

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Weekly Bulletin*

O Holy John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of the Lord, pray to God for us!

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.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 #NATIVITY FAST

27th Sunday after Pentecost
Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified (532)
Youth Sunday and St. Nicholas Breakfast
7:00 pm in *Homestead* Feast Day Vespers
(903 Ann Street, Homestead, PA 15120)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 #NATIVITY FAST

FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS
9:30 Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 #NATIVITY FAST

9:30 Moleben for the Nativity Fast

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 #NATIVITY FAST

28th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers
Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker (348)
9:15 Nativity Canon and Carols (*Kol’ady*)
9:30 Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11
Gospel: Luke 14:16-24
Tone 3; Liturgical Color: **Purple / Red**

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Mystery of Confession – Father is available to hear Confessions after every service

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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/directories/cathedral/live/+++

RELOCATION UPDATE

Due to the sales contract requirement concerning the parish house not being met, our closing has been postponed. This also postpones our Last Liturgy on the North Side.

No additional information on our timeline is available at this time beyond that we will be on the North Side into January.

*** The Allison Park Church has extended our contract an additional 30 days to January 13.

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Contact Fr. Dave or Larry Martin if you are interested in being added to the *Construction Committee*.

May God continue to guide our journey to
2201 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, PA 15101

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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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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

A REMINDER TO MAKE TIME FOR YOUR NATIVITY FAST CONFESSION

“Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” (Lk. 5:12)

Fr. Dave will be available for confessions after ALL services, from 11-1 on Saturdays December 3 and 10, or by appointment.

As we prepare for the Feast of the Nativity, it is time to prepare the “Manger of our soul” for the coming of the Messiah.

“There is more mercy in God than there are sins in us. Confess your sins at once, whatever they may be.” +St Tikhon of Zadonsk

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor* +++ 2688 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15212
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com +++ 412-748-0148 (*Talk or Text*) +++ OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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**** Embrace the Nativity Fast** - This fasting period in the church is referred to as the Nativity Fast, Philip’s Fast (*Filipovka*), or sometimes by it’s Latin roots, Advent. It runs for 40-days until the Eve of the Nativity on Monday, January 6. As in Great Lent, you should establish for yourself a rule of fasting and stick to it. It is often said that the Nativity Fast is so much more difficult because of the nature of society around us. We can enjoy the season with our extended family & friends and still witness to our Faith and keep the spirit of the Fast! Everyone should try, at a minimum, to keep Monday, Wednesday & Friday as fast days, no matter what is happening on the ‘new calendar’. Also, Metropolitan Gregory has offered a “Prayer Challenge” to all of the faithful and especially the youth and young adults of the Diocese to strengthen their spiritual lives. The challenge is to pray *specifically* for special intentions, “40 Days – 40 Prayers”, during your evening prayers of the Nativity Fast. For more info, visit:

www.acrod.org/metropolitan/prayerchallenge/

If you have any questions, please talk with Father Dave as we **prepare the Manger of our Soul for the coming of the new borne Messiah!**

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*** Ministry of the Month** – During the Nativity Fast, we are called to increase our Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. We are having a **Food Drive Project** for the Neighborhood Resilience Project (in the Hill District). *Please bring in non-perishable unexpired food items: canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, canned meats, soups, oatmeal, pasta, peanut butter and jelly, and rice.*

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*** Sr. ACRY NEWS: Lots-O-Luck Calendars** – The National ACRY Lots-O-Luck Calendars are available. \$25 per ticket gets you a years worth of prizes totaling \$10,000! Please see Theresa Sharpless for tickets. (We are able to get more tickets if needed)

**** Nativity Commemorations** – We offer you the opportunity to sponsor items to be used for Nativity as commemorations: *anonymously, in memory of departed loves ones, OR for the health of loved ones.* If you are interested in making any of these commemorations, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule (or email Fr. Dave) and give an *additional stewardship free-will offering* to the church.

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***** Broken Windows** – Prior to the morning of Saturday, December 3, two windows were broken at the church (the vent in the glass block window heading to the ladies room and one of the windows in the middle of the glass block in the hall). They were both repaired this past week.

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***** THANK YOU** – To everyone who helped with today’s St. Nicholas Breakfast in our church hall!

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 850
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 62
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 1099
General Fund Total:	\$ 2011
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 115
Relocation Fund:	\$ 75

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Mirilovich Family; Eleanor Sanger; Lawrence Martin; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis

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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.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MONK SAVA THE SANCTIFIED

Commemorated on December 18/5

The Monk Sava the Sanctified was born in the V Century at Cappadocia of pious Christian parents, named John and Sophia. His father was a military-commander. Journeying off to Alexandria on service related matters, his wife went with him, but their five year old son they left in the care of an uncle. When the boy reached eight years of age, he entered the monastery of Saint Flavian situated nearby. The gifted child quickly learned to read and became well studied in Holy Scripture. And in vain then did his parents urge Saint Sava to return to the world and enter into marriage.

At 17 years of age he accepted monastic tonsure and so prospered in fasting and prayer, that he was bestowed the gift of wonderworking. Having spent ten years at the monastery of Saint Flavian, the monk set off to Jerusalem, and from there to the monastery of the Monk Euthymios the Great (Comm. 20 January). But the Monk Euthymios sent off Saint Sava to abba Theoktistos, the head of a nearby monastery with a strict common-life monastic rule. The Monk Sava dwelt at this monastery as an obedient until age 30.

After the death of the monastic-elder Theoktistos, his successor gave blessing to the Monk Sava to seclude himself within a cave: on Saturdays however the monk left his hermitage and came to the monastery, where he participated in Divine-services and partook of food. And after a certain while they gave permission to the monk not to leave his hermitage at all, and Saint Sava asceticised within the cave over the course of 5 years.

The Monk Euthymios attentively oversaw the life of the young monk, and seeing how he had matured spiritually, he began to take him along with him to the Ruv wilderness (at the Dead Sea). They went out on 14 January and remained there until Palm Sunday. The Monk Euthymios called Saint Sava a child-elder and took care to encourage in him growth in the utmost monastic virtues.

When the Monk Euthymios expired to the Lord (+ 473), Saint Sava withdrew from the Laura-monastery and resettled in a cave near the monastery of the Monk Gerasimos of Jordan (+ 475, Comm. 4 March). After several years disciples began to gather to the Monk

Sava – all searching for monastic life. There thus arose the Great Laura-monastery. Through a command from above (in a pillar of fire) the monks built a church in the cave.

The Monk Sava founded several more monasteries. Many a miracle was manifest through the prayers of the Monk Sava: amidst the Laura spouted forth a spring of water, during a time of drought it rained in abundance, and there likewise occurred healings of the sick and the demoniac. The Monk Sava composed the first monastic-rule of church services, the so-called "Jerusalem Rule", accepted by all the Palestine monasteries. The saint reposed peacefully to God in the year 532.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17

The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?" ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God

except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

SAINTED NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA, AND WONDERWORKER

*Patron Saint Of The Carpatho-Rusyn People,
For Children, For Help In Distress Or Poverty,
For Travelers (Specifically At Sea), And
Of Our Diocesan Church Schools
Commemorated on December 19/6*

St. Nicholas Traditions from Around the World: this year we look at UKRAINE

St. Nicholas, *Sviatyij Mykolai*, comes to Ukraine on December 19th because they follow the Orthodox Julian calendar. The night is often called "Magic Night" or just **St. Nicholas Day**. It is seen as a universal children's festival.

It is a happy day with visiting and sleigh rides. Schools have plays telling St Nicholas stories and the **saint** visits local churches. Dressed as a Byzantine **bishop**, the good saint is often accompanied by angels. He quizzes children on their catechism before giving gifts. St. Nicholas Day is the main day for gift-giving, though gifts are also becoming associated with Christmas Day. Today many Ukrainian churches have St. Nicholas celebrations to help children understand that the holy man Nicholas came long before Santa Claus.

Gifts, placed by St. Nicholas under the pillow or in boots during the night of December 18, are usually sweets—gingerbread, chocolate, candies, fruit, marshmallows—and toys, games, books, a warm scarf or gloves. Adults may also receive a surprise in the morning of the 19th.

St. Nicholas history in Ukraine goes back to the 10th and 11th centuries, when Kyivan Rus Prince Volodymyr (**Vladimir the Great**) brought Christianity and St. Nicholas to Kyiv. In churches, his **icons** are prominently placed on the **iconostas**, usually next to Jesus, the Mother of God, or the **patron saint** of the church. His icons were found also in nearly every home. In the mountains of western Ukraine where the Hutzels named the four seasons of the year after saints, winter honors St. Nicholas.

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Ryan, Theresa, Thomas, David, Donna, Gregory, Joshua, George, John, Beverly, Kelly, 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 souls of the newly departed...

The Priest, Protopresbyter +John Duranko (12/8), +Don Babin (12/6) ...*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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NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENGE 2022

Metropolitan Gregory asks each member of our Diocese, either as a family or individually, to pray this every evening of the Nativity Fast.

O Master and Creator, You have made us to know You, to love You, and to serve You in this life, and to be happy with You forever in heaven.

You desire all to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth. For this reason, You sent Your Only-Begotten Son to be born in Bethlehem as our King and Redeemer. As we fast and prepare to celebrate His Nativity, we offer prayers and supplications for all people, and most especially at this time for...

(Now include the daily prayer intention found on the handout, or at

www.acrod.org/metropolitan/prayerchallenge/
and then continue below.)

Look down with merciful eyes upon Your servants. Pardon all their sins committed deliberately or because of human frailty. Protect them against all enemies, visible and invisible, and from every misfortune, distress, and affliction. Keep them in peace, tranquility, and health. We entrust them and ourselves to You, O Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF THE WEEK

Patron Saint - A **patron saint** is regarded as the intercessor and advocate in heaven of a nation, place, craft, activity, class, or person. Since the time of the early Christians up to the present, a vast number of patron [saints](#) have been recorded.

To Intercede - to act or interpose in behalf of someone in difficulty or trouble, as by pleading or petition

Petition - a request made for something desired, especially a respectful or humble request, as to a superior or to one of those in authority; a supplication or prayer:

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ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES

CHRISTMAS TO-DO-LIST

~~BE~~
~~buy~~ presents

~~wrap~~ gifts ~~SOMEONE~~
IN A HUG

~~Send~~ gifts PEACE

~~DONATE~~
~~shop~~ for food

~~BE~~
~~See~~ the lights

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THE CANON OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

Ode 1: Christ is born, glorify him! Christ comes from heaven, meet Him! Christ is an earth, be exalted! O all the earth, sing to the Lord, and sing praises in gladness, all people, for He has been glorified.

Ode 3: To the Son Who was begotten of the Father without change before all ages, and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin, to Christ our God, let us cry aloud: You have raised up our horn, holy are You, O Lord!

Ode 4: Rod of the root of Jesse, and flower that blossomed from his stem, O Christ, You have sprung forth from the Virgin. From the mountain overshadowed by the forest You came, made flesh for her that knew not wedlock, O God not formed from matter. Glory to Your power O Lord!

Ode 5: As You are God of Peace and Father of mercies, You have sent to us Your Angel of Great Counsel, granting unto us peace. So are we guided towards the light of the knowledge of God. And watching by night, we glorify You, O Lover of mankind.

Ode 6: The sea monster spat forth Jonah as it had received him, like a babe from the womb: while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh: came forth from her yet kept her undefiled. For being Himself not subject to decay. He preserved His Mother free from harm.

Ode 7: Scorning the impious decree, the three children brought up together in godliness feared not the threat of fire: but standing in the midst of the flame they sang: "O God of our fathers, blessed are You!"

Ode 8: The furnace moist with dew was the image of a wonder past nature. For it burned not the children whom it had received, even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which It had descended. Therefore in praise, let us sing: let the whole creation bless the Lord, and exalt Him above all forever.

Ode 9: I behold a strange and wonderful mystery. The cave has become heaven, the throne of the Cherubim, the Virgin. The manger a noble place where lies Christ our God Who cannot be contained. Let us praise Him in song and magnify You!

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Spiritual Vitamin:

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Tropar: "The sincerity of your deeds has revealed you to your people as a teacher of moderation, a model of faith, and an example of virtue. Therefore, you attained greatness through humility, and wealth through poverty. O Father and Archbishop Nicholas, ask Christ our God to save our souls."

Kondak: "You were truly a priestly worker in Myra, O Holy Nicholas, for zealously living the Gospel of Christ, you dedicated your life to your people; you saved the innocent from death. Therefore, you have been sanctified as one who has entered the mystery of God's grace."

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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A SECOND 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 Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. David S., Fr. Myron, Dcn. Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanor, 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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December Namedays:

Caitlenn Brozell, Carol Lorenzi, Katherine Schrmack - Great-martyr Catherine of Alexandria (12/7)
Andrew Mirilovich, Fr. Dave Andrew Urban - Holy & All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called (12/13)

Barbara Kirish - Great martyr Barbara (12/17)
Nicholas Kubis - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (12/19)

Patrick Wertz - St. Sturm of Fulda Monastery (12/30)
...May God grant them many and blessed years!

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December Birthdays:

Matthew Hanchulak (12/1)
Stacy (Martin) Dzambo (12/1)
Joshua Winkler (12/1)

Father's Godson, Joseph Sekerak (12/2)
Lucy Jo Blobner (12/4)

His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory (12/7)
Pañi Eleanor Herbert (12/8)
Deborah Brancho (12/9)
Jim Potoski (12/10)
Alexis Jesko (12/9)

Father's God-sister, Lauren Babbie (12/12)

Brian Gogal (12/15)
Madelyn Spirmak (12/17)
Donald Paul Gavulich (12/19)
Patricia Deluca (12/20)
Patricia Donley (12/20)
Fr Nik Ferencz (12/20)
Mike Puhac (12/21)
Jaydon Maruscak (12/23)

Molly Rose Blobner (12/27)
Caitlin Brozell (12/28)

...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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December Anniversaries:

Faith (Sekerak) and Zach Thousands (12/28/19)
...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas

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For Pregnant Mothers... Nicole (*due in June*)
...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 *...through the prayers of St. George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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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 PRAYERS

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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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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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 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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DECEMBER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2** #NATIVITY FAST
9:30 Paraklis of the Nativity Fast
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3** #NATIVITY FAST
11-1 Mystery (Sacrament) of Confession offered
4:00 Feast Day Vespers
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4** #NATIVITY FAST
FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS
9:30 Divine Liturgy followed by Church School
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6** #NATIVITY FAST
9:30 Akathist to St. Nicholas
followed by Decorating for Christmas
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8** #NATIVITY FAST
9:30 Moleben for the Nativity Fast
followed by Decorating for Christmas
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10** #NATIVITY FAST
11-1 Mystery (Sacrament) of Confession offered
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11** #NATIVITY FAST
9:30am Divine Liturgy *(Nativity Canon begins)*
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14** #NATIVITY FAST
9:30 Paraklis of the Nativity Fast
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16** #NATIVITY FAST
9:30 Akathist for the Nativity Fast
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18** #NATIVITY FAST
9:30am Divine Liturgy (and Youth Sunday)
followed by St. Nicholas Breakfast
7:00 *in Homestead* Feast Day Vespers
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 19** #NATIVITY FAST
FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS
9:30 Divine Liturgy
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23** #NATIVITY FAST
9:30 Moleben for the Nativity Fast
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25** #NATIVITY FAST
9:30am Divine Liturgy

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