

**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, JULY 23, 2023**

Venerable Anthony of the Kiev Caves (1073)  
Panachida for +Jack Peifer (30-year), +Andrew (5-yr) and +Anna Mae (3-yr) Gogal,  
John Gaydos, Sr. (40-day), Barbara Vasko (40-day)

**SUNDAY, JULY 30**

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Hebrews 13:7-16 (for Holy Fathers)  
Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22  
John 17:1-13 (for Holy Fathers)  
Add'l offering requested for our Community Outreach Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday Annual Blessing of Chariots (*Cars, Trucks, Boats, Bicycles, and other modes of transportation*)  
Tone 7; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

**\*Mystery of Confession** – Father is available to hear Confessions after every service or by appointment.

**\*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/)

**\*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)

**SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Epistle: Romans 15:1-7*

**Please Others, Not Yourselfes**

15 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; <sup>2</sup>let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. <sup>3</sup>For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me.” <sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike**

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

*Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35*

**Jesus Heals Two Blind Men**

<sup>27</sup>And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” <sup>28</sup>When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” <sup>29</sup>Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.” <sup>30</sup>And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, “See that no one knows it.” <sup>31</sup>But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

**Jesus Heals One Who Was Mute**

<sup>32</sup>As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. <sup>33</sup>And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.” <sup>34</sup>But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.”

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

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

**The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few**

<sup>35</sup>And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

**BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

**\*\*\* Fr Dave at Camp Nazareth** – Pittsburgh week at Camp Nazareth is upon us! Fr. Dave will be one of the clergy there for the week. If an emergency occurs, please contact

Fr Nik Ferencz: 724-953-6046

Fr Bob Teklinski: 412-694-2822

or Fr. Dave at camp: 724-662-4840

**\*\*\* Church Building Update** – When we purchased the property on Duncan Avenue in March, we knew certain jobs needed to be taken care of right away. Here is a brief update on a few things:

- ✘ We are currently having services downstairs in the hall as the AC units are not working.
- ✘ A contract has been signed to have our roof replaced in August.
- ✘ The Parish Council is zoning in on which HVAC company we will be going with for new AC units and a new boiler.
- ✘ A representative from *Tree Pittsburgh* came to visit this past week and brainstorming continues as to how we will beautify the outside grounds.



**\*\*\* Annual Blessing of Chariots** –

Fr Dave will bless vehicles (*cars, boats, bicycles...*) in our parking lot after the Divine Liturgy next week, Sunday, July 30. We bless vehicles in honor of the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias (*celebrated August 2*) who was carried to heaven in a fiery chariot (*see 2 Kings chapter 2 in the Old Testament*).

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**\*\*\* Anonymous Donation** – St. John’s has been blessed to find out that someone will be making a \$120,000 anonymous donation to the church to cover the costs of our new roof, air conditioners, and boiler! Prayer is a powerful tool! For those who were concerned as to how things were going to happen, God provided! May God Bless our founders and benefactors! Glory to God for all things!

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**\*\*\* August: A Month of Special Blessings!** – Live the Orthodox Faith and plan ahead for the many special blessings that are offered in August (*plus a bonus in July as we anticipate his Feast day*):

**July 30:** Blessing of Chariots (Vehicles)

**Aug 13:** Lesser Blessing of Water & Blessing of Honey

**Aug 19 & 20:** Blessing of the First-Fruits (& vegetables)

**Aug 27:** Blessing of Students & Teachers (*tentative*)

**Aug 28 and Sept. 3:** Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

*Life is full of blessings! Orthodoxy is awesome!*

*Let’s focus on the blessings in our lives!*

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**\*\* Trek4Missions** - Please join us for the annual OCMC Trek4Missions held from **August 6 to September 17!** This event is the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's largest virtual fundraiser that challenges participants to be physically active while raising awareness and financial support for our mission work to unite the world to Jesus Christ and His Church. If anyone is interested in spearheading and leading a local team (our previous team’s name was **Pittsburgh Forerunners**), please contact Fr. Dave so that we can begin together on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

*The Trek4Missions is an opportunity for individuals and parish communities to unite and demonstrate our commitment to Christ’s Great Commission “to make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).* Plan to walk, run, ride your bike, and more to show your support for Christ’s call to each of us.

Everyone who registers will receive a free Trek4Missions t-shirt! There are no fees to register.

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\*\*\* **Upcoming Festivals** – Pittsburgh’s calendar is filled with festivals throughout the summer! Here are a couple that may be of interest:

\*\*\* **McKeesport’s International Village** will be on **August 15-17** from 3 to 9 pm at Eden Park Boulevard and University Drive, McKeesport, PA 15132. Admission is \$2 at the gate with numerous food booths and performances each night. More information can be found on their website:

www.internationalvillage.info/

\*\*\* **Greek Food Festival** – Holy Trinity will have their festival from **August 31 to September 3** at 985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh. Visit their website for more information: www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

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**OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 102
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 76
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 103
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 281</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 5</b>

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Fred and Juliana Anton ; Cindy Pavilonis; Pani Deborah Zak

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\* **Summer Travels** – As we are in the summer vacation season, please do not forget about our parish. We continue to function even when you are away. If possible, mail your regular offering in or ‘catch up’ when you return. It is all a part of stewardship!

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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.

**BULLETIN IS OFFERED:**

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 (Memorial Service) for them.*

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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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**Speaking With Your Priest** - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers. With love in Christ, Fr. Dave

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**COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS**

*Please sign up in the multi-purpose room or by contacting Fr. Dave*

July 30:	Lynn Mainolfi
August 6:	_____
August 13:	_____

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**LIVES OF THE SAINTS**

**45 Martyrs Of The Armenian City Of Nikopolis**

Commemorated on July 23/10

The Forty-five Martyrs of the Armenian City of Nikopolis suffered during the reign of the emperor Licinius (307-324), then a co-regent with Constantine the Great. Licinius fiercely persecuted Christians and in his Eastern districts of the empire he issued an edict to put to death anyone who would not consent to return to paganism. When the persecutions began at Nikopolis, more than forty of the persecuted of Christ decided to voluntarily appear before their persecutors, to openly confess their faith in the Son of God and accept martyrdom. The holy confessors were headed by Leontios, Mauricios, Daniel, Anthony and Alexander, and were distinguished by their virtuous life. The hegemon-procurator of the Armenian district, Licius, before whom the holy confessors presented themselves, was amazed at the directness and bravery of those who voluntarily doomed themselves to torture and death. He tried to persuade them to renounce Christ and offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, but the saints remained steadfast. They refuted all the arguments of the governor, pointing out to him all the falseness of faith in the disgusting and vice-filled pagan gods, leading to ruin those that worship them. The hegemon-procurator gave orders to beat the confessors about the face with stones, and then shackle and imprison them.

In prison the saints rejoiced and sang psalms of David. Saint Leontios inspired and encouraged the brethren in the faith, readying them to accept new tortures for the true faith, and telling them of the bravery of all those formerly that had suffered for Christ. In the morning, after repeated refusal to offer sacrifice to the idols, the saints were again given over to torture. Saint Leontios, seeing the intense suffering of the martyrs and worrying, that certain of them might collapse in spirit and lose faith, prayed to God, that he might see a quick end of the matter for all.

When the holy martyrs sang psalms at midnight, an Angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to them, and the prison blazed with light. The Angel declared to the martyrs, that their deed was near its end, and their names already were inscribed in Heaven. Two of the

prison guards, Meneas and Virilades, beheld what was happening and believed in Christ. On the following morning the governor decided to put to death the martyr-witnesses of Christ. After beastly tortures they burned them in a fire, and their bones they threw in a river (+ c. 318). Pious people found them, gathered them up and saved them. Later on, when freedom had been bestowed to the Church of Christ, on this spot was built a church in the name of the holy 45 Martyrs.

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**VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE**

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org  
 Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org  
 FB: www.facebook.com/acroddioocese  
 Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews  
 YouTube: youtube.com/acroddioocese

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**PRAYER CORNER**

*For the Health of...* Kyah, Octavian, Cel, Thomas, Mary Jane, Jolin, Marianne, Melissa, Kellie, Carlene, David, Donna, George, Beverly, Kelly, Marie, 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...**

Barbara Vasko (6/18), John Gaydos, Sr. (6/14)  
 ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God’s Memory!*

**An Orthodox Prayer Before A Journey**

Lord Jesus Christ my God, be my Companion, guide and protector during my (our) journey. Keep me (us) from all danger, misfortune and temptation. By Your divine power grant me (us) a peaceful and successful journey and safe arrival. In You I (we) place my (our) hope and trust and You I (we) praise, honor and glorify, together with Your Father and Holy Spirit now and forever and unto ages of ages. Amen.



## 6 Reasons Why Tithing is Good for an Orthodox Parish

*Excerpt from Fr Andrew Stephen Damick*

Tithing is good for the Orthodox Christian and therefore good for the Orthodox parish. So why don't more Orthodox Christians tithe?

We know the usual reasons: We're not used to it. Back in the old country the government paid for the church. The parish was founded on the "dues" model. Tithing is "Protestant." Orthodox people are stingy. We just don't have it in our culture.

Those things are all true in one way or another, but I don't think those are the real reasons that we do not tithe very much as Orthodox Christians. There are some who do, of course, but it's not very many of us. So what is the reason why we're so terrible at tithing? *I believe that it is because we don't know why we tithe.*

And because we don't know why, we don't do it. And when we don't do it, then we come up with the various reasons given above as the cause of our non-tithing. But those aren't the real reasons. It's because we don't know why we should tithe.

Now, the reasons I am going to list below are not all equally important. Indeed, if I had to answer the question, "Why should I tithe?" I would answer only with #1. That's the real reason. #2-#6 are essentially useful effects of tithing that should help us to focus on #1.

So here are six of my reasons. #1 is the most important and really the point of all of it.

### 1. tithing enables us to be saved.

As Christians, we want to be saved. We want to be healed. We want to "go to heaven" rather than to hell when we die (setting aside for the moment all the details). We want to become like Christ. Tithing

doesn't purchase all that for us, but tithing is a powerful way that we give of ourselves, that we turn over what we have to God so that we are opened to receiving His healing and blessing.

It's a basic principle of Christian spiritual life that we cannot receive God's blessing if we are holding back on Him. Why? We can't be filled with God if we remain full of ourselves. Tithing helps us to empty ourselves.

Don't get me wrong—giving money is not the *only* way that we work out our salvation and become open to receiving blessings. But whatever we have, we have to give to God. And if we have money, then we have to give money. If we don't have money, then of course we don't have to give it. But we have to give what we have, whatever it is, and with the way our culture is so grasping and possessive about money, it really is one of the *best* things for us to give if we can.

Money is one of the places where we spiritually hurt the most! So we need to pay attention to that wound.

### 2. tithing shows that we're serious.

When I speak of tithing here, I am referring most obviously to giving 10% of income, but for this article, you can define tithing as **serious giving**. 10% is serious for most of us. For some of us who are more affluent, 10% is not that serious, and we should do more because we can. And for some of us, 10% is unaffordable, so we need to be serious with another percentage. But the point is to be serious. So if you're not serious, get serious.

How do you know if you're serious? Well, to start with, if you're spending more on cable TV or other forms of entertainment every month than you're giving to the Church, it's a safe guess that you're not being serious about giving.

I love the phrase "put your money where your mouth is." It's definitely true. Jesus says almost exactly the same thing when He says, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21, Luke 12:34). Where we put our money proves where our hearts are. Where is *your* heart?

### 3. tithing is absolutely orthodox.

Some people say that tithing is not Orthodox. This is nonsense. Giving is Orthodox. Asceticism is Orthodox. Generosity is Orthodox. Ministry is Orthodox. Discipline is Orthodox.

The purpose in tithing is not because it is an "absolute requirement" in order to be saved. It's not. But how can we be saved if we do not nurture a truly generous heart? And how can we nurture that generous heart without becoming disciplined about giving all that we have? The Orthodox Church understands how to become disciplined. We understand asceticism. This is one of the best ways to do it.

Tithing was a *minimum* set up in the Old Covenant (and there were multiple tithes, equaling about 23%). 100% is the standard in the New Covenant (Acts 4), and when the Fathers talk about tithing, they say that because the New is superior to the Old, we give *more* than the Old Covenant people did.

So perhaps it's true that "tithing is not Orthodox." But that's not because we give *less* than 10%, but because we give *more* than 10%.

God is merciful, of course, and if we're not ready to meet that standard, we can work toward it. But are we working toward it? If not, let's get on it.

### 4. tithing becomes ministry.

There are things that a parish would love to do but just can't because they don't have the money for it. Perhaps they could improve or repair the building or build a new one. They could start that iconography project. They could get an assistant priest. They could hire a youth director. They could give to charities. They could fund continuing education for the priest, the choir director, or other parish workers. They could bring in special speakers. They could sponsor kids to summer camp. They could sponsor people to go on pilgrimages. They could do a lot more outreach. They could feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

The possibilities really are almost endless. The point is that God takes what we give, blesses it, and then returns it to us for our sanctification. When we give our money, God turns it into *ministry*.

And sometimes ministry is just the most basic things, like keeping the priest from having an outside secular

job, keeping health insurance in place for him and his family, paying the parish's utility bills, buying supplies, etc.

When we tithe, that's what God does with our money. It doesn't go to lining anyone's pockets. Most clergy—not just Orthodox, but all clergy—are actually rather underpaid for their level of education, experience and the labor they put in. And almost none of them ever get a raise for preaching about tithing. *And a lot of them are tithing themselves.* In many parishes, the priest is one of the top givers, and he usually does it on a salary far below the parish average.

### 5. tithing ends money problems for the parish, once and for all.

If a mission parish has 25 tithing families who each make roughly the national average (\$50k/yr.), the collective income for the parish would be \$125k, which is usually plenty for a mission to function on.

If a parish has 50 tithing families who make that average, pledge income would be \$250k. We are now well above the income of most medium to small parishes.

If there are 100 families who tithe like that, the income would be \$500k. And they're probably about to burn any mortgage, buy new land, build something new or start a new mission. Or maybe they're hiring a couple more clergy, a secretary, etc. How many 100-family parishes have half a million dollars to use every year?

Even if half the families in a parish start tithing or even if that same half started giving just 5%, the parish would probably never have any more money problems ever.

### 6. tithing changes a parish culture.

Related to #5, I sometimes hear that, if only the membership knew all the money problems in their parish, they would be inspired to give a little bit more. But usually the people who say that, knowing full well the financial situation of their parish, have not themselves increased their pledge. Giving information and insight to the unmotivated usually doesn't accomplish much.

But what if we started thinking about parish life in a whole new way?

What if we stopped talking and worrying about paying for things and started thinking about why each of us needs to become generous, serious givers? We have to put the horse before the cart: We don't develop a culture of generosity by complaining about money problems. We develop a culture of generosity, and our money problems go away.

A tithing parish sees itself as a group of people ministering to one another, not as a group of people who are paying for something or expect to get something. And that's the kind of parish that's truly Christian, because they have love for each other (John 13:35).

From: <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/roadsfromemmaus/2015/10/27/6-reasons-why-tithing-is-good-for-an-orthodox-parish/>

Stewardship of Treasure Guide													
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?													
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe	Tithe	Upper Range Giving				Middle Range Giving				Lower Range Giving		
	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	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% would be.

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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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### SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

“Let your tongue sing and let your mind seek the meaning of what you sing, so that you sing with both your spirit and mind.”  
 +St Basil the Great

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### JULY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**SUNDAY, JULY 2 #APOSTLESFAST**

9:15 am Third Hour  
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

**THURSDAY, JULY 6 #APOSTLESFAST**

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

**FRIDAY, JULY 7**

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

9:30am Festal Divine Liturgy

**SUNDAY, JULY 9 #APOSTLESFAST**

9:15 am Third Hour  
 9:30 am Reader's Service

**TUESDAY, JULY 11 #APOSTLESFAST**

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 12**

FEAST OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

9:30am Festal Divine Liturgy

**SUNDAY, JULY 16**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy with Fr. Michael Zak  
 Youth Sunday

**SUNDAY, JULY 23**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

**SUNDAY, JULY 30**

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the

First Six Ecumenical Councils

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Annual Blessing of Chariots (*Cars, Trucks, Boats, Bicycles, and other modes of transportation*)

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### FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

**The Nativity Of The Holy Forerunner And Baptist Of The Lord, John:**

*Commemorated on July 7 / June 24*

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Lk. 1: 57-80) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist – the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth, lived in the ancient city of Hebron, and reached old age being childless, since Elizabeth was barren. One time, Saint Zachariah was making Divine services at the Jerusalem Temple and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the incense offertory. He predicted, that Saint Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Saviour – the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. And it was given to him – it appeared at the same time as a chastisement for his unbelief: Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

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**The Holy, Glorious And All-Praised Leaders Of The Apostles, Peter And Paul**

*Commemorated on July 12 / June 29*

**Sermon of Blessed Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (Ipponesia)**

On this present day Holy Church piously remembers the suffering of the Holy Glorious and All-Praiseworthy Apostles Peter and Paul.

Saint Peter, the fervent follower of Jesus Christ, for the profound confession of His Divinity: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God", – was deemed worthy by the Saviour to hear in answer: "Blessed art thou, Simon... I tell thee, that thou art Peter (Petrus), and on this stone (petra) I build My Church" (Mt. 16: 16-18). On "this stone" (petra), is on that which thou sayest: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God", – it is on this thy confession I build My Church. Wherefore the "thou art Peter": it is from the "stone" (petra) that Peter (Petrus) is, and not from Peter (Petrus) that the "stone" (petra) is – just as how the christian is from Christ, and not Christ from the christian. Do you want to know, from what sort of

"rock" (petra) the Apostle Peter (Petrus) was named? – Hear ye the Apostle Paul: "I do not want ye not to know, brethren, – says the Apostle of Christ, – how our fathers were all under a cloud, and all passed through the sea: and all in Moses were baptised in the cloud and in the sea. And all thus eating spiritual food, and all thus drinking spiritual drink: for they did drink from the spiritual accompanying rock: for the rock indeed was Christ" (1 Cor. 10: 1-4). Here is the from whence the "Rock" is Peter.

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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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**July Namedays:**

Rich Mirilovich - St. John the Baptist (7/7)  
Craig Bowser - Holy and All-glorious Apostle Peter (7/12)  
Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak - Great Martyr Marina of Antioch (7/30)  
Mareena Shuster - Great Martyr Marina of Antioch (7/30)  
*...May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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**July Birthdays:**

Joanna Delaney (7/2), Pañi Stacey Mihaly (7/5), Felix Matolyak-Ferraz (7/6), Allyssa Yakemawiz (7/7), Charles Deluca (7/8), Jessica Winkler (7/8), *Father’s Godfather*, Richard Babbie (7/9), *Pañi’s Grandmother*, Maria Alexa (7/11), Emilia Zak (7/11), Jean Zak (7/12), Ben Scherer, Sr. (7/14), Pañi Joanna Ferencz (7/17), Rebecca Horbal (7/17), Katie Jesko (7/17), Mark Tongel (7/17), Alaina Anton (7/18), Fr Michael Chendorain (7/18), Fr Luke Mihaly (7/18), *Father’s Godson*, Nathaniel Salio (7/21), Jennifer Brancho (7/22), Robert Fall (7/22), Lynn Mainolfi (7/23), Glenn Labas (7/25), Carol Fucsko – (7/27), Barbara Gedid (7/27), Ryan Gogal (7/27), Demetrie Ernest Pido (7/27), Samuel Schrmack (7/27), Doug Delaney (7/28), Fr Stephen Lopusky (7/28), Luke Tongel (7/30), *Pañi’s brother*, Florin Popescu (7/30), Fr. George Ellis (7/31)

*...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...** Andrew and Maria, Francis & Alexandra *...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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**July Anniversaries:**

Fred & Juliana Anton (7/20/63)  
Alexei & Patrick Wertz (7/24/21)  
*...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Hailey (*due in September*), Lauren (*December*) *...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, 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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## The Jesus Prayer

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

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

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**A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy**

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop *(name)*, and our spiritual father *(name)*, and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

**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.



**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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