



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
www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

2688 California Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa 15212
412-748-0148, Talk or Text
OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com

September 8, 2019

Volume V

12th Sunday after Pentecost / Martyrs Adrian & Natalia of Nicomedia (4th c.)

9:15 - Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 3 Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund / Panachida for our deceased grandparents

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, September 11 – a Strict Fast day – 9:30 Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist and Panachida for those who perished in the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks

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

Monday	Venerable Poemen the Great (450)	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 3:6-12
Tuesday	Venerable Moses the Black of Scete (400)	2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5	Mark 3:13-19
# Wednesday	New Martyr Anastasius of Bulgaria (1794)	2 Cor. 9:12-10:7	Mark 3:20-27
Thursday	St. Alexander (340), patriarch of Constantinople	2 Corinthians 10:7-18	Mark 3:28-35
* Friday	New Hieromartyrs Michael & Myron priests (1937)	2 Corinthians 11:5-21	Mark 4:1-9
Saturday	Venerable Symeon Stylites (the Elder) (459)	1 Corinthians 2:6-9	Matthew 22:15-22

*# A day of Strict Fasting * Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!*

September 15 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost / Martyr Mamas of Caesarea in Cappadocia (275)

9:15 - Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 4 Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24; Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

YOUTH Sunday - Parish Annual Meeting following Liturgy

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

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!

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

This Bulletin Is Offered:

For the health of our
Grandparents,
Many Years!
and in memory of our
Grandparents who
have passed away,
*may their memory
be eternal!*



PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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 – 2nd grade; 3rd – 7th; and 8th – 12th. Please contact Father Dave if you can be a steward of your talents.

+++ +++ +++

Remembering the Feast of the Beheading –

Saint John was a holy prophet and an innocent man (see *Mark 6:14-30*). His beheading was a preview of the crucifixion of Our Lord; the Innocent Lamb Who is greater than all the prophets. **A Strict Fast from meat and dairy** is observed on this day, **September 11th**, in commemoration of the murder of the man Jesus called, "the greatest man born of woman." Also, in commemoration of the way that St. John was martyred, pious Orthodox will not eat from a plate but only from a bowl, will not use knives to eat with, and will not eat foods that are round or come as a 'head' (cabbage, lettuce, etc.).

+++ +++ +++



THANK YOU to everyone who helped set-up and work this year's garage sale! 27-years of helping our community!

+++ +++ +++



COAT DRIVE **LAST CALL & THANK YOU –** NEXT WEEK, 9/15, will be the last Sunday to bring in 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*). Also, **THANK YOU** to those who have already brought in coats!

+++ +++ +++

Sermon Series on the Mysteries of the Church For Father Dave will offer a series of sermons on the main Mysteries (Sacraments) of the Church: *Baptism & Chrismation, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Confession, Holy Anointing (Unction), Marriage, and Ordination (Holy Orders).*

+++ +++ +++

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Cindy Viola Peifer; Shuster Family; Lawrence Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Kirish Family; Olga Radick; Mary Jane Hudak; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; 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**

+++ +++ +++

Steeler Ticket Raffle - We will be having a Relocation Raffle with 1st Prize being 2 Steeler Tickets (vs. the Bills) and 2nd Prize of \$100. Tickets will be \$5 each and the winner will be drawn at this year's Turkey Bingo. Tickets will be available next week.

+++ +++ +++

SJB Parish Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday, September 15th** 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 **3rd Official Notice**

+++ +++ +++

2nd Annual Deanery Family Picnic will be held on **Sunday, September 29th** in Schenley Park at the Veterans Pavilion (*a bigger facility than last year*) 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!

Reader of the Third Hour:

September 15: John Kirish
September 22: *Available to you*
September 29: *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!

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **September 7-8** – St Andrew (56 Glenn Way, McKees Rocks) *Romanian*

+++ +++ +++

Craft Beer Tasting – IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) will host a Craft beer Tasting fundraiser on **Tuesday, September 12th** at 6pm at Rusty Gold Brewery Company (Canonsburg). Tickets are \$10 and include 4 beer samples. Registration is due by September 5th. Please contact Kevin Reck at 724-344-5610 / kevinsreck@gmail.com with any questions.

+++ +++ +++



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 13th** and **Saturday, September 14th** at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd. Carnegie). Vespers Friday at 7p and Divine Liturgy Saturday at 9a. If you are considering going, please sign

Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 875
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 173
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 555
Total Collections:	\$ 1603
Relocation Fund:	\$ 550

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

August Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 4,482.54

***Expenses = \$ 4,804.12**

Net Deficit = \$ 321.58

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 46

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

September 15: **Annual Meeting Potluck**

September 22: **Open / Potluck**

September 29: **Open / Potluck**

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!

+++ +++ +++

Basket Raffle - our ACRY will host this year's Basket Raffle on **Saturday, October 26th**. More details coming soon but mark your calendars now!

+++ +++ +++

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✦ **Saturday**, September 21 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
- ✦ **Friday**, September 27 – a Strict Fast day – 9:30am Procession of the Holy Cross and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross
- ✦ **Sunday**, September 29 – we will honor those who had their First Confession

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 or 847-910-7120.

+++ +++ +++

Church Slavonic Class - The 2019/20 academic year at Christ the Saviour Seminary will begin on **September 9th**. Fr. John Brancho, instructor for the Church Slavonic course (both in fall & spring), is inviting parishioners to join the seminarians. Classes are Fridays 9a-12p. There is **no** tuition charge. The first class is **Friday, September 13th**. Any questions may be directed to Fr. John (814-539-5043 / frbrancho@aol.com)

+++ +++ +++

"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

+++ +++ +++



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

+++ +++ +++

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 15th, please contact Fr Dave as soon as possible. Ticket prices vary and deadline for reservations is **TODAY, 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
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

+++ +++ +++

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 15:1-11

The Resurrection of Christ

15 Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, ²by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain.
³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

+++ +++ +++

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

The Rich Young Man

¹⁶And behold, one came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” ¹⁷And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸He said to him, “Which?” And Jesus said, “You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰The young man said to him, “All these I have observed; what do I still lack?” ²¹Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²²When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.
²³And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁵When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” ²⁶But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The Martyrs Adrian and Natalia

Commemorated on Sept 8 / Aug 26

The Martyrs Adrian and Natalia were married in their youth for one year prior to their martyrdom. They lived in Bithynian Nicomedia during the time of the emperor Maximian (305-311). Having started his persecution, the emperor promised a reward to whomever would inform on Christians to bring them to trial. There began the denunciations, and through one of these there were seized 23 Christians, hiding in a cave near Nicomedia. They were tortured, urged to worship idols, and then taken to the judgement palace, in order to



record their names and responses. Adrian, the head of the judgement palace, looking on as they brought in the people suffering with such courage for their faith, and how firmly and fearlessly they confessed Christ, asked: "What rewards do ye expect from your God for suffering?" The martyrs replied: "Such rewards, as we are not able to describe, nor thy mind comprehend". Inspired, Saint Adrian told the scribes: "Write me down also, that I be a Christian and with joy I do die for Christ God". The scribes reported about this to the emperor, who summoned Saint Adrian and asked: "Really, hast thou gone mad, that thou dost want to die? Come, cross out thine name from the lists and

offer sacrifice to the gods, asking their forgiveness". Saint Adrian answered: "I am not mad, but the rather have been converted to health of mind". Maximian then ordered Adrian to be thrown into prison. His wife, Saint Natalia, knowing that her husband was suffering for Christ, rejoiced, since she herself was secretly a Christian. She hastened to the prison and encouraged her husband saying: "Blest be thou, mine lord, in that thou hast believed on Christ, wherein thou hast obtained a great treasure. Regret not anything of earth, neither beauty, nor youth (Adrian was then 28 years of age), nor riches. Everything worldly – is dust and ashes. Only faith and good deeds be pleasing to God". On the pledge of the other martyrs, they released Saint Adrian from prison to relate to his wife about the day of execution. Saint Natalia at first thought, that he had renounced Christ and thus had been set free, and she did not want to let him into the house. The saint persuaded his wife, that he had not fled martyrdom, but rather had come to give her the news of the day of his execution.

They tortured Saint Adrian cruelly. The emperor advised the saint to have pity on himself and call on the gods, but the martyr answered: "Let thine gods

say, what blessings they promise me, and then I shalt worship them, but if they cannot speak thus, then why should I worship them?" Saint Natalia did not cease to encourage her husband. She asked him also to convey for her a foremost prayer to God, that they would not compel her into a marriage with a pagan after his death. The executioner ordered the hands and the legs of the saints to be broken on the anvil. Saint Natalia, fearing that her husband would hesitate in seeing the sufferings of the other martyrs, besought the executioner to begin the execution with him and let her herself put his hands and legs on the anvil. They wanted to burn the bodies of the saints, but a strong storm arose and the fire went out. Many of the executioners even were struck by lightning. Saint Natalia took the hand of her spouse and kept it at home. Soon an army commander asked the emperor's approval to wed Saint Natalia, who was both young and rich. But she hid herself away in Byzantium. Here Saint Adrian appeared to her in a dream and said, that she would soon be at rest in the Lord. The anemic martyress, worn down by her former sufferings, in fact soon expired to God.

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

LIVING ORTHODOXY

What Is The Point Of Infant Baptism?

If we look at what the Bible has to say about the spiritual capacity of young children the answer might surprise us. Luke reports that when the Virgin Mary entered into Elizabeth’s home and greeted her that the baby inside Elizabeth’s womb “leaped for joy.” (Luke 1:41, 44) John the Baptist’s pre-natal response to the presence of the Incarnate Logos points to our desire for God in the primordial core of our being. An infant may not have a fully developed intellect, but it possesses the ability to respond to love. This is because the ability to love and respond in love is foundational to our humanity. Faith as the ability to trust someone is critical to our being able to love another person. That is why the betrayal of trust is so damaging to our being able to love another. This relational approach to faith can be seen in Orthodoxy’s Holy Week services which mourn Judas’ betrayal of Christ.

But what is Jesus’ attitude about the spiritual capacity of children? The incident of Jesus blessing the little children appears in all three synoptic Gospels. Where Matthew and Mark used the general term for children παιδιον (paidion), Luke used the more precise term βρεφος (brephos) which can mean infant and new born, and even unborn children.

But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” (Luke 18:16)

This incident contains a powerful lesson about the accessibility of the kingdom of God. It is for those who have an open heart like little children. It does not teach that the children should wait until they are old enough to understand before they can enter the kingdom of God. The phrase “enter the kingdom of God” is a synonym for entering into a

covenant relationship with Christ. This phrase crops up in Jesus’ night conversation with Nicodemus (see John 3:5). Read in the larger context of the entire chapter Nicodemus’ conversation with Jesus in the first half of John 3 dovetails with the second half which describes how Jesus’ baptism was superseding that of John the Baptist. The message behind the need to be “born again” was not about an emotional spiritual experience but about a new life in Christ through the sacrament of baptism.

Our understanding of the spiritual capacity of children will be consequential for our understanding of their place in church. In Orthodoxy the general understanding is that children, even young infants, belong in the Liturgy. They may not fully comprehend what is going on but they are in the presence of God. Orthodoxy believes this exposure is important for their spiritual growth. Furthermore, as a sign of their inclusion in the kingdom of God, children are given Holy Communion.

+++

What Difference Is There Between Catholic, Lutheran And Orthodox Infant Baptism?

All three traditions baptize infants but the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches tend to defer Confirmation and Communion until the child reaches a certain age. The practice in Orthodoxy is to baptize infants about a month after they are born, and to give them the sacraments of Chrismation and Holy Communion in the same service as baptism. This makes them full members of the Church. It is a touching sight to see parents carrying babies up for Communion. The demographics of a line for Orthodox Communion is something you won’t find in either Roman Catholic or Lutheran parishes. Orthodoxy is for people of all ages!

From the Blog “Orthodox Reformed Bridge” By Robert Arakaki

+++ +

ORTHODOX WORDS OF THE WEEK

BAPTISM – is the mystery of starting anew, of dying to an old way of life and being born again into a new way of life, in Christ. In the Orthodox Church, baptism is "for the remission of sins" (cf. the Nicene Creed) and for entrance into the Church; the person being baptized is cleansed of all sins and is united to Christ; through the waters of baptism he or she is mysteriously crucified and buried with Christ, and is raised with him to newness of life, having "put on" Christ (that is, having been clothed in Christ).

+++ + + + + + + +

CHRISMATION – is the holy mystery by which a baptized person is granted the gift of the Holy Spirit through anointing with Chrism Oil. As baptism is a personal participation in the death and Resurrection of Christ, so chrismation is a personal participation in the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

+++ +

ST JOHN’S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)**. The OCF is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the *Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA*. OCF is charged with connecting Orthodox college students (and those interested in the Orthodox Christian faith) to Christ and His Church. OCF realizes this mission by:

- Supporting fellowships on college campuses, whose members experience and witness to the Orthodox Christian Church through community life, prayer, service to others, and study of the Faith;
- Providing a variety of thoughtful and innovative programming including College Conference and Real Break domestic and international service projects; and,
- Training lay and clergy volunteers as well as our students for leadership roles on campus and beyond.

Visit <http://www.ocf.net> for more info. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

+++ +

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... Candice, James, Emilia, Olga, 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, Amee, 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, Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*



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... Father's sister, Suzanne & Brian Verbanick (9/8) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

+++ + + + + + + +

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... +Douglas Painter (8/22), +Harry Coe (8/26) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal be their Memory!*

+++ +



DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:



A PRAYER FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Heavenly Father, please be with these students as they go where they do not know. As they seek to grow in knowledge, we ask that they grow in faith. As they start to conquer the world, we hope that they conquer their fears. As they strive to find their place, we pray that they find You. Please go where we cannot, protect when we cannot, give strength that we cannot, and bring them safely home. Amen.