



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
Instagram: SJB_Orthodox_Pittsburgh

May 3, 2020

Volume V



CHRIST IS RISEN!
*Christ is Risen From The Dead, Trampling
Down Death By Death And To Those In The
Tomb Bestowing Life!*
INDEED HE IS RISEN!

3rd Sunday of Pascha:

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women, Joseph of Arimathea, & Nicodemus

ONLINE Divine Liturgy

Tone 2

Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7; Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

SERVED BY PRIEST & CANTOR ONLY with Additional Prayers for COVID-19

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Please check online (www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/bulletins/) for our Cathedral's Schedule Of Services (www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/)

Monday	Hieromartyr Theodore of Perge (2nd c.)	Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60	John 4: 46- 54
Tuesday	Martyr Leonidas of Alexandria (202)	Acts 8: 5- 17	John 6: 27- 33
* Wednesday	Holy Glorious Great-martyr and Wonderworker George (303)	Acts 8: 18- 25	John 6: 35- 39
Thursday	St. Alexis Toth, priest of Wilkes Barre, PA (1909)	Acts 8: 26- 39	John 6: 40- 44
* Friday	Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark (63)	Acts 8:40-9:19	John 6: 48- 54
Saturday	St. Stephen, bishop of Perm (1396)	Acts 9: 19- 31	John 15:17-16:2

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

No Kneeling in Prayer and Replace "O Heavenly King" with the Paschal Tropar (3 times)

May 10 - 4th Sunday of Pascha: The Sunday of the Paralytic

ONLINE Divine Liturgy

Tone 3

Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: 9:32-42; Gospel: John 5:1-15

Mother's Day prayers and panachida

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Christ Is Risen! (responded with: **Indeed He Is Risen!**)

Christos Voskrese! (**Voistinu Voskrese!**)

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 contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

Anonymous Feelings of Gratitude:

"We never felt thankful for technology and the good things on the internet until this happened."

[Please share with Fr. Dave something that you are surprised that you became grateful for during our quarantine time. Anonymous inspirations will be shared in the bulletin.]

(Please see the: Fear Zone → Learning Zone → Growing Zone: "Where am I during COVID-19?" in the Pascha Bulletin.)]

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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: Acts 6:1-7

Seven Chosen to Serve

6 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to



prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them.

⁷ And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

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Paschal Greeting

(used instead of 'hello', before 'good morning', etc.)

Christ IS risen!

(responded with: Indeed He IS risen!)

Gospel: Mark 15:43–16:8

⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. ⁴⁵ And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

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The Resurrection of Jesus

16 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back—it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶ And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

GUEST SERMON SNIPPET

Pascha vs. Easter

Many call the feast of the Resurrection of Christ "Easter", but did you know that the word "Pascha" is the best word to use for our celebration of Christ's Resurrection? It comes from the Hebrew word "Pesah", which means "Passover": the celebration from Exodus when death passed over the homes of the Hebrews, once it saw the blood of an innocent lamb on their doors. The Resurrection is our New Passover, when Christ (*who we call the Lamb*),

sacrificed Himself on the Cross in order to defeat sin and then Resurrected on the third day from the tomb to defeat death.

by Fr. William Bennett from Children's Sermon Sunday

*Paschal Greeting in Church Slavonic:
Christos voskrese! (Voistinu voskrese!)
If greeted in a language you are unfamiliar with,
translate & respond in English (then learn the response)*

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

Having flu-like symptoms? PLEASE KEEP FR. DAVE POSTED OF ANY ILLNESSES SO TO BE ADDED TO OUR PRAYER LIST!

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#GivingTuesdayNow is a global day of giving and unity that will take place on **May 5** as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19.

This new day is organized by GivingTuesday, and is being held in addition to the annually scheduled GivingTuesday (*December 1 this year*). In partnership with GivingTuesday's global network of leaders, partners, communities and generous individuals, this event is set to spark an increase in grassroots generosity, citizen engagement, business and philanthropy activation, and support for communities and nonprofits around the world.

People can show their generosity in a variety of ways to participate in #GivingTuesdayNow – whether it's helping a neighbor, advocating for an issue, sharing a skill, or giving to causes, every act of generosity counts. The movement is currently focused on opportunities to give back to communities and causes in safe ways that allow for social connection and kindness even while practicing physical distancing.

#GivingTuesdayNow is an opportunity for people around the world to stand together in unity—to use their individual power of generosity to remain connected and heal.

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Instagram (SJB_Orthodox_Pittsburgh) – Our Parish now has an Instagram page! Father will post a picture before (or after) each service at the church.



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Calling All Graduates – Please notify Fr. Dave of your graduation information by **May 31**.

High School Students: *your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, and where you will attend in the Fall with your intended major in college (or undecided at this time)*

Trade School, College, Graduate and Post-Graduate Students: *where you went, your field of study, and degree you will earn.*

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82 Days Till Camp! – Our Deanery Camping week is **July 14-20**.

Please talk to Fr Dave if you have any questions.

Early bird discount rates are available through May 15th. Information regarding registration is available at: www.CampNazareth.org.

"Our Camping Season is just around the corner, so to speak. We are looking forward to the Summer and are busy hiring Staff, planning our Summer Camp Program, and getting the Camp facility ready for all of us. We are hopeful that we will be able to proceed with our Camping Program and are making the usual preparations.

However, we are living in UN-usual times. Metropolitan Gregory and the Camp are grateful that you entrust the Camp with the care of your children. We take that trust seriously. We wanted to tell you what we are doing regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic and how we are adjusting our plans as we prepare for the Summer Camping Season."

Please read the articles at: <http://www.campnazareth.org/summercamp/>

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Science & Nature Week will be **August 9-15** at Camp Nazareth (339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA)

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Tim Martin; Shuster Family; 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



Candles in Church – During this time of COVID-19, if you wish for Father to light your weekly candles, please text, email, or call him with your intentions (*for the living, departed, or other specific*) by Saturday evening. Your candle donation should be mailed to Tim Martin.

Prayer request - additional prayers are requested for Anna Mae Gogal. This past week she was diagnosed with cancer. She is currently in a rehab facility. May God give her strength and guide her care!

Praying with online services from your domestic-church - Sunday Liturgies at St. John's will be celebrated **BUT WITH ONLY THE PRIEST AND CANTOR IN ATTENDANCE**. This comes from the Protocol from our Metropolitan. We will pray for our parish and the world. PLEASE watch services online! Here are the words of Fr. Matthew Dutko concerning watching services online:

- *"Wake up at the normal time that you always do on a Sunday. If you have kids, wake them up. Shower, get dressed in your Sunday finest and gather together in front of a computer screen.*

- *Light a candle and burn some incense [if you do not have any, contact Fr. Dave who can recommend online sites to order from]. When the Liturgy begins, pray and sing as you always do.*

- *Even though you will be in your home-church, don't let the distractions of being in your own home get in the way. For that hour or so, you will be with your parish family in prayer. I know it's not the same, but we will still be praying to our Lord, all together, all at the same time; just like we always do."*

Cathedral Live-Broadcast - Our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to watch our Cathedral's Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9am (*and other services*). The best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist, but with these current limitations, please take the time Sunday morning, Wednesday evening, and throughout the week to pray with our brothers and sisters via the *live broadcast* on the web. www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/



SPF50 (Scripture, Prayer, Family): A Diocese Family Ministry - The second Issue of SPF50 is available NOW!! It is a digital edition. If you didn't start with us on March 1, consider joining now. Make a commitment to reading Scripture and Praying together with your family. Visit the Diocesan Website at acrod.org and look for the SPF50 section or go directly to the SPF50 web page at www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50 to find out more about SPF50 and how to help your family read Scripture and Pray together at home. Don't forget to fill out the Commitment Card which is available in the SPF50 Section of the Diocesan Website, and return the card to your priest.

ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

Pysanky in June! Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie has rescheduled their 53rd Annual Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale to **Saturday, June 6** from 11am to 4pm. Pysanky, folk arts, food, basket raffles, food, door prizes and, of course, more food! It is not too early to put this on your calendar!

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

SAINT JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ANCIENT FAITH MINISTRIES (AFM) has become an important part of the lives of many people, both Orthodox and those who seek the Orthodox

Christian way. Streaming radio, podcasts, books, pamphlets, blogs, and more - all of it helps to keep us connected to the Faith when we're not physically

Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 200
Parish House Offering:	\$ 200
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 64
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 1265
Community Outreach:	\$ 10
Total Collections:	\$ 1729
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 0
Relocation Fund:	\$ 500

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

Weekly Offerings to God – During this time, we request that all weekly donations be mailed to:

Tim Martin



2225 McAleer Road
 Sewickley, PA 15143

For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

Bulletin Sponsor – Please contact Fr Dave to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone. An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

"20 seconds" of Prayer – Following the CDC recommendations, as you wash your hands, instead of singing your ABCs, pray! It takes roughly 20-seconds to pray *The Lord's Prayer*, sing pray *Hail Mary* (twice), sing *You are truly deserving*, or say the *Jesus Prayer* (5 times).

Weekly Bulletin Email – If you would like to receive the bulletin in an email at the beginning of each week, please email Father Dave at: fr.sleepless@gmail.com

*Paschal Greeting in Greek:
 Khristós anésti! (Alithós anésti!)*

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY
 ✧Please Continue to Pray (and wash your hands)
 ✧Wed. June 3 – 7pm – Mystery of Holy Unction

giving light to all (MT 5:15). A spiritual guide and teacher with a magnetic personality, he attracted many people to himself. He also loved them, seeing the image of God in each person he met. He had a special love for children, who hastened to receive his blessing whenever they saw him in the street.

He was a man of compunctionate prayer, and possessed the gift of tears which purify the soul (St John Climacus, LADDER, Step 7). He was a true pastor to his flock protecting them from spiritual wolves, and guiding them on the path to salvation. He

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has left behind many soul-profitting writings which proclaim the truth of Christ to modern man. In them he exhorts people to love God, and to live a life of virtue and holiness. May we also be found worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven through the prayers of St Nicholas, and by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever. Amen.

*Paschal Greeting in Italian:
Cristo è risorto! (È veramente risorto!)*

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Why is God allowing this pandemic?

Saint Paisios of the Mount Athos said, "So in every test, let us say, 'Thank you, my God, because this was needed for my salvation.'" This is because a person has salvation not only by his good deeds, but also by his patient suffering of various griefs, illnesses, misfortunes, and failures (Luke 16:19-31, Mark 8:31-38, Romans 6:3-11, Hebrews 12:1-3, and Galatians 6:14).

Jesus Christ gives us the power which is needed for transformation, and prepares us to live with a strength under the most difficult conditions, preparing us for the peace that is eternal. History is filled with periods of trial and tribulation, but we've always come out stronger in the end, and we will come out of this pandemic as well.

Without suffering, we can not join ourselves to the cross, and when we do take up our cross in suffering, it is with our Co-Suffering Saviour. Sickness and suffering are not given to us by a wrathful and punitive God because we have sinned, but rather allowed by this loving God who co-suffers with us. It is Western juridical misconceptions concerning sin which has tended to distort a proper recognition of suffering and its connection to sin.

Our world has been in a bad place for a very long time, with priorities for most people, and their nations, centered on the acquisition of wealth and comfort. Western Europe has long abandoned her Christian roots, as has America. In these latter times, is it any

wonder a pandemic that has closed down the world's economy, and forced millions to be sequestered in their homes, is being allowed by God as a wakeup call to all of us?

As hard as it is, we must use this difficult time to look inward, and take a very serious look at ourselves, and the direction we have been taking. Now is the time we need to refocus on that which is of eternal value. Our children need their parents to refocus the family on Christ, putting aside everything else. Even as individuals, we need to enter into that silent place, perhaps with the aid of the Jesus Prayer, and find the true peace "that passes understanding".

The Church's history is filled with times like these, where, even during terrible persecutions, Christians found solace in their walk with Jesus Christ. Our Co-Suffering Saviour is not abandoning us, but rather, joining Himself with our suffering. We will all get through this period of pandemic, together with the extreme economic hardship that has befallen the world, and return, collectively, to being of Christ. In eternity, it is not about being an American, a Russian, or a Brit, it is about being citizens of the Kingdom of God.

With love in the Risen Lord,
Abbot Tryphon

*Paschal Greeting in Spanish:
¡Cristo ha resucitado!
(¡En verdad ha resucitado!)*

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Contemplatives in Confinement:

New Habits to Keep, Post-Pandemic

written April 29, 2020 by Lynnette Horner

<<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/walkinganancientpath/author/lhorner/>>

On Holy Saturday Caitlin and I wore dresses and stood in front of our TV in the family room, ready for the Resurrectional Canon at 11:15 pm. Our coffee table featured candles, a censer with charcoal, incense pellets, and Bic lighter at the ready, and a jar of construction-paper crosses from Palm Sunday at our home church. Rob was at our parish church, monitoring the video livestream in the choir loft.

I had been wrestling with mixed feelings about a Pandemic Pascha. I steeled myself for tears, for sadness, for missing our beloved community in Christ. Away from the temple, I thought I would be distracted by dusty surfaces and a sink full of drying dishes that needed clearing. The grief of separation had hit hard on Holy Tuesday; surely a lonely Pascha would be worse.

Yet somehow, in a small but significant domestic miracle—the sort that doesn't make it into inspirational



books or magazines—I felt anticipation and even a quiet joy.

The joy lasted through the beautiful hymns and through the sleepy yawns. Around midnight, we turned off the lights in our home church to echo the darkened nave on our screen. We lit our baptismal

candles along with our parish clergy and swooped the flames carefully, right-left, up-down, in the sign of the cross as we sang along, Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling down death by death, And to those in the tombs Bestowing life.

No, the celebration was not ideal. Our community was scattered. Nonetheless, Christ was risen then. And today, Christ is risen. Truly He

is risen! This ultimate reality does not change, whether believers participate in normal parish life, worship secretly in a prison camp, or worship freely during a pandemic, separate but together.

As countries around the world and many of the states in the US begin loosening their social distancing restrictions, I'm not sure what our "new normal" will look like, much less how I will feel.

But I do know that the pandemic has brought its own

unexpected gifts, and I don't want to lose them. Two of them come to mind:

NEIGHBORLINESS

Outside my window, I have seen more people than ever before, walking their dogs or walking themselves. Singles, couples, and families are out strolling and biking through the neighborhood because, well, there's nowhere else to go.

I don't recognize most of these people. But I finally met the blonde woman who moved into the corner house long before we arrived twenty years ago. (Her name is Becky.) In the past month I've talked to the neighbors I do know more than I have in the past three years combined. The coronavirus has forced us into our homes and into each other's paths. As our different worlds have shrunk to the space of a few blocks, new relationships have sprouted, and more established ones are blooming. I want to nurture this growing garden of friendship.

VOLUNTARILY SHELTERING AT HOME

This renewed neighborliness is a product of our limited geography during the pandemic. The necessity of sheltering in place has revealed the beauty of home in a society that values being on the go.

More than one priest or Ancient Faith blogger has commented on the monastic feel of this year's Great Lent. In a sense, those of us in the world are experiencing our homes as monastic cells—the places where we live, work, and pray. In this season, our homes are more than a pit stop on our way elsewhere, a place to bunk, somewhere to hang our hats. If our homes were not the center of our lives even a few months ago, they are now.

The principle of "stability of place" is foreign to most of us, but it has been an important part of monasticism since at least the fourth century. Men and women enter the monastery of their choice as novices. But after being accepted by the abbot or abbess and making vows, they are no longer free to move from one place to another without the blessing of their ecclesiastical superiors.

In his *Life of St. Anthony*, St. Athanasius recounted this story:

Someone asked Abba Anthony, "What must one do in order to please God?" The old man replied, "Pay attention to what I tell you: Whoever you may be, always have God before your eyes. Whatever you do,

do it according to the testimony of the Holy Scriptures. In whatever place you live, do not easily leave it. Keep these three precepts and you will be saved."

This is a wisdom that has been lost in America's transient society, where one's location is often determined more by the latest job opportunity than by commitment to family or community. (My apologies to military families, who must answer to a different authority but can still strive to follow St. Anthony's precepts in other ways.)

How many of us know people who have moved away in order to escape a difficult situation? How many of us have done this ourselves? We change homes, churches, and cities, often as carelessly as we change clothes. There can be good reasons for such changes. There are also bad reasons—a refusal to learn difficult lessons and to suffer as part of our theosis, becoming united with God. We prefer to speak of greener pastures elsewhere, not of blooming where God has planted us.

But now, stuck in our homes, we must deal with issues in our families. We must deal with issues within ourselves. We must do this hard inner work without moving—moving away or living in constant motion.

Our experience of stability of place may not be voluntary, but God has presented us with an opportunity to take seriously the idea of the home as a little church. I'm curious to see how much we will learn from this experience, and whether as families and individuals we will consider the precious gift of time and begin to curtail our activities, even when we are again free to leave our homes.

For me, I hope to continue consolidating errands and travel, asking myself if even a short trip is necessary. How much time, money, and quiet will I lose by jumping in the car for a meal that I could make at home, an errand that can wait until my to-do list lengthens?

I hope that next time I feel the impulse to get away, I will leave the car in the garage. Staying close to home, I can take a few moments to walk down the street and say hello to a new friend.

We may live separately, but God has placed us in this neighborhood together.

Paschal Greeting in Arabic:
El Messieh kahn! (*Hakken kahn!*)

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PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & 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.

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For the Health of... Lynn, Fr. Michael Ellis, Candice, Fr. Michael Rustick, Ella, Lexi, John, Susan, John, Alexandra D., Pañi Marie, Sonja, Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Lino, June, for all those battling viruses ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.

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For the Special Intentions of... Metropolitan Gregory, Callum, Killian, Caitlin, Dustin, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua,



John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* 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 Outreaches ...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):

Robert Fall - St Robert, Abbot of Blois (5/8)
Mark Tongel - St. Mark the Evangelist (5/8)
(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Anna Dzacony (5/3), Fr Matthew Stagon (5/4), Donald Bodnar (5/6), Apryle Horbal (5/6), Fr Thomas Soroka (5/6), Ethan Gogal (5/7), Ella Kovats (5/9) ...*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 Mnohaya I Blahaya L'ita!*



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

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

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Anniversary Prayers for... *Father's Godparents, Dick & Andrea Babbie (5/7), Father's Best Man, Joe & Sarah Lavra (5/7) ...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For Pregnant Mothers... Faith (June), Mallory Ann (July) ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadoovsky, Devin Meegan, and Trevor Meegan ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Darline Labas (4/13), +Philip Fall (4/9), +Jack Scherer (4/1), +Phyliss Stienstra (3/28), *mother of Fr. Dcn. Stienstra,* and those who have passed from the coronavirus ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May their Memory in God be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!*

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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.

*Paschal Greeting in Swahili:
Kristo amefufukka! (Kweli amefufukka!)*



DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

PASCHAL TROPAR

Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs, bestowing life!
Christos voskrese iz mertvykh! Smertiju smert poprav, i suščim vo hrob'ich život darovav!
Christós anésti ek nekrón, thanáto thánaton patísis, ké tís en tís mnímasi, zoín charisámenos!

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A PRAYER TO THE MOTHER OF GOD DURING THIS TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

With the Blessing of Metropolitan Gregory (ACROD) – 3-31-2020

O Most-Holy Ever-Virgin Mary, Theotokos: receive this heartfelt supplication from us, your unworthy servants. We run to you tearfully, O Sovereign Lady, as this dreadful illness spreads through the whole world. Listen to the much-afflicted sighs of your ailing people and grant healing of soul and body. As a loving Mother, cover your suffering children everywhere with your protecting veil. In times of despair, console the faint-hearted, strengthen the weak, and enlighten those with embittered hearts. Guide the minds and hands of our doctors and nurses, that they may serve as instruments of the all-powerful Physician, Christ our Savior.

You are the strong intercessor for our city, our country, and the whole world, O Queen of All.

Present our prayers before the throne of the King of Glory, your Son and our God, that He may be merciful towards us and grant His grace to those who honor you and bow before your holy icon with faith and love.

O joy of the sorrowful and consolation of the afflicted, stretch out your hands which are full of health and cures, so that having quickly received your wondrous help, we may glorify the Life-giving and Undivided Trinity: the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.