

# Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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



**Father Dave Urban, *Pastor***  
**Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus***  
**Timothy Martin, *Reader***  
**Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors***  
**Matthew Peifer, *Church Council President***  
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Volume V

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Venerable Parasceva of Epibatima (11<sup>th</sup> c.)**

## Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council (787)

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9; Gospel: Luke 8:5-15 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke)

*Blessing of Parish Council and Curators / Add'l collection for our Community Outreach / Church School*

## SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Thursday, October 31 – 9:30am Morning Moleben**

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

Monday	Venerable Euthymius the New of Mt. Athos (889)	Philippians 2:12-16	Luke 9:18-22
Tuesday	Venerable Longinus the Centurion (1st c.)	Philippians 2:17-23	Luke 9:23-27
* Wednesday	Prophet Hosea (Osee) (820 B.C.)	Philippians 2:24-30	Luke 9:44-50
Thursday	Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke (1st c.)	Philippians 3:1-8	Luke 9:49-56
* Friday	Prophet Joel (800 B.C.)	Philippians 3:8-19	Luke 10:1-15
Saturday	Great-martyr Artemius at Antioch (362)	2 Corinthians 1:8-11	Luke 7:2-10

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

November 3 – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Venerable Hilarion the Great of Palestine (371)

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Gospel: Luke 16:19-31 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke)

*Daylight Savings Time Begins / Church School*

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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:*

For Good Health To

Mareena Shuster

On Her Birthday.

Many Years!



## PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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***Exploring Orthodoxy for teenagers through senior-citizens*** – We will meet every **Wednesday through November 20<sup>th</sup>** from 7 to 8:15pm at the Eat 'n Park off of the Wexford exit of 79 (2650 Brandt School Road, Wexford, Pa 15090 / 724-940-3270) for our *Exploring Orthodoxy (ACE: Adult Continuing Education)* discussions. Get your questions ready! We will examine the priestly prayers of St John Chrysostom's Divine Liturgy. We hope and pray that everyone is able to attend these tangent oriented discussions about Orthodoxy! Come for a bite to eat and learn about your faith! *(If you need a ride, please contact Fr. Dave.)*

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**Morning Moleben** – A Moleben is a brief devotional service of supplication. We have various ones at the church for us to use. This **Thursday**, and other periodic mornings, we will choose which one we do that morning.

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**Gertrude Hawk Christmas Candy** – Order forms for our Christmas Candy Sale have arrived and are in the Church Hall. Orders will be due by **November 10<sup>th</sup>** with delivery on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please see Tim Martin with any questions.

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**New Pittsburgh Dean** – At the Sobor, Very Reverend Protopresbyter Joseph Fester was appointed the new Dean of our Pittsburgh Deanery. Many Years!

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**Candle and cleaning assistance** – We are looking for a couple helpers leading up to Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> to help with the weekly cleaning and candles. Please contact Fr. Dave if you will be able to share your stewardship with the church.

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**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Anastasia Dzambo; Shuster Family; Lawrence Martin; Kirish Family; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Patty Watson; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Cindy Pavidonis.

***"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* - John 8:12**

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**THANK YOU!** to everyone who helped in any way with the Italian Feast & Basket Raffle hosted yesterday by our ACRY!

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**Turkey Bingo** – Advertising flyers have been made. Please let Father know how many you want and he will print them for you. \*\*\* Form letters are also available to approach businesses for supplies or donations.

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**Steeler Ticket Raffle** - We will be having a Relocation Raffle with 1<sup>st</sup> Prize being 2 Steeler Tickets (vs. the Bills) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of \$100. Tickets will be \$5 each and the winner will be drawn at this year's Turkey Bingo. Please see Sharon Peifer or Carol Lorenzi for tickets.

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**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

November 3: **Open / Potluck**  
November 10: **Open / Potluck**  
November 17: **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!*

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**Our Stewardship Gifts To God**

Stewardship:	\$ 162
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 201
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 469
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 832</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 650</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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**Panachida (Memorial) Services** – If you desire to offer Panachida (Memorial) Services in memory of your departed loved ones, please, contact Fr. Dave ahead of Sunday to make these arrangements. Depending on the number of requests, we may combine with other families' commemorations. Typically in the Orthodox Church, Panachida's are offered on the anniversary of one's passing from this life to our eternal life. Also note that sponsoring the bulletin in memory of someone should not replace having the prayers of a Panachida (Memorial) Service.

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**Reader of the Third Hour:**

October 20: John Kirish  
October 27: *Available to you*  
November 3: *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** 

- ✧ **Friday**, November 8 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius
- ✧ **Thurs.**, Nov. 14 – 9:30am Morning Moleben

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**ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE**

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Our Diocesan Sobor held in Johnstown went well. Here are a few highlights:
1. Very Reverend Protopresbyter Joseph Fester has been appointed the new Dean of our Pittsburgh Deanery. *Many Years!*
  2. The Diocese is down a bit in parishioners and a bit short of money.
  3. Results from Proposals received:
    - a. Frequency of Sobors will remain at every 3 years unless the Metropolitan sees the need to call for one sooner.
    - b. A Committee to investigate the feasibility of opening a new Rusyn Heritage Center was approved. The site of the Center will not be at Camp Nazareth. A new site will be selected.
    - c. A disillution clause was added to the

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Diocesan By-Laws stating that if any parish should close its doors, all property (fiscal and material) reverts to the diocese. (*Which, by civil court jurisprudence and precedent, it will anyway.*) This puts all parishes under a sort of 'umbrella'. This also makes the diocese more compliant with non-profits rules.

***Thank you! to our delegates who attended and represented our parish at the Sobor.***

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**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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**IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**



**Pirohi Fest** – St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church (3455 California Avenue) will be having their Fall Pirohi Festival on **Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 11a to 7p. For more information on this event please call the parish office at 412-766-8801. Here is the

menu: **7** Varieties of pirohi: potato and cheese, sauerkraut, half and half, loaded potato, jalapeno, farmer's cheese, lekvar (prune plum); **3** Kinds of Soup: borscht, chicken noodle, mushroom barley; and Baked goods

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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:** 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

<sup>31</sup> The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. <sup>32</sup> At Damascus, the governor under King Ar’etas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, <sup>33</sup> but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

**Paul’s Visions and Revelations**

12 I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup> And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— <sup>4</sup> and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup> On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup> Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. <sup>7</sup> And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup> Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; <sup>9</sup> but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

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**Gospel:** Luke 8:5-15

<sup>5</sup> “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup> And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup> And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said this, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**The Purpose of the Parables**

<sup>9</sup> And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, <sup>10</sup> he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. <sup>11</sup> Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup> And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. <sup>14</sup> And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup> And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

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 HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7th ECUMENICAL COUNCIL** are celebrated this day. In this council, back in 787 AD, the shepherds of the Church settled the debate over having icons in the Church. These beautiful images, we call them Windows to Paradise, are an intimate instrument in our lives spent worshipping God.



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**THE NUN PARASKEVA THE SERBIAN**  
*Commemorated on October 27/14*

The Nun Paraskeva the Serbian was born into a pious Bulgarian family, living during the XI Century in the village of Epivato, betwixt Silistra and Constantinople. One day, while listening to Divine-services,



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the words of the Lord pierced her heart like an arrow: "Whoso doth wish to come follow Me, let him deny himself" (Mt. 16: 24). From that time she began to give away her clothing to the needy, for which reason she endured much grief from her family. Upon the death of her parents, the saint was tonsured into monasticism and withdrew to the Jordan valley, where she famously asceticised into old age.

But two years before her death an Angel appeared to the Nun Paraskeva and bid her return to her native-land, which she did. The saint died peacefully. Her relics, resting at the cathedral temple at Yassa, are marked by incorruptibility and many an healing.

ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

**VENERATION OF ICONS** – Icons are images. The reverence and veneration shown to icons, however, is not directed to mere paint, wood, or stones, but towards the saints depicted. Even

when a miracle-working icon is highly venerated, it is the true source of the miracles (God, through the intercessions of that specific saint) that is respected

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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 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.  
**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

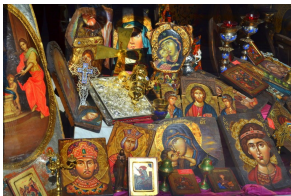


anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.  
**Baptisms** – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must 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 only 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

**The Saints are Alive!**  
**And we therefore have friends in high places**  
The saints show us what a glorious destiny we have in God, and through the example of their lives, they point the way to our becoming “partakers of divine nature.” The saints, as the cloud of witnesses in heaven, are present in the divine services, worshipping the Holy Trinity with us. They, as our friends, intercede before the Throne of God on our behalf, having won the good fight, and we are encouraged by the memory and example of their lives, as we struggle on our own path to God.  
When we place vigil lights placed before the icons of the saints, according to Saint Symeon the New Theologian, we are showing that without the Light, Who is Christ, the saints are nothing. It is only as the light of Christ shines on them that they become alive and resplendent.  
It has been said that there are two kinds of people in the world: sinners who think they are saints, and saints who know they are sinners. A saint is a Christian who lets God’s light shine through, and whose life



has been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
We venerate the Saints as we seek their intercession with God, but we adore and worship only God in Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We venerate the Images (Icons) as well as the relics of the saints and martyrs. Yet according to the decisions and Canons of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, this veneration relates not to the icons as such, but to their prototypes, or to the persons whom they represent.  
The interior walls of our temples are adorned with the icons and frescoes of the saints as a reminder that we are surrounded by the cloud of witnesses, the saints, and that the Church Militant (here on earth) is not separated from the Church Triumphant (in heaven). In Christ, death does not divide us, for the saints are not dead, but alive in Christ Jesus.  
Glory to Jesus Christ, Who is glorified in His saints.  
With love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon



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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

**SUNDAY**  
“However, to overcome and eradicate passions is not enough. In the place of eradicated passions it is necessary to firmly implant in the heart their opposite counterparts, the good dispositions of the soul that are called “virtues” by the Holy Fathers.” - Archbishop Averky (Taushev)  
**MONDAY**  
“Our starting point is always wrong. Instead of beginning with ourselves, we always want to change others first and ourselves last. If everyone were to begin first with themselves, then there would be peace all around!” - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica  
**TUESDAY**  
“Therefore, whether you call upon the Lord Himself, or His Mother, or the angels, or saints, call upon them with all your heart; whether you pray for anyone living or departed, pray for them with your whole heart, pronouncing their names with heartfelt fervor.” +St. John the Wonderworker of Kronstadt

“A monk was once asked: What do you do there in the monastery? He replied: We fall and get up, fall and get up, fall and get up again.” - Tito Colliander

“Freedom from the passions is brought about by the crucifying of both the intellect and the flesh. This makes a man capable of contemplating God. The intellect is crucified when undean thoughts are driven out of it, and the body when the passions are uprooted.” +St. Isaac the Syrian

"Therefore a Christian must always think and speak and do only what is good, for as the Lord says, 'A house divided against itself shall not stand' (Matt. 12:25)." +St. Symeon the New Theologian

"It is better for those who are not capable of long prayers to say short prayers, but with a fervent spirit."  
+St. John the Wonderworker of Kronstadt

## PRAYER CORNER

***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...*** Theresa, Barbara, Michael, Daniel, 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, Ameer, 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, Jane, Anthony, Mary Jane, Steven, Kenneth,  
Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Margaret, John, John,  
Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community*  
*Outreach*, Christ the Savior Seminary ...*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):**

***Birthday Prayers*** for... Mareena Shuster (10/29), Ryan Schrmack (10/30), Noah Winkler (10/31), Fr Joseph Birthisel (11/2) ...*May God allow them to grow*

## DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:



***For our Catechumens & Inquirers...***

Dustin, Stephen, Daniel ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

***For those preparing for Marriage...***

*Ashley & Derek ...through the prayers of  
Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

### ***Anniversary Prayers for...***

Doug & Elizabeth (Radomsky) Delaney (11/1)  
*...May God fill them with His grace that they may  
 continue to live in unity with Him!*

***For Pregnant Mothers...*** Caitlinn, Allison  
...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...***

+Michael Timko (10/24), +Evelyn Tihey (10/22),  
+Rosemary Jordanoff (10/14), +Peter Joyce (10/8)  
...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.*

*This prayer list is **NOT** limited to only Orthodox Christians.*



(TONE 4) You are worthy of praise, Parasceva. You loved the ascetic and hesychast life. You ran with longing to your Bridegroom, Christ. You accepted His good yoke in your tender years, marking yourself with the sign of the Cross. You fought against impure thoughts; through fasting, prayer and the shedding of tears you quenched the burning coal of the passions. Now in the heavenly bridal chamber of Christ, as you stand together with the wise virgins intercede for us who honor your precious memory.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

(TONE 6) Let us all piously praise all-honorable Parasceva, the intercessor for the afflicted. She gave up her earthly life, and received eternal incorruption. Therefore, she has been granted the grace to work wonders by the command of God.