



July 5, 2020

Volume VI

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Hieromartyr Eusebius, bishop of Samosata (380)**

9:15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Tone 3

Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23; Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

*Panachida* for +*Sister Nymphodora* (+*Eleanor Dussling*), +*Jack Scherer* (3-month),

+Stelian Popescu (6-month), +Mary Jane Barclay (1-year), and other newly departed

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN WITH RESERVATIONS STILL REQUESTED. DETAILS BELOW...**



## ONLINE SERVICES, SAINTS, & READINGS FOR THE WEEK



*(At this time, we will ONLY have Sunday morning services on the North Side.)*

**Here Is Our Cathedral's Online Schedule Of Services** ([www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/)):

**Sunday: 9 am Divine Liturgy**

**Tuesday: 9 am** Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

**Saturday: 6 pm Great Vespers**

* Monday	Martyr Agrippina of Rome (253-260)	Romans 12:4-5,15-21	Matthew 12:9-13
* Tuesday	Nativity of St. John the Baptist and Forerunner	Romans 14:9-18	Matthew 12:14-16,22-30
* Wednesday	Virgin-martyr Febronia of Nisibis (304)	Romans 15:7-16	Matthew 12:38-45
* Thursday	Venerable David of Thessalonica (540)	Romans 15:17-29	Matthew 12:46-13:3
* Friday	St. Joanna the Myrrh-bearer (1st c.)	Romans 16:1-16	Matthew 13:4-9
* Saturday	Venerables Sergius and Herman (14th c.)	Romans 8:14-21	Matthew 9:9-13

\* *The Apostles' (Peter and Paul) Fast - Let Us Imitate Christ & The Saints & Fast As They Did!*

July 12 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

9:15 – Litiya Prayers; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Tone 4

Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10; Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1

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## A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

**Glory be to Jesus Christ!** *(responded with: Glory be forever!)*

**Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na viki!)**

**We are happy** that you have joined us today! **Please join us downstairs** for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon! **If you have any questions** in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Father Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

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***This Bulletin Is Offered:***

If you wish to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone, please do so by contacting Fr. Dave (*email, text, or call*). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

## 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:** Romans 6:18-23

**Gospel:** *Matthew 8:5-13*

<sup>18</sup>and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



## Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

5 As he entered Caper'na-um, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him<sup>6</sup> and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress."<sup>7</sup> And he said to him, "I will come and heal him."<sup>8</sup> But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed."<sup>9</sup> For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."<sup>11</sup> I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,<sup>12</sup> while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth."<sup>13</sup> And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

"The Church is your hope,  
the Church is your salvation,  
and the Church is your refuge."  
*+St. John Chrysostom*

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## GUEST SERMON

### ON INDEPENDENCE DAY, JULY 4, 2020

My Beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord,  
I wish you all a happy and safe 4th of July! As this Independence Day comes in the midst of a viral pandemic and renewed social tensions, it is fitting to recall that the fundamental principle that we celebrate today is that “all men are created equal.” Let us joyfully “let freedom ring!” as we celebrate this American principle!

Yet, we must admit, our nation remains “in travail”, struggling to “give birth” to a society in which all are treated as equals. Despite some progress, racism has not been fully stamped out. As the Church, in which “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free,” we oppose racism, for we believe that “all are one in Christ Jesus.”

Crucially, evils such as racism are only stamped out when each of us individually takes responsibility for his or her actions. Each of us has the independence of free will to choose to do good or evil. The claim that groups are responsible for evil, rather than individuals, is a claim which risks ignoring individual free will.

We must search out the evil in our own hearts, and labor to remove it, and then let Christ enter and take

His place in our hearts, and then we will see social change. We take responsibility for the evil we contribute to, and then act responsibly to make Christ’s kingdom present now through our words and deeds, and change will happen.

For the meaning of being created “in the image of God”, of all men and women being created equal, is that each of us has freedom of will. And it is only through each of us freely choosing to do “the good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do” that evil will be stamped out, bit by bit, in society.

So this Independence Day, let us remember that freedom is not just an American ideal, but a sacred responsibility given to each of us through our God-given free will. We are each “independent” to do what we may will; but through following the example of Christ, may each of us do the will of His Father always, this day, and every day.

With love in Christ,

+ Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada

[www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)

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## PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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

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**Reminders for attending St. John’s** – Following His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory’s guidelines along with our Parish Council and Pittsburgh going green:

- ✓ Sunday Divine Liturgy Services **ARE OPEN** With A **HIGHER** Limit. **OUR LIMIT IS TECHNICALLY OVER 100, BUT WE WANT TO MAKE SURE ALL ARE COMFORTABLE so for now...**
- ✓ “Reservations” Are Still Requested And Can Be Made By Contacting Father Between Monday And Friday At NOON Via A Phone Call Or Text Message To 412-748-0148. (Do not email for this.) Father will send out a confirmation email **on Friday**.
- ✓ If You Are Not Comfortable At This Time To Return To Church, We Understand But Please Let Father Know.
- ✓ A Facemask must be worn in the church.
- ✓ Candles should be lit with a lighter that you bring from home. (It is a pious Orthodox tradition to say your prayer (intention) when lighting your candle for the living and your candle for the departed.)

Our approach is fluid in that we are flexible to adjusting things as they are needed. Please continue to pray along with the cathedral services when you are not able to attend. Through God’s strength and guidance we will get through this together!

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“Intending to offer up your prayer to God, cast aside all earthly thoughts and cares. Do not engage in the thoughts which come to you at that time, however important or brilliant or necessary they might seem. Render to God the things that are God’s and you will have time to render what is necessary for temporal life in its own time.”  
+Saint Ignatius (Brianchaninov)

### Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 205
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 102
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 627
Community Outreach:	\$ 60
Picnic Refund from North Park:	\$ 200
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 1194</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

### June Financial Report:

**Donation Income = \$ 6,664.56**

**\*Expenses = \$ 6,947.11**

**Net Deficit = \$ 282.55**

*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*  
**Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 19**

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; 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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**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. Please mail your candle donation along with your weekly offering to Tim Martin.

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**Weekly Offerings to God** – During this time, if you are not coming to the church, we request that all weekly donations be mailed to:

Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)  
For our parish to continue it’s ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

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

### 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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### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



✱ July 12 – Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul

“Why does the Lord command us to love our enemies and to pray for them? Not for their sake, but for ours! For as long as we bear grudges, as long as we dwell on how someone offended us, we will have no peace.” +Elder Thaddeus (Strabulovich) of Vitovnica

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## ST JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, our additional collection will be for **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM)** whose mission is to serve those who are incarcerated and their families, and provides

resources, training and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed and God is glorified. For more information on this organization, please visit: [www.theocpm.org](http://www.theocpm.org). Thank you in advance for your prayers and offering this month!

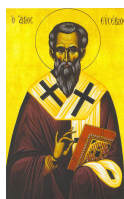
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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: [www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar) © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

### The Priestmartyr Eusebios, Bishop of Samosata

Commemorated on July 5 / June 22



The Priestmartyr Eusebios, Bishop of Samosata, stood firmly for the Orthodox confession of faith confirmed at the 1st Ecumenical Council at Nicea in the year 325. For this he underwent persecution by the Arians, being repeatedly deprived of his cathedra and banished into exile. The emperor Constantius (337-361), patron of the Arians, having learned that Saint Eusebios kept a conciliar decree about the election to the Antioch cathedra of the Orthodox Archbishop Meletios, sent him a command to give up the decree. The saint boldly refused to do as ordered. The enraged emperor sent a message, that if he did not give up the decree, then his right hand would be cut off. Saint Eusebios stretched out both hands to the emissary with the words: "Cut them off, but the Decree of the Council, which doth denounce the wickedness and iniquity of the Arians, I will not give up". The emperor Constantius marveled at the audacity of the bishop, but did him no harm.

After Constantius, there reigned Justin the Apostate (361-363). Even more difficult times ensued – there began an open persecution against Christians. Sainted Eusebios, having concealed his dignity, went about in the garb of a soldier across the whole of Syria, Phoenicia and Palestine, urging Christians to the Orthodox faith. He established priests and deacons in desolated churches, he put hands upon bishops renouncing the Arian heresy. After Julian the Apostate perished, there ruled the pious emperor Jovian (363-364), during which time the persecutions stopped. Having returned from exile, Archbishop Meletios upon the advice of Saint Eusebios convened a Local Council at Antioch in the year 379. In it participated 27 bishops, and it re-affirmed the Orthodox teaching of faith accepted at the 1st OEcumenical Council. The Arians, fearing the steadfast defenders of Orthodoxy – Sainted-hierarchs

Meletios, Eusebios and Pelagios, who had great influence with the emperor, put their signatures under the conciliar definition. After the death of the emperor Jovian began the rule of the Arian Vanlentos (364-378). The Orthodox were again subjected to persecution. Saint Meletios was banished to Armenia, Saint Pelagios – to Arabia, and Saint Eusebios was condemned to exile in Thrace. Having received the imperial decree, Saint Eusebios left Samosata by night so as to prevent tumult among the people that esteemed him. Having learned about the departure of the bishop, believers followed after him and with tears entreated him to return. The saint refused to fulfill the entreaty of those who had come, saying that it was necessary to obey the existing authorities. The saint urged his flock to hold firm to Orthodoxy, blessed them and set off to the place of exile. The Arian Eunomios was put upon the Samosata cathedra, but the people did not accept the heretic. The Orthodox would not go to the church and avoided meeting with him. The heretic Arian perceived, that it was impossible to entice the independent flock to him.

The emperor Gracian (375-383) came upon the throne, and there were brought back from exile all the Orthodox hierarchs banished under the Arians. Saint Eusebios also returned to Samosata and continued with the task of building up the church. Together with Saint Meletios he supplied Orthodox hierarchs and clergy to Arian places. In about the year 380, he arrived in the Arian city of Dolikhina to establish there the Orthodox bishop Marinos. An Arian woman flung a roof tile which struck the head of the sainted-bishop. In dying, he on the example of the Saviour asked her for wine and requested those around not to do her any harm. The body of Sainted Eusebios was taken to Samosata and with lamentation he was buried by his flock. In place of the saint was raised up his nephew, Blessed Antiokhos, and the Samosata Church continued to steadfastly confess the Orthodox faith, firmly spread through the efforts of the holy Priestmartyr Eusebios.

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“Love not only those close to you and your benefactors, but even your enemies, so that you might thereby pacify them, correct them, and make them good people.” +St. Theophan the Recluse



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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Ecumenical Patriarchate’s Holy Synod discussed the mode of distribution of Holy Communion

Between 23-25 June 2020, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate was convened for its regular meeting of the current month at the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy, Geneva. On the first day, the synodal members were engaged in their cooperative work with many of the Hierarchs of the Throne in Europe that were invited as well.

During this meeting, the Official Letters of Their Beatitudes the Orthodox Primates that had been received thus far in response to the letter of the Ecumenical Patriarch to them of May 17th of this year, on the issue of the mode of distribution of Holy Communion that emerged after the appearance of the coronavirus pandemic, were read and discussed. It was satisfactorily determined that their opinion coincided with that of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This consists of the following:

a) The Mystery of the Divine Eucharist is non-negotiable, because we believe that through it it is transmitted to the faithful the Body and Blood of the Savior Christ “unto the remission of sins and life eternal” and it is impossible that through this Mystery of Mysteries any disease might be communicated to those who partake. For this reason, the Church remains steadfast and

immovable in its teaching towards the essence of the Mystery of Holy Communion.

b) As to the mode of distributing the ineffable Mysteries to the faithful, the Church, respecting Holy Tradition that is interwoven inextricably with the daily ecclesiastical practice and kenotic experience, and as the guardian and vigilant watchman of those traditions handed down from the Holy Father, finds no need for a change of this mode, especially under pressure from external factors.

At the same time, the Mother Church, mindful of the special needs of Her children in the Diaspora, urges the Chief Shepherds who serve in the Diaspora that with a pastoral sensitivity, responsibility, and consciousness, to temporarily make, by economia, accommodations to problematic situations that arise from local laws of the State for the greater spiritual benefit of the Christian people, always in coordination with the Sacred Center at the Phanar.

In Geneva, 25, June 2020  
From the Chief Secretariat of the Holy and Holy Synod

"What made them saints? Suffering? Not suffering alone makes saints, but striving towards God, love of God, and the labor of overcoming obstacles to holiness, which is the fruit of man's labor and the gift of the Holy Spirit." +St. John Maximovitch

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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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“The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning.” - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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“Fall upon prayer as your only aid and help in this life.  
When you are weary, pray.  
When you are joyful, let your joy feed deeper prayer.  
When in hunger or thirst, open your heart to the Lord.  
When in exultation, bind your life more firmly to God.  
When prayer itself is hard, pray all the more.  
For prayer is “the ascent of the heart to God,”  
Who is its true and proper Master in every condition of this life.”  
- Bishop Irenei Steenberg,  
The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer, p.83

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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...** Michael, Kenneth, Wendy, Thomas, Anthony, Julia, Theresa, Lynn, Fr. Michael Rustick, Ella, Lexi, John, Susan, John, Alexandra D., Pañi Marie, Sonja, Anna Mae, 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, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, 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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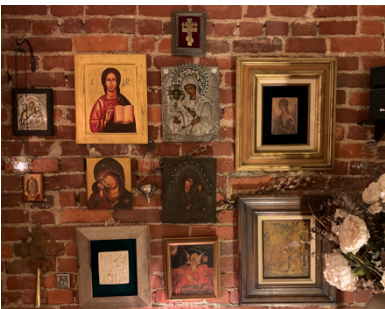
**Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):**

Rich Mirilovich - St. John the Baptist (7/7) *(please contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

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**Birthday Prayers for...** Pañi Stacey Mihaly (7/5), Allyssa Yakemawiz (7/7), Jessica Winkler (7/8), *Father's Godfather,* Richard Babbie (7/9), *Pañi's Grandmother,* Maria Alexa (7/11/28) ...*May God allow*

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*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...**

...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** 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. Dzadozsky, 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...** +Louis Haynes (7/2), +Sister Nymphodora (+Eleanor Dussling) (6/17), +Michael Psenechnuk, the priest (6/6), 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.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

**A prayer for our Neighborhoods by Archbishop Demetrios of America**

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

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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.