

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)
Mary Fuga (+6/24)	Ruby Kesselak (+7/1)
Shawn Visconti (+7/21)	

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Coffee Hour:

7/1 - provided by church	7/8 - open	7/15 - open
7/22 - open	7/29 - open	8/5 - open
8/12 - open	8/19 - open	8/26 - 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

A mole burrowing in the earth is blind and cannot see the stars; and he who does not trust God in temporal things will not trust Him in eternal things.

St. Mark the Ascetic, 5th century

As examples of conversion, Thou hast given to them that sin Thy two faithful Apostles, Lord: the one said he knew Thee not at Thy holy Passion, but again repented; the other fiercely strove against and persecuted the preaching of Thy Name; and both of them became the chiefest of the company of Thy friends, O my Jesus, Almighty Lord, Thou

Divine Savior of our souls.

*Fourth Stichera on “O Lord, I have cried...,” Small Vespers,
Feast of the Chiefs of the Apostles, Peter and Paul*

When a man has Love – Christ, – even if he is mute, he can communicate with billions of people and with every age group of men, each of which has also its own language. Love with pain of heart for our fellowmen carries with it the power of Christ, to transform the souls of barbarians and tame wild beasts, which then draw near him like sheep...

Where love is, there is Christ – Love, – and where humility exists, the Grace of God takes up permanent residence, God reigns, and the earth is ultimately transformed into Paradise.

Where love and humility are absent, there the devil – the enemy – takes up his abode and people live in hell with the devil already in this life, continually worsening their place in the next life, in the eternal fire.

Elder Paisios of Mt. Athos, +1994

How the Creator and Provider of all has honored and adorned our nature! The Saints shine with His light, they are hallowed by His grace, having conquered sin and washed away every sinful impurity of body and spirit; they are glorious with His glory, they are incorruptible through His incorruptibility. Glory to God, who has so honored, enlightened, and exalted our nature!

Saint John of Kronstadt

When you hear that Christ descended into hell in order to deliver the souls dwelling there, do not think that what happens now is very different. The heart is a tomb and there our thoughts and our intellect [nous] are buried, imprisoned in heavy darkness. And so Christ comes to the souls in hell that call upon Him, descending, that is to say, into the depths of the heart; and there He commands death to release the imprisoned souls that call upon Him, for He has power to deliver us. Then, lifting up the heavy stone that oppresses the soul, and opening the tomb, He resurrects us - for we were truly dead - and releases our imprisoned soul from its lightless prison.

Saint Makarios of Egypt

If you abandon God and are a slave to the passions you cannot reap God's mercy.

Saint Thalassios the Libyan

...it is necessary to do what God wants us to do. As to what He wants, we certainly know that from the commandments He has given us. Is someone seeking help? Help him. Has someone offended you? Forgive him. Have you offended somebody? Rush to ask forgiveness and make peace. Did somebody praise you? Don't be proud. Did somebody scold you? Do not be angry. Is it time to pray? Pray. Is it time to work? Work. Etc, etc, etc. If after all of this has been explained, you set about to act in this way in every instance, so that your works will be pleasing to God, having carried them out according to the commandments without any deviation, then all the problems of your life will be solved completely and satisfactorily.

Saint Theophan the Recluse

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On Prayer for Enemies

The soul cannot know peace unless she prays for her enemies. The soul that has learned of God's grace to pray, feels love and compassion for every created thing, and in particular for mankind, for whom the Lord suffered on the Cross, and His soul was heavy for every one of us.

The Lord taught me to love my enemies. Without the grace of God we cannot love our enemies. Only the Holy Spirit teaches love, and then even devils arouse our pity because they have fallen from good, and lost humility in God.

I beseech you, put this to the test. When a man affronts you or brings dishonor on your head, or takes what is yours, or persecutes the Church, pray to the Lord, saying: "O Lord, we are all Thy creatures. Have pity on Thy servants and turn their

hearts to repentance," and you will be aware of grace in your soul. To begin with, constrain your heart to love enemies, and the Lord, seeing your good will, will help you in all things, and experience itself will show you the way. But the man who thinks with malice of his enemies has not God's love within him, and does not know God.

If you will pray for your enemies, peace will come to you; but when you can love your enemies - know that a great measure of the grace of God dwells in you, though I do not say perfect grace as yet, but sufficient for salvation. Whereas if you revile your enemies, it means there is an evil spirit living in you and bringing evil thoughts into your heart, for, in the words of the Lord, out of the heart proceed evil thoughts - or good thoughts. The good man thinks to himself in this wise: Everyone who has strayed from the truth brings destruction on himself and is therefore to be pitied. But, of course, the man who has not learned the love of the Holy Spirit will not pray for his enemies. The man who has learned love from the Holy Spirit sorrows all his life over those who are not saved, and sheds abundant tears for the people, and the grace of God gives him strength to love his enemies.

Understand me. It is so simple. People who do not know God, or who go against Him, are to be pitied; the heart sorrows for them and the eye weeps. Both paradise and torment are clearly visible to us: We know this through the Holy Spirit. And did not the Lord Himself say, "The kingdom of God is within you"? Thus eternal life has its beginning here in this life; and it is here also that we sow the seeds of eternal torment. Where there is pride there cannot be grace, and if we lose grace we also lose both love of God and assurance in prayer. The soul is then tormented by evil thoughts and does not understand that she must humble herself and love her enemies, for there is no other way to please God.

St. Silouan the Athonite (1866-1938)