

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	Jonah	Susan Mary
Michael	Emily	Clint	George
Magdalini	Connie	Emil	Sophia
Barbara	Yevgeniya	Roman	Ilija
Olga	Marina	John	James S.

(non-Parish)

Alexandra	Rachael	Jessilyn	Amanda
Christopher	Fr. Michael	Paige	Sean
James	Nicholas B.	Karin	Meg
Barry Pierce	Rick P.	Susan K	Michael C.
Anna	Brian	Kathy Tanner	Salvatore
Josephine	Billy Ray	Alma	Charles Kahn
Peter	Maria	Michael	Timothy
Petrese	Mary	Astilee	Dan Brown
Tony	Donna	Joe and Jessie	

Parish Prayer List (Fallen Asleep)

Olga Rustick (+9/14)

Lois Lynn (+10/11)

Mary Beach (+10/27)

Alvin Dizon

Thoughts from the Fathers

If only we could invest a moment in the Kingdom of God and realize that the returns are extremely high. So high that in the Kingdom there is no time, no fear, no inhibition, inferiority, insecurity, guilt - none of those things which trouble us in this life. This is the blessing of God's freedom. It is this which we must bring to life within us here on earth, until each one of us will be able to change from being temporal to being eternal, from being only human to being spiritual.

Metropolitan Nikolaos, Investing in the Kingdom of God

Give me ears to hear Thee, eyes to see Thee, taste to partake of Thee, sense of smell to inhale Thee. Give me feet to walk unto Thee; lips to speak of Thee, heart to fear and love Thee. Teach

me Thy ways, O Lord, and I shall walk in Thy truth. For Thou art the way, the truth and the life.

Saint Tikhon of Voronezh

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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Parishioners Find Miracle in Fire at Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Painting, other old church artifacts made of wood survive 4-alarm blaze that gutted house of worship

NBC10.com (This is not the first such story I've seen. I recall several others over the last few years – Fr. James)

Amid a pile of scorched rubble, many of the icons at Saint Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church remained intact after a four alarm fire torched much of the historic building on Sunday.

Parishioners of a Philadelphia Ukrainian Orthodox church say the four-alarm fire that destroyed millions of dollars in furniture and artifacts and left a gaping hole in the center of the historic building also revealed a miracle.

"The fire was blazing, so when we saw the fire, we thought everything burned," Saint Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church treasurer and parishioner Pasha Prasko said. "But now that we can see inside, we looked at it and said it's amazing so many icons are still there."

Although a large portion of the church's roof collapsed and more than 100 firefighters doused the building in water to tame the blaze, several icons remained untouched by the flames at the

historic house of worship in the East Oak Lane section of the city on Sunday.

"It's a holy place, you know, and it's just not damaged the way we thought it would be," Prasko said. "We even talked about it yesterday and said it would be a miracle if her icon would be saved; and here it is, saved. I think it's a miracle."

According to local historian Marita Krivda Poxon, in the Ukrainian Orthodox community, Saint Mary the Protectress is recognized as the protector of all Ukrainian people. A large painting of the Protectress and several other artifacts could be seen from the front door of the burned building in what appeared to be good condition.

"The church has a large icon, and in the center of it is the Saint Mary the Protectress herself. Apparently she was the saint in the Ukraine that protected the people of the country of the Ukraine," Poxon said.

"I think it's a miracle that a few of the icons survived because they are mostly made of wood. I could only say that for believers they'll believe that it miraculously survived the fire; I mean the church burned, but her icon survived, and the congregation will survive. That's what it means to me."

Philadelphia Firefighter Arthur Davis said he's never seen anything like it before.

"Not one of those pictures caught on fire; not the ones on the wall, not the ones on the stage, not one of them was damaged," Davis said.

"What happened was it started on the roof, the fire. But it's still amazing that with the collapse and all, this stuff is not burned. They could take it right off the wall; a lot of the pictures are still on the wall, the glass isn't broken or nothing. When it comes to fires, I've seen it all, but I've never seen nothing like this before."

At one point, 125 firefighters and 33 engines were on the scene trying to get the fire under control. The cause of the fire has not yet been identified, but officials believe it was electrical.

Father Taras Naumenko, pastor of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral on 5th and Independence Street, says his parish will be supporting St. Mary's members while its leaders work to determine a plan forward.

"Their congregation will be holding their services at my parish until they figure out their future," Naumenko said.

When asked what he thinks the future could hold for St. Mary's, he said, "I think it's too soon to even think about what their future will be."

John Prasko is chair of the parish board. He says the church is considering starting a fund to raise money, but says he's still unsure of any exact plans for rebuilding.

"Tomorrow we will have a meeting with the board to see what we will do," he said. "At that time we will have to make several decisions about moving and rebuilding, but I don't know exactly what they'll be yet."

Poxon says any attempt to rebuild would be difficult because of the historic elements of the church.

"The interior could never be rebuilt the way it was," Poxon said. "My hope is that they don't tear it down, that they don't bulldoze it and somehow portions of it can be salvaged and rebuilt because it's a beautiful building. There are just so few stone masons that could even do the work to rebuild here."

Firefighters were still on the scene this afternoon removing large debris from the premises. Davis says church leaders should be allowed to enter the building to retrieve artifacts and mementos sometime this evening.