

## 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, AUGUST 6, 2023

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Martyr Christina of Tyre (300)

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Forefeast of the Procession of the Precious and Life-giving Cross of the Lord  
Righteous Eudokimos of Cappadocia (9th c.)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Lesser Blessing of Water and Blessing of Honey  
Tone 1; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 14 #DormitionFast

FEAST OF THE PROCESSION OF THE CROSS (in 1164)  
9:30 am Akathist in Honor of the Dormition  
DORMITION FAST BEGINS  
HOME BLESSINGS BEGIN

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 18 #DormitionFast

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 #DormitionFast

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION  
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Grapes and First-Fruits (and vegetables)  
Confessions offered after Liturgy  
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**\*Mystery of Confession** – Father is available to hear Confessions after every service or by appointment.  
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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/)

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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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### SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### *Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17*

<sup>9</sup>For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. <sup>10</sup>According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. <sup>11</sup>For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup>each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. <sup>14</sup>If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

<sup>16</sup>Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? <sup>17</sup>If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

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#### *Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34*

#### **Jesus Walks on the Water**

<sup>22</sup>Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified,

## "THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER" *Our Parish Weekly Bulletin*

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

saying, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out for fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

<sup>28</sup>And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; <sup>30</sup>but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

#### **Jesus Heals the Sick in Gennesaret**

<sup>34</sup>And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennes'aret.

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### BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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**\*\*\* Fr Dave not available** – For the next 5 days, Fr. Dave will not be available. If an emergency occurs, please contact

Fr Nik Ferencz: 724-953-6046 or

Fr Bob Teklinski: 412-694-2822 or

Fr Marc Wisnosky: 412-407-5102

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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)

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

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

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

**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!*



**\*\*\* Home Blessings** – Our Annual Home Blessings will begin on **Sunday, August 14** after the Lesser Blessing of Water. Fr. Dave is looking forward to visiting *every home* this August, September, or October. **It is not too early to schedule with Fr. Dave today.**

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**\*\*\* Who Will Minister to Them?** - Did you know that there are Orthodox Christians trying to practice their faith in prison? Or that there are non-Orthodox prisoners who are ready to repent of their crimes and embrace the fullness of Orthodoxy? St. George Men's Ministry will host a presentation on Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry on **Saturday, August 26** that will include:

Session 1: 10-11am The Rev Fr. Stephen Powley and The Very Rev. Fr. John Kowalczyk, OCPM Co-Directors of Training and Spiritual Care

A Light Lunch

Session 2: 12:30-2:30pm Nicholas Petrogeorge, OCPM Executive Director and Mark Santana, OCPM Church Programs Director

Register online at [tinyurl.com/ocpmevent2023](http://tinyurl.com/ocpmevent2023)

See you at 3400 Dawson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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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 and will continue to provide for us as we strive to do His Will! May God Bless our founders and benefactors! Glory to God for all things!

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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)

### OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 157
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 51
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 267
Community Outreach:	\$ 60
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 535</b>

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Juliana & Fred Anton; Renee & Rich Mirilovich; Cindy Pavilonis; Eleanor Sanger; Kathy Schrmack.

### COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

August 13: \_\_\_\_\_  
\* August 20: \_\_\_\_\_  
\* August 27: \_\_\_\_\_  
\* no meat within the Dormition Fast

**#DORMITION FAST** – This is our lead-in to the great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. This 2-week Fast (from August 14-27) is one of the four fasting periods of the year when we are called to a special time of increasing our prayer, fasting, and charity. Increase your prayer by coming to confession (offered after any of the services).

**BOOK SUGGESTION: *Mary, Worthy of All Praise: Reflections on the Virgin Mary.*** This book shares meditations on the Paraklis Service for each day during the Dormition Fast. Ancient Faith Bookstore has it out of stock, but it can be found (at least) on Amazon. Search the ISBN number, 9781888212716, and you can find new and used copies for less than \$10. O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

**\*\* Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD)** – We invite you to join with other St John's faithful in giving individually to the annual DDD program. This program greatly supports our ministry at Camp Nazareth and other programs in our diocese. For more information, please get a brochure in the vestibule, see Larry Martin (*our local ambassador*) or Fr. Dave, or visit [www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/](http://www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/). Checks payable to: Distinguished Diocesan Donors can be mailed to: Diocesan Chancery, 312 Garfield St., Johnstown, PA 15906.

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**New School Year Blessing** – We will have additional prayers on Sunday, **August 27<sup>th</sup>** for students and teachers who are heading back to school. *If you are leaving for college prior to 8/7, please let Fr. Dave.*



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**COAT DRIVE** Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? We are now collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) [Formerly FOCUS Pittsburgh (who provide Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter to those who are in need)]. Please place your clean coat(s) on the coat rack in the hall during the month of August.

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**\* Trek4Missions** – LAST CALL - 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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**ACRY Convention 2023** - Holy Resurrection ACRY Chapter #25, Potomac, MD, is delighted to be your hosts for the 78<sup>th</sup> National ACRY Convention this Labor Day weekend. All information is now out and up online: [www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/). ALL deadlines are August 12<sup>th</sup>! If you have any questions, please contact Dan Breno, chairperson, at 301-703-5626 (land line), 443-562-8971 (cell) or [dabreno@gmail.com](mailto:dabreno@gmail.com).

**\*\* 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/](http://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](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org)

### 2023 Home Blessings

#### How to prepare for your home blessing?

1. See Fr. Dave, email him

([fr.sleepless@gmail.com](mailto:fr.sleepless@gmail.com)), call or text him (412-748-0148) today with your preferred windows of time for him to visit.

2. Have a white cloth placed on the dining room or kitchen table, an icon and/or a cross, and a candle to be lit. (*Fr Dave will provide the Holy Water for the blessing.*)
3. Have a list of names of those who live in the home (*including your pets*) and a list of the departed members of your family and friends you wish to have prayed for during the service.
4. Have all TVs, radios, and cell phones turned off.
5. Have on the table anything to be blessed (such as an Icon, Cross, etc.).
6. Participation is important! Have everyone in the family gather around the table and join in the blessing. Invite neighbors and friends over to be a part of this beautiful tradition as well!
7. If you need to discuss a personal matter, this is a good time to do so!

#### Home blessings will take place from August 14 through October 14

It would be ideal if Father could come on a weekday between 8:30am and 3:30pm. IF this is not possible, certain evening, Saturday, and Sunday times will be available. Fr Dave looks forward to spending this time with your family!

### VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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### 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.*

### PRAYER CORNER

**For the Health of...** Mary Jane M., Kyah, Octavian, Ceelia, Thomas, Jolin, Marianne, Melissa, Kellie, Carlene, David, Donna, George, Beverly, Kelly, Marie, Brian, Sean, Julia, 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...

Susan (Kostelnik-Winters) Waugh (7/28)  
*...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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### 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.

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## ONLINE BONUSES

**My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3** – It’s back... Enjoy “My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3” with the Holy Trinity Orthodox family for the worldwide premiere on **Friday, September 8.** “*My Big Fat Wedding 3*” follows Toulas as she honors her father’s last wish and takes the whole family to the village where he grew up in Greece. As she tries to track down her father’s childhood best friends, she winds up learning a lot more about her roots and her family along the way. Celebrate the newest release of this movie franchise in great Greek style with the Holy Trinity Orthodox community! The Philoptochos is presenting a special Greek Dinner and Movie Night celebration starting with dinner at Holy Trinity Church and then the movie up the hill at the Cinemark Theater. Holy Trinity’s Greek Night package includes 6:00pm Greek dinner at Holy Trinity Church followed by a 7:15pm “Greek Flag Parade” up to the theater for the movie, then back to the Church for dessert & music. We have bought out the entire theater, but TICKETS ARE LIMITED! Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available at HolyTrinityPgh.org/events. Opa!

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**Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery Feast Day** – Gerontissa Theophano and the Sisters warmly welcome you to the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery’s Feast Day on **Saturday, September 9** beginning at 9:00am at 121 St. Elias Ln, Saxonburg, PA 16056. “Please come with family and friends and spend the day at the Monastery. Browse our icons and handiwork for sale, pastries, as well as frappes at our cafe.” Please RSVP so that the Monastery can prepare adequate hospitality. Kindly call 724-352-3999 or email [info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org](mailto:info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org). Visitors should be modestly dressed; women are asked to wear long skirts and men are asked to wear long pants.

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**Ukrainian Relief Dinner** – On Sunday, **September 24**, the IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) is holding a second prayer service and fundraising dinner to benefit our Ukrainian brothers

and sisters. It will be held at St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland. Tickets are \$50. RSVP by September 19. If interested, please contact Fr. Dave. Upcoming Future IOCC events include:

\* **Oktoberfest - October 19** - Rusty Gold Brewing Co - Canonsburg, PA

\* **Bourbon Tasting - November 2** - McMurray, PA

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**Holy Trinity Consecration** – Join the Holy Trinity Family and Friends to celebrate the Consecration of their Church and the Centennial of their Parish on **November 3, 4 & 5, 2023.** Tickets and Centennial commemorative items are now available at HolyTrinityPgh.org/centennial, with more information to come over the summer.

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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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**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 its 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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## 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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## LIVING OUR ORTHODOX FAITH

### Focus on Our Foundation, Not the Wind and the Waves

Homily by Fr. Philip LeMasters

*1 Corinthians 3:9-17: Matthew 14:22-34*

It is easy to think that we are spiritually strong and healthy when life is good and things are going our way. It is a very different matter, however, when things are falling apart and we find that we have no place to stand. Life’s challenges can make hard truths quite obvious and call into question what we had previously taken for granted about ourselves and our world. Nonetheless, it is still possible to close our eyes to what we do not want to accept. We are free to shut out the light and cling stubbornly to the darkness in ways that will only drown us in weakness and despair. A far better response, of course, is to use our sense of brokenness to open our eyes to our dependence on the mercy of the Lord as our only hope for light and life, as the only sure foundation for our lives.

Today’s gospel lesson provides a vivid example of what is at stake when we recognize unsettling truths. St. Peter began to sink like a stone in a raging sea when he shifted his focus from entrusting himself to the Lord to being consumed with fear about the wind and the waves. By his own power, there was no

way that Peter could have avoided drowning in this situation, but he called out “Lord, save me!” That is precisely what the Savior did by reaching out to Peter and rescuing him as He said, “O man of little faith, why did you doubt?” The stress of the storm revealed the weakness of Peter’s faith, which is not surprising because he had gotten himself into this dangerous situation by putting Christ to the test, saying “Lord, if it is You, bid me come to You on the water.” By his prideful lack of trust, Peter literally got himself in well over his head. He learned the hard way that he had no other foundation, no basis for his life, than Jesus Christ. If left to his own devices, he would have descended to the darkness of a watery grave. That is a destination completely different from the one to which our Lord calls us. The God-Man came to do nothing less than transfigure us in holiness with His gracious divine energies. The Savior called His disciples to “be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matt. 5:48) He cited the Psalms: “You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High.” (Psalm 82:6; Jn. 10:34) While we remain human beings by nature, Christ enables us to become like Him by personal participation in His grace. That is why theosis is an eternal process, for God’s holiness is truly infinite.

The Savior revealed His divine glory to Peter, James, and John on Mount Tabor so that they would know He is truly God and the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets of the Old Testament. The voice of the Father proclaimed, “This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well-pleased. Hear Him.” (Matt. 17:5) Unlike a prophet or a teacher of religious law, the Savior did not come merely to provide instructions that would make people a bit more pious or moral. The One Who revealed His divine glory in brilliant, blinding light came to make us shine in holiness like an iron left in the fire as partakers of the divine nature by grace. The change at the Transfiguration was not in our Lord, but in the disciples’ ability to behold Him as God. As the God-Man, He calls and enables us to become transfigured in holiness such that we become radiant with the divine glory both in this life and for all eternity.

We cannot give ourselves the spiritual clarity to behold and share in His divine majesty, even as we

have no innate ability to walk on the water. Peter did so briefly because he trusted in and obeyed the Lord as He empowered him to do so. But when he focused on the wind and the waves and was overcome with fear, he began to sink. Even as we cannot become transfigured in holiness apart from sharing in the life of Christ, Peter could not participate in the Savior's miraculous ability to walk on the water apart from faith in Him. He learned that the hard way when he started to go under. Fortunately, he did have the presence of mind to recognize what was happening and that the Lord was his only hope.

The contrast between humanity left to our own devices in this world of corruption and the Savior's fulfillment of our human nature is more stark than the difference between night and day. It is the difference between life and death, between participating in the radiant glory of God and sinking to the bottom of a dark sea of sin. Our Lord has conquered death, Hades, and the tomb in His glorious resurrection on the third day. His divine glory has flooded even the darkest abyss, even the most tragic and painful pits of despair into which we can fall. He has liberated us from slavery to the fear of death as the God-Man Who shares His restoration of the human person in the divine image and likeness with weak, fearful, anxious people like you and me. As we reach out to Him with faith from the depths of our hearts, as Peter did when he began to sink, we open our darkened selves to His light, we present our diseased souls for His healing. Instead of being captive to our own self-centered desires and proud illusions, we orient ourselves to the Kingdom of a Lord Who reigns through His Cross and empty tomb. That certainly does not mean that all our problems go away or that we will get all that we want in this life on our own terms. It does mean, however, that even our most difficult and painful struggles present opportunities to embrace Christ as the very foundation of our life, as the only One Who can deliver us from slavery to our own corruption and brokenness.

No worldly regime or culture can do that, and neither can any kind of therapy that does not pursue the purity of heart necessary to see God. (Matt. 5:8) The darkness roots deeply within us all, both personally and collectively, and nothing but the brilliant glory of

the Lord can overcome it. Whether we know it or not, we inevitably sink like stones into the abyss whenever we make anything or anyone else the foundation of our lives. All good things have their place in God's creation and we should despise none of them. But we will not become truly human unless we ground every dimension of our life on the foundation of Christ. As St. Paul writes, "we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." He teaches that we "are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you." The God-Man has joined divinity and humanity in Himself and made it possible for us to become His living temples by the power of the Holy Spirit. That is another way of saying that He has made us members of His own Body, the Church. Our life, our identity, and our hope are all in Him, not in any of the false gods worshiped by nations, races, and factions that think they embody the fulfillment of the human person in this world. They will never save us from being pulled under by the weight of our personal and collective brokenness.

As we continue in the Dormition Fast, let us look to the Theotokos as the great sign of hope for what it means to be transfigured in holiness. She risked everything by saying "yes" to the unbelievable calling to become the Virgin Mother of the Son of God. Unlike Peter, however, she never took her eyes off the Lord and entrusted her life to Him throughout decades of struggles that we cannot even imagine. She became the Living Temple of God in a unique way and the first to follow Her Son into the heavenly reign upon the end of her earthly life. Let us look to her as the most radiant example of what happens when a human person, subject to the temptations that beset us all, refuses to be distracted from entrusting her life to God. She used the great challenges that she faced to commend herself fully to Him. He was and is the foundation of her life, which is why we must become more like her if we are to be transfigured in holiness as the people the Lord created us to become in His image and likeness. He did not breathe life into us so that we could sink like stones under the weight of our sins. No, He wants us to shine with Him in heavenly glory, even as we live and breathe upon the earth. The only question is whether

we will make Him the foundation of our lives and refuse, simply refuse, to be distracted by the wind and the waves from doing so.

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### THE MARTYRESS CHRISTINA

Commemorated on August 6 / July 24

The Martyress Christina lived during the III Century. She was born into a rich family, and her father was governor of Tyre. By the age of 11 the girl was exceptionally beautiful, and many wanted to be married to her. Christina's father, however, envisioned that his daughter should become a pagan-priestess. To this end he situated her in a special dwelling, where he had set up many gold and silver idols, and he commanded his daughter to burn incense before them. Two servants attended to Christina.

In her solitude Christina began to ponder over the thought, – who had created this beautiful world? From her room she was delighted by the stars of the heavens and she constantly came back to the thought about the One Maker of all the world. She was convinced, that the voiceless and soul-less idols standing in her room could not create anything, since they themselves were created by human hands. She began to pray to the One God with tears, beseeching Him to reveal Himself. Her soul blazed with love for the Unknown God, and she intensified her prayer all the more, and combining with it fasting.

One time Christina had the visitation of an Angel, which instructed her in the true faith in Christ, the Saviour of the world. The Angel called her a bride of Christ and announced to her about her future act of suffering. The holy virgin smashed all the idols standing in her room and cast them out the window. In visiting his daughter Christina's father, Urban, asked her where all the idols had disappeared.

Christina was silent. Then, having summoned the servants, Urban learned the truth from them. In a rage the father began to slap his daughter on the face. The holy virgin at first remained quiet, but then she revealed to her father about her faith in the One True God, and that by her own hands she had destroyed the idols. Urban then gave orders to kill all the servants in attendance upon his daughter, and he gave Christina a fierce beating and threw her in prison. Having learned about what had happened, the mother of Saint Christina came in tears, imploring her to renounce Christ and to return to her ancestral beliefs. But Christina remained unyielding. On another day Urban brought his daughter to trial and urged her to offer worship to the gods, to ask forgiveness for her misdeeds, but he saw instead her firm and steadfast confession of faith in Christ.

The torturers tied her to an iron wheel, beneath which they set a fire. The body of the martyress, turning round on the wheel, was scorched from all sides. They then threw her in prison.

An Angel of God appeared at night, healing her from her wounds and strengthening her with food. Her father, in the morning seeing her unharmed, gave orders to drown her in the sea. But an Angel sustained the saint while the stone sank down, and Christina miraculously came out from the water and reappeared before her father. In terror, the torturer imputed this to the doings of sorcery and he decided to execute her in the morning. But by night he himself suddenly died. Another governor, Dion, was sent in his place. He summoned the holy martyress and likewise tried to persuade her to renounce Christ, but seeing her unyielding firmness, he again subjected her to cruel tortures. The holy martyress was for a long while in prison. People began to throng to her, and she converted them to the true faith in Christ. Thus about 300 were converted.

In place of Dion, a new governor Julian arrived and anew set about the torture of the saint. After various tortures, Julian gave orders to throw her into a red-hot furnace and lock her in it. After five days they opened the furnace and found the martyress alive and unharmed. Seeing this miracle take place, many believed in Christ the Saviour, and the torturers executed Saint Christina with a sword.



## AUGUST SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

FEAST OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIAS

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

9:30 am Reader's Service

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Lesser Blessing of Water and Blessing of Honey

### MONDAY, AUGUST 14 #DormitionFast

FEAST OF THE PROCESSION OF THE CROSS (in 1164)

9:30 am Akathist in Honor of the Dormition

Dormition Fast Begins

Home Blessings begin

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 18 #DormitionFast

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 #DormitionFast

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Grapes and First-Fruits (and vegetables)

Confessions offered after Liturgy

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 #DormitionFast

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Youth Sunday

Blessing of Grapes and First-Fruits (and vegetables)

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23 #DormitionFast

9:30 am Paraklis to the Theotokos

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 25 #DormitionFast

9:30 am Moleben to the Theotokos

12-Noon Overdose Awareness Prayer Service at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (325 Oliver Ave, Pgh, PA 15222)

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 #DormitionFast

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Blessing of Students and Teachers

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

### MONDAY, AUGUST 28

FEAST OF THE DORMITION

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

6:30 pm Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup and

Panachida for those departed who have overdosed

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## SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

“Children, as we know, have a pure heart. Then, as they grow and are increasingly exposed to the surrounding world, which lies in wickedness, their heart is increasingly soiled, losing its initial child-like purity. Children gradually cease to be children and become adults.”

Archbishop Averky (Taushev)

*The Struggle for Virtue: Asceticism in a Modern Secular Society* p.87

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## AUGUST COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD) Program**. “The Distinguished Diocesan Donors program strives to provide the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese with the necessary resources to bring a resurgence of life and an abundance of growth to its apostolates and ministries.” For more information, visit [www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/](http://www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/). We ask that you make an additional offering by the end of the month for this outreach effort. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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## STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

### Stewardship of Treasure Guide

Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?												
Weekly Income	Beyond a 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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## FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

### The Commemoration Of The Holy Fathers Of The First Six Ecumenical Councils

*Commemorated on the Sunday closest to July 29/16*

In the Ninth Article of the Nicea-Constantinople Symbol of Faith proclaimed by the holy Fathers of the First and Second Ecumenical Councils, we confess our faith in “One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.” By virtue of the catholic nature of the Church, an Ecumenical Council is the Church’s supreme authority, and possesses the competence to resolve major questions of church life. An Ecumenical Council is comprised of archpastors and pastors of the Church, and representatives of all the local Churches, from every land of the “oikumene” (i.e. from all the whole inhabited world).

The Orthodox Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils:

- ✦ The First Ecumenical Council (Nicea I) was convened in the year 325 against the heresy of Arius, in the city of Nicea in Bithynia under Saint Constantine the Great, Equal of the Apostles.
- ✦ The Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople I) was convened in the year 381 against the heresy of Macedonias, by the emperor Theodosius the Great.
- ✦ The Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus) was convened in the year 431 against the heresy of Nestorius, in the city of Ephesus by the emperor Theodosius the Younger.
- ✦ The Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon) was convened in the year 451, against the Monophysite heresy, in the city of Chalcedon under the emperor Marcian.
- ✦ The Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II) “Concerning the Three Chapters,” was convened in the year 553, under the emperor Justinian the Great.
- ✦ The Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III) met during the years 680-681, to fight the Monothelite heresy, under the emperor Constantine Pogonatos.

The fact that the Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicea II) is not commemorated today testifies to the antiquity of today’s celebration. The Seventh Council, commemorated on the Sunday nearest to October 11,

was convened at Nicea in the year 787 against the Iconoclast heresy, under the emperor Constantine and his mother Irene.

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as “lights upon the earth,” guiding us to the true Faith. “Adorned with the robe of truth,” the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible.

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### The Holy Prophet Elias (Ilias or Elijah)

*Commemorated on August 2 / July 20*

We bless vehicles in honor of the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias who was carried to heaven in a fiery chariot (*see 2 Kings chapter 2 in the Old Testament*).



### Annual Blessing of Chariots –

Fr Dave will bless vehicles at our Parish Picnic today, after the Divine Liturgy on **Tuesday, August 2, OR** another time if those do not work for you.

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### The Procession (Carrying-forth) of the Venerable Wood of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord

*Commemorated on August 14/1*

"By reason of the sicknesses, often everywhere occurring in August, from of old (~1164), customarily it was done at Constantinople to carry out the Venerable Wood of the Cross along the roads and streets for the sanctifying of places and for the driving away of sicknesses. On the eve of the Feast, carrying it out from the imperial treasury, they placed it upon the Holy Table [Altar] of the Great Church (Hagia Sophia – the Wisdom of God). From this feastday up to the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, making litija throughout all the city, they then placed it forth for all the people to venerate." (1897 *Greek Orogion*)



In the Russian Church this feast is combined also with a remembrance of **the Baptism of Rus'**, on

August 1, 988. In the "Account about the making of services in the holy catholic and apostolic great church of the Dormition", compiled in 1627 by order of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' Philaret, there is provided suchlike an explanation of the feast: *"And on the day of the procession of the Venerable Cross there occurs a church-procession for the Lesser Sanctification of Water and for the enlightenment of the people, throughout all the towns and places"*.



Together with the Blessing of Waters, there is made a **Blessing of Honey** (i.e. first-honey for the Saviour: "Saviour of the Water", "Saviour Moisture"). And from this day the newly harvested honey is blessed and tasted. *The origin is that in some climates, such as in Ukraine, the hives are ready to be "robbed" at this time of the year.* **Bring your honey to be blessed on Sunday, August 13**

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### The Transfiguration Of Our Lord God And Saviour Jesus Christ

*Commemorated on August 19/6*



“The Christian practice to bless the fruits in church can be traced back to Apostolic times. There is a Prayer of Thanksgiving for the new fruits in the work of St. Hippolytus, *the Apostolic Tradition*, composed in about 220. St. Hippolytus mentions the following fruits usually blessed: grapes, figs, pomegranates, pears, mulberries, peaches, and almonds. The sixth Ecumenical Council, celebrated in Constantinople (680-681), prescribed that the new “wheat and grapes” were to be blessed in church on the feast of the Holy Transfiguration (canon 28).” **We will bless our grapes and ‘first fruits’ from our gardens** (or purchased from the grocery store) **on Saturday, August 19 (and Sunday, August 20).** Everyone is encouraged to bring in a bowl, basket, or bushel of fruits and/or vegetables!

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### The "Falling-Asleep" ("Dormition", "Uspenie", "Koimesis") Of The Theotokos, Our Most-Holy Lady Mother Of God And Ever-Virgin Mary

*Commemorated on August 28/15*

Holy Tradition tells us that all the Apostles, with the exception of St. Thomas, were transported mystically to Jerusalem in order to be with the Mother of God – the Theotokos – as she reposed, and to be present at her burial. When the Apostle Thomas arrived the next day, the Apostles opened the tomb so that he could kiss her farewell. As the tomb was opened, the body of the Most Pure Virgin was missing, and the cave was filled with flowers and the sweet fragrance of Paradise. This was a sure sign of her great purity and holiness to the faithful.

Therefore as part of our celebration of Dormition on **Monday, August 28 (and Sunday, September 3)** we **bless flowers and fragrant herbs** – and the faithful traditionally keep them in their homes. The herbs, used as natural medicine, are blessed in commemoration of the numerous healings and the extraordinary grace bestowed on the pilgrims at the blessed tomb of the Mother of God. **Everyone is encouraged to bring in a bouquet or basket of flowers and/or herbs from your garden or the store to be blessed!**

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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 prepared or not of the Orthodox Faith may receive a *blessing* from the chalice.

**How to receive** - Please remember the following helpful hints aimed at helping to preserve the solemnity and safety of the Holy Mystery. Anyone wearing lipstick should remove it before receiving. Be sure to offer your baptismal name to the priest before receiving. Please take great care that the red cloth held by the acolytes (servers) is fully under your chin (*you should not hold it*), then use the centuries-old practice of receiving: please fully open your mouth, tilt your head back, receive the Holy Gifts, wait until They are securely in your mouth and so that none of the holy and precious Body and Blood of Christ is accidentally spilled. Thank you for your cooperation, and may God have mercy on us all!

**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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### 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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## 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, Eleanor, 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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### **August Namedays:**

Patricia Watson - St Patricia (8/22)  
Lawrence Martin - Blessed Laurence, fool-for-Christ at Kaluga (8/23)  
*Father's sister, Suzanne Verbanick – Holy Martyress Susanna the Virgin (8/24)*  
Pañi Alexandra Urban - Saint Alexander (8/30 NC)  
*...May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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**August Birthdays:** Sharon Dzadony (8/2), Robert 'Bobby' Paieski (8/03), Steven Anton (8/4), Joseph Mainolfi, Jr. (8/4), Nicholas Dzambo (8/5), John Gaydos Jr. (8/6), Rylie Winkler (8/7), Michael Tongel

(8/11), Nicole Martellotti (8/12), Lindsay Matolyak-Ferraz (8/12), Jim Schrmack (8/12), Jane Gaydos (8/13), Wade Winkler (8/14), Craig Bowser (8/16), Emma Martellotti (8/18), *Fr. Paul Herbert's son-in-law*, Ernest Pido (8/20), Ana Karen Peña-Juarez (8/21), Maria Urban (8/21), Sophia Urban (8/21), Everly Torchia (8/22), Igumen Patrick (8/23), Renee Mirilovich (8/24), Fr. Michael Kabel (8/27), Meredith Blobner (8/28), Adam Zak (8/28), Lucillia Mainolfi (8/29), Claudia (Herbert) Pido (8/29)

*...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 *...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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### **August Anniversaries:**

Steve & Elaine Buhonick (8/6)  
Robert & Gina Fall (8/6/17)  
Ben & Tina Scherer (8/7/82)  
Ana Karen & W. Dylan Mushinsky (8/22/15)  
Sharon & Ryan Dzadony (8/25/12)  
*...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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### **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.