

2688 California Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa 15212
Rectory: 412-766-4691
OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com
le-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Jane Barrett; Julie Potoski; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Roberta Kruchkevich; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Cindy Pavilonis; Patty Watson

***"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**

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Akathist to St John – On **Friday, October 6**, the Church celebrates the Conception of Saint John, the Forerunner, and our Patron Saint. Let us gather at 9:30am to pray the Akathist Hymn in his honor.

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Annual Fall Bazaar – St. Michael's (146 Third Ave., Rankin, PA 15104) will hold its annual fall bazaar on **Sunday, October 8th** from 11am to 4pm. Food, crafts, raffles, bingo and fellowship!

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Godparents / Godchildren Sunday – Our Annual Godparents celebration will be **Sunday, October 15th**, a day to honor our them and to encourage the growth of this spiritual relationship. Personally invite your Godparents (or those of your children) and/or invite your Godchildren to come to Church and share this day with them. Please prepare yourself and join your Godchild in receiving the Eucharist (Holy Communion) on that day. *We need to keep the Spiritual bonds alive with our God-parents and God-children. Even more important, we need to keep our life united with our Lord, Jesus Christ. This unites us with one another.* If you have ideas for the day or a desire to be involved in the planning of our God-parents Sunday, please contact or see Fr. Dave.

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Fall Festival – St. Nicholas (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120) will have their Annual Fall Festival on **Friday & Saturday, October 20th & 21st** from 11am to 7pm each day. There will be a variety of Pirohi, Soups, Haluski, Stuffed Cabbage, and Kolbasi to enjoy. There will also be a Bake Sale and Basket Raffles. Bingo will be on Saturday with Early Birds at 1pm and Regular Bingo at 2pm (Donation is \$15). Saturday will also have the "Haunted School House". Please call Tom Pingor (412-462-8462) for more info.

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Front Door – The front door needs refinished. Please contact a Council member if you, or if you can recommend someone, who can do this.

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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- Take one of the coffee social weeks
 - Attend additional services
 - Give financially to our parish
- Plan to assist in painting the foundation of the parish house

Our Stewardship Gift To God

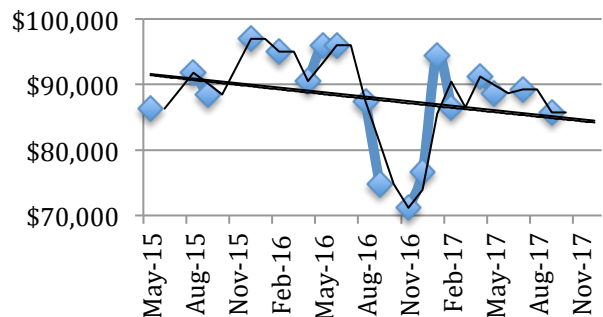
Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 392
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 141
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 382
Total Collections:	\$ 915
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 100

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

Stewardship Offerings – Your donations to our Church assist in the ministries of our parish, to keep the lights on, and other expenses that we incur. Your commitment financially is needed for the financial health of our parish. Please consider this each month as you manage your budget.

Total Church Monies



Coffee Social Stewards Needed – On weeks that no one signs up to host and organize our coffee social, we will have a 'pot-luck' meal. On these weeks, we ask that **every** household brings something **small** for a pot-luck surprise spread for the community to enjoy that week! (Don't over think the menu - Plan to *keep it simple* ☺) Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after. *The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors.* Lets keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

October 1: **"Pot Luck"**

October 8: **"Pot Luck"**

October 15: **Cindy Pavilonis**

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

Bulletin Sponsor – Please contact Fr Dave to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor* of (anniversary or birthday) or *In Memory* of someone. Additional stewardship offering is kindly requested.

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

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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



California Coffee Bar – About 6 months ago a new coffee shop opened down the street from our parish (diagonally across the street from Kunsak's Funeral Home). They have a wonderful thing going! Take a coupon from the desk in the church hall and enjoy a bite to eat or a coffee when you are in the area!

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH

Choir Concert – *"From Mysticism to Jubilation: Orthodox Christian Sacred Chant"* will be presented by the Pittsburgh Pan-Orthodox Choir and the Byzantine Choir of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh **TODAY, September 24th** at 4:00 pm at St Bernard Roman Catholic Church in Mt Lebanon (311 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15216).

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Annual 7-K Walk/Run for Missions “Fulfilling Jesus’ Great Commission” – will be on **Sunday, October 8th** at South Park Children’s Playground Pavilion (Corrigan & Brownsville Rd., South Park, PA 15129) sponsored by the *Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh*. Pre-register by Oct. 1st at www.holycrosspgh.org/events OR register at 1pm at South Park. Walk begins at 2pm. There will be complimentary refreshments before the walk and a light lunch following the walk. FREE T-Shirt for children 8 years and under who raise \$25 or others who raise \$50 or more. Bring your pledge forms and collected money to the event (make checks payable to “Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood”). Even if you are unable to be with us in person, your donation will be extremely helpful in carrying out this important and necessary work of the Church. For more information, email faith.williard@pittsburghmoves.com or stevekrakora@hotmail.com, or call 412-251-3207. Proceeds earmarked for the Guatemalan Seminarians and Mission work of Fr. John and Presbyteria Sandy Chakos. Visit www.TheWordFromGuatemala.com to follow the blog of this mission!

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All In Good Taste: Dark Rum & Cigar Tasting to Benefit IOCC – Thursday, October 12th from 7pm~10pm at Leaf and Bean (3525 Washington Rd., McMurray, PA 15317). Tickets are \$50. Each guest will receive 3 cigars and 3 dark rums to sample. Light hors d’oeuvres will be available. Advance registration required to guarantee availability. Kindly register at: www.iocc.org/pittsburgh or contact Kevin (724-344-5610 / kevinsreck@gmail.com) before October 10th. Sponsorships also available.

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ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

Church – (Gr. ekklesia, the “called out,” the “assembly.”) The faithful are called out of the world to be the Church: the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the New Israel, the ark of Salvation, the assembly of believers. Through the Church, Christians are united to Christ and to each other. In this community, the believer receives the Grace of God through the Mysteries and hears the truth of the gospel. This mystical transformation of people into one body in Christ takes place in the Eucharist. Because Christ is Head of the Church, the Church is a reflection of His Incarnation, with both human and divine qualities. (See Mt 16:18; 1Co 10:16,17; Gal 6:16; Eph 4:12;5:22–32.)

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Avoiding Hypocrisy:
We must not let our Christian Faith be artificial
It is very easy to live our lives in hypocrisy if we are not mindful of the pitfalls of the spiritual life. We can become Pharisees without even noticing, if we let our Christianity be artificially lived. Living our lives as though we have been rehearsed by a stage director, we will have accomplished nothing, and will remain no more than an actor. Putting on the mask of Christianity, is not living in Christ. An honest, daily examination of our conscience, together with regular guidance by our confessor, is the only way we can live a Christian life that will lead to transformation of the heart.
If we simply put on a show of being a Christian, without any true repentance, we will remain mired in false religiosity, and our heart will grow dark.

Christ must be invited into the heart on a daily basis, through prayer, and honest examination of our conscience, without which there can be no spiritual growth. We cannot play at being a Christian, for to do so will lead to spiritual death.
We must "put on Christ", daily, and make sure our public expression of our faith is not being acted out for others, but is ever entering into a deeper relationship with this very Christ. Playing at spirituality only leads to spiritual death. If our life does not give witness to Christ in us, and if our attention is given over to self promotion, or a desire to please others, but avoids honest examination of our sins, we will be like fruit that dies on the vine.
Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

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The Necessity Of Going To Church And Communing: A Medical Perspective
By: Protodeacon Andrei Kuryaev
In contemporary medicine there is a certain procedure: the patient is given a transfusion of his own blood. Blood is taken from his body, it is cleansed of various harmful contaminations, or alternatively enriched with certain components, which the sick man’s organism cannot itself produce in the required quantities. And this purified or enriched blood is reintroduced into the patient’s system. Something of the kind occurs in

our relationship with Christ. God became man. He took on Himself our nature, which had fallen into corruption, and in Himself healed it and saturated it with Divinity, Eternalness, and Immortality; and it is His human Body, which has now already passed through death and resurrection, that He returns to us. His human Blood, vitalized by the Divine currents, He pours into us, that we might bear the seed of Resurrection and be communicants of Eternity.
And so, we come to church, so that we might receive something therein. The church — it’s just

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Excerpt From "Why Go To Church If I Have God In My Heart?"

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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.

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.

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.

Baptisms – Please consult Father 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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“The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times.

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 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.

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

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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.*

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

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

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Birthday Prayers for... Fr. R. Michael Zak (9/24), Shane Yakemawiz (9/28), Wendy Martellotti (9/29) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*

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Anniversary Prayers for... Ken & Paula Watson (9/24) and Charles & Allison Kretchek (9/26) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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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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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

A Prayer for our Neighborhood by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems.

Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know.

O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector.

Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.