

“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 29

33rd Sunday after Pentecost
Zacchaeus Sunday
Righteous Maxim, Priest of Tot'ma (1650)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - *TRIDION BEGINS*

34th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Hieromartyr Clement bishop of Ancyra (296)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15;
Gospel: Luke 18:10-14
Tone 1; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
A FAST FREE WEEK
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:30am Akathist to St. Xenia of St. Petersburg
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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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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

Parish Council Meeting Highlights

Parish House Condemned - Extension of citation from the City of Pittsburgh Inspector was denied. A second citation was received. (After a third citation the church could start to be fined.) Citations will keep coming until permits are requested for the repairs of the parish house.
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Adjustor - We are still waiting for the reports from the insurance adjustor and bids from the restoration company and contractors for the repairs of the parish house. Once reports and estimates are received, the Allison Park Church will review them and negotiations could be finalized quickly.
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Community Activity – A bowling or ice skating community activity will be explored for a Sunday afternoon in February.
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*** Resignation** – Recently Matt Peifer resigned from his position of Vice-President of the Parish Council and his role as cantor of the parish. The hour drive traveling from New Castle caught up to him and it influenced this difficult decision for him. May God grant him many blessed years after his many years of service and stewardship to our parish!
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*** Pan Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh** will be rehearsing for the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers (March 5, 2023 at St George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland). To prepare, they will have six Saturday rehearsals: January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 25, and March 4. Rehearsals will be held from 12-noon to 2:00 pm at St Nicholas Orthodox Church (320 Munson Ave., McKees Rocks PA 15136). If interested in singing, please contact Fr. Dave.
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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

Holy Water Reminders

***** 2023 Holy Water Available To Take Home** - Please plan to take our Theophany Holy Water home with you! Bring in a container (or pick up a *Holy Water Bottle* from our bookstore), fill it up, and use it. Drink Holy Water every morning (or at least when you are feeling under the weather). Throw a splash into your cooking. Also, together with the sign of the Cross, you may bless one another with it prior to tests for our children in school, big days at the office, before doctor appointments, etc.
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**** Holy Water Reminders: *Do Not Hoard It!***
While Holy Water does not “go bad”, it is best to refresh your water each year. Holy Water from the previous year(s) should be poured outside (*preferably on the corner of your house or in a garden where people are not going to walk on it*). The best scenario is to **use the water**: take a drink every morning, use in your cooking, etc. We will bless the new Jordan Water on Wednesday. All are encouraged to bring their Holy Water bottle the next time you come to church to refill with the New Jordan Water for your home
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Akathist to St. Xenia with holy anointing – This Akathist covers many topics. Within it, Orthodox Prayers are offered to Save a Marriage, for the Healing of Mental Illness, to Find a Spouse, a Home, or a Job! (*St Xenia is the patron saint for finding employment.*) Whether any of these areas are a concern for you or not, come and pray on **Monday, February 6** for those who it will benefit!
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 **Souper Bowl of Caring** – On **Sunday, February 12th** we ask that you bring in unexpired cans of soup for our February Community Outreach collection for Saint Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry at St Mary’s Orthodox Church on the South Side.
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Blessing of Candles – As is customary, candles will be blessed following the Feast Day Divine Liturgy on **Tuesday, February 15 as well as on February 19**, the Sunday after the Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord, the 40th day after Nativity (Christmas) that remembers the presentation of the infant Jesus into the Temple. It is recorded in the Gospel of Luke (2:22-39) that on this day the elder Simeon recognized the infant Jesus as “a light for revelation to the Gentiles”. Thus we highlight the use of candles, as they remind us that Christ is the true Light of the World. There will be candles available for a donation and all are encouraged to bring in candles from home to be blessed after these two Liturgies. Please place your candle(s) on the table near the iconostasis. Let’s light up the world with our blessed candles!
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Calling all scouts! For our youth in Scouting and to our Adult Leaders, please send Fr. Dave your Unit Number, location, current rank, and any office or position you hold in your organization by **February 15th**.
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All-Soul Saturday (*Zadušna Subota*)
Liturgies with Panachidas for 2023 will begin on Saturday, **February 18**. On these days, we especially pray for the departed loved ones of our families. If you are not working on a Saturday, come to church, pray with us, and light two candles for your living and departed loved ones. **Please inform Fr Dave if there are any additions to be made to your Commemoration Diptychs (*Hramoty*)**. Offering Envelopes and cards are available in the vestibule.
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***** Pre-Lenten Breakfast** will be on **February 19**. Please sign up in the hall so we have a rough idea of how many will stay

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 390
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 427
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 637
Total Collections:	\$ 1454
Relocation Fund:	\$ 50

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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Kathy Schrmack; Eleanor Sanger; Rich and Renee Mirilovich; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis

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The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by Helen Saraff in memory of her departed loved ones. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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**** 2022 Summary** - If you would like a copy of your 2022 SJB Donation Summary, please contact Rich Mirilovich at 412-523-1848 or jrmrsqrd@gmail.com.

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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. *Remember, sponsoring a bulletin in memory of someone does not replace having a Panachida (short Memorial Service) for them.*

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RELOCATION UPDATE

** The Allison Park Church has extended our contract to the end of January (*see meeting notes above*)

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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/acroddioecese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
YouTube: youtube.com/acroddioecese

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

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

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Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. ³And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he

was to pass that way. ⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. ⁷And when they saw it they all murmured, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ⁸And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.” ⁹And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE VENERATION OF THE VENERABLE SHACKLES OF THE HOLY AND ALL- PRAISEWORTHY APOSTLE PETER

Commemorated on January 29/16

The Veneration of the Venerable Shackles of the Holy and All-Praiseworthy Apostle Peter: On the orders of Herod Agrippa, in about the year 42 the Apostle Peter was thrown into prison for preaching about Christ the Saviour. In prison he was held secure by two iron chains. By night, on the eve of his trial, an Angel of the Lord removed these chains from the Apostle Peter and miraculously led him out from the prison (Acts 12: 1-11). Christians who learned of the miracle took the chains and kept them as precious keepsakes. Those afflicted with illness and approaching them with faith received healing. The Chains of the holy Apostle Peter were kept at Jerusalem until the time of Patriarch Juvenalios, who presented them to Eudocia, spouse of the emperor Theodosius the Younger, and she in turn transferred them from Jerusalem to Constantinople in either the year 437 or 439. Eudocia sent one Chain to Rome to her daughter Eudoxia, who built a church in the name of the Apostle Peter and put within it the Chain. At Rome were also other Chains, in which the Apostle Peter found himself before his death under the emperor Nero.

On 16 January the Chains of the Apostle Peter are brought out for veneration by the people.

SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

“When you speak to a humble man, you are at rest, and it is easy to be with him. But when you speak with someone who justifies himself and blames others-oh, how exhausting!”

+St John Chrysostom

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“We seek and we pray for our return to that time when, being united, we spoke the same things and there was no schism between us.”

+St Mark of Ephesus, on the relations between Orthodoxy and the West

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Ryan, Octavian, Anna Mae, David, Donna, Gregory, Joshua, George, Beverly, Kelly, 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...

Gus Miller (1/15)

...*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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A Prayer before consuming Antidoron and (or) Holy Water

O Lord my God, may Your holy gift and Your holy water be for the enlightenment of my mind, for the increase of my spiritual and bodily strengths, for the health of my soul and body, for the taming of my passions and weaknesses, through Your boundless mercy, through the prayers of Your Most-holy Mother and of all Your Saints. Amen.

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ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES

Looking into Orthodoxy through the internet?

RESOURCES TO USE ONLINE:

- the official website of any canonical Orthodox jurisdiction
- website of the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops of the USA (www.assemblyofbishops.org)
- Ancient Faith Ministries, and any of its affiliated blogs and podcasts (www.ancientfaith.com)
- Orthodox Christian Network (www.myocn.net)
- YouTube channels affiliated and non-divisive such as Theoria, Trisagion Films, Protecting Veil, Patristic Nectar, and Bible Illustrated

RESOURCES TO AVOID ONLINE:

- Orthodoxy In Dialogue
- Public Orthodoxy
- The Wheel
- Orthodox Ethos
- websites for jurisdictions with the words "True" or "Traditional" in their title
- websites for groups who prominently feature their stance on a single issue as their defining characteristic (e.g. old/new calendars, current geopolitical strife, etc.)
- most any person's independent blog

This is not an exhaustive list. There are far more good and useful resources than bad ones, but remember that "a little leaven leavens the whole lump."

And the sooner you can stop looking into Orthodoxy on the internet and start looking into it in a local Orthodox church, do so.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

At first, Zacchaeus was a tax collector and a sinner. When our Lord saw him in Jeri-cho in a tree and entered his home, Zacchaeus was brought to repentance (See Luke 19: 1-10). ... Later on, Zacchaeus followed the Apostle Peter who appointed him bishop of Caesarea in Palestine where he faithfully served the Gospel and died peacefully. Homily by St. Nikolai Velimirovič, "The Apostle Zacchaeus," Prolog from Ohrid about the providence of Zacchaeus of little stature: "Today, salvation has come to this house" (St. Luke 19:9) Thus it was spoken by the One Whose word is life and joy and restoration of the righteous. Just as the bleak forest clothes itself into greenery and flowers from the breath of spring, so does every man, regardless of how arid and darkened by sin, becomes fresh and youthful from the nearness of Christ. For the nearness of Christ is as the nearness of some life-giving and fragrant balsam which restores health, increases life, give fragrance to the soul, to the thoughts and to the words of man. In other words, distance from Christ means decay and death and His nearness means salvation and life. "Today, salvation has come to this house" said the Lord upon entering the house of Zacchaeus the sinner. Christ was the salvation that came and Zacchaeus was the house into which He entered. Brethren, each one of us is a house in which sin dwells as long as Christ is distant and to which salvation comes when Christ approaches it. Nevertheless, will Christ approach my house and your house? That depends on us. Behold, He did not arbitrarily enter the house of the sinner Zacchaeus, rather He entered as a most desired guest. Zacchaeus of little stature climbed into a tree in order to see the Lord Jesus with his own eyes. Zacchaeus, therefore, sought him; Zac-chaeus desired Him. We must also seek Him in order to find Him and desire Him in order that He would draw nearer to us and, with our spirit, to climb high in order to encounter His glance. Then He will visit our house as He visited the house of Zac-chaeus and with Him salvation will come. Draw near to us O Lord, draw near and bring to us Your eternal salvation. To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

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)
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)
online www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Leavetaking (*Apodosis*) of the Nativity of Christ

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD
FEAST OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT
9:30 Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

9:20 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 and the Great Blessing of Water

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

FEAST OF THE SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
9:30 Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

9:20 Theophany Canon
9:30 Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY
9:30 Divine Liturgy

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AND Looking FURTHER Ahead...

Some 2023 dates of interest at St. John's:

- Feb. 12 – Feast of Three Holy Hierarchs
- Feb. 15 – Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord
- Feb. 18 – 1st All Soul's Saturday
- Feb. 27 – The Great Fast Begins (*Services for Great Lent are on the Parish Calendar Online*)
- Mar. 9 – 1st & 2nd Findings of the Head of St. John the Baptist
- Mar. 1 – Apr. 5 – 6:00 pm Wednesday Evening Presanctified Liturgies
- Mar. 5 – Sunday of Orthodoxy – 4:30 pm Vespers at St. George Cathedral in Oakland
- Mar. 11 – 2nd All Soul's Saturday
- Mar. 12 – Deanery Lenten Mission in Ambridge
- Mar. 18 – 3rd All Soul's Saturday
- Mar. 19 – Deanery Lenten Mission in East Pgh
- Mar. 25 – 4th All Soul's Saturday
- Mar. 26 – Deanery Lenten Mission on North Side
- Apr. 1 – Parish Spring Maintenance Morning
- Apr. 1 – Diocesan Lenten Retreat
- Apr. 2 – Deanery Lenten Mission in Rankin
- Apr. 7 – Feast of the Annunciation
- Apr. 8 – Lazarus Saturday
The beginning of Holy Week
- Apr. 9 – Feast of Palm Sunday
- Apr. 16 – Pascha, the Feast of Feasts
- Apr. 23 – Cemetery Grave Blessings
- May 10 – Feast of Mid-Pentecost
- May 25 – Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord
- Jun. 3 – 5th All Souls Saturday
- Jun. 4 – Feast of Pentecost
- Jun. 7 – 3rd Finding of the Head of St. John
- Jun. 12 – Apostles' Fast begins
- Jul. 7 – Feast of the Nativity of St John
- Jul. 12 – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
- Jul. 23 – Divine Liturgy and our Parish Picnic at "The Cabin" in North Park

Please, Save the Dates!

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AND Some 2023 Camp Nazareth Events:

- ✘ February 17-19 - OCF Retreat
- ✘ March 10-12 - ACRY Spring Encounter
- ✘ March 17-19 - Young Adult Retreat
- ✘ April 28-30 - Religious Education Conference
- ✘ May 1-3 - Sts. Joachim and Anna Seniors Retreat
- ✘ June 9-11 - Family Camp
- ✘ June 11 - Family Day
- ✘ July 23-29 - Pittsburgh Deanery Camping Week
- ✘ August 6-12 - Science & Nature Camp (ages 8-18)
- ✘ October 27-29 - Young Adult Retreat
- ✘ November 10-12 - ACRY Encounter

Please, Save the Dates!

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WORD OF THE WEEK

Triodion - The Lenten Triodion is the service book of the Orthodox Church that provides the texts for the divine services for the pre-Lenten weeks of preparation, Great Lent, and Holy Week. The Lenten Triodion is the title of a classic and popular English book translated with an extensive and helpful introduction by Metropolitan Kallistos and Mother Mary; it provides many (but not all) of the texts necessary to observe the great fast. In Greek and Slavonic it is simply called the triodion. It is called the triodion because the canons appointed for Matins during this period are composed of three odes each. The weeks of preparation, and especially the Sunday gospel readings, serve to exercise the mind, whereas the fasting of Great Lent focuses on the body, and Holy Week's services exercise the spirit.

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.

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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...)

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 in the church. 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 the 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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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. Dean, 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),

Keyvynn 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... Erica (due in April), Lindsay, Nicole (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.*

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

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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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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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