

Parish Prayer List (Living)

Alexandra	Sharon	Paige	Reader Mark
Andrea	Amanda	Sherry	Joretta
Fr. Michael	Barry	Sean	Kristi
James	Nicholas B.	Karin	Andrea & Kirby
Nanette	Alexandra	Illisa	Rachael
Michael	Helen	Susan K	Bob Wedder
Anna	Erin and baby	Karen	

Parish Prayer List (Fallen Asleep)

Metropolitan Nicholas (+3/13)	Michael Pilja (+4/7)
Christine Henn (+4/21)	Laura Lamby (+3/17)
Michael Baker (+3/26)	

Additional Announcements

Holy Week Schedule

Our schedule during Holy Week will be as follows. All services will be held here in the Church.

Wednesday, April 20: *Unction Service* (7:00 p.m.)

Thursday, April 21: *Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels* (7:00 p.m.)

Friday, April 22: *Royal Hours of Pascha* (9:00 a.m.)

The Burial Service (7:00 p.m.)

Saturday, April 23: *Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil* (9:00 a.m.)

Midnight office and Resurrection Matins (10:30 p.m.)

Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ (midnight)

Sunday, April 24: *Vespers of Pascha* (2:30 p.m.)

Remember that after the Paschal Liturgy we will bless baskets and the artos of Pascha. Afterwards, we will gather to break the fast together. If you want to bring a particular dish to share you can sign up for it at a website set up by Pani. If you

missed the e-mail with those details, let Pani or I know and we will get that to you.

Next Saturday we need to clean the church in anticipation of Holy Week and Pascha. If you are able to help, please let me know!

The 2011 Distinguished Diocesan Donors Giving Campaign is now in progress. Every household in the diocese recently received an appeal letter and an explanatory brochure. All diocesan faithful are encouraged to become 3D Members. This year there are new giving level opportunities: \$100.00- Contributor, \$250.00- Bronze, \$500.00- Silver, \$1,000.00- Gold and \$10,000.00 and up – Platinum.

Your help is needed today to properly equip our Diocese for ministry in the 21st Century. Your generous support will allow the DDD Program to offer support at the same or greater levels to the apostolates it has supported in the past and provide funding to other key ministries necessary for diocesan growth and renewal.

If you have not already done so, please fill out and send the donation form included in the brochure along with your donation to the diocesan chancery. Visit DDD on line at <http://ddd.acrod.org>. To learn more about the 3D Program, download a mail-in donation form or donate on line.

All donors at the \$100 and up giving levels will receive a complimentary dinner at a regional DDD Dinner.

It is asked if at all possible contributions be made and forwarded to the Chancery by Pascha.

Thoughts from the Fathers

"Like a vapour or gases that have accumulated in a great quantity in a shut-up place strive to rush out, so also the passions, like the breathing of the spirit of evil, having filled the heart, strive to rush out of one man to pour themselves into others, and corrupt, by their ill-odour, the souls of others."

St. John of Kronstadt

"After our forefather's transgression in paradise through the tree, we suffered the death of our soul - which is the separation of the soul from God - prior to our bodily death; yet although we cast away our divine likeness, we did not lose our divine image. Thus when the soul renounces its attachment to inferior things and cleaves through love to God and submits itself to Him through acts and modes of virtue, it is illuminated and made beautiful by God and is raised to a higher level, obeying His counsels and exhortations; and by these means it regains the truly eternal life. Through this life it makes the body conjoined to it immortal, so that in due time the body attains the promised resurrection and participates in eternal glory."

St. Gregory Palamas

There are times, when the love of Christ touches us, that we feel eternity. This cannot be understood rationally. God acts in a manner proper to Himself, which is beyond reason. We must not be too logical in our Christian life.

Archimandrite Sophrony, +1993

"When can someone understand human suffering? When he also suffers. When he goes through the same, he learns and understands the other person's suffering. Otherwise, he is callous and is not grieved, unless he happens to have a good nature. But all natural attributes merit neither honor nor dishonor; achievements and falls depend on our own free will."

Elder Joseph the Hesychast.

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A Heart Cannot be Split

So these nations feared the Lord, and served their graven images,
both their children, and their children's children:
as did their fathers, so do they unto this day (4 Kings 14, 41)

This generation got multiplied to a legion: everywhere we see alike, “serving God and mammon” (Mt.6, 24), “halting between two opinions” (3 Kings 18, 21), “neither cold, not hot” (Rev.3, 15), or, speaking plainly, those who want to be good for everyone.

Where is the sin of these nations: while not being on either side, they serve both God and mammon, but in reality just drawing benefits for themselves only.

It is impossible to give oneself half to God and half to evil forces, which rule people so cowardly. It is impossible to only sometimes stick to the words of God and only partially live one's life in it, and at the same time keep “the spirit of this world” as a measure of one's actions and decisions.

Lord, will I really tell You, when You call me: “come later, I am not ready yet”? Will I muffle what You want to tell me now and instead turn to You when I am done dealing with this world? Can I safely split my life and my heart in two and give You only a part of me? When hesitating in-between two paths, I live that double life, which is so dangerous, not even realizing that God can take either first place in my heart or none.

And what will the children learn from parents like that? What are all the instructions, efforts, threats for, when there's no Devine authority in lives of parents, which if parents would have submitted themselves to, children would to too. “Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen” (1 Jn.5, 21)

Translated by Tatiana Rozzell from “Every Day is a Gift from God. Diaries of an Orthodox Priest”, author unknown, 1905