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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Pañi Brancho, Cindy Pavilonis, Viola Peifer, Olga Radick, and Theresa Sharpless.

***"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 in memory of Ann Sefscik offered by Margie Pekular and Jim & Kathy Miller. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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Bishop Gregory's 5th Episcopal Anniversary – The Diocese will honor His Grace, Bishop Gregory on the 5th anniversary of his ordination to the Episcopate. Here is the schedule for **Monday, November 27th**: 5:00pm Prayers of Thanksgiving for His Grace at the Holiday Inn (250 Market Street, Johnstown, PA); 5:15 Cash Bar & Hors d'oeuvres; 6:00 Dinner (Salmon or Filet Mignon: \$50; Kid's Meal (12 Years & Under): \$20) Register NO LATER than **November 6th** (necessary for memento ordering purposes). Make checks payable to ACROD, 312 Garfield Street, Johnstown, PA 15906 ("Bishop's Anniversary" on Memo Line) If you wish to stay overnight, book at the Holiday Inn (814-535-7777) under 'ACROD' No Later Than Nov. 6th to get the special rate (\$94.99+tax).

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Gertrude Hawk Christmas Candy – Our Christmas Candy Sale has begun! Order forms are in the Church Hall. Orders will be due by the Turkey Bingo (November 19th) and will be delivered in mid-December. Please see Tim Martin with any questions.

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Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh Icon – This Icon (*the centennial Icon of St. Mary Orthodox Church, Southside Pittsburgh*) is being reproduced by the Nativity of the

Theotokos Monastery (Saxonburg, PA) with all proceeds going to the monastery to help rebuild after their lightening strike and fire. Please email Father for an order form or see the sheet in the hall as sizes and prices vary from 11"x14" for \$65 to 18"x24" for \$290 (there are 5 different styles to choose from).

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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Visitation of the Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Theotokos "Kardiotissa" – On Friday, October 27th, the weeping icon from our sister parish in Taylor, PA will be visiting St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral (419 S Dithridge St, Pittsburgh, PA 15213). There will be a Paraklesis Service at 7pm. If you missed the recent visit of the Iveron Icon to the Pittsburgh area, please make an effort to be in the presence of this icon.

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Pirohi Fest – St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church (3455 California Avenue) will be having their Fall Pirohi Festival on **Saturday, November 4th** from 11a-6p. For more information on this event please call the parish office at 412-766-8801. Here is the menu that I have come across: **7** Varieties of pirohi: potato and cheese, sauerkraut, half and half, loaded potato, jalapeno, farmer's cheese, lekvar (prune plum); **3** Kinds of Soup: borscht, chicken noodle, mushroom barley; and Baked goods

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Walk To End Alzheimer's will be on **Sat., Nov. 4th** (Registration @7:30am; Ceremony @9:30; Walk Begins @10) at Stage AE on the North Shore. There is a 1 mi. or 2.5 mi. route. Please see Fr Dave if you are interested in walking or donating to this great cause!

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship: \$ 399
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: \$ 110
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special: \$ 185

Total Collections: \$ 694

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

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****Legacy Gift to our Church** – We have been blessed with the generosity of the Estate of George Wills (Stim) as we have received \$2,500. May his memory be eternal!

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*****Stewardship Offerings** – Thank you and God Bless you for your continued 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. We appreciate all that you do with your time, talent, and treasures towards our present and future. Please continue your support each month as you manage your budget.

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Luke 6:31)
- Take a Coffee Social week
- Attend an additional service at Church

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

October 29: **Gina and Bob Fall**
November 5: **Theresa Shaprless**
November 12: **Steve Brancho**

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

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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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Whirlwind of Ukraine – presented by Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble will be on Saturday, October 28th at 2:30pm at the Andrew Carnegie Music Hall (300 Beechwood Ave, Carnegie, PA 15106). to reserve tickets or for information contact: kyivdance@aol.com or (412) 527-5359. 12:00 PM Ukrainian Marketplace with Traditional Ukrainian Food and Cultural Items. Sponsored by St Peter & St Paul Ukrainian Church, Carnegie, PA.

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Fall Young Adult Retreat: "Trusting the Process" – will be held from **October 27-29** at Camp Nazareth geared towards those 18-35. The weekend event will feature Keynote addresses given by Mr. Jacob Saylor and will offer a unique perspective on the cosmic process of salvation. *If you ever struggle with "staying on track", or if you ever feel like you don't know where you're headed in your life, then don't miss out on this unique retreat! It will give you some great insight and tools to help you navigate even the roughest times. Register today! Email YoungAdultRetreats@gmail.com.*

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Fall Youth Encounter – will be on November 10-12 at Camp Nazareth. Registration forms are now available online at <http://www.acrod.org/news/2017/encounter-2017>

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Orthodoxy on Tap – The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) will host their next "Orthodoxy on Tap" on **Sunday, November 12th** at 6:30 pm at the Sharp Edge Beer Emporium (302 S St Clair St., Pgh., Pa 15206). Special guest speaker will be His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania who will speak on *"Monastic Spirituality for Everyday Life"*. Come and learn about your faith!

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Cremation versus the Orthodox Practice of Burial

The first time I ever attended a funeral service where cremation of the body of the deceased had taken place was in Portland, Oregon, many years ago. An Episcopal priest friend had died and had requested his body be cremated. Walking into the church and seeing a small box sitting before the altar was a shock for me. Cremation was always something only non-believers practiced, Christians having always viewed cremation as something of pagan roots. I clearly remember feeling cheated out of that last goodbye, unable as I was to view my friend for one last time.

In ancient times pagans always either burned the bodies of their dead, or left them for birds to consume, whereas Jews and Christians placed their dead in tombs, or in the earth, awaiting the bodily resurrection. For Christians the belief that the body was the temple of the Holy Spirit and therefore sacred, made the burning of the body unacceptable. Bodies of our dead were always to be treated with great reverence. From the earliest of times the bodies of the martyrs and saints were buried in the catacombs, their tombs used as altars for the celebration of the Eucharistic offering, catacombs often being the only safe place for believers to worship without threat of arrest.

One of my earliest memories was going to a family plot in Spokane, WA. with my maternal grandmother. She would lay flowers on the graves of her loved ones, family members who were long dead before I was even born. Even though many had been gone from this life for a few generations, to my grandmother they were still alive. She would sit on a tombstone, flowers in hand, and tell me about her sisters, her parents, and other family members. Her shared memories were made all the more real seeing the names of these loved ones chiseled in stone.

The ritual of visiting graves was common back in those days, with families keeping alive the

memories, while showing their love and respect for their dead relatives by tending to the graves, and leaving flowers. It was even quite common, especially in Western Europe, for friends and families to take picnics to graveyards.

There is also the role cemeteries can play in our own spiritual lives, for they are clear reminders of our own mortality. I have already picked the plot where my own remains will be placed on the grounds of our monastery. Seeing where one will eventually be laid to rest is a good way to remember one's own eventual death, reminding ourselves of our own mortality, and to use our remaining days wisely.

The Orthodox Church forbids the cremated remains of anyone to be brought into the temple for services, or for any other reason, and funeral services over cremated remains is strictly forbidden. The practice is seen as a denial of the bodily resurrection, not because God can't raise the dead from ashes, but because the practice does not reflect the Church's teaching that the body of a believer housed the Holy Spirit. It is also ignoring the fact that believers receive, in their lifetime, the very Body and Blood of Christ, and the body is therefore made holy in preparation for that day when we shall be united in both body and soul, to live forever with God.

My parents converted to Orthodoxy in their mid seventies and are buried in the church yard next to Saint John the Baptist Church in Post Falls, Idaho. Having them in an Orthodox cemetery, side by side, means a lot to me, and I visit their graves whenever I am in Northern Idaho on visits to my family. Having a plot to visit continues that connection and allows me a chance to show my love for them by placing flowers on their graves as I offering prayers for their souls. It saddens me that so many people have deprived themselves of such moments, having spread their loved one's ashes over golf courses or on beaches. The loss of family cemeteries has contributed, I am convinced, to the breakdown of the all important extended families


For those who would say that cremation is more ecologically sound, I would point out that the particles dispersed in the atmosphere are by no means good for the environment. A new way of burial, known as green burial, is gaining popularity throughout the country and is far more ecologically sound than cremation. Green burials require a

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

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CORRUPTION The state of mortality and sinfulness, the universal condition of fallen humanity. All people are born into a world suffering the consequences of the Fall, the sin of Adam and Eve. These consequences include physical suffering, death, lack of perfection and a propensity to sin. (See Ps 52:4; Is 53:6; Rom 3:23; 1Jn 5:19.)

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 Apostle Andrew the First-Called (Comm. 30 November), made missionary journeys preaching in Judea, Edessa, Gaza, Eleutheropolis, and converting many on the path of salvation. In the Egyptian city of Ostrazin Saint James finished his apostolic work with a martyr's death on the cross.

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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*

[illegible]

“This is one of three resurrections performed by our Lord as recorded in the Gospels (see also 8:41–56; Jn 11:1–44). They confirm the promise given to the prophet Ezekiel that God will one day open the graves and raise all the dead (Ezk 37:1–14). Many people have exercised authority over the living; only the Son of God “has power over both the living and the dead” (funeral service). While Christ has power through His word alone (Jn 11:43), here He also touched the coffin to show that His very body is life-giving. This event also prefigures Christ’s own Resurrection. As Mary would weep for Jesus at the Cross, yet her tears would be turned to joy by the Resurrection, here a widow’s only son is raised from the dead, putting an end to her weeping (+St Ambrose of Milan).” –Orthodox Study Bible, Luke 7:11–17

"Don't be deceived regarding the knowledge of what will be after your death: what you sow here, you will reap there. After leaving here, no one can make progress. Here is the work, there the reward; here the struggle, there the crowns." +*St. Barsanuphius the Great, Instructions, 606*

"Christians, always rejoice, for evil, death, sin, the devil and hell have been conquered by Christ. But when all of this is conquered, is there anyone in the world who can bring our joy to naught? You are the lord of this eternal rejoicing as long as you do not give in to sin. Joy burns in our hearts from His truth, love, resurrection, and from the Church and His saints. Joy burns in our hearts all because of sufferings for Him, mockings for Him, and death for Him, insofar as these sufferings write our names in heaven. There is no true joy on earth without the victory over death, but the victory over death does not exist without the Resurrection, and the Resurrection does not exist without Christ. The risen God-Man Christ, the founder of the Church, constantly pours out this joy into the hearts of His followers through the Holy Mysteries and good deeds. Our faith is fulfilled in this eternal joy, insofar as the joy of faith in Christ is the only true joy for human nature." +*St. Justin Popovich, Explanation of I Thessalonians, 5*

WEDNESDAY

"We know and are convinced that falling away from the Church, whether into schism, heresy, or sectarianism, is complete perdition and spiritual death. For us there is no Christianity outside of the Church. If Christ established the Church, and the Church is His Body, then to be cut of from His Body is to die." +St. Hilarion Troitsky, *On Life in the Church*

THURSDAY

"A man obtains the fear of God if he has the remembrance of his unavoidable death and of the eternal torments that await sinners; If he tests himself every evening as to how he has spent the day, and every morning as to how he has spent the night, and if is not sharp in his relations with others." +St. Abba Dorotheos, *Soul-profitng Teachings*, 4

FRIDAY

"Beloved brothers, with sound mind, with firm faith, with rugged virtue, let us be ready for every manifestation of God's will; freed from the terror of death, let us think of the immortality that follows. Let us show that this is what we believe, so that we may not mourn the death even of our dear ones and when the day of our own summons comes, without hesitation but with gladness we may come to the Lord at His call." +St Cyprian, *"On Mortality"*

SATURDAY

"In your heart, be always ready for your departure. If you are wise, you will expect it at every hour... Go to sleep with these thoughts every night, and reflect upon them every day. When the messenger comes, go joyfully to meet him, saying: "Come in peace. I knew that you would be here and I have not neglected anything that could help me on my journey" +St. Isaac the Syrian, *"The Mystic Treatises"*

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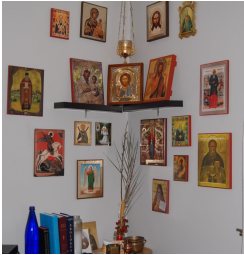
PRAYER CORNER

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

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For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Fr. Timothy, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Amee, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Olga, John, Sarah, Sharon, Ryan, Cora and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Donald, Jane, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, Kenneth, Gina, Robert, Jillian, Wendy, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, 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 Expectant Mothers... Pañi Katie, Pañi Ileana, Amee ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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Birthday Prayers for... Alyssa Duray (10/23), Paula Watson (10/25), Kaitlyn Duray (10/26), Mareena Shuster (10/29) ...*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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* 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 in Preparation for Death

O Lord, look upon me, Your creature, and the work of Your hands. Take away my fear, and send Your angel to comfort me with the strength of Your presence, even as You were comforted in Your agony. I commend everyone I love to Your providence and care, knowing that You will do more for them than I could ever desire. O Lord, You know my sins; have mercy on me, and in Your wealth of love and compassion for mankind, let heaven be opened to me. May I see the angels rejoicing over me, an unworthy sinner, as I am received into Your Kingdom. I am not worthy of Your love for me, but I trust that You will not abandon me to the eternal death of hell. By the prayers of the Theotokos, Your Mother, and of all the saints, may I be counted among those who behold the light of Your face. May I offer You the praise and worship which are my eternal life and joy. For You are my life and my resurrection, and Your arms will receive me in love, O Jesus, and I glorify You, with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever unto ages of ages. Amen.