

Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church



A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

ather Dave Urban, Pastor

Very Reverend Father John Brancho, Pastor Emeritus

Timothy Martin, Reader

Matthew Peifer, Church Council President

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

September 15, 2019

Volume V

13th Sunday after Pentecost / Martyr Mamas of Caesarea (275)

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

Tone 4

Liturgical Color: Gold

Pittsburgh, Pa 15212

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

YOUTH Sunday / 40-day Panachida for +Jack Oyler & +Margaret Stemler / Parish Annual Meeting

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, September 21 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos The opportunity for the Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

Monday	Blessed John the Merciful of Rostov (1580)	2 Corinthians 12:10-19	Mark 4:10-23
Tuesday	Hieromartyr Babylas, bishop of Antioch (251)	2 Corinthians 12:20-13:2	Mark 4:24-34
* Wednesday	Holy Prophet Zacharias and Righteous Elizabeth	2 Corinthians 13:3-13	Mark 4:35-41
	(1st c.), parents of St. John the Forerunner		
Thursday	Martyr Zeno of Melitene (311)	Galatians 1:1-10, 20-2:5	Mark 5:1-20
* Friday	Martyr Sozon of Cilicia (304)	Galatians 2:6-10	Mark 5:22-24,35-6:1
Saturday	Venerable Lucian, abbot of Alexandrov (1654)	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Matthew 23:1-12

* Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!

September 22 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost / within the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos / Sunday before the Universal Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord / Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim & Anna

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

Tone 5

Liturgical Color: Blue

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4; Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 SERMON SERIES: on the Eucharist / Garage Sale cleanup during coffee social

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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!

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

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



+++ +++ +++ My Happy New Year! A belated Happy Liturgical New Year to all! (September 14th)

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



DDD Dinner Canceled – It was realized this week that the diocese will not be

having DDD dinners this year. The had previously been made in decision had previously been Johnstown, but we did not get word of this until Monday. Your contributions are areatly appreciated and seen by God, which is most important! May God Bless You!

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2nd Annual Deanery Family Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 29th in Schenley Park (5075 Overlook Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15260) at the Vietnam Veterans Shelter (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. Live music will be from 2-4. 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!

+++ +++ +++ Sermon Series on the Mysteries of the Church

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

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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Shuster Family; Lawrence Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Donald Gavulich; 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

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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 are now available.

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

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Exploring Orthodoxy – returns **Wednesday**, **October 23**rd from 7 to about 8:15pm at the Eat 'n Park off of the Wexford exit of 79 (2650 Brandt School Road, Wexford, Pa 15090 / 724-940-3270). Save the date and get your questions ready!

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Reader of the Third Hour:

September 22: Available to you September 29: Available to you October 4: 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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Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:\$ 651Candles/Eternal Lamp:\$ 167Envelopes/Stewardship:\$ 325Total Collections:\$ 1143Capital Improvement Fund:\$ 72Relocation Fund:\$ 600

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

Fiscal-Year Financial Report (Sept-Aug):

Donation Income = \$85,927

*Expenses = \$ 83,410

Net Income = \$ 2517

*details listed on the church hall bulletin board Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: **41**

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

September 22: Open / Potluck September 29: Open / Potluck October 4: Open / Potluck

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2020 Camp Nazareth Dates – Save the dates – Pittsburgh week will be July 26 – August 1, 2020. Please plan vacations around this so that your children can experience the beauty of our CN!

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ♣ 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

ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

"Joy Fest" – Holy Cross Orthodox Church will host "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 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

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Annual Fall Festival at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120) will be Friday-Saturday, October 11-12 from 11 AM to 7 PM with Ethnic Foods, Bake Sale, and Basket Raffles. Bingo will be on Saturday along with a "Haunted School House" for kids. For more information, call Tom Pingor at 412-462-8462 or see the flyer in the church hall.

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Young Adult Fall Retreat – will be run October 25-27 at Camp Nazareth. Keynote Speaker this year will be Rev. Fr. Ken Bachofsky, Professor of Old & New Testament at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Seminary. Get the chance to explore Camp Nazareth during the Fall! The weekend event will be filled with learning, fun, fellowship, worship, and time for reflection and rejuvenation! See Father Dave for more information.

+++ +++ +++ 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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"It is of great significance if there is a person who truly prays in a family. Prayer attracts God's grace and all the members of the family feel it, even those whose hearts have grown cold.

Pray always." +Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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 16:13-24

Final Messages and Greetings

¹³ Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.

¹⁵ Now, brethren, you know that the household of Steph'anas were the first converts in Acha'ia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; ¹⁶ I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. ¹⁷ I rejoice at the coming of Steph'anas and Fortuna'tus and Acha'icus, because they have made up for your absence; 18 for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men.

¹⁹ The churches of Asia send greetings. Aq'uila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. 20 All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. 22 If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. 24 My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

³³ "Hear another parable. There was householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴ When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; 35 and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. ³⁷ Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹ And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The Holy Martyr Mamas

Commemorated on September 15/2 Mamas was from Caesarea along the Mediterranean. He was orphaned at a very young age and raised by a wealthy widow. As a young boy, he had a special zeal in his Christian faith and was placed

under the thumb of the Emperor, subjected to temptations and some tortures. He is known especially for his God- given gentleness and gift +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

with wild beasts, having tamed them even in the pit of his tortures. He was freed and led to the wilderness, where he led a life of peace & charity, though only for a little while. Even after being freed and escaping to the wilderness, he willingly rode to his martyrdom on the back of one of the beasts. At the gate,

he dismounted and entered alone. Inside, he would die of his wounds.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

My Visit to an Orthodox Church

From The Church Messenger, Oct. 16, 2005, by Very Rev. Edward Pehanich

I recently visited an Orthodox Church for the first time. There's nothing unusual about that, many people visit Orthodox Churches, except that I have been an Orthodox priest for over two decades. Let me explain. I recently went on vacation to visit some family in a mid-size city in another state. My family and I had plans to attend church with my relative and her children (a Protestant, evangelical church) but late on Saturday evening, problems developed and they were unable to go to church the next morning. Facing the prospect of staying home on a Sunday morning, my wife and I decided to locate an Orthodox Church in the area. With the help of

the internet, we managed to find an Orthodox parish a reasonable drive away, downloaded directions from the parish's excellent website and off we went on Sunday morning. With such last minute plans I had no cassock or rason to wear and not even time to try to reach the local priest by telephone. I decided to simply sit with my family and the congregation during the Divine Liturgy.

We found the Orthodox Church in the next city fairly easily but it was a rather run-down looking former protestant Church in a less-than-desirable neighborhood. While there were many cars in the parking lot, the front door was locked as was a side door. After a few minutes of trying to find our way inside, we managed to find the door and were surprised to find the congregation already

singing the Creed during the Divine Liturgy. While the parish's website announced services at 10 a.m., we arrived only to discover that the Liturgy actually began at 9:00 during the summer.

The Divine Liturgy was quite wonderful. The parish choir was quite good singing mostly in English with a few hymns in the parish's language, the 100+ people present were prayerful and a good mix of younger and older people. The priest served reverently and was obviously a very caring pastor. In all, I felt that if I were looking for a parish to join, I could be very happy in what seemed like a wonderful parish.

Then came the dismissal and the distribution of the Antidoron. Shortly before this, my wife felt light-headed and left to go find a restroom. My young daughter and I received the Antidoron from the priest but he said nothing to us. We passed dozens of people in the vestibule of the church and no one said anything to us. We finally found my wife sitting in a chair outside of the restroom and found she had experience: dozens of people had passed her and no one said a word. While I could smell the aroma of coffee emanating from somewhere, no one welcomed us to join them. As we were leaving, my seven-year-old daughter summed it up: Dad it's like we were invisible. Why didn't anybody talk to us?

Was our experience unusual? My unscientific polling of several friends and relatives uncovered similar stories. Experiences of people being warmly welcomed in Orthodox Churches is not typical.

Would we have been warmly welcomed if I was appropriately dressed in cassock and rason? Several years ago I was again a visitor in another city and went to the nearest Orthodox Church for the Divine Liturgy, this time dressed properly as an Orthodox priest. Here I had a chance to speak to the priest before the Liturgy began and he greeted us warmly and welcomed us to the parish. But once the Liturgy was over the welcome was the same. No one was mean or nasty, they just ignored us. Again I could smell the aroma of coffee coming from somewhere but we weren't quite sure where to go and no one invited us.

YOU HAVE A MISSION!

After sharing our experience with my Evangelical relatives, they wondered if the reason why the Orthodox faithful are so neglectful of visitors is because we are not concerned for evangelism. Certainly this is one reason for the neglect of visitors: we have no burning passion or desire to share the Gospel, but this is changing. There is a growing fire burning in the Orthodox Churches of America to engage in mission. We are rediscovering, in the words of Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, that mission is in the very DNA of the Church. Parishes large and small are supporting a growing body of Orthodox missionaries serving around the world. But with these efforts an idea has crept in that mission

work is for the professionals, that is, those theologically trained and specially prepared for mission work. Have you ever seen those car commercials with a sports car racing through streets disclaimer and а at the bottom: Professional driver, do not attempt this yourself? We have forgotten that Christ's command to Go, therefore, and teach all nations ... has been given to all Christians and not just the clerical professionals! It was a lay woman, St. Nina, who became the Enlightener of Georgia and is honored with the title Equal-tothe-Apostles. Before St. Herman and his fellow missionaries landed on the shores of Alaska, it was Russian fur traders who laid important groundwork by baptizing some of the native people and sharing their Orthodox Faith.

Every Orthodox Christian is called to share in this work of missions and one of the most effective, yet simple forms of missionary work is known as relational evangelism. If you know how to be a friend to another person, you can do the work of evangelism. Relational evangelism is simply the sharing of our Faith through our personal relationships with other people. It involves being a friend first, showing an interest in another person, listening, caring for another person and only then sharing our Orthodox Faith as a natural extension of our connection with that person. Relational evangelism is that which takes place around the kitchen table or over a cup of coffee. Relational evangelism often begins once the Divine Liturgy is over and everyone goes to the coffee social. St. John Chrysostom wrote of the liturgy after the liturgy celebrated not on an altar of stone or wood but on the altar of flesh or blood which is our neighbor. While we may think that evangelism involves preaching on a street corner to strangers, there is only one example in the book of Acts of St. Paul preaching in a town square (in Athens) but there are numerous examples of St. Paul becoming part of a household (such as that of Jason in Acts 17), and sharing the Faith through these extensive networks of family and friends. Relational evangelism is not preaching, it is sharing with a friend. Relational evangelism does not imply that you have the answers to all the theological questions that visitors to our churches have. Relational evangelism does imply that you are struggling to live the Orthodox Faith and can somewhat model an Orthodox lifestyle despite your obvious weaknesses and sins.

God is sending us people who are seeking the truth of Orthodox Christianity from the theological and moral confusion of much of the Christian world. We must cooperate with the Holy Spirit by practicing this most simple form of evangelism. Can visitors find our churches? Can they find the correct time of services and easily find the door to get in? Will they find people there who are interested in them, who will welcome them, who will listen to them, who will get to know them? Like the theme from the old television show *Cheers*, we all want to go to a place where everybody knows your name.

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

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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.

<u>Mystery of Confession</u> – Opportunities are available <u>after</u> <u>every service</u>, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

<u>Holy Communion/Eucharist</u> – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for 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.

<u>Lapsed Members</u> – 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

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anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

<u>Baptisms</u> – 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.

<u>Marriages</u> – are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Father ASAP for more details (<u>before</u> arrangements are made for the hall).

<u>Church Funerals</u> – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations; otherwise burial is from the funeral home. <u>The Church does not permit cremation</u>.

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... James, Emilia, Olga, Jake, Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Gary, Lino, Louis, June, Helen, Doug, Joanne, Anthony ...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: Sean, Thomas, John, 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.

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Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):

Maria Urban - Nativity of Mary (9/21)

(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Pańi Daria Loposky (9/16),

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Cindy Morrison (9/17), Fr. Vincent
Dranginis (9/19), Fr Dave Urban (9/19), Fr
Matthew Moriak (9/20), Fr David Smoley
(9/20) ... 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, Daniel ...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magadalene, 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... Barbara & Richard Gedid (9/17), Patricia & Louis Deluca (9/17), Thomas & Carol Lorenzi (9/19) ... 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...

+Jack Oyler, +Margaret Stemler (8/10), +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!
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* 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:

