

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

Alexandra	Rachael	Paige	Reader Mark
Andrea	Amanda	Sherry	Joretta
Fr. Michael	Barry	Sean	Susan Mary
James	Nicholas B.	Karin	Andrea & Kirby
Lawrence	Emil	Seraphim	Evdokia
Michael	Helen	Susan K	Bob Wedder
Anna	Brian	Carolyn	Monk Nicholas
Pani Magdaline	Kathy Tanner	Anthony	Pauline
Olga	Marina	Salvatore	Josephine

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

Nicholas Georgeopoulos (+11/3)    Mildred Zelko (+10/31)  
Mary Beach (+10/27)    Betty Pilja (+12/6)  
Mary Louise Blomeley (+12/10)    Josephine Urban (+12/15)

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## ***Coffee Hour Schedule***

November 20 – Visconti    November 27 – open

December 4 – potluck    December 11– open

December 18-- open    December 25 -- open

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

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***

A man's heart can never be empty. It is always filled with something: either with hell, the world, or God. A heart's contents are intrinsically linked with its purity. There was a time when the heart of man was filled only with God - a mirror of the beauty of God, a harp for the praise of God. There was a time when it was, in truth, in the hand of God, preserved from danger; but when man, in his madness, took things into his own hands, many wild beasts attacked the heart of man; and from there has, inwardly, come the bondage of the heart of man and, outwardly, that which is seen as the history of the world.

*Saint Nikolai of Zhicha, "Homily on the Annunciation"*

Just as bees know how to extract honey from flowers, but do not visit all the flowers without discrimination, so we should take from secular books whatever befits us and is allied to the Truth, and pass over the rest. Just as in picking roses we avoid the thorns, from such writings as these we will gather everything useful, and guard against the noxious. Let us examine each teaching to harmonize it with our ultimate purpose.

*St. Basil the Great*

"Remember, O my soul, the terrible and frightful wonder: that your Creator for your sake became Man, and deigned to suffer for the sake of your salvation. His angels tremble, the Cherubim are terrified, the Seraphim are in fear, and all the heavenly powers ceaselessly give praise; and you, unfortunate soul, remain in laziness. At least from this time forth arise and do not put off, my beloved soul, holy repentance, contrition of heart and penance for your sins."

*St. Paisius Velichkovsky, commemorated 15 November*

A certain man, dressed in a long white shirt, used to come to Optina [Monastery] like a pilgrim and would stay for a while. He would make predictions and would talk very loudly. He was known as Fool-for-Christ Gregory, and many people took him for a grace-filled, clairvoyant Elder. Some doubted, however, because he used foul language. Then people asked Elder Nektary what attitude they should have toward him, to which the Elder said, 'Can the grace of God abide in a man who uses foul language?'

*I. M. Kontzevitch, Elder Nektary of Optina,*

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**"And the priest received her [the Theotokos], and kissed her, and blessed her, saying, "The Lord has magnified your name in all generations. In you, on the last days, the Lord will manifest His redemption to the children of Israel". And he sat her on the third step of the altar, and the Lord God sent grace upon her; and she danced**

**with her feet, and all the house of Israel loved her."**

*(The Protoevangelium of James, Section 17)*

By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

When the Most-Holy Virgin Mary reached the age of three, her holy parents Joachim and Anna took her from Nazareth to Jerusalem to dedicate her to the service of God according to their earlier promise. It was a three-day journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem but, traveling to do a God-pleasing work, this journey was not difficult for them.

Many kinsmen of Joachim and Anna gathered in Jerusalem to take part in this event, at which the invisible angels of God were also present. Leading the procession into the Temple were virgins with lighted tapers in their hands, then the Most-Holy Virgin, led on one side by her father and on the other side by her mother. The virgin was clad in vesture of royal magnificence and adornments as was befitting the "King's daughter, the Bride of God" (Psalm 45:13-15). Following them were many kinsmen and friends, all with lighted tapers.

Fifteen steps led up to the Temple. Joachim and Anna lifted the Virgin onto the first step, then she ran quickly to the top herself, where she was met by the High Priest Zacharias, who was to be the father of St. John the Forerunner. Taking her by the hand, he led her not only into the Temple, but into the "Holy of Holies", the holiest of holy places, into which no one but the high priest ever entered, and only once each year, at that. St. Theophylact of Ochrid says that Zacharias "was outside himself and possessed by God" when he led the Virgin into the holiest place in the Temple, beyond the second curtain - otherwise, his action could not be explained.

Mary's parents then offered sacrifice to God according to the Law, received the priest's blessing and returned home. The Most-holy Virgin remained in the Temple and dwelt there for nine full years. While her parents were alive, they visited her often, especially Righteous Anna.

When God called her parents from this world, the Most-holy Virgin was left an orphan and did not wish to leave the Temple until death or to enter into marriage. As that would have been against the Law and custom of Israel, she was given to St. Joseph, her kinsman in Nazareth, after reaching the age of twelve. Under the acceptable role of one betrothed, she could live in virginity and thus fulfill her desire and formally satisfy the Law, for it was then unknown in Israel for maidens to vow virginity to the end of their lives. The Most-holy Virgin Mary was the first of such life-vowed virgins, of the thousands and thousands of virgin men and women who would follow her in the Church of Christ.

### **Tropar in the Fourth Tone**

Today is the prelude of God's pleasure and the proclamation of man's salvation. The Virgin is clearly made manifest in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also cry out to her with mighty voice, "Hail, fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

### **Kontakion in the Fourth Tone**

Today, the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of God, enters the house of the Lord, bringing the grace of the Divine Spirit. The Angels of God praise her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

