

**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. 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, MAY 28, 2023**

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha  
Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council  
Panachida for those who died in service for our country



**SATURDAY, JUNE 3 ALL-SOULS (Zadušna Subota)**

9:30am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (4<sup>th</sup> of 5)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4**

FEAST OF PENTECOST  
9:15 am Icon procession and Litiya Prayers  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Liturgical Color: **Green**  
Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost following Liturgy  
**A FAST FREE WEEK**

**PENTECOST MONDAY, JUNE 13**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy with Gospel Procession

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7**

FEAST OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> FINDING OF THE HEAD OF ST JOHN  
6:30 pm Akathist to St John

***There is no kneeling in prayer for 50 days after Pascha (until Pentecost) 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.

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**\*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)

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**\*Live-Broadcast** – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online: [www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral//live/](http://www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral//live/)

**BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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**\*\* Third Hour** – Prior to recent Liturgies, we have been chanting the Paschal Canon. After Ascension (on Thursday), we will return to chanting (or reading) the Third Hour. If you would like to be in the rotation for this or have any questions, please see Fr. Dave.

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**\*\* Color Change** – After All Souls Saturday on the eve of Pentecost (June 3), we will change everything from white to green. Please plan to stick around for a bit after Liturgy to help!

**THIRD HOUR READER**

June 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
June 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
June 18: \_\_\_\_\_

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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](http://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](http://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioecese](http://youtube.com/acroddioecese)

**“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER”** *Our Parish Weekly Bulletin*

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

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**COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARD(S)**

June 4 (Pentecost): \_\_\_\_\_  
June 11: Marianne Kubis  
June 18 (Father’s Day): Tim Martin

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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.

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**PRAYER CORNER**

**For the Health of...** Sophia, Maria, Jolin, Marianne, Melissa, Kellie, Carlene, 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 Our Graduates...** Andrew Mirilovich and Luke Tongel ...*may they be guided in God’s Light and His Will all the days of their lives.*

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**For the souls of the newly departed...**  
Floyd Wensel, Jr. (5/1) ...*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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**\*\*\* Christian Leadership Award** – Congratulations to Sammy Mainolfi who recently received the Christian Leadership Award from St. Gregory School. At his school, each child was asked to vote for a boy and girl that best fit the description of a Christian leader. They were asked to consider these qualities in the persons they vote for: "someone who shows an effort to live their life in a way Jesus wants us to showing selflessness; being humble, kind, caring; and trying their best to live an extraordinary Christian life." Sam was voted by his classmates to most exhibit these qualities! Sam, Keep up the good inspiring work! Many Years!

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**\*\* Congratulations to our 2023 graduates: Luke Tongel** (from Montour High School) and **Andrew Mirilovich** (from the Smeal College of Business at Penn State University). Many Years!

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**\* Roof Special Meeting** – The following motion was made by Carol, seconded by Tim, and unanimously passed at our special meeting: *MOTION:* To allow the Parish Council to make the final decision on the roof contractor after review from the construction committee’s recommendation on updated bids from the three roof contractors. The roofing companies are being contacted and this project will be pursued ASAP.

**OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 115  
Candle Stewardship: \$ 94  
Envelope Stewardship: \$ 255  
**Total Collections: \$ 464**


**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Nelson Family; Anonymous; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Fred and Juliana Anton; Rich and Renee Mirilovich; Carol and Tom Lorenzi

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**\* Stained Glass Windows** – The removal of the stained glass windows from the North Side has been completed. The cost of this was over \$14,000. If you wish to make a special donation to this, please indicate your intention to the curator.

ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES


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**Monogram**  
means "Jesus Christ conquers"  
IC XC are the first and last letters of the Greek words *Ἰησοῦς Χριστός* (Jesus Christ)  
NI KA comes from the Greek verb "to conquer"

**5 CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS**


ⓇBASILICA.RO




**the Holy Cross**  
the symbol of Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection



**Monogram**  
the first two letters, X and P (pronounced chi-rho), of the Greek word *Χριστός* (Christ)



**Alpha and Omega**  
the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet  
symbol of Christ, the beginning and end of all things



**the Fish**  
the Greek word for "fish", *ἰχθύς*, is an acronym of the phrase: Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Saviour

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**On-Line Giving** is available from our parish website to donate to the: *General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund.* The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (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 Schmack, (the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> positions are vacant)

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**Stewardship of Treasure Guide**

**Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?**

Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe 15%	12%	Tithe 10%	Upper Range Giving 9%	8%	7%	Middle Range Giving 6%	5%	4%	Lower Range Giving 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% would be.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

**THE MONK PACHOMIOS THE GREAT**

*Commemorated on May 15*

The Monk Pachomios the Great, together with Anthony the Great (Comm. 17 January), Makarios the Great (Comm. 19 January), and Euthymios the Great (Comm. 20 January), was both an exemplar of wilderness dwelling, and a founder of the monastic "life-in-common" coenobitism in Egypt. The Monk Pacholios was born in the III Century in the Thebaid (Upper Egypt). His parents were pagans and he received an excellent secular education. From youth he had the traits of good character, he was prudent of sensible in mind. When Pacholios reached age 20, he was called up into the army of the emperor Constantine (apparently, in the year 315). They settled the new conscripts into the edifice of a city prison under a guard of sentries. The local Christians came with supplies of food, they fed the soldiers and they took sincere care of them. When the youth learned, that these people acted thus for the sake of their God, fulfilling His commandment about love for neighbour, this made a deep impression upon his pure soul. Pacholios made a vow to become a Christian. Having returned from the army after the victory, Pacholios accepted holy Baptism, resettled himself into the lonely settlement of Shenesit and immediately he began to lead a strict ascetic life. Sensing the need for spiritual guidance, he turned to the Thebaid wilderness dweller Palamon. He was fondly accepted by the elder, and he began to proceed through monastic efforts on the example of his instructor.

One time, after 10 years of wilderness life, the Monk Pacholios was making his way through the desert, when he halted at the ruins of the former village of Tabennis and here he heard a Voice, ordering him to form at this place a monastery. Pachomios reported about this to the elder Palamon, and they both considered the words heard to be a command from God. They set out to Tabennis and

began by building there a small monastic hovel. The holy elder Palamon blessed the beginning foundations of the monastery and made a prediction of its future glory. But soon also the Monk Palamon expired to the Lord. An Angel of God then appeared to Saint Pacholios in the form of a schemamonk and entrusted to him an ustav-rule of monastic life. And soon his own elder brother John came and settled there together with him.

The Monk Pachomios underwent many a temptation and assault from the enemy of the race of man, but the Monk Pachomios bravely warded off all the temptations by his prayer to God and endurance.

Gradually there began a gathering of followers to the Monk Pachomios. Their teacher impressed everyone by his love for work, whereby he managed to accomplish all kinds of monastic tasks: he cultivated a garden, he conversed with those that arrived seeking guidance, and he tended to the sick. The Monk Pachomios introduced a monastic rule of "life-in-common", making everything the same for everyone in food and attire. The monks of the monastery were to toil at the obediences assigned them for the common good of the monastery. Among the various obediences was the re-copying of books. The monks were not to possess their own money nor to accept anything from their kinsfolk. The Monk Pachomios considered that an obedience, fulfilled with zeal, was higher than fasting or prayer, and he demanded from the monks an exact observance of the monastic rule, strictly chastising flaggards.

To the Monk Pachomios one time came his sister Maria, who for a long time had wanted to see her brother. But the strict ascetic refused seeing her and via the gate-keeper he gave her the blessing to enter upon the path of monastic life, promising his help with this. Maria wept, but did as her brother had ordered. The Tabennis monks built her an hut on the opposite side of the River Nile. And to Maria also there began to gather nuns, and soon there was formed a women's monastery with a strict monastic rule, provided by the Monk Pachomios.

The number of monks at the monastery grew quickly, and it necessitated the building of 7 more monasteries in the vicinity. The number of monks reached 7,000, – all under the guidance of the Monk



Pachomios, who visited at all the monasteries and administered them. But at the same time Saint Pachomios remained a deeply humble monk, who was always ready to comply with and accept the remarks of each brother.

Severe and strict towards himself, the Monk Pachomios had great kindness and condescension towards the spiritually immature deficiencies of monks. One of the monks was ardent for the deed of martyrdom, but the Monk Pachomios swayed him from this yearning and instructed him quietly to fulfill his monastic obedience, taming the pride in himself and training him in humility. One time a monk would not heed his advice and went off from the monastery, during which time he was set upon by brigands, who under the threat of death forced him to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Filled with despair, the monk returned to the monastery. The Monk Pachomios ordered him to pray intensely night and day, keep strict fast and live in complete solitude. The monk followed his advice, and this saved his soul from despair.

The monk taught to avoid against judging others and he himself feared to be judgemental of anyone even in thought.

It was with an especial love that the Monk Pachomios concerned himself over the sick monks. He visited them, he cheered up the disheartened, he urged them to be thankful to God and put their hope in His holy will. For the sick he lightened the fasting, if this should aid in their recovery of health. One time in the absence of the monk, the cook did not prepare the monks any cooked food, on the presumption that the brethren loved to fast. Instead of doing his obedience, this monk plaited 500 mats, something which the Monk Pachomios had not encouraged. In punishment for the disobedience, all the mats prepared by the cook were ordered burnt.

The Monk Pachomios always taught the monks to have hope only upon the help and mercy of God. At the monastery it happened that there was an insufficiency of grain. The saint spent the whole night at prayer, and in the morning there came from the main city a large quantity of bread for the monastery, at no expense. The Lord granted the Monk Pachomios the gift of wonderworking and healing the sick.

The Lord revealed to him the ultimate fate of monasticism. The monk learned, that successive monks would not have such zeal in their efforts as did the first, and they would walk in the darkness of not having experienced guides. Prostrating himself upon the ground, the Monk Pachomios wept bitterly, calling out to the Lord and imploring mercy for them. In answer he heard a Voice: "Pachomios, be mindful of the mercy of God. About the monks to come, know that they shalt receive recompense, since that they too shalt have occasion to suffer the life burdensome for the monk".

Towards the end of his life the Monk Pachomios likewise fell ill from a pestilence that afflicted the region. His closest and beloved disciple, the Monk Theodore (Comm. 17 May), tended to him with a filial love. The Monk Pachomios died in about the year 348 at age 53, and he was buried on an hill near the monastery.

### MAY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### FRIDAY, MAY 5

6:30 pm Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup

#### SUNDAY, MAY 7

9:20 am Paschal Canon

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Church School

#### TUESDAY, MAY 9

~~CANCELED: 6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers~~

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST

~~CANCELED: 9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy~~

#### SUNDAY, MAY 14

*MOTHER'S DAY*

9:20 am Paschal Canon

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

#### SUNDAY, MAY 21

Youth Sunday

9:20 am Paschal Canon

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Church School

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

#### THURSDAY, MAY 25

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

9:30am Festal Divine Liturgy

#### FRIDAY THROUGH MONDAY, MAY 26-29

*ACRY Bowling Tournament in Phoenixville*

#### SUNDAY, MAY 28

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

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### FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

#### Saint George the Great-Martyr & Trophy-bearer

*Commemorated on May 6 / April 23, and the translation of his relics on November 16/3*

The holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-martyr and Trophy-bearer George was a Christian Roman soldier killed under Diocletian at the beginning of the 4th century. Though he was born in Cappadocia, his mother was from Palestine, and thus he is a particular favorite of many Palestinian Christians. He is also the patron saint of Moscow, Georgia, and England, amongst other places.

St. George is often depicted with a dragon or some other serpentine creature under his feet. This comes from a legend whose details may vary according to local tradition. The tale begins with a dragon making its nest at the spring (or lake) that provided a town (either near Beirut or Silena, Libya, often) with water. Consequently, the citizens had to temporarily remove the dragon from its nest in order to collect water. To do so, they offered the dragon a daily human sacrifice.

The victim of the day was chosen by drawing lots. Eventually, the "winner" of this lottery happened to be the local princess. The local monarch is occasionally depicted begging for her life with no result. She is offered to the dragon, but at this point a traveling George arrives. He faces the dragon, and, after invoking the name of the Holy Trinity, slays it and saves the princess. The grateful citizens then abandon their ancestral paganism and convert to Christianity.

The story may or may not be taken entirely literally. For example, the battle between George and the dragon may represent the battle between Christianity

and Satan or between St. Michael, the archangel, and Lucifer. Dragon-slaying does appear to be a common religious theme; it may be the case that George has served as a Christianized version of older Indo-European deities and their folklore.

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#### Mid-feast of Pentecost

*Wednesday of the Fourth Week after Pascha*

The 25th day of Pascha, is called the feast of Mid-Pentecost, at which Christ, "in the middle of the feast" teaches men of his saving mission and offers to all "the waters of immortality", from the Gospel of St. John (7:14). Again the faithful are reminded of the Master's presence and his saving promise: "If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink" (John 7:37). The icon of the feast depicts the young Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem speaking with the Elders (Luke 2:46-47), the first biblical example of Jesus as teacher (rabbi). In traditional Orthodox icons of this subject, the figure of Jesus is depicted larger than those of the Elders, showing his superior spiritual status.

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#### Saints Cyril and Methodius

*Commemorated on May 24/11*

Our fathers among the saints Cyril and Methodius were brothers who brought Orthodoxy to the Slavic peoples of central Europe in the 9th century. In preparation for their mission to the Slavs they devised the Glagolitic alphabet to translate the Holy Scriptures and other Christian writings into what is now called Old Church Slavonic. Glagolitic later developed into the Cyrillic alphabet, which is now used in a number of Slavic languages. The two brothers have been recognized as saints, equals to the apostles, for their missionary work. Many details of their lives have been obscured by the legends that have arisen about them.

The work of the brothers in translating the Holy Scriptures, the services, and other Christian literature into Slavonic has been the greatest example of Orthodox missionaries bringing Christianity to the peoples of the world. While events only a few decades after the death of Methodius seemed to destroy their work in Moravia, their work became the foundation of Slavic civilization in eastern and southeastern Europe and provided the language

footings for the missionary efforts in the coming centuries. It is for this continuation of the practice of the Holy Apostles of speaking of Christianity in the languages of all the nations that Ss Cyril and Methodius are remembered as equal to the apostles. It is to this heritage that the revived Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands (Moravia) look as their origins.

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### **The Ascension of our Lord: The Meaning and the Fullness of Christ's Resurrection**

*Commemorated 40 days after Pascha*

“I ascend unto My Father, and your Father, and to my God, and Your God” (John 20:17).

On the 40<sup>th</sup> day after the glorious Resurrection of Christ—Ascension Thursday. The Risen Lord is also the Ascended Lord and, therefore, in the words of Father Georges Florovsky, “in the Ascension resides the meaning and the fullness of Christ's Resurrection.” Though the visible presence of the Risen Lord ended forty days after His Resurrection, that did not mean that His actual presence was withdrawn. For Christ solemnly taught His disciples – and us through them – “Behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Matthew 28:20). The risen, ascended and glorified Lord is the Head of His body, the Church. The Lord remains present in the Mysteries/Sacraments of the Church. This reinforces our need to participate in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Eucharist, through which we receive the deified flesh and blood of the Son of God, “unto life everlasting.”

Christ ascended to be seated at “the right hand of the Father” in glory, thus lifting up the humanity He assumed in the Incarnation into the very inner life of God. For all eternity, Christ is God and man. The deified humanity of the Lord is the sign of our future destiny “in Christ.” For this reason, the Apostle Paul could write “your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). In his homily on the Ascension, Saint Gregory Palamas (+1359) draws out some of the implications of this further:

“In the same way as He came down, without changing place but condescending to us, so He returns once more, without moving as God, but enthroning on high our human nature which He had assumed. It was

truly right that the first begotten human nature from the dead (Revelations 1:5) should be presented to God, as first fruits from the first crop offered for the whole race of men. On account of our sins He was led to death, and for us He rose and ascended, preparing our own resurrection and ascension for unending eternity. For all the heirs of everlasting life follow as far as possible the pattern of His saving work on earth. Those who live according to Christ imitate what He did in the flesh. Just as He died physically, so in time everyone dies, but we shall also rise again in the flesh as He did, glorified and immortal, not now but in due course, when we shall also ascend, as Paul says, for ‘we shall be caught up,’ he says, ‘in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord’ (1 Thess. 4:17)” The words of the “two men ... in white robes,” (clearly angels) who stood by the disciples as they gazed at Christ being “lifted up,” and recorded by Saint Luke in Acts 1:11, point toward something very clear and essential for us to grasp as members of the Church that exists within the historical time of the world: “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” The disciples will remain in the world, and must fulfill their vocation as the chosen apostles who will proclaim the Word of God to the world of the crucified and risen Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. They cannot spend their time gazing into heaven awaiting the return of the Lord. That hour has not been revealed: “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority” (Acts 1:7). The “work” of the Church is the task set before them, and they must do this until their very last breath. They will carry out this work once they receive the power of the Holy Spirit – the “promise of my Father”—as Christ said to them (Luke 24:49). Whatever our vocation may be, we too witness to Christ and the work of the Church as we await the fullness of God's Kingdom according to the times or seasons of the Father.

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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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**May Namedays:**

Robert Fall - St Robert, Abbot of Blois (5/8)  
 Mark Tongel - St. Mark the Evangelist (5/8)  
 Renee Mirilovich - Great-martyr Irene (5/18)  
 Christopher Bowser - Martyr Christopher (5/22)  
 Christopher Kubis - Martyr Christopher (5/22)  
 ...May God grant them many and blessed years!

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**May Birthdays:**

Anna Dzadony (5/3), Fr Matthew Stagon (5/4), Donald Bodnar (5/6), Apryle Horbal (5/6), Fr Thomas Soroka (5/6), Ethan Gogal (5/7), Ella Kovats (5/9), Dr Phillip Labas (5/10), Jillian Gaydos (5/14), Robert Mozes (5/16), Pañi Alexandra Urban (5/16), Natasha Kretchek (5/19), Patrick Wertz (5/19), Linda Gavulich (5/20), Kenneth Parks (5/22), Elias Mainolfi (5/24), Sean Watson (5/26), Alexander Hanchulak (5/27), Fr Jonathan Tobias (5/27), Michael Horbal (5/29), Melanie Shuster (5/30) ...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...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

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**May Anniversaries:**

Father's Godparents, Dick & Andrea Babbie (5/7)  
 Father's Best Man, Joe & Sarah Lavra (5/7)  
 Father's sister, Melissa & Christopher Ditmore (5/17)  
 Fr Dave's Ordination to the Priesthood (5/17)

Ashley & Derrick Andrekovich (5/19)  
 Ernest & Claudia (Herbert) Pido (5/19)  
 Fr Dave & Pañi Alexandra (5/25)  
 Jim & Katherine Schrmack (5/26)  
 Anthony & Donna Horbal (5/27)

...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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**A Prayer for Peace**

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen.

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**A prayer for our Neighborhoods**

*by Archbishop Demetrios of America*

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

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**The Jesus Prayer**

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

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

**An Orthodox Prayer for Mental Health**

O Master, Lord my God, in Whose hands is my destiny: Help me according to Your mercy, and leave me not to perish in my transgressions, nor allow me to follow them who place desires of the flesh over those of the spirit. I am Your creation; disdain not the work of Your hands. Turn not away; be compassionate and humiliate me not, neither scorn me, O Lord, as I am weak. I have fled unto You as my Protector and God. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You. Save me for Your mercy's sake, for I have cleaved unto You from my youth; let me who seeks You not be put to shame by being rejected by You for my unclean actions, unseemly thoughts, and unprofitable remembrances. Drive away from me every filthy thing and excess of evil. For You alone are holy, alone mighty, and alone immortal, in all things having unexcelled might, which, through You, is given to all that strive against the devil and the might of his armies. For unto You is due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.