



# 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 10, 2019

Volume IV

## 37<sup>th</sup> 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*



### SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Annual Home Blessings through March 9

**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 and Blessing of Candles

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

Monday	St. Laurence, recluse of the Kiev Caves (1194)	1 Peter 2:21-3:9	Mark 12:13-17
Tuesday	Sts. Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom	1 Peter 3:10-22	Mark 12:18-27
* Wednesday	Holy Wonderworkers & Unmercenaries Cyrus & John (311)	1 Peter 4:1-11	Mark 12:28-37
Thursday	Martyr Tryphon of Campsada near Apamea in Syria (250)	1 Peter 4:12-5:5	Mark 12:38-44
* Friday	St. Anthimus of Chios (1960)	2 Peter 1:1-10	Mark 13:1-8
Saturday	Holy & Righteous Symeon & Anna the Prophetess (1st c.)	2 Tim. 2:11-19	Luke 18:2-8

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

**Sunday**, February 17 – 38<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee / Venerable Isidore of Pelusium, monk (436-440)

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 5

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15; Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

*YOUTH Sunday / Blessing of Candles / Panachida for Most Reverend Metropolitan Orestes P Chomock (2/17/77)*

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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



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

**Thursday**, February 28 – 9:30 Moleben the Theotokos with holy anointing

**Sunday**, March 3 – Meatfare Sunday / Pre-Lenten Breakfast

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### PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



#### Home Blessing Update:

16 homes (478 miles) and 9 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.*

**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 15<sup>th</sup>** as well as after the Liturgy on the following **Sunday (February 17<sup>th</sup>)**. 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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**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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**Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Barbara Kirish; Carol Lorenzi; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; 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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**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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**All-Soul Saturdays (Zadušna Subota)** – \*\*\* Please note the schedule change below – The All-Souls Saturday Liturgies or Parastas for 2019 will be on **March 9<sup>th</sup> (transferred), March 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, and June 15<sup>th</sup>**. On these days, we especially pray for the departed loved ones of our families. If you are not working on a 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. Offering Envelopes and cards are available in the vestibule.

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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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#### **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

#### **Our Stewardship Gifts To God**

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 302
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 149
Envelopes:	\$ 951
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 1402</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 400</b>

*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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**Relocation Updates** – Matt and Father looked at a couple properties this past week off of Nicholson Road (below 79): one was a no; the other has good potential. As things progress, information will be shared to all.

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Please continue to talk with the Relocation Committee or Father with any thoughts or concerns about our next steps in our journey together. (Committee includes those who wish to share their stewardship talents with our parish: Sharon P, Larry M, Carol L, John K, John Righetti, Lynn M, Matt P, Peggy R, Rich M, Sharon D, Tim M, & Todd Tusick)

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#### **Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

February 17: Bob and Gina Fall

February 24: Kirish Family

March 3: Pre-Lenten Breakfast

*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 17: Available to you

February 24: Available to you

March 3: 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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#### **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 & OUR DIOCESE**



**"Orthodoxy and the Scriptures"** - A symposium will be held on **Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://orthodoxpittsburgh.org) for more info.

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The **Parental Workshop** will be on **March 2** in Rockaway, NJ. Here is the link to all the information: <https://www.acrod.org/news/2018-press/parenting-workshop-2019> Registration for this first Parental Workshop is now open. Please also note that the next 3 Parental Workshops have been scheduled: Saturday, **September 7** in Niles, IL; Saturday, **October 19** in Phoenixville, PA; and Saturday, **November 2** in Bridgeport CT. More information will be coming on these...

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diocesan Senior Retreat** will be on **May 13-16**. Information is on our bulletin board as well as here: <https://www.acrod.org/news/events/10731> Registration for this event is now open.

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**Family Camp** will be on **May 31 – June 2**. Here is the link to all the information. <http://campnazareth.org/summercamp/news/family-camp-2019> Registration for this event is now open.

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**2019 Camp Nazareth Summer Program** for Pittsburgh will be **July 14-20**. Visit [campnazareth.org](http://campnazareth.org) or our bulletin board for more information. Online registration for Camp opens March 1, 2019.

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**Science and Nature Camp** will be on **August 4-10**. Here is the link to all the information. <http://campnazareth.org/science-camp> Registration for this event opens March 1, 2019.

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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:** 1 Timothy 4:9-15

<sup>9</sup>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. <sup>10</sup>For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. <sup>11</sup>Command and teach these things. <sup>12</sup>Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. <sup>13</sup>Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. <sup>14</sup>Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. <sup>15</sup>Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress

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**Gospel:** Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>And there was a man named Zacchae’us; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. <sup>3</sup>And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchae’us, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” <sup>6</sup>So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. <sup>7</sup>And when they saw it they all murmured, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” <sup>8</sup>And Zacchae’us stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.” <sup>9</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

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**LIVING ORTHODOXY**



**Statement on the Sanctity of Life**

*Thursday, January 31, 2019*

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America affirms the sanctity of life based on the firm conviction that life begins at the moment of conception. The

**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](mailto: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*

Assembly remains steadfast in its conviction that any interference in the development of life is a serious issue, and therefore it regularly participates in a variety of relevant events and also releases pertinent statements on the topic. While recognizing that there are rare but serious medical instances where mother and child may require extraordinary actions, the Assembly of Bishops is deeply concerned that the taking of innocent life through abortion has



become an acceptable cultural norm. This phenomenon—increasingly prevalent throughout contemporary societies – was exacerbated by a recent law of the New York State Senate (Bill S.240). The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America categorically denounces these adverse developments that allow for abortion, under certain unjustifiable circumstances, even within the third trimester of existence.

The Assembly of Bishops further reminds the faithful that Christ is a beacon of hope in this challenging world. Accordingly, the Church is always prepared and willing to support women who are considering abortion to find alternative avenues to alleviate any burden, physical and spiritual. The Church is ever a mother – loving, understanding, nurturing, praying, and protecting all human life.

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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 Monk Ephrem the Syrian

Commemorated on February 10 / January 28

The Monk Ephrem the Syrian, a teacher of repentance, was born at the beginning of the IV Century (his precise year of birth is unknown) in the city of Ninevah (Mesopotamia) into the family of impoverished toilers of the soil. His parents raised their son in piety. But from the time of his childhood he was known for his quick temper and irascible character, and in his youth he often had fights, he acted thoughtlessly, and even doubted of God's Providence, until he finally recovered his senses from the Lord's doing, guiding him on the path of repentance and salvation. One time he was unjustly accused of the theft of a sheep and was thrown into prison. And there in a dream he heard a voice, calling him to repentance and rectifying his life. After this, he was acquitted of the charges and set free.

Within Ephrem there took place a deep repentance. The youth withdrew outside the city and became an hermit. This form of Christian asceticism had been introduced at Ninevah by a disciple of the Monk Anthony the Great, – the Egyptian Wilderness-Dweller Eugenios (Eugene).

Among the hermits especially prominent was the noted ascetic, a preacher of Christianity and denouncer of the Arians, the bishop of the Ninevah Church, Saint James (Comm. 13 January). The Monk Ephrem became one of his disciples. Under the graced guidance of the holy hierarch, the Monk Ephrem attained to Christian meekness, humility, submission to the Will of God, and the strength without murmur to undergo various temptations. Saint James knew the high qualities of his student and he used them for the good of the Ninevah Church – he entrusted him to read sermons, to instruct children in the school, and he took Ephrem along with him to the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea (in the year 325).



The Monk Ephrem was in obedience to Saint James for 14 years, until the bishop's death.

He also toiled no little at the interpretation of Holy Scripture – with an explication of the Pentateuch (i.e. "Five Books") of Moses. He wrote many a prayer and church-song, thereby enriching the Church's Divine-services. Famed prayers of Saint Ephrem are to the MostHoly Trinity, to the Son of God, and to the MostHoly Mother of God. He wrote for his Church song for the Twelve Great Feastdays of the Lord (the Nativity of Christ, the Baptism, the Resurrection), and funereal song. Saint Ephrem's Prayer of Repentance, "O Lord and Master of my life...", is said during Great Lent, and it summons Christians to spiritual renewal. The Church since times ancient valued highly the works of the Monk Ephrem: his works were read in certain churches, at gatherings of the faithful, after the Holy Scripture. And now at present in accord with the Church Ustav (Rule), certain of his instructions are prescribed to be read on the days of Lent. Amidst the prophets, Saint David is pre-eminently the psalmodist; amidst the holy fathers of the Church the Monk Ephrem the Syrian – is pre-eminently a man of prayer. His spiritual experience made him a guide to monks and an help to the pastors of Edessa.

In numerous of the works of the Monk Ephrem are encountered glimpses of the life of the Syrian ascetics, the centre of which involved prayer and with it thereupon the toiling for the common good of the brethren, in the obediences. The outlook of the meaning of life among all the Syrian ascetics was the same. The end purpose of their efforts was considered by the monks to be communality with God and the diffusion of Divine grace within the soul of the ascetic; the present life for them was a time of tears, fasting and toil.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

On the Good Fortune of Zacchaeus: "You came into the world to save sinners; therefore You came to save me also ... You came to find and to save him who was lost; therefore You came to seek me too, for I am one of the lost." +St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

MONDAY

On Watchfulness and Holiness: "We will travel the road of repentance correctly if as we begin to give attention to the intellect, we combine humility with watchfulness, and prayer with the power to rebut evil thoughts. In this way we will adorn the chamber of our heart with the holy and venerable name of Jesus Christ as with a lighted lamp, and will sweep our heart clean of wickedness, purifying and embellishing it." +St Hesychios the Priest



TUESDAY - COMMEMORATION OF THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

"Troubles are usually the brooms and shovels that smooth the road to a good man's fortune; and many a man curses the rain that falls upon his head, and knows not that it brings abundance to drive away hunger." +St. Basil the Great



WEDNESDAY

“If the Son of God be within you, then also His Kingdom is within you. Here then is the Kingdom of God – within you, a sinner. Go inwards into yourself, search diligently and without toil you shall find it. Outside of you – is death, and the door to it – is sin. Go inwards into yourself, dwell within your heart, for since there – is God.” +St. Ephraim the Syrian

THURSDAY

Nothing comes without effort: “The help of God is always ready and always near, but is given only to those who seek and work, and only to those seekers who, after putting all their powers to the test, cry out with their whole heart: ‘Lord Help Us!’” – St Theophan the Recluse

FRIDAY - FEAST OF MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE



“O Master and Lord, Thou sent Thy only-begotten Son and Word into the world, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those subject to the Law. Through the Spirit Thou announced beforehand His coming to Symeon the elder, and Thou revealed His presence to Him. Bless us also, Thy unworthy servants, by the dawn of His coming and accept our prayers, as Thou accepted the acknowledgment of the prophetess Anna. Make us worthy to embrace and hold Thy incarnate Word in our hearts and to become consecrated temples of the Holy Spirit. By Thy strength, give joy to our civil authorities and to all Thy Church: that in us Thy Name may be glorified, and that of Thy only-begotten Son, and that of Thy adorable and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.” – *Amvon Prayer for the Feast*

SATURDAY

“When you want to do a charitable act but a thought not to give creates doubt, test your thought, and if you find it being suggested through stinginess, then give — increasing the amount that you originally intended” +St. Barsanuphius

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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,* 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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**Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):** *your name here* – Saint \_\_\_\_\_. (Please contact Fr Dave with your Patron Saint)

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**Birthday Prayers for...** Harmonie (Scherer) Torchia (2/11), Pañi Kathy Buczak (2/11), Fr. James Gleason (2/12), Father's niece, Samantha Ditmore (2/14) ...*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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**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!*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

A Prayer Before Partaking Of Holy Water

O Lord, my God, may this Holy Water be for the remission of my sins, for the enlightenment of my mind, for the strengthening of my soul and body, for the health of my soul and body, for the conquering of my passions and infirmities, according to Your mercy that has no limit, through the prayers of Your Most Pure Mother and all Your Saints. Amen.