



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*
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
Timothy Martin, *Reader*
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*
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SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

please wear masks as we follow the CDC guidelines

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Martyrs Makarios and Companions
Panachida for +Anastasia Martin (10-yr)
Yearly Meeting following Coffee Social

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

6:00 pm Feast Day Vespers

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

14th Sunday after Pentecost
Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross
Hieromartyr Cornelius
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4
Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14
Tone 5; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

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Future Services are listed on our online "Parish Calendar" which is continually updated at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church on Sunday morning, please pray along with our Cathedral's services online at **9:00 am**.

www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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2021 Home Blessings – Please see Fr. Dave or email him today to schedule your Home Blessing.

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COAT DRIVE Coat Drive – Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? We are now collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) [Formerly **FOCUS Pittsburgh** (who provide **Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter** to those who are in need)]. Please place your clean coat(s) on the coat rack in the hall

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Speaking With Your Priest - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers. With love in Christ, *Fr. Dave*

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Recent Parish Council Meeting Highlights:

Church School – Our program will start October 3. We are still looking for additional teachers to complete the program. Please contact Fr. Dave or a Parish Council Member if you are interested.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

*(responded with: **Glory 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.

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Turkey Bingo – We are tentatively scheduled to have the Turkey Bingo on Sunday, November 21 at 3pm.

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Relocation – We are still looking forward with the vision of moving our parish. Thoughts on property and community outreach in the northern corridor should be shared with Sharon Peifer, Larry Martin, or Fr. Dave.

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Custodial Assistance – To modify the custodial needs around the church, we are going to look into having quarterly "maintenance days" (rather than only in December and prior to Holy Week). Additional stewards are needed to help around the church (such as the kitchen, bathrooms, the hall, etc). Please contact Larry Martin (412-996-6938) to offer your time or if you have a suggestion.

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90th Anniversary - We will have a celebration at the beginning of October 2022 for our 90th Anniversary

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 71
Candles/Eternal Lamp Stewardship:	\$ 73
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 637
Total Collections:	\$ 781
Capital Improvement:	\$ 105
Relocation Fund:	\$ 0

In faith that God provides:

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." – 2 Cor. 9:8-9

BULLETIN IS OFFERED:

In Memory of
+Anastasia Martin
(10-year Anniversary)

May she eternally be remembered
in God's Memory!

Eternal Memory!

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Mary Jane Hudak; Mirilovich Family; Cindy Pavilonis; Eleanor Sanger; Shuster Family; 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
The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by Matt Peifer in memory of Parents, +Jack and +Viola Peifer. May Their Memory Be Eternal!

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Weekly Offerings to God – During this time, if you are not yet coming to the church, we request that weekly donations be mailed to Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)



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 (2nd best is to mail it in). 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. For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

Fiscal Year Financial Report:

General Stewardship = \$ 83,405

***Expenses = \$ 77,325**

Net Surplus = \$ 6,080

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: **24**

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

Beer Tasting From Around the Mediterranean to benefit IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) Come enjoy Mediterranean hors d'oeuvres (mezza) and amazing beer from Lebanon, Greece, Palestine, Spain, France, Italy, Turkey, and more. **THIS Thursday, September 23**, at 6:00 pm at Khalil's Restaurant (4757 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh, Pa 15213). Tickets are \$25 and includes hors d'oeuvres and several beer samples from around the world.

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Ukrainian Food Festival to be held at Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 220 Mansfield Blvd. Carnegie, PA 15106, on **October 1 & 2** from 11am to 7pm. Pyrohy, Holubki (Stuffed Cabbage), Kielbasa, Halushki, Borscht, Outdoor Grill, Ukrainian Pastries, Basket Raffle and more! On Saturday, there will be a Church Talk/Tour with Fr. John Charest at 1:00, 3:00 & 5:00 pm. Eat-in or Take-out. MC/Visa available. Handicap accessible. Phone orders day of event at 412-276-9718. For more info, call 412-527-5359 or visit: www.orthodoxcamegie.org.

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Pittsburgh Icon Procession - On Saturday, October 2, 2021, at approximately **Noon**, area clergy and faithful will take up icons from the meeting spot in Station Square and process across the Smithfield Street Bridge to 6th Avenue where a prayer service will be conducted by local clergy at Mellon Square Park. Some of the icons to be used are from the *Wrestling With Angels* museum exhibition. The loan of these icons is made possible by Icons for America, a ministry that provides for the loan, transportation, and insurance of the forty-five icons in the *Wrestling With Angels* permanent collection. **All are welcome** to participate in the procession and attend the prayer service, which will have petitions for the peace of our cities and towns and for all those affected by the pandemic. *A similar procession was held by a couple parishes in March and was very successful.* For details visit the Wrestling With Angels Icons www.wrestlingwithangels-icons.com/calendar-events Web site. Inquiries or requests for interviews can be

directed to Fr. Michael Sochka, Icons for America Secretary (267-736-9454 / msochka@gmail.com) or to Mrs. Lynette Hull, Icons for America President (609-651-0807 / k2togusa@mac.com).

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The 3rd Pittsburgh Deanery Family Picnic will be held on **Sunday, October 3rd** in Schenley Park at the Veterans Pavilion (10345 Overlook Dr., Pittsburgh, PA) from Noon (after church) to Dusk. A food sign-up sheet is in the hall for pot-luck items that will be brought to the picnic. We will open with prayers at 12:30 and have live music at 2:00. Plan to come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with our brothers and sisters from our sister Deanery Parishes. Get together with old friends and family! Make new friends! Come enjoy God's creation in one of the best parks in Pittsburgh!

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28th Annual Walk for Missions – will be on **Sunday, October 10** at South Park Children's Playground Shelter (Corrigan & Brownsville Rd., South Park, PA 15129) sponsored by the *Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh*. Registration is at NOON at South Park. Walk begins at 1pm. (There may be a walk in Schenley Park as well. Please check with Fr. Dave.) To offer a donation for this cause, please make checks payable to "Holy Cross Mission Fund" (*please note the change). Your donation will be extremely helpful in carrying out this important and necessary work of the Church. For more info, visit www.holycrosspgh.org/events, email emmanuelmaginas@gmail.com, or call 412-251-3207. Proceeds earmarked for an Orthodox Medical Clinic in Guatemala. To follow the blog of this mission, visit www.TheWordFromGuatemala.com

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Diocesan Parenting Workshop Series: "Raising Believing Children" at St. John's Church, East Pittsburgh **Saturday, October 16, 2021**

The Workshop is designed to help parents learn more about the "craft" of parenting and help them raise their children in the Faith. The Workshops focus on the ways parents can help their children stay faithful to Christ and His Church. The schedule includes presentations by Metropolitan Gregory and Fr.



Stephen Loposky, moderated small group discussions, Q&A Sessions, and lunch. The Workshop is specifically for parents (of any age), but all are welcome to attend. In addition, the Workshop has a component for children ages 5-18 which includes its own curriculum and set of activities (focusing on the Story of Noah). To register for the Workshop, please visit the Parenting Workshop page on www.acrod.org. Also, please let Fr Dave know by **October 1st** if you are interested. *The Series of Parenting Workshops began in 2019, continued in online form in 2020, and are now beginning again. The Parenting Workshops are an exciting and important endeavor. We know our parents and children face challenges in their lives of faith. His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory invites you to join him in support of our parents as our Diocese continues this initiative to help them in their parental vocation.*

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Dinner and Wine Paring - Come enjoy a traditional family-style Middle Eastern feast with four wine pairings on **Sunday, November 14** at 5:30 pm at Khalil's Restaurant (4757 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh, Pa 15213). Tickets are \$75 per person. Seating is limited. RSVP by Nov. 6 to reserve your space! Tickets & Sponsorships at: www.ioc.org/pittsburgh. For more info, contact Zelfa at zkhalil@live.com or 412.417.4706.

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddioecese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
YouTube: youtube.com/acroddioecese

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Final Messages and Greetings

¹³Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. ¹⁴Let all that you do be done in love.

¹⁵Now, brethren, you know that the household of Steph'anas were the first converts in Acha'ia, and they

have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; ¹⁶I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. ¹⁷I rejoice at the coming of Steph'anas and Fortuna'tus and Acha'icus, because they have made up for your absence; ¹⁸for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men.

¹⁹The churches of Asia send greetings. Aq'uila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. ²⁰All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. ²²If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! ²³The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. ²⁴My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

³³"Hear another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; ³⁵and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. ³⁷Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." ⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MARTYRS EUDOXIOS, ZINON, MAKARIOS AND THEIR COMPANIONS

Commemorated on September 19/6

The Martyrs Eudoxios, Zinon, Makarios and their Companions received a martyr's death for Christ under the emperor Maximian Galerius, the successor to the emperor Diocletian.

Saint Eudoxios held the high position of a military-commander in the imperial armies. He was a Christian, as were also his friend Zinon and his house steward Makarios. After the issuance by the emperor Diocletian of an edict about putting Christians to death, such as who refused to offer sacrifice to idols, many – including people of illustrious position and rank, fled to various lands with their families to avoid torture and death. And at this time also Saint Eudoxios resigned his high position, and with his wife Saint Basilissa and all their family abandoned their property and went into hiding in the region of Armenian Meletina.

The governor of Meletina dispatched soldiers to search for Eudoxios. When they came across Eudoxios himself, attired in white garb, and not recognising him, the soldiers began to question whether a certain military-commander Eudoxios had come into these parts. Not revealing who he actually was, the saint invited the soldiers into his home, fed them and gave them lodging for the night. Saint Eudoxios considered his encounter with the soldiers as a sign from the Lord about his impending end by martyrdom. In the morning he disclosed to his guests, that he was the one whom they were seeking. In gratitude for the hospitality the soldiers offered to conceal from the authorities that they had managed to find Saint Eudoxios. But the saint would not consent to this. Setting his house in order, he said to his wife not to bewail, but on the contrary to celebrate the day of his martyr's death. Donning his military attire, he went off with the soldiers to the governor. Saint Basilissa and his friends – Saints Zinon and Makarios – followed after Saint Eudoxios. The governor tried to persuade Saint Eudoxios to offer sacrifice to the idols and by this safeguard his life, exalted rank and substance. Saint Eudoxios firmly refused, denouncing the folly of anyone who would

worship soulless idols. His soldier's sash – the emblem of his power of authority – he himself removed and threw in the face of the governor. Soldiers present at this, secret Christians, did likewise, and they numbered more than a thousand men. The embarrassed governor enquired of the emperor as to what he should do, and he received the orders: try the ringleaders and set free the rest. After prolonged tortures they led forth Saint Eudoxios to execution. Following after her husband, Saint Basilissa wept, and his friend Saint Zinon also bewept the martyr. Saint Eudoxios thereupon again urged his wife not to bewail him, but rather to rejoice that he be deigned the crown of martyrdom, and he asked that she bury his body in a place called Amimos. To his weeping friend Saint Zinon Saint Eudoxios predicted, that they would simultaneously enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Emboldened by these words, Zinon loudly declared himself a Christian, for which he was immediately sentenced to death. Later, Saint Basilissa without hindrance took up the body of her husband and buried it there where he had requested. After this they arrested the saint and led her before the governor; wanting to share the fate of her husband, she fearlessly denounced both the governor and his false gods – the idols. The governor however saw into her intent and would not torture her, but instead sent her away. In leaving, the saint said to him, that God would see her intent to suffer for her faith and would accept this intent as accomplished deed. Seven days later Saint Eudoxios appeared to his wife in a vision and bid convey to his friend and house-steward Makarios, that both he and Saint Zinon awaited the arrival of Makarios. Makarios immediately went to the governor and declared himself a Christian, for which he was sentenced to death and beheaded. Many a Christian likewise accepted a martyr's death during this time (+311-312).

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Spiritual Vitamin:

In order to acquire humility, be silent when you are mocked and when they are angry with you, and pray within yourself the prayer
“Hail Mary, full of grace...”
Archbishop Seraphim (Sobolev) of Bogucharsk

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FEAST DAY FEATURE

Amvon Prayer for the Feast of The Nativity of the Theotokos

September 21/8

Lord Christ our God, You are without beginning and surpass all essence. You see and rule all. You are a God Who work wonders and make the unexpected come to pass. Alone You accomplish great deeds. Lord, Who hear our petitions, You are the Savior of those in despair and confusion. You reward good desires arising from prayer. For Your servants Joachim and Anna, who lived blamelessly together, You changed the sorrow of barrenness to the joy of children.

You gave them a beautiful offspring, a shoot growing from the root of Jesse mystically foretold by lips inspired by God. From this shoot You planned that the flower guiding the world aright would be born according to the flesh. Now You, a fountain of all goodness and enlightenment and giver of riches, have sprung up. Born of a Virgin, You filled the community with grace and showed forth the birth of salvation.

As we partake of Thy divine Mysteries and deifying Liturgy, deliver us from a sterile barrenness in good works and deem us worthy to make virtues our offering to You always, that we may have a right to a place in the land of the just in Your kingdom.

Free us from bitter and continual warfare, relieve all oppression and lift the yoke of slavery from all men, that all may be wholly free from tyranny and judgment. Bless Your people and protect Your inheritance, save us from all temptations of the enemy, and from afflictions. Increase the glory of people under the law of Christ and exalt them. Give them earthly and heavenly good things, and an abundance of crops. For You provide and, indeed, create all that is good.

Through the prayers of Your all-pure Mother and our Lady, with whom we return worship and adoration to You, together with Your eternal Father, and Your life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Spiritual Vitamin:

“One of the God-bearing Fathers, a native of Athens, St. Dionysios the Areopagite, wished to see the Most Holy Mother of God. When he arrived in Jerusalem, they took him to the home of St. John the Theologian, where the Most Holy Theotokos lived. When he entered her chamber, he was at once free of all cares and worries and was overcome with ineffable joy and peace. This is how he describes his meeting with the Most Holy Theotokos: "Had I not learned in my youth about the True God, for me the Most Holy Theotokos would have been God."
+Elder Thaddeus (Strabulovich) of Vitovnica

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Why Have Your Home Blessed?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Homes are traditionally blessed with Holy Water each year bringing the blessings of the Waters sanctified on the Feast of Theophany, the celebration of our Lord's baptism. **The priest brings this Holy Water into the home to personally bless each family member by renewing the awareness of God's presence in our homes.** A home can be blessed at any time.

HOW TO PREPARE

The home blessing should be scheduled when the entire family will be present, if at all possible.

When coming to the home, the priest brings everything needed for the blessing, but the family should make the following two arrangements:

Have a written list of the names of all living members of the household, along with the names of anyone else to be included in prayer. Also have a list of departed loved ones that you wish to be prayed for.

If the home has an icon corner, the candle(s) may be lit, as well as a censer if available. Otherwise, a clean table with a cloth on it should be prepared (preferably a white cloth). The house should have all radios and televisions off during the Blessing.

The priest will bless all rooms of the house. In homes with children, it is nice for the little ones to carry a candle and “lead” the priest throughout the home. An adult member of the home may also do this. While the home is blessed, the priest will lead the family in

Spiritual Vitamin:

A Christian View Of Medicine:

“Therefore we may have recourse to physicians and take medicine, for this science is a gift from God. "God has given the herbs of the earth, and its drugs, for the healing of the body, commanding that the body, which is of the earth, should be cured by various things of the earth....

When man fell from Paradise, he came immediately under the influence of disorders and maladies of the flesh....

God therefore gave medicine to the world for comfort, for healing and care of the body."

+St. Macarius the Great, Homily 48

singing the Troparion (hymn) of the season repeatedly until the whole home is blessed.

It is a pious custom among some to give the priest a donation at this time but this is in no way expected. In the same way, while many families enjoy hosting the priest to a meal or snack, this too is not expected and often impossible due to other scheduled home blessings [and is not recommended during Covid]. The home blessing does, however, provide an opportunity for the priest to spend dedicated time alone with the family, answering any questions anyone may have or addressing any issues for which he may be of some help or support.

[Source: <https://stnicholasgr.com/houseblessing/>]

Weaving Christ into Our Lives

The blessing of homes by Holy Water maintains the spiritual association between the 'family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. ... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings." (Marriage and the Christian Home, p.25.)

If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They can show him their rooms or pets or favorite toys. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

In Summary

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us [by the Fall of Adam and Eve]. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the home, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing.

Source: <http://ww1.antiochian.org/why-do-we-have-our-homes-blessed>

PLEASE REACH OUT TO FATHER DAVE TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR HOME BLESSING

Spiritual Vitamin:

“We must consider all evil things, even the passions which war against us, to be not our own, but of our enemy the devil. This is very important. You can only conquer a passion when you do not consider it as part of you.”

+ St. Nikon of Optina

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KODAK MOMENTS

By Archpriest John Moses (+2019), from the blog *Ramblings of a Redneck Priest*

For the youthfully challenged, there was a time when the Kodak company ruled the world of photography. Cameras used something called film which captured the image and then had to be developed by a professional or by mailing it in to the company. The company was so dominant that the phrase “a Kodak moment” entered into the social lexicon. I still hear it used now and then but it is becoming a bit old fashioned. Still, a Kodak moment is a special moment that should be remembered and memorialized – things like birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc.

Kodak may no longer exist, but with cell phones and digital cameras, we continue to memorialize the important moments in life. Now, instead of cabinets filled with pictures we rarely look at, we now have computers and memory sticks loaded with pictures; and again, we rarely look at them. We even have the

Cloud and websites that will keep our pictures for us. Funny, but I don't think I've been in the Cloud for a long time.

We all have people and events that we hope we will never forget, and we hope people won't forget us. Even after someone leaves us in death, we try to remember their birthdays and anniversaries and the other meaningful times we shared together. We do this because of love and we are grateful for what these people meant to us and what they gave to us. They really made a difference in our lives.

The Orthodox have Kodak moments. We take pictures when there is a baptism, wedding, or some special congregational or church event. You can find pictures of these pasted all over the social media. For our church life, there are some moments that are most important. We call these moments feast days. We remember the Kodak moments in the life of our Lord Jesus. You may be familiar with the two big ones – Nativity and Pascha, but there are many others like Ascension, the Lord's baptism, Transfiguration, the raising of Lazarus, and so on.

Many churches study these events, but few celebrate them. Why do we make such a big deal about not only remembering these events, but celebrating them? Simply, Jesus was God incarnate, and this truth alone means that every thing he did or said matters-everything! Every event should be remembered, celebrated, and contemplated because it changes us and challenges us. Every moment of his life was a Kodak moment. So, how should we go about celebrating the Lord's Kodak moments?

The Orthodox join together in Church to chant the Vigil and celebrate the Eucharist. We hear the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testament chanted, and we are confronted with the truth and glory of the event. One of the great fears of the Old Testament is forgetfulness of God. “Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.” - Deuteronomy 6:12 Given the demands and distractions of the modern world, we need these Kodak moments, or we will practically forget God. There is no other place for an Orthodox Christian to be when these Kodak moments occur than in Church. When we unnecessarily absent ourselves, we are

saying that these moments don't really matter much. It would be like having our mother celebrate her 100th birthday and we don't show up because something else had a greater priority. Can you imagine such a thing? And yet, Feast after Feast, the Orthodox are absent from Church. While legitimate hindrances can rise up from time to time, some have made non-attendance a habit and a lifestyle. Of course it is considered to be rude or judgmental to point it out.

I suppose that all I can do is end with the words of the Lord: “That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father which hath sent him.” (John 5:23)

Forgive us, Father, for the lack of honor that we show to You and to your Son. We truly don't know what we are doing. Lord, have mercy on us.

Source:

redneckpriest.wordpress.com/2014/05/20/kodak-moments/

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**. The St. Nicholas Charity Dinner is scheduled for **December 12th** this year. Please continue to pray for our Diocesan Seminarians: Aydin Zill (from Saint Nicholas Church, Erie, PA), Dylan Kelemecz (Saint Michael Church, Binghamton, NY), Tom Kovalak (Saint Paul Church, Freehold, NJ), Nicholas Worobey (Saint George Church, Taylor, PA), Nicholas Fong (Holy Trinity Church, Danbury, CT), Timothy Paproski (Holy Ghost Church, Phoenixville, PA), and Samuel Loposky (Saints Cyril and Methodios Church, Mercer, PA). Thank you in advance for your prayers for our seminarians and offerings next week!

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Spiritual Vitamin:

“Today the barren gates are opened, and the Virgin, the Gate of God, comes forth. Today grace begins to bear fruit, showing forth to the world the Mother of God through whom earth is united to heaven for the salvation of our souls”
A Hymn for Vespers for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, the Mother of God

SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday between 9:30am and 4:00pm or by appointment.

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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, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

Holy Communion/Eucharist – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for 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.

Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

Baptisms – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Father for more details.

Adult Chrismation – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

Marriages – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Father ASAP for more 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*

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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... Douglas, Christopher, John, Joanne, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, and Roberta ...*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... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Photios, Fr. Theodore, Deacon Charles, Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Elizabeth, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Dylan, Thomas, Nicholas, and Aydin *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):

Maria Urban - Nativity of Mary (9/21)

Sharon Peifer - Righteous Anna (9/22)

(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Fr. Vincent Dranginis (9/19), Fr. Kenneth Ellis (9/19), Fr. Dave Urban (9/19), Fr. Matthew Moriak (9/20), Fr. David Smoley (9/20), Mark Martellotti (9/22), *Father's brother-in-law,* Brian Verbanick, Sr (9/22), Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak (9/24), Fr. R. Michael Zak (9/24) ...*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...

Susan, Marilynn, John

...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

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

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Anniversary Prayers for... Thomas & Carol Lorenzi (9/19), Ken & Paula Watson (9/24)

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

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For Pregnant Mothers... Meredith (*due in Dec*) ...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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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 the souls of the newly departed...

+John Urban (8/19) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory.*

* 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.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS OF THE WEEK

A prayer for our Neighborhoods

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.

A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (*name*), and our spiritual father (*name*), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.