

Parish Prayer List (Living)

Alexandra	Rachael	Jessilyn	Reader Mark
Andrea	Amanda	Sherry	Thecla
Fr. Michael	Barry	Sean	Susan Mary
James	Nicholas B.	Karin	Andrea & Kirby
Lawrence	Emil	Seraphim	Evdokia
Michael	Helen	Susan K	Bob Wedder
Anna	Brian	Carolyn	Kansas & SJ
Ashley & Ben	Kathy Tanner	Anthony	Pauline
Olga	Marina	Salvatore	Josephine
Nicholas (Nadja's brother)	Nina	Alma	Jason
Tatiana	Clint	Nadja	Travis
Karen	Genevieve	Connie	

Parish Prayer List (Fallen Asleep)

Lorraine Solinko (+2/27)	Metropolitan Nicholas (+3/13)
Laura Crikis (+3/17)	Michael Baker (+3/26)
Michael Pilja (+4/7)	Christine Henn (+4/21)

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The Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian (for daily prayer in Lent)

O Lord and Master of my life, take from the spirit of sloth, faint heartedness, lust of power and idle talk, but rather give to your servant the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are you for ages of ages. Amen.

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Schedule of Services For Holy Week **St. Nicholas Orthodox Church**

Monday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.: Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.: Bridegroom Matins and Hymn of Kassiani

Wednesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m.: Service of Holy Unction

Thursday, April 12: 10:00 a.m. – Vespers Liturgy of Great and Holy Thursday

7:00 p.m. – Reading of the Twelve

Passion Gospels

Friday, April 13: 9:00 a.m. – Royal Hours of Pascha

3:00 p.m. – Service of Descent from the Cross, with Lamentations

7:00 p.m. – Burial Service of Our Lord

Saturday, April 14: 11:00 a.m. – Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil for Great and Holy Saturday

10:30 p.m. – Resurrection Matins

Midnight -- Divine Liturgy for the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ

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Words from the Fathers

Brethren and fathers, the Annunciation is here and it is the first of the Feasts of the Lord, and we should not simply celebrate as most do, but with understanding and with reverence for the mystery. What is the mystery? That the Son of God becomes son of man, using the holy Virgin as the means, dwelling in her and from her fashioning for Himself a temple and becoming perfect man. Why so? "That he might ransom those under the law," as it is written, "and that we might receive sonship" [Gal. 4:5]; that we may no longer be slaves, but free; no longer subject to the passions, but free of passions; no longer friends of the world, but friends of God; no longer walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

St. Theodore the Studite

Rejoice, O Theotokos, O deliverance of Adam from the curse!
Rejoice, chaste Theotokos!

Rejoice, O living bush! Rejoice, O lamp! Rejoice, O Throne!
Rejoice, O ladder and door!

Rejoice, O divine chariot! Rejoice, O bright cloud! Rejoice, O temple, O most gilded jar!

Rejoice, O mountain! Rejoice, O tabernacle and table! Hail to the thee, O deliverer of Eve!

Second Exaposteilarion of the Feast of the Annunciation

How could the human race go to God if God had not come to us? How should we free ourselves from our birth into death if we had not been born again according to faith by a new birth

generously given by God, thanks to that which came about from the Virgin's womb?

This is the reason why the Word of God was made flesh, and the Son of God became Son of Man: so that we might enter into communion with the Word of God, and by receiving adoption might become Sons of God. Indeed we should not be able to share in immortality without a close union with the Immortal. How could we have united ourselves with immortality if immortality had not become what we are, in such a way that we should be absorbed by it, and thus we should be adopted as Sons of God?

St. Irenaeus of Lyons, Against Heresies

Abba Joseph related that Abba Isaac said: I was sitting with Abba Poemen one day and I saw him in ecstasy and I was on terms of great freedom of speech with him. I prostrated myself before him and begged him, saying, "Tell me where you were."

He was forced to answer and he said, "My thought was with holy Mary, the Mother of God, as she wept by the cross of the Savior. I wish I could always weep like that."

Desert Fathers

Saint John of the Ladder...was surnamed "of the Ladder" (Climacus) because he wrote an immortal work, the 'Ladder of Divine Ascent.' In this work, we see how, by means of thirty steps, the Christian gradually ascends from below to the heights of supreme spiritual perfection. We see how one virtue leads to another, as a man rises higher and higher and finally attains to that height where there abides the crown of the virtues, which is called 'Christian love.'

Saint John wrote his immortal work especially for the monastics, but in the past his Ladder was always favorite reading in Russia for anyone zealous to live piously, though he were not a monk. Therein the Saint clearly demonstrates how a man passes from one step to the next.

Remember, Christian soul, that this ascent on high is indispensable for anyone who wishes to save his soul unto

eternity.

A Sermon of Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow

It is very profitable to occupy oneself with reading the word of God in solitude, and to read the whole Bible intelligently. For one such occupation alone, apart from good deeds, the Lord will not leave a person without His mercy, but will fill him with the gift of understanding.

Saint Seraphim of Sarov

Life is blessedness. These words might seem strange. How can one call life blessedness when at every step one encounters failures, disappointments and grief? How much sorrow people endure. Life, people say is labor, and often thankless labor - what kind of blessedness is there in this? And all the same I repeat: life is blessedness. Life becomes blessedness for us when we learn to fulfill Christ's commandments and to love Christ. Then it will be a joy to live, a joy to endure the afflictions that come upon us, while before us will glow the ineffable light of the Sun of Righteousness - the Lord. All the Gospel commandments begin with the word 'blessed': blessed are the meek, blessed are the merciful, blessed are the peacemakers....From this it follows, as a truth, that the fulfilling of the commandments offers people the highest happiness.

Elder Barsanuphius of Optina

If you hear or see someone sin, keep from slandering him and judging him. You tell someone else about him, he tells it to another, the other to the third, the third to the fourth, and so everyone will come to know and be tempted. And they will judge the one who sinned, which is a very serious thing. And you will be the cause of all this, by publishing your brother's sin. Slanderers are like lepers that harm others by their foul odor, or like those stricken by the plague who carry their disease from place to place and destroy others. Keep yourself, then, from slandering your neighbor, lest you sin gravely and give someone else cause for sin.

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

