# St. Mark Evangelizer

Newsletter for Saint Mark Orthodox Church - 7124 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

Volume 17 - Number 1

January - March 2017 Issue



Saint Mark Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America, Archdiocese of Washington DC, under the omaphor of His Beatitude, Metropolitan, Tikhon

Divine Liturgy: Sunday 9:30AM Weekday Feasts 10:00AM Confession: Saturday 5:00PM Vespers: Saturday 5:30PM Church School: Following Sunday Divine Liturgy (September - May) Rector: Archpriest, Gregory Safchuk

Telephone: (301) 229-6300 www.saintmarkoca.org

# **Riches & Prayers**

"Christ said it was difficult for 'the Hopko affirms its great rich' to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, referring, no doubt, to 'riches' in the ordinary sense. But I think it really covers riches in every sense—good fortune, health, popularity, and all the things one wants to have. All these things tendiust as money tends—to make you feel independent of God, because if you have them you are happy already and contented in this life."

- C.S. Lewis

"Intending to offer up your prayer to God, cast aside all earthly thoughts and cares. Do not engage in the thoughts which come to you at that time, however important or brilliant or necessary they might seem. Render to God the things that are God's and you will have time to render what is necessary for temporal life in its own time."

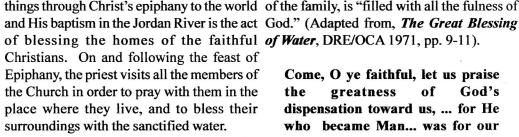
- St. Igantius Brianchaninov

# The Sanctification of Life

By the time you read this, we will have already celebrated the feast of the Baptism not only by the words of prayer, but by the of Christ in the River Jordan. But the sprinkling with the blessed water which stands significance of this event is profound and for the new creation of the Kingdom of God should stay with us throughout our lives, not in which God Himself "fills all things with just duiring this particular season. The Winter Himself? including even the smallest particles Pascha is the very celebration of the "Word" of material existence. of God "becoming incarnate" - taking on flesh, becoming human, and being immersed of prayer and blessing he asks God to have in this material world which He created and mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and now cleanses and sanctifies.

the blessing of homes. Although perhaps to family, and of all who live and have lived in

some now, it may seem a quaint rite of the past, Fr. Thomas importance in his introduction to the "Great Blessing of Water"in which he writes: The central. of God's # sanctification of all

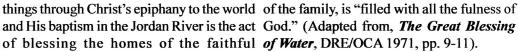


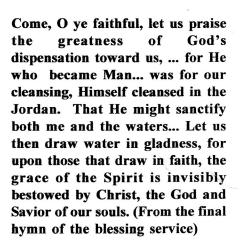
According to the Orthodox Faith, the family is considered to be a "small church," and the family table is the "home altar" where the people gather each day to receive their "daily bread". Thus, during the Epiphany season the priest, who is the father of the greater "family of God," the Church community, comes to each of the "small churches" bringing the blessings of God the Father and all of the brothers and sisters in Christ.

The sanctification of the home takes place

When the priest comes for his annual visit to fill it with every blessing. All pray together A tradition associated with this season is for the good of the living and the dead of the

> the house. All sing together the great hymn of salvation that Christ, the Son of the Father by the grace of the Holy Spirit, "has revealed Himself and has enlightened the world." Thus the house itself, together with the living persons







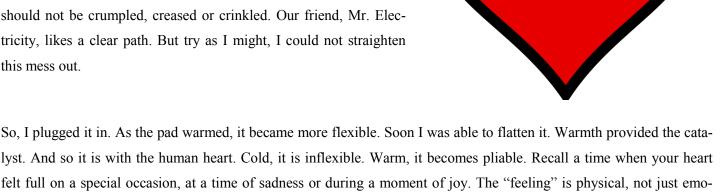
# APPLYING THE HEATING PAD TO OUR HEARTS

Submitted by: Matushka Alexandra Safchuk

Gestures can be heartfelt. People can be kind-hearted. Events can be heart rendering. In scripture we are told that Pharaoh hardened his heart (Ex. 8:15 and 32). And, while a broken heart can be a medical emergency and a romantic show stopper, it is exactly what God is looking for in us, "a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Ps. 51:17). Christ tells us that, "...where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21). And although the prospect of an enlarged heart can be frightening, the Apostle Paul tells us that his heart is wide and that we must widen our

hearts also (2 Cor. 6:11, 13).

Packing my trusty heating pad for travel (there are some things that simply should not be left behind), I found it extremely rumpled. Now, as I am the daughter of an electrical engineer, I am fully aware of the danger of wrinkled electrical cords. UL Listed or not, wires should not be crumpled, creased or crinkled. Our friend, Mr. Electricity, likes a clear path. But try as I might, I could not straighten this mess out.



lyst. And so it is with the human heart. Cold, it is inflexible. Warm, it becomes pliable. Recall a time when your heart felt full on a special occasion, at a time of sadness or during a moment of joy. The "feeling" is physical, not just emotional. It is often spontaneous. Who plans to be overwhelmed at the wedding of a child or at the burial of a friend? It happens sometimes unexpectedly at the time of a baby's first step, or even during a sad movie.

The heart is a powerful force in our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual life. It pushes around our life's blood. When the heart stops disease and death follow. When it is impaired we are diminished. When it is strengthened we are increased. It begins to beat by 18 days after conception. And it can be catheterized, operated on and transplanted.

But how is our heart affected in the aspects that we cannot touch, ones not visible on CT scan or measurable by EKG? How do we apply the heat that can enlarge it, strengthen it, warm it or heal it? The Church offers us a number of tools to accomplish this. They are, of course, the usual suspects, i.e. prayer, fasting, alms giving, repentance, kindness, faithfulness, self-control. And again, as usual, they require user participation. There is so much character building in the Christian life. It's exhausting.

# APPLYING THE HEATING PAD TO OUR HEARTS

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Conveniently cataloged in the love chapter, 1 Cor. 13, is the list of behaviors that warm the cords that soften our hearts. Paradoxically, they are not how we treat ourselves, but how we treat others, how we "plug in" to the rest of God's creatures. We cannot completely understand how it all works now. We "see in a mirror dimly" (1 Cor. 13:12), but the time will come when we will understand fully. "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13:13). Love is the electricity that will soften our hearts. It is 2017. And with the New Year comes another opportunity to get it more right than before.

With Love in Christ, Matushka Alexandra Safchuk

THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

Written by: Katie Lange DoD News, Defense Media Activity

It was dark at Pearl Harbor's Tripler Hospital on the evening of Dec. 7, 1941. The bombings by the Japanese had stopped, but the concern of more attacks continued. Window blinds were still drawn and lights were still out. The injured

and dying lay everywhere, and as many people as possible were taking care of them.

It was an extraordinary time – especially for one young mother, who gave birth in that chaos.

"There was a baby born in the evening, in the dark. They had a flashlight. That's what [the nurse] used to illuminate for the doctor," said Winnie Woll, the daughter of Army Pearl Harbor nurse Teresa Stauffer Foster. "This baby came into life when all these other people around were dying."



Retired Army Col. David Burpee



David Burpee as an infant in the arms of his mother,
Amney Burpee

When Woll told me that story, I was a little bit shocked and even more curious to find out who that baby was. It turns out he was one of two infants born that day, and the military pretty much became the theme for his whole life.

"My name is David Burpee. I'm a retired Army colonel, and I was born at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941."

That's probably a great icebreaker at parties, right?

When I said I would be interviewing Burpee, a lot of

colleagues jokingly asked if I was going to see what he "remembered" from that day. Clearly, the answer is nothing, but he definitely knew the details from the story his parents told him.

# Mom and Dad

Burpee's father, Harry, had enlisted into the Army Signal Corps and was stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii be-

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fore being sent to Wake Island to help install bomber beacons.

"On the way out, his sergeant talked to the commander and said, 'Don't forget, Sergeant Burpee is going to have a baby. You're going to send him back, right?" Burpee recounted. Apparently, it took a while for that promise to be kept, but eventually, his dad was shipped back.

Harry and Amney Burpee enjoying their youth together. Photo courtesy of David Burpee

"He was halfway in between Wake and Hawaii when the attack occurred. His unit was all shot up in Hawaii,

and everybody on Wake was killed or captured and died in a prison camp," Burpee said, referring to the Japanese attack on Wake Island around the same time as the Pearl Harbor attack.

As for Burpee's mother, Amney? She'd been in Tripler for three days already, expecting his arrival.



David Burpee as a child.

"Three times during the day I was born, they had to move her, from one maternity ward to a makeshift maternity ward to just a regular ward, because they were bringing in the wounded so fast," Burpee said.

Much like many Americans intimately involved in World War II, Burpee's mom didn't talk about her Pearl Harbor experience much.

"It was strange – she was like a soldier who had really

been on the front lines. They're the ones who don't talk about it much, and she didn't either," he said.

# **Not Alone**

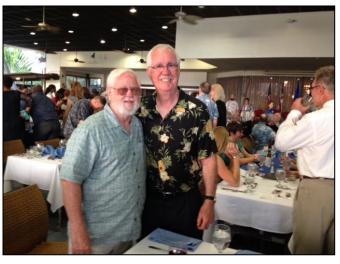
Perhaps the most fun thing Burpee learned about his birth? That he had a nickname from Day 1 – and he wasn't the only baby.

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"There was one other child, a male, born in Tripler that day," he said. "There were privacy concerns as well as wartime concerns, so rather than release names, they gave the babies nicknames. He was born during the attack, so his nickname was 'Blitz,' and I was born after the attack, when things quieted down later at night, so my nickname was 'Blackout."

Three weeks after the attack, because there were concerns of a land invasion, officials moved all female civilians and children onto a troop transport to take them to California. So "Blackout's" stint on Hawaii didn't last long, but it's something that he eventually realized was pretty special.



Black out and Blitz finally meet! Photo Courtesy of Tina Burpee

"I think the first time of significance was I was in high school, and a local newspaper found out that I was a Dec. 7, 1941, baby. So they came out and did an interview. And I thought, 'OK, that's kind of interesting,'" he said.



Left: David Burpee as a cowboy biker Right: Burpee with his soldier father, Harry before he retired in 1993.

# **A Military Life**

Burpee went on to become a lifelong Army man himself, rising to the rank of colonel during a 28-year career that included a combat tour in Vietnam. Burpee served in several public affairs positions, too, including as the media officer when U.S. Central Command formed. Burpee was the personal public affairs advisor to NATO's supreme allied commander for Europe during the Gulf War. He also worked at the Pentagon's press room and for the Office of Secretary of Defense

"I loved every minute of it. One job was better than the next," Burpee said. "For me, it's been the interaction with the

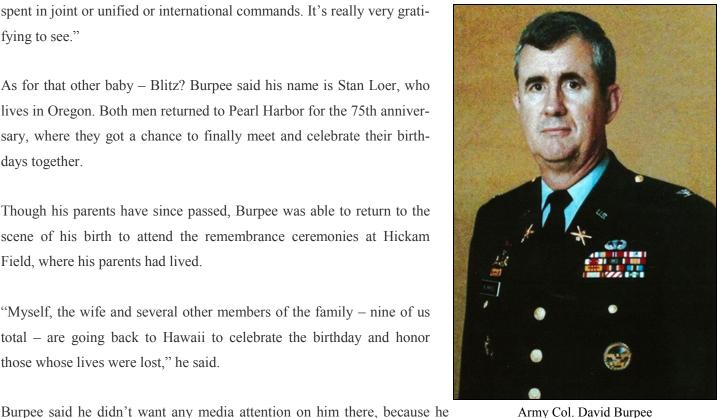
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spent in joint or unified or international commands. It's really very gratifying to see."

As for that other baby – Blitz? Burpee said his name is Stan Loer, who lives in Oregon. Both men returned to Pearl Harbor for the 75th anniversary, where they got a chance to finally meet and celebrate their birthdays together.

Though his parents have since passed, Burpee was able to return to the scene of his birth to attend the remembrance ceremonies at Hickam Field, where his parents had lived.

"Myself, the wife and several other members of the family – nine of us total – are going back to Hawaii to celebrate the birthday and honor those whose lives were lost," he said.



Army Col. David Burpee

wasn't the one to honor — the men and women who lived, died and fought that day were. But it's still a pretty cool story to tell, right?



Air Force Maj. Gen. Mark Dillon, vice commander of Pacific Air Forces at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, poses with the two men who were born on Dec. 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor: Stan Loer (Blitz) and retired Army Col. David Burpee (Blackout). DoD photo by Katie Lange

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A birthday celebration for the two youngest Pearl Harbor Survivors. Photo Courtesy of Tina Burpee



David Burpee with his daughters, Krista and Heather, in front of the flag that flew at Hickam Air Force Base on December 7, 1941. Photo Courtesy of Tina Burpee

# NICHOLAS GEORGE LUNGOCIU

Submitted by: Michael and Kimberly Lungociu

How can you put ninety-six years into a couple moments with you? I will try to do it by describing the events that I know shaped my father's character, faith, and moral convictions. Each of the events has a much larger story behind it. He was born in Glassport, Pennsylvania in 1920. Five years later, at the age of four, he was nearly killed at a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in McKeesport, having been pinned under the tracks of a World War 1 tank. He ended up not getting a scratch. God had other plans for this child. At the age of six his dad took him to meet Charles Lindbergh. His dad was part of the ground crew for the Spirit of St. Louis. Lindbergh patted him on the head and said that flying across the Atlantic would one day be an everyday event.



Nicholas Lungociu

Later that year the family moved to Romania and Nick became a Romanian citizen. His dad bought four houses, farm land, cattle and

fowl for the farm. The main house in the city of Făgăraş was huge. All of these were taken from him under communism.

Nick completed his primary and secondary school in Făgăraş, spending all of his free time hiking and camping in the Carpathian Mountains to the point of angering his mom. In 1938 he was called to the U.S. Consulate in Bucharest and asked if he wanted to rescind his American citizenship or keep it. He selected to keep it and his actions from that day forward were dictated by that decision. He completed his college education in Bucharest during the Second World War. Now his trips into the mountains were not just to hike but also to escape being conscripted or arrested as an American spy.

Under German occupation he told me of the bombings of Bucharest and Ploesti by American bombers. He saw the American pilots who had been shot down as they were being protected by the shepherds and partisans in the mountains. He reported this to the U.S. Consulate. After the war he attended pharmacy school at the University of Cluj. Upon receiving his master's degree he bought his own pharmacy in Voila, a town twenty minutes from Făgăraş.

In 1947 elections were held in Romania. The Făgăraș election official gave my Dad the results to take to the U.S. Con-(Continued on next page)

# NICHOLAS GEORGE LUNGOCIU

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sulate because they revealed the Soviets had fixed the election in their own favor. Getting the results to the embassy was difficult because it was surrounded by Russian soldiers placed there to "protect" it. In fact, they were preventing people from seeking asylum. He had to pass through check points with the election results in his boots. He told me how frightened he was at the time but he did get through.

In October 1947 his parents received a letter that Nick needed to report to court to face charges. At that same time the American Consulate told him to leave Romania because he was to be arrested. All of his friends were receiving similar letters of arrest at their homes. He was told to go to the port of Costanta where he was to pose as a dock worker loading an American Naval Vessel. He sailed on the U.S. Naval Vessel from the port of Costanta on St. Nicholas Day in 1947. God obviously had His Saints working too. He had told a friend to watch his pharmacy for a couple days, and only his parents and an uncle knew he was leaving.

During the trip aboard ship he befriended a U.S. intelligence officer. As a result of that meeting he would become an unpaid informant for the FBI for the next thirty years. He returned to Glassport to earn his M.A. as a pharmacist from Pittsburg University. Then he moved to Canton, Ohio, where he met my Mom and they married in 1952. Fulfilling a lifelong dream he bought his first pharmacy in the U.S. in 1954.

While working in his pharmacy one morning he was approached by two FBI agents and asked if he knew a doctor in Brasov, Romania. His answer allowed several pilots to defect from Romania and the capture of a Soviet aircraft by the Americans. He found out about his impact when one day the said doctor walked into his pharmacy with an agent and they told him the story.

In 1962 he moved to Silver Spring, Maryland, and worked to establish Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church in Alexandria, Virginia, in the late 1960's. He became a confidant of personnel in the Romanian Embassy here in Washington when it was firmly controlled by the communist regime. So trusted was he that we have several pictures of him with Nicolae Ceausescu. He worked as an FBI informant continuously from 1962 until he was compromised in 1987 and warned not to return to Romania.

Recently when my father was close to death I contacted his last FBI handler, now retired, and he responded with the following:

# NICHOLAS GEORGE LUNGOCIU

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A little known fact is that he was an unintentional force for the establishment of St Mary Orthodox Church in Falls Church, Virginia. This is because he was seen by some at the Romanian Church as being too close to communist embassy officials who attended that church.

Émigrés did not want to worship with these employees of Ceausescu. Thus an unintended consequence of the brutal communists was the creation of another Orthodox Church in the DC area under the Vatra Romanesca.

Information coming from Nick became part of the president's daily briefs. Some were included on the day President Reagan made his famous speech in Berlin where he said "Mr. Gorbachev tear down this wall."

The number of people who came through our house on their way from communist oppression to freedom were well over twenty and the number he is responsible for helping to free are countless. He is my hero. Please send donations out to Holy Cross Romanian Orthodox Church in Arlington, Virginia.

May His Memory Be Eternal.

Christ is Born!

Michael John Lungociu



# FOOD FESTIVAL AND BAZAAR 2016

Photos Courtesy of Victor Lutes











# FOOD FESTIVAL AND BAZAAR 2016

Photos Courtesy of Victor Lutes











# FOOD FESTIVAL AND BAZAAR 2016

Photos Courtesy of Victor Lutes

















# **FOCA HAPPENINGS**

# **Newly Elected FOCA Officers!**

**President** – Marcella Hydock

Vice-President - Paul Dean

**Treasurer** - Michael Thompson

**Secretary** - Barbara Freimann

Colonial District Representative - John Ihnat



# 7TH ANNUAL FOCA CHILI COOK OFF!



When: Saturday, February 11th

Where: St. Mark Social Hall

**Activities:** BINGO!

Get out your crock pots and slow cookers. Find that favorite recipe and join FOCA for the best cook-off event

ever!

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US!





# NATIVITY AT ST. MARK 2016



Future Choir Director Micah Needham helping God-Mother Christina Berencz direct during Nativity Vigil 2016. Photo taken by Grammy Ellen Barber.



Deck the Halls! St. Mark sanctuary beautifully bedecked on Christmas Day. Photo courtesy of Victor Lutes

# Christ is Born! Horify Him!



[Pictured Left] The faithful of St. Mark come together to celebrate the Nativity Vigil—2016.



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **2016 Food Festival and Bazaar Totals**

The final figures are in! St. Mark Food Festival and Bazaar 2016 net profit are: \$35,560.14

Thanks again to everyone who makes this big event possible!

### **GROCERY CARDS**

Please consider donating grocery cards for the needy all, and especially, through-out Lent! Please see Father Gregory, Skip Mersereau for questions or donations. Thank you!

### STEPPING STONES MEAL DELIVERY

Please sign up for monthly food preparation and delivery to Stepping Stones shelter in Rockville, MD. The sign-up sheets are on the Outreach bulletin board outside the fellowship hall.



### BLESSED MAT. OLGA OF ALASKA WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Blessed Matushka Olga of Alaska Prayer Group meets regularly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM in the church nave for intercessory prayer. In addition, the group meets regularly to pray varying Akathists on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM in the church nave.

Please join us as you can and please remember us in your prayers. All prayer requests may be given to Debbi Dillon, Mat. Alexandra or Marcella Hydock. Also, there is a prayer request email address on the St. Mark website. We hope you can join us on:

## **Intercessory Prayer Dates & Times:**

- •TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM
- •**TUESDAY, MARCH** 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM

### **Akathist Dates & Times:**

- •TUESDAY, JANUARY 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM
- •TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 10:30 AM
- •**TUESDAY, MARCH 21**<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 AM

### **WOMENS BOOK GROUP**

St. Mark Women's Book Group meets on the last Sunday of each month in the parish library after Liturgy. Upcoming books and meetings: January 29<sup>th</sup> – *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance; February 26<sup>th</sup> – *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker; March 26<sup>th</sup> – *Life Everlasting* by Sarah Gray. Book suggestions are always welcome. See Mat. Sasha for more details.



### **NEW ADDRESSES**

Nancy Stanton 3709 MacGregor Ct Annandale, VA 22003

# **Births** (See next page for photos)

12/06/16 - Rebekah Rose Barber, Daughter of Justin and Kaitlin Barber. 12/22/16 - Caroline Adele German, Daughter of Chris and Claire German

May God Grant Them Many Years!

# **Marriages**

10/15/16 - Alex Masick and Kara Hovseth

May God Grant Them Many Years!

# **Baptisms/Chrismations**

10/08/16 — Elowen Sheppard

May God Grant Her Many Years!

# **Deaths**

11/05/16 — Lyndell "Worth" Fitzgerald, Father of Doug Fitzgerald

11/12/16 — Dolores Helms, Mother of Fr. Mark Koczak

12/23/16 — Nicholas Lungociu, Father of Michael Lungociu

May Their Memory Be Eternal!

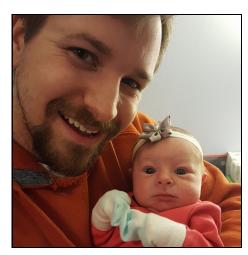


# **NEW BABIES!**

Rebekah Rose Barber - December 6th, 2016







May God Grant Them Many, Many Years!

Caroline Adele German - December 22nd, 2016



# HADDY BIRTHDAY!

<b>Apri</b> 1 2	Kenneth Chrzanowski Jack Albert Olaf Aseev	1	<del></del>	<u>Jun</u>	<u></u>
	Jack Albert	1			
	Jack Albert	1			
2			John Michael Mikuluk	1	Alexandra Zabela
	Olaf Aspey	2	Susan Rodak	3	Christine Cacic
	Olai A3CCV		Bryan Schar		James J. Rosolanka
	Elizabeth Cannon	3	Manuella Buzoianu Balan	5	Michael Cacic
	Elianna Niemi	4	Eleanor Carstea		Rachael Datch
4	Jessica Herrara	7	Madeleine Voth		Jennifer Malatesta
	Paulina Masick		Nicholas Voth	6	Donna Lulchuk
5	Barbara Kreta	8	Olga Lobas	_	Robert Rudin
	Faith Skordinski		Patricia Pearson	7	James W. (Skip) Mersereau
6	Helen Bezuneh	9	Michael Karas	9	Simon Markovich
	Mary Mytryshyn	10	Grace Dillon	10	Nicholas Niemi
	Paul Shiller	12	Paul Antich	11	Mat. Gemma Phelps
7	Nathaniel Safchuk		Shirley Dean	12	Hannah Antich
	Irene Tarpy	40	Joanna Navarro		Nicholas Corbin
8	Darlene Marti	13	Ellen Barber	40	Eliot Landsburg
10	Martin Riskam	14	Alexander Norton	13	David Burke Jackson
	Don Truitt	15	Antonina Riscuta	1.1	Ann Marie Steger
	Aaron Wickard	16	Alexandra Brasoveanu-Tarpy	14 15	Maximus Timothy Masick
11	Melanie Firestone	4-7	Dorothy Dillon	15	Tina Burpee
15	Christopher Safchuk	17	Sherry Safchuk		Mary Ann Holovac
16	Sophia Nimmer	19	Carol Mary Ashley		John Humphries
17	Helen Salas		Stephen Ilario	10	Alexandra Kissell
19	Ashley Albert		Estelle Klirs	16	Fr. David Cowan
20	Mary Rudin	21	Coy Williamson		Wright Steinberg
21	Doug Burns	22	Simina Lal Ciubotaru	10	Kara Yakubik
	Anastacia (Stacy) Jacobsen		Renee Jones	18	Kathryn Balamaci David Jefferson
	Angelina Lyubimova		Dominic Rotunda	19	Rachel LeFors
	Melania Schwartz	23	Kenneth Bernstein	20	
23	Lori Landsburg		Carl Firestone	20 21	Karen Jankovic
	Chloe Emerson Little		Cindy Jefferson	22	Kimberly Yakubik Salomea Jankovic
	Kiprian Tatusko	24 25	Nicholas Paul Moser	22	Peter Sielinski
24	Susan B. Petro	25	Talia Sieff Florin Vasilian	23	Timothy Dillon
25	Sasha Lutes	26	Christina Berencz	23	Michael Hydock
26	Peter Truitt	20			Ravyn Malatesta
27	Dorothy Gumpert	27	Andrew Bumbak Timothy Firestone		Timothy Perry
	Sarah Jenkins-Petro	27	Timothy Firestone Fr. Mark Koczak	24	Benjamin Oleynik
	Justin Markovich	28	Shawn Niemi	24	Joshua Tucker
	Victor Vasilian	29	Henry William Meyers	25	Alexsandra (Sunny) Holovac
28	Linda Weir	29	Lisa Munson	25	Harell Little
29	Sarah Hardy		Lisa Munson Laura Pierce		Tara Shimer
	Tristan Pearson		Patricia Prose	26	Nicola Ilario
30	Marge Dove	31	Michelle Bahumian	20	Brian Schwartz
	ov.	31	Hannah LeFors	27	Dawn Little
			Alexander de la constant de la const	29	Jerome Miller
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