



# ST. 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*  
 Subdeacon Ryan Ferko  
 Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*  
 Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*  
[www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149](https://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](mailto:OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com)  
[www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com](http://www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com)  
*Instagram: SJB\_Orthodox\_Pittsburgh*



## 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! 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 again soon! **If you have any questions** in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave.

## BULLETIN IS OFFERED:

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

## SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 #NATIVITY FAST

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called

9:15 – Nativity Canon & Carols (*Kol'ady*);

9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17

Gospel: 13:10-17 (*10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke*)

Panachida for +Olga Radick (40-day),

+Metropolitan Maximus (40-day),

+Archpriest Stephen Shuga (1-year),

and the newly departed

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 #NATIVITY FAST

9:30am Moleben of the Nativity Fast

*(please enter from the side door)*

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 #NATIVITY FAST

9:30 Nativity Fast Paraklis to the Theotokos

### Friday, December 18 #NATIVITY FAST

7pm Vespers for the Feast at St. Nicholas

(903 Ann Street, Homestead, PA)

### Saturdays December 19 #NATIVITY FAST

9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

11a-1p Mystery of Holy Confessions offered

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 #NATIVITY FAST

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

St. Ambrose of Milan

Godparent / Godchild(ren) Sunday

9:15 – Nativity Canon & Carols (*Kol'ady*);

9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Colossians 1:12-18

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19 (*11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke*)

Tone 3; Liturgical Color: **Purple**

## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wed.)*

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**Live-Broadcast** – We are blessed with the opportunity to watch our Diocesan Cathedral's services online (*9:00 am Sunday Divine Liturgy*). 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 via the *live broadcast* on the web at:

[www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/)

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**Godparents / Godchild(ren) Sunday** – Our Annual Godparent Sunday celebration will be **Sunday, DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>**, a day to honor them and to encourage the growth of this spiritual relationship. *We need to keep the Spiritual bonds alive with our God-parents and God-children. Even more important, we need to keep our life united with our Lord, Jesus Christ. This unites us with one another.*

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**Nativity Fast** - *This Fast runs for 40-days until the Eve of the Nativity on Wednesday, January 6. It is often said that the Nativity Fast is so much more difficult because of the nature of society around us, but we can still keep the spirit of the Fast. Everyone should try, at a minimum, to keep Monday, Wednesday & Friday as fast days, no matter what is happening on the 'new calendar.'* *If you have questions, please talk with Father Dave. **Prepare the Manger of your Soul for the coming of the new borne Messiah!***

**Nativity Commemorations** – We offer you the opportunity to sponsor items to be used for Nativity as commemorations: *anonymously, in memory of departed loves ones, OR for the health of loved ones.* If you are interested in making any of these commemorations, please sign up on the sheet in the Vestibule or email Fr. Dave and give an *additional free-will stewardship offering* to the Church.

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**Parish Precautions** – *If you were curious, here are a few of the precautions that the parish has been taking and will continue to take as we err on the side of caution with Covid:*

- *the open pews, door handles, and light switches are sanitized weekly,*
- *pans on top of the radiators are being filled with water to increase the humidity in the air (denser air falls to the ground faster taking germs with it)*
- *the ceiling fans run on low pushing the heat down (and preventing the air to be stagnant)*
- *4 windows are cracked in the nave of the church (bringing in fresh air)*
- *we also continue to wear our masks and keep safe-distancing*

*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Father or a member of the Parish Council. And as always, if you are feeling ill or have a fever, please stay home and let Father know so that we can pray for you!*

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“Read the Church Fathers, even one or two lines a day. They are very strengthening vitamins for the soul.” +St. Paissios

## OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 395
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 87
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 677
Community Outreach:	\$ 10

**Total Collections:** **\$ 714**

**Capital Improvement:** **\$ 20**

**Relocation Fund:** **\$ 70**

*We must give in trust that God will use it to produce fruit: “He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your sowing (resources) and increase the harvest of your righteousness (benevolence).” - 2 Cor. 9:10*

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Eleanor Sanger; Mirilovich Family; 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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**Anonymous \$10,000 Donation** – *Thanks be to God, we received an anonymous \$10,000 donation this past week for our parish general fund! Their generosity is amazing. May God bless them with good health and a long life! Many years!*

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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.

A REMINDER TO MAKE TIME FOR YOUR  
NATIVITY FAST CONFESSION

*"Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." (Lk. 5:12)*

Fr. Dave will be available for confessions  
after ALL services, from 11-1 on Saturdays  
Dec. 12 & 19, or by appointment.

As we prepare for the Feast of the Nativity, it is  
time to prepare the "Manger of our soul" for the  
coming of the Messiah.

*"There is more mercy in God than there are sins  
in us. Confess your sins at once, whatever they  
may be." +St Tikhon of Zadonsk*

**LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY**

- ✦ **Tuesday, January 5** – 9:30am Prefestive  
Moleben of the Nativity of our Lord
- ✦ **Wednesday, January 6** – 9:30am Royal  
Hours of Nativity
- ✦ **Thursday, January 7** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy  
on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord
- ✦ **Friday, January 8** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy
- ✦ **Saturday, January 9** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy  
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**ORTHODOXY AROUND THE  
'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE**

**SPF50 (Scripture, Prayer, Family):**  
**A Diocese Family Ministry** - The 4<sup>th</sup> Issue of  
SPF50 is available! (If you are already  
participating, please contact Fr. Dave.) If you did  
not start with us on March 1, consider joining  
now. Make a commitment to reading Scripture  
and Praying together with your family. (Please  
contact Fr Dave to fill out the Commitment Card.)  
Visit the Diocesan SPF50 web page at  
[www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50](http://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.

**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)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](https://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

**SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Epistle: 6:10-17**

**The Whole Armor of God**

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the  
strength of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor  
of God, that you may be able to stand against  
the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we are not  
contending against flesh and blood, but against  
the principalities, against the powers, against the  
world rulers of this present darkness, against the  
spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly  
places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take the whole armor of  
God, that you may be able to withstand in the  
evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand  
therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and  
having put on the breastplate of  
righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and having shod your feet with  
the equipment of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup>besides  
all these, taking the shield of faith, with which  
you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil  
one. <sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation, and the  
sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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**Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**

**Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman**

<sup>10</sup>Now he was teaching in one of the  
synagogues on the sabbath. <sup>11</sup>And there was a  
woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for  
eighteen years; she was bent over and could not  
fully straighten herself. <sup>12</sup>And when Jesus saw  
her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you  
are freed from your infirmity." <sup>13</sup>And he laid his  
hands upon her, and immediately she was made  
straight, and she praised God. <sup>14</sup>But the ruler of  
the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had  
healed on the sabbath, said to the people,  
"There are six days on which work ought to be  
done; come on those days and be healed, and  
not on the sabbath day." <sup>15</sup>Then the Lord  
answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each  
of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass  
from the manger, and lead it away to water  
it? <sup>16</sup>And ought not this woman, a daughter of  
Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years,  
be loosed from this bond on the sabbath

day?" <sup>17</sup>As he said this, all his adversaries were  
put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all  
the glorious things that were done by him.

**LIVES OF THE SAINTS**

**The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called**

*Commemorated on December 13 / November 30*

The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called  
was the first of the Apostles to follow Christ, and  
he afterwards brought to Christ his own brother  
the holy Apostle Peter (Jn. 1:35-42). The future  
apostle was from Bethsaida, and from the time of  
his youth he turned with all his soul to God. He  
did not enter into marriage, and together with his  
brother he worked as a fisherman. When upon  
Israel thundered the voice of the holy Prophet,  
Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord John, Saint  
Andrew became his closest disciple. Saint John  
the Baptist himself sent off to Christ his own two  
disciples, the future Apostles Andrew  
and John the Theologian, declaring  
Christ to be the Lamb of God.



After the Descent of the Holy  
Spirit upon the apostles, Saint  
Andrew set off preaching the Word of  
God to the Eastern lands. He went  
through Asia Minor, Thrace,  
Macedonia, he reached along the  
River Dunaj (Danube), went along  
the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, the  
Black Sea Region and along the River Dniepr he  
climbed to the place, where now stands the city  
of Kiev. Having prayed, he went up even further  
along the Dniepr and reached a settlement of the  
Slavs, where Novgorod was built. From here the  
apostle went through the land of the Varangians  
towards Rome for preaching, and again he  
returned to Thrace, where in the small village of  
Byzantium – the future mighty Constantinople,  
he founded the Church of Christ. The name of  
the holy Apostle Andrew connects the mother –  
the Church of Constantinople, together with the  
daughter – the Russian Church.

On his journeys the First-Called Apostle  
endured many sufferings and torments from  
pagans: they cast him out from their cities and

they beat him. In Sinope they pelted him with  
stones, but remaining unharmed, the  
persevering disciple of Christ continued to  
preaching about the Saviour to people. Through  
the prayers of the apostle, the Lord worked  
miracles. From the labours of the holy Apostle  
Andrew there emerged Christian Churches, for  
which he established bishops and clergy. The  
final city to which the First-Called Apostle came,  
and where it was allotted him to accept a  
martyr's end, was the city of Patra.

The Lord manifest many a miracle through  
His disciple in Patra. The infirm were made  
whole, and the blind received their sight.  
Through the prayers of the apostle, the illustrious  
citizen Sosios recovered from serious illness; by  
the placing on of apostolic hands was healed  
Maximilla, wife of the governor of Patra, and his  
brother Stratokles. The miracles accomplished  
by the apostle and his fiery speech enlightened  
with the true faith almost all the citizens of the  
city of Patra. Few pagans that remained at Patra,  
but among them was the governor of the city,  
Aegeatos. The Apostle Andrew repeatedly  
turned to him with the words of Good-News  
[meaning of Euangelium, or Gospel]. But even  
the miracles of the apostle did not convince  
Aegeatos. The holy apostle with love and  
humility appealed to his soul, striving to reveal to  
him the Christian mystery of life eternal, through  
the wonderworking power of the Holy Cross of  
the Lord. The angry Aegeatos gave orders to  
crucify the apostle. The pagan thought to undo  
the preaching of Saint Andrew, if he were to give  
him over to death on the cross, which however  
the apostle glorified. Saint Andrew the First-  
Called accepted the decision of the governor  
with joy and with prayer to the Lord he himself  
went willingly to the place of execution. In order  
to prolong the suffering of the saint, Aegeatos  
gave orders not to nail down the hands and feet  
of the saint, but to tie them to the cross. From up  
on the cross for two days the apostle taught the  
citizens who gathered about. The people, in  
listening to him, with all their souls pitied him and  
tried to take the holy apostle down from the

cross. Fearing a riot of the people, Aegeatos gave orders to stop the execution. But the holy apostle began to pray that the Lord would grant him death on the cross. Just as the soldiers tried to take hold of the Apostle Andrew, they lost control of their hands. The crucified apostle, having given glory to God, uttered: "Lord Jesus Christ, receive Thou my spirit". Then a blazing ray of Divine light illumined the cross and the martyr crucified upon it. When the shining ceased, the holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called had already given up his holy soul to the Lord (+ 62). Maximilla, wife of the governor, had the body of the Apostle taken down from the cross, and buried him with honour.

LIVING ORTHODOXY



**CELEBRATING THE HOLY FATHER, ST. NICHOLAS of MYRA Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>**  
by Fr. Jonathan Bannon

Leave your shoes out by your door or a place in your home on the evening before (Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>) his feast day on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> and perhaps St. Nicholas will fill them with an orange or an apple and a gold chocolate coin. **Why Oranges?** In the Slavic areas this sweet fruit was rare and would have been a special treat years ago. **Why chocolate gold coins?** This is one way to honor and remember the holy Nicholas' selfless giving to those in need, especially when he helped a father care for three daughters and gave away all the riches he inherited from his parents. St. Nicholas is the **patron saint of our ACROD**

**Diocese.** He **defended true theology** at the 1st Ecumenical Council by shutting down the impious Arius' false teachings about who Jesus is. Arius believed because we celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Day then Jesus must have had a beginning rather than being pre-eternal with the Father and Holy Spirit. Orthodoxy defends that **Jesus is pre-eternal and equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit**, without change, without beginning when entering into humanity at the Annunciation (April 7<sup>th</sup>) and born in the flesh on Christmas 9 months later. Consider reading his story and celebrating this holy father and defender of children, sailors, and many others who honor him.

NATIVITY FAST BOOK SUGGESTION

**LET ALL CREATION REJOICE: Reflections for Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany** by Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis (ISBN 9781498484077) Spending a few minutes each day reading and reflecting on these scriptures will not change your status. It will change your heart. You will better understand the "good news of a great joy," and why "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and Other Needs*  
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**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, Jerry, Andrew, Brian, Fr. Andrew F. Irene, Kristina, Georgia, Steve, Pañi Kathy D., Fr. Patrick C., Fr. George L., Brian, Douglas, Dacia, Sean, Julia, Theresa, John, Susan, John, Alexandra 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 Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Elizabeth, Gregory, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Daniel, Dylan, Thomas, and Nicholas *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, 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):**  
Andrew Mirilovich, Fr. Dave Andrew Urban - Holy and All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called (12/13)  
Barbara Kirish - Great martyr Barbara (12/17)  
Nicholas Kubis - Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker (12/19)  
*(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*  
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**Birthday Prayers for...** Brian Gogal (12/15), Madelyn Spirnak (12/17), Donald P. Gavulich (12/19), John Woloshyn (12/19) ...*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!*  
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**For our Catechumens & Inquirers...**  
Dustin, Stephen, Susan, Marilynn, John ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*  
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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 those preparing for Marriage...** Lexi & Patrick, 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...** Marilynn *(due in April)* ...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*  
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**For the souls of the newly departed...**  
+Alexander Salio (11/30), +Mark Bodnar (11/19), +Donald Bodnar, Sr (11/18), +Olga Radick (11/4), +Metropolitan Maximos (11/2), 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*  
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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.**  
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"Do not have hostile feelings towards anyone and do not let dislike dominate your heart; do not hate him who hates his neighbor. This is what peace is: Encourage yourself with this thought, "Affliction lasts but a short time, while peace is forever, by the grace of God the Word." +Abba Moses

**DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE  
NATIVITY FAST**

**NATIVITY FAST  
PRAYER CHALLENGE 2020**

*Metropolitan Gregory asks each member of  
our Diocese, either as a family or  
individually, to pray this every evening  
of the Nativity Fast.*

O Physician of Souls and Bodies: we pray  
that You continue to come to our aid now  
during the global spread of the Coronavirus.

May the sick regain their strength and health,  
and as they worry and grieve, defend them  
from further illness and despair. We offer  
thanks to You for those who have recovered.

Grant rest to those who have reposed. Be  
with the families of those who are sick and  
those who have died.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents  
nations from working together and neighbors  
from helping one another. Remove from us  
all pride, which can make us claim immunity  
to a disease that knows no borders.

Give wisdom and strength to our President,  
our federal government, our state  
governments, together with the leaders of all  
nations, and give them foresight to act with  
charity and true concern for the well-being  
of the people they serve.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and  
all medical professionals who seek to heal  
those affected and who put themselves at  
risk in the process.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded  
by many people suffering from this illness or  
only a few, we pray that You stay by our  
side and grant us courage and peace.

AMEN.