

## “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 20 #DormitionFast

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Martyr Dometios

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

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 #DormitionFast

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Tone 3; Liturgical Color: **Blue**

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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#### \*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/)

### SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

<sup>2</sup>If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

<sup>3</sup>This is my defense to those who would examine me.

<sup>4</sup>Do we not have the right to our food and drink? <sup>5</sup>Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? <sup>6</sup>Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? <sup>7</sup>Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

<sup>8</sup>Do I say this to human authority? Does not the law say the same? <sup>9</sup>For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned?

<sup>10</sup>Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. <sup>11</sup>If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? <sup>12</sup>If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

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#### Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

#### The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; <sup>25</sup>and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and

### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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[www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com](http://www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com) +++ 412-748-0148 (*Talk or Text*) +++ [OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com](mailto:OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com)

forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; <sup>33</sup>and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

### BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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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 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!

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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)

**SJB Yearly Parish Meeting** will be on **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** following the Divine Liturgy. **New Proposals** for the Meeting need to be submitted to Larry Martin or Ryan Ferko. All proposals are much appreciated! Anyone interested in **being an officer** on the Parish Council, also please see Larry or Ryan. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Official Notice for the meeting.

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\*\*\* **Home Blessings** – Our Annual

Home Blessings began on **Sunday, August 14** after the Lesser Blessing of Water. Fr. Dave is looking forward to visiting *every home* this August, September, or October. **Please 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.

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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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**\*\* 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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**\* 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)

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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](http://HolyTrinityPgh.org/events). Opa!

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

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**COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS**

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

\* August 27: Bryce, Lucy, and Molly Blobner  
September 3: Tim Martin  
September 10 (yearly meeting): \_\_\_\_\_

*\* no meat within the Dormition Fast*

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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](mailto: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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**\*\*\* 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)*

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**2022-23 SJB PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS**

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

**OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 244
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 76
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 77
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 397</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Kathy Schmack; Eleanor Sanger; Fred and Juliana Anton; Lawrence Martin; Cindy Pavilonis

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The **Eternal Lamp** was offered last week by Cindy Pavilonis in memory of her mother, +Anna Louise. May her memory be eternal! *Vičnaya Pamyat!*

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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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**\* 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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**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/acroddioocese](http://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioocese](https://youtube.com/acroddioocese)

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**PRAYER CORNER**

*For the Health of...* Jason, Kevin, Mary Jane M., Thomas, Marianne, Kellie, Carlene, David, Donna, George, Beverly, Kelly, Marie, Brian, Sean, 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.

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**A Prayer for College Students**

Heavenly Father, please be with these students as they go where they do not know. As they seek to grow in knowledge, we ask that they grow in faith. As they start to conquer the world, we hope that they conquer their fears. As they strive to find their place, we pray that they find You. Please go where we cannot, protect when we cannot, give strength that we cannot, and bring them safely home. Amen.



## ONLINE BONUSES

The Three Disciplines  
Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving

Jesus Christ called for a thorough conversion of our heart and mind, and a complete turning away from the old man (our fallen nature). The main act that begins this conversion is metanoia, which means thorough change of mind. This happens when we become aware that we have sinned, and that we are in need of God's forgiveness, and resolve, with His help, to submit to Him.

Sometimes we see a synonymous use of two words, penance and confession. When going to confession, a priest sometimes gives a penance, which is a spiritual discipline that can aid in our journey to God. We are given guidelines that can lead to spiritual growth, and change of heart.

These penances are often in the form disciplines that are meant to help increase the time spent in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These three disciplines help us deepen our relationship with Christ, and aid in the Acquisition of the Holy Spirit.

We may be asked to do akathist hymns, where we seek the aid of saints, or the Holy Virgin, as we struggle to go deeper in our spiritual quest. The priest will give certain prayers as penance because the person needs a jump start to enter into a complete prayer life. When this happens, hinged together as it is with absolution, the medicine becomes a joyful communion with the Most High God.

We might be given extra periods of fasting, that in depriving ourselves of food, we are able to see deeper into our hearts, and, with God's help, be ridden of the dirt and grime that resides within us. Other times we might be asked to perform acts of charity, or increase our almsgiving, as a way of moving beyond ourselves, and focusing on the needs of others.

Disciplines that focus on increased prayer, fasting and almsgiving, along with immersing ourselves in the

Holy Scriptures, help us in our continued quest to live a life in total submission to Christ. These three categories of discipline aid us in the Acquisition of the Holy Spirit, and help us to live our life for Christ.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving, are not ends in themselves, but are exercises which help in spiritual warfare against the demons who would bring us down. These disciplines are aids that help us in our attempt to repent, and to have a thorough change of mind (metanoia). And this repentance does not mean that we must feel sad, but that we strive to put off all pride and selfishness, and replace the ego with love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, kindness, meekness and self control.

With love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon

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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](http://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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## 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!

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### THE MONK DOMETIOS

*Commemorated on August 7*

The Monk Dometios lived during the IV Century, and he was by birth a Persian. In his youthful years he was converted to the faith by a Christian named Uaros. Forsaking Persia, he withdrew to the frontier-city of Niziba (in Mesopotamia), where he accepted Baptism in one of the monasteries and was tonsured into monasticism. But then fleeing the ill-will of the monastery inhabitants, the Monk Dometios moved on to the monastery of Saints Sergios and Bacchus in the city of Theodosiopolis. The monastery was under the

guidance of an archimandrite named Nurbelos – a strict ascetic, about whom it was reported, that over the course of 60 years he did not taste of cooked food, nor did he lay down for sleep, but rather took his rest standing up, supporting himself upon his staff. In this monastery the Monk Dometios was ordained to the dignity of deacon, but when the archimandrite decided to have him made a presbyter, the saint in reckoning himself unworthy hid himself away on a desolate mountain in Syria, in the region of Cyr. Reports about him constantly spread about among the surrounding inhabitants. They began to come to him for healing and for help. Many a pagan was brought to the faith in Christ by Dometios. And one time, in the locality where Saint Dometios asceticised with his disciples, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363) arrived, journeying along on his campaign against the Persians. By order of the emperor, soldiers searched out Saint Dometios praying with his disciples in a cave, and stoned them to death (+ 363).

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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 they 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/](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

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 (2<sup>nd</sup> best is to mail it in to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue it’s ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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Stewardship of Treasure Guide													
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?													
Weekly	Beyond a	Tithe			Upper Range Giving			Middle Range Giving			Lower Range Giving		
Income	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 Orologion)



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, 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*), 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.