



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



Reverend Dave Urban, *Pastor*
Very Reverend John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*
Timothy Martin, *Reader*
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
Matthew Peifer, *Church Council President*
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November 12, 2017

Volume III

23RD Sunday after Pentecost / 6th Lukan Sunday /

Hieromartyr Zenobius and his sister Zenobia of Aegae, Cilicia (285)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 6

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10; Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Panachida for +Ann Sefscik (40th day)

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, November 15 – 7pm Exploring Orthodoxy at the Eat 'n Park in Wexford

Thursday, November 16 – 9:30am Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup

Holy Mystery of Confession available following every service.

Monday	Venerables Spyridon & Nicodemus the Prosphorabakers (1148)	1 Thes. 2:20-3:8	Luke 11:29-33
Tuesday	Holy Wonderworkers Cosmas & Damian (3rd c.)	1 Thes. 3:9-13	Luke 11:34-41
* Wed.	Martyrs Aphthonius, Elpidophorus, & Anempodistus (341)	1 Thes. 4:1-12	Luke 11:42-46
Thursday	Martyrs Acepsimas, Joseph, and Aeithalasthe (376)	1 Thes. 5:1-8	Lk 11:47-12:1
* Friday	Venerable Ioannicius the Great of Bithynia (846)	1 Thes 5:9-13,24-28	Luke 12:2-12
Saturday	Martyrs Galacteon and his wife Episteme at Emesa (253)	2 Cor. 11:1-6	Luke 9:1-6

** Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did.*

Sunday, November 19 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost / 7th Lukan Sunday / St. Paul the Confessor (350)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 7

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22; Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

YOUTH Sunday / 2pm - Turkey Bingo

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)

Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na v'iki!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! **Please join us downstairs** for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon!

If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr.

Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

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This Bulletin is offered:

If you wish to sponsor a Bulletin, for specific prayers for someone or for their memory, please do so by signing up on the sheet on the table in the Vestibule of the Church or by contacting Fr. Dave. An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Wednesdays through December 13 – 7pm Exploring Orthodoxy at Eat 'n Park in Wexford

Tue, Nov 21 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Synaxis of All the Bodiless Powers of Heaven

Thursday, November 23 – 9:30am Moleben of Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 26 – Nativity Fast Begins – 9:30am Moleben for the Nativity Fast

Friday, December 1 – 9:30am Akathist Hymn to the Nativity of Christ

Sunday, December 3 – 3pm Pittsburgh Deanery St. Nicholas Charity Dinner (see details below)

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions for this section to Father by Wednesday.)



Exploring Orthodoxy Adult Study & Catechism Returns!

– We will meet on Wednesdays from 7:00p to about 8:15p thru Dec. 13th at Eat 'n Park (2650 Brandt School Road, Wexford, Pa 15090 / 724-940-3270). We will continue our examination of *the priestly prayers of St John Chrysostom's Divine Liturgy*. We hope and pray that everyone is able to attend these tangent oriented discussions about Orthodoxy! Come for a bite to eat (*we need to spend \$40 to use the room*) and learn about your faith! (*If you need a ride, please contact Fr. Dave.*)

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St Nicholas Charity Dinner for the Pittsburgh Deanery will be on **Sunday, December 3rd** at a *different*

location this year: Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15235). Doors open at 2:30pm (Dinner at 3:00). This annual dinner benefits our *Christ the Saviour Seminary*. Adults are \$30 and Children under 12 are \$10. (*Please make checks payable to "Pittsburgh Deanery".*) Please see Fr Dave by **November 29th** for your ticket(s). *Donations of any prizes to be raffled off at the dinner can be given to Father.*

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Barbara Kirish; Roberta Kruchkevich; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Marianne Brady; Melanie Paieski; 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 last week by John Gaydos, Sr., In Memory of Wife, Catherine; and by Melanie Paieski, In Memory of Mother, Catherine Gaydos. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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ACRY NEWS – Congratulations to the newly elected officers:

President: Theresa Sharpless
Vice-President: Timothy Martin
Secretary: Katherine Schrmack
Treasurer: Carol Lorenzi



Mission & Vision Statements (from the National organization) -

The ACRY is an Orthodox Christian family fellowship dedicated to the purpose of encouraging spiritual growth through charitable and apostolic missionary works, prayer and fellowship for the Glory of God and the building up of the Church and our Diocese.

The ACRY seeks to enable its membership to experience the spiritual joy and fulfillment of participating in the work of Christ on a local, national and global levels through its many charitable outreach and philanthropic initiatives.

In our local parish, the ACRY are stewards of the Church with it's time, talents, and treasures. They support charitable and local associations throughout the year.

New Members – Are you interested in becoming a member of the ACRY to help in this wonderful and important ministry of the church? Please see one of the officers!

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Annual Turkey Bingo – will be next week, **Sunday, November 19th**. The doors will open at **2 pm** with the Bingo, Ethnic Kitchen, and raffles...

WE NEED STEWARDS (VOLUNTEERS)
To Step Forward With Your Time, Talents,
And God Given Gifts To Make This A
Successful Community Event!

Please see a Church Council member to offer your help

Thank you in advance for your support!

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Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship: \$ 530
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: \$ 176
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special: \$ 442

Total Collections: \$ 1148

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 56

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

September Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 5,851

***Expenses = \$ 4,990.62**

Net Income = \$ 860.38

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 33

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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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

November 19: **Steve Brancho**

November 26: **Open "Pot Luck"**

December 3: **Open "Pot Luck"**

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

Winter Church Clean-Up – will be on Saturday morning, **December 9th**. More details to come...

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Snow Removal Team – as temperatures have begun to drop, we are reminded that snow is on it's way. Just a reminder that we will be looking for folks, as in the past, to offer some of their time prior to people getting to church on Sundays to help with snow removal. *Please let Father know if you will be able to come earlier to Church to assist with keeping the sidewalks clear.* Ideally we will have a rotation of people so that the same person is not doing it each snowfall.

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Luke 6:31)
- Help at the Turkey Bingo
- Take a Coffee Social week
- Attend an additional service at 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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SAINT JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the Seminarians and ***Christ the Saviour Seminary***. Sunday, December 3rd is the annual St Nicholas Charity Dinner to support our seminary. Your donations this month will be presented at this event. *Thank you in advance for your prayers for our seminarians and offerings later this month!*

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH



Light on the Hill Celebration: Benefiting FOCUS Pittsburgh – will be on **Thursday, November 16th** at 6:30 pm at Senator John Heinz History Center (1212 Smallman St., Pittsburgh, PA 15222). Keynote Speaker this year will be Lynne Hayes-Freeland. Heavy Appetizers & Hors D'oeuvres and Dessert will be served. Business Attire. Donations requested during the event. For more information, visit: <http://focus-pittsburgh.com/gala2017/>

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Songs & Hymns of the Nativity - The FOCUS Pittsburgh Christmas Choral Concert will feature Orthodox Choirs from the Pittsburgh area on **Sunday, December 10th** at 5:30pm at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt. Lebanon across from the Galleria Mall (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15228). A free will offering will be taken to support the work of FOCUS Pittsburgh. A reception will follow the concert at the church hall.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

The PriestMartyr Zenobios, Bishop of Egeia, and his sister Zenobia

Commemorated on Nov 12 / Oct 30

The PriestMartyr Zenobios, Bishop of Egeia, and his sister Zenobia suffered a martyr's death in the year 285 in Cilicia. From childhood they were raised in the holy Christian faith by their parents, and they led pious and chaste lives. In their mature years, shunning the love of money, they distributed away their wealth, an inheritance, giving it to the poor. For his beneficence and holy life the Lord rewarded Zenobios with the gift of healing various maladies. And he was chosen bishop of a Christian community in Cilicia.

In the dignity of bishop, Saint Zenobios zealously spread the Christian faith among the pagans. When the emperor Diocletian (284-305) began a persecution against Christians, Bishop Zenobios was the first one arrested and brought to trial to



the governor Licius. "I shalt speak with thee but briefly, – said Licius to the saint, – for I propose to thee: life – if thou worshipest our gods, or death – if thou dost not". The saint answered: "This present life without Christ is death; better I prepare to endure the present torment for my Creator, and then with Him live eternally, than to renounce Him because of the present life, and then be tormented eternally in hades".

By order of Licius, they nailed him to a cross and began the torture. The sister of the bishop, seeing the suffering of her brother, wanted then to stop it with him. She bravely confessed her own faith in Christ afront the governor, for which she also was given over to torture.

By the power of the Lord they remained alive after torture on a red-hot cot and in a boiling kettle. The saints were then beheaded. Presbyter Hermogenes secretly buried the bodies of the martyrs.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Why Not "Open Communion"?

Especially at the feast of Pascha (Easter) non-Orthodox Christians ask why they may not receive Holy Communion in Orthodox parishes. As painful as this refusal is, it is based on our understanding of the true meaning of the sacrament as revealed in Scripture and ecclesial experience.

A few months ago someone sent me a posting from an Internet site that spoke to the issue of communion among various Christian confessions. In answer to the question why a Protestant believer was refused the sacrament at Easter in her boyfriend's Catholic parish, the writer declared that non-Catholics do not believe in "the presence of God's body in the transubstantiated host." Therefore, "they cannot take communion."

Then the writer added: "There is just one exception to this rule. Orthodox Christians (such as Greek Orthodox Christians) may take communion in all Roman Catholic Churches. The reason for this is that Orthodox Christianity also teaches the actual presence of God in the host."

This widespread understanding of the matter is not accurate and needs to be corrected on several counts, theological as well as pastoral. An entire tome could be written by way of



explanation, but here are a few of the most important elements. In the next two columns we'll explore some others.

In the first place, we need to acknowledge that many Protestant Christians (including many Anglicans) do believe that Holy Communion offers them a true participation in Christ's Body and Blood. They may not articulate that belief as Catholics or Orthodox would like; but their faith in Christ's "real presence in the Eucharist" is genuine and should not be disparaged or denied.

Then again, Orthodox Eucharistic theology does not explain the change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ as a result of "transubstantiation," the teaching that the "accidents" (visible properties) of the elements remain unaltered, while their "substance" or inner essence becomes the actual Body and Blood. Orthodox tradition speaks of "change" or "transformation," (*metamorphôsis*; in the Eucharistic Divine Liturgy *metabolôn*, "making the change") but always with a concern to preserve the mystery from the probings of human reason. It also speaks of the Body and Blood of the *glorified* Christ, making the point that our communion is in the personal being of the Resurrected and Exalted Lord, and not in the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus, torn and

The real issue, however, is not one of obedience

From this perspective, “open communion”—the welcoming of non-Orthodox to share in the Eucharistic celebration—is simply not possible without undermining the very meaning of the sacrament. This implies no particular judgment on the Eucharistic services of other Churches. It acknowledges rather that for the Orthodox, the Divine Liturgy is what the name implies. It is both the means and the end of Christian existence, an existence which arises from Orthodox faith, ongoing repentance, ascetic discipline, ecclesial identity and works of love. To those who accept this “Orthodox Way,” the Eucharist offers a true participation in the very Life of the risen and glorified Christ, just as it offers the forgiveness of sins, the healing of soul and body, and a foretaste of the heavenly Banquet in the eternal presence of God. (From: <https://oca.org/reflections/fr-john-breck/why-not-open-communion>)

"This food we call Eucharist, of which no one is allowed to partake except one who believes that the things we teach are true, and has received the washing for forgiveness of sins and for rebirth, and who lives according to the way Christ handed down to us." *+St. Justin Martyr*



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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am–4pm OR by appointment.
Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.
Phone Tree – Please call Fr. Dave to be added.
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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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, Matthew, James, Patricia, Denise, Lino, John, Fr. Jonathan Tobias, Pañi Marsha Tobias ...*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... *those working towards our Community Outreach*, Christ the Savior Seminary, for Bishop Gregory, Fr. Timothy, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Amee, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Olga, John, Sarah, Sharon, Ryan, Cora, John S., 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.*

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For Expectant Mothers... Pañi Ileana, Amee, Ashley, Harmonie ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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Birthday Prayers for... Dustin Kovats (11/12), John Sharpless (11/13), Cindy Pavilonis (11/14), and Father's cousin, Lori Urban (11/17)...*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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For those preparing for Marriage... ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia & all Holy Martyrs.*

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Anniversary Prayers for... Thomas & Harmonie (Scherer) Torchia (11/12) and Andrew & Anna Mae Gogal (11/14) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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

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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 the souls of the newly departed... ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Memory eternal!*

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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 Before Reading Holy Scripture

O Master Who loves mankind, illuminate our hearts with the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our mind to understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, that we may overcome all carnal desires, entering upon a spiritual life and understanding and acting in all things according to Your holy will. For You are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, O Christ God, and to You we give glory together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.