

### ***Parish Prayer List (Living)***

Alexandra	Rachael	Paige	Reader Mark
Andrea	Amanda	Sherry	Joretta
Fr. Michael	Barry	Sean	Tina
James	Nicholas B.	Karin	Andrea & Kirby
Lawrence	Emil	Seraphim	Evdokia
Michael	Helen	Susan K	Bob Wedder
Anna	Erin and baby	Carolyn	Dcn. William
Fr. George	Kathy Tanner	Anthony	Pauline

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

Evangelos Georgopoulos (+8/8)    Mark Kesselak (+9/2)  
Christopher Danko (+8/21)    Mary Grace Beall (+9/4)

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### ***Coffee Hour Schedule***

September 4 – Paula Visconti    September 11 – open  
September 18 – Sharon Piljay    September 25 – open  
October 2 – open    October 9 – open

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### ***Schedule of Epistle Readers***

September 4 – Billy Scrantom    September 11 – Misha S.  
September 18 – Bob Piljay    September 25 – Van Crikis  
October 2 – Jeff Robel    October 9 – Billy Scrantom

Please let me know if you would like to added to the list of Epistle readers, or if you will not be available on the day when you are scheduled.

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### ***Words from the Fathers***

Do not think that those who bring you reports which fill you with resentment and make you hate your brother are affectionately disposed toward you, even if they seem to speak the truth. On the contrary, turn away from them as if they were poisonous snakes, so that you may both prevent them from uttering slanders and deliver your own soul from wickedness.  
*Saint Maximos the Confessor*

Whoever goes in the fear of God is not afraid when surrounded by evil men, for he has the fear of God within him and wears the invincible armor of faith. This gives him strength to do all things, even those that seem to most people difficult or impossible. Like a giant among monkeys, or a roaring lion among dogs and foxes, he is resolute in the Lord, unnerving his enemies with the constancy of his purpose, and filling their minds with terror; for he wields God's wisdom like a rod of iron (cf. Ps. 2:9).

*Saint Symeon the New Theologian*

"The heart can change several times in one moment - to good or evil, to faith or unbelief, to simplicity or cunning, to love or hatred, to benevolence or envy, to generosity or avarice, to chastity or fornication. O, what inconstancy! O, how many dangers! |O, how sober and watchful we must be!"

*St. John of Kronstadt*

When Amoun was living as a solitary in Nitria, a child suffering from rabies was brought to him, bound with a chain. For a rabid dog had bitten him and given him the disease. His suffering was so unbearable that his whole body was convulsed by it. When Amoun saw the child's parents coming to entreat him, he said, "Why are you troubling me, my friends, seeking something which is beyond my merits, when the remedy lies in your own hands? Give back to the widow the ox which you have killed surreptitiously, and your child will be restored to you in good health." Their crime having thus been exposed, they happily did what they had been told; and when the father prayed, the child instantly recovered.

*Historia Monachorum in Aegypto*

## **On the Cumulative Effect of 'Little' Sins**

"When I used to go to Fr. Tychon for Confession, I wouldn't have anything serious to confess; and he would advise me, '*There is sand, my son, there is sand!*' The little sins accumulate and add up to make a sand dune that is heavier than

any single big stone. Someone who commits one big sin thinks of it all the time, repents and is humbled. You have a myriad of small sins. But if you examine the conditions under which you were raised, and the conditions under which the other person was raised, you will see that you are worse off spiritually than the other person.”

*Elder Paisios the Athonite*

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**The PriestMartyr Babylas and with him the 3 Lads Urban, Prilidian, Eppolonias and their Mother Christodoula** died as martyrs under the emperor Decius (249-251). During a time of his stay at their city of Antioch, the emperor arranged for a large festival in honour of the pagan gods. During this same time the holy and God-fearing bishop of Antioch, Babylas, was serving Divine Liturgy in church; he prayed for his flock and taught it bravely to undergo all the tribulations for the faith in Christ. After his abomination of idol-worship, Decius-- wanting to behold the making of the Divine Mysteries, decided to enter the church and by his visit to defile the Sanctuary of the Lord. News of this reached the bishop, and he, not wanting to permit impiety in the temple of God, went out to meet him and block the path to the church. When the emperor tried to get closer to the church doors, Saint Babylas shoved him away with his hands, such that the emperor had to forego his intent. He wanted to take his revenge on the saint right away, but seeing the large throng of Christians, he feared having them riot.

The next day the angry emperor gave orders to set fire to the Christian temple, and to bring Bishop Babylas before him. To the question about why he should insult the imperial dignity, and not allow the emperor into the church nor render him due respect of position, the holy bishop answered:

"Anyone that would rise up against God and want to desecrate His sanctuary, -- such a one not only is not worthy of respect, but is become the enemy of the Lord".

The emperor demanded, that the holy bishop worship the idols and in such manner redeem his offence against the emperor, or else face execution. But having convinced himself

that the martyr would remain steadfast in his faith, he commanded the military-commander Victorinus to put him in heavy chains and lead him through the city in disgrace. To this the holy martyr replied: "Emperor, for me these chains be as venerable, as for thee is thine imperial crown, and the suffering for Christ for me is as acceptable, as is the imperial power for thee; death for the Immortal King for me is as desirable, as thine life be for thee".

At the trial with Bishop Babylas were three young brothers, who did not forsake him even in this most difficult moment. Seeing them, the emperor asked: "Who are these children?" "These are my spiritual children, -- answered the saint, -- and I have raised them in piety, I have nourished them with an education, cultivated them with guidance, and here in a small body before thee are these great young men and perfect Christians. Test and see".

The emperor tried in all sorts of ways to entice the youths and their mother Christodoula into a renunciation of Christ, but in vain. Then in a rage he gave orders to whip each of them in a number equivalent to their years of age. The first they whipped with 12 blows, the second -- 10, and the third -- 7. Having dismissed the mother and children, the torturer again summoned the bishop, telling him that the children had renounced Christ. But the lie quickly unraveled and brought no success. Then in a rage he commanded all the martyrs be tied on a tree and burnt at with fire. But seeing the stoic bravery of the saints, the emperor finally condemned them to the death of martyrdom by beheading with the sword (+ c. 251).

