



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church



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

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Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*
Timothy Martin, *Reader*
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August 16, 2020

Volume VI

10th Sunday after Pentecost; Venerable Anthony the Roman (1147)

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16; Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Lesser Blessing of Water; Blessing of Honey; Blessing of Students & Teachers; Panachida for the newly departed

ONLINE SERVICES, SAINTS, & READINGS FOR THE WEEK

(At this time, we will ONLY have Sunday morning services on the North Side WITHOUT a reservation request.)

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

Sunday: 9 am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday: 6 pm Vespers for the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

Wednesday: 9 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

Saturday: 6 pm Great Vespers



The opportunity for the Holy Mystery of Confession is available following Sunday Liturgy AND by appointment.

** Monday	Holy 7 Youths (the "7 Sleepers") of Ephesus	2 Corinthians 2:4-15	Matthew 23:13-22
** Tuesday	Martyr Eusignius of Antioch (362)	2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3	Matthew 23:23-28
** Wednesday	Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord	2 Corinthians 3:4-11	Matthew 23:29-39
** Thursday	Martyr Dometius of Persia (363)	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Matthew 24:13-28
** Friday	St. Emilian the Confessor, bishop of Cyzicus (820)	2 Corinthians 4:13-18	Matthew 24:27-33,42-51
** Saturday	Apostle Matthias (63)	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Matthew 19:3-12

** *Dormition Fast: Let Us Imitate Christ & The Saints & Fast As They Did!*

Let us embrace the fast, knowing, "fasting appears gloomy until one steps into its arena. But begin and you will see what light it brings after darkness, what freedom from bonds, what release after a burdensome life" + *Saint Theophan the Recluse*

August 23 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost; Venerable Anthony the Roman (1147)

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12; Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

Blessing of the First-Fruits (and Vegetables) of the Harvest; 40-day Panachida for +Sonia Urban

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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: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

⁹For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. ¹¹To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, ¹²and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things.



Fatherly Admonition

¹⁴I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

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"The bee is small among flying creatures, but her product is the best of sweet things."
Wisdom of Sirach 11:3

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Jesus Cures a Boy with a Demon

14 And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and kneeling before him said, 15 "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. 16 And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." 17 And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." 18 And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. 19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" 20 He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. 21 But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting."

Jesus Again Foretells His Death and

22 As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.

On Matthew 17:20-21
"This kind (v 21) refers to all powers of darkness, not simply those that cause a particular illness. The banishment of demons requires faith (v 20), prayer, and fasting (v 21), for there is no healing and no victory in spiritual warfare without all three.
Beginning with the Didache [The Teaching (or Doctrine) of the Twelve Apostles], the Fathers have taught that both the person in need of healing and the person performing the healing must believe, pray, and fast."

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



The Blessing of the First Fruits – On Sunday, August 23rd following the Divine Liturgy, we will bless our 'first fruits' from our gardens (or purchased from the grocery store).

Everyone is encouraged to bring in a bowl, basket, or bushel of fruits and/or vegetables!

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Pittsburgh Forerunners – See below for more information on joining others from our parish as we Trek for Missions!

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Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? We are now collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) [Formerly FOCUS Pittsburgh (who provide Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter to those who are in need)]. We will collect the clean coats on the coat rack in the hall through August.

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A Few Quick Reminders & Updates:

- ✓ If you are going to have surgery or having flu-like symptoms, please contact Father Dave
✓ Sunday Divine Liturgy Services ARE OPEN with 23 "spots" for those of the same household to sit at. Plenty of room to safe-distance at this time!
✓ With that said, "Reservations" are NO LONGER Requested at this time.
✓ If you are not comfortable at this time to return to church, we understand, but please let Father know.
✓ A Facemask covering your nose and mouth 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.)

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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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/

Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Table with 2 columns: Stewardship Gift, Amount. Includes Stewardship (\$20), Candles/Eternal Lamp (\$126), Envelopes/Stewardship (\$377), Community Outreach (\$20), Total Collections (\$543), Capital Improvement Fund (\$115), Relocation Fund (\$20).

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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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; 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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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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Candles in Church – During this COVID time, 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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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✘ Friday, August 28 – Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos
✘ Sunday, August 30 – Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

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2020 Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic
Has Been **POSTPONED** Until 2021
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2020 Virtual Trek4Missions! The Orthodox Christian Mission Center invites you to take up your cross for our virtual fundraiser. We will begin on the Feast of the Glorification of St. Herman of Alaska (*New Calendar: August 9*) and conclude on the Feast of the Elevation of the Life-Giving Cross (*N.C.: September 14*).

Missionary saints throughout our Church's history have demonstrated the responsibility of sharing the Good News of Christ entrusted to them. Like St. Herman of Alaska, Sts. Cyril and Methodios, St. Nicholas of Japan, and countless others, have left the comfort of their homes and dwellings to bring Christ's love to the world. Today, over 1 billion people have never heard of the Gospel message. We are responsible to reach them as a new missionary generation answering the call to take up our cross to the ends of the earth.

Join local parishes and mission supporters nationwide to **virtually complete 60,000 collective miles** to raise funds and awareness for the training and building up of Orthodox missionaries. St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, *"How can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"* (Romans 10:15). Whether you are a walker, runner, swimmer,

cyclist, or you just like to stay active and can track your miles, you can participate! Help bring the life-transforming Gospel to the world!

The 2020 Virtual Trek4Missions is an opportunity for individuals and parish communities to unite and demonstrate our commitment to Christ's Great Commission *"to make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19). Start by joining team **Pittsburgh Forerunners** and register for the event, then create your own fundraising page with us, and trek on your own terms! The world is our course! Remember to follow your local community's health and safety guidelines during the Trek. There are NO FEES to register, and shirts are guaranteed. Could you help us raise \$100,000!

***** IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR LOCAL TEAM, PITTSBURGH FORERUNNERS, (or donating) GO TO THIS WEBSITE:**

<http://secure.ocmc.org/2020-Trek4Missions>

CLICK: "JOIN A TEAM" (or donate)

FIND Pittsburgh Forerunners AND CLICK "JOIN" THEN USE THE PASSWORD "SBJPgh2020" TO JOIN OUR TEAM

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Visit Our Diocese On-Line
Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddioocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddioocese

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The Monk Anthony the Roman

Commemorated on August 16/3, January 30/17

The Monk Anthony the Roman was born at Rome in the year 1067 of rich parents, keeping to the Orthodox confession of faith, and he was raised by them in piety. As an orphan having lost his parents at age 17, he took up the study of the fathers in the Greek language. Afterwards he distributed part of his inheritance to the poor, and the other portion he put into a wooden box and threw it into the sea. And then he took monastic vows at one of the wilderness skete-monasteries, where he lived for 20 years. A persecution of the Latins against the Orthodox forced the brethren to separate. The Monk Anthony wandered about, going from place to place, until he came upon a large rock upon the solitary shore of the sea, where he lived for a whole year in fasting and prayer. A terrible storm, happening on 5 September 1105, tore away the stone on which the Monk Anthony was situated, and threw him into the sea. On the Feast of the Nativity of the MostHoly Mother of God the stone halted 3 versts from Novgorod on the banks of the River Volkhov near the village of Volkhovsk. This event is testified to in the Novgorod Chronicles. At this place the monk, with the blessing of Sainted Nikita the Hermit (+ 1109, Comm. 14 May), founded a monastery in honour of the Nativity of the MostHoly Mother of God. In another year fishermen fished out the box with the inheritance of the Monk Anthony, cast into the sea many years



before. Having declared what was in the box, the monk took the box and bought land for the monastery. Spiritual asceticism was combined at the monastery with intense physical work.

The Monk Anthony was concerned, that from the monastery income help should be rendered for the needy, and for orphans and widows. In the year 1117 the monk began construction with stone at the monastery. Up until our own day there has been preserved a cathedral in honour of the Nativity of the MostHoly Mother of God – built during the lifetime of the monk in the years 1117-1119 by the reknown Novgorod architect Peter, and with wall-frescoes in the year 1125. In the year 1131 Sainted Niphont of Novgorod made the Monk Anthony hegumen of the monastery. He died on 3 August 1147 and was buried by Sainted Niphont.

The Monk Anthony was glorified in the year 1597. His memory is noted likewise (in honour of the uncovering of the relics) on the first Friday after the feastday of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul (29 June), and on 17 January – on the same name-day when the memory of the Monk Anthony the Great is celebrated. The first life of the Monk Anthony the Roman was written soon after his death by his student and successor as hegumen – the priestmonk Andrei. A collected life, with an account about the uncovering of the relics and praiseworthy discourse, was done by a novice of the Antoniev monastery, the monk Niphont, in the year 1598.

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Let us be mindful that, “fasts and vigils, the study of Scripture, renouncing possessions and everything worldly are not in themselves perfection, as we have said: they are its tools.

For perfection is not to be found in them; it is acquired through them. It is useless, therefore, to boast of our fasting, vigils, poverty, and reading of Scripture when we have not achieved the love of God and our fellow men. Whoever has achieved love has God within himself and his intellect is always with God.” +St John Cassian

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Commitment vs. Convenience:

The Dormition Fast

On August 14th we began the observance of the relatively brief Dormition Fast that prepares us for the celebration of the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God on August 28. And, as with every fast, we once again are **presented with a challenge and a choice**. In this instance, the Dormition Fast presents us with a choice between “*convenience*” and “*commitment*.” We can choose convenience because of the simple fact that to fast is decidedly inconvenient. It takes planning, vigilance, discipline, self-denial, and an overall concerted effort. It is convenient to allow life to flow on at its usual summer rhythm, which includes searching for that comfort level of least resistance. To break our established patterns of living is always difficult—something we would only contemplate with reluctance. So, one choice is to do nothing different during the Dormition Fast—or perhaps just doing something minimal, as a kind of token recognition of our life in the Church. Such a choice may not yield in terms of further growth in our life “in Christ.” It may, rather, mean a missed opportunity.

Yet, the choice remains **to embrace the Dormition Fast**, a choice that is decidedly “counter-cultural” and one that manifests a conscious commitment to an Orthodox Christian “way of life.” Such a commitment signifies that we are looking beyond what is convenient toward what is meaningful. It would be a choice in which we recognize our weaknesses, and our need precisely for the planning, vigilance, discipline, self denial and overall concerted effort that distinguishes the seeker of the “mind of Christ” which we have as a gift within the life of the Church. That is a difficult choice to make, and one that is perhaps particularly difficult within the life of a family with children who are often resistant to any changes. However, such a difficult choice has its “rewards,” and such a commitment will bear fruit in our families and in our parishes. (If embraced legalistically and judgmentally, however, we will lose our access to the potential fruitfulness of the fast and only succeed in creating a miserable atmosphere in our homes.) It is a choice that is determined to seize

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a good opportunity as at least a potential tool that leads to spiritual growth.

Combining the “convenient” with our “commitment” within our contemporary social and cultural life is, to some degree, an option. We often don’t allow the Church to “get in the way” of our plans and goals, and that may be hard to avoid in the circumstances and conditions of our present “way of life.” It is hard to prevail in the never-ending “battle of the calendars.” The surrounding social and cultural milieu no longer supports our commitment to Christ and the Church. In fact, it is usually quite indifferent and it may even be hostile toward such a commitment. Though we may hesitate to admit it, we find it very challenging not to conform to the world around us. But it is never impossible to choose our commitment to our Orthodox Christian way of life over what is merely convenient – or simply desired. That may just be one of those “daily crosses” that the Lord spoke of – though it may be a stretch to call that a “cross.” This also entails choices, and we have to assess these choices with honesty as we look at all the factors that make up our lives. In short, it is very difficult – but profoundly rewarding – to practice our Orthodox Christian Faith today!

The heart of a sincere Orthodox Christian desires to choose the hard path of commitment over the easy (*and rather boring?*) path of convenience. During the Dormition Fast, we now have the God-given opportunity to escape the summer doldrums that drain our spiritual energy. With prayer, almsgiving and fasting, we can renew our tired bodies and souls. We can lift up our “drooping hands” in an attitude of prayer and thanksgiving. The Dormition of the Theotokos has often been called “Pascha in the summer.” It celebrates the victory of life over death—or of death as a translation into the Kingdom of Heaven. The Dormition Fast is our spiritually vigilant preparation leading up to that glorious celebration honoring the Mother of God and contemplate our own entrance into the Kingdom of God. “Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold; now is the day of salvation!” [2 Corinthians 6:2].

<http://www.pravmir.com/commitment-vs-convenience-the-dormition-fast/>

“We must never allow envy to enter our hearts, for envy destroys the peace within and the tranquility of the soul. For example, we are at peace. A friend comes along and tells us about someone who has behaved unjustly toward us in the past. This person is now very successful and has achieved a lot. If we have not forgiven this person, the spirit of envy rears its head immediately.”

Elder Thaddeus(Strabulovich) of Vitovnica

Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica p.186

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Congratulations! to Lara and Ernest J Pido (grandson of Pañi Eleanor Herbert) and their families on the birth of **Demetrie Ernest Pido** born on July 27th.
“Preserve her and this child which she has borne. Cover her with the shelter of thy wings from this day until her final end, through the prayers of the most Holy Theotokos and of all the saints. Amen” – from Prayers for a Woman on the First Day after Childbirth

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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... Thomas, James, Sean, Michael, Kenneth, Wendy, Anthony, Julia, Theresa, Lexi, John, Susan, John, Alexandra D., Pañi Marie, 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, 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):

Patty Watson - St Patricia (8/22)

(please contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Craig Bowser (8/16), Anthony Jesko "Jr." (8/16), Donna Horbal (8/17), Emma Martellotti (8/18), Ernest Pido (8/20), Ana Karen Peña-Juarez (8/21), Maria Urban (8/21), Sophia Urban (8/21), Everly Torchia (8/22)...*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... Ana Karen & W. Dylan Mushinsky (8/22) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For Pregnant Mothers... Brittany (due in October) ...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. Dzadovsky and Trevor Meegan ...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Ruth Metil (8/5), +Anna Mae Gogal (7/22), +Sonia Urban (7/19), 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:

HYMN TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

You are truly deserving of glory, O Birth-giver of God,
the ever-blessed and most pure Mother of our God.
More honorable than the Cherubim
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim,
who as a Virgin gave birth to God the Word,
true Birth-giver of God, we magnify you.

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