



# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*  
Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Timothy Martin, *Reader*  
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko  
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*  
Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*  
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2688 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15212  
412-748-0148, *Talk or Text*  
OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com  
[www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com](http://www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com)  
*Instagram:* SJB\_Orthodox\_Pittsburgh  
*NEW \*\*\* Twitter:* @SJB\_OrthodoxPGH



## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

(responded with: *Glorify be forever!*)

Slava Isusu Christu! (*Slava na viki!*)

We are happy that you have joined us today! 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 again soon! If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave.

## BULLETIN IS OFFERED:

In memory of  
+Mary Daniella  
(*birthday remembrance*).  
May her memory  
be eternal!

## SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

36<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday of Zacchaeus  
Martyr Tryphon of Campsada in Syria (250)  
9:15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15  
Gospel: Luke 19:1-10  
Panachida for +Daniel Gavulich (40-day)

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 (40 days after Nativity)

Feast of the Presentation of Christ  
\* Liturgy is CANCELLED due to a funeral

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9-10:30am Church open for personal prayer  
(*enter from the side door*)

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

9:30am Moleben

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 – TRIODION BEGINS

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee  
Prophet Zechariah (520 BC)  
9:15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15;  
Gospel: Luke 18:10-14  
Tone 4; Liturgical Color: **Gold**  
Blessing of Candles  
A Fast FREE Week

“It is well to place candles before the icons.  
But it is still better if you bring as a sacrifice to  
God the fire of your love for Him and your  
neighbour. It is well that the one should be  
accompanied by the other.”  
+Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt

## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wed.)

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**Blessing of Candles** – As is customary, candles will be blessed at the Divine Liturgy **next week** on the Sunday after the Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord, the 40th day after Nativity (Christmas) that remembers the presentation of the infant Jesus into the Temple. It is recorded in the Gospel of Luke (2:22-39) that on this day the elder Simeon recognized the infant Jesus as “a light for revelation to the Gentiles”. Thus we highlight the use of candles, as they remind us that Christ is the true Light of the World. There will be candles available for a donation, but you may also bring a candle from home for this blessing. Just place your candle(s) on the prepared table in front of the ambon. Let's light up the world with blessed candles!

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**On-Line Giving** is now available from our parish website! The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple. Now you can also donate from your home and set up a recurring donation to the:

- ✘ General Stewardship Fund,
- ✘ Capital Improvement Fund, or
- ✘ Relocation Fund.

If you miss coming to church for a week, this allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship.

## Scouts & Scout Leaders from our parish:



Eli Mainolfi, Lion Den

Josh Mainolfi, Wolf Den

Lucy Mainolfi, Weeblos

each from Troop 457, Zelienople, PA

*Thank you to all of our Scouts and Scout Leaders for all that you do in and for our communities! Many Years! Mnohaya L'ita!*

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**Parish Directory** – Has any of your information changed since our 2018 Parish Directory was published? (Forgive me for not finishing this last year at this time!) Please contact me with any changes to your address, email, or phone number. Thank you! – Fr. Dave

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**Additional Church Curators Needed** – Our curator list needs expanded! If anyone is interested in being a *steward of their time* and be “on-the-door”, please contact Theresa Sharpless. (A synonym for *curator* is *steward*.)

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**Live-Broadcast** – We are blessed with the opportunity to watch our Diocesan Cathedral's services online (9:00 am Sunday Divine Liturgy). The best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist, but in the current scenario, please take the time Sunday morning and throughout the week to pray via the *live broadcast* on the web at: [www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/)

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**Food Drive** – For the month of February we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry on Pittsburgh's South Side. Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! The list of food items they are looking for is available in the church hall or at [stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html](http://stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html)

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## OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 170
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 133
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 833
Community Outreach:	\$ 5

<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 1141</b>
<b>Relocation:</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>

*We must give in trust that God will use it to produce fruit: “He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your sowing (resources) and increase the harvest of your righteousness (benevolence).” - 2 Cor. 9:10*

## January Financial Report:

**General Stewardship = \$ 9238.64**  
(including \$ 43.97 online stewardship)

**\*Expenses = \$ 9563.39**

**Net Deficit = \$ 324.75**

*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: **12**

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Nelson Family; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Mirilovich Family; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis.

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**"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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**Weekly Offerings to God** – During this time, if you are not coming to the church, we request that weekly donations be mailed to Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143) For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

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### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✘ **Thursday, February 25** – 9:30am Moleben
- ✘ **Thursday, March 4** – 9:30am Moleben
- ✘ **Saturday, March 6** – 9:30 Divine Liturgy on the first All Soul Saturday

### ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

**2 NEW Youth Ministry Programs** - In order to keep our Diocesan Youth connected to each other in the time between our sessions of *"The Vine and the Branches,"* and to continue fostering their relationship with Christ, we are offering two optional Youth Ministry Programs for your children to participate in! Your child (age 5-18: K through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade) may join and participate in one or both of these programs. They are: **"HOMEROOMS" WITH OTHER DIOCESAN YOUTH** (*asynchronous* using the website/app "Homeroom"), and **MONTHLY CHECK-IN'S** (synchronous/live using Zoom). Signing up for both ministries will enable your child to interact with their peers around the Diocese in both a live form (monthly), as well as in an ongoing fashion as much as they would like. Youth Workers will help facilitate both the Check-ins and Homerooms. **The deadline to sign up is TONIGHT, Sunday 2/14.** Please call Fr Dave for more information.

### VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddioocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioocese](https://youtube.com/acroddioocese)

### SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Epistle:** 1 Timothy 4:9-15

<sup>9</sup>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. <sup>10</sup>For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. <sup>11</sup>Command and teach these things. <sup>12</sup>Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. <sup>13</sup>Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. <sup>14</sup>Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. <sup>15</sup>Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress

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**Gospel:** Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>And there was a man named Zacchae'us; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. <sup>3</sup>And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchae'us, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup>So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. <sup>7</sup>And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup>And Zacchae'us stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." <sup>9</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

### LIVING ORTHODOXY

#### On the Blessing of Candles:

On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40), it is customary to bless candles. Thus, this Feast is sometimes known as "Candlemas". Fr. John McGuckin writes: "When Christians pray, from time immemorial they have lit candles. The candle is a sign of the fire of the Holy Spirit. Their cheerful radiance becomes a little sacrament of the resurrection grace of Christ (*especially if at the time of prayer one dims the lights a little*). The flame also serves to remind us of how pure and heartfelt our prayer is meant to be, even if, at times, we are praying in a doldrum and may hardly feel any grace at all. The candle reminds us that Christ and His Holy Spirit pray in and through us, unfailingly. They see the heart's intent and always draw close in time of prayer. Their prayer (in us, through us, over us) is never dim, always luminous." (*Prayer Book of the Early Christians, Kindle Loc. 97-102*) Before reading the Gospel at the Divine Liturgy, the celebrant prays that God will illumine our hearts with the pure light of His divine knowledge so that we can understand His Gospel message. Hieromonk Gregorious, in his commentary on the Liturgy, says concerning the use of candles in the Orthodox Church: "We asked Christ to enlighten us with the light of divine knowledge because He is the illumination of our souls and bodies. This Light of Christ is symbolized by the light of the candles and lamps which we light at the Divine Liturgy and other services..." St Nikodimus of the Holy Mountain explains why we have lights in church: "First, to the glory of God, the true Light who enlightens every man [cf. John 1:9]. Secondly, to banish the darkness of night and give consolation. Thirdly, as a sign of joy and delight. Fourthly, in honor of the martyrs and saints. Fifthly, to suggest the light of our good works. And sixthly, for the forgiveness of our sins." St Symeon the New Theologian writes: 'The candles which you light reveal to you the intelligible light. Just as the church, that house of

great beauty, is full of light from many candles, so the house of your soul, which is more precious than that church, should be illumined and full of light in a noetic sense – that is to say, that within you all the spiritual virtues should burn with divine fire... The multitude of burning lamps signify the illumined thoughts which should shine within you like lamps, so that there should be no dark thought in the house of your soul, but that all should be aflame and shining with the light of the Holy spirit.'" (*The Divine Liturgy: A Commentary, pp 161-162*) In the Book of Revelation (21:23), St. John gives us this wonderful image of Christ, both Lamb and Lamp of God. As Lamp He bears the divine light which is the glory of God: "And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb." On this Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, we bless candles and contemplate the role of light in the world and in our lives –a light that comes from God and is a way we experience and encounter our Creator.

### FEAST DAY FEATURE

#### The Martyr Tryphon

*Commemorated on February 14/1*

A Patron Saint of Gardening

The Martyr Tryphon was born in Phrygia, in the village of Lampsacus. From his early years the Lord granted him the power to cast out demons and to heal various maladies. He once saved the inhabitants of his native city from starvation. Saint Tryphon, by the power of his prayer, turned back a plague of locusts that were devouring the grain and devastating the fields. When the emperor Decius assumed the imperial throne, he began a fierce persecution of Christians. The saint was arrested, subjected to interrogation, and harsh tortures, during which he fearlessly confessed his faith. The holy martyr prayed before his execution, thanking God for strengthening him in his sufferings. He also asked the Lord to bless those who should call upon his name for help. This event occurred in the city of Nicea in the year 250.

## FEAST DAY FEATURE

### On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord

Commemorated on February 15/2



On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Lk 2: 22-40). On the 40th day after birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple – the centre of religious life of the God-chosen nation. By the Law of Moses (Lev 12) a woman, having given birth to a child of the male gender, was forbidden for 40 days to enter into the Temple of God. After this interval the mother came to the Temple with the child, so as to offer to the Lord thanksgiving and a purification sacrifice. The MostHoly Virgin, the Mother of God, did not have need for purification, since without defilement she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity, but in profound humility she submitted to the precepts of the Law.

At this time there lived at Jerusalem the righteous elder Simeon (the account about him is located under the day of his commemoration – 3 February). It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold Christ the Saviour. By inspiration from above, the pious elder went to the Temple at that very moment when the MostHoly Mother of God and Righteous Joseph had brought there the Infant Jesus, so as to fulfill the ritual ceremony of the Law. The God-Bearer Simeon took the God-Infant in his arms, and having given thanks to God, he uttered a prophecy about the Saviour of the world: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, O Lord, with peace according to Thy word, wherefore hath mine eyes beheld Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to the enlightening of gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Lk 2: 29-32). Righteous Simeon said to the MostHoly Virgin: "Behold, This One is set for the fall and rising up of many in Israel and for the sign spoken

against, and for Thee Thyself a sword shalt pierce the soul, so that the thoughts of many hearts might be revealed" (Lk 2: 35).

At the Temple also the 84 year old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (Comm. 3 February), "who did not leave the temple, serving God both day and night in fasting and prayer. And she also at that time, having drawn near, glorified the Lord and spake about Him (the God-Infant) to all awaiting deliverance at Jerusalem" (Lk 2: 37-38).

Before the Birth of Christ, all righteous men and women lived by faith in the Future Messiah the Saviour of the world, and they awaited His coming. The final righteous ones of the closing Old Testament – Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna – were deemed worthy to meet at the Temple the Bearer of the New Testament, in the Person of Whom both Divinity and humanity do meet.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. It is known, that on the day of this solemnity were proclaimed sermons by Sainted Bishops Methodios of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphylokios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). But in spite of its early origin, this feast was not so solemnly celebrated until the VI Century. During the reign of Justinian in the year 528, a catastrophe befell Antioch – an earthquake, in which many people perished. And upon this misfortune there followed others. In the year 544 there appeared a pestilential plague, daily carrying off several thousand people. During these days of widespread travail, it was revealed to a certain pious christian that the celebration of the Meeting of the Lord should be done more solemnly.

When at the day of the Meeting of the Lord the all-night vigil was finally made with church procession, the disasters at Byzantium ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established in 544 that the Meeting of the Lord should be done more solemnly.

Church melodists adorned this feast with many a church work of song: in the VII Century – Sainted Andrew ArchBishop of Crete; in the VIII Century – Sainted Cosma Bishop of Maium, Monk John Damascene, Sainted Germanos Patriarch of Constantinople; and in the IX Century – Sainted Joseph the Studite, ArchBishop of Thessalonika.

With the event of the Meeting of the Lord is associated the icon of the MostHoly Mother of God named: "the Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy", which it is necessary to distinguish from the icon "Seven Arrows".

The icon "Simeon's Prophecy" symbolises the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous elder Simeon: "for Thee Thyself a sword shalt pierce the soul" (Lk 2: 35).

## PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for  
Special Intentions and Other Needs*

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**A Prayer For The Sick:** O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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**For the Health of...** Joseph, Marcus, Nicholas, Brian, Kristina, Fr. George L., Brian, Douglas, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Lino, June, for all those battling viruses  
...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...** Metropolitan Gregory, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Elizabeth, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Daniel, Dylan,

Thomas, and Nicholas *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Anthony, Mary Jane, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Margaret, John, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...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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**Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):** Dolores Bowser - Virgin-martyr Dorothea (2/19)  
*(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

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**Birthday Prayers for...** *Father's niece,* Samantha Ditmore (2/14), Pañi Christyn Dranginis (2/14), W. Dylan Mushinsky (2/17), James Hanchulak (2/17), John Petrovich (2/18)  
...*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!*

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

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**For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...** Thomas R. Dzadovsky and Trevor Meegan  
...*through the prayers of St. George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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**For those preparing for Marriage...** Lindsay & AJ, Lexi & Patrick, Lauren & Corey, Ashley & Derek  
...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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**Anniversary Prayers for...**  
...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Marilynn (*due in April*) Pañi Dutko (*June*), Carley (*July*), Lindsay (*July*)  
...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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**For the souls of the newly departed...**

+Vlatka Zgonc (2/10), +Daniel Gavulich (1/8),  
and those who have passed from the  
coronavirus ...*May the Lord God grant them  
blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or  
mourning. May their Memory in God be Eternal*

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\* This is to be used for the special intentions of  
our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be  
inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers.  
Please let Fr. Dave know if you 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 & sisters in Christ. This prayer list is  
**NOT** limited to only Orthodox Christians.

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**DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

**A Prayer When Lighting A Candle**

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.*

Set our hearts on fire with love for You,  
O Christ our God, so that in its flame we may  
love You with all our heart, with all our mind,  
with all our soul, and with all our strength, and  
our neighbors as ourselves, so that by keeping  
Your commandments we may glorify You,  
the giver of all good gifts. Amen.