

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

*(Parish)*

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

*(non-Parish)*

Alexandra	Rachael	Jessilyn	Amanda
Sherry	Fr. Michael	Barry	Sean
James	Nicholas B.	Karin	Connie
Michael	Helen	Susan K	Bob Wedder
Anna	Brian	Kathy Tanner	Salvatore
Josephine	Nicholas (Nadja's brother)	Alma	Randy
Chris	Nadia	Christopher	Grant

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

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**

The blessed Empress Helen, hoping to find the life-creating Cross of the Lord, which had been hidden by the Jews... demanded that they show her the place where the precious Cross of the Lord was hidden. They then pointed out an old man named Judas.... Questioned for a long time, Judas refused to reveal the location. However, when the Empress had him cast into a deep pit... he promised to speak. He directed them to a place where there was a great mound covered over with dirt and stones. Judas affirmed that the Cross of the Lord was hidden in this place.... Just then, the Lord's Sepulcher and the Place of the Skull were found toward the east, and near them three crosses were uncovered.... All

were uncertain as to which of the crosses was the Cross of the Lord. At that moment a corpse was being carried by to be buried. Patriarch Macarius commanded those who bore the dead body to halt, and he had the crosses placed one after the other on the corpse. When the Cross of Christ was placed on him, the dead man immediately arose, resurrected by the divine power of the Cross of the Lord....Many of those present were unable to see and kiss the holy Cross at that time because of the throng, and they begged that they might at least see it from a distance. Then the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Macarius, standing on an elevated place, lifted up the precious Cross, showing it to all the people....And this was the origin of the feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross.

*“A Homily on the Elevation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross of the Lord,” The Great Collection of the Lives of the Saints, Vol. 1, September, Saint Demetrius of Rostov*

...you speak openly of your weaknesses and sins - laziness and disobedience. If you've begun to notice these in yourself, it means you're becoming attentive to yourself, and this is a great mercy from God. You feel that you won't be saved - and that's an important thought to have! It's bad 'not' to have it, for without it you can fall into self-esteem and false pride, and so perish in spite of your good deeds. On the other hand, it's also bad to indulge in this thought too much, because you can fall into despair. Pray. Pray. Pray. That's all I can tell you in this regard, and the Lord will make you understand. Fight your laziness at least. Don't give in to it....Your whole struggle consists in fighting your passions. Fight!

*From a letter of Bishop Innocent, in 1854 to his daughter Paraskovia (Polyxenia in Monasticism)*

Humility is not one of the virtues, but is the entire Christian worldview, the beginning of the New Testament Christian life, and that very life itself. That is why Saint Macarius of Egypt, in his wonderful works, says that humility is the sign of Christianity or, what amounts to the same thing, the criterion according to which it is possible to determine whether we are

Christians or pagans, whether grace in us or not, whether we are with God or without God, whether we are happy or unhappy.

*Archbishop Seraphim (Sololev) of Sophia, Bulgaria*

Hold me worthy, O Lord, to behold your mercy in my soul before I depart from this world; may I be aware in myself at that hour of your comfort, along with those who have gone forth from this world in good hope.

Open my heart, O my God, by your grace and purify me from any association with sin.

Tread out in my heart the path of repentance, my God and my Lord, my hope and my boast, my strong refuge; by whom may my eyes be illumined, and may I have understanding of your truth, O Lord.

Hold my worthy, Lord, to taste the joy of the gift of repentance, by which the soul is separated from cooperating with sin and the will of flesh and blood. Hold my worthy, O Lord, to taste this state, wherein lies the gift of pure prayer.

O my Savior, may I attain to this wondrous transition at which the soul abandons this visible world, and at which new stirrings arise on our entering into the spiritual world and the experience of new perceptions.

*St. Isaac the Syrian, 7th century*

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## **Do Not Leave Prayer Even When the Lord Does Not Answer It For a Long Time**

What does it mean? It means that a prayer with faith has a great power. How can we prove it?

If we pray with faith, then we should not leave the prayer, even if the Lord is slow to answer it. Because how does it usually happen? When one of us is stricken by sorrow or tribulation, we pray to God; but if we soon don't rid of troubles, we leave the prayer and fall into despair.

But should it be like that? No, because listen to what Lord says: not just something, but everything what you ask in prayer with faith, you shall receive. Therefore we should not get confused when God does not give us what we ask for. He knows better when to give it to us; and that fact that He WILL, is undoubtful.

“There was in a city, - He's teaching, - a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man. And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me from my adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself: “Though I fear not God, nor regard man, yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me”. And the Lord said: Hear what the unjust judge saith? And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though He hear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. (Luk.18, 2-8)

These all teaches us to have patience in the prayer, as Apostle teaches us: Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving (Col.4, 2) And in the other place: watch thereunto with all perseverance and supplication (Eph.6, 18). And we also learn, from Apostle James, that we must pray in faith, nothing wavering (Jam.1, 6), meaning with a firm confidence that God hears our prayers, attends to them, accepts them and will not, of course, deprive us, according to His mercy, of His great mercies. Amen.