

Parish Prayer List (Living)

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

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:

6/24 Balasis	7/1 - open	7/8 - open
7/15 - open	7/22 - open	7/29 - open
8/5 - open	8/12 - open	8/19 - open

We need volunteers for coffee hour on upcoming Sundays. The sign up sheet will be available during coffee hour this morning.

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Thoughts from the Fathers

The Lord was asked why his disciples did not fast. He answered that the time had not yet come for them. Then in a parable he showed that, in general, the strictness of outer asceticism must correspond to the renewal of the inner powers of the spirit. First kindle the spirit of fervor, and then take on austerities; for then there will be a new inner power capable of enduring them profitably. If you take them on without first having this fervor, either because you were impressed by the example of others or because you wanted to make a show of your own asceticism, then it will bring no profit. You will sustain this austerity for a bit, and then you will weaken and drop it. And you will be worse off than before. Austerity

without the inner spirit is like a patch of new linen on an old garment, or new wine in old wineskins. The patch will fall off and the rent made even worse, and the wine will be lost, and the wineskins ruined (cf. Mk. 2:22; Lk. 5:17).

Saint Theophan the Recluse

Beware these two thoughts and fear them. The first suggests 'You are a saint,' the other, 'You will not be saved.' Both come from the enemy, and there is no truth in them. Instead, think to yourself, 'I am a great sinner but the Lord is merciful. He loves man with a great love and will forgive me my sins.' Believe in this way, and you will see, the Lord will forgive you. But put no faith in feats of your own, however much you may have striven... Thus God has mercy on us, not for our achievements but gratis, because of His goodness.

Saint Silouan the Athonite

God's grace always assists a struggler, but this does not mean that a struggler is always in the position of a victor; sometimes the beasts did not touch the righteous ones, but by no means did they not always touch them. What is important is not victory or the position of a victor, but rather the labor of striving towards God and devotion to Him. Though a man may be found in a weak state; that does not at all mean that he has been abandoned by God. The Lord Jesus Christ, according to the worldly view, was in trouble, but when the sinful world considered Him to be completely destroyed; in actuality He was victorious over death and Hades. The Lord did not promise us positions as victors as a reward for righteousness, but told us, "In the world we shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33). The power of God is effective when a person asks for the help of God, acknowledging the weakness and sinfulness of his nature. This is why humility and the striving towards God are the fundamental virtues of a Christian.

St. John Maximovitch, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco (1896-1966)

Elder Paisios said: As a person becomes more spiritual, so much fewer rights does he have in this life. It is obligatory to be patient, to accept injustice, to accept evil words from others. A crooked stick (perverted person) who is distant from God has many rights: to strike and shout and act unrighteously. Our rights God keeps for the other life. Out of ignorance however we often seek our rights here. Let us not damage things at all. If they say anything to us, immediately we give them the right. And later we think we trust in God. That is a big joke. Human justice doesn't mean anything to a spiritual person. But it is a great concern for the perverted person.

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The Kingdom of God is Gained With the Heart and Not With the Tongue



By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

"Not everyone who says, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

Brethren, one does not gain the Kingdom of God with the tongue, but with the heart. The heart is the treasury of those riches by which the kingdom is purchased; the heart and not the tongue! If the treasury is full with the riches of God, i.e., a strong faith, good hope, vivid love and good deeds, then the messenger of those riches, the tongue, is faithful and pleasant. If the treasury is void of all those riches, then its messenger [the tongue] is false and impudent. The kind of heart, the kind of words. The kind of heart, the kind of deeds. All, all depends on the heart.

Hypocrisy is helpless before men, and is even more helpless before God. "If then I am a father," says the Lord through the Prophet Malachi, "If then I am a father where is the honor due to me?" And If I am a master, where is the reverence due to me?" (Malachi 1:6). That is, I hear you call me father, but I do not see you honoring me with your heart. I hear you call me master, but I do not see fear of me in your hearts.

Our prayer: "Lord! Lord!" is beautiful and beneficial only when it emerges from a prayerful heart. The Lord Himself commanded that we pray unceasingly, but not only with the tongue to be heard by men, but rather enclosed in the cell of the heart so that the Lord could hear and see us.

Lord, majestic and wonderful, deliver us from hypocrisy and pour Your fear into our hearts so that our hearts could stand continually upright in prayer before You.