



# 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  
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August 25, 2019

Volume V

## 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / within the Feast of the Transfiguration Martyrs Anicetus and Photius of Nicomedia (305)

9:15 - Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16; Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Blessing of First Fruits & Vegetables / ~12 Noon - Moleben to the Theotokos



## SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, August 27 – 7pm Vespers for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Wednesday, August 28 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast and Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

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

* Monday	Venerable Maximus the Confessor (662)	2 Corinthians 2:4-15	Matthew 23:13-22
* Tuesday	Prophet Micah (8th c. B.C.)	2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3	Matthew 23:23-28
* Wednesday	Venerable Macarius and St. Chariton (1550)	2 Corinthians 3:4-11	Matthew 23:29-39
Thursday	Martyr Diomedes the Physician (298)	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Matthew 24:13-28
* Friday	Martyr Myron of Cyzicus (250)	2 Corinthians 4:13-18	Mt 24:27-33,42-51
Saturday	Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria (2nd c.)	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Matthew 19:3-12

\* Dormition (Theotokos) Fast - Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!

September 1 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Martyr Andrew Stratelates of Cilicia (3rd c.)

9:15 - Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 2 Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12; Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

Blessing of Flowers and Herbs / ~12 Noon - Akathist to the "Inexhaustible Cup" Icon and Panachida

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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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### 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 in the vestibule of the Church or by contacting Fr. Dave. An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

## PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Flower and Herb Blessing** – On the Feast of the Dormition and the Sunday following, **September 1<sup>st</sup>**, we will bless Flowers and Herbs. Please bring to church flowers and/or herbs from your garden (or from the store) to be blessed... **Let's Live Orthodoxy!**

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**International Overdose Awareness Day** – is a global event held on **August 31<sup>st</sup>** each year that aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses. This year, we will have an Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup on Sunday, September 1 (following our Coffee Social), on behalf of those who suffer from alcoholism and other addictions. A Panachida (Memorial Service) will also be offered (please give Father any names to be prayed for). All are welcome to come and pray. We also encourage those who have friends or family members who struggle with addiction, as well as those who work in the field of recovery, to come and pray with us!



**Moleben to Saint Nectarios** – On **Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7pm, we will have a Moleben (Prayer Service) to St. Nectarios (the Patron Saint of those with cancer). This beautiful prayer service is not only for the sick, but it is for all of us to pray for each other! (Remember, The front door will be locked at 7:00 and the side door of the church will remain open.)

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Our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Garage Sale will be on Friday/Saturday, **September 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>** from 9a to 3p. Please sign up in the church hall if you are able to assist on these days.

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**SJB Parish Annual Meeting** will be on **Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** following the Divine Liturgy. **New Proposals** for the Annual Meeting need to be submitted to **Matt Peifer** or **Larry Martin**. All proposals are much appreciated! This is the **1<sup>st</sup> Official Notice**

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Shuster Family; Lawrence Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Olga Radick; Mirilovich Family; Joanne Nelson; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis.

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**Additional Church School Teachers Needed** – Would you be interested in assisting with our Church School Program? We are looking to have multiple classes: Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>; and 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Father Dave if you can be a steward of your talents.

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Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? We are collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to FOCUS Pittsburgh (who provide Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter to those who are in need).

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Deanery Family Picnic** will be held on **Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** in Schenley Park at a bigger facility than last year, the Veterans Pavilion (5075 Overlook Dr., Pittsburgh, PA) from Noon (after church) to Dusk (no Steeler Game that day). A food sign-up sheet is in the hall for pot-luck items that will be brought to the picnic. Plan to come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with our brothers and sisters from our sister Deanery Parishes. Get together with old friends and family! Make new friends! Come enjoy God's creation in one of the best parks in Pittsburgh!

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**Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD)** – Don't forget to send in your DDD donation. This program greatly supports our ministry at Camp Nazareth and other programs in our diocese. Those who give \$100 (& up) are invited to the Annual Banquet held this year on **Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**: Doors open at 4 / dinner at 5) at the Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pgh, PA 15235). Please see Father Dave, Larry Martin (our local ambassador), or get a brochure in the vestibule for more information.

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**Our Stewardship Gifts To God**

Stewardship:	\$ 180
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 125
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 246
Community Outreach:	\$ 134
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 685</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 600</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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**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

- September 1: **Open / Potluck**
- September 8: **Open / Potluck**
- September 15: **Annual Meeting Potluck**

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**Reader of the Third Hour:**

September 1: Available to you  
 September 8: Available to you  
 September 15: 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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**LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY**

- ✘ **Tuesday**, September 3 – 7pm Moleben to Saint Nectarios with holy anointing
- ✘ **Friday-Saturday**, September 6-7 – 9a-3p 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Garage Sale
- ✘ **Wednesday**, September 11 – 9:30 Divine Liturgy and Panachida
- ✘ **Sunday**, September 15 – Parish Annual Meeting following Liturgy

"Plowman receives fruit from the earth not so much for his labor and diligence, as out of goodness of God Who grows this fruit, because neither is he that plants anything, neither he that waters, but God that gives the increase." + St. John Chrysostom

**ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK**



**THEOTOKOS** – Because Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God, Mary is called the Mother of God to profess our faith that in the Incarnation, God was in her womb. Elizabeth called Mary "blessed" and "the mother of my Lord" (Luke 1:42-43). At the Council of Ephesus in 431, the Church condemned Nestorius and other heretics who refused to call the Virgin Mary the *Theotokos*. For if it was not God in Mary's womb, there is no salvation for mankind. (See Lk 1:26-43; Jn. 1:1-14)

**TRANSLATING THEOTOKOS:** The Church Slavonic translation is *Bohoroditsa* (Богородица). The full title of Mary in Slavic Orthodox tradition is "Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary" (Russian Пресвятая Владычица наша Богородица и Приснодева Мария). While some languages used by various Orthodox churches often have a single native word for *Theotokos* (from Greek, Θεοτόκος), it gets translated into English in a

number of ways: "God-bearer", "Birth-giver of God", and "Mother of God." There are difficulties with all these translations, however. The most popular translation, *Mother of God*, is accurate to a point, but the difficulty with that one is that *Mother of God* is the literal translation of another Greek phrase which is found on nearly all icons of the Theotokos: *Meter Theou* (Μητηρ Θεου), usually in the standard iconographic abbreviation of "MP ΘY". Additionally, a number of hymns employ both *Theotokos* and *Meter Theou* – translating both as *Mother of God* can yield some rather nonsensical language, and it destroys the distinction that the hymnographer intended. The word usage that seems to be dominant in English-speaking Orthodox churches in North America is to adopt the original term itself into English (*something English speakers have traditionally done with foreign words almost since the earliest known history of the language*), transliterating it simply as *Theotokos*.

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## ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

### Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **August 28-September 1** – Holy Trinity (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh) *Greek*
- **September 6-7** – Saints Peter and Paul (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie) *Ukrainian*
- **September 7-8** – St Andrew (56 Glenn Way, McKees Rocks) *Romanian*

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**Church Slavonic Class** - The 2019/20 academic year at Christ the Saviour Seminary will begin on **September 9<sup>th</sup>**. Fr. John Brancho, instructor for the Church Slavonic course (both in the fall and spring), is inviting parishioners who would like to participate to join the seminarians. The class is offered on Fridays from 9 AM to noon. There is **no** tuition charge and pre-registration is not required. The first class is **Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**. Any questions may be directed to Fr. John (814-539-5043 / frbrancho@aol.com.)

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**Konevets Quartet** – Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church is hosting a concert of Sacred and Secular Musical Selections by the Konevets Quartet, an Internationally renowned male a cappella ensemble of St. Petersburg, Russia, on **Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7 PM and followed by a reception in the church hall (901 Hartman Street, McKeesport PA 15132). If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Stevo Rocknage at [Frstevor@Aol.com](mailto:Frstevor@Aol.com) or 412-760-7911.

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**Icon of the Tender Heart** - Visit of the Kardiotisa, "The Tender Heart" myrrh-flowing, miraculous icon of the Theotokos from Taylor, PA will be on **Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd. Carnegie - gold domes). Vespers Friday at 7 PM and Divine

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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 Corinthians 4:9-16

<sup>9</sup>For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. <sup>10</sup>We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. <sup>11</sup>To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, <sup>12</sup>and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; <sup>13</sup>when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things.

### Fatherly Admonition

<sup>14</sup>I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. <sup>15</sup>For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your

Liturgy Saturday at 9 AM. If you are considering going, please sign the sheet in the church hall so they can accommodate about how many will be coming. If you have any questions, please contact Fr John at [frjohn.charest@aol.com](mailto:frjohn.charest@aol.com) or 847-910-7120.

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**"Joy Fest"** – Holy Cross Church is excited to revive the tradition of "JOY Fest" on **Saturday, September 21**: a one-day gathering for all children ages 7-12. Special guest musician will be Kh. Gigi Shadid from Houston, TX. The schedule is on the flyer in the church hall. Gigi is a trained educator and will also be leading a presentation and discussion with Sunday School teachers on Friday evening, **September 20**. Both events are open to all. Contact Emmanuel "Manoli" Maginas with questions, or to RSVP for either event at [emmanuelmaginas@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelmaginas@gmail.com)

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 **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk For Missions** – will be **Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**. More details coming soon...

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**The Diocesan Council SOBOR** will take place in Johnstown on **October 13-16**. For any of our faithful interested in attending any of the meals during the Sobor, especially the Grand Banquet on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, please contact Fr Dave as soon as possible. Ticket prices vary and deadline for reservations is **September 8**. Please contact Fr. Dave for information on this and for placing ads in the commemorative journal.

**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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grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."

**Jesus Again Foretells His Death and**

<sup>22</sup> As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to

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them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, <sup>23</sup> and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.

**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 Martyrs Anicetas and Photios**

*Commemorated on August 25/12*

The Martyrs Anicetas and Photios (his nephew) were natives of Nicomedia. Anicetas, a military official, denounced the emperor Diocletian (284-305) for having set up in the city square an implement of execution for frightening Christians. The enraged emperor ordered Saint Anicetas to be tortured, and later condemned him to be devoured by wild beasts. But the lions they set loose became gentle and fondled up to him. Suddenly there began a strong earthquake, resulting in the collapse of the pagan temple of Hercules, and many pagans perished beneath the crumbled city walls. The executioner took up a sword to cut off the saint's head, but he himself fell down insensible. They tried to break Saint Anicetas on the wheel and burn him with fire, but the wheel stopped and the fire went out. They threw the martyr into a furnace with boiling tin, but the tin got cold. Thus the Lord preserved His servant for the edification



of many. The martyr's nephew, Saint Photios, saluted the sufferer and turn to the emperor, remarking: "O idol-worshipper, thine gods – be nothing!" The sword, held over the new confessor, instead struck the executioner himself. Then the martyrs were thrown into prison. After three days Diocletian began to urge them: "Worship our gods, and I shalt give ye glory and riches". The martyrs answered: "Perish thou with thine honour and riches!" Then they tied them by the legs to wild horses, but the saints, dragged along the ground, remained unharmed. They did not suffer either in the heated up bath-house, which tumbled apart. Finally Diocletian ordered a great furnace to be fired up, and many Christians, inspired by the deeds of Saints Anicetas and Photios, went in themselves with the words: "We are Christians!" They all died with prayer on their lips. The bodies of Saints Anicetas and Photios were not harmed by the fire, and even their hair remained whole. seeing this, many of the pagans came to believe in Christ. This event happened in the year 305.

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**LIVING ORTHODOXY**

**What Does "Intercede" Mean? And Why Do We Need It?**

From *The Children's Word* By Presvytera (Pañi) Alexandra Houck

Have you ever tried to help a two year old do something? He usually ends up saying, "I want to do it by myself!"

Sometimes we sound like that, too! We want to do things all by ourselves. We want to do big things, important things, hard things. But we don't want help. We want to do it all by ourselves.

For two weeks in August, we try hard to remember that we have a helper who is looking out for us. The Theotokos, the Mother of God, is



our helper. During the special church services, we say again and again, "O Most Holy Theotokos, intercede for us" or "Pray for us." We want her to ask her Son to help us.

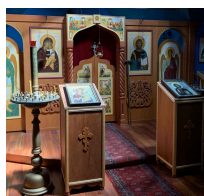
This week, on the 28<sup>th</sup>, we remember how Mary, the Theotokos, died and went to heaven. She is so close to her Son there! She has a special relationship with Him, and He listens especially to her. When she asks Him for something, He listens. So, when she "intercedes," she tries to persuade Him to do something for us.

Let's not be like a two year old! It's better to ask for help, especially when it is from the holy Theotokos!

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**Reverence In Church: God's House Must Be Entered With Awe And Fear**

We must practice reverence in the temple, whether during services or when we step into the church to light a candle and venerate the holy icons. The temple is the place set apart for the worship of the Holy Trinity and is the place where the Bloodless Sacrifice is offered before the Throne of God.



unto life everlasting. It is the holy place where we are cleansed of our sins through the threefold immersion of baptism, becoming members of One Body, the Church.

The temple is the place where we seek to be reconciled with God through the Mystery of Penance [Holy Confession] and enter into the life of the Spirit. The temple is God's house and must be entered with awe and the fear of God.

It is in the temple that we receive the Body and Blood of our Saviour unto remission of sins and

With love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon

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## FEAST DAY FEATURE

### Our “Summer Pascha”

The One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church is presently observing the Holy Dormition Fast; this period, which lasts two weeks from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, culminates on the 28<sup>th</sup> with the celebration of the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos (Mother of God)...

**The holiness of these two weeks gives fuel for the faithful to energize their spiritual struggle;** this is one reason why the Dormition period is affectionately known as the Summer Pascha...

**We have no better example, no better prototype, to lead us to Christ’s ineffable glory than His Mother, the Most Holy Lady and Ever-Virgin Mary, the Holy of Holies, whose Dormition we will soon celebrate.**

St. Gregory Palamas writes: “*She showed that*

*her whole life, her behavior, her mind and her words, were utterly devoted to godly striving. As a result of this, her death, too, was life-giving and led to heavenly, immortal life, and its day of remembrance is a joyful holiday and worldwide festival... For at present she is the only one who has a place in heaven with her divinely glorified body in the company of her Son.”*



**Orthodoxy venerates the Theotokos through its icons, hymns and feasts and prays for her intercessions to her Son and our God...**

Like Pascha... **The Dormition shows us that through our faith and good works and Christ’s love and mercy, we can attain immortal life.**

*Excerpt from: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/evangelos-sotiropoulos/the-dormition-pascha-of-t\\_b\\_3710704.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/evangelos-sotiropoulos/the-dormition-pascha-of-t_b_3710704.html)*

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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(s)**. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver **him/her/them** from sickness and bitter pain. Heal **him/her/them** so that **he/she/they** may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

**For the Health of...** Harry, James, Emilia, Olga, Fr. Michael Rustick, David, Jake, Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Gary, Lino, Louis, June, Helen, Doug, Joanne, Anthony, Eleanor ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

**For the Special Intentions of...** Metropolitan Gregory, Alisha, Aaron, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* 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, The DDD (Distinguished Diocesan Donors) ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

**Patronal Feast Days (Name’s Day):**  
Pañi Alexandra Urban - Saint Alexander (8/30 NC)  
*(Please contact Fr Dave with your Patron Saint)*

**Birthday Prayers for...** Fr. Michael Kabel (8/27),



Meredith Blobner (8/28), Adam Zak (8/28), Lucillia Mainolfi (8/29), Claudia (Herbert) Pido (8/29) ...*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!*

**For our Catechumens & Inquirers...**  
Dustin, Stephen, Peter, Daniel ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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

**Anniversary Prayers for...** Sharon & Ryan Dzadony (8/25) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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

**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.*

**For the souls of the newly departed...** ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal be their Memory!*

\* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you 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 only Orthodox Christians.*

## DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

### HYMN TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

You are truly deserving of glory, O Birth-giver of God, the ever-blessed and most pure Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who as a Virgin gave birth to God the Word, true Birth-giver of God, we magnify you.

