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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Pani Branco; Roberta Kruchkevich; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Melanie Paieski.

"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 last week by John Gaydos, Sr., in Memory of Wife, Catherine. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat! And by Tim Martin for Health of Family. May God grant them many years!

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Congratulations to *Robert Fall* and *Gina Mercurio* who were united together in the Mystery of Holy Matrimony last Sunday. Through the prayers of Saints Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs, May God grant you many years!

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*****Church Keys** – Please contact a member of the Church Council if you have a key to the church.

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*****Coat Drive** – We are collecting coats and jackets, in good clean condition, to donate to FOCUS Pittsburgh this August. We will collect the coats on the coat rack in the church hall.

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Liturgy Monday, August 14 – As we begin the Dormition Fast, we will have a Liturgy and Panachida for +Fr Peter E. Molchany as the anniversary of his passing approaches (8/22/90).

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*****Mixed Bowling League** – A new bi-weekly bowling league will begin **August 25th** every other Friday at 7pm at the Crafton-Ingram Bowling Lanes. Cost is \$15 bi-weekly (includes bowling and kitty). Please contact Alyson (Buhonick) Rinaldi at 412-401-6862 if interested.

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Liver Donor – Gary Fall, brother of Bob Fall, has liver cancer. He is currently on the Liver Transplant List, but this could take years. If you are interested in becoming his donor you must be between the ages of 18-55 and have blood type 'A' or 'O'. (You can donate a portion of your liver and it will regenerate in months.) For more information, visit UPMC.com/LivingDonorLiver or call 412-647-5800. Prayers are much appreciated at this time!

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80th Anniversary Luncheon – Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 24th** as plans are in the works for a catered anniversary luncheon for the faithful of St. John's. A mere donation of \$10 will be requested for this wonderfully catered meal. Space will be limited. Please sign up on the sheet in the Church Hall to reserve your seat today.

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/acrodnnews
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship: \$ 100
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: \$ 260
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special: \$ 1126

Total Donations: \$ 1486

*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*

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DDD Ambassador wanted – Our community outreach collection at the end of the month is to subsidize our parish' contribution to the Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD) fund. We can also, and are encouraged to, individually be a DDD contributor. We are currently looking for a parish ambassador to help answer any questions that someone may have about this. (Don't worry – Father has a letter explaining everything to help you answer the questions.) Please let Father know if you are willing to be our ambassador!

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

August 20: **Tim Martin**

August 27: **"Pot Luck"**

September 3: **"Pot Luck"**

Thank you to all those who support this critical ministry of our Church!



Advertising – Did you hear that we are having a Garage Sale? Please help us spread the word! The garage sale will only be successful if we help people. We can only help people if they hear about it! Please take a flyer from the church hall and post it around town so that people know when the sale is this year.

Flea Market F • U • N

MARSHALL

SHADELAND AREA

ETHIC FOOD KITCHEN

Eat in or Take Out

August 25th & 26th

Fri. 9am-3pm, Sat. 9am-3pm

St John The Baptist

Orthodox Church

2688 California Ave, 15212

"LOOK FOR THE GOLD DOMES!"

Plus FLEA MARKET with

100's of items \$1.00 or less

Lots of Crafting Supplies

and other Great Items.

All Welcome!

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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- Become St John's DDD Ambassador
(See Father for details)
- Bring in a lightly used coat for FOCUS
- Offer some of your time on the days of the Garage Sale and leading up to it
- Take one of the coffee social weeks
- Attend additional services

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

The Dormition: Pascha of the Summer

In the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom celebrated in the Orthodox Church, the priest repeats the following prayer a number of times: **Let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.**

The ecclesiastical year, which begins on September 14th, has been divinely developed by the Church Fathers **with feasts and fasts to aid our life in the God-Man Christ.**



The longest and strictest fast, The Great Fast, paves the way for Pascha (Easter), the Feast of Feasts. In addition to the Great Fast, there are three other periods of prescribed fasting: that of the Apostles in June; the Dormition in August; and, that of the Nativity (Christmas).

The One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church is presently observing the Holy Dormition Fast; this period, which lasts two weeks from the 14th to the 27th of August, culminates on the 28th with the celebration of the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos (Mother of God).

Before this, though, on August 19th, Orthodoxy celebrates another one of the Twelve Great Feasts, that is, the Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The holiness of these two weeks gives fuel for the faithful to energize their spiritual struggle; this is one reason why the Dormition period is affectionately known as the Summer Pascha.

Let us then briefly examine the theological and spiritual significance of these two feasts through the homilies of Saint Gregory Palamas (1296-1359), who represents Christian theology at its most sublime.

Unlike some who deny the truth, St. Gregory demonstrates clearly that the Light of the Transfiguration is uncreated. "While pretending to concern themselves with the literal sense of the passage, they reject its godly meaning," Palamas writes.

In Matthew's Gospel (see 17:1-9; see also Luke 9:28-36), the Evangelist recounts the manifestation of Christ's divinity through a display of His divine energy on Mount Tabor: "And He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light" (Mt 17:2).

This theophany was beheld by three of His disciples – Peter, James and John – as well as by Moses and Elijah. God the Father also spoke, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Mt 17:5), confirming Jesus' divine sonship.



The attainment of this light is the ultimate goal of Orthodox Christians and can be achieved by dedicating "our whole life to Christ our God" as the Holy Chrysostom says.

"The divine light is given by measure and is received to a greater or lesser extent, being distributed, undividedly divided, according to the worthiness of the recipients," declares St. Gregory, although this in no way should be confused with God's essence, which is "absolutely indivisible and incomprehensible, and no other being can receive it, either to a greater or lesser extent."

We have no better example, no better prototype, to lead us to Christ's ineffable glory than His Mother, the Most Holy Lady and Ever-Virgin Mary, the Holy of Holies, whose Dormition we will soon celebrate.

St. Gregory writes:

She showed that her whole life, her behaviour, her mind and her words, were utterly devoted to godly striving. As a result of this, her death, too, was life-giving and led to heavenly, immortal life, and its day of remembrance is a joyful holiday and worldwide festival... For at present she is the only one who has a place in heaven with her divinely glorified body in the company of her Son.

Orthodoxy venerates the Theotokos through its icons, hymns and feasts and prays for her intercessions to her Son and our God. A special honour in the liturgical life of the Church is given to the Axion Estin hymn:

It is truly right to bless you, Theotokos, ever blessed, most pure, and Mother of our God. Higher in honor than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Logos. Most truly Theotokos, you do we magnify.

Like Pascha, the Great Feasts of the Dormition Fast call us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mk 12:30). **The Transfiguration shows us that we can experience the Kingdom of God here on earth, while the Dormition shows us that through our faith and good works and Christ's love and mercy, we can attain immortal life;** since, as St. Gregory Palamas describes: "Christ as God is for those who live by the Spirit and see with spiritual eyes what the sun is for those who live by their senses and see with natural vision."

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/evangelos-sotiropoulos/the-dormition-pascha-of-t_b_3710704.html

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

"This kind (v. 21) refers to all powers of darkness, not simply those that cause a particular illness. The banishment of demons requires faith (v. 20), prayer, and fasting (v. 21), for there is no healing and no victory in spiritual warfare without all three. Beginning with the Didache, the Fathers have taught that both the person in need of healing and the person performing the healing must believe, pray, and fast." – Orthodox Study Bible, Matthew 17:20-21

MONDAY

"When you are about to pray to our Lady the Holy Virgin, be firmly assured, before praying, that you will not depart from her without having received mercy. To think thus and to have confidence in her is meet and right. She is, the All-Merciful Mother of the All-Merciful God, the Word, and her mercies, incalculably great and innumerable, have been declared from all ages by all Christian Churches; she is, indeed, an abyss of mercies and bounties, as is said of Her in the canon of Odigitry." +*St John of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ*

TUESDAY

"Fasting is wonderful, because it tramples our sins like a dirty weed, while it cultivates and raises truth like a flower." +*St. Basil the Great*

WEDNESDAY

"The thoughts that vex and annoy us have many distinctions: a provocation, or an attack of a thought, is not a sin but is a test of our free will, to what it is inclined—to the thought or to opposition of it. However, when there is agreement and communion with these passions it is considered to be a sin and repentance is needed. He who does not have the strength to oppose them himself must hasten to God, cast down his infirmity and implore His help and the help of the mother of God. When someone is conquered by thoughts it is a sign that pride preceded them, and therefore, he must humble himself more." +*St. Macarius of Optina*

THURSDAY

"The more piously a man lives, the more the Devil forces men to anger against him." +*St John of Kronstadt*

FRIDAY

"The Most Holy Mother of God prays for us ceaselessly. She is always visiting us. Whenever we turn to her in our heart, she is there. After the Lord, she is the greatest protection for mankind. How many churches there are in the world that are dedicated to the Most Holy Mother of God! How many healing springs where people are cured of their ailments have sprung up in places where the Most Holy Theotokos appeared and blessed those springs to heal both the sick and the healthy! She is constantly, by our side, and all too often we forget her." +*Elder Thaddeus, Homily on the Dormition*

SATURDAY

"I myself am nothing; all that is good in me is accomplished by the grace of God." +*St John of Kronstadt*

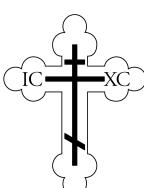
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THINGS TO CONSIDER

Office Hours – Monday-Friday from 9am–4pm OR by appointment.

Online Community – Please email Fr. Dave at fr.sleepless@gmail.com to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

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



Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, Saturdays during fasting periods from 11:00am to 1:00 pm, OR by appointment.

Holy Communion/Eucharist – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged by all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive a *blessing* from the chalice.

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.

Baptisms – Please consult Father ASAP for details.

Marriages – Please consult Father ASAP for details (before arrangements are made for the hall).

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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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: <http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar>

Righteous Eudokimos

Commemorated on August 13/July 31

Righteous Eudokimos, a native of Cappadocia (Asia Minor), lived during the IX Century during the reign of emperor Theophilos (829-842). He was the son of the pious Christians Basil and Eudokia, an illustrious family and known to the emperor. The righteous life of Saint Eudokimos was totally guided towards pleasing God and service to neighbour. Having given a vow to remain unmarried and chaste, he avoided conversation with women and did not look at them; only with his own mother whom he extremely respected did he carry on edifying conversation. For his virtuous life the emperor appointed Saint Eudokimos as governor of the Kharsian district. Fulfilling his duty as a servant of God, Righteous Eudokimos governed the people justly and with kindness, he concerned himself over the misfortunate, and about orphans and



widows, and he was a defender of the common people. His personal Christian exploits which he did in secret, were known only to God.

Eudokimos pleased God by his blameless life, and the Lord called him at age 33. Laying on his death-bed, Saint Eudokimos gave final instructions to place him in the grave in those clothes in which he would meet death. Then he sent everyone out of the room and besought the Lord in prayer, that no one would see his end, just as no one saw his secret efforts during life. His attendants buried him as he had instructed them. Right after the death of Righteous Eudokimos miracles happened at his grave, many sick people were healed, and the news about the miracles of healing spread about.

After 18 months the mother of Saint Eudokimos came to venerate the relics, from Constantinople, whither his parents had settled

after the death of the saint. She gave orders to remove the stone, dig up the ground, open the grave, and everyone beheld the face of the saint, bright as though alive, altogether untouched by decay. Great fragrance came from him. They took up the coffin with the relics from the earth, and they changed the saint into new clothes. His mother wanted to take the relics of her son to Constantinople, but the Kharsian people would not clear a path for their holy one. But after a certain while the priest-monk Joseph, having

lived and served at the grave of the saint, transported all the relics of Saint Eudokimos to Constantinople. There they were placed in a silver reliquary in the church of the MostHoly Mother of God, built by the parents of the saint.

Righteous Eudokimos is considered in the Russian Church to be one of the special protectors and intercessors before God of the family hearth.

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PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and 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.



For the Health of... Ann, Eleanor D., Julie, Jane, Mildred, Mark, Viola, Juliana, Nathaniel, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Teresa, David, Susan, Anna Mae, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Lawrence, Fredrick, Iris, Helen B., Daniel, Maria, Matthew, Timothy, Steven, Bruce, Wendy, Gary, Sophia, Barbara, Valerie, Michael, Peter ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Great-Martyr & Healer.



Birthday Prayers for... Jane Gaydos (8/13), Wade Winkler (8/14), Donna Horbal (8/17), Emma Martellotti (8/18)...*May God allow them to grow in peace & love all the days of their lives & may He grant them many & blessed years! Na Mnohaia! Blahaia! I'ita!*

Anniversary Prayers for... Steve & Elaine Buhonick (8/6) ...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!



For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Amee, Andrea, Jason, 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, Patricia ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

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

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

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

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

For the soul of the newly departed... Matushka Catherine Jula ...May the Lord God grant him blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Memory eternal!

ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

PARAKLIS – (Paraklesis) a service of supplication specifically for the living. This service is most often addressed to the Theotokos, but may be used to seek the intercessions of any saint. The distinguishing feature of a paraklesis is the inclusion of a supplicatory canon to the saint whose intercessions are being sought. A paraklesis can be served as a stand-alone service or, in a slightly abbreviated form, in conjunction with Vespers. It is appropriate to be served at any time of need.

on with Vespers. It is appropriate to be served at any time of need.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

Prayer of a Married Couple

Prayer of a Married Couple

O merciful God, we ask You always to remind us that the married state is holy, and that we must keep it so. Grant us Your grace, that we may continue in faithfulness and love; increase in us the spirit of mutual understanding and trust, that no quarrel or strife may come between us. Grant us Your blessings, that we may stand before our friends and in Your sight as a loving family; and finally, by your mercy, count us worthy of everlasting life. For You are our sanctification and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.