

“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 27 #DormitionFast

12th Sunday after Pentecost
Fore-feast Of The Dormition; Prophet Micah
Blessing of Students and Teachers
Noon-12 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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

13th Sunday after Pentecost
After-feast Of The Dormition
Translation of the relics (1953) of St. Nectarios (1920)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

Tone 4; Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

6:30 pm Moleben to St. Nectarios with Anointing

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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)

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The Resurrection of Christ

15 Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, ²by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

The Rich Young Man

¹⁶And behold, one came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” ¹⁷And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸He said to him, “Which?” And Jesus said, “You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰The young man said to him, “All these I have observed; what do I still lack?” ²¹Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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This Bulletin Is Sponsored
In Memory Of The Passing Of
+Helen Kailyar (25-year Anniversary)
May her memory be eternal!

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International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on **August 31** each year that aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses. On this day, we will have an Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup at **6:30pm** on behalf of those who suffer from alcoholism and other addictions. All are encouraged to come and pray. We also encourage those who have friends or family members who struggle with addiction, as well as those who work in the field of recovery, to come and pray with us!

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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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**** SJB Yearly Parish Meeting** will be on **Sunday, September 10** 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 **2nd** Official Notice for the meeting.

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

possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²²When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

²³And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁵When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” ²⁶But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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*** Greek Food Festival** – Holy Trinity will have their festival from **August 31 to September 3** from 11am to 9pm at 985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh. Visit their website for more information: www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

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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:

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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*** 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.**



*** **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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*** **The Pittsburgh Deanery Family Picnic** will be held on **Sunday, September 17** in Schenley Park at the Veterans Pavilion (10345 Overlook Dr., Pittsburgh, PA) from Noon (after church) to Dusk. Plan to come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with our brothers and sisters from our sister Deanery Parishes. Get together with old friends and family! Make new friends! Come enjoy God’s creation in one of the best parks in Pittsburgh! *** Our parish has been asked to supply the drinks for the afternoon

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*** **Godparent Sunday** – Our Annual Godparent Sunday celebration will be on for **Sunday, September 17**. It is a day to honor them and to encourage the growth of this spiritual relationship. We need to keep the Spiritual bonds alive with our God-parents and God-children. Even more important, we need to keep our life united with our Lord, Jesus Christ. This unites us with one another.

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*** **Ukrainian Relief Dinner** – On **Sunday, September 24**, the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) is holding a second prayer service and fundraising dinner to benefit our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. It will be held at St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland. Tickets are \$50. RSVP by September 19. If interested, please contact Fr. Dave for a ticket.

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

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*** **Parish Council Leadership Workshop** will take place on **Saturday, September 30** at St. Nicholas (903 Ann St., Homestead). Please RSVP to Fr. Dave by September 24 if you will be able to attend this great opportunity (which is not limited to our current Parish Council members!)

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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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*** **Basket Raffle** – We will once again have a basket raffle at our **Annual Parish Picnic** (to be held on **October 8** at the Cabin at North Park). If you have a basket idea in mind, please sign up on the sheet in the hall or contact Mary Jane Hudak.

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LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD IN 2023

- Sep/Oct - Home Blessings Continue
- Sep 17 - God-Parents/God-Children Sunday
- Sep 17 - Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic
- Oct 6 - Feast of the Conception of St. John
- Oct 8 - Parish Picnic at The Cabin in North Park
- Oct 14 - Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos
- Oct 23 - Founding of St John’s Parish in 1932
- Oct 26 - Carpatho-Rusyn Day in North America
- Nov 8 - Feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius
- Nov 21 - Feast of the Holy Archangels
- Nov 23 - Moleben of Thanksgiving
- Nov 28 - Nativity Fast begins
- Dec 4 - Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos
- Dec 10 - Seminary Benefit Dinner
- Dec 19 - Feast of St. Nicholas

Please, Save the Dates!

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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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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 7
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 44
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 770
Total Collections:	\$ 821
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 60

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; 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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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

September 3: Tim Martin
 September 10 (yearly meeting): _____
 September 17: _____

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

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

When we purchased the property on Duncan Ave. in March, we knew certain jobs needed to be taken care of right away.

Here is a brief update on a few things:

- ✘ Multiple trees had been taken down in May (donated by a parishioner)
- ✘ The roof was replaced the week of August 14 (donated by an anonymous donor)
- ✘ Work on the AC units will begin Monday, August 28 (donated by an anonymous donor)
- ✘ Work in the Sanctuary will begin Tuesday, August 29 (cost is To Be Determined)
- ✘ The Soffit & Facia will be completed by the end of September (donated by an anonymous donor)
- ✘ A new boiler will be installed in September (donated by an anonymous donor)
- ✘ A design for a sign to be placed near the street is being designed and will be proposed to Hampton Township soon (cost is TBD)
- ✘ The non-profit *Tree Pittsburgh* will be working with us to add trees to the property (for free)
- ✘ Estimates are being received for new windows in the nave, vestibule, & basement (cost is TBD)
- ✘ An 11-foot Outdoor Wall Cross has been donated by our sister parish in Hermitage
- ✘ Installing the Kitchen Stove is being explored
Through your generosity and dedication, all of this will come together – one thing at a time!
Glory to God for All Things!

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

Spiritual Vitamin:

“She who is higher than the heavens and more glorious than the Cherubim, she who is held in greater honor than all creation, she who by reason of her surpassing purity became the receiver of the everlasting essence, today commends her most pure soul into the hands of her Son. With her all things are filled with joy and she bestows great mercy on us.”

- *Stichera for the Litiya of Dormition Vespers*

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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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LIVING OUR ORTHODOX FAITH

Sermon on the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos by Saint John of Kronstadt

“Magnify O my soul, the honorable Translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven.”
(Refrain for the 9th Ode of the Canon)

Let us be happy, beloved brothers and sisters that we belong to the Holy Orthodox Church, worthily and rightly glorifying the Most Holy Sovereign Theotokos on this eminent day out of all the days of the year with special solemnity. There exists on earth many societies and entire governments that do not consider the need nor the obligation to call upon and glorify

the Queen of heaven and earth, the Mother of Our Divine Lord Jesus Christ, and other saints and angels; to submissively serve Her lovingly, as the true Mother of God. Sadly in Russia nowadays we have heretics (among us) who actively dishonor the Mother of God, the saints, their icons, their relics and their festivals. O, if only they also unanimously with us glorified the worthy Queen of heaven and earth!

Today the Holy Church solemnly glorifies the honorable Dormition or translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven. A wonderful translation - she died without serious illness, peacefully. Her soul is taken up in the divine hands of Her Son and carried up into the heavenly abode, accompanied by the sweet singing of angels. And then, her most pure body is transferred by the apostles to Gethsemane where it is honorably buried, and on the third day it is resurrected and taken up to heaven. You see this on the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos. On it is represented the life-bearing body of the Theotokos laying on a bier, surrounded by the apostles and hierarchs, and in the center of the icon the Lord holding in His hands the most pure soul of the Theotokos. The translation of the Mother of God is a paradigm of the translation in general of the souls of Christians to the other world.

We say that our dead have “fallen asleep” or “passed away.” What does this mean? This means that for the true Christian there is no death. Death was conquered by Christ on the cross. But there is a translation, i.e., a rearrangement of his condition, i.e. his soul is in another place, in another age, in another world beyond the grave, eternal, without end, that is what is meant by “falling asleep”. It is as if it were a temporary dream after which, by the voice of the Lord and the fearful yet wonderful trumpet of the Archangel, all the dead shall live and come forth each to his place: either to the resurrection of life or to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:29). This is what the Christian means by translation. We should be ready for this translation, for the day of the general resurrection and judgment, for this indescribable world event, recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

This preparation for the meeting of the heavenly King before the dread judgment seat, after death, is essentially the person’s preparation throughout the

whole of his life. This preparation means a change in all his thoughts, and the moral change of all his being, so that the whole man would be pure and white as snow, washing clean everything that defiles the body and spirit, so that he is adorned with every virtue: repentance, meekness, humility, gentleness, simplicity, chastity, mercifulness, abstention, spiritual contemplation, and burning love for God and neighbor.

Our preparation for meeting the heavenly King, and for the inheritance of eternal life in heaven, should consist of these things. The heavenly King desires souls adorned with immutable virtue, souls prepared so that the Very Lord Himself could abide in them. Do not marvel that the Very Lord wants to live in us. In fact the human soul is more spacious than the heavens and the earth, for it exists in the image of God. And if one removes sins from the soul, the Lord of all will settle in it and will fill it with Himself. “We will come to him and make our dwelling with him” (John 14:23), says the Lord about the souls who love Him.

And so, ye participants in the Christian feasts, and especially the present feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, ye who are brightly adorned with every virtue and translated to the heavenly kingdom, to Her Son and God, proclaim to each and every one about preparing their souls to be the dwelling place of the Lord, about continual repentance, and about the incorruptible adornment of Christian virtue. Let your death also be unashamed and peaceful, serving as the pledge of a good answer at the dread judgment seat of Christ. Amen.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE PROPHET MICAH

Commemorated on August 27/14

The Prophet Micah, the 6th of the Twelve Minor Prophets, was descended from the Tribe of Judah and was a native of the city of Morastha, to the south of Jerusalem, wherefore he was called a Morasthite. His prophetic service began around the year 778 before the Birth of Christ and continued for almost 50 years under the kings of Judah – Joatham, Akhaz, and Righteous Hezekiah (721-691 B.C., Comm. 28 August)

He was a contemporary of the Prophet Isaiah. His denunciations and predictions were in regard to the separate kingdoms both of Judah and of Israel. He foresaw the misfortunes, threatening the kingdom of Israel before its destruction, and to Judah, during the incursions under the Assyrian emperor Sennacherib. To him belongs a prophecy about the birth of the Saviour of the world: "And thou, Bethlehem, house of Euphratha, though small wilt be in the thousands of Judah, from thee to Me wilt come an eldest, that will be King in Israel, Whose coming forth is from the beginning of days forever" (Mic. 5: 2). From the words of the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 26: 18-19), the Jews evidently were afraid to kill the Prophet Micah. His relics were discovered in the IV Century after the Birth of Christ at Baraphsatia, through a revelation to the bishop of Eleutheropolis, Zeuinos.

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Sophia, Maria, 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 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

In the Land of the Living

By Metropolitan Sotirios of Pisidia

In the Synaxarion for the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, there is a particularly moving account written there. At the age of about 50, The Holy Virgin received a divine message that in three days, she would depart for Heaven. She then invited her relatives and neighbors to her home in order to reveal this message and to say goodbye. It was a surprise to them, and naturally, there were many tears. The Virgin Mary comforted them, saying that she would intercede for not only them, but for the whole world. This is evident in the countless blessings that the intervention of Our Lady has brought for all those suffering and asking her help.

After God, it is truly the Blessed Mother who can console better than anyone else those who are in pain and sorrow. This is especially true for those who are mourning the departure of their loved ones. Our Lady, who suffered as much as any mother watching her Son suffer on the Cross, truly understands the grief of every mother who has been deprived of her child – many times prematurely – and all those who have been deprived of parents, spouses, relatives and friends. We can discern the special grace that God granted the Virgin Mary in order to endure the suffering at the Cross, in that she knew that her Son was the Son of God, and that whatever they did to Him, He would emerge victorious over death.

So, we have an assurance that our loved ones are not lost. Their souls are eternal, and after the separation from the body, the soul continues to live and feel as before, with full awareness of its own existence (with all memories intact). Due to Holy Baptism, the soul is sanctified and united with Christ and His Holy Church. As long as they live on earth, they belong to the “Church Militant.” However, after leaving the body here on earth, it moves to the heavenly “Church Triumphant.” Here in the world we struggle, and suffer injury, disease and innumerable sorrows. In the triumphant Church in Heaven, those who have lived by faith and repentance enjoy the fruit of their victory, having successfully completed their earthly struggle. In short: “If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we

die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.” (Romans 14:8).

Some people overcome by grief may claim that the soul of their loved one has “left them behind,” and they are unable to see them anymore. This is answered by considering this: All baptized Christians are united with Christ, and through Christ united with each other. There is no real division or “separation” between the “Church Militant” and the “Church Triumphant.” This is clearly seen in our communion with the Saints, who are part of the triumphant Church. In our various needs we ask for their help and intercession before God, grateful for “the miracle of the Saint.” If the Saints cannot hear us, then why does the Church teach the importance of their intercession, and more than that, the intercession of the Mother of God? Just as the souls of the Saints hear our words when we address them, so too do our loved ones, by the grace of God, rejoice when we pray for them.

In particular, we are united with our loved ones in Heaven during the Divine Liturgy. In the Holy Office of Oblation, the Priest, when presenting the offering, takes out portions for the Virgin Mary and the Saints, as well as the faithful (living or dead) whose names were given to him earlier. In this way, the whole One Church of Christ with the entire faithful are present, those on earth and those in Heaven. In the consecration of the Divine Communion, the Priest unites in the Holy Chalice the Holy Body of Christ, the portions of the Virgin Mary and the Saints, as well as the portions of the faithful, both on earth as well as those in Heaven.

So, it is as our Church teaches us, that through our Lord Jesus Christ, we are in communion with our loved ones who are in Heaven, and we rejoice with them together. Let us not forget that prayer is not one way, and that just as we pray for our loved ones in Heaven, they also pray for us. It is through these prayers to God that we maintain the bonds between us. My dear brothers and sisters, dealing with this separation from those we love is very painful. Due to lack of time, let us close with just a few teachings from the Church Fathers on this subject:

- No one is exempt from the separation of the soul from the body. Let us be prepared.
- When our loved ones depart, it is natural to suffer, but it is not beneficial to feel excessive sorrow like non-Christians, who have no hope (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13).
- God calls every person to be close to Him for their own good, so that during their life everything happens for the best interest of the soul. We cannot fully understand this.
- The separation of the soul from the body is not the end, but the beginning of genuine life.
- One day we will all meet in heaven, and finally after our souls have been united with incorruptible bodies, we will all live together, eternally, in the joy of the kingdom of God.

Amen.

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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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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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SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

After-feast Of The Dormition
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

6:30 pm Moleben to St. Nectarios with Anointing

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Parish Yearly Meeting following Liturgy

NOON OR 6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - A day of strict-fasting

FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
Panachida for those who lost their lives from terrorist attacks

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

ECCLESIASTICAL (LITURGICAL) NEW YEAR
9:30 am Moleben for the New Year

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Youth Sunday
God-Parent Sunday

Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic in Schenley Park

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 - A day of strict-fasting

FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

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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 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 Income	Beyond a Tithe	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 **bleed 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, Amee, 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 Dzacodny (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. Dzacodny...*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 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 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.