

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

*(Parish)*

Evangelos	Carolyn	Robert	Sharon
John	Maria	Anamay	Ron
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	Eleftheria	Denny

*(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)**

Mary Grace Beall (+9/2)

Daniela Paunesky (+9/24)

Marguerette Robinson (+9/20)

Barry Stavrou (+9/27)

Lois Lynn (+10/11)

Barton Lynn (+10/22)

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### **Thoughts from the Fathers**

And how is it possible that our good Shepherd, Who for three years went in search of sheep that had gone astray, calling so loudly that His throat became parched, and following ways so hard and thorny that He shed all His blood and give up His life; how is it possible, I repeat, that now, if His sheep follow Him, turn to Him with love and call for His help with hope, He should fail to turn His eyes to the lost sheep, take it into His divine arms and, placing it among the heavenly angels, make a welcoming feast for its sake? If our God never ceases to search diligently and lovingly for the blind and deaf sinner (like the woman for the piece of silver in the Gospels), how is it

possible to suppose that He would abandon him now when like a lost sheep, he cries out calling for his Shepherd?

*Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (ed) and Theophan the Recluse (revision), "On Hope in God Alone"*

**A Prayer attributed to St. Ephrem the Syrian:**

Woe is me, burdened with unprecedented sins!  
The number of my transgressions exceeds the number of grains of sand in the sea and they afflict me like so many iron shackles,  
for I lack the boldness to gaze upon the heights of Heaven.  
To whom shall I run, if not to Thee, O Lover of mankind?  
Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy, and according to the multitude of Thy compassions, blot out mine iniquity.  
To Thee do I run, according to Thy great goodness and Thy charity.  
Thee have I angered, yet to Thee do I run, according to Thy great capacity to forget evil-doing.  
Thee have I offended, yet to Thee do I run, according to Thy great love for mankind, and I entreat and cry to Thee:  
Turn Thy face from my sins and blot out all mine iniquities.  
Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right spirit within me!  
I have nothing to offer Thee,  
neither a good deed, nor a pure heart;  
but hoping in Thy compassion I lay myself down,  
that Thou mightest bring me to contrition and unwavering observance of Thy commandments,  
and that I might not fall so easily into sin again,  
but serve Thee from henceforth in reverence and truth all the days of my life.

Amma Syncletica said: "Imitate the Publican and you will not be condemned with the Pharisee. Choose the meekness of Moses and you will find your heart which is a rock changed into a spring of water."

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## **The Holy Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus. From the Prologue**

These holy and wonderful martyrs and heroes of the Christian faith were at first nobles at the court of the Emperor Maximian. The Emperor himself valued them greatly for their courage, wisdom and zeal, but, when he heard that these great nobles of his were Christians, his love for them turned to fury. And once, when there was a great offering of sacrifices to idols, the Emperor summoned Sergius and Bacchus to offer sacrifice together with him, and they openly refused to obey him in this. Beside himself with anger, the Emperor ordered that their robes, rings and marks of eminence be stripped from them and they be dressed in women's clothing. He then put iron yokes on their necks and led them thus through the streets of Rome, to be mocked by each and all. The Emperor then sent them to Asia, to Antiochus the governor, for torture. Antiochus had achieved his distinguished rank with the help of Sergius and Bacchus, who had at one time recommended him to the Emperor. When Antiochus began to urge them to deny Christ and save themselves from dishonourable suffering and death, the two saints replied: 'Both honour and dishonour, both life and death - all are one to him who seeks the heavenly Kingdom.' Antiochus threw Sergius into prison and ordered that Bacchus be tortured first. The servants took turns in beating holy Bacchus until his whole body was broken into fragments. His holy spirit went forth from his broken and bloodstained body and was borne to the Lord by angels. St Bacchus suffered in the town of Varvallis. Then holy Sergius was led out. Iron shoes studded with nails were put on his feet, and he was driven out into the Syrian town of Resapha, and there beheaded with the sword. His soul went to Paradise where, together with his friend Bacchus, he received the wreath of immortal glory from Christ his King and Lord. These two glorious knights suffered for the Christian faith in about 303.

## **Diocesan Priest Awarded Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal**

TORONTO, ONTARIO-- The Very Rev. Father Roberto Ubertino, the Founder and Executive Director of St. John the Compassionate Mission, was recently awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond

Jubilee Medal for his leadership and dedication in service of the people of the Riverdale community for 26 years.

The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is a new commemorative medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. It was created to provide a tangible way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service to this country.

*“In this special year, as I dedicate myself anew to your service, I hope we will all be reminded of the power of togetherness and the convening strength of family, friendship, and good neighbourliness, examples of which I have been fortunate to see throughout my reign and which my family and I look forward to seeing in many forms as we travel throughout the United Kingdom and the wider Commonwealth.”* Elizabeth II, 2012

At the same time, it serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. During the year of celebrations, 60 000 deserving Canadians have been recognized.

Mr. Peter Tabuns, Member of Provincial Parliament of Ontario for the Toronto-Danforth riding, who nominated Fr. Roberto, presented him with the Diamond Jubilee Medal at a ceremony on Monday, September 24, 2012 at the Legislative Building at Queen's Park.

The Very Reverend Father Roberto Ubertino is a priest of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A. He was born in the Congo and has lived and worked in different parts of the world. He has four children.

St. John the Compassionate Mission began in 1986. It is an oasis of hospitality to all and a place of belonging through awakening the God given dignity and value of each person.

St. John's offers much to the people in the community through the Meal Programs, St. John's Bakery, St. John's Thrift Store, St. John's Academy (after school tutoring program for children), Counseling services, Kids Klub, and other programs.