



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 17, 2019

A Two Week Bulletin

Volume IV

Fast - Free Week

FEBRUARY 17th



TRIODION WEEKS

Publican and the Pharisee

Reading: 2 Timothy 3: 10-15

Gospel: Luke 18: 10-14

Trust in God, not yourself!

Ask for His help before
every task this week!

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

Tone 5

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

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

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Annual Home Blessings through March 9

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

Monday	Saint Theodosius, archbishop of Chernigov (1696)	2 Peter 1:20-2:9	Mark 13:9-13
Tuesday	Venerable Bucolus, bishop of Smyrna (ca. 100)	2 Peter 2:9-22	Mark 13:14-23
Wednesday	Venerable Luke of Mt. Steirion (953)	2 Peter 3:1-18	Mark 13:24-31
Thursday	Great-martyr Theodore Stratelates (319)	1 John 1:8-2:6	Mark 13:31-14:2
Friday	Martyr Nicephorus of Antioch (ca. 257)	1 John 2:7-17	Mark 14:3-9
Saturday	St. Anna of Novgorod, wife of Yaroslav I (1050)	2 Timothy 3:1-9	Luke 20:45-21:4

*** FAST FREE WEEK

Normal Fast Week

FEBRUARY 24th



The Prodigal Son Returns!

Reading: 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20

Gospel: Luke 15: 11-32

Schedule a Confession.

Use up/freeze meats this week.

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

Tone 6

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

additional collection for our Community Outreach / Sr ACRY meeting following the Coffee Social

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

Monday	Saint Meletius, archbishop of Antioch (381)	1 Jn. 2:18-3:10	Mark 11:1-11
Tuesday	The holy woman Zoe of Bethlehem (5th c.)	1 John 3:11-20	Mark 14:10-42
* Wednesday	St. Cyril, Equal-to-the-Apostles, teacher of the Slavs (869)	1 John 3:21-4:6	Mark 14:43-15:1
Thursday	Apostle Onesimus of the Seventy (109)	1 Jn. 4:20-5:21	Mark 15:1-15
* Friday	St. Flavian, Archbishop of Antioch (404)	2 John 1:1-13	Mark 15:22-25, 33-41
Saturday	Great-martyr Theodore the Tyro (306)	1 Cor. 10:23-28	Lk 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

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

Meatfare

MARCH 3rd

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.

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

Tone 7

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Pre-Lenten Breakfast

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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



Saturday, March 9 – 9:30am All Soul Saturday (Zadušna Subota) Divine Liturgy & Panachida (I transferred)

Sunday, March 10 – Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday / Add'l collection for our capital improvement fund

Monday, March 11 – the start of the Great Fast (Lent) – “CLEAN WEEK” Begins –

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

Tuesday, March 12 – 9:30am The Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete (II)

This Bulletin Is Offered:

If you wish to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone, 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.

Wednesday, March 13 – 9:30am The Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete (III)
7pm – Presanctified Liturgy at the Hampton Inn, Wexford

Thursday, March 14 – 9:30am The Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete (IV)

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Barbara Kirish; Carol Lorenzi; Joanne Nelson; Patty Watson; 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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Home Blessing Update:
 32 homes (847 miles) and 2 scheduled
Please contact 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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All-Soul Saturdays (Zadušna Subota)
– *** Please note the schedule change below – The All-Souls Saturday Liturgies or Parastas for 2019 will be on **March 9th (transferred), March 23rd, March 30th, April 6th, and June 15th.** 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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Gertrude Hawk Candy – Our Easter Candy Sale is underway! Order forms are in the Church Hall. Orders will be due in **mid March** and will be delivered in time for Pascha. Please see Tim Martin with any questions.

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Clergy Question – I recently heard the question and wanted to share: **“What happens if we run out of Holy Water at the Church?”** The short answer is, “we bless more water.” The longer answer can be found in the *Living Orthodoxy* section of this week’s bulletin.

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Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 9
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 150
Envelopes:	\$ 478
Community Outreach:	\$ 83
Total Collections:	\$ 637
Relocation Fund:	\$ 290

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

Donors Wanted – Father will be looking to purchase Purple Dalmatics (or Acolyte Robes) for the Altar Boys and eventually black cassocks for them as well (which goes under the colored garment). Please talk with Father if you are interested in making an offering towards this.

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Trimming our willows – The buds are starting to appear on our pussywillow bushes and trees! Please let Fr Dave know if you would like to join him in trimming them when the time comes...

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Pre-Lenten Breakfast – will be on **Sunday, March 3rd**, Meatfare Sunday, immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

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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 Monday thru Thursday 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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Relocation Updates – *Matt and Father looked at a couple properties last 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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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

February 24: Kirish Family
March 3: Pre-Lenten Breakfast
March 10: **OPEN**
March 17: **OPEN**

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 24: Available to you
March 3: Available to you
March 10: Available to you
March 17: 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!



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.

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Next Sunday's 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

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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. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But 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; ²³and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; ²⁴for 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. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Holy water in Eastern Christianity

Excerpt from
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_water_in_Eastern_Christianity
Among Eastern Orthodox, holy water is used frequently in rites of blessing and exorcism.

Throughout the centuries, there have been many springs of water that have been believed by members of the Orthodox Church to be miraculous. Some still flow to this day, such as the one at Pochaev Lavra in Ukraine, and the Life-Giving Spring of the Theotokos in Constantinople (commemorated annually with the blessing of holy water on Bright Friday).

Although Eastern Orthodox do not normally bless themselves with holy water upon entering a church like Catholics do, a quantity of holy water is typically kept in a font placed in the vestibule (narthex/entrance) of the church, where it is available for anyone who would like to take some of it home with them. It is customary for Orthodox to drink holy water, to use it in their cooking and to sprinkle their houses with it.

Holy water is sometimes sprinkled on items or people when they are blessed outside the church building, as part of the prayers of blessing. It is common for Orthodox Christians to bring newly bought cars to the church for blessing. Holy water is sprinkled inside and out, as well as under the

hood. Similarly, in Alaska, the fishing boats are sprinkled with holy water at the start of the fishing season as the priest prays for the crews' safety and success.

Blessings

Orthodox Christians most often bless themselves with holy water by drinking it. It is traditional to keep a quantity of it at home, and many Orthodox Christians will drink a small amount daily with their morning prayers. It may also be used for informal blessings when no clergy are present. For example, parents might bless their children with holy water before they leave the house for school or play. It is not unusual for pious Orthodox Christians to put a little holy water in their food as they cook their meals. It is also often taken with prayer in times of distress or temptation.

There are two rites for blessing holy water: the **Great Blessing of Waters** which is held on the Feast of Theophany, and the **Lesser Blessing of Waters** which is conducted according to need during the rest of the year. Both forms are based upon the Rite of Baptism. Certain feast days call for the blessing of Holy Water as part of their liturgical observance.

The use of holy water is based on the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, and the Orthodox interpretation of this event. In their

view, John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, and the people came to have their sins washed away by the water. Since Jesus had no sin, but was God incarnate, His baptism had the effect not of washing away Jesus' sins, but of blessing the water, making it holy—and with it all of creation, so that it may be used fully for its original created purpose to be an instrument of life.

Jesus' baptism is commemorated in the Eastern Orthodox churches at the Feast of Theophany (literally "manifestation of God") on January 19/6. At the Vespers of this feast, a font of holy water is typically blessed in the church, to provide holy water for the parish's use in the coming year. The next morning, after the Divine Liturgy a procession goes from the church to a nearby river, lake or other body of water, to bless that water as well. This represents the redemption of all creation as part of humanity's salvation.

In the following weeks, the priest typically visits the homes of the members of the parish and leads prayers of blessing for their families, homes (and even pets), sprinkling them with holy water. Again, this practice is meant to visibly represent God's sanctifying work in all parts of the people's lives.

Great Blessing of Waters at Theophany

On the Great Feast of Theophany, holy water is blessed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy or on the eve of the feast.

The priest then blesses the entire church and congregation with the newly consecrated water. All come forward to be sprinkled over the head with the Theophany Water as they kiss the hand

cross, the priest's hand, and to drink some of it. The priest will then set out to bless the homes of all of the faithful with Theophany Water before the beginning of the Great Fast (Lent).

Orthodox Christianity teaches that the Great Blessing of Waters actually changes the nature of the water, and that water so blessed is no longer corruptible, but remains fresh for many years.

The Great Blessing of Waters is normally only blessed at this one time of the year.

Lesser Blessing of Waters

The Lesser Blessing is called "lesser" not because it is shorter (in fact, it isn't), but because it does not have the same solemnity as the Great Blessing, and does not necessarily change the nature of the water.

While much is the same, the rite begins with Psalm 142 (LXX) and the hymns to the Theophany of the Great Blessing are replaced in the Lesser Blessing with hymns to the Theotokos.

Then the priest says a prayer very similar to the one used at Theophany, but when he immerses the hand cross into the water three times, instead of singing the troparion of Theophany, he sings the troparion of the Cross.

The Lesser Blessing of Waters may be performed according to need. It is specifically called for on August 14/1 (the feast of the Procession of the Cross); on Bright Friday (Friday after Pascha) which is the feast of the Theotokos of the "Life-giving Spring"; and on the Feast of Mid-Pentecost, when all of the fields are blessed. There is also a tradition of blessing Holy Water on the first day of each month.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

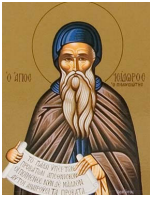
Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

The Monk Isidor Pelusiot

Commemorated on February 17/4

The Monk Isidor Pelusiot

lived during the IV-V Centuries. He was a native of Alexandria, and was raised amidst pious Christians. He was a kinsman of Theophilos, Archbishop of Alexandria, and of his successor, Saint Cyril. While still a youth he quit the world and withdrew within Egypt to Mount Pelusiot, which became the site of his monastic efforts. The spiritual wisdom and strict asceticism of the Monk Isidor, in combination with his broad erudition and innate knowledge of the human soul, allowed him in a short while to win the respect and love of his fellow monks. They chose him as their head and had him elevated to the dignity of presbyter. Following the example of Saint John Chrysostom, whom he had managed to see and hear during the time of a journey to Constantinople, the Monk Isidor devoted himself primarily to Christian preaching, – that "practical wisdom" which, in his own words, is both "the foundation of the edifice and the edifice itself", while at the same time logic is "its embellishment" and contemplation – its crown". He was a teacher and a willing giver of counsel for anyone recouring to him for spiritual encouragement: whether it be a simple man, a dignitary, a bishop, the Patriarch of Alexandria or



even the emperor himself. He left after him about 10,000 writings, of which 2,090 have survived. A large portion of these writings are profound in theological thought and contain morally edifying interpretations of Holy Scripture. It is here that the Monk Isidor stands out as the finest disciple of Saint John Chrysostom. The love and devotion of the Monk Isidor for Saint John Chrysostom resulted in decisive acts in defense of Saint John during the time of his persecution by the empress Eudoxia and archbishop Theophilos. After the death of Saint John, the Monk Isidor persuaded Theophilos' successor Saint Cyril to inscribe the name of Saint John Chrysostom into the Church diptyches as a confessor. And through the initiative of the Monk Isidor was convened the Third OEcumenical Council at Ephesus (431), at which was condemned the false-teachings of Nestorius concerning the Person of Jesus Christ.

The Monk Isidor lived into old age and died in about the year 436. The Church historian Euagrios (Evagrius, VI Century) writes about the Monk Isidor, that "his life seemed to everyone the life of an angel upon the earth". Another historian, Nicholas Kallistos (IX Century), praises the Monk Isidor thus: "He was a vital and inspired pillar of monastic rules and Divine vision and as such he presented a very lofty image of most fervent example and spiritual teaching".

SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

“Let your prayer be completely simple for both the publican and the prodigal son were reconciled to God by a single phrase.” +St. John of the Ladder (Climacus)

MONDAY

“Let us scatter our love selflessly to all, without regards to the way they act towards us” – Elder Prophyrios

TUESDAY

“How long shall we continue in this manner, our intellect reduced to futility, failing to make the spirit of the Gospel our own, not knowing what it means to live according to our conscience, making no serious effort to keep it pure?” +St. Mark the Ascetic

WEDNESDAY

“The purpose of all the laws and commandments of God is purity of heart.” +St. Isaac the Syrian

THURSDAY

“On Guardian Angels] We somehow feel that they cover us with the wings of their immaterial glory, only we do not see them. Our good thoughts, inclinations, words, and deeds, all proceed from them.” +Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt

FRIDAY

“The "darkening of the intellect" comes from lack of compassion and from laziness.” +St. Isaac the Syrian

SATURDAY

“Always pray with a fervent heart; and to attain to this, never eat and drink excessively.” +St. John of Kronstadt

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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, 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): Dolores Bowser - Virgin-martyr Dorothea (2/19) (Please contact Fr Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... W. Dylan Mushinsky (2/17), James Hanchulak (2/17), John Petrovich (2/18), Carly Anton (2/21), Barbara Kirish (2/22), Theresa Sharpless (2/22), Father’s nephew, Brian Verbanick, Jr (2/22), Fr Stephen Krivonak (2/23), His-All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew I (2/28/40), Fr William Bennett (2/28) ...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..., +Patricia French, the Priest +Nicholas Palun, Archon +Michael Serko Jr, Pañi +Patricia Patrick (1/26), +Jane Barrett (2/14) ...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:

Sticheron at Matins from the Lenten Triodion

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-Giver; for my spirit hastens early towards Your holy temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled; but in Your compassion purify me by Your gracious mercy. Amen.