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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered on 6/15&22 by Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Kathy Schrmack; Olga Radick; Tim Martin; Eleanor Sanger; Barbie Kirish; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson (In Memory of Father, Howard); Stephen Branch; Lawrence Martin; Roberta Kruchkevich; Cindy Pavilonis.

***"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* - John 8:12**

The Eternal Lamp was offered on 6/15 by John Gaydos, Sr., In Memory of Wife, Catherine; by anonymous Welcoming Christopher Stephen Kubis; by Lawrence Martin, in Memory of Father, Lawrence; by Tim Martin, in Memory of Father, Lawrence; by Melanie Paieski, in Memory of Father-in-Law, Robert. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

July 16: **Bob & Gina**
July 23: **Patty Watson**
July 30: **Melanie & Mareena Shuster**
Thank you to all those who support this critical ministry of our Church!

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- Take one of the coffee social weeks
- Bring in a lightly used coat for FOCUS
- Join the ACRY
- Attend additional services
- Bring in items for the Garage Sale
- Donate to our parish
- Donate to our Monthly Community Outreach

Visit Our Parish & Diocese On-Line

St John's: www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com
Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

Our Stewardship Gift To God

JUNE 15th	
Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 177
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 284
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 725
Total Donations:	\$ 1186

*Collection for the Saints:
"On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper." 1 Cor 16:2*

JUNE 22nd	
Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 542
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 105
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 572
Community Outreach:	\$ 133
Total Donations:	\$ 1392

June Financial Report:
Donation Income = \$ 5295
***Expenses = \$ 5186.87**
Net Income = \$ 108.13

**details listed on the bulletin board*
Average Monthly Attendance at:
Sunday Divine Liturgy: 34

PRAY • VOLUNTEER • DONATE

FOCUS

NORTH + AMERICA

Summer Feeding

Childhood hunger is a problem that affects over 13 million children in the United States, and too many of these children live right here in our community.

For eleven weeks this summer, the Orthodox churches of Pittsburgh will serve over 1,000 meals to children who suffer from childhood hunger.

We need volunteers to prepare and distribute meals!

We need you June 13 - August 11!

Sign up at
www.focusnorthamerica.org/summerfeeding.

For questions, email apazzynski@focusna.org.

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ST JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be taking a collection for ***The Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Monastery***. On June 15th the monastery, located at 121 St. Elias Lane, Saxonburg, PA 16056 (724.352.3999), was struck by lightning that caused the main building to catch fire. As a result, the sisters temporarily have no place to sleep and are in need of mobile homes to be set up on the property until their building can be repaired. Many of the electrical wires are frayed and there is significant water damage. While insurance should cover the cost of the damages, it won't cover the cost of temporary housing which will be a large expense. With the recent tragedy, they need our help more than ever. You can read more about the monastery at <http://www.nativityofthetheotokosmonastery.org>. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Orthodox Young Adult Night at PNC Park - Saturday, July 15 at 7:05pm. To secure your ticket, please **EMAIL yam@holytrinitypgh.org** by TODAY, Sunday, July 9 (\$25/each). After the 9th, tickets are \$27/each. Checks or popping money is great. The goal is to bring together Orthodox young adults from all jurisdictions for a great night of fellowship. For those with young children, we would love to have them come, too! More info about a tailgate to follow. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions. Let's go Bucs!

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Orthodox Young Professionals Group – Join us on **Saturday, July 22nd** at 7pm for drinks and appetizers at 520 Crocus Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15235. Hosted by Chris and Steve Burns. Feel free to contact Chris with any questions at 330-603-6692.

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Upcoming Greek Food Festivals:

- July 18-22 – Holy Trinity (2930 Beaver Rd., Ambridge)

Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church hall for times and more information or visit <http://www.holytrinitypgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide>

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Kennywood – Visit Kennywood for there Heritage days with our Orthodox neighbors:

SERBIAN Day – **Saturday, July 15th** – Contact Natalie Wuchenich (412-458-5227) for discount tickets

 GREEK Day – **Tuesday, July 25th** – contact Presentation of Christ Church at 412-824-9188 or email at lkoutsavlis@ypapant.net. Credit Cards now accepted for phone orders.

Ticket Prices: Regular Day Pass - \$27.00, Seniors 55+ - \$16.00, Seniors 70+ - \$11.00.

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“The Incredible Race” Orthodox Christian Vacation Church School at Holy Cross (123 Gilkeson Rd., Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228). **Monday, July 24 through Friday, July 28** from 9:00am ~ 12:00 Noon (*8:30am for Monday, July 24th). For all children age 3 through entering 6th grade (*older students, parents, and interested adults are welcome to volunteer!*) Nominal registration fee: \$12 if received by 6/30; \$17 by 7/15; \$22 after 7/15.

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“Camp Bible School” - Fellowship, Learning, & Fun at the O.C.A. Archdiocese Center (8641 Peters Rd., Cranberry Twp., PA 16066). **Saturday, July 29** from 11am ~ 5pm with Vespers and Bonfire to follow. For all children K - 6th grade. Lunch, Dinner, and Desert by the campfire provided. RSVP to Nicole Yakich at 724-513-3489 by July 15th.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

The Proof of Love: Faith without works is dead

The very moment faith enters the soul is that moment when we turn toward God in repentance and recognize we can not live without Him. As we grow in our faith we come to realize we must remain in a continual state of repentance, for grace abounds in the heart of the man who is repenting. We come to see the truth that the saints were those who never ceased to call upon the Lord in repentance. Never did they think themselves worthy of anything but God's wrath, and their continued plea was for mercy.

This humility spawned God's love in the hearts of these saints, and works of love and mercy grew out of God's indwelling love within their hearts. Their works showed forth that their love and good works came out of that deep state of repentance, and their love was the proof of God's indwelling Spirit in

their hearts. Saint Gregory the Great said, "The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist."

If we do not do good works, love does not dwell in our heart, and we have no faith. "Yea, a man may say, You have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works (James 2:18)." The Liturgy reminds us, only those with faith and love may draw near to receive the Holy Mysteries. Our participation in the Body and Blood of the Lord provides each of us with the opportunity to be Christ-bearers in the world in which we live, and others will know we belong to Christ, "by our love" (John 13:35).

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

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“You Know Where To Go!” St. Xenia Of Petersburg Comes To Oakland

About fifteen years ago, I heard this story about an event that took place in Northern California—an unusual story, about a miracle of St. Xenia of Petersburg. Nun Nina, now Abbess Nina of St. Nilus Skete in Alaska, had heard it from Fr. Weldon Hardenbrook, who at the time was the rector of a church in Santa Cruz County. I wrote it down immediately, but unfortunately the notebook I wrote it in is located somewhere far away from me now, and I am writing it again from memory—so that people might know that Blessed Xenia the fool-for-Christ of St. Petersburg helps people everywhere, even people who previously knew nothing about her. She helps not only those who *have* prayed to her, but even those who *will* pray to her.

This priest, Fr. Weldon, served in a parish that consisted of former Evangelical Christians who had embraced Orthodox Christianity. There was

a time when their flourishing community was not Orthodox, and all kinds of people came to them to hear their Christian message. One day, a young man rode up to the church on his Harley Davidson. His appearance betrayed the life of a prodigal, but he was sincerely interested in hearing about Jesus. A relationship formed with the Fr Weldon, now an Orthodox priest (who told this story), and the young man began to gradually change his ways. He had given up one vice after another when the pastor told him that his “biking” would have to go if he wanted to truly follow Christ. This was too much for the newly-born Evangelical to bear, and he left the community and his pastor's care, never intending to return.

Our biker rode off on his Harley Davidson, and soon had a terrible accident, which cost him his legs. Eventually he landed back in the company

Sunk in these pessimistic thoughts, he was suddenly stirred by the presence of an old lady in tattered clothes—what people call a “bag lady”. She was coming closer to him with a fierce, accusatory expression. “You know where to go,” she said, pointing at him. “So, go there!” At that moment the man remembered his former pastor, and the church where he had almost reformed.

When he returned to that church it was different. There were gold domes with crosses on the roof, and the interior was completely changed. No pews; and there was a sort of screen at the front, with strange images of holy people. He looked around in wonder, when his gaze caught the image of a woman—the very “bag lady” who had told him where to go in that hour of dire depression. It was Holy Blessed Xenia, the fool-for-Christ of Petersburg.

I do not know what has come of this man since. I have no reason to believe that he is anywhere other than at that parish, but as I have said, this story was related to me fifteen years ago. However, the fact remains that this miracle of St. Xenia happened to person who knew nothing of her, who lived in a place very far from Russia, and when he needed it the most.

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"Paul wishes nothing but good for Israel, but their zeal is not based in truth. If they had merely been ignorant in their rejection of Christ, then their offense would certainly be pardonable. However, theirs was more than ignorance, for it was not that they simply did not know Christ, but they were bent on establishing their own righteousness rather than submitting to the righteousness of God. In other words, they trusted in themselves and their works and rejected the way of faith when it was presented to them." *Orthodox Study Bible, Romans 10:1-3*

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FAITH - Belief and trust in Christ as one's Savior, or a reference to Orthodox Christianity as "The Faith." The effects of this faith are freedom from the power of the DEVIL, the growth and maturity in VIRTUE, and progress toward perfection and union with God. One is saved by faith through GRACE—a living faith manifested by a righteous life. (See article, "Justification by Faith," at Rom 5; see also Rom 3: 28; Gal 2: 1; Eph 2: 8; Jam 2: 14– 17.)

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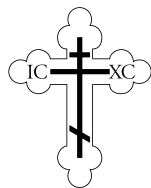
Phone Tree – Please call Fr. Dave at 412-766-4691 to be added to our Phone Tree.

Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure so he can pray with you and you may receive the Anointing to be fully prepared.

Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations; otherwise burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

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The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning.” - *Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*



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PRAYER CORNER



Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & Other Needs *
A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant name. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver him/her from sickness and bitter pain. Heal him/her so that he/she may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.



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For the Health of... Helen R., Ann, Eleanor D., Julie, Jane, Mildred, Mark, Viola, Juliana, Nathaniel, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Teresa, David, Larry, Susan, Anna Mae, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Lawrence, Fredrick, Iris, Helen B., Sharon, Dustin, Daniel, Herb, Maria, Matthew...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Great-Martyr & Healer.*

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Birthday Prayers for... Allyssa Yakemawiz (belated 7/7), Maria Alexa (Pani's Grandmother) (7/11), Jean Zak (7/12) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace & love all the days of their lives & may He grant them many & blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*

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For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Amee, Andrea, Christopher, Ryan, Marianne, Jason, Nicole, David, Penelope, Tyrone, Olga, John, Sarah and our Church Council and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Jane, Sharon, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, John, Richard, John, Margaret, Sarah ...*through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Sgt. Walter Dylan Mushinsky, Maj. Michael Repasky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For Expectant Mothers... Jessica, Sharon, Roxanne, Pañi Katie, Pañi Kristina ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*



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For those preparing for Marriage... ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia & all Holy Martyrs.*

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you would wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another**. Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Those whom we add to the list do NOT need to be Orthodox Christians.

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FEAST DAY FEATURE: Tropar from the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, in spite of our honor and devotion we are unable to give you worthy praise. Through your glorious and noble birth your mother's childlessness was ended, your father's tongue was freed, and the incarnation of the Son of God was proclaimed to the world.

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS OF THE WEEK:

A prayer to St. Ephraim of Nea Makri
for those suffering from drug or alcohol addiction (or other needs)

O Holy Martyr Ephraim, look with compassion upon my distress and, as you did deliver the young man from his cruel addiction, so also pray for me that our Lord and Saviour, for Whom you did witness unto death, may deliver my soul from captivity to Satan. For I am in cruel bondage and suffering because of my weakness and sinfulness. Beseech our merciful Lord that, as He did lead the Hebrews forth from slavery in Egypt and called His people out of Babylon, as He delivered the youth from the demon, and freed the daughter of the Canaanite woman, and healed the woman taken in adultery and restored the Samaritan woman, that He may also set me free and deliver me from the demon of addiction***. Have mercy and pray for me, O Saint and Martyr of God. Amen.

A short prayer to be said continually by one who is struggling with addiction***:

O Lord, Jesus Christ, through the prayers of Thy Holy Martyr Ephraim, have mercy on me and deliver me from this cruel bondage.

***Note: this can be changed based on one's specific need (depression, disease, passion, etc.)