

“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, JANUARY 1 #NATIVITY FAST

29th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Holy Ancestors
Martyr Boniface

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5 #NATIVITY FAST

9:30 Prefestive Moleben for the Nativity

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6 ## STRICT FAST DAY

9:30 Royal Hours of Nativity

Great Compline (Velikij Povečerije)

7:00 pm in East Pittsburgh (211 Cable Avenue)
in McKeesport (424 Ninth Street)
in Rankin (146 Third Avenue)

8:00 pm in Ambridge (450 Glenwood Drive)
in Homestead (903 Ann Street)

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9:15 Nativity Canon and Carols (*Kol’ady*)

9:30 Festal Divine Liturgy

Parish Family Photo

Nativity Pot-Luck Meal

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 – 2ND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

30th Sunday after Pentecost

Commemoration of the Most Holy Theotokos

9:15 Nativity Canon and Carols (*Kol’ady*)

9:30 Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Tone 5; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

A FAST FREE WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 9 – 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS

FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN

9:30 Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD

FEAST OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

9:30 Divine Liturgy

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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/

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RELOCATION UPDATE

**** Car accident at the Parish House** – After 2am on Saturday, December 17, an SUV came down Woodland and did not stop until hitting and going into the house. Thank God, no one was injured! It is a miracle that none of the kids having a sleepover in the living room were injured. Due to the severe damage to the house, Josh and his family are displaced. A GoFundMe page has been set up for those able to help them at this time: <https://gofund.me/a34435df>

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***** Insurance Adjustor** – On Friday afternoon, our insurance adjustor did a thorough inspection of the parish house. As we wait for more reports, the following is advised: no one under the age of 18 should be on the property, specifically the front entrance and yard are off limits, and the structure is still sound. As he mentioned after hearing that no one got hurt – *that is a miracle!* Glory to God!

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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

* 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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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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***** Christmas Pot-luck** – Our January 7th Pot-luck meal after the Divine Liturgy will return on Saturday. As the 3 Wise Men brought gifts to the newborn Child, please bring a bite to share with everyone on the Nativity of our Lord.

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Confession – A reminder to make time for you Nativity Fast Confession. Fr. Dave is available after every service or by appointment. *Prepare the Manger of our Soul for the coming of the new borne Messiah!*

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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)

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* **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 today then give an *additional stewardship free-will offering* to the church.

* **Embrace the Nativity Fast** - The Fast runs until the Eve of Christmas on Friday, January 6 when we have a **day of strict fasting** when we fast from meat and dairy in preparation for the celebration of the Birth of our Lord. If you have any questions about fasting, please talk with Father Dave. *We need to prepare the Manger of your Soul for the coming of the new borne Messiah!* Also, Metropolitan Gregory has offered a “Prayer Challenge” to all of the faithful 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 Fr. Dave.

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**** THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the St. Nicholas Breakfast in our church hall last month!

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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 have both been repaired.

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***** Anonymous Offering** – THANK YOU to the anonymous donor of \$10,000 last month! Your generosity, along with everyone else’s, allows the church to pursue our ministries to live the Beatitudes of Christ! May God grant you many and blessed years!

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***** Calendars and Envelopes** for 2023 have arrived and are in the vestibule and hall.

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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

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 10,310
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 60
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 45
Community Outreach:	\$ 156
General Fund Total:	\$ 10,571

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster.

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Stewardship Offering - The end of the civil calendar year is here. Have you made a financial contribution to your parish yet? Please fulfill your stewardship responsibility of *time, talent, and treasure.*

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2-years of On-Line Giving – We have had the option of on-line giving from our parish website now for 2 years! The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple, but you can also donate from your home and set up a recurring donation.

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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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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

⁹By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was

said, “Through Isaac shall your descendants be named.” ¹⁹He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²²By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his burial.

The Faith of Moses

²³By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. ³²And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated— ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

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Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Ammin’adab, and Ammin’adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Bo’az by Rahab, and Bo’az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the

father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri’ah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehobo’am, and Rehobo’am the father of Abi’jah, and Abi’jah the father of Asa, ⁸and Asa the father of Jehosh’aphat, and Jehosh’aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi’ah, ⁹and Uzzi’ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki’ah, ¹⁰and Hezeki’ah the father of Manas’sseh, and Manas’sseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi’ah, ¹¹and Josi’ah the father of Jechoni’ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. ¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni’ah was the father of She-al’ti-el, and She-al’ti-el the father of Zerub’abel, ¹³and Zerub’abel the father of Abi’ud, and Abi’ud the father of Eli’akim, and Eli’akim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli’ud, ¹⁵and Eli’ud the father of Elea’zar, and Elea’zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. ¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; ¹⁹and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; ²¹she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman’u-el” (*which means, God with us*). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Mary Jane, 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), +Donald 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.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY MARTYR BONIFACE

Commemorated on January 1 / December 19

The Holy Martyr Boniface was the slave of a rich young Roman woman named Aglaida and he dwelt with her in an iniquitous cohabitation. But they both felt the sting of conscience and they wanted somehow to wash away their sin. And the Lord deigned to grant them the possibility to cleanse away their sin with their blood and to finish their sinful life with repentance. Aglaida learned, that if relics of the holy martyrs be reverently kept in the home, then through their prayers it becomes the easier to receive salvation, since under their graced influence sinfulness is diminished and virtues prevail. She arranged for Boniface to go to the East, where at the time there was a fierce persecution against Christians, and she asked him to bring back the relics of some martyr or other, who would become for them a guide and protector. In making his farewell Boniface laughed and asked: "And what if, lady, I do not find the relics, and instead I myself suffer for Christ, – wilt thou accept my body with reverence?" Aglaida took his words seriously and she scolded him, that he was setting off on a sacred matter, but he was not taking it seriously. Boniface pondered over her words, and the whole while of the journey he was absorbed in thought.

Having journeyed to Cilicia, to the city of Tarsus, Boniface left his companions at the inn and proceeded to the city square, where they were torturing the Christians. Struck by the beastly horrible torments, and seeing the faces of the holy martyrs radiant with the grace of the Lord, Boniface was drawn to them with sympathy in his heart, and he rushed up to them, kissed their feet and besought their holy prayers, that he also might be found worthy to suffer with them. The judge thereupon asked Boniface, who was he? Boniface answered: "I am a Christian", – and then refused to make the sacrificial offering to idols. They therewith gave him over to torture: they beat him so hard, that the flesh lay bare the bones, they stuck needles under his nails, and finally they poured molten tin down his throat, but by the power of the Lord he remained unharmed. The people round about

the judgement-seat went into an uproar, they began to throw stones at the judge, and then they headed off for the pagan temple, to cast down the idols. On the following morning, when they had quieted down the unrest somewhat, the judge directed that the holy martyr be thrown into a cauldron of boiling tar, but this also caused the sufferer no harm: an Angel come down from Heaven moistened him, and the tar overflowed the cauldron, splattering and burning the torturers themselves. Saint Boniface was then sentenced to beheading by the sword. From his wounds flowed blood and a milky fluid; beholding such a miracle, about 550 men believed in Christ.

Amidst this the companions of Saint Boniface, waiting at the inn for him for two days in vain, began searching around for him, thinking that he had gotten caught up in some frivolous past-time. At first their search was without success, but finally they came across a man, who had been an eyewitness to the martyr's death of the saint. The eyewitness also led them to the place, where lay the decapitated body. The companions of Saint Boniface with tears besought of him forgiveness for their unseemly thoughts about him, and having ransomed for a sizeable sum of money the remains of the martyr, they brought them back to Rome.

On the eve of their arrival an Angel appeared to Aglaida in her sleep and bid her prepare herself to receive her former slave, now his own man and a patron, serving together with the Angels. Aglaida summoned the clergy, with great reverence she received the venerable relics, and then she built on the place of his grave a church in the name of the holy martyr and put there his relics, glorified by numerous miracles. Having distributed to the poor all her wealth, she withdrew to a monastery, where she spent eighteen years in repentance and during her lifetime she acquired the miraculous gift to cast out unclean spirits. She herself was buried nearby to the tomb of the Martyr Boniface.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

A BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR

From Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick

On this eve of the civil new year, I pray that God will bless you and your families with all good things in 2023, that it will be a year when we become less like the devil and more like Christ.

May the gospel be preached, to enlighten those in darkness and to release those in slavery to the shadow of death.

May God's justice come, to end wickedness and to raise up those who cry out for vindication.

May healing and relief from suffering come, to mend the broken in body and in mind and in heart with the love and wholeness of Jesus Christ.

May repentance be given to us so that we will be conformed to Christ, Who is the Image of the invisible God.

May we see what is everlasting and orient ourselves accordingly, with the grace of God.

May we make worship of the Holy Trinity the very center and height of our lives, so that all other things serve this end.

May we participate in the works of God, to pray for our neighbors and to give help to our neighbors, and to build them up in all ways unto Christ.

May we be granted to be makers of beauty, so that the Maker be revealed and glorified.

May we become sons of God, sons of the resurrection, equal to the angels -- as Christ said (Luke 20:36).

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ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES

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!



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, 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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January Namedays:

Juliana Anton – Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (1/3)

Stephen Brancho - Holy Protomartyr & Archdeacon Stephen (1/9)

Melanie Shuster - Venerable Melania the Younger (1/13)

John Sharpless - St John the Baptist (1/20)

Ashley Wertz - Venerable Anthony the Great (1/30)

Anthony Winkler - Venerable Anthony the Great (1/30)

...May God grant them many and blessed years!

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January Birthdays:

Carol Lorenzi (1/2)

Joshua Mainolfi (1/3)

Anna Martellotti (1/4)

Steven Buhonick (1/7)

Jason Shelpman (1/9)

Pañi Kathy Fester (1/13)

Brenda Labas (1/15)

Fred G. Anton (1/16)

Pañi Fedornock (1/16)

Father’s Godson, Alex Schreiber (1/18)

Father’s Goddaughter, Jenna Schreiber (1/18)

Kevynn Christina Anton (1/19)

Patricia Watson (1/19)

Father’s Nephew, Nicholas Ditmore (1/19)

Fr Joseph Fester (1/19)

Katherine Schrmack (1/22)

Father’s niece, Abiageal Verbanick (1/22)

Thomas Lorenzi (1/23)

Mary Ann Brady (1/26)

Fr Frank Miloro (1/26)

Roberta ‘Bobbie’ Kruchkevich (1/27)

Allison Kretchek (1/29)

...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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January Anniversaries:

...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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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."

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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JANUARY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 #NATIVITY FAST
9:15 Nativity Canon and Carols (*Kol'ady*)
9:30 Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5 #NATIVITY FAST
9:30 Prefestive Moleben for the Nativity

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6 ## STRICT FAST DAY
9:30 Royal Hours of Nativity
Great Compline (Velikij Povečerije)
6:30pm in Rankin (146 Third Avenue)
7:00pm in East Pittsburgh (211 Cable Avenue)
and McKeesport (424 Ninth Street)
8:00pm in Ambridge (450 Glenwood Drive)
and Homestead (903 Ann Street)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
9:30 Divine Liturgy
Parish Family Photo
Nativity Pot-Luck Meal
FAST FREE THROUGH JANUARY 17

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 – 2ND DAY OF CHRISTMAS
9:15 Nativity Canon and Carols (*Kol'ady*)
9:30 Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, JANUARY 9 – 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS
FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN
9:30 Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD
FEAST OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT
9:30 Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
9:15 Theophany Canon
9:30 Divine Liturgy (and Youth Sunday) followed by Church School

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18 ## STRICT FAST DAY
9:30 Royal Hours of Theophany

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD
9:30 Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20
FEAST OF THE SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
9:30 Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
9:15 Theophany Canon
9:30 Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29
ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY
9:30 Divine Liturgy

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