



# 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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2019

Volume IV

3rd Sunday of Lent

**MARCH 31st**



## VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

HALF WAY TO PASCHA!

Reading: Hebrews 4: 14-5: 6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9: 1

Wear your cross to church and  
kiss the cross  
each morning with a bow!

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Tone 3

Liturgical Color: **Red**

*Procession of the Holy Cross prior to the Divine Liturgy / Additional Collection for our  
Community Outreach, St. John the Compassionate Mission / Blessing of icons*

3 pm – Deanery Lenten Missions: St. John the Baptist (211 Cable Avenue, East Pittsburgh, PA)

## SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK



**Wednesday, April 3** – 9:30am Paraklis to the Theotokos /

7pm – Presanctified Liturgy at the Hampton Inn (2622 Wexford Bayne Road, Sewickley, PA 15143)

**Friday, April 5** – 9:30am Moleben to the Holy Cross

**Saturday, April 6** – 9:30am All Soul Saturday (*Zadušna Subota*) Parastas & Panachida (# III)

9a-5p – Diocesan Retreat at St. Nicholas (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120) (*details below*)

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



|        |   |                   |                  |                     |
|--------|---|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| ** Mon | Martyr Pancharius at Nicomedia (302)                    | Isaiah 14:24–32   | Genesis 8:21–9:7 | Proverbs 11:19–12:6 |
| ** Tue | Martyr Photina the Samaritan Woman (66)                 | Isaiah 25:1–9     | Genesis 9:8–17   | Proverbs 12:8–22    |
| ** Wed | St. Cyril, bishop of Catania (2nd c.)                   | Isaiah 26:21–27:9 | Gen. 9:18–10:1   | Proverbs 12:23–13:9 |
| ** Thu | Venerable Isaac of Constantinople (383)                 | Isaiah 28:14–22   | Gen. 10:32–11:9  | Proverbs 13:20–14:6 |
| ** Fri | Monk-martyr Nikon of Sicily (251)                       | Isaiah 29:13–23   | Genesis 12:1–7   | Proverbs 14:15–26   |
| ** Sat | Ven. Zacharias the Recluse of Egypt (4 <sup>th</sup> c) |                   | Hebrews 6:9–12   | Mark 7:31–37        |

**\*\* The Great Fast - Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did!**

4th Sunday of Lent

**APRIL 7th**



## ST JOHN of the LADDER

Reading: Hebrews: 6:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9: 17-31

Every time you climb stairs this week  
ask St. John to help you reach  
Paradise with the sign of the cross!

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Tone 4

Liturgical Color: **Blue**

*Feast of the Annunciation / Blessing of icons / Panachida for +William Littlemeyer, Jr. (3/28)*

5pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

(220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA)

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## A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

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

**Slava Isusu Christu! (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



**Wednesday, April 10** – 9:30am Excerpts from the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete /

7pm – Presanctified Liturgy at Wexford Hampton Inn

**Friday, April 12** – 9:30am Akathist to St. Panteleimon with holy anointing

**Saturday, April 13** – 9:00 am Parish Spring Cleaning / 11a – 1p Mystery of Holy Confession

**Sunday, April 14** – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt / Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement

3pm – Deanery Lenten Missions here at St. John the Baptist, North Side

**Wednesday, April 17** – 9:30am Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos /

7pm – Presanctified Liturgy at Wexford Hampton Inn

**Friday, April 19** – 9:30am Moleben to the Holy Cross

**Saturday, April 20** – 9:30am Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy / making of Palm Crosses /

11a – 1p Mystery of Holy Confession

**Sunday, April 21** – Holy Week / Palm Sunday – Feast of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem



*This Bulletin Is Offered:*

In memory of  
+Larry Martin.  
May his memory  
be eternal!



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## PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Anastasia Dzambo; Mary Jane Hudak; Barbara Kirish; Rich Milirovich; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavidonis.

***"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 last week by Jim Potoski, In Memory of Sister, Jane Barrett. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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**Holy Week Change** – Due to the current state of parishes in the Pittsburgh area, our Resurrection Matins will be moved to Sunday morning prior to our Paschal Divine Liturgy. Matins is sometimes separated from Liturgy, but most times Matins leads right into Liturgy. Traditionally, our parishes have split the two services up between Saturday night and Sunday morning, but a majority of parishes begin the Resurrection Matins closer to sunrise on Pascha morning. (Father Dave will be doing the same services in Ambridge Saturday evening.) This is what we will need to do. For timing, we will begin Resurrection Matins by 9:00am and go right into the Paschal Divine Liturgy followed by our Basket Blessing. This is brought to us out of necessity. Let's make the best of it! Please let Father know what you think about this and how you feel about it.

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**Paschal Commemorations** – We offer you the opportunity to sponsor items to be used during Holy Week and Pascha as commemorations: *anonymously, for the health of loved ones, OR in memory of departed loves ones.* If you are interested in making any of these commemorations, please sign up on the sheet in the Vestibule **by Palm Sunday (April 21)** and give an *additional free-will stewardship offering* to the Church.

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**Confessions** – will be heard following every service and on most Saturdays during the Great Fast from **11am – 1pm** (the side gate and side door will be open).

Other times are available by appointment: please contact Fr. Dave to arrange this. Confessions will only be heard through Holy Wednesday.

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**Church & Grounds Spring Maintenance** will be **Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** beginning at **8:30am** (with breakfast) till noon-ish. A "to-do list" is being put together. Please sign up in the church hall, as we want to have enough food available, if you are able to share your time and talent on this day as we clean up what God has shared with us. Contact Kathy Schrmack ([kschrmack@verizon.net](mailto:kschrmack@verizon.net)) if you have any questions. *"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."* - Colossians 3:23-24

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### Our Stewardship Gifts To God

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Stewardship/Dues:     | \$ 350 |
| Candles/Eternal Lamp: | \$ 175 |
| Envelopes:            | \$ 569 |
| Presanctified:        | \$ 332 |
| ACRY Tithe:           | \$ 35  |

**Total Collections:** \$ 1461  
**Relocation Fund:** \$ 350

*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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**Palm Crosses** – On **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**, we will be making crosses out of the palms following the Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday. This activity is geared towards the youth, but all are welcome to come!

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**\*\* Garage Sale Chairperson Needed** – Please contact a member of the church council or Father if you would be willing to chair our annual garage sale this year.

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**\*\* Palms & Pussywillows** – We are collecting in the Church Hall our Palms and Pussywillows from prior years. These will not be simply thrown away, but they will respectfully be taken care of. *Please bring yours in so that your house will be ready for the new ones in a few weeks!*

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### Coffee Social Steward Schedule

April 7: OPEN

April 14: OPEN

April 21: OPEN

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### Reader of the Third Hour:

April 7: Available to you

April 14: Available to you

April 21: 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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### Book Suggestion for the Great Fast:

**"When You Pray: A Practical Guide to an Orthodox Life of Prayer"**

by L. Joseph Letendre  
(ISBN # 978-1944967239)

"Anyone who prays or has tried to pray and given up in discouragement knows praying, really praying, is not easy. Praying consistently seems almost impossible. Too often and too easily, prayer becomes a burden: one more item on an already overcrowded to-do list. Yet, our Lord said, *"Come to me, all of you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. My burden is easy and my yoke is light."* (Mt. 11:30)

Grab it from our bookstore for **\$5** or go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) (then link it to "American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox") and get the audiobook.



### 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
- Offer your time for the Spring Cleaning
- Bring in your clean used pill bottles
  - Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Offer to read the Third Hour prior to Liturgy



### 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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## STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



*Much has been talked about over the recent years about Orthodox Christian Stewardship. Your Church Council and Fr. Dave want to hear more from you about Stewardship. (Here is the 3<sup>rd</sup> in a series of questions to reflect on.)*

### The Parish Stewardship Self-Assessment:

#### 3. Evaluate how outward looking our parish is: a good steward shares all good things with others.

- ✓ What is the role of our parish in the larger community?
- ✓ How do we, as a parish, serve those in the larger Church and wider community?
- ✓ How do we, as a parish, use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure for the larger Church and the world?
- ✓ If we ask our parishioners to tithe (*giving 10%*), how does the parish tithe its resources?

*Over the next couple months, a series of stewardship questions or ideas will be posted in the bulletin. Throughout this series, please talk with members of the Church Council, Fr. Dave, or leave thoughts anonymously in an envelope on the desk in the vestibule as we continue to learn and grow in stewardship together.*

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## ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

### Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Mission: Confession, Service, & Fellowship -

Each *Sunday Vespers* begin at **3pm** with Confessions heard beginning at **2:30pm**. A light meal is offered after the services. The schedule is as follows:

**TODAY** – St. John the Baptist (211 Cable Avenue, East Pittsburgh, PA)

**April 14** – St. John the Baptist, North Side

All are encourage to attend our Lenten Missions throughout the Great Fast!

**Pray with our Pittsburgh Deanery & see our sister parishes!**

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**Pan-Orthodox Sunday Lenten Vespers** - The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh is pleased to offer for the first time in the Pittsburgh region a series of Sunday Lenten Vespers services to be held in Orthodox parishes of various jurisdictions around the Pittsburgh area. Each service will take place at **5:00pm** and will be followed by Lenten refreshments. All Orthodox Christians in the area are invited to join the Orthodox clergy of the area in praying these beautiful Lenten services together. The order of services and their locations is as follows:

- **TODAY**: St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral (290 Thompson Run Rd., Pittsburgh, PA)
- **April 7**: Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA)
- **April 14**: St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church (3230 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA) (Veneration of Relic of Saint John Maximovitch following Vespers)

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**Support Orthodox Church "Fish Fry's"** – This time of year many churches sell food on Friday's to help support their missions. Please consider visiting one of our sister parishes:

- **St. George**, New Kensington – 11a-5p – [www.SaintGeorgeOrthodox.org](http://www.SaintGeorgeOrthodox.org)
- **St. Mary**, South Side, Pittsburgh – 11a-7p – [www.stmaryorthodoxchurch.net](http://www.stmaryorthodoxchurch.net)
- **St. John the Baptist** (722 5<sup>th</sup> St., Ambridge, PA 15003) – Food and Bake Sale **ONLY** on **Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** 10a-3:30p Please see the flyer in the hall for a list of food and more details. Call Tim Polas between 5p and 9p at 724-462-3942 to preorder.

\* If you know of another one to be listed here, please Father know.

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**Annual Diocesan Lenten Retreat: For All Orthodox Christians, Family, & Friends** – Will take place on **Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** from 9am–5pm at St Nicholas Orthodox Church (903 Ann Street, Homestead, PA 15120). His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory will present "*Focusing on the Ladder of Divine Ascent and Our Spiritual Journey One Step at a Time*" for the teens and adults.

Fr. Dave Urban will present "*Windows to Heaven – Icon of Divine Ascent & The Feasts Of The Church*" for those aged 6-12. The schedule for the day is posted in the church hall. The registration deadline is **TODAY, March 31<sup>st</sup>** (You may sign up on the sheet in the Church Hall). **Come Escape From The World For A Day and Be Spiritually Renewed!**

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**52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ukrainian Pysanky Sale** – Come and enjoy the biggest and best Pysanky Sale in Town! **Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** from 11a - 4p at Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church (200 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106). Over 1,200 Pysanky– Over 300 specialty eggs– Folk Arts & Crafts from the Ukraine. There will be basket raffles, Door Prizes, Coloring Contests, Ukrainian Kitchen, Church Tours, & Parish Museum display throughout the day. Visit [www.OrthodoxCarnegie.org](http://www.OrthodoxCarnegie.org) or call 412-527-5359 for more info.

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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: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Jesus the Great High Priest

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

<sup>5</sup> For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup> He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. <sup>3</sup> Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. <sup>4</sup> And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was.

<sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

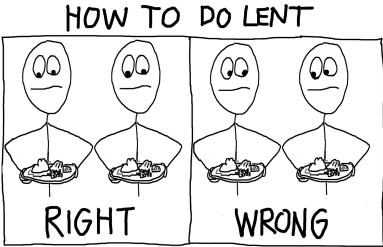
“Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee”;  
<sup>6</sup> as he says also in another place,  
“Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchiz’edek.”

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Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

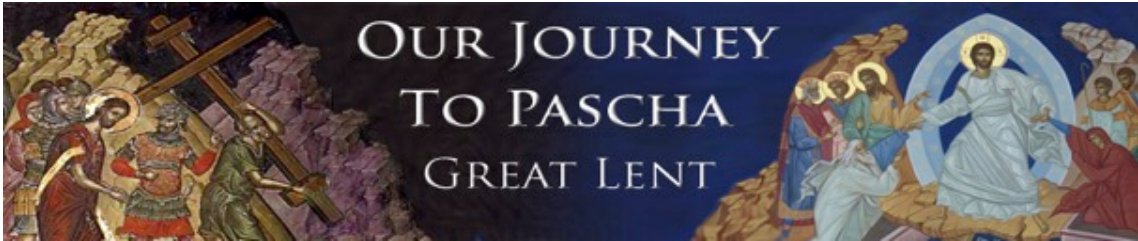
<sup>34</sup> And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake

and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his life? <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” <sup>9</sup> <sup>1</sup> And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”



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LIVING ORTHODOXY



To assist the faithful in making the most of this holy season, additional resources have been added to our Diocesan Website at: <https://www.acrod.org/prayercorner/lentenresources/>

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**SUNDAY OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS** marks the third Sunday of the Great Fast. There is nothing more deserving of our attention in the context of the Great Fast than the precious Cross that

even our own Lord embraced on the way to His Crucifixion. When the Priest puts on his Cross at every Divine Liturgy, he quotes Christ’s



words in the Gospel: “Whosoever would come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.” This is the message of the Cross, that we all bear our own cross in life and it does nothing to run from it, knowing of the Resurrection to come and that Christ has overcome all of it.

- by Fr. William Bennett

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The Cross Gives Us Life!

**Have you ever wondered why we wear crosses?** Have you wondered why we make the sign of the cross when we pray? Do you know why, today, on the Sunday of the Holy Cross, we decorate a cross with flowers and see a procession around the whole church with it? We remember that our Lord, Jesus Christ was killed on the Cross.

We remember that the people were angry at Him, and we remember how they shouted “Crucify Him!” when they wanted Him to be killed on the



cross. That doesn’t sound so great, so why do we make such a big deal about the cross in our Christian faith today?

When we think about the Cross, we think about what our Lord, Jesus Christ did for us. We think about how He gave up His life for us, so that we could live in heaven someday with Him. When we think about the Cross, we think about how it didn’t stop there... our Lord came out of the tomb, and He rose from the dead!

So for us, the Cross wasn’t a bad thing. It is the best thing ever because it gives us all life!

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

Saint Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem

Commemorated on March 31/18

This Saint was born in 315, and succeeded Maximus as Archbishop of Jerusalem in 350. He was zealous for the Orthodox Faith, and was a defender of the poor. He was exiled three times by the Arian Emperors Constantius and Valens. But after their death, he was recalled



to his throne; he reposed in peace in 386. Of his writings, the most prominent are his catechetical lectures, which are considered the most ancient systematic summary of Christian teaching. Before Saint Cyril, there had been two dioceses, one of Jerusalem, and one of Holy Sion; under Saint Cyril, they were united into one bishopric.

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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., Emily, Anthony, Eleanor, Daniel, Stephen ...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, Justin our seminarians: Michael, Daniel, and Dylan 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... Louis Deluca (4/3), Milena Petrovich (4/5/17) ...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...** +John "Bratso" Wuchenich (3/15), +Rose Mary Radick (3/19), +William Littlemeyer, Jr. (3/28) ...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal Memory!

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE GREAT FAST:

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian

in the Ruthenian tradition as found in St. Peter Mogila's 1639 Liturgikon (Sluzhebnik)

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. + [Prostration]  
But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. + [Prostration]  
Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]

The following triplet is recited 4 times (making a total of 12 bows):

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [bow]  
O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me. [bow]  
O Lord, forgive me, for my sins are many. [bow]

Then the prayer again with only one prostration:

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]

