

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**“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!**

**Christ is risen!** (*responded with: Indeed He is risen!*) *Christos voskrese! (Voistinu voskrese!)*  
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**

**ST. THOMAS SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pascha  
Breaking of the Artos Bread  
Blessing of Cemetery Graves  
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**SUNDAY, APRIL 30**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pascha; Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women; Joseph of Arimathea, & Nicodemus  
9:20 am Paschal Canon; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Acts 6:1–7; Gospel: Mark 15:43–16:8  
Tone 2; Liturgical Color: **White**

**FRIDAY, MAY 5**

6:30 pm Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup  
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*There is no kneeling in prayer for 50 days (until Pentecost) and replace the prayer “O Heavenly King” with “Christ is risen” as we anticipate the Holy Spirit*  
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\***Mystery of Confession** – Father is available to hear Confessions after every service or by appointment.

\***Calendar** - Future Services are updated online at:  
[www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar](http://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/](http://www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/)

**BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)  
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\*\* **Clergy Convocation** - Fr. Dave will be at Camp Nazareth from **Tuesday thru Friday, April 25-28** for our Diocesan Clergy Convocation. In case of a pastoral emergency, since cell reception is poor at the camp, either call the camp (724-662-4840), Fr. John Touloumes (412-366-8700), or Fr. John Mikita (412-366-4647). For general questions or ideas, please call and leave me a voicemail, text, or email.  
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\*\* **Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup** – The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood has organized to have four parishes simultaneously have the Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup – a prayer service for all those suffering from addiction of any kind. On **Friday, May 5** at 6:30 pm we will host for the North of Pittsburgh. (The other locations are St. Nicholas in Monroeville, Sts. Peter and Paul in Carnegie, and St. John the Baptist in Beaver Falls.) Come and pray for your afflicted loved ones and friends!  
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\*\* **Special Meeting about New Roof** – We are going to have a Special Meeting on **Sunday, May 7** during the Coffee Social to discuss the roof bids that we have received and vote on which one we will be going with. *This is the second official announcement.*  
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\*\*\* **Onion Dome** – The idea of adding an onion dome to the roof is being explored before our Special Meeting on May 7  
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\*\* **Upstairs** – We will temporarily be upstairs in the nave of the church probably until **Mother’s Day** (and when the contractor is ready to start on lowering the sanctuary floor).



**CHRIST IS RISEN!**  
*Christ is Risen From The Dead, Trampling Down Death By Death And To Those In The Tomb Bestowing Life!*  
**INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

*This Bulletin Is Sponsored*  
In Memory Of the passing of +Ann Hudak  
May her memory be eternal!

\*\* **Calling All Graduates** – Please notify Fr. Dave of your graduation information by **May 15**.

High School Students: *your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, and where you will attend in the Fall with your intended major in college (or undecided at this time).* Trade School, College, Graduate and Post-Graduate Students: *where you went, your field of study, and degree you will earn.*  
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\*\* **Sr. ACRY Reorganization** – Many changes have occurred over the past months – the ACRY is included in this. A reorganization meeting will be scheduled soon! In the meantime, please pay dues to Kathy Schrmack ASAP.  
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\*\* **New VP** – In mid-January the Parish Council VP position became open. After much prayer and discussion, Larry Martin (*President*) has appointed Subdeacon Ryan Ferko as the interim Parish Council Vice-President. Congratulations and Many Years!  
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\*\* **Senior Retreat at Camp Nazareth** – Did you notice that the “senior” retreat actually starts at age 55! From **May 1-3** plan to relax for a few days in among the mountains! Contact Fr. Dave for more info  
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\*\* **“The “Rusyns” who founded a “Russian” Church** – On **Tuesday, May 9**, as part of the “Light From The Church On The Hill Lecture Series”, St. John the Baptist (601 Boone Ave., Canonsburg, PA) will offer Vespers at 6pm and a Presentation led by John Righetti (National President of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society) at 7pm. For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board or contact Fr. Dave.

**PASCHAL GREETING:**

(use instead of ‘hello’, before ‘good morning’, etc.)

**Christ is risen!**

(responded with: **Indeed He is risen!**)  
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\*\*\* **Stained Glass Windows** – Removal of the stained glass windows from the North Side will occur this week.  
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\*\* **Family Camp at Camp Nazareth** – Cabins are still available for this year’s Family Camp from **Friday, June 9 to Sunday, June 11** (prior to Family Day). For more information, please contact Fr. Dave.  
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\*\* **Family Day at Camp Nazareth** will be on **Sunday, June 11**. Divine Liturgy will be at 10am. There will be great food, music entertainment, swimming, craft activities, games, and more! The pricing for lunch is as follows: Adults: \$10; Children 5-13: \$6; Children Under 5: Free; Family Price: \$30 (Includes 2 Parents & All Children Under Age 13)  
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\*\* **Annual Church Picnic** – “The Cabin” in North Park is booked for **Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** for our summer picnic. Please save the date!  
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\*\* **Pittsburgh Deanery Week at Camp Nazareth** is **July 23-29**. Registration for all campers, ages 8-18 begins soon. Information is available on the Camp’s Website: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org).  
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\*\* **Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic** will be on **Sunday, September 17** at The Veterans Shelter in Schenley Park. Mark your calendars and save the date!  
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*Paschal Greeting in Church Slavonic:*  
Christos voskrese! (*Voistinu voskrese!*)  
If greeted in a language you are unfamiliar with,  
translate, respond in English, then learn the response

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**STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET**

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**

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\*\*\* **Electrician** – If anyone is an electrician or has a good connection with someone who is, please let Larry or Fr. Dave know. Thank you!

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\*\*\* **Curators Needed** – *What does a curator do?* A curator is in the vestibule to collect people’s donations and to log them to make sure they are used as intended (that is, a Community Outreach offering vs. a Capital Improvement Fund donation). As our curator list is down to 6 people, please consider observing what happens one morning to see if you would be interested in being a part of this ministry of the church. Please see Larry with any questions.

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\*\*\* **Cleaning Committee Volunteers** – *How shall we keep the church clean?* The idea is being bounced around that families would take turns cleaning the vestibule, bathrooms, classrooms, hall, and kitchen 0 maybe on a monthly basis? What are your thoughts? Please share your ideas with Larry or Fr. Dave.

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\*\*\* **Coffee Social Hosts Needed** – We are going to return to having a sign up sheet for hosting the coffee social. This is a ministry of the church so we can join in fellowship following the Divine Banquet! The idea is to have a family (or pair up with another one to) bring in some food to share, set up the coffee when you get there, and clean up afterwards. (*The church will supply the coffee, cups, plates, plasticware, and napkins.*) If you have questions about this, please see a Parish Council Member or Fr. Dave.

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\*\* **Garbage and Recycling** – Did you ever notice that we do not have a dumpster at the church? Being non-residential without pick up in Allison Park, all of our garbage and recycling heads to stewards’ houses.

If you would be willing to stick around at the end of coffee social and take a bag, please let Larry know.

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\*\* **Grass Cutting** – Spring is in the air and it is becoming grass cutting season. If you would like to be in the rotation for this, please let Fr. Dave know.

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\* **Landscape Ministry Crew** – Please contact Fr. Dave or Kathy Schrmack if you are interested in being added to the *Landscape Ministry Crew*. There will be a PLANNING MEETING soon to share ideas.

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\*\* **Selling Used Items** – Do you have a knack for selling things on-line (such as on Craigslist)? We have a growing number of items that we would like to sell. If interested in tackling this project, please contact Fr. Dave or Larry.

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\*\* **Third Hour** – Prior to upcoming Liturgies, we will be chanting the Paschal Canon. After Ascension, we will return to chanting (or reading) the Third Hour. If you would like to be in the rotation for this, please let Fr. Dave know.

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\*\* **Ride Share** – We have received a couple requests from people who are interested in getting a ride to the church. Please contact Fr. Dave or Larry if you would be willing to pick someone up on your way.

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\*\* **Eternal Lamp** – We have graciously received a gently used Eternal Lamp from a diocesan parish that has closed. It is in good shape, but could use a bit of a cleaning. If you would like to give it a shot – please let Fr. Dave know.

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\*\*\* **Security System** – Do you use a SimpliSafe Security system at home? If so – Fr. Dave has a few questions... please contact him.

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\*\*\* **Road Sign** – Adding a “monument sign” along Duncan Avenue is being explored. The cost is still being determined.

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\*\*\* **Grants** – Are you familiar with writing grants or researching them to see what is available? If so, please contact Mary Jane, Larry, or Fr. Dave.

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**OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 330
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 88
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 3320
Community Outreach:	\$ 14.72
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 3752.72</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 6971.81</b>

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Nelson Family; Carol and Tom Lorenzi; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Fred and Juliana Anton; Mary Jane Hudak ; Cindy Pavilonis

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\*\* **Giving at the Church** – The “flow of traffic” is a little different in Allison Park, but the ways to give your stewardship treasures has not changed. One can:

- ✘ hand their offering to the curator who sits at the desk in the vestibule (to the right after you enter from the parking lot),
- ✘ there are multiple baskets around the church for you to drop your offering in, or
- ✘ when lighting your candles, put your donation in the box in the candle stand.

We will continue to not “*pass the basket*” which interrupts our focus on our prayers.



**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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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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**2022-23 SJB PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS**

President: Lawrence Martin  
Vice-President: Subdeacon Ryan Ferko  
Treasurer: Timothy Martin, Reader  
Financial Secretary: Rich Mirilovich  
Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Radomsky  
Chief Auditor: Robert Fall  
Auditors: Gina Fall, Mary Jane Hudak, Kathy Schrmack, (the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> positions are vacant)

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**VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE**

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddioecese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioecese](https://youtube.com/acroddioecese)

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**SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Epistle Acts 5:12–20*

**The Apostles Heal Many**  
<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

**The Apostles Are Persecuted**  
<sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sad’ducees, and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. <sup>19</sup>But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, <sup>20</sup>“Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”



*Paschal Greeting in Swahili:*  
Kristo amefufukka! (*Kweli amefufukka!*)

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*Gospel: John 20:19–31*

### Jesus Appears to the Disciples

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

### Jesus and Thomas

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

### The Purpose of This Book

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

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*Paschal Greeting in Arabic:*  
El Messieh kahm! (*Hakken kahm!*)

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*Paschal Greeting in Greek:*  
Khristós anésti! (*Alithós anésti!*)

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### THE HOLY MARTYR TERENCE

*Commemorated on April 10*

The Holy Martyr Terence and his companions suffered under the emperor Decius (249-251). The emperor issued an edict, which commanded all subjects to offer sacrifice to the pagan idols.

When the governor of Africa Fortunatian received this edict, he gathered the people into the city-square, set out cruel instruments of torture and declared, that everyone without exception had to offer the sacrifice to the idols. Many, afraid of torture, complied, but forty Christians with Saint Terence at their head bravely stood forth for their faith in the Saviour. Fortunatian was amazed at their boldness and he asked, how they as rational people, could confess as God, One Who was crucified by the Jews as a malefactor. In answer to this, Saint Terence boldly answered, that their belief was in the Saviour, Who voluntarily endured death on the Cross and on the third day was resurrected. Fortunatian perceived, that Terence by his example inspired the others, and so he gave orders to isolate him in prison together with his three closest companions – Africanus, Maximus and Pompeius. The remainder of the martyrs – which included Xenon, Alexander and Theodore, Fortunatian resolved to force into renouncing Christ. But neither threats nor terrible tortures could sway the holy martyrs: they burned at them with red-hot iron, they poured vinegar on the wounds, they sprinkled on salt, they tore at them with iron claws. In spite of their sufferings, the saints did not weaken in their confession of Christ, and the Lord gave them strength.

Fortunatian gave orders to lead the martyrs into the pagan temple and still yet another time he urged them to offer sacrifice to the idols. The valiant warriors of Christ cried out to God: "O

God All-Powerful, having once poured out fire on Sodom for its iniquity, destroy now this impious temple of idolatry, on account of Thine Truth". The idols fell down with a crash and a smash, and then all the temple was in ruins. The enraged governor gave orders to execute them; and the martyrs, glorifying God, put their necks beneath the sword of the executioner.

After the execution of the 36 martyrs, Fortunatian summoned before him Terence, Maximus, Africanus and Pompeius, pointed out to them the executed and again urged them to offer sacrifice to the idols. The martyrs refused. The governor put heavy chains on them and gave orders to starve them to death in prison. by night an Angel of the Lord took the chains off the martyrs and fed them. In the morning the guards found the saints cheerful and strong. Then Fortunatian ordered sorcerers and conjurers to carry into the prison snakes and all kinds of viprous creatures. The guards through an opening in the prison ceiling glanced down into the jail-cell and saw the martyrs unharmed, praying, and the snakes crawling at their feet. When the snake-charmers in obeying the order opened the door of the prison-cell, the snakes disregarded the charms and struck and began to bite them. The furious Fortunatian gave orders to behead the holy martyrs. Christians took up their holy bodies and buried them with reverence outside the city.

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*Paschal Greeting in Romanian:*  
Hristos a înviat! (*Adevărat a înviat!*)

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## PRAYER CORNER

*For the Health of...* Floyd, Nicole, Kellie, Carlene, Karen, David, Donna, George, Beverly, Kelly, Marie, Barbara, Brian, 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...* Archon +Robert "Dal" Cosgrove (4/14), Joanne Scripp, Alex Scripp ...*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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*Paschal Greeting in Italian:*  
Cristo è risorto! (*È veramente risorto!*)

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**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!**

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**THE ANGEL EXCLAIMED TO HER, "FULL OF GRACE, REJOICE O PURE VIRGIN. AGAIN I SAY REJOICE, YOUR SON IS RISEN FROM HIS THREE DAYS IN THE TOMB, AND HE HAS RAISED ALL THE DEAD. LET ALL PEOPLE REJOICE!"**

**O SHINE, O SHINE, O NEW JERUSALEM: FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON YOU. O ZION, SING WITH JOY AND REJOICE. AND YOU, PURE MOTHER OF GOD, REJOICE IN THE RESURRECTION OF YOUR SON.**

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*Paschal Greeting in Spanish:*  
¡Cristo ha resucitado!  
(*¡En verdad ha resucitado!*)

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**ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES**

Patriarchal Encyclical for Holy Pascha 2023  
**+ B A R T H O L O M E W**  
 By God's Mercy  
**Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and  
 Ecumenical Patriarch**  
**To the Plenitude of the Church:**  
**May the Grace, Peace and Mercy of Christ Risen  
 in Glory be with you All**  
 \* \* \*

Dearly beloved children,  
 Having arrived with God's grace at the all-saving Resurrection of the Lord, through which the power of death was abolished and the gates of paradise were opened to the entire human race, we address to all of you our paschal greetings and heartfelt wishes, as we proclaim the cry "Christ is Risen" that gives joy to the world.

In all of its dimensions, the life of the Church is invigorated by the ineffable joy of the Resurrection. The "experience of resurrection" is witnessed in the labors of the Saints and Martyrs of our faith, as well as in the liturgical and sacramental life, the proclamation of the Gospel "to the ends of the earth", the devotion and spirituality of the faithful, their sacrificial love and Christian conduct, but also in their expectation of a world where "death will no longer exist, nor will there be mourning, wailing or suffering" (Rev. 21,4).

In and through the Resurrection, everything lies in a state of motion toward perfection in the Kingdom of God. This eschatological drive has always provided Orthodox Christians in the world with dynamism and perspective. Despite the claims of the opposite, as a result of the eschatological orientation of its life, the Church never compromised with the presence of evil in all its expressions in the world. Nor did it deny the reality of pain and death. Nor again did it ignore the ambiguity of human affairs. And finally, it never considered the struggle for a more just world as something foreign to its mission.

Still though, the Church always knew that pain and the cross are not the ultimate reality. The experiential quintessence of the Christian life is the conviction that, through the Cross and through the "narrow gate",

we are led to the Resurrection. This faith is reflected in the fact that the core of church life, the Divine Eucharist, is essentially linked with the Resurrection of Christ. In the Orthodox tradition, as the late Metropolitan John of Pergamon emphasizes, the Divine Eucharist "is filled with joy and light ... because it is not grounded in the Cross and an idealization of passion, but in the Resurrection as the transcendence of the passion of the Cross"\*.

The Holy Eucharist transports us to Golgotha not so that we may remain there, but so that we may be led through the Cross to the ever-radiant glory of the Kingdom of God. The Orthodox faith is the overcoming of the utopian salvation "without the Cross" and of the existential shipwreck of the Cross "without the Resurrection".

Our participation in the Resurrection of Christ through the sacrament of the Church is on the one hand a tangible abolition of every utopianism and of the false paradise promising unimpeded self-indulgence, while at the same time a definitive transcendence of hopeless self-enslavement in supposed unsurpassable negativity, because the Cross of Christ gives birth to the Resurrection, to the "endless delight", to "the enjoyment of eternal glory". The annihilation of death through the Cross and Resurrection of our Savior elevates our life to its divine-human essence and its heavenly destiny.

In Christ, we know and live that the present life is not our entire life, that our biological death does not constitute an end or obliteration of our existence. The biological boundaries of life do not define its truth. After all, the sense that life is an irreversible "journey toward death" leads to existential impasses, to depression and nihilism, to indifference for what truly matters in life. Science, and financial or social progress are unable to offer an essential solution or outlet. Christians are "those who have hope" (1Thess. 4,13), who expect the coming Kingdom of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit as a final reality, as the fullness of life and knowledge, as the fulfilment of joy, not only for the coming generations but for the entire human race from the beginning to the end of the ages.

This vision of history and eternity, the resurrectional nature of Orthodox faith, ethos and culture—namely,

the unquestionable fact that the great miracle of Truth is only revealed "to those who venerate the mystery in faith"—is what we are called to witness today within a civilization that rejects the Transcendent and in the context of manifold reductions of the spiritual identity of human existence.

We give glory in chant, hymn and spiritual song to the Lord who rose from the dead and shines eternal life upon all. We participate with joy in "the feast that is common to all". And we beseech the all-powerful, all-wise and all-merciful Maker and Redeemer of all to bring peace to the world and grant all His saving gifts to humankind, so that His all-honorable and majestic name may be glorified and blessed, now and always and to the ages of ages. Amen!

At the Phanar, Holy Pascha 2023  
 + Bartholomew of Constantinople  
 Fervent supplicant for you all  
 to the Risen Lord

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**Paschal Greetings from Around the World**

The **Paschal greeting** is a custom among Orthodox Christians, consisting of a greeting and response. Instead of "hello" or its equivalent, one is to greet another person with "Christ is Risen!". The response is "Truly, He is risen!" (or "Indeed, He is risen!"). This greeting is used during liturgical services and informally at other times, starting with the [feast of Pascha](#) and lasting until [Ascension](#) – the period known as the *Paschal season* or *Paschaltide*.

In practice, this greeting is typically used only with people that one already knows are Orthodox. In some cultures (for example in Russia), it was also customary to exchange a triple kiss after the greeting. Orthodox Christians often compile lists of the greeting in various languages, as it is used around the world, and these are sometimes recited in church or in other formal settings as an act of Orthodox unity across languages and cultures.

Language	Greeting	Response
Aleut:	Khristus anahgrecum!	Alhecum anahgrecum!
Aleut:	Khristus aglagikux!	Agangu-lakan aglagikux!
Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall!	Vertet U Ngjall!

Language	Greeting	Response
Alutuq:	Khristus uing-uixtuq!	Pijji-nuq uing-uixtuq!
Amharic:	Kristos tenestwal!	Bergit tenestwal!
Anglo-Saxon:	Crist aras!	Crist sodhlice aras!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav ee merelotz!	Orhniah eh harootyunuh kristosee!
Athabaskan:	Xristosi banuytashtch'ey!	Gheli banuytashtch'ey!
Bulgarian:	Hristos voskreshe!	Vo istina voskreshe!
Byelorussian:	Khrystos uvaskros!	Saprawdy uvaskros!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole!	Queshi fuhuole!
Coptic:	Pchistos aftooun!	Alethos aftooun!
Czech:	Vstal z mrtvých Kristus!	Vpravdě vstal z mrtvých!
Danish:	Kristus er opstanden!	Ja, sandelig opstanden!
Dutch:	Christus is opgestaan!	Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!
English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Eritrean-Tigre:	Christos tensiou!	Bahake tensiou!
Esperanto:	Kristo levigis!	Vere levigis!
Estonian:	Kristus on üles tõusnud!	Ta on tõesti üles tõusnud!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!	Exai' ab-her eokala!
Finnish:	Kristus nousi kuolleista!	Totisesti nousi!
French:	Le Christ est ressuscité!	En verite il est ressuscité!
Gaelic:	Taw creest ereen!	Taw shay ereen guhdyne!
Georgian:	Kriste aghsdga!	Cheshmaritad aghsdga!
German:	Christus ist auferstanden!	Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Hawaiian:	Ua ala hou 'o	Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!



Language	Greeting	Response
	Kristo!	
Hebrew:	Ha Masheeha houh quam!	Be emet quam!
Hungarian:	Krisztus feltamadt!	Valoban feltamadt!
Ibo ( Nigeria):	Jesu Kristi ebiliwo!	Ezia o' biliwo!
Indian (Malayalam):	Christu uyirthezhunnettu!	Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!
Indonesian:	Kristus telah bangkit!	Benar dia telah bangkit!
Italian:	Cristo e' risorto!	Veramente e' risorto!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu!	Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Javanese:	Kristus sampun wungu!	Tuhu sampun wungu!
Korean:	Kristo gesso!	Buhar ha sho nay!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit!	Vere resurrexit!
Latvian:	Kristus ir augsham sales!	Teyasham ir augsham sales vinsch!
Lugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Amajim ajukkide!
Norwegian:	Christus er oppstanden!	Sandelig han er oppstanden!
Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal!	Zprawde zmartwyckwstal!
Portuguese:	Cristo ressuscitou!	Em verdade ressuscitou!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adevărat a înviat!
Russian:	Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha!	Satvam upastitaha!
Serbian:	Hristos vaskrse!	Vaistunu vaskrse!
Slovak:	Christos vstal z mŕtvych!	Vpravde vstal z mŕtvych!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka!	Kweli amefufukka!
Swedish:	Kristus är uppstånden!	Han är sannerligen uppstånden!

Language	Greeting	Response
Syriac:	M'shee ho dkom!	Ha koo qam!
Tlingit:	Krisdos kuḡ wudigút!	X'éiga kuḡ wudigút!
Turkish:	Hristos diril - di!	Hakikaten diril - di!
Ugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Kweli ajukkide!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!
Welsh:	Atgyfododd Crist!	Atgyfododd yn wir!
Yupik:	Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq!	Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!
Zulu:	UKristu uvukile!	Ngempela uvukile!

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### SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

Stewardship of Treasure Guide												
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?												
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe 15%	Tithe 12%	Upper Range Giving 10%	9%	8%	7%	Middle Range Giving 6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4	\$2
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6	\$3
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14	\$7
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18	\$9
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22	\$11
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).  
2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE's would be.

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### APRIL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1 #TheGreatFast**  
10 am Diocesan Retreat at St. Nicholas

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2 #TheGreatFast**  
Holy Martyress Photini (Svetlana)  
4:00 pm Deanery Lenten Mission in Allison Park

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 #TheGreatFast**  
6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
with community meal following

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7 #TheGreatFast**  
FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION  
9:30am Vespertal Liturgy

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8 #LAZARUSSATURDAY**  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Palm Cross Making following  
11 am – 1 pm Confessions heard  
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**SUNDAY, APRIL 9 #PALM(FLOWERY)SUNDAY**  
FEAST OF THE ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM  
St. Matrona (4<sup>th</sup> c.)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of Branches (Palms and Willows)  
Tone 2; Liturgical Color: **Gold**  
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**GREAT AND HOLY PASSION WEEK**

**MONDAY, APRIL 10 #HOLY WEEK**  
6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins and confessions

**TUESDAY, APRIL 11 #HOLY WEEK**  
6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins and confessions

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 #HOLY WEEK**  
6:30 pm Mystery (*Sacrament*) of the Anointing of the Sick (*Unction*)  
\* Last opportunity for Confession until after Pascha

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13 #HOLY WEEK**  
9:30 am St. Basil's Vespertal Liturgy of the Mystical Supper (*Institution of the Eucharist*)  
6:30 pm Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels  
followed by setting of the Lord's Tomb

**FRIDAY, APRIL 14 #HOLY WEEK**

A DAY OF STRICT FASTING  
9:30 am Royal Hours  
followed by decorating the Tomb  
6:30 pm Vespers and outdoor Burial Procession  
with the Holy Shroud (*Plaščanitsa*)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15 #HOLY WEEK**  
A DAY OF STRICT FASTING  
9:30 am Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil  
(*Harrowing of Hades*)  
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**SUNDAY, APRIL 16 #PASCHA**  
THE FEAST OF FEASTS  
**9:00 am** Resurrection Matins  
~9:40 am Paschal Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of Baskets (*upstairs in the church*)  
Paschal Potluck Meal  
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**BRIGHT WEEK: A FAST FREE WEEK**

**MONDAY, APRIL 17 #BRIGHTWEEK**  
9:30 am Paschal Liturgy with Gospel Procession

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20 #BRIGHTWEEK**  
6:30 pm Akathist to the Resurrection of our Lord

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22 #BRIGHTWEEK**  
9:30-4:00 Parish Council Leadership Seminar  
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**ST. THOMAS SUNDAY, APRIL 23**  
9:20 am Paschal Canon; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Breaking of the Artos Bread  
Blessing of Cemetery Graves

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pascha; Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women; Joseph of Arimathea, & Nicodemus  
9:20 am Paschal Canon; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
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### FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

**The Annunciation Of Our Most Blessed Lady Mother Of God And Ever-Virgin Mary**  
*Commemorated on April 7 / March 25*

**Introduction**  
The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on March 25 each year. The Feast commemorates the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would become incarnate

and enter into this world through her womb.

### **Biblical Story**

The biblical story of the Feast of the Annunciation is found in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke (1:26-39). The Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary, who was living in Nazareth, and said to her, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you." Mary was perplexed and wondered what kind of greeting this was.

The angel told her not to be afraid, for she had found favor with God. He said, "You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary responded to the angel by asking how this could happen since she had no husband. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit and the power of God would come upon her, and that the child to be born of her would be called holy, the "Son of God."

The angel then proceeded to tell the Virgin Mary that her cousin Elizabeth had conceived a son in her old age (John the Baptist), and affirmed that with God nothing is impossible.

In faith and obedience to the will of God, Mary replied to the angel, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be according to your word." Upon her response, the angel departed.

It is on the Feast of the Annunciation, that Orthodox Christians commemorate both the divine initiative of God, whereby He took on flesh from the Virgin for our salvation, and the human response, whereby Mary freely accepted the vocation offered to her. He elected to become man, and He desired to do this with the willing agreement of her whom He chose as His mother. Mary could have refused, for she was not a passive instrument, but an active participant with a free and positive part to play in God's plan for our salvation. Thus, when on this and other feasts the Orthodox Church honors the Theotokos, the Mother of God, it is not just because God chose her but also because she herself chose to follow His will.

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### **The Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem (*Palm Sunday / Flowery Sunday*)**

*April 9*

#### **Introduction**

On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year. Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord.

#### **Biblical Story**

The biblical story of Palm Sunday is recorded in all four of the Gospels (Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-38; and John 12:12-18). Five days before the Passover, Jesus came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Having sent two of His disciples to bring Him a colt of a donkey, Jesus sat upon it and entered the city.

People had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover and were looking for Jesus, both because of His great works and teaching and because they had heard of the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus. When they heard that Christ was entering the city, they went out to meet Him with palm branches, laying their garments on the ground before Him, and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"

At the outset of His public ministry Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God and announced that the powers of the age to come were already active in the present age (Luke 7:18-22). His words and mighty works were performed "to produce repentance as the response to His call, a call to an inward change of mind and heart which would result in concrete changes in one's life, a call to follow Him and accept His messianic destiny. The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is a messianic event, through which His divine authority was declared.

Palm Sunday summons us to behold our king: the Word of God made flesh. We are called to behold Him not simply as the One who came to us once

riding on a colt, but as the One who is always present in His Church, coming ceaselessly to us in power and glory at every Eucharist, in every prayer and sacrament, and in every act of love, kindness and mercy. He comes to free us from all our fears and insecurities, "to take solemn possession of our soul, and to be enthroned in our heart," as someone has said. He comes not only to deliver us from our deaths by His death and Resurrection, but also to make us capable of attaining the most perfect fellowship or union with Him. He is the King, who liberates us from the darkness of sin and the bondage of death. Palm Sunday summons us to behold our King: the vanquisher of death and the giver of life.

Palm Sunday summons us to accept both the rule and the kingdom of God as the goal and content of our Christian life. We draw our identity from Christ and His kingdom. The kingdom is Christ - His indescribable power, boundless mercy and incomprehensible abundance given freely to man. The kingdom does not lie at some point or place in the distant future. In the words of the Scripture, the kingdom of God is not only at hand (Matthew 3:2; 4:17), it is within us (Luke 17:21). The kingdom is a present reality as well as a future realization (Matthew 6:10). Theophan the Recluse wrote the following words about the inward rule of Christ the King:

"The Kingdom of God is within us when God reigns in us, when the soul in its depths confesses God as its Master, and is obedient to Him in all its powers. Then God acts within it as master 'both to will and to do of his good pleasure' (Philippians 2:13). This reign begins as soon as we resolve to serve God in our Lord Jesus Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Then the Christian hands over to God his consciousness and freedom, which comprises the essential substance of our human life, and God accepts the sacrifice; and in this way the alliance of man with God and God with man is achieved, and the covenant with God, which was severed by the Fall and continues to be severed by our willful sins, is re-established."

The kingdom of God is the life of the Holy Trinity in the world. It is the kingdom of holiness, goodness, truth, beauty, love, peace and joy. These qualities are not works of the human spirit. They proceed from the life of God and reveal God. Christ Himself is the

kingdom. He is the God-Man, Who brought God down to earth (John 1:1,14). "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not" (John 1:10-11). He was reviled and hated.

Palm Sunday summons us to behold our king - the Suffering Servant. We cannot understand Jesus' kingship apart from the Passion. Filled with infinite love for the Father and the Holy Spirit, and for creation, in His inexpressible humility Jesus accepted the infinite abasement of the Cross. He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows; He was wounded for our transgressions and made Himself an offering for sin (Isaiah 53). His glorification, which was accomplished by the resurrection and the ascension, was achieved through the Cross.

In the fleeting moments of exuberance that marked Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the world received its King, the king who was on His way to death. His Passion, however, was no morbid desire for martyrdom. Jesus' purpose was to accomplish the mission for which the Father sent Him.

"The Son and Word of the Father, like Him without beginning and eternal, has come today to the city of Jerusalem, seated on a dumb beast, on a foal. From fear the cherubim dare not gaze upon Him; yet the children honor Him with palms and branches, and mystically they sing a hymn of praise: 'Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to the Son of David, who has come to save from error all mankind.'" (A hymn of the Light.)

"With our souls cleansed and in spirit carrying branches, with faith let us sing Christ's praises like the children, crying with a loud voice to the Master: Blessed art Thou, O Savior, who hast come into the world to save Adam from the ancient curse; and in Thy love for mankind Thou hast been pleased to become spiritually the new Adam. O Word, who hast ordered all things for our good, glory to Thee." (A Sessional hymn of the Orthros)

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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, 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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**April Namedays:**

*Pañi’s brother* Florin Popescu and *Pañi’s mother* Liliana Popescu – Palm (Flowery) Sunday  
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko and Thomas Lorenzi – St. Thomas Sunday

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

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**April Birthdays:**

Sonia Kretchek (4/1), Tristan Bowser (4/5), Milena Petrovich (4/5), Bryce James Blobner (4/10), Jenelle Christine Speca (Petrovich) (4/10), Rich Mirilovich (4/13), Melanie Paieski (4/14), *Father’s Uncle* Dan Urban (4/15), *Father’s Father* Dave Urban (4/15),

John Kirish (4/18), *Father’s Brother-In-Law* Christopher Ditmore (4/19), Susan Waugh (4/19), Dr. Lawrence Martin (4/20), Max Anton (4/22), Donald J. Gavulich (4/23), Fred Anton (4/24), Fr Peter Paproski (4/24), Donna Tongel (4/24), Jaxson Maruscak (4/25),

Fr Jonathan Bannon (4/29), Maryhelen Hoffman (4/29), Sharon Peifer (4/29) *...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 *...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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**April Anniversaries:**

John & Theresa Sharpless (4/21) *...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Nicole (*due in June*) Hailey (*September*) *...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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**For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...** Thomas R. 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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## 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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### **The Jesus Prayer**

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

*(Repeat until your heart is calm...)*

### **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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