

Parish Prayer List (Living)

(Parish)

Evangelos	Carolyn	Robert	Sharon
John	Maria	Anamay	Ron
Lawrence	Dianna	Efthalia	Denny
Anthony	Pauline	Nadja	Jerry
Beverly	David	Michael	Anastasia
Nina	Walter	Nathan	Mary
Joseph	Duncan	Thecla	Michael
Reader Mark	Jason	Travis	Susan Mary
Michael	Emily	Clint	George
Magdalini	Connie	Emil	Sophia
Barbara	Yevgeniya	Roman	Ilija
Olga	Marina	John	Jonah

(non-Parish)

Alexandra	Rachael	Jessilyn	Amanda
Christopher	Fr. Michael	Paige	Sean
James	Nicholas B.	Karin	Meg
Tetiana	Helen	Susan K	Michael C.
Anna	Brian	Kathy Tanner	Salvatore
Josephine	Travis, Jr.	Alma	Constance K.
Peter	Maria	Michael	Timothy
Petrese	Genevieve	Fr. Dan Mahler	Constance G.
Tony	Donna	Seraphim	Evdokia
Jeff	Andrea	Subdcn. Gregory	Juan
Jennifer Mary	Mary	Billy Ray	

Parish Prayer List (Fallen Asleep)

Michael Urban (+6/21)
Shawn Visconti (+7/21)

Robert Beall (+6/24)
Mary Grace Beall (+9/2)

Thoughts from the Fathers

Everyone is free to choose his own short prayers. Read the Psalms. There you can find in every Psalm inspiring appeals to God. Choose from them those which are most closely related to your state and most appeal to you. Learn them by heart and repeat now one, now another, now a third. Intersperse your recital of prayers with these, and let them be on your tongue at all times, whatever you may be doing, from one set time of prayer to another. You may also formulate your own prayers, should they better express your need....

Unseen Warfare, "Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain and Theophan the Recluse

In the countries of western Europe, the presence of the Orthodox Church has a missionary dimension. The Orthodox Church does not engage in proselytism to the detriment of other Christian confessions and has no strategy for the mass conversion of western Christians to Orthodoxy. The mission of Orthodoxy is not to convert others, but first and foremost to bear witness to God, the truth, and the tradition of the ancient undivided Church, which is preserved in Orthodoxy in all its fullness. While attending Orthodox services, many non-Orthodox Christians have been struck by their beauty, grandeur, depth and length. The external appearance and interior of Orthodox churches fulfil a mission of testifying to the heavenly realm: the crosses and golden cupolas, icons, and frescoes all remind today's people of the west of the spiritual dimension that has been forgotten by many.

Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev

Be watchful at all times because of the ungodly demons that surround us, always plotting to disgrace us and craftily watching for our heel (cf Gn 3:15)... The enemy attacks us with fierce and terrible temptations when he perceives that our soul aspires to scale the great heights of virtue.... The hater of mankind tries us with such malice that we despair even our life.

Saint Theognostos

There are people - great men, even - who do not seek counsel of the Lord when they are perplexed; whereas one should say in so many words, 'Lord I am a sinful man, and have no right understanding, but Thou, O Merciful One, do Thou shew me what to do.' And the merciful Lord Who does not want us to be troubled in soul because of the enemy makes known to us what to do and what not to do.

Saint Silouan of Athos

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An Account of the Annual Miracle on Mount Tabor on August 6th

by Archbishop Seraphim of Ottawa and Canada (OCA)

Some of you will remember Archbishop Nikolai of the Patriarchal Jurisdiction who was bishop in this area a long time ago. When I was visiting him one time, he told me how it was when he was an archimandrite in the Middle East a very long time ago. In those days, he always had to go to Mount Tabor to serve the Liturgy on this feast-day [Feast of the Holy Transfiguration (Aug. 6/19)].

Always on the feast of the Transfiguration (and I didn't realize it, but I learned this year that it happens on both Old and New calendars), at night-time, at the time of the vigil (which would have been last night for us), there are clouds already gathering around the top of Mount Tabor. (At this time of year in Palestine there are no clouds at all – just sun, sun, sun.) The people go into the church on the top of Mount Tabor, and they are praying in the middle of the night. During this time, this cloud, which is not exactly like ordinary clouds (they say it has a different quality of some sort), comes down on top of the mountain. Archbishop Nikolai says that instead of bringing all their fruit into the church, the people leave it outside. The cloud comes down, and when they come out of the church in the early morning, everything is all wet. The people understand that God, Himself, has blessed their fruit. This happens every year.

I heard from someone who just came back from there (who was there on August 6th on the New Calendar) and it happened then, too. It is happening on both feasts. The Lord doesn't care too much about the calendar; He cares about us, and reassuring us with His love. He does things like this. It is the same with the Holy Fire in Jerusalem at Pascha that comes every year. He does these things in order to reassure us, to encourage us, to give us strength, and determination to carry on, knowing that He is with us.

God Guides the Humble

No one, not even the Lord Himself, can easily instruct the proud. No one wants to give instructions to him who cries out that he knows everything. "For great is the power of God; by the humble, He is glorified" says the wise Sirach (Ecclesiasticus - Sirach 3:19), David also speaks about God saying, "He guides the humble to justice, He teaches the humble His way" (Psalm 25:9).

The proud person is he who wants to teach everyone and he himself does not want to be taught anything by anyone. The humble is he who does not wish to teach anyone but continually desires to be taught regardless by whom. An empty spike [ear] of grain raises its head above the entire field and the full spike [ear] of grain hangs down with bowed head.

O proud man, if only your Guardian Angel would somehow remove the veil from your eyes and show you the endless open sea of all that you do not know, you would kneel before every man before whom you have exhibited pride and kneel before every man whom you have belittled. You would cry out lamenting, "Forgive me, forgive me! I do not know anything!"

Often times, to the humble and pious the time when they are about to die is revealed, but the death of the proud comes unexpectedly and without warning. St. Gregory Dialogues speaks of a bishop, Carpus, who daily celebrated the Divine Liturgy and how suddenly someone appeared from the other world and said, "Continue to do what you are doing in serving me and may your legs never grow tired or your hands weakened. On the feast day of the Dormition of the Mother of God [August 15], you will come to Me and I will give you your reward in My Heavenly Kingdom, together with all of those for whom you have prayed at the Divine Services." After a year, on the feast of the Dormition, Bishop Carpus celebrated the Divine Liturgy of God, sought forgiveness from his priests, and gave up his soul to God. His face glowed like the sun.