

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Weekly Bulletin*

O Holy John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of the Lord, pray to God for us!

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory to Jesus Christ! (*responded with: Glory 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! Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, JULY 24

6th Sunday after Pentecost
Commemoration of the Miracle (451) of Great-martyr Euphemia the All-praised, of Chalcedon (304)
9:30 am Reader’s Service
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SUNDAY, JULY 31

7th Sunday after Pentecost
Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils
Martyr Hyacinth of Amastris (4th C.)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Romans 15:1-7
Hebrews 13:7-16 (for Holy Fathers)
Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35
John 17:1-13 (for Holy Fathers)
Tone 6; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
Additional offering requested for our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry OCPM Awareness Sunday
Annual Blessing of Chariots (*Cars, Trucks, Boats, Bicycles, and other modes of transportation*) to be offered at the Parish Picnic
12-5 Parish Picnic at “the Cabin” in North Park
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MONDAY, AUGUST 1

7:00 pm Feast Day Vespers

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

FEAST OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIAS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
Annual Blessing of Chariots

Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar
(Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)

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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online:

www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

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RELOCATION UPDATE

** **Update from the Diocese** – The diocese has reviewed and discussed our request from June 9 to borrow \$200,000. A few things have changed and evolved since this request was made - including our bank accounts going from \$200,000 to roughly \$325,000. They were willing to lend us \$60,000 (for 5 years; interest free for 6 months and then 2% until the loan is paid off) with the recommendation of us taking the loan from Wesbanco.

** **Counter Offer Update** – Over the past few weeks the Allison Park Church countered their offer of \$390,000 with \$315,000 along with our four properties going to them in the deal.

** **Next Steps** – SJB Parish Council will evaluate all of this information and continue forward with what is best for our parish community.

May God continue to guide our journey!

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*As updates are available, they will be shared here.
Please contact Larry or Fr. Dave with any questions*

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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** **For Pastoral Care** – From **Sunday, July 17 to Friday, July 29** Fr. Dave will be unavailable for immediate or emergency situations. Please contact one of his brother priests in the Deanery:

Fr. Nik Ferencz: 412-271-2725
Fr. Marc Wisnosky: 412-407-5102
Fr. Michael Zak: 412-461-3264

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor* +++ 2688 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15212
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com +++ 412-748-0148 (*Talk or Text*) +++ OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

*This Bulletin Is Sponsored
In Memory Of
+Katherine Silon
May her memory be eternal!*

** **Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery** - Memorial Commemoration of Gerontissa Taxiarchia will be on **Saturday, July 30**. Hours, Divine Liturgy, and a Memorial Service will begin at 9:00 am. Please RSVP so that the Monastery (at 121 Saint Elias Ln., Saxonburg, PA 16056) has adequate hospitality (info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org or 724-352-3999). Visit their web site, browse the Online Gift Shop, and place preliminary orders at: www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org

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** **Annual Parish Picnic** – Our parish picnic will be **Next Week, Sunday, July 31st** from Noon till 5:00 at The Cabin in North Park (1370 E Ingomar Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101). Everyone is welcome! Come and experience a day of fun amongst family and friends. We will share a pot-luck meal – so *bring your favorite recipe to share*. There will be activities for all! If you need directions, please contact Fr Dave. Please see a Parish Council member with any other questions.

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** **Annual Blessing of Chariots** – Our annual blessing of vehicles will be a little bit different this year: they will be blessed **at the Parish Picnic next week** at some point after lunch. *Fr. Dave will make an announcement then, as is customary, people can open the hood & doors then wait near their ride. Fr. Dave will go to each vehicle and bless it with Holy Water.* In addition, Fr Dave will bless vehicles after the Festal Divine Liturgy on **Tuesday, August 2** or another time if requested. *We bless vehicles in honor of the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias who was carried to heaven in a fiery chariot (read 2 Kings chapter 2 in the Old Testament to learn more).*

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* **Basket Raffle** – At our **Parish Picnic next week**, our ACRY will host an Internal Basket Raffle. Please see an ACRY officer for tickets and more details.

*** **August: The Month of Special Blessings!** – Live Orthodoxy and plan ahead for the many special blessings that are offered in August (*plus a bonus in July*):

July 31st & Aug 2nd: Blessing of Chariots (Vehicles)
Aug 7th: Blessing of Students and Teachers
14th: Lesser Blessing of Water and Blessing of Honey
19th & 21st: Blessing of the First-Fruits (& vegetables)
28th: Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

Life is full of blessings! Orthodoxy is awesome!

Let’s focus on the blessings in our lives!

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*** **Holy Transfiguration Monastery** – Each year the monastery, located at *321 Monastery Lane, Ellwood City, PA 16117*, hosts its Patronal Feast Day Celebrations and Pilgrimage on **August 5th and 6th** for the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (*Revised Calendar Dates*). Here is the schedule:

Friday, August 5 6:00 pm Festal Vigil Service;
Saturday August 6 9:30 am Akathist and procession;
10:00 Hierarchical Liturgy; 12:30 Catered Picnic Lunch; 2:30 Holy Unction and anointing of pilgrims;
6:00 pm Great Vespers

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** **The Bob Pervuznik Sr. Memorial Golf Outing** will be hosted by St. John’s East Pittsburgh will be on **August 6** at Meadowlink Golf Course. For more information, please email rpvuznik@gmail.com

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** **2022 Garage Sale** – We will be having a garage sale this fall on the North Side. Please bring your donations in to the hall and start placing them on the tables. (*Proceeds from the Garage Sale will go to offset some of the costs of our 90th Anniversary Luncheon.*)

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*** **Home Blessings** – Our Annual Home Blessings will begin on **Sunday, August 14** after the Lesser Blessing of Water. Fr. Dave is looking forward to visiting every house this August and September. Please schedule with him today.

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** **Science & Nature Week** at Camp Nazareth will be from **Aug 14-20**. More info is online at: campnazareth.org

Trek4Missions - Please join us for our 3rd annual OCMC Trek4Missions held from **Monday, August 8 to Sunday, September 18!** This event is the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's largest virtual fundraiser that challenges participants to be physically active while raising awareness and financial support for our mission work to unite the world to Jesus Christ and His Church.

The 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). Plan to walk, run, ride your bike, and more to show your support for Christ's call to each of us.

If anyone is interested in spearheading and leading a local team (last year's team name was **Pittsburgh Forerunners**), please contact Fr. Dave so that we can begin together on August 8th. Talk to your teammates from last year and get the band back together! Everyone who registers will receive a free Trek4Missions t-shirt! There are no fees to register.

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 225
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 108
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 619
Total Collections:	\$ 952
Capital Improvement:	\$ 65
Relocation Fund:	\$ 4,700

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Mary Jane Hudak; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Cindy Pavlonis; Shuster Family; Patty Watson

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The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by Matthew Peifer In Memory Of his parents, +Jack and +Viola Peifer. May Their Memory Be Eternal!

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On-Line Giving is available from our parish website to donate to the: *General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund.* The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2nd best is to mail it in to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to "catch up" on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

***** Did you get behind?** - If you by chance got behind in your weekly (or monthly) stewardship offerings to the church, please *catch up* as we are approaching our "fiscal" year-end in August.

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Bulletin Sponsor – If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (nameday, birthday, anniversary, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
 Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
 FB: www.facebook.com/acroddioecese
 Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
 YouTube: youtube.com/acroddioecese

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14

⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Marks of the True Christian

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

⁹ And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. ² And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son;

your sins are forgiven." ³ And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." ⁴ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk?' ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." ⁷ And he rose and went home. ⁸ When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Remembrance Of The Miracle Of Saint Euphemia The All-Praiseworthy

Commemorated on July 11

*** Relics from Saint Euphemia are in our Holy Table**

The holy GreatMartyress Euphemia suffered martyrdom in the city of Chalcedon in the year 304, during the time of the persecution against Christians by the emperor Diocletian (284-305).

In the year 451 in the city of Chalcedon, in the very church wherein rested the glorified relics of the holy GreatMartyress Euphemia – there took place the sessions of the 4th OEcumenical Council. The Council was convened for determining the precise dogmatic formulae of the Orthodox Church concerning the nature-composition of the God-Man Jesus Christ. This had been necessitated because of the widely-dispersed heresy of the Monophysites ["mono-phusis" meaning "one nature"], who opposed the Orthodox teaching about the two natures in Jesus Christ – the Divine and the Human natures [but in one Divine Person as Son of God within the Holy Trinity of three Divine Persons]. The Monophysites falsely affirmed that within Christ was only one nature – the Divine [i.e. that Jesus is God but not man, by nature], causing discord and unrest within the Church. At the Council were present 630 representatives from all the Local Christian Churches. On the side of the Orthodox in the conciliar deliberations there participated Sainted Anatolios, Patriarch of Constantinople, Sainted Juvenalios, Patriarch of Jerusalem, and representatives of Sainted Leo, Pope of Rome. The

Monophysites were present in large numbers, headed by Dioscoros, the Alexandrian patriarch, and the Constantinople archimandrite Eutykhios. After prolonged discussions the two sides could not come to a decisive agreement.

The holy Patriarch of Constantinople Anatolios thereupon proposed that the Council submit the decision of the Church dispute to the Holy Spirit, through His undoubted bearer Saint Euphemia the All-Praiseworthy, whose wonderworking relics had been discovered during the Council's discussions. The Orthodox hierarchs and their opponents wrote down their confessions of faith on separate scrolls and sealed them with their seals. They opened the tomb of the holy GreatMartyress Euphemia and placed both scrolls upon her bosom. Then, in the presence of the emperor Marcian (450-457), the participants of the Council sealed the tomb, putting on it the imperial seal and setting a guard to watch over it for three days. During these days both sides imposed upon themselves strict fast and made intense prayer. After three days the patriarch and the emperor in the presence of the Council opened the tomb with its relics: the scroll with the Orthodox confession was held by Saint Euphemia in her right hand, and the scroll of the heretics lay at her feet. Saint Euphemia, as though alive, raised her hand and gave the scroll to the patriarch. After this miracle many of the hesitant accepted the Orthodox confession, while those remaining obstinant in the heresy were consigned to the Council's condemnation and excommunication.

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... George, John, Emily, Beverly, Kelly, Michelle, Paul, Kathleen, Joanne, Marie, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, and Roberta *...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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For the souls of the newly departed...
...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory.

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Spiritual Vitamin:

“How simple spiritual life is!

If one comes to love God, if one comes to recognize His great sacrifice and His good works, and if one exerts himself, with discernment, in imitation of the saints, he will be quickly sanctified.

It is enough that he be humbled, that he be conscious of his own wretchedness and his tremendous ingratitude towards God.”

Saint Paisios of Mount Athos

Spiritual Councils IV: Family Life p.166

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

A Prayer of a Married Couple

O merciful God, we ask You always to remind us that the married state is holy, and that we must keep it so. Grant us Your grace, that we may continue in faithfulness and love; increase in us the spirit of mutual understanding and trust, that no quarrel or strife may come between us. Grant us Your blessings, that we may stand before our friends and in Your sight as a loving family; and finally, by your mercy, count us worthy of everlasting life. For You are our sanctification and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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A Prayer for Peace

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen.

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A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (*name*), and our spiritual father (*name*), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm or by appointment.

Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

Parish 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. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction)

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.

Parishioners in “good standing” are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John’s Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular attendance of services, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (*and receive these Mysteries no less than once a year*); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and share their stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures which includes financially supporting the parish.

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 Fr. Dave 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 Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall). It is critical that marriages are

blessed in our church.

Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual responsibilities and their stewardship. 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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SECOND 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 Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. David S., Fr. Myron, Dcn. Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our diocesan seminarians:* Nicholas, Dylan, Thomas, Samuel, Timothy, Nicholas, Aydin, Subdeacon Seamus, Nicholas, *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth, John, Wendy, Margaret, John, Patricia, 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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July Namedays:

Rich Mirilovich - St. John the Baptist (7/7)
Craig Bowser - Holy & All-glorious Apostle Peter (7/12)

Killian Brozell - Hieromartyr Killian (7/22)
Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak - Great Martyr Marina of Antioch (7/30)

Mareena Shuster - Great Martyr Marina of Antioch (7/30)

...*May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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July Birthdays:

Joanna Delaney (7/2), Paňi Stacey Mihaly (7/5), Felix Matolyak-Ferraz (7/6), Allyssa Yakemawiz (7/7), Charles Deluca (7/8), Jessica Winkler (7/8), *Father's Godfather*, Richard Babbie (7/9), *Paňi's Grandmother*, Maria Alexa (7/11), Emilia Zak (7/11)

Jean Zak (7/12), Ben Scherer, Sr. (7/14), Paňi Joanna Ferencz (7/17), Rebecca Horbal (7/17), Katie Jesko (7/17), Mark Tongel (7/17), Alaina Anton (7/18), Fr Michael Chendorain (7/18), Fr Luke Mihaly (7/18), Dustin Brozell (7/20), *Father's Godson*, Nathaniel Salio (7/21), Jennifer Brancho (7/22), Robert Fall (7/22), Lynn Mainolfi (7/23), Glenn Labas (7/25), Barbara Gedid (7/27), Ryan Gogal (7/27), Demetrie Ernest Pido (7/27), Samuel Schrmack (7/27), Doug Delaney (7/28), Fr Stephen Lopusky (7/28), Luke Tongel (7/30), *Paňi's brother*, Florin Popescu (7/30), Fr. George Ellis (7/31)

...*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... Tyler, Susan ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

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For those preparing for Marriage... Francis & Alexandra, Nicole & Dustin ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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July Anniversaries:

Fred & Juliana Anton (7/20/63)

Alexei & Patrick Wertz (7/24/21)

...*through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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For Pregnant Mothers... Caitlin (*due in September*), Mallory (*September*) ...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and 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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* 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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