

### ***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	Evangelos
Sharon & Bob	Kathy Tanner	Anthony	Pauline
Olga	Marina	Salvatore	Josephine
Nicholas (Nadja's brother)	Nina	Alma	Jason
Tatiana	Clint	Nadja	Travis
Randy	John	Chris	

### ***Parish Prayer List (Fallen Asleep)***

Andrew Kesselak (+7/14)                      Protodeacon John Youhas (+7/20)  
Shawn Visconti (+7/21)                      Andrew Zatorsky (+8/8)  
Mary Grace Beall )( +9/2)

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### ***Thoughts from the Fathers***

A true Christian is made by faith and love toward Christ. Our sins do not in the least hinder our Christianity, according to the word of the Savior Himself. He deigned to say: not the righteous have I come to call, but sinners to salvation; there is more joy in heaven over one who repents than over ninety righteous ones. Likewise concerning the sinful woman who touched His feet, He deigned to say to the Pharisee Simon: to one who has love, a great debt is forgiven, but from one who has no love, even a small debt will be demanded. From these judgments a Christian should bring himself to hope and joy, and not in the least accept an inflicted despair. Here one needs the shield of faith.

Sin, to one who loves God, is nothing other than an arrow from the enemy in battle. The true Christian is a warrior fighting his way through the regiments of the unseen enemy to his heavenly homeland. According to the word of the Apostles, our homeland is in heaven; and about the warrior he says: "our warfare is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities

and powers of wickedness under heaven” (Ephesians 6:12).  
*St Herman of Alaska, Apostle to America*

Although your debt to God is very great, there is no evidence of Him exacting any payment from you, whereas in return for the small ways in which you do manifest good intentions, He rewards you abundantly. Do not speak of God as ‘just,’ for His justice is not in evidence in His actions towards you.

*Saint Isaac the Syrian*

Father Ambrose [of Optina] also spoke of humility: ‘One visitor came to the Superior, Father Archimandrite Moses, but, not finding him at home, went to his natural brother, Father Abbot Anthony. During the conversation the guest asked the Father Abbot: “Tell me Batiushka, what is your rule?” Father Anthony answered: “I have had many rules - I lived in the desert and in monasteries, and there were different rules. But now I have only the rule of the publican: ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’”’

‘A man only has to humble himself,’ said the Elder, ‘and that humility immediately sets him at the doorway of the Kingdom of Heaven... Discernment,’ said the elder, ‘cannot be achieved without love, and humility, and humility and love cannot be achieved without obedience.’

*Father Sergius Chetverikov*

We have received the following account concerning the pagan indiction. When Augustus, the Roman Caesar, defeated Anthony and Cleopatra, the rulers of Egypt, and became the sole master of the entire world, he established the indiction, a cycle of fifteen years, in order that tribute might be more conveniently collected from the nations.... Let us celebrate, not the indiction enacted by the Roman emperors, but that which has been ordained for us by Christ the heavenly King of Glory. The tribute due to Christ from us on the occasion of the indiction is the keeping and the fulfillment of His holy commandments, for Christ our King does not ask of us iron and brass. Neither does He exact silver nor demand gold, as David has made clear, saying to Him, “Thou art my Lord; for of my

goods, no need hast Thou” (Ps. 15:2).

*Saint Demetrius of Rostov, “A Homily on the Beginning of the Indiction”*

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## **Patriarchal Encyclical for the Indiction and the Day for the Protection of our Natural Environment -September 1, 2012**

\*+ BARTHOLOMEW\*

By the Mercy of God, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome  
And Ecumenical Patriarch

Beloved brothers and children in the Lord,

Our God, who created the universe and formed the earth as a perfect dwelling place for humanity, granted us the commandment and possibility to increase, multiply and fulfill creation, with dominion over all animals and plants.

The world that surrounds us was thus offered to us as a gift by our Creator as an arena of social activity but also of spiritual sanctification in order that we might inherit the creation to be renewed in the future age. Such has always been the theological position of the Holy Great Church of Christ, which is the reason why we have pioneered an ecological effort on behalf of the sacred Ecumenical Throne for the protection of our planet, which has long suffered from us both knowingly and unknowingly.

Of course, *\*biodiversity\** is the work of divine wisdom and was not granted to humanity for its unruly control. By the same token, *\*dominion\** over the earth and its environs implies rational use and enjoyment of its benefits, and not destructive acquisition of its resources out of a sense of greed. Nevertheless, especially in our times, we observe an excessive abuse of natural resources, resulting in the destruction of the environmental balance of the planet's ecosystems and generally of ecological conditions, so that the divinely-ordained regulations of human existence on earth are increasingly transgressed. For instance, all of us -- scientists, as well as religious and political leaders, indeed all people -- are witnessing a rise in the atmosphere's temperature, extreme weather conditions, the pollution of ecosystems both on land and in the sea, and an

overall disturbance -- sometimes to the point of utter destruction -- of the potential for life in some regions of the world.

Inasmuch as the Mother Church perceives and evaluates the ensuing dangers of such ecological conditions for humanity, already from the time of our blessed predecessor, Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios, established September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year as a day of prayer for the natural environment. Yet, we are obliged to admit that the causes of the aforementioned ecological changes are not inspired by God but initiated by humans. Thus, the invocation and supplication of the Church and us all to God as the Lord of lords and Ruler of all for the restoration of creation are essentially a petition of \*repentance\* for our \*sinfulness\* in destroying the world instead of working to preserve and sustain its ever-flourishing resources reasonably and carefully.

When we pray to and entreat God for the preservation of the natural environment, we are ultimately imploring God to change with mindset of the powerful in the world, enlightening them not to destroy the planet's ecosystem for reasons of financial profit and ephemeral interest. This in turn, however, also concerns each one of us inasmuch as we all generate small ecological damage in our individual capacity and ignorance. Therefore, in praying for the natural environment, we are praying for personal repentance for our contribution -- smaller or greater -- to the disfigurement and destruction of creation, which we collectively experience regionally and occasionally through the immense phenomena of our time.

In addressing this appeal, petition and exhortation from the sacred Center of Orthodoxy to all people throughout the world, we pray that our gracious Lord, who granted this earthly paradise to all people dwelling on our planet, will speak to the hearts of everyone so that we may respect the ecological balance that He offered in His wisdom and goodness, so that both we and future generations will enjoy His gifts with thanksgiving and glorification.

May this divine wisdom, peace and power, which created and sustains and guides all creation in its hope for salvation in the kingdom, always maintain the beauty of the world and the welfare of humanity, leading all people of good will to produce fruitful works toward this purpose. And we invoke His grace and mercy on all of you, particularly those who respect and protect creation. Amen.