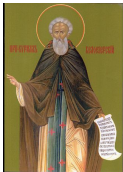
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"Orthodoxy and the Scriptures" - A symposium will be held on **Saturday, February 16th** at 2:00 pm at St Nicholas Orthodox Church (320 Munson Ave, McKees Rocks, PA). Featured speakers will be Fr Bogdan Bucur of Duquesne University, Dr Edith Humphrey of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and Andrew Weaver of Christ our Savior Church in Indiana PA. This regional event is **free** and open to the public. Visit orthodoxpittsburgh.org for more info.

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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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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

"Of all the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures." +Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle: Galatians 5:22-6:2

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another.

Bear One Another's Burdens

6 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

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Gospel: Luke 6:17-23

Jesus Teaches and Heals

¹⁷And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Teaching Your Children About the Saints

My mother is so much more creative than I am. A few years ago, when our oldest, Andrew, was around a year old, she made him a beautiful book. This book was an introduction to his family—their names, a picture of them,

and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; ¹⁸and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all.

Blessings and Woes

²⁰And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹"Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. ²²"Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! ²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

mean, they seemed so foreign to my Protestant upbringing. Who were these people whose icons filled the walls of our church? Why should I care about them? What did they have to do with my life?

And then I realized that they were my family.

In the Orthodox Church, we realize that no Christian can live a life of faith alone. We are part of a community—and not just a local community (although that is extremely important). Our community, our family, is all over the world, and throughout time.

Just as I inherited my great-grandmother's feisty temperament, learned from my grandfather's love of the land, and try to emulate my mother's gift of teaching, so also am I connected to my spiritual family. These saints who have gone before me provide me with examples of the faith. They pray for me as I go through trials. They cheer me on in my journey toward salvation.

Once I realized how important this community of the saints truly is, I needed to figure out how to introduce my children to this family.

Teaching Your Children About the Saints

In my experience, children tend to be fascinated by the saints. Babies and toddlers love to kiss icons, young children enjoy picture books depicting their lives, and older children and teens find inspiration in their faith. Here are a few things that I, as a mother and Church school teacher, have found helpful:

1. Take Children to Church

When you are at church, point out the icons of the saints on the walls and the iconostasis. Explain that the icons of Christ and the Theotokos are always at the front, as well as those of St. John the Baptist and the patron saint of the church.

Help them pick out icons depicting feasts that they know. See if they can find an icon of the saint they are named after.

Point out the hymn for the saint who is being remembered that day. If your church prints a description of that saint's life in the bulletin, take it home and read it together at dinner. Sing, chant, or read the hymn for the saint again.

2. Listen to the Saint of the Day Feature

Ancient Faith Radio has a great featured podcast called the [Saint of the Day](#). This very brief (usually 2-5 minute) feature reads the life of the saint of the day. I have learned so much by listening to it daily! Your family could listen together at a set time each day—perhaps [Morning or Evening Prayers](#) or at dinner. Try to ask questions and have a discussion afterward.

3. Read Children's Books

There are so many great picture books about the lives of the saints. Consider purchasing a few to add to your family's library. Or, perhaps other families at your church could start a book exchange program. A few of our favorite books are:

[Saint George and The Dragon](#)

[The Ravens of Farne: A Tale of Saint Cuthbert](#)

[The Life of Saint Brigid: Abbess of Kildare](#)

[The Story of Mary, the Mother of God](#)

2019 Theophany Home Blessings



How to prepare for your home blessing before the Priest arrives?

- ✓ Please have a white cloth placed on the table, an icon and/or a cross, and a candle to be lit.
- ✓ Have a list of names of all those who live in the home (*including your pets*) and a list of the departed members of your family and friends you would wish to have remembered during the service.
 - ✓ (*I will provide the Holy Water.*)
- ✓ Have all TVs, radios, and cell phones turned off.
 - ✓ If you have anything to be blessed (*Icon, Cross, etc.*), have it on the table where the blessing will take place.
- ✓ Participation is important! Have everyone gather around the table and join in the blessing.
- ✓ Feel free to invite neighbors and friends over to be a part of this beautiful tradition!
 - ✓ If you need to discuss a personal matter, this is a good time to do so!

Home blessings will take place from
January 19 thru March 9.

It would be ideal if I were able to come between 9:30am and 4pm on a weekday.

If this is not possible, certain evening, Saturday and Sunday times will be available.

Please Email (fr.sleepless@gmail.com) or Call/Text (412-748-0148) me with your preferred windows of time.

I will call or email you a couple days before I will be in your area. I look forward to spending this time with your family! - Fr Dave

4. Celebrate Name Days

Make a big deal about your child's name day. (In the Orthodox Church, each child is given the name of a saint with whom they have a special connection throughout their life.) I've written more extensively about ideas for celebrating a name day [here](#). Help your child learn more about their saint and develop this relationship.

5. Fill the House with Icons

Each Orthodox home is to be a "Little Church." One simple yet profound way to do this is to have many icons around the home and in the icon corner. Let your children see and venerate the icons, tell them the stories of those saints, ask for their prayers. If our homes are filled with pictures of our earthly families, shouldn't they also be filled with images of our spiritual family?

Other helpful resources:

-I love listening to Elissa Bjeletich's "[Raising Saints](#)" podcast on Ancient Faith radio. She gives many practical tips for raising Orthodox children, shares helpful ways for teaching the faith and traditions of the Church, and offers encouragement to parents.

-Sylvia at [Adventures of an Orthodox Mom](#) has many posts about various saints

As we strive to raise our children in the faith, let us introduce them to the saints who have gone before. Then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us press on toward the prize—Christ Jesus.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

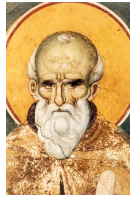
Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

Who is St. Maximus?

Commemorated on Feb 3/Jan 21 & Aug 26/13

One of the Church's most profound theologians and instructors in practical Christian spiritual life, St. Maximus (580-662) left an important government post in the East Roman Empire (Byzantine) under the Emperor Heraclius about 614 to live the rest of his life as a simple lay monk - though his life and teaching were far from simple.

As a theologian, he taught, against those who sought to compromise the Faith for the sake of political and religious unity, that Jesus Christ was the incarnate Son of God, fully divine, and fully human, thus having two complete wills, natures, and energies. For his stubborn confession of Christ the Truth, St. Maximus was persecuted by



compromising imperial authorities, put on trial three times, and finally, having had his tongue and right hand with which he had so eloquently defended the Faith cut off, he was sent into exile to what is now Tsageri, Georgia, where he soon died on August 13, 662.

As an instructor in the spiritual life, St. Maximus gave detailed, practical guidance in how to live as a Christian, overcome our sinful passions, and truly love God and our fellow man. Anyone who desires to learn how to live the Christian life in accordance with Christ's commands does well to turn to St. Maximus for that help. Indeed, his writings take up a greater portion of the famous *Philokalia*, the handbook of Eastern Orthodox spirituality, than those of any other writer.

https://stmaximus.org/who_is_st_maximus.html

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

Champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship, Enlightener of the universe and adornment of hierarchs: All-wise father Maximus, your teachings have gleamed with light upon all things. Intercede before Christ God to save our souls. – Tropar of St Maximus

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Let us the faithful fittingly praise the lover of the Trinity, The great Maximus who taught the God-inspired faith, That Christ is to be glorified in His two natures, wills, and energies; And let us cry to him: "Rejoice, herald of the faith." – Kondak of St. Maximus

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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... Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Jane, Roberta, Gary, Lino, David, Louis, June, Helen, Steven, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N., Luca, Emily, Barbara, Francis, Anthony, Fr. Joseph Cervo, Irene, Eleanor ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; & St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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For the Special Intentions of... Metropolitan Gregory, Marianne, Steve, Christopher, Nicholas, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles *our seminarians:* Michael and Daniel, *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Donald, Jane, Eleanor, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Margaret, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach,* Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) ...*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... Fr Edward Pehanich (2/4), *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 our Catechumens & Inquirers... Dustin, Stephen, Peter ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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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... Lauren, Pañi Marianna, Faith, Pañi Eleni, Hayley, Carley ...*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, Devin Meegan, and Trevor Meegan ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For the souls of the newly departed... His Grace, +Bishop Athanasios, +Patricia French, the Priest +Nicholas Palun, Archon +Michael Serko Jr, Pañi +Patricia Patrick (1/26) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal Memory!*

