



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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UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, JULY 10 #APOSTLESFAST

4th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Joanna the Myrrh-bearer (1st C.)
9:30 am Reader's Service
Epistle: Romans 6:18-23; Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13
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MONDAY, JULY 11 #APOSTLESFAST

Canceled: 7:00 pm Feast Day Vespers

TUESDAY, JULY 12 FEAST OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Canceled: 9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
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SUNDAY, JULY 17

5th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Andrew (Rublev), Iconographer (1430)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Romans 10:1-10; Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1
Tone 4; Liturgical Color: **Green**
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SUNDAY, JULY 24

6th Sunday after Pentecost
Commemoration of the Miracle (451) of Great-martyr Euphemia the All-praised, of Chalcedon (304)
9:30 am Reader's Service
Epistle: Romans 12:6-14; Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8
Tone 5; Liturgical Color: **Green**
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Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:
www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar
(Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)
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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online:
www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

RELOCATION UPDATE

*** **Update from the Diocese** – The diocese has reviewed and discussed our request from June 9 to borrow \$200,000. A few things have changed and evolved since this request was made - including our bank accounts going from \$200,000 to roughly \$315,000. They were willing to lend us \$60,000 (for 5 years; interest free for 6 months and then 2% until the loan is paid off) with the recommendation of us taking the loan from Wesbanco. They would expect to be paid back after our properties on the North Side sell.

*** **Counter Offer Update** – Over the past couple weeks the Allison Park Church countered their offer of \$390,000 with \$315,000 along with our four properties going to them in the deal.

*** **Next Steps** – SJB Parish Council will evaluate all of this information and continue forward with what is best for our parish community.

May God continue to guide our journey!

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As updates are available, they will be shared here.

Please contact Larry or Fr. Dave with any questions

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)
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* **MAN OF GOD**, the award-winning box office hit based on the life of our beloved Saint Nektarios of Aegina, releases on VOD, DVD & BLURAY in the U.S. & Canada on **July 26!** Pre-order your digital copy now on iTunes/Apple TV using this link:
<https://apple.co/3zZ1mUn>

“Late Edition” of “THE VOICE” Our Parish Monthly Newsletter

John the Baptist said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ (Jn 1:23)

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory to Jesus Christ! (*responded with: Glory 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! Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.

This Bulletin Is Sponsored

In Memory Of

+Peter Silon

May his memory be eternal!

*** **For Pastoral Care** – From **Sunday, July 17 to Friday, July 29** Fr. Dave will be unavailable for immediate or emergency situations. Please contact one of his brother priests in the Deanery:

Fr. Nik Ferencz: 412-271-2725

Fr. Marc Wisnosky: 412-407-5102

Fr. Michael Zak: 412-461-3264

** please note that with Pittsburgh’s camping week, all three priests will be at camp at least a couple days through this week (Fr Nik Mon.-Tues.; Fr Michael Tues.-Wed.; Fr. Marc Wed.-Sat.)*

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*** **Annual Parish Picnic** – Our parish picnic will be on **Sunday, July 31st** from Noon till 5:00 at The Cabin in North Park (1370 E Ingomar Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101). Everyone is welcome! Come and experience a day of fun amongst family and friends. We will share a pot-luck meal – so bring your favorite recipe to share. There will be activities for all! If you need directions, please contact Fr Dave. If you have other questions, please see a Parish Council member.

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*** **Annual Blessing of Chariots** – Our annual blessing of vehicles will be a little bit different this year: vehicles will be blessed at the Parish Picnic on **July 31** at some point after lunch. *Fr. Dave will make an announcement then, as is customary, people can open the hood & doors then wait near their ride. Fr. Dave will go to each vehicle and bless it with Holy Water.* In addition, Fr Dave will bless vehicles after the Festal Divine Liturgy on **Tuesday, August 2.** *We bless vehicles in honor of the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias who was carried to heaven in a fiery chariot (see 2 Kings chapter 2).*

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* **Kennywood** – Slovak Nationality Day at Kennywood is this **Thursday, July 21.**

* **Internal Basket Raffle** – At our **Summer Parish Picnic** at “The Cabin” in North Park on **July 31st**, our ACRY will host an Internal Basket Raffle. Tickets can already be purchased. Please see an ACRY officer for more details.

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* **Healthy Snacks** – The “grab-n-go” snack options for our coffee social are getting low. Please consider bringing in a box of something for us to share.

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** **2022 Garage Sale** – We will be having a garage sale this fall on the North Side. Please bring your donations in to the hall and start placing them on the tables. *(Proceeds from the Garage Sale will go to offset some of the costs of our 90th Anniversary Luncheon in October.)*

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* **The Bob Pervuznik Sr. Memorial Golf Outing** will be hosted by St. John’s East Pittsburgh will be on **August 6** at Meadowlink Golf Course. For more information, please email rpvuznik@gmail.com

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** **Theft from the hall** – A couple weeks ago during the Divine Liturgy, it was noticed in the mirror on the landing between the stairs (on the men’s bathroom side) that four people had come into the hall and walked out with some of our donations that were collected for the Transfiguration Monastery. *** If you leave Liturgy early, please double check the doors behind you to make sure that they are closed and locked. Also, please continue to pray for the neighborhood. Lord, have mercy!

***** Congratulations!** to Chuck and Allison Kretchek and their families on the birth of **Natasha Kretchek** born on May 19 (9 lb 8 oz and 23 in). Welcome to our Parish Family!

“Preserve her and this child which she has borne. Cover her with the shelter of thy wings from this day until her final end, through the prayers of the most Holy Theotokos and of all the saints. Amen” – from *Prayers for a Woman on the First Day after Childbirth*
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**** Garden Blessing** – The time of year has come for getting your garden blessed. *(The format of the blessing is similar to our annual home blessing.)* Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested.
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**** Curator Stewards** – Do you know what happens when you are a curator? As we look for more curators to be stewards of their time and help “at the door”, consider coming early one Sunday just to see what goes on. Please contact Larry Martin for more info.
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***** August: The Month of Special Blessings!** – Live Orthodoxy and plan ahead for the many special blessings that are upcoming in August *(plus a bonus in July)*:

July 31st & August 2nd: Blessing of Chariots (Vehicles)
Aug. 7th: Blessing of Students and Teachers
14th: Lesser Blessing of Water and Blessing of Honey
19th & 21st: Blessing of the First-Fruits (& vegetables)
28th: Blessing of Flowers & Herbs
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***** Home Blessings** – Our Annual Home Blessings will begin on **Sunday, August 14** after the Lesser Blessing of Water. Fr. Dave is looking forward to visiting every house this August and September. Please schedule with him today.
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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

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

July 3, 2022

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 108
 Candle Stewardship: \$ 64
 Envelope Stewardship: \$ 94

Total Collections: \$ 266
Relocation Fund: \$ 50

July 10, 2022

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 89
 Candle Stewardship: \$ 294
 Envelope Stewardship: \$ 250
 Parish House Offering: \$ 200

Total Collections: \$ 833
Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 10
Relocation Fund: \$ 185

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

June Financial Report:

General Stewardship = \$ 3863.57
(includes \$ 757.57 from online stewardship)
***Expenses = \$ 4485.19**
Net Deficit = \$ 621.62

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
 Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: **20**

Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Report:

(September through last month)

General Stewardship = \$ 68,838
***Expenses = \$ 66,907**
Net Surplus = \$ 1931

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
 Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: **30**

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered the last two weeks by Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Eleanor Sanger; Patty Watson; Margaret Rusnak; Lawrence Martin; Melanie Shuster; Kathy Schrmack; Cindy Pavidonis

“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 the last two weeks by Jane Gaydos in memory of +Anastasia Martin (Birthday Remembrance); by Tim Martin IMO mother, +Anastasia Martin (Birthday Remembrance); by John Gaydos, Jr. IMO mother, +Catherine Gaydos, and by Matthew Peifer IMO parents, +Jack and +Viola Peifer. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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On-Line Giving is available from our parish website to donate to the: *General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund.* The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2nd best is to mail it in to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue it’s ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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Bulletin Sponsor – If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (nameday, birthday, anniversary, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

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MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, our additional collection will be for **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM)** whose mission is to serve those who are incarcerated and their families, and provides resources, training and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed and God is glorified. **Core values:** Accept that each person is made in the image and likeness of God; Love with compassion and respect; Integrity; Committed to excellence; Team-oriented For more information on this organization, please visit: www.theocpm.org. Thank you in advance for your prayers and offering this month!

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ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

***** Christmas in July! Vendor and Craft Show** will be held at St. Nicholas Church (903 Ann St., Homestead) on **Saturday, July 23** from 10am to 2pm. There will be local Vendors, Crafts, Basket Raffles, Bake Sale, & Café Nikolai will be open with some wonderful food!

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***** Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery** - Memorial Commemoration of Gerontissa Taxiarchia will be on **Saturday, July 30**. Hours, Divine Liturgy, and a Memorial Service will begin at 9:00 am. *In 2014, on the 20th Anniversary of the repose of Gerontissa Taxiarchia, we launched the capital campaign to build the new monastery, something she very much desired. Since then, all proceeds commemorating our Holy Gerontissa have gone to the construction project. We invite you to come and honor her by giving in her memory!* Please RSVP so that the Monastery has adequate hospitality (724-352-3999 or info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org) Visit their web site, browse the Online Gift Shop, and place preliminary orders at:

www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org

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**** Science and Nature Week** at Camp Nazareth will be from **August 14-20**. More information is online at: www.campnazareth.org.

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***** Ukrainian Relief Dinner and Prayer Service** – the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) will host a service and dinner at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Oakland on **Sunday, September 25** at 4pm. Please contact Fr. Dave for more information.

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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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*** **Holy Transfiguration Monastery** – Each year the monastery, located at *321 Monastery Lane, Ellwood City, PA 16117*, hosts its Patronal Feast Day Celebrations and Pilgrimage on **August 5th and 6th** for the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (*Revised Calendar Dates*). Here is the schedule:

Friday, August 5

6:00 pm Festal Vigil Service

Saturday August 6

9:30 am Akathist and procession

10:00 Hierarchical Liturgy

12:30 Catered Picnic Lunch

2:30 Holy Unction and anointing of pilgrims

6:00 pm Great Vespers

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Trek4Missions - Please join us for our 3rd annual OCMC Trek4Missions held from **Monday, August 8 to Sunday, September 18!** This event is the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's largest virtual fundraiser that challenges participants to be physically active while raising awareness and financial support for our mission work to unite the world to Jesus Christ and His Church.

The Trek4Missions is an opportunity for individuals and parish communities to unite and demonstrate our commitment to Christ's Great Commission "to make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Plan to walk, run, ride your bike, and more to show your support for Christ's call to each of us.

If anyone is interested in spearheading and leading a local team (last year's team name was **Pittsburgh Forerunners**), please contact Fr. Dave so that we can begin together on August 8th. Talk to your teammates from last year and get the band back together! Everyone who registers will receive a free Trek4Missions t-shirt! There are no fees to register.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 10: Epistle: Romans 6:18-23

¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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July 10: Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

⁵As he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him ⁶and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." ⁷And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed." ⁹For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹¹I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹²while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." ¹³And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

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July 17: Epistle: Romans 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ²I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. ³For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified.

Salvation Is for All

⁵Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. ⁶But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is,

to bring Christ down) ⁷or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); ⁹because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

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July 17: Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1

Jesus Heals the Gadarene Demoniacs

²⁸And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. ²⁹And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" ³⁰Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. ³¹And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." ³²And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. ³³The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. ³⁴And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. ⁹And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

Thoughts on Stewardship by Dan Hromyak:

"...I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God." - *Colossians 1:25*

We are all called to evangelize - to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel. Our faith is more attractive to others by our actions than by our words alone. We may not be called to evangelize like St. Paul, but we should look for opportunities to share our faith through our actions and words, especially with those closest to us, like our family, friends and neighbors. Pray for the courage to joyfully express your faith the next time the opportunity arises.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Saint Joanna The Myrbearer

Commemorated on July 10 / June 27

Saint Joanna the Myrbearer, wife of Chuza, – the household steward of king Herod, was one of the women following and attending the Lord Jesus Christ during the time of His preaching and public ministry. And together with the other Myrbearing Women, after the death on the Cross of the Saviour, Saint Joanna went to the Sepulchre to anoint with myrrh the Holy Body of the Lord, and she heard from the Angels the joyful proclamation of His All-Glorious Resurrection.

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St. Andrew (Rublev), Iconographer (1430)

Commemorated on July 17/4

His "Holy Trinity" icon of the Hospitality of Abraham is sometimes called the most perfectly executed of all icons.

Many consider him the greatest iconographer of all time, and his "Holy Trinity" the finest icon. Very little is known of his life. He was born around 1360, and probably studied with the Byzantine iconographer Theophanes the Greek. He is known to have created icons for the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Moscow and the Cathedral of the Dormition at Vladimir. He created a highly spiritual and distinctively Russian iconographic style that set the standard for Russian iconography for centuries thereafter. It is said that he knew St Sergius of Radonezh (July 5). In his later years he became a monk.

FEAST DAY FEATURES

The Nativity Of The Holy Forerunner And Baptist Of The Lord, John:

Commemorated on July 7 / June 24

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Lk. 1: 57-80) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist – the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth, lived in the ancient city of Hebron, and reached old age being childless, since Elizabeth was barren. One time, Saint Zachariah was making Divine services at the Jerusalem Temple and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the incense offertory. He predicted, that Saint Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the

Saviour – the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. And it was given to him – it appeared at the same time as a chastisement for his unbelief: Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

Saint Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision over the lateness of her pregnancy, she kept it secret for five months, until there came visiting her distant relative the All-Blessed Virgin Mary, to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. And together with her Saint John also – in the womb of his mother Righteous Elizabeth – did greet "with leaps as in song" the MostHoly Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnated within Her.

It became time, and Saint Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accord with the law of Moses, was made the circumcision. His mother named him John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in their family had been named such. When they asked Saint Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "John is his name" – and immediately the binding of his tongue at the prediction of the archangel was unbound, and Saint Zachariah, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, glorified God and pronounced the words of prophecy about the Advent-Coming into the world of the Messiah, and about his own son John – the Forerunner of the Lord.

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all the infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Saint Zachariah as a priest was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered, that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The lad John, protected by an Angel, dwelt in the wilderness until such time, when he came preaching about repentance and was himself vouchsafed worthy to baptise the Lord Who was come into the world.

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The Holy, Glorious And All-Praised Leaders Of The Apostles, Peter And Paul

Commemorated on July 12 / June 29

Sermon of Blessed Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (Ipponesia)

On this present day Holy Church piously remembers the suffering of the Holy Glorious and All-Praiseworthy Apostles Peter and Paul.

Saint Peter, the fervent follower of Jesus Christ, for the profound confession of His Divinity: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God", – was deemed worthy by the Saviour to hear in answer: "Blessed art thou, Simon... I tell thee, that thou art Peter (Petrus), and on this stone (petra) I build My Church" (Mt. 16: 16-18). On "this stone" (petra), is on that which thou sayest: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God", – it is on this thy confession I build My Church. Wherefore the "thou art Peter": it is from the "stone" (petra) that Peter (Petrus) is, and not from Peter (Petrus) that the "stone" (petra) is – just as how the christian is from Christ, and not Christ from the christian. Do you want to know, from what sort of "rock" (petra) the Apostle Peter (Petrus) was named? – Hear ye the Apostle Paul: "I do not want ye not to know, brethren, – says the Apostle of Christ, – how our fathers were all under a cloud, and all passed through the sea: and all in Moses were baptised in the cloud and in the sea. And all thus eating spiritual food, and all thus drinking spiritual drink: for they did drink from the spiritual accompanying rock: for the rock indeed was Christ" (1 Cor. 10: 1-4). Here is the from whence the "Rock" is Peter.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the final days of His earthly life, in the days of His mission to the race of man, chose from among the disciples His twelve Apostles for preaching the Word of God. Among them, the Apostle Peter for his fiery ardour was vouchsafed to occupy the first place (Mt. 10: 2) and to be as it were the representative person for all the Church. And therefore it is said to him, preferentially, after the confession: "And I give thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: and if thou bindest upon the earth, it will be bound in the Heavens: and if thou loosenest upon the earth, it will be loosened in the Heavens (Mt.16; 19). Wherefore it was not one man, but rather the One

Universal Church, that received these "keys" and the right "to bind and loosen". And that actually it was the Church that received this right, and not exclusively a single person, turn your attention to another place of the Scriptures, where the same Lord says to also all His Apostles: "Receive ye the Holy Spirit", – and further after this: "Whoso sins ye remit, are remitted them: and whoso sins ye retain, are retained" (Jn. 20: 22-23); or: "with what ye bind upon the earth, will be bound in Heaven: and with what ye loosen upon the earth, will be loosened in the Heavens" (Mt. 18: 18). Thus, it is the Church that binds, the Church that loosens; the Church, built upon the foundational corner-stone – Jesus Christ Himself (Eph. 2: 20) doth bind and loosen. Let both the binding and the loosening be feared: the loosening, in order not to fall under this again; the binding, in order not to remain forever in this condition. Wherefore "by the passions of his own sins, – says Wisdom, – is each ensnared" (Prov. 5: 22); and except for Holy Church nowhere is it possible to receive the loosening.

And after His Resurrection the Lord entrusted the Apostle Peter to shepherd His spiritual flock not because, that among the disciples only Peter alone was pre-deserved to shepherd the flock of Christ, but Christ addresses Himself chiefly to Peter because, that Peter was first among the Apostles and as such the representative of the Church; besides which, having turned in this instance to Peter alone, as to the top Apostle, Christ by this confirms the unity of the Church. "Simon of John, – says the Lord to Peter, – lovest thou Me? – and the Apostle answered: "Yea, Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee"; and a second time it was thus asked, and a second time he thus answered; being asked a third time, seeing that as it were not believed, he was saddened. But how is it possible for him not to believe That One, Who knew his heart? And wherefore then Peter answered: "Lord, Thou knowest all; Thou knowest that I love Thee". "And sayeth Jesus to him" all three times "Feed My sheep" (Jn. 20: 15-17). Besides this, the thrice appealing of the Saviour to Peter and the thrice confession of Peter before the Lord had a particular beneficial purpose for the Apostle. That one, to whom was given "the keys of the kingdom" and the right "to bind and to loosen", himself thrice bound himself by

fear and cowardice (Mt. 26: 69-75), and the Lord thrice loosens him by His appeal and in turn by his confession of strong love. And to shepherd literally the flock of Christ was acquired by all the Apostles and their successors. "Attend yourself to all the flock, – urges the Apostle Paul to church presbyters, – in which the Holy Spirit hath established ye as bishops, to shepherd the Church of the Lord God, acquired by His Blood" (Acts 20: 28); and the Apostle Peter to the elders: "Feed among you the flock of Christ, attending to it not by need, but by will and according to God: not for unrighteous profit, but zealously: not as commanding parables, but be an image to the flock. And when is appeared the Prince of pastors, ye will receive unfading crowns of glory" (1 Pet. 5: 2-4).

It is remarkable that Christ, having said to Peter: "Feed My sheep", – did not say: "Feed thy sheep", – but rather to feed, good servant, the sheep of the Lord. "For was Christ divided, or is Paul crucified according to you, or are ye baptised in the name of Peter or of Paul?" (1 Cor. 1: 13). "Feed My sheep". Wherefore "wolfish robbers, wolfish oppressors, deceitful teachers and mercenaries, not being concerned about the flock" (Mt. 7: 15; Acts 20: 29; 2 Pet. 2: 1; Jn. 10: 12), having plundered a strange flock and making of the spoils as though it be of their own particular gain, they think that they feed their flock. Such are not good pastors, as pastors of the Lord. "The good pastor lays down his life for the sheep" (Jn. 10: 11), entrusted to Him by the Prince of pastors Himself (1 Pet. 5: 4). And the Apostle Peter, true to his calling, gave his soul for the very flock of Christ, having sealed his apostleship by a martyr's death, now glorified throughout all the world.

And the Apostle Paul, being formerly Saul, was changed from a robbing wolf into a meek lamb; formerly he was an enemy of the Church, then is manifest as an Apostle; formerly he stalked it, then preached it. Having received from the high-priests the authority at large to throw all christians in chains for execution, he was already on the way, "he breathed with rage and murder against the disciples of the Lord" (Acts 9: 1), he thirsted for blood, but – "the Living One in the Heavens mocked him" (Ps. 2: 4). When he, "having persecuted and vexed" in such manner "the Church of God" (1 Cor. 15: 9; Acts 8: 5), he came nigh

to Damascus, and the Lord from Heaven called to him: "Saul, Saul, wherefore persecutest thou Me?" – and I am here, and I am there, I am everywhere: here is My head; there is My body. There becomes nothing of a surprise in this; we ourselves – are members of the Body of Christ. "Saul, Saul, wherefore persecutest thou Me; it is terrible to thee to kick against the goad" (Acts 9: 4-5). Saul, however, "trembling and frightened", cried out: "Who art Thou, Lord?" I am Jesus, – answered the Lord to him, – Whom thou persecutest". And Saul suddenly undergoes a change: "What wantest Thou me to do?" – he cries out. And suddenly for him there is the Voice: "Rise up and go to the city, and it will be told thee, what thou ought to do" (Acts 9: 6). Here the Lord sends Ananias: "Rise up go upon the street" to a man, "by the name of Saul", and baptise him, "for this one is a vessel chosen by Me, to bear My Name before pagans and rulers and the sons of Israel" (Acts 9: 11, 15, 18). This vessel mustneeds be filled with My Grace. "Ananias however answered: Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he hath done to Thine saints in Jerusalem: and to be here to have the authority from the high-priests to seize all calling upon Thy Name" (Acts 9: 13-14). But the Lord urgently commands Ananias: "Search for and fetch him, for this vessel is chosen by Me: for I shall tell him, how much mustneeds be for him to suffer about My Name" (Acts 9: 11, 15-16).

And actually the Lord did direct the Apostle Paul, what things he had to suffer for His Name. He instructed him the deeds; He did not stop at the chains, the fetters, the prisons and shipwrecks; He Himself felt for him in his sufferings, He Himself guided him towards this day. On a single day is done the memory of the sufferings of both these Apostles, though they suffered on separate days, but by the spirit and the closeness of their suffering they constitute one. Peter went first, Paul followed soon after him, – formerly called Saul, and then Paul, having transformed in himself his pride into humility, as means also his very name (Paulus), meaning "small, little, less", – demonstrates this. What is the Apostle Paul after this? Ask him, and he himself gives answer to this: "I am, – says he, – the least of the Apostles: but moreso than all I have laboured, yet not I, but the grace of God, which is with me" (1 Cor. 15: 9-10).

And so, brethren, celebrating now the memory of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, remembering their venerable sufferings, we esteem their true faith and holy life, we esteem the innocence of their sufferings and pure confession. Loving in them the sublime quality and imitating them by great exploits, "in which to be likened to them" (2 Thess. 3: 5-9), and we shall attain to that eternal bliss which is prepared for all the saints. The path of our life before was more grievous, thornier, harder, but "how great the cloud of witnesses enveloping us" (Hebr. 12: 1), having passed by along it, made now for us easier, and lighter, and more readily-passable. First there passed along it "the Founder and Fulfiler of faith" our Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Hebr. 12: 2); His daring Apostles followed after Him; then the martyrs, children, women, virgins and a great multitude of witnesses. Who acted in them and helped them on this path? – He that said: "Without Me ye are able to do nothing" (Jn. 15: 5).

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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... George, Donald, John, Emily, Beverly, Steven, Kelly, Michelle, Paul, Kathleen, Joanne, Marie, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia,

Susan, 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. David S., Fr. Myron, Dcn. Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our diocesan seminarians:* Nicholas, Dylan, Thomas, Samuel, Timothy, Nicholas, Aydin, Subdeacon Seamus, Nicholas, *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth, John, Wendy, Margaret, John, Patricia, 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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July Namedays:

Rich Mirilovich - St. John the Baptist (7/7)
Craig Bowser - Holy & All-glorious Apostle Peter (7/12)
Killian Brozell - Hieromartyr Killian (7/22)
Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak - Great Martyr Marina of Antioch (7/30)
Mareena Shuster - Great Martyr Marina of Antioch (7/30)
...*May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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July Birthdays:

Joanna Delaney (7/2), Pañi Stacey Mihaly (7/5), Felix Matolyak-Ferraz (7/6), Allyssa Yakemawiz (7/7), Charles Deluca (7/8), Jessica Winkler (7/8), *Father's Godfather,* Richard Babbie (7/9), *Pañi's Grandmother,* Maria Alexa (7/11), Emilia Zak (7/11) Jean Zak (7/12), Ben Scherer, Sr. (7/14), Pañi Joanna Ferencz (7/17), Rebecca Horbal (7/17), Katie Jesko (7/17), Mark Tongel (7/17), Alaina Anton (7/18), Fr Michael Chendorain (7/18), Fr Luke Mihaly (7/18), Dustin Brozell (7/20), *Father's Godson,* Nathaniel Salio (7/21), Jennifer Brancho (7/22), Robert Fall (7/22), Lynn Mainolfi (7/23), Glenn Labas (7/25),

Barbara Gedid (7/27), Ryan Gogal (7/27), Demetrie Ernest Pido (7/27), Samuel Schrmack (7/27), Doug Delaney (7/28), Fr Stephen Lopusky (7/28), Luke Tongel (7/30), *Pañi's brother,* Florin Popescu (7/30), Fr. George Ellis (7/31)

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

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

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July Anniversaries:

Fred & Juliana Anton (7/20)
Alexei & Patrick Wertz (7/24)
...*through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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For Pregnant Mothers... Caitlin (*due in September*), Mallory (*September*) ...*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. Dzadoovsky and Trevor Meegan ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Cecil Lewis (6/9) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory.*

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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 FOR THE WEEK

A Prayer of a Married Couple

O merciful God, we ask You always to remind us that the married state is holy, and that we must keep it so. Grant us Your grace, that we may continue in faithfulness and love; increase in us the spirit of mutual understanding and trust, that no quarrel or strife may come between us. Grant us Your blessings, that we may stand before our friends and in Your sight as a loving family; and finally, by your mercy, count us worthy of everlasting life. For You are our sanctification and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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A Prayer for Peace

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen.

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The Jesus Prayer

(Inhale) O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,
(Exhale) have mercy on me, a sinner!

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

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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.

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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.

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm or by appointment.

Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

Parish 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. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) 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.

Parishioners in “good standing” are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John’s Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular attendance of services, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (*and receive these Mysteries no less than once a year*); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and share their stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures which includes financially supporting the parish.

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 Fr. Dave 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 Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall). It is critical that marriages are blessed in our church.

Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual responsibilities and their stewardship. 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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ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES

To Ponder...

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“In the spiritual life we can do nothing worthy without repentance, but the Lord has much mercy on us because of our intentions. He who compels himself and holds on to repentance until the end, even if he sins is saved because he compelled himself, for the Lord promised this in the Gospel!”

— St. Mark the Ascetic

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“Christians, have we understood the great responsibility that we have taken on before God through baptism? Have we come to know that we must conduct ourselves as children of God, that we

must align our will with the will of God, that we must remain free from sin, that we must love God with all our hearts and always patiently await union with Him? Have we thought about the fact that our heart should be so filled with love that it should overflow to our neighbor? Do we have the feeling that we must become holy and perfect, children of God and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven? We must struggle for this, so that we may not be shown unworthy and rejected. Let none of us lose our boldness, nor neglect our duties, nor be afraid of the difficulties of spiritual struggle. For we have God as a helper, who strengthens us in the difficult path of virtue.”

—St. Nektarius of Aegina

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“But even impudence is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The impudent person distorts or disobeys, for example, an evangelical commandment in order to justify his fallen state. Such a person does not respect the truth, reality, but knowingly distorts it and tramples upon a sacred object or principle.”

—St Paisios of Mount Athos

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