

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: Sharon P, Larry M, Carol L, John K, John Righetti, Lynn M, Matt P, Peggy Rusnak, Rich M, Sharon D, Tim M, & Todd Tusick)*

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Mary Jane Hudak; Kirish Family; Mirilovich Family; Joanne Nelson; Melanie Paieski; Cindy Pavidonis; Margaret Rusnak.

“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 Melanie Paieski, in Memory of Mother, Catherine Gaydos. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!



Thank You! to everyone who brought in items for Transfiguration Monastery last month! Your generosity of used greeting cards, physical supplies, and monetary offerings were so greatly appreciated!

Home Blessings Resume – For those who did not have their home blessed prior to the Great Fast, please contact Fr Dave to arrange a time.

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

July 7: *Annual Family Picnic*
July 14: **Open / “Pot Luck”**
July 21: **Open / “Pot Luck”**

The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

Reader of the Third Hour:

July 14: John Kirish
July 21: Available to you
July 28: 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!

Science and Nature Camp @ Camp Nazareth - will take place **Sunday, August 4th thru Saturday, August 10th.**

Camp participants will learn all about Astronomy, Biology, Earth Science, Geology, Meteorology and SO MUCH MORE! Presentations and activities will be given and led by the Carnegie Science Center, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Jennings Environmental Center, as well as local high school teachers and college professors.

Participants will have the opportunity to use telescopes, microscopes, and water quality management technology as well as explore the trails, waterfalls, streams and geography of the Camp. Special emphasis will be placed on appreciating the beauty of nature and the wonder of the fields of science they will study.

The Science and Nature Camp is a resident (sleepaway) Camp for ages 8-18. It will take place on the 289 beautiful acres of Camp Nazareth (339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA).

Visit www.campnazareth.org to register. Email campnazareth@acrod.org or call 724-662-4840 for more information.

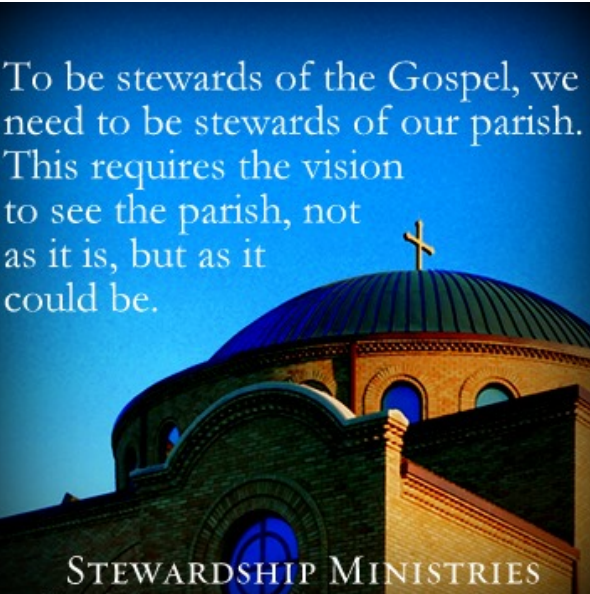
Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 251
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 164
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 1021
Community Outreach:	\$ 250
Total Collections:	\$ 1686
Relocation Fund:	\$ 600

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

June Financial Report:
Donation Income = \$ 5036.92
***Expenses = \$ 4831.35**
Net Income = \$ 205.57

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 40



Bulletin Sponsor – 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.



ACRY NEWS



Pill Bottle Collection – Our ACRY continues it's outreach to “Matthew 25: Ministries” who 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.*

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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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



Wednesday, July 17 – * 7pm Moleben to St. Nectarios with holy anointing

Sunday, July 21 – YOUTH Sunday

Wed., July 24 – 9:30am Akathist to the Great-martyr Euphemia on the Commemoration of the miracle of 451

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

Kennywood – Visit Kennywood for there Heritage days with our Orthodox neighbors:

SERBIAN Day – **Saturday, July 20th** – Contact Natalie Wuchenich (412-458-5227) for discount tickets
GREEK Day – **Tuesday, July 23rd** – contact Lucy Koutsavlis (412-824-9188 / lkoutsavlis@ypapanti.net). Credit Cards now accepted for phone orders. Ticket Prices:
Regular Day Pass - \$26.00, Seniors 55+ - \$16.00, Seniors 70+ - \$12.00 (Children 3 & under are free).



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Christmas in July! Vendor & Craft Show – St. Nicholas Church (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120) will have over 20 of your favorite vendors and crafters on **Saturday, July 20th** from 10am–2pm as well as a Russian Auction, Raffles, and Café Nikolai for your eating pleasure!

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Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **July 17-21** – Holy Trinity (2930 Beaver Rd., Ambridge) *Greek*
- **July 24-27** – St. Mary (116 Ellen St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136) *Ukrainian*



Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church hall for times and more information or visit holytrinitypgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide

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Ukrainian Food Festival (or *Ukie Fest* as it is affectionately known by locals) will offer the opportunity to eat, drink, dance and be merry in the McKees Rocks Bottoms **July 24–27** at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church (116 Ellen St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136). The event will include all your favorite Ukrainian dishes beginning daily at 5pm. Visit www.ukiefestrocks.com for more information or call 412-331-2362.

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Diocesan Sobor Essay Contest – High school juniors and seniors as well as college students are invited to participate in writing an essay about the Orthodox Christian perspective on one of the following topics: *Abortion; End of Life Issues; Same-sex Marriage; Wealth and Poverty; or Violence, Conflict and War*. All submissions are due no later than **August 31st**. Three monetary awards will be given: 1st Place - \$500; 2nd Place- \$400; 3rd Place- \$300. Please contact Fr. Dave for more details

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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: Romans 5:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

Results of Justification

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through him we have obtained access^[b] to this grace in which we stand, and we^[c] rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. **3** More than that, we^[d] rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

6 While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. **8** But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

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The Sound Eye

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; **23** but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Serving Two Masters

24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Do Not Worry

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **27** And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? **28** And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; **29** yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the

field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For

the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John:

Commemorated on July 7 / June 24

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Lk. 1: 57-80) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist – the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth, lived in the ancient city of Hebron, and reached old age being childless, since Elizabeth was barren. One time, Saint Zachariah was making Divine services at the Jerusalem Temple and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the incense offertory. He predicted, that Saint Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Saviour – the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. And it was given to him – it appeared at the same time as a chastisement for his unbelief: Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

Saint Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision over the lateness of her pregnancy, she kept it secret for five months, until there came visiting her distant relative the All-Blessed Virgin Mary, to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. And together with her Saint John also – in the womb of his mother Righteous Elizabeth – did greet "with leaps as in song" the MostHoly Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnated within Her.



It became time, and Saint Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accord with the law of Moses, was made the circumcision. His mother named him John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in their family had been named such. When they asked Saint Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "John is his name" – and immediately the binding of his tongue at the prediction of the archangel was unbound, and Saint Zachariah, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, glorified God and pronounced the words of prophecy about the Advent-Coming into the world of the Messiah, and about his own son John – the Forerunner of the Lord.

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all the infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Saint Zachariah as a priest was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered, that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The lad John, protected by an Angel, dwelt in the wilderness until such time, when he came preaching about repentance and was himself vouchsafed worthy to baptise the Lord Who was come into the world.

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father can meet M-F 9:30a–4p or by appointment.
Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.
Phone Tree – Please call Fr. Dave to be added.
Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure so he can pray with you and you may receive the Anointing to be fully prepared.
Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.
Holy Communion/Eucharist – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged by all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive a *blessing* from the chalice.
Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish life



anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.
Baptisms – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Father for more details.
Adult Chrismation – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.
Marriages – are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Father ASAP for more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall).
Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations; otherwise burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Some thoughts on
Venerating Icons

Taken from various websites

When you enter the church, it is traditional to venerate (*not worship*) the icons. Usually there are icons at the entrance to the church and many churches have icon stands in the front as well. Parishes that follow the Slavic tradition usually place an icon on a table (*the tetrapod*) in front of the solea, the elevated area in front of the icon screen (*iconostasis*).

When venerating (*kissing or placing your forehead on*) an icon, pay attention to where you kiss. It is not proper to kiss an icon in the face. You wouldn't go up and kiss the Lord or His mother on the lips, would you? You would kiss their hand, and only if they invited you would you even dare to kiss them on the cheek. Pay attention to what you are doing.

When you approach an icon to venerate it, kiss the gospel, scroll, or hand cross in the hand of the person in the icon, or kiss the hand or foot of the person depicted. As you venerate an icon, show proper respect to the person depicted in the icon – the same respect you would show the person by venerating him or her in an appropriate place. And remember, blot off your lipstick before kissing.

Venerate the icons by making the sign of the cross before and after your venerate.

Another custom is to make two *metanias* (made by crossing oneself and then bending down to touch the floor with the fingertips of the right hand, palm facing forward to give glory to God or

the saint in front of us), crossing yourself, offering a brief prayer, kissing the foot or hand in the icon, then crossing yourself and making another *metania* (these may be replaced by prostrations during the Great Fast outside of Sunday mornings).

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Our veneration icon stands (*Analogia*) were completed this past Lent. The higher Icon is the same as the lower icon so children can venerate on their own - and not need picked up. Parents, please teach your children to kiss the bottoms of the icons.

It is customary to venerate in this order: the icon at the entrance (Saint John the Baptist), the icon of the day (on the tetrapod), the Icon of Christ, and then the Icon of the Theotokos (Mary). When passing by the Altar, cross yourself once and bow toward the Altar as you pass from one side of the church to the other.

If you have any questions about venerating icons, please feel free to contact Father Dave.

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ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

Analogion – An analogion (*plural: analogia*) is a lectern or slanted stand on which icons or the Gospel Book are placed for veneration by the faithful in the Orthodox Church. *It may also be used to read from liturgical books during the divine services.*



The analogion is often used in the veneration of icons, with a candle-stand either beside or behind it. The candle-stand may hold one candle and be used to shine light on the icon, or it may have places for the faithful to offer candles when they venerate the icon.

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ST JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, our additional collection will be for **Light of Life**, located on the North Side of Pittsburgh. *Provide a meal and hope for hungry, homeless people. To someone who is hungry and homeless, one meal can bring hope and mark the first step toward true life change. Please give and provide: Hot meals, Safe shelter, Housing and employment program, and Women and children's programs.* For more information on this organization, please visit: www.lightoflife.org. Thank you in advance for your prayers and offering this month!

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

"The life of man on this planet is an enormous drama. Here, the temporal and the eternal worlds continually clash, the mortal and the immortal, the good and the evil, the things of the Devil and the things of the Lord." +Venerable Justin (Popovic) of Chelije in Serbia

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"Pray sincerely to the Heavenly Father; especially say the Lord's Prayer, reverently, peacefully, not hurriedly: in general, read all the prayers quietly, evenly, with reverence, knowing before Whom you are saying them." +St. John the Wonderworker of Kronstadt

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“In the evening, when your daily business should be finished, by no means give yourself over to rest, no matter how much the activities of the day have tired you. It is unbecoming for a Christian to act ungrateful this way. When you have finished your business, lift up your thoughts to the Lord God and sincerely thank Him for all the good things that you have received from Him in the day.” - Metropolitan Gregory (Postnikov) of St. Petersburg, from *How to Live a Holy Life*

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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.

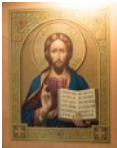
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For the Health of... Olga, Fr. Michael Rustick, David, John, Patricia, John, Jake, Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Gary, Lino, Louis, June, Helen, Steven, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N., Emily, Anthony, Eleanor ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.

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For the Special Intentions of... Metropolitan Gregory, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin our seminarians: Michael, Daniel, and Dylan and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee: Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Donald, Jane, Margaret, Eleanor, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Todd and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach, Holy Transfiguration Monastery ...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): Rich Mirilovich - St. John the Baptist (7/7); Craig Bowser - Holy and All-glorious Apostle Peter (7/12) (Please contact Fr Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Allyssa Yakemawiz (7/7), Charles Deluca (7/8), Jessica Winkler (7/8), Father's Godfather, Richard Babbie (7/9), Pañi's Grandmother, Maria Alexa (7/11), Fr. John Gido (7/12), Jean Zak (7/12) ...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, Anthony, Anthony, Sheila, Anna Marie, Katie, Alexis, Sophie ...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.

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For those preparing for Marriage... Andrew & Davina, Ashley & Derek ...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

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Anniversary Prayers for... ...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!

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For Pregnant Mothers... Hayley, Alisha ...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St Irene Chrysovalantou.

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For Our Graduates... Annie Jesko, Emma Martellotti, Andrew Mirilovich, Robert Paieski, Jack Scherer, and Mareena Shuster ...may they be guided in His Light and God's Will all the days of their lives.

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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... Pañi Charlotte Conjelko (6/5), Jane Barclay (6/25) ...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal be their Memory!

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you would wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another**. Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. This prayer list is NOT limited to Orthodox Christians.

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

A prayer for our Neighborhoods by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.