

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Weekly Bulletin*

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

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

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 13

10th Sunday after Pentecost
Forefeast of the Procession of the Precious and Life-giving Cross of the Lord
Righteous Eudokimos of Cappadocia (9th c.)
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

CANCELED: 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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

Tone 2; Liturgical Color: **Blue**

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)

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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/

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***Calendar** - Future Services are updated online at: 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 4:9-16

⁹For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. ¹¹To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, ¹²and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the offscouring of all things.

Fatherly Admonition

¹⁴I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

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Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Jesus Cures a Boy with a Demon

¹⁴And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and kneeling before him said, ¹⁵“Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is demented and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor* +++ 2201 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, Pa 15101
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com +++ 412-748-0148 (*Talk or Text*) +++ OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

BULLETIN IS OFFERED:

In Memory Of

+Marian Mercurio, +Philip, and +Alice Fall
May their memory be eternal!

***** The Blessing of the First Fruits** – On **Saturday** and **Sunday** following the Divine Liturgy, we will bless our ‘first fruits’ from our gardens (*or from the grocery store*). **EVERYONE** is encouraged to bring in a bowl, basket, or bushel of fruits and/or vegetables!

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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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***** 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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**** 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.

¹⁶And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.” ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly.

¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁰He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. ²¹But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting.”

Jesus Again Foretells His Death and

²²As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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***** Thank you!** – Fr Dave and his family thanks you for your prayers during their recent travels!

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***** #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 books 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!



**** 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

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

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**** New School Year Blessing** – We will have additional prayers on **Sunday, August 27th** 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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***** 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!

**** August: A Month of Special Blessings!** – Live the Orthodox Faith and plan ahead for the many special blessings that are offered in August:

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!

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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 am 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 (call 724-352-3999 or email info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org) so that the Monastery can prepare adequate hospitality. Visitors should be modestly dressed; women are asked to wear long skirts and men are asked to wear long pants.

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***** Church School Teachers** are needed. Please contact Fr. Dave or a Parish Council Member if you are interested

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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. RSPV by September 19. If interested, please contact Fr. Dave.

*Future upcoming IOCC events include: * Oktoberfest - October 19 (Rusty Gold Brewing Co – Canonsburg) and * Bourbon Tasting - November 2 (McMurray)*

VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 36
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 64
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 305
Total Collections:	\$ 405

July Financial Report:

General Stewardship = \$ 4578.72

(includes \$ 694.72 from online stewardship)

***Expenses = \$ 7075.79**

Net Deficit = \$ 2497.07

Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 153

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 23

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Report:

(September through last month)

General Stewardship = \$ 64,328

***Expenses = \$ 70,938**

Net Deficit = \$ 6,610

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 29

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Eleanor Sanger; Cindy Pavilonis

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***** Did you get behind?** - If you by chance got behind in your weekly (or monthly) stewardship offerings to the church, please *catch up* as August is the end of our "fiscal" year-end. Through your generosity, let's get back "in the black" and "above water".

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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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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

* August 20: _____

* August 27: _____

September 6: _____

** no meat within the Dormition Fast*

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*** 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/ Checks payable to: Distinguished Diocesan Donors can be mailed to: Diocesan Chancery, 312 Garfield St., Johnstown, PA 15906.

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Kevin, Mary Jane M., 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...

Cecelia Urban (8/12),

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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A Prayer to the Theotokos

(Strive to pray this ten times a day during the Dormition Fast)

Hail Mary, full of grace, O Virgin Birthgiver of God, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to Christ, the Savior and deliverer of our souls.

ONLINE BONUSES

The Rosary

The rosary was originally an Orthodox form of prayer that was later adopted by the Roman Catholics. It has since fallen out of common practice in the Church.

History

The prayer rope was formed by St. Pachomius in the fourth century. From there the rosary developed, some say as early as the eighth century. It is said that even centuries later St. Seraphim of Sarov (1754-1833) used it to pray to the Virgin Theotokos. In the thirteenth century, Roman Catholics started using in the West following its discovery by Dominic de Guzmán, a Spanish priest.

Method

The prayers said on this form of the prayer rope are the Hail Mary (also Hail Mother of God and Virgin), the Lord's Prayer, and the Jesus Prayer. The Hail Mary is said in groups of ten, and in between each group of ten are said the Lord's Prayer and the Jesus Prayer. Between each grouping of Hail Marys, a meditation is also pronounced, which is then thought of throughout the succeeding Hail Marys.

Orthodox Christian use

St. Seraphim of Sarov instructed lay people to use his prayer rule, containing 'Theotokos, Virgin, rejoice..' prayers. One of his spiritual children, Fr. Zosima, wrote out words of the Saint:

"...Say the 'Hail Mary..' one hundred and fifty times... This rule was given by the Mother of God herself in about the eighth century... We Orthodox have forgotten about it, and St. Seraphim has reminded me of this Rule. In my hands I have a hand-written book from the cell of St. Seraphim, containing a description of the many miracles which took place through praying to the Mother of God and especially through saying one hundred and fifty times the Hail Mary... Whomever he spoke to about this miracle-working Rule remained grateful to him..."

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2023 Home Blessings

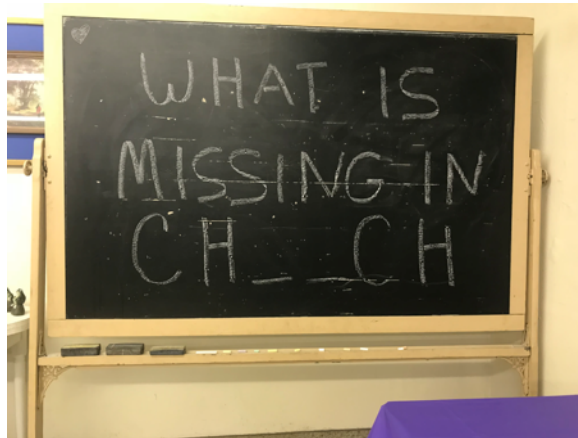
How to prepare for your home blessing?

1. See Fr. Dave, email him (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!

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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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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 4th and 5th positions are vacant)*

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

RIGHTEOUS EUDOKIMOS

Commemorated on July 31

Righteous Eudokimos, a native of Cappadocia (Asia Minor), lived during the IX Century during the reign of emperor Theophilus (829-842). He was the son of the pious Christians Basil and Eudokia, an illustrious family and known to the emperor. The righteous life of Saint Eudokimos was totally guided towards pleasing God and service to neighbour. Having given a vow to remain unmarried and chaste, he avoided conversation with women and did not look at them; only with his own mother whom he extremely respected did he carry on edifying

conversation. For his virtuous life the emperor appointed Saint Eudokimos as governor of the Kharsian district. Fulfilling his duty as a servant of God, Righteous Eudokimos governed the people justly and with kindness, he concerned himself over the misfortunate, and about orphans and widows, and he was a defender of the common people. His personal Christian exploits which he did in secret, were known only to God.

Eudokimos pleased God by his blameless life, and the Lord called him at age 33. Laying on his deathbed, Saint Eudokimos gave final instructions to place him in the grave in those clothes in which he would meet death. Then he sent everyone out of the room and besought the Lord in prayer, that no one would see his end, just as no one saw his secret efforts during life. His attendants buried him as he had instructed them. Right after the death of Righteous Eudokimos miracles happened at his grave, many sick people were healed, and the news about the miracles of healing spread about.

After 18 months the mother of Saint Eudokimos came to venerate the relics, from Constantinople, whither his parents had settled after the death of the saint. She gave orders to remove the stone, dig up the ground, open the grave, and everyone beheld the face of the saint, bright as though alive, altogether untouched by decay. Great fragrance came from him. They took up the coffin with the relics from the earth, and they changed the saint into new clothes. His mother wanted to take the relics of her son to Constantinople, but the Kharsian people would not clear a path for their holy one. But after a certain while the priest-monk Joseph, having lived and served at the grave of the saint, transported all the relics of Saint Eudokimos to Constantinople. There they were placed in a silver reliquary in the church of the Most Holy Mother of God, built by the parents of the saint.

Righteous Eudokimos is considered in the Russian Church to be one of the special protectors and intercessors before God of the family hearth.

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LIVING OUR ORTHODOX FAITH

THE PROCESSION (CARRYING-FORTH) OF THE VENERABLE WOOD OF THE LIFE-CREATING CROSS OF THE LORD

Commemorated on August 1

In the Greek Chasoslov (Orologion) of 1897 is explained thus the derivation of this feast: "By reason of the sicknesses, often everywhere occurring in August, from of old 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 (31 July), carrying it out from the imperial treasury, they placed it upon the holy table of the Great Church (in honour of Saint Sophia – the Wisdom of God). From this feastday up to the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, making litia throughout all the city, they then placed it forth for all the people to venerate. This also is the Issuing-forth of the Venerable Cross".

In the Russian Church this feast is combined also with a remembrance of the Baptism of Rus', on 1 August 988. In the "Account about the making of services in the holy catholic and apostolic great church of the Uspenie-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 sanctification of water and for the enlightenment of the people, throughout all the towns and places".

Knowledge of the day of the actual Baptism of Rus' was preserved in the Chronicles of the XVI Century: "The Baptism of Great-prince Vladimir of Kiev and all Rus' was on August 1".

In the practice now of the Russian Church, the service of the Lesser Sanctification of Water on 1 August is done either before or after Liturgy. 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" [apparently in place of the vinegar and gall offered Him on the Cross?]). And from this day the newly harvested honey is blessed and tasted.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

TITLES OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

PANAGIA ("MOST-HOLY")

The Mother of God is named Most Holy because she is the perfect example of cooperation between God and man's free will: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

MOST-PURE

She was sinless, except for the inherited sin of all humanity, of which she was purified through the conception of the Son of God.

MOST-BLESSED, GLORIOUS LADY

The Church honors the Mother of God, because she made possible the coming of God the Son into the world, which means salvation would have been impossible without her obedience to God's will.

THEOTOKOS ("BIRTH-GIVER OF GOD")

Theotokos is the Greek word meaning "Birth-Giver of God". This name was approved at the 3rd Ecumenical Council in Ephesus (in 431) in order to combat the heresy of Nestorius.

EVER-VIRGIN

The Mother of God is Ever-Virgin, more precisely she remained a virgin before, during, and after giving birth to our Lord Jesus Christ.

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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

CANCELED: 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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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/. 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

As summer is here and many will be taking much deserved time away, please do not forget your parish church. Just like at home, the bills still need to be paid whether you are here or not. If you are going to be away from the parish for a week or more, please either mail your stewardship offering in, "catch up" the next time you come, or use the online button on the parish website. Your continued support of the parish is appreciated!

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Bulletin Sponsor - If you wish to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (nameday, birthday, anniversary, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested. *Remember, sponsoring a bulletin in memory of someone does not replace having a Panachida (Memorial Service) for them.*

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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 (2nd 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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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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FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

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. Hyppolytus, *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, 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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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*), Ashley (*December*), 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.