

Parish Prayer List (Living)

Alexandra	Rachael	Jessilyn	Reader Mark
Andrea	Amanda	Sherry	Thecla
Fr. Michael	Barry	Sean	Susan Mary
James	Nicholas B.	Karin	Don Tesch
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	Sharon

Parish Prayer List (Fallen Asleep)

Michael Urban (+6/21)

Robert Beall (+6/24)

Ruby Kesselak (+7/1)

Shawn Visconti (+7/21)

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Coffee Hour:

6/17 - Shenberger	6/24 - Balasis	7/1 - open
7/8 - open	7/15 - open	7/22 - open
7/29 - open	8/5 - open	8/12 - open

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Tony Visconti is still at the Life Care Nursing Home on Industrial Park Road in Copper Hill, Tennessee. He is in Room 228. He can be reached at 828-361-3316. By God's grace, however, he will be able to come home early this week, and we hope to see him and Paula next weekend here at St. Nicholas/

Thoughts from the Fathers

Smoke from wood that is kindling a fire troubles the eyes; but then, the fire gives them light and gladdens them. Similarly, unceasing attentiveness is irksome; but when, invoked in prayer, Jesus draws near, He illumines the heart; for remembrance of Him confers on us spiritual enlightenment and the highest of all blessings.

St. Philotheos of Sinai

Those, therefore, who keep our Saviour's will are made glorious, and worthy of emulation, and adorned with praises

for their fidelity, yea, moreover, they have a name given them, for He has said again of them in a certain place, ‘On them that serve Me, there shall be called a new name, even That Which is blessed upon the earth” (Is. 65:15, 16).

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Commentary on the Gospel of Saint Luke

Externally-oriented people of worldly education of full of egoism and pride and resemble satellites that orbit in the sky, giving one the impression that they are stars. If, however, you observe them carefully you will see their crooked steps and see that it is all a human sham.

Internally-oriented people, on account of their humility, are the true stars that move at dizzying speeds, but noiselessly and humbly, without anyone understanding how they move even though they are immense planets. They hide in the depths of heaven and give men the impression that they are little oil lamps aflame with a humble light.

Elder Paisios of Mt. Athos

All the saints in heaven, and all true Christians on earth, are one body and one spirit: this is why the prayer of believers is heard to easily, so speedily, so truly, in heaven, and why there is so much to be hoped for from calling upon the saints. But in order that our prayers should always be speedily and easily heard by the saints, we must have their spirit - the spirit of faith and of love for God and our neighbor, the spirit of meekness, humility, abstinence, purity and chastity, brave, valiant thirsting after righteousness, the spirit of compassion - heavenly and not earthly.

Saint John of Kronstadt

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Some of the Saints of Carpatho-Rus

March 4/17-Holy Martyr Wenceslas

According to tradition, St. Wenceslas was born in 907 in the village of Stochov. At the age of 7, his father summoned the Slavic Archbishop of Moravia to tonsure the boy in a manner that other princes were tonsured. His upbringing and education were entrusted to his grandmother, St. Ludmila. She placed him under the direction of a priest to learn the

Slavic language as well as Latin and Greek. But his education was interrupted with the unexpected death of his father, Vratislav, and he assumed the throne of the Czech and Moravian lands. His rule was marked by the discipline of the gospel: he clothed and fed the poor, defended the widows and the orphans, and gave generously to the Church.

Although many in the kingdom rejoiced at the good works of St. Wenceslas, his envious brother, Boleslav, hoped to find a way to murder the pious king. During one of his travels through the towns of his kingdom, he stopped in a small village to attend the feast day divine liturgy of Saints Cosmas and Damian. Again, friends warned the holy ruler of his brother's evil plot to kill him, but the king refused to believe such a story. On the next morning, hearing the bells of the church calling the faithful to Matins, he set off for the church. However his evil brother, Boleslav, overtook him at the gate of his home and struck him over the head with his sword. Two other conspirators assisted in the murderous plot piercing the king's ribs with their swords. St. Wenceslas cried out, "Lord, into Thy hands I commend my spirit," and he breathed his last. The conspirators also killed many others, and the entire kingdom was in disarray.

A priest from the local church placed a shroud over the bloody corpse and carried the king to his home. There he was bathed and clothed, and his body was taken to the middle of the church for the funeral. Thus was the holy one brought to the end of his life in 929. Boleslav, feeling much remorse and pain, repented for his evil act and ordered the soldiers to bring the holy prince to Prague. His body was placed in the church of the Saint Vitus and remains there to this very day.

May 7/20-Holy Father and Confessor Alexis of Wilkes-Barre

Born on March 18, 1854 into a pious and well-educated family, the young Alexis finished his preliminary education, and entered the Preshov Seminary where he graduated with honors. After serving his compulsory military duty, he was ordained to the holy priesthood and appointed as professor of church law and church history at the Preshov Seminary. For nearly a decade, he served the diocese of Preshov. In November of 1889, the Bishop of Preshov assigned him to St. Mary's Parish in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Upon his arrival in Minneapolis and following proper protocol, he presented himself along with his credentials to the Roman Catholic

Archbishop, John Ireland. In what can be considered a rude and hostile treatment of the most recent Greek Catholic priest in America, Archbishop John Ireland shouted, "I do not consider either you or this 'bishop of Preshov' to be Roman Catholic." The young priest soon realized that this brief encounter was just the beginning. The archbishop launched a vicious campaign against Fr. Alexis Toth, prohibiting all Catholic priests from having any contact with him.

With this assault against the Greek Catholic Church in America, along with two centuries of broken promises that supposedly guaranteed the traditions of the Greek Catholic Church under the "Union with Rome," St. Alexis began his return to the mother church of Orthodoxy. On Sunday, March 25, 1891 Fr. Alexis and 365 parishioners were formally received into the Russian Orthodox Church. Few recognized this action as the catalyst that would give rise to countless thousands of "Eastern Rite Catholics" abandoning the broken promises of the Union with Rome and seeking refuge within their mother church of Orthodoxy. Conservative estimates by the Roman Catholic Church maintained that this return to Orthodoxy cost the Roman Church a quarter of a million communicants in the United States.

For the rest of his life, St. Alexis served the Orthodox Church in many capacities. He wrote pamphlets and instructional material, preached to a host of congregations, and educated entire parish communities that desired to return to the Orthodox faith of their ancestors. Neither the lies of his opponents nor the decisions of the courts could silence this confessor for the faith. When defending his position among a hostile audience, the saint would simply ask, "Is it Eastern Rite to perform two or even three masses in one day on the same altar? To perform the liturgy without the Proskomedia or in hushed whispers? Is it Eastern Rite to introduce organs and to throw out the iconostasis? Who of the Holy Fathers of the Orthodox Church ever ordered this!" Many in the crowd realized the error of the "Unia" and embraced Orthodoxy.

The holy confessor for Orthodoxy, St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, reminds us that struggle is inevitable when one desires to find the Truth in Christ. One must often set aside feelings of ethnic identity as well as cultural pride in order to find real peace in Christ. The saint passed from this life into eternal life with Christ in 1909.