

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Weekly Bulletin*
O Holy John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of the Lord, pray to God for us!

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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, MARCH 12 #TheGreatFast
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
Venerable Procopius the Confessor (ca. 750)
Panachida for departed of SJB & +Mp. Nicholas (12-yr)
4:00 pm Deanery Lenten Mission in Ambridge

TUESDAY, MARCH 14 #TheGreatFast
7:00pm Blessing of Our New Church (Allison Park)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15 #TheGreatFast
6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with
community meal following (*on the North Side*)

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 #TheGreatFast
10:00 am Last (Presanctified) Liturgy and
deconsecration on the North Side with
Mp. Gregory and a community pot-luck luncheon

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 #TheGreatFast
Holy 42 Martyrs of Ammoreia
9:30 Divine Liturgy in Allison Park
Tone 7; Liturgical Color: **Purple**
4:00 pm Deanery Lenten Mission in East Pittsburgh

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 #TheGreatFast
6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with
community meal following

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 #TheGreatFast
9:30 am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

ALL-SOULS SATURDAY, MARCH 25 #TheGreatFast
9:30am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (*3rd of 5*)
(*Zadušna Subota*)
11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered

RELOCATION UPDATE

**** Motion Passed** - On February 22, 2023, the following motion was unanimously approved by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council:

For St. John the Baptist Church to purchase the Duncan Avenue property for \$330,000 and to include in the sale our church properties in an as is condition.
***** and Approved** - On February 25, the APCOG approved the change in contract and are ready to close! **Glory to God! Slava Bohu!**

*** The Transition Schedule from the NS to the NH:**
Monday, March 13 – Closing on the property
Tuesday, March 14 starting at 9 am – Mini Moving Morning (*starting on the North Side*): **starting at 10 am** – cleaning in Allison Park
Tuesday, March 14 at 7 pm – Blessing of our New Church in Allison Park
Wednesday, March 15 starting at 9 am – Mini Moving Morning (*starting on the North Side*)
Wednesday, March 15 at 6 pm – Presanctified Liturgy and meal on the North Side
Thursday, March 16 starting at 9am – Mini Moving Morning (*starting on the North Side*)
Friday, March 17 at * 10 am – Last (Presanctified) Liturgy and de-consecration on the North Side with Met. Gregory followed by pot-luck luncheon; set up the scaffolding in the afternoon
Saturday, March 18 at 9 am – Major moving day with moving the candle stands, pews, etc.. All hands on deck as we set up for Liturgy the next day.
Sunday, March 19 – 1st Liturgy in Allison Park (*with the portable Altar in the downstairs Church Hall*)
Week of March 20 – Moving the iconostasis and last miscellaneous items (please contact Fr Dave if able to help through the week)
Friday, March 24 – Last day to get items moved.

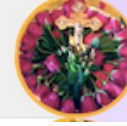
2nd Sunday of Lent
MARCH 12th



ST GREGORY PALAMAS
Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3
Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today!
Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.

3rd Sunday of Lent
MARCH 19th



VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
HALF WAY TO PASCHAI
Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6
Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!

Did You Know???

- ✘ We will *not* be taking a loan from a bank to make this move! May God bless you in your generosity!
- ✘ Our phone number will stay the same (*we use Google Voice, an online service*)
- ✘ The stained glass window company will be taking the windows out, crating, and transporting them.

Please share questions with Fr Dave or a Parish Council member as they come up!

Friday Luncheon – We will have a community Pot-Luck luncheon in the hall following the Last Liturgy. Please sign up in the hall (or email Fr Dave) if you will be coming or what you will be bringing

Construction Committee – Please 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

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(*Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday*)

*** Great Lent 2023: Our Journey To Pascha** – Please reach out to Fr. Dave with your questions about this important fasting period that has arrived.

*** 48-Days to the Great Day** – This Daily Lenten Meditation book was sent to our Diocesan households. IF you did not receive this book, please let Fr. Dave know ASAP.

***** Bread** - Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested in making bread for Friday morning (3/17) when we welcome Metropolitan Gregory.

***** Cross Flower Wreath** – If you are interested in making the flower wreath for the Holy Cross for Sunday, March 19th, please let Fr. Dave know. (Or if you are interested in learning how...)

*** Anderson Candy Sale** - The booklets are in the church hall for this year's candy sale. Orders are due by **March 24th**. Please see Tim Martin with any questions.

**** Palms & Pussywillows** – We are collecting in the Church Hall our Palms and Pussywillows from prior years. These will not be simply thrown away, but they will respectfully be taken care of. *Please bring yours in so that your home will be ready for the new ones in a few weeks!*

*** Suggested Lenten Reading** – This year's suggested book for the Great Fast is *"The Trial of Job"* by Patrick Reardon. It can be found online from Ancient Faith at <https://store.ancientfaith.com/the-trial-of-job/> or search elsewhere online.

*** Read the Psalter** - Our diocese has shared a calendar for reading the Book of Psalms throughout the Great Fast. Copies of the schedule are available.

**** 31 Books of March Sale** ^{XL} – The Ancient Faith Store is offering different books for 50% off each day of the month of March! Visit the site daily (or sign up for their emails) and keep an eye out for a book that will help you along your Spiritual Journey! Visit: store.ancientfaith.com/31-books-of-march/
If You Are Looking To Add A Couple Dollars To Your Order To Get Free Shipping, Please Call or Text Father Dave As He Has A Couple Suggestions That Would Be Helpful To Our Church.

Presanctified Liturgy Preparation - In order to properly prepare oneself for the reception of the Holy Eucharist at the evening Presanctified Liturgy during the Lenten season, we should fast from food for at least three hours (around 3pm) but ideally from after lunch. If you have questions, please, see Father Dave.

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**** Fellowship Meals** - Got Soup? A tradition in many Orthodox parishes is to have soup (or other light meal) following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts during the Great Fast. We will have this meal after our Wednesday evening services. A sign up sheet is in the church hall for those interested in bringing in food.

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Deanery Lenten Mission Schedule

Confessions starting at 3:30, Vespers at 4:00, and Fellowship Meal following

March 12 - St John's Ambridge

(450 Glenwood Dr., Ambridge, PA 15003)

March 19 - St John's East Pittsburgh

(211 Cable Ave., East Pittsburgh, PA 15112)

March 26 - * St Michael's Rankin**

(146 3rd Ave., Rankin, PA 15104)

April 2 - * St John's Northside**

(2201 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, PA 15101)

***** Please Note That We Swapped Mission Weeks**

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***** Diocesan Lenten Retreat** will be held on **Saturday, April 1st** from 10a to 5p at St. Nicholas (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120). Please sign up in the hall if you will be attending.

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**** Paschal Commemorations** – We offer you the opportunity to sponsor items to be used during Holy Week and Pascha as Special Intentions: *anonymously, for the health of* OR *in memory of departed loved ones*. Please sign up on the sheet in the Vestibule by **Palm Sunday (April 9)** and give an *additional free-will stewardship offering* to the Church.

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

Calendar - Future Services are updated online at: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar (Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)

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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55th Annual Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale – Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Carnegie, PA) will host their Pysanky Sale on **Sunday, April 2** from 11 am to 4 pm. There will also be plenty of home-made Ukrainian Foods!

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 93
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 834
Presanctified Liturgy:	\$ 7
Total Collections:	\$ 934
Relocation Fund:	\$ 1030

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Mary Jane Hudak; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Fred and Juliana Anton; Rich and Renee Mirilovich; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis

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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ORTHODOX WORDS OF THE WEEK

Antimins – (*Gr: Antimension* meaning “instead of the table”) is among the most important furnishings of the altar in Orthodox Christian liturgical traditions. It is a rectangular piece of cloth, of either linen or silk, typically decorated with representations of the entombment of Christ, the four Evangelists, and scriptural passages related to the Eucharist [Holy Communion]. A small relic of a martyr is sewn into it [ours is from Saint Euphemia]. The Eucharist cannot be celebrated without an antimins... The antimins is consecrated and signed by our bishop. *Read more at: <https://orthodoxwiki.org/Antimension>*

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

¹⁰And, “Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all grow old like a garment, ¹²like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end.” ¹³But to what angel has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet”? ¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?

Warning to Pay Attention

2 Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ²For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him,

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

2 And when he returned to Caper’na-um after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. ³And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. ⁵And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷“Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question thus in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your pallet and walk’? ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins”-he said to the paralytic- ¹¹“I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” ¹²And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MONK PROKOPIOS DEKAPOLITES

Commemorated on March 12 / February 27
 The Monk Prokopios Dekapolites lived during the VIII Century in the region of Dekapolis (Mk. 7: 31), to the east of Lake Galilee. And there also he devoted himself to salvation, occupied with monastic deeds. Saint Prokopios, together with his co-ascetic Saint Basil (Comm. 28 February) and others zealous for holy Orthodoxy, rose up against the Iconoclast heresy that had arisen in those times. By order of the emperor Leo the Isaurian (716-741), the Monk Prokopios was arrested, subjected to a fierce scourging and thrown into prison. Here he languished together with the Monk Basil until the very death of the oppressive emperor, after which the holy confessors were set free. The Monk Prokopios spent the rest of his life peacefully at monastic deeds, guiding many on the way of virtue and salvation. He died in old age, in about the year 750.

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Robert, David, Karen, David, Donna, George, Beverly, Kelly, Marie, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, and Michael *...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... Anna Mae Pcholinsky (3/5), Paul Shoemaker, Sr (2/27) *...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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The Jesus Prayer

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

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

from the Lenten Triodion

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-Giver; for my spirit hastens early towards Your holy temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled; but in Your compassion purify me by Your gracious mercy. Amen.

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**THE PRAYER OF SAINT EPHRAIM
THE SYRIAN**

(in the Ruthenian tradition as found in St. Peter Mogila's 1639 Liturgikon (Sluzhebnik))

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. + [Prostration]
But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. + [Prostration]
Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]

*The following triplet is recited 4 times
(making a total of 12 bows):*

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [bow]
O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me. [bow]
O Lord, forgive me, for my sins are many. [bow]

Then the prayer again with only one prostration:

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]

A Prayer Of Repentance (Psalm 50/51)

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your great mercy; And according to the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my iniquity, And my sin is continually before me. Against You only have I sinned, And done this evil before You. That You might be justified in Your words, And prevail when You judge. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, And in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, You have loved truth; The hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made clear to me. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; You shall wash me and I shall be made whiter than snow. You shall make me to hear joy and gladness, The bones which have been humbled shall rejoice. Turn Your face away from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

Create a clean heart in me, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, And take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And with Your governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Your ways, And the ungodly shall turn back to You.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, who are the God of my salvation, My tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, And my mouth shall declare Your praise.

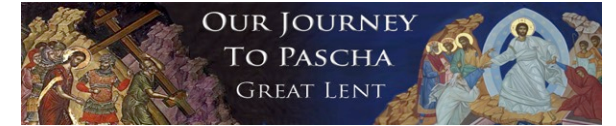
For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; With whole burnt offerings You shall not be pleased. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, A heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion; And let the walls of Jerusalem be built Then shall You be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole burnt offerings; Then shall they offer bullocks upon Your altar.

ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES

**A Warm Welcome to His Eminence,
Metropolitan Gregory, who will join us for the
Presanctified Liturgy and deconsecration Friday
morning**

We ask God's continued blessings for our guiding shepherd and teacher.

Welcome, dear Master! Vitajte, Vladiko!



To assist the faithful in making the most of this holy season, additional resources have been added to our Diocesan Website at:

www.acrod.org/prayercorner/lentenresources/

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**SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR
THE GREAT FAST (GREAT LENT):**

We are called to increase our *Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving* during this time...

PRAYER:

- ✘ Attend as many of the services as possible and be strengthened in community prayer.
- ✘ Come to the Mystery of Confession (*offered after every service, on most Saturdays during the Great Fast, or by appointment*).
- ✘ Approach the Chalice to receive the Holy Eucharist as often as possible.
- ✘ Also, add additional prayers to your personal *Prayer Rule* at home. (See the attached about reading the Book of Psalms during Great Lent.)

FASTING:

- ✘ The Great Fast begins tomorrow, March 8. This is a day of strict fasting (no meat or dairy products). Likewise, strict fast on Great & Holy Friday (4/22) and Great & Holy Saturday (4/23)
- ✘ The tradition of the Orthodox Church is a strict fast (*no meat or dairy products eaten*) by all of the faithful for the entire 40 days of the Great Fast and for all of Holy Week.
- ✘ If you cannot physically do this, adopt a fasting rule and stick to it for the duration of the Great Fast (*see Father for some guidance*). Here are a few examples:
 - a) strict fast on certain days of the week while keeping a meat fast on the others;
 - b) fast only from meat;
 - c) fast from meat for certain weeks (*Clean Week, Cross Week, and Holy Week*); or
 - d) fast from meat on Wednesdays, Fridays, and all of Holy Week (*April 18-23*).

- ✘ The more effort you put forth in your fasting, the more spiritually uplifting your Lenten Season will be!
- ✘ A minimum three (3) hour fast from all food and drink for those receiving Communion at the evening Pre-sanctified Liturgy (*the regular "midnight Fast" is called for the Liturgies of St. John Chrysostom & St. Basil the Great*)
- ✘ The sick and infirm are not bound by the fast at any time.
- ✘ Those requiring medications or certain prescribed diets are to follow their physician's instructions.
- ✘ Lastly, the Great Fast is not a "40 day diet program" or simply a "dietary adjustment" (or "label Lent").

ALMSGIVING:

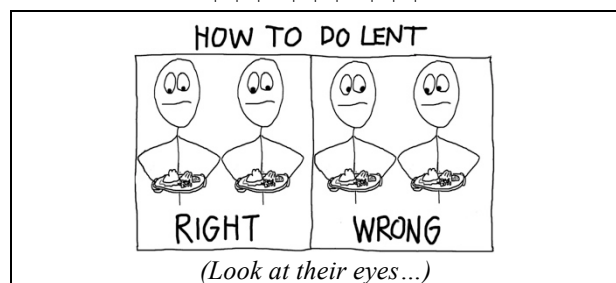
- ✘ Find a way to give more of your time, talent, and treasures.

A general guideline for the Great Fast is this:

Try to do more than last year.

Please reach out if you have questions about this important fasting period that we are blessed with. May our journey to Pascha be a spiritually beautiful one! – Fr. Dave

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Being an Orthodox Christian

The Orthodox Church is not just another organization, club or fraternal society. It is the Body of Christ, and a life-giving relationship with God. The Orthodox Church is a continuation of the Christian Church from the time of Christ until the present. As Orthodox Christians, we do not have a relationship with Christ in isolation, but alongside other Orthodox Christians. With these things in mind, Orthodox Christians are expected to:

- ✘ Strive daily to live a Christian life, according to the teachings of Our Lord in the Gospels, and the tradition of the Church.
- ✘ Regularly participate in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays (and on holy days as permitted by your employment).
 - Those who are homebound and/or physically unable to attend services on a regular basis are asked to spiritually join in prayer on Sundays and holy days. The priest will visit with the Sacraments periodically throughout the year, as requested.
- ✘ Regularly receive Holy Communion and participate in the Mystery of Holy Confession. (The minimum is no less than once a year for each, but at least four times a year is better.)
- ✘ Offer your whole life to Christ, and offer the "Three T's" - time, talent and treasure - to sustain the church (your stewardship).
 - Participate in parish ministries and activities.
 - Volunteer to help.
 - Give monetary support.
 - Our parish does not survive on stewardship, we "thrive" on this form of voluntary giving of who we are. If we are unable to donate monetarily, there are many other ways to give with time and talents.

If you have any questions about Stewardship or any of the above, please reach out to Fr Dave or Larry Martin (Parish Council President)

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A Note About The Mystery Of Confession

Confessions will be heard in the first pew in front of the Icon of Christ. Confessions will be heard following every service, from 11am – 1pm on most Saturdays during Great Lent (*the side door will be open*), and at other times by appointment: please contact Fr. Dave to arrange this. If you have a regular Spiritual Father, or wish to go to another Orthodox priest to have your confession heard, please let Fr. Dave know. Do not wait to plan for your confession! Confessions will only be heard through Holy Wednesday.

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MARCH SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- CLEAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 #TheGreatFast**
6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with community meal following
- CLEAN THURSDAY, MARCH 2 #TheGreatFast**
9:30am The Great Canon of Repentance
- CLEAN FRIDAY, MARCH 3 #TheGreatFast**
9:30am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- ALL-SOULS SATURDAY, MARCH 4 #TheGreatFast**
9:30am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (2nd of 5) (*Zadušna Subota*) **Please note the date change**
11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered
- SUNDAY, MARCH 5 #TheGreatFast**
9:30 Divine Liturgy (and Church School)
Procession of Icons (*Bring an icon to church*)
4:30 pm Sunday of Orthodoxy Service at St. George
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8 #TheGreatFast**
6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with community meal following
- THURSDAY, MARCH 9 #TheGreatFast**
FEAST OF THE 1ST & 2ND FINDINGS OF THE HEAD OF ST JOHN
- FRIDAY, MARCH 10 #TheGreatFast**
9:30am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- SUNDAY, MARCH 12 #TheGreatFast**
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
9:30 Divine Liturgy
4:00 pm Deanery Lenten Mission in Ambridge
- TUESDAY, MARCH 14 #TheGreatFast**
7:00pm Blessing of Our New Church (Allison Park)
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15 #TheGreatFast**
6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts *on the North Side* with community meal following
- FRIDAY, MARCH 17 #TheGreatFast**
10:00 am Last Liturgy on the North Side with Metropolitan Gregory: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with deconsecration following
All Services Going Forward Are In Allison Park
- SUNDAY, MARCH 19 #TheGreatFast**
9:30 Divine Liturgy, Youth Sunday, & Church School
4:00 pm Deanery Lenten Mission in East Pittsburgh
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 #TheGreatFast**
6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with community meal following
- FRIDAY, MARCH 24 #TheGreatFast**
9:30am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

ALL-SOULS SATURDAY, MARCH 25 #TheGreatFast
9:30am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (3rd of 5) (*Zadušna Subota*)
11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 #TheGreatFast

9:30 Divine Liturgy
4:00 pm Deanery Lenten Mission

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 #TheGreatFast

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with community meal following

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 #TheGreatFast

9:30am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

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FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

First (4 C.) & Second (452) Discovery Of The Head Of The Prophet, Forerunner And Baptist John

Commemorated on March 9 / February 24

After the cutting off of the Head of the Prophet, ForeRunner and Baptist John (Comm. 29 August), his body was buried by disciples in the Samaritan city of Sebasteia, and the venerable head was hidden by Herodias in an unclean place. Pious Joanna, wife of king Herod's steward Chuza (there is made mention about him by the holy evangelist Luke – Lk 8: 3), secretly took the holy head and placed it into a vessel and buried it on the Mount of Olives – in one of the properties of Herod. After many years this property passed into the possession of the dignitary Innocentius, who began to build a church there. When they dug a trench for the foundation, the vessel with the venerable head of John the Baptist was uncovered. Innocentius recognised the great holiness of it from the signs of grace occurring from it. Thus occurred the First Discovery of the Head. Innocentius preserved it with great piety, but before his own death, fearful so that the holy relic should not be abused by unbelievers, he again hid it in that same place, where it was found...Upon his death the church fell into ruin and was destroyed.

During the days of Equal-to-the-Apostles Constantine the Great (+ 337, Comm. 21 May), when the Christian faith began to flourish, the holy ForeRunner himself appeared twice unto two monks journeying to Jerusalem on pilgrimage to the holy places, and he revealed the location of his venerable

head. The monks uncovered the holy relic and, placing it into a sack of camel-hair, they proceeded homewards. Along the way they encountered an unnamed potter and gave him to carry the precious burden. Not knowing what he was carrying, the potter continued on his way. But the holy ForeRunner himself appeared to him and ordered him to flee from the careless and lazy monks, together with that which was in his hands. The potter concealed himself from the monks and at home he preserved the venerable head with reverence. Before his death he sealed it into a water-carrying vessel and gave it over to his sister. From that time the venerable head was successively preserved by pious christians, until the priest Eustathios infected with the Arian heresy – came into possession of it. He seduced a multitude of the infirm, healed by the holy head, adding abundance to the heresy. When his blasphemy was uncovered, he was compelled to flee. Having buried the holy relic in a cave, near Emessus, the heretic intended to afterwards return and again take possession of it for disseminating falsehood. But God did not permit this. Pious monks settled into the cave, and then at this place arose a monastery. In the year 452 Saint John the Baptist in a vision to the archimandrite of this monastery Marcellus indicated the place of concealment of his head. This became celebrated as the Second Discovery. The holy relic was transferred to Emessus, and later to Constantinople.

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Icon of Christ's Extreme Humility

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

Parish Phone Tree - Please call Fr. Dave to be added.

Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

Holy Communion/Eucharist – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive a *blessing* from the chalice.

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

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

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

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

Marriages – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays 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 #2

*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, Amee, 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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March Namedays:

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

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March Birthdays:

Alisha Zak (3/1), Matthew Wensel (3/3), Christopher Kubis (3/6), Michael Shuster (3/6), Fr Daniel Mahler (3/6), 'Randy' Paieski (3/09), Father's nephew, Michael Verbanick (3/9), Father's God-mother, Andrea Babbie (3/10), Callum Brozell (3/10), Allen Dzambo (3/11), Noella Gaydos (3/14), Fr David Cochran (3/18), Ameer Francken (3/18), Pañi Alison Archer (3/21), Annie Jesko (3/24), Marianne Kubis (3/29), Kenneth Watson (3/29), Ben Anton (3/30) ...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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March Anniversaries:

Lindsay & AJ Matolyak-Ferraz (3/6), Wendy & Mark Martellotti (3/7) ...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.*

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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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