

SOBORNOST

St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church

(301) 638-5035 Church

4419 Leonardtown Road

Waldorf, MD 20601

Rev. Father Joseph Edgington, Pastor

(703) 532-8017

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www.apostlethomas.org

American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

*ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
OF CONSTANTINOPLE*

SERVICES

Wed: Moleben to the Theotokos 6:00 AM

Friday: Moleben to the Cross 6:00 AM

Saturday: Confession 5:00 PM

Great Vespers 5:30 PM

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) 8:45 AM

Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.

October 29, 2017 – 21st Sunday After Pentecost

Martyr Anastasia the Roman

The Martyr Anastasia the Roman lost her parents in infancy, and was then taken to be reared by the abbess of a women's monastery, named Sophia. She raised Anastasia in fervent faith, in the fear of God and obedience.

The persecution against Christians by the emperor Decius (249-251) began at that time. The city administrator, Probus, on the orders of the emperor commanded that Anastasia be brought to him. Blessed by her abbess to suffer for Christ, the young martyr Anastasia humbly came out to meet the armed soldiers. Seeing her youth and beauty, Probus first attempted flattery to make her deny Christ. "Why waste your youth, deprived of pleasure? What is there to gain by enduring tortures and death for the Crucified? Worship our gods, marry a handsome husband, and live in glory and honor."

The saint steadfastly replied, "My spouse, my riches, my life and my happiness are my Lord Jesus Christ, and you will not turn me away from Him by your deceit!"

Probus subjected Anastasia to fierce tortures. The holy martyr bravely endured them, glorifying and praising the Lord. In anger the torturers cut out her tongue.



The people, seeing the inhuman and disgusting treatment of the saint, became indignant, and the ruler was compelled to end the tortures by beheading the martyr. In this manner, Saint Anastasia received the crown of martyrdom.

The body of the saint was thrown out beyond the city to be eaten by wild animals, but the Lord did not permit her holy relics to be dishonored. At the command of a holy angel, Abbess Sophia went to find Saint Anastasia's mutilated body. With the help of two Christians, she buried it in the earth. (*from oca.org*)

Today's Epistle Lesson – St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin?" Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Today's Gospel Lesson – Saint Luke 8:26-39

At that time, they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed *them* saw what had happened, they fled and told *it* in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the

demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen *it* told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.” And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

~ Ethnic Food Festival & Bazaar ~

Featuring Russian & other Eastern European Specialties

St. Mark Orthodox Church

7124 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

(301) 229-6300 <http://stmarkoca.org>

Friday, Nov. 3 – 11:00 am to 7:00 pm | Saturday, Nov. 4 – 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Sunday, Nov. 5 – 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Featuring these Eastern European Favorites:

Piroghi	Chicken Kiev	Kielbasa	Kapusta	Piroshki	Pirog
Borscht	Beef Stroganoff	Halupki	Halushki	Spanakopita	Blini
Cabbage Soup	Poppy Seed Roll	Nut Roll	Baklava	Russian Torte	

Also featuring: home-baked breads & pastries; desserts; beverages; candy; Lipsense lipstick; Artel Collection Faberge-style jewelry; Mostly Dream recycled glass jewelry; hair accessories; shawls, hats & scarves; religious books, gifts & icons; Lucky Draw & Grand Raffle; and church tours to see our beautiful Byzantine icons and windows.

Eat in or visit our carry-out area at the rear of the church (during peak hours). **10% discount** on hot foods for seniors 65+ years of age; also military & first responders in uniform or with ID badge.

Directions:

From beltway: Take Exit 39 (River Road) from the Beltway in Maryland toward Washington. Go approx. ¼ mile & turn right at the light onto Nevis Road. Make an immediate right onto the access road that parallels River Road and follow it 100 yards to St. Mark Orthodox Church on the left.

From Metro: Take Metro to the Friendship Heights station and catch the T2 bus down River Road toward the Beltway. Get off the bus at Nevis Road and walk across River Road at the traffic light. Turn right and walk 100 yards up the access road to St. Mark Orthodox Church on the left.



*St. Mark Chapter of the
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in
America*

Colonial District Religious Education Day



**An Orthodox View
of Islam**



Presented by
Fr. Thomas Soroka
Rector of
St Nicholas Orthodox
Church (OCA)
In McKees Rocks, PA



Fr. Thomas is the host of two popular podcasts on Ancient Faith Radio, *The Path* and *Sermons at St. Nicholas* and speaks regularly at churches and on local radio.

Please join us

Saturday November 18, 2017

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Lunch at 12:00

Presentation following lunch at 1:00

Vespers at 5:30 p.m.

\$10.00 includes Lunch

**R.S.V.P - Contact *Marcella Hydock* to register
vze5847i@verizon.net**

St. Mark Orthodox Church

7124 River Rd.

Bethesda, MD 20187

(301) 229-6300 <https://stmarkoca.org>

A Word From the Holy Fathers

It is impious to say that evil has its origin from God; because the contrary cannot proceed from its contrary. Life does not engender death; darkness is not the origin of light; sickness is not the maker of health. In the changes of conditions there are transitions from one condition to the contrary; but in genesis each being proceeds from its like, and not from its contrary. If then evil is neither uncreated nor created by God, from whence comes its nature? Certainly, no one living in the world will deny that evil exists. What shall we say then? Evil is not a living animated essence; it is the condition of the soul opposed to virtue, developed in the careless on account of their falling away from good.

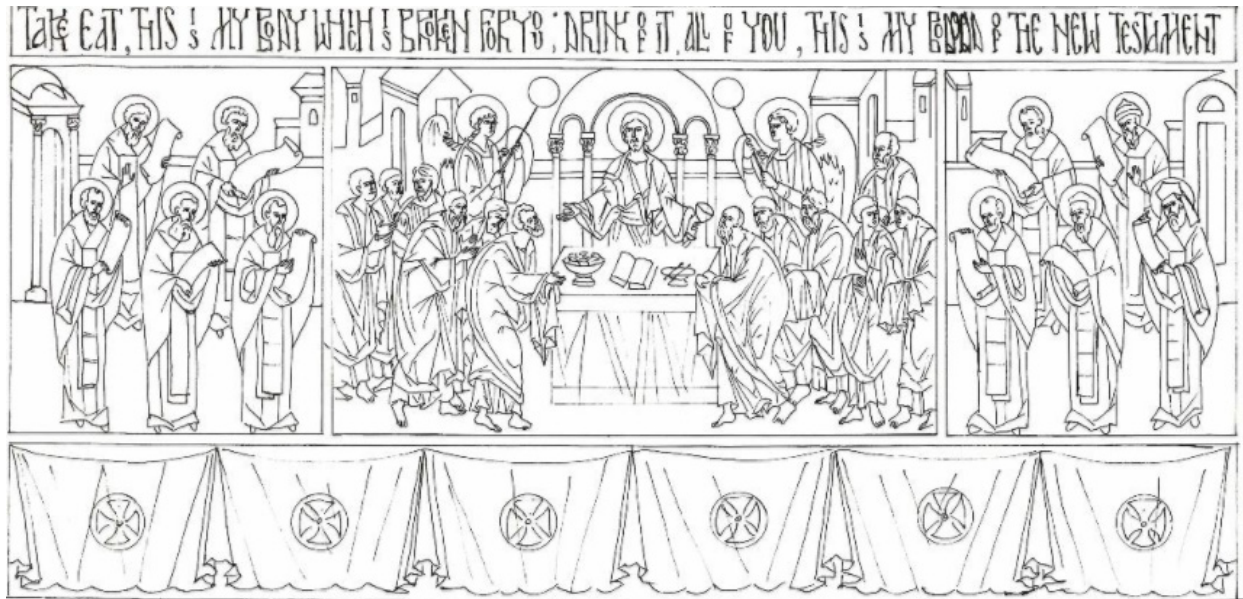
Do not then go beyond yourself to seek for evil, and imagine that there is an original nature of wickedness. Each of us, let us acknowledge it, is the first author of his own vice. Among the ordinary events of life, some come naturally, like old age and sickness, others by chance like unforeseen occurrences, of which the origin is beyond ourselves, often sad, sometimes fortunate, as for instance the discovery of a treasure when digging a well, or the meeting of a mad dog when going to the market place. Others depend upon ourselves, such as ruling one's passions, or not putting a bridle on one's pleasures, to be master of our anger, or to raise the hand against him who irritates us, to tell the truth, or to lie, to have a sweet and well-regulated disposition, or to be fierce and swollen and exalted with pride. Here you are the master of your actions. Do not look for the guiding cause beyond yourself, but recognize that evil, rightly so called, has no other origin than our voluntary falls. If it were involuntary, and did not depend upon ourselves, the laws would not have so much terror for the guilty, and the tribunals would not be so without pity when they condemn wretches according to the measure of their crimes....

May the Father of the true light, Who has adorned day with celestial light, Who has made the fire to shine which illuminates us during the night, Who reserves for us in the peace of a future age a spiritual and everlasting light, enlighten your hearts in the knowledge of truth, keep you from stumbling, and grant that "you may walk honestly as in the day." Thus shall you shine as the sun in the midst of the glory of the saints, and I shall glory in you in the day of Christ, to Whom belong all glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

– St. Basil the Great, *Homily II.4,5,8 On the Hexaemeron (Six Days of Creation)*

A Prayer of St. Ambrose of Milan

Light that You are, illumine our senses, and shake sleep from our minds; may our first words be of You, and may Your praise open our mouths.



Beauty Will Save the World (Dostoyevsky, The Idiot)

We are moving forward with the next phase of iconography at St. Thomas, which will complete work in the Narthex (the entry of the church) and in the Holy Place (the curved wall in the altar area). Icons of two Seraphim on the ends of the curved walls will cost \$1,700 each. Icons of the ten Bishops flanking the icon of the Heavenly Banquet in front of the altar (either side of the Banquet already in the Holy Place) will cost \$2,000 each. We will also be moving Gorazd of Prague, a Bishop whose icon currently hangs in the Nave, into the Holy Place with an icon of John of Damascus being put in his place, which can be sponsored for \$600. Four new icons will be completed in the nave, for \$750 each. The writing above the icons, as well as the "tablecloth" below will be completed, and costs have been combined with the sponsorship of the Bishops.

The icons will be installed in 2018. The last time we offered this opportunity to glorify God in His church, the response was tremendous. We are ready to collect funds to complete the project, so if you are interested in participating, please contact Josh Moore by phone at (541) 601-8413 or at jgmoore01@gmail.com.

Please see the Church website for up-to-date sponsorship information and pictures of the icon work to be completed. Any donation of \$500 or more is eligible for a memorial plaque in the social hall. Currently we have: Pledged Funds: \$4,600 | Remaining Needed: \$21,800.

The Bishops to be placed in the Holy Place are currently planned to be (\$2,000 to sponsor one): Basil the Great, Gregory the Great, John Chrysostom, Cyprian of Carthage, Athanasius the Great, Cyril of Alexandria, Leo the Great, Polycarp, Ignatius of Antioch (sponsored), and Peter Moghila.

2 Seraphim in the Holy Place (\$1,700 to sponsor; 1 sponsored).

John of Damascus in the nave (\$600 to sponsor)

In the Narthex: Pr. Daniel, David, Elijah, and Melchizedek. (\$750 to sponsor).

The Junior American Carpatho-Russian Youth



invites you to

Encounter 2017



November 10 – 12 at Camp Nazareth

The Junior ACRY invites youth aged 8-18 to attend Encounter 2017 at Camp Nazareth! Please join us for a weekend of prayer, fun and fellowship. Activities will include Divine Liturgy, a religious talk with clergy, sports and a special event. Please note: Youth do **not** have to be Jr. ACRY members to attend! The weekend will consist of many different activities including a religious talk, sports, fellowship, and some surprise activities. This is the perfect opportunity for kids to have a first exposure to camp if they are thinking of attending next summer for the first time!

EVENT INFORMATION

Friday, Nov 10th to Sunday Nov 12th

Camp Nazareth 339 Pew Rd. Mercer, Pa 16137

REGISTRATION: Friday, Nov 10th - 7:00 to 9:00pm

CONCLUSION: Sunday, Nov 12th 9:00am Divine Liturgy – Parents welcome!
Noon Encounter Dismissal

TO REGISTER: 1) Please email rachelprib@gmail.com by Wednesday November 1st. Include the name of each Encounter participant, age and any food allergies. Go to <http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/jracy/forms> to find registration forms.

There will also be an adult study group on Saturday; So, parents and guardians bring your Bibles

2) Please mail completed registration forms and a check made out to “National Jr. ACRY” for \$90 by Wednesday, November 1st to: Rachel Pribish 668 S. Broad St. Elizabeth, NJ 07202 Sign up today! If you have questions please feel free to contact Rachel Pribish at (908)-247-2269 or rachelprib@gmail.com or Fr. Miles at frmiles@gmail.com

ALSO COMMEMORATED TODAY: ST. ABRAMIUS THE HERMIT

Saint Abramius the Hermit and Blessed Maria, his niece of Mesopotamia, lived the ascetic life in the village of Chidan, near the city of Edessa. They were contemporaries and fellow countrymen of Saint Ephraim the Syrian (January 28), who afterwards wrote about their life.

Saint Abramius began his difficult exploit of the solitary life in the prime of youth. He left his parents' home and settled in a desolate wilderness place, far from worldly enticements, and he spent his days in unceasing prayer. After the death of his parents, the saint refused his inheritance and requested his relatives to give it away to the poor. By his strict ascetic life, fasting, and love for mankind, Abramius attracted to him many seeking after spiritual enlightenment, prayer and blessing.

Soon his faith was put to a serious test, as he was appointed presbyter in one of the pagan villages of Mesopotamia. For three years, and sparing no efforts, the saint toiled over the enlightenment of the pagans. He tore down a pagan temple and built a church. Humbly enduring derision and even beatings from obstinate idol-worshippers, he entreated the Lord, "Look down, O Master, upon Your servant, hear my prayer. Strengthen me and set Your servants free from diabolical snares, and grant them to know You, the one true God." The zealous pastor was granted the happiness to see the culmination of his righteous efforts: the pagans came to believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and Saint Abramius baptized them himself.

Having fulfilled his priestly duty, Abramius again withdrew into his wilderness, where he continued to glorify God, and doing His holy will. The devil, put to shame by the deeds of Saint Abramius, tried to entrap him with proud thoughts. Once at midnight, when Saint Abramius was at prayer in his cell, suddenly a light shone and a voice was heard, "Blessed are you, Abramius, for no other man has done my will as you have!" Confuting the wiles of the enemy, the saint said: "I am a sinful man, but I trust in the help and grace of my God. I do not fear you, and your illusions do not scare me." Then he ordered the devil to depart, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Another time, the devil appeared before the saint in the form of a youth, lit a candle and began to sing Psalm 118/119, "Blessed are the blameless in the way,



who walk in the law of the Lord.” Perceiving that this also was a demonic temptation, the Elder crossed himself and asked, “If you know that the blameless are blessed, then why trouble them?”

The tempter answered, “I provoke them in order to conquer them and turn them away from every good deed.” To this the saint replied, “You gain victory over those who, like yourself, have fallen away from God. You are forced to vanish, like smoke in the wind, from before the face of those who love God.” After these words the devil vanished. Thus Saint Abramius defeated the Enemy, being strengthened by divine grace. After fifty years of ascetic life, he peacefully fell asleep in the Lord.

Saint Abramius’s niece, the Nun Maria, grew up being edified by his spiritual instruction. Her father died when she was seven, and so she was raised by her saintly uncle. But the Enemy of the race of man tried to turn her from the true path. At twenty-seven years of age she fell into sin with a man. Thoroughly ashamed, she left her cell, went to another city and began to live in a brothel. Two years later, when he learned of this, Saint Abramius clad himself in soldier’s garb, so that he should not be recognized, and he went to the city to find his niece. Pretending to be one of her “clients,” he revealed his identity once they were alone. With many tears and exhortations, he brought her to repentance and took her back to her cell.

Saint Maria returned to her cell and spent the rest of her days in prayer and tears of repentance. The Lord forgave her and even granted her the gift of healing the sick. She died five years after Saint Abramius. (*from oca.org*)

NEWS FROM JESSE BRANDOW

Dear friends, I'm back! It's been six months since I returned to Guatemala to begin my second term. A few things haven't changed (like the beans and tortillas!), but so many other things are new and developing fast.

Guatemala News



First Orthodox cathedral in Guatemala: In May, the church in Aguacate (where I live) was consecrated as Guatemala's first Orthodox cathedral. Several thousand people attended the service, officiated by His Eminence Athenagoras. We got to see a mariachi band greet the archbishop!

Mass chrismations continue: We continue to have large baptisms and

chrismations, including one day in April when 153 people were chrismated in the village of Pebilpam.

New seminary program in Guatemala: In August we began teaching our own theology program at the St. Andrew Seminary in Aguacate. We have five Guatemalan seminarians, and the goal is for them to finish their studies within two to three years. After finishing, they will receive a certificate from our metropolis and will be eligible to petition for ordination.

Two new missionaries: This year Archimandrite Juvenal Repass and Jennifer Rice began serving in Guatemala (in February and April, respectively). Even while they continue their language learning, they are helping in many of the tasks of the mission. It's a joy to have them here!

Personal News

Completed furlough fundraising: I spoke at nearly thirty churches in February and March before returning to Guatemala in April. Thank you to everyone who has pledged to support me during this second term. I hope to continue in Guatemala at least through 2019. You can donate support at <https://www.ocmc.org/donate/donate.aspx?FundId=Missionary>.

More teaching responsibilities this term: I have begun teaching more classes for our seminarians and am acting as the coordinator for our new seminary program. Fr. John Chakos and Fr. Peter Jackson teach their classes via Skype from in the USA, so I act as the in-field coordinator. It's an awesome responsibility to teach the the future clergy of Central America!

I also continue to teach two-day workshops for our lay parish leaders in different parts of Guatemala and Mexico.

Leading mission teams: In my second term, I continue to help with our mission teams. Fr. John Chakos guides this process as our OCMC field leader, and I support him by leading teams when he is not in the field. We have hosted three teams since April: two medical teams and one teaching team.

Ways to Help

Prayer requests:

- More vocations to the priesthood in Guatemala and Mexico. Our priests are overworked and need help!
- My discernment regarding marriage and ordination. I know this request is rather personal, but it's always on my mind so I wanted to share it.
- Success for our next medical mission team, arriving Nov. 10th.

Items that can be donated:

- Chrism containers (myrrh vessels)
- Set of wooden festal icons (select the XL size) (these can be found at Uncut Mountain Supply – look for 20th Century Festal Icon Series – ed.)
- Baptismal crosses
- Spanish-language Orthodox coloring books. This is a unique opportunity presented by an Orthodox Spanish instructor who created these beautiful coloring books. Support this effort at <https://www.gofundme.com/books-for-children-in-guatemala>.

Spanish speakers needed: If you speak fluent Spanish, *please help us*. You can volunteer for a team in 2018, or you can help from your own home. We need fluent speakers to proofread our publications or do small translation projects of hymns and saints' lives. Email Jess for info.

Build a website: If you have web development skills, there's a great opportunity to help build a website for the Greek Orthodox parishes in Guatemala. I would work closely with you. Email Jesse for info.

Final Word

How will Orthodoxy be unique in Guatemala? The longer I serve here, the more I integrate into life and understand what makes Orthodoxy special here. I'd like to share some of those special qualities with you because you are shaping the growth of Orthodoxy in Guatemala by supporting and praying for me.

First: The Orthodox Church here will continue to be primarily indigenous, meaning that the majority of people are from various Mayan Indian groups. In Guatemala, around 40% of the national population is from one of the 20+ Mayan ethno-linguistic groups. These are the people who are embracing Orthodoxy most rapidly as we continue to have new converts in the heavily indigenous areas of the country (such as the province of Huehuetenango where I live). One of my most moving experiences this year was seeing young Mayan girls serve as myrrh-bearing women during Holy Week (*right*). How



powerful to see Mary Magdalene and the other myrrh-bearers become incarnate in the faces of these Guatemalan children!

Second: Orthodox worship and preaching will be very animated and expressive in Guatemala. During homilies, people often respond with a loud "Amen!" at various moments, and during Pascha they've really embraced shouting "Christ is Risen!" After receiving communion in the Liturgy, many people go to the icon of Christ and raise their hands or kneel to express their gratitude. It also is common for people to start each day by kneeling in front of their church's iconostasis and very literally *crying out* for God's help. For me personally, I've had to adjust my way of speaking during the retreats and workshops to match this animated style; whenever I make a point about Christ or the Church I build up to a crescendo and say to the people "Amen or no amen?" They take the cue and respond with a powerful "AMEN!"

Third: The Guatemalan Orthodox Church will continue to be driven by lay leadership. The terrible terrain coupled with the lack of priests (five priests for over 100 churches) means that during most weeks of the year our churches are guided by lay people. That is why we have regular retreats and workshops to train these leaders, and we are seeing success. We've overheard the lay catechists speaking with one another and saying: "Have courage, brothers, *this* is really the true Church!"

Those are just a few of the unique qualities of Orthodoxy in Guatemala. Please pray for this mission as it continues to grow. I often find myself in the back of a pickup truck, reflecting on what lies ahead for this Church as we travel to the next isolated but growing parish. Thank you for journeying with me!

In Christ, Jesse

Contact Jesse with questions, suggestions, or encouragement at j.brandow@ocmc.org.



November Anniversaries and Birthdays



Anniversaries:

none

Birthdays:

Pani Stacey Edgington 3rd

Jennifer Brady 11th

Herman Blaydoe 24th

Karen Blaydoe 3rd

Tabitha Single 20th

Alex Makowelski 30th

Brad Karbowski 8th

Michael Kopan 22nd

Lydia Vita 30th

Follow Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>

Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>

You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

In Your Prayers – Please Remember... His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW, His Grace Bishop GREGORY, Fr. Joseph & Family, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Paul Yazigi of Aleppo, Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim of Aleppo, His Grace Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya, Fr. John & Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Fr. Vincent Saverino, Presbyteria Katie Baker and family, Santiago Alzugaray, Alicia Barosio and family, Jeffrey Carey, Tatyana and Slava Chumak & family, Xenia Chilkowich, Jon Church, Ramius Connour, Curtis Cooper, Luke Cooper, Tina Crull, Mary Diane David, Ron Dominiecki, Linda A. Georgiev, Heather Himler, John Homick, Cameron Houk, Helen Janowiak, John M. Janowiak, Deanna Jarrett, Tucker Karl and family, Robert Karpin, Andrew Kinn, Kopan family, Brian, Helen, and Luke Mahony, Valentina Makowelski, Susan Matula, Anna Meinhold, Dn. Henry Middleton, David & Kathryn Newman, Bobby Nutter & Family, Henry & Lisa Osborne, Westin Perry & Parents, John Reece, Mary Reed, Chris & Kaitlin Rixey, Jerry Von Ronne, Anne Rosario, James, Theodore and Christina Ristas, Samson Family, Sharon Sheptak, Dawn & Faith Ulmschneider, Lydia Vita, Christine, Marshall, Nathaniel, Subdcn. Nectaros and Ia, the Syrian Christians displaced by war, Mother Virginia Marie and the Carmelite Nuns of Port Tobacco, and all those in need of our prayers. (Please advise Fr. Joseph of changes.)