

“THE VOICE” Our Parish Monthly Newsletter

John the Baptist said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ (Jn 1:23)

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 and 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, SEPTEMBER 10

14th Sunday after Pentecost
Venerable Moses the Black of Scete (400)
SJB Yearly Meeting following the Divine Liturgy
NOON 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
(previously scheduled service canceled)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

15th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Prophet and God-seer Moses (1531 B.C.)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Cor. 4:6-15; Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46
Tone 6; Liturgical Color: **Gold**



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
Blessing of New Roof, AC, and Boiler

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

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

²¹ But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; ²² he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. ²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. **2** ¹ For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. ² For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? ³ And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. ⁴ For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

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Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, ³ and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷ The king was



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*

Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*

Subdeacon Ryan Ferko, Kris Carlisle, Reader, Timothy Martin, Reader

Stephen Brancho, Subdeacon Ryan Ferko, & John Radick, *Cantors*

Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*

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angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰ And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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* **Godparent Sunday** – Our Annual celebration will be NEXT week on **Sunday, September 17**. If you have not yet done so, please invite your Godparents and your Godchildren to church next week. It is a day to honor them and to encourage the growth of this spiritual relationship.

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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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* **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. (Reminder that the bridge from St. George Orthodox Church into the park is closed...) 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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** **LAST CALL For August Coat Drive** - Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? This is the last call for clean coats and jackets to donate to the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) Please place your clean coat(s) on the coat rack in the hall during the month of August.

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** **Ride Share** – Would you be able to help give a ride to someone who lives in Oakland when they want to come to church? If so, please contact Fr. Dave.

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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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* **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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**** 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 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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***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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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!

***** 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

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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**** Moving Help** – Could anyone with a truck or van help move a sectional and chair from South Park to Bradford Woods? If so, please contact Fr. Dave.

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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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*** Church School Teacher** – See previous page.

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*** Ride Share** – See previous page

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

September 17: _____

September 24: _____

October 1: _____

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 260
Candle Stewardship: \$ 102
Envelope Stewardship: \$ 577
Community Outreach: \$ 5

Total Collections: \$ 994

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 310

August Financial Report:

General Stewardship = \$ 3283.67

(includes \$ 762.67 from online stewardship)

***Expenses = \$ 6302.73**

Net Deficit = \$ 3019.06

Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 70

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 22

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Report:

(September through last month)

General Stewardship = \$ 67,612

***Expenses = \$ 77,241**

Net Deficit = \$ 9,629

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 28

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Carol and Tom Lorenzi; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Eleanor Sanger; Fred and Juliana Anton; Cindy Pavilonis

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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 Tithel 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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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*)
 - ✘ AC units were replaced from August 28 to September 11 (*anonymous donor*)
 - ✘ Work in the Sanctuary began August 29 (*cost is To Be Determined*)
 - ✘ The Soffit & Facia will be completed by the end of September (*anonymous donor*)
 - ✘ A new boiler will be installed week of September 11 (*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, PA
 - ✘ Installing the Kitchen Stove is being explored
 - ✘ A chandelier for the nave has been donated by our sister parish in Potomac, MD
- 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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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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*** **Medicine Bottles** – Thank you to everyone who previously brought in used medicine bottles that we donated to an organization in Ohio who reused them. For multiple reasons, one of which being the cost of shipping them to Ohio, **We Will No Longer Be Collecting Medicine Bottles.**

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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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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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MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In the month of September, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Seminarians** and **Christ the Saviour Seminary.** (*The St. Nicholas Charity Dinner, a fundraiser for the seminary, is scheduled for **December 10.***) Please continue to pray for our Diocesan Seminarians: Nicholas Laliberte, Subdeacon Samuel Loposky, Subdeacon Seamus Murray, Timothy Poproski, Reader, and Deacon Peter Sodini. Thank you in advance for your prayers for our seminarians and offerings for the seminary!

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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 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 and Panachida for those who lost their lives from terrorist attacks

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
God-Parent Sunday and Youth 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; Blessing of New Roof & HVAC

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



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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***Calendar** - Future Services are updated online at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

(Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MONK MOSES MURIN THE BLACK

Commemorated on September 10 / August 28

The Monk Moses Murin the Black lived during the IV Century in Egypt. He was an Ethiopian, and he was black of skin and therefore called "Murin" (meaning "like an Ethiopian"). In his youth he was the slave of an important man, but after he committed a murder, his master banished him, and he joined in with a band of robbers. Because of his mean streak and great physical strength they chose him as their leader. Moses with his band of brigands did many an evil deed – both murders and robberies, so much so that people were afraid even at the mere mention of his name. Moses the brigand spent several years leading suchlike a sinful life, but through the great mercy of God he repented, leaving his band of robbers and going off to one of the wilderness monasteries. And here for a long time he wept, beseeching that they admit him amidst the number of the brethren. The monks were not convinced of the sincerity of his repentance; but the former robber was not to be driven away nor silenced, in demanding that they should accept him. In the monastery the Monk Moses was completely obedient to the hegumen and the brethren, and he poured forth many a tear, bewailing his sinful life. After a certain while the Monk Moses withdrew to a solitary cell, where he spent the time in prayer and the strictest of fasting in a very austere lifestyle. One time 4 of the robbers of his former band descended upon the cell of the Monk Moses and he, not having lost his great physical strength, he tied them all up and taking them over his shoulder, he brought them to the monastery, where he asked of the elders what to do with them. The elders ordered that they be set free. The robbers, learning that

they had chanced upon their former ringleader, and that he had dealt kindly with them, – they themselves followed his example: they repented and became monks. And later, when the rest of the band of robbers heard about the repentance of the Monk Moses, then they too gave up their brigandage and became fervent monks.

The Monk Moses did not quickly become free from the passions. He went often to the monastery hegumen, Abba Isidor, seeking advice on how to be delivered from the passions of profligacy. Being experienced in the spiritual struggle, the elder taught him never to overeat of food, to be partly hungry whilst observing the strictest moderation. But the passions would not cease for the Monk Moses in his dreams. Then Abba Isidor taught him the all-night vigil. The monk stood the whole night at prayer, not being on bended knees so as not to drop off to sleep. From his prolonged struggles the Monk Moses fell into despondency, and when there arose thoughts about leaving his solitary cell, Abba Isidor instead strengthened the resolve of his student. In a vision he showed him many a demon in the west, prepared for battle, and in the East a still greater quantity of holy Angels, likewise readied for fighting. Abba Isidor explained to the Monk Moses, that the power of the Angels would prevail over the power of the demons, and in the long struggle with the passions it was necessary for him to become completely cleansed of his former sins.

The Monk Moses undertook a new effort. Making the rounds by night of the wilderness cells, he carried water from the well to each brother. He did this especially for the elders, who lived far off from the well and who were not easily able to carry their own water. One time, kneeling over the well, the Monk Moses felt a powerful blow upon his back and he fell down at the well like one dead, laying there in that position until dawn. Thus did the devils take revenge upon the monk for his victory over them. In the morning the brethren carried him to his cell, and he lay there a whole year crippled up. Having recovered, the monk with firm resolve confessed to the hegumen, that he would continue to asceticise. But the Lord Himself put limits to this struggle of many years: Abba Isidor blessed his student and said to him, that the profligate passions had already gone from him. The elder commanded him to commune the Holy Mysteries and in peace to go to

his own cell. And from that time the Monk Moses received from the Lord the power over demons.

Accounts about his exploits spread amongst the monks and even beyond the bounds of the wilderness. The governor of the land wanted to see the saint. Having learned about this, the Monk Moses decided to hide away from any visitors and he departed his own cell. Along the way he met up with servants of the governor, who asked him, how to get to the cell of the wilderness-dweller Moses. The monk answered them: "Go on no further to this false and unworthy monk". The servants returned to the monastery, where the governor was waiting, and they conveyed to him the words of the elder they had chanced upon. The brethren, hearing a description of the elder's appearance, all as one acknowledged that they had come upon the Monk Moses himself.

Having spent many a year at monastic exploits, the Monk Moses was ordained deacon. The bishop attired him in white vesture and said: "Abba Moses is now entirely white". The saint answered: "Vladyka, what makes it purely white – the outer or the inner?" Through humility the saint reckoned himself unworthy to accept the dignity of deacon. One time the bishop decided to test him and he bid the clergy to drive him out of the altar, whilst reviling him for being an unworthy black-Ethiopian. With full humility the monk accepted the abuse. Having put him to the test, the bishop then ordained the monk to be presbyter. And in this dignity the Monk Moses asceticised for 15 years and gathered round himself 75 disciples.

When the monk reached age 75, he forewarned his monks, that soon brigands would descend upon the skete and murder all that were there. The saint blessed his monks to leave in good time, so as to avoid the violent death, His disciples began to beseech the monk to leave together with them, but he replied: "I many a year already have awaited the time, when upon me there should be fulfilled the words which my Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, did speak: "All, who take up the sword, shalt perish by the sword" (Mt. 26: 52). After this seven of the brethren remained with the monk, and one of these hid not far off during the coming of the robbers, The robbers killed the Monk Moses and the six monks that remained with him. Their death occurred in about the year 400.

FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

The Beheading Of The Prophet, Forerunner Of The Lord, John The Baptist

Commemorated on September 11 / August 29

Amvon Prayer for the Feast: O Christ our God, You lowered the heavens when You came down to earth to reveal to us Your humility and compassion. You have given us Your Forerunner and Baptist as a model of salvation, for he was a preacher of truth, an example of repentance, and a desert dweller. You made him worthy to fight the good fight, to finish the race and to win the crown of righteousness and truth. To those in Hades he announced beforehand the good news of redemption and salvation. Grant that we may scorn earthly pleasures in imitation of his renowned life and joyful way of penance. Deliver us from the rulers of this world of darkness. Protect us under the wings of Your goodness. Bless us, Giver of blessings, and made us worthy of the kingdom of heaven. For through You and with You all honor and glory are due to the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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Ecclesiastical (or Liturgical) New Year: The Beginning Of The Church's Year

on September 14/1

On this day, when the Jews celebrated the new summer, the Savior, came to Nazareth where He was brought up and entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day as was His custom, and read these words of the Prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed Me ... to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4, 18:19). On the first of September 312 the Emperor Constantine the Great won a victory over Maxentius. After this Christians were granted complete freedom to confess their faith. In commemoration of these two events the fathers of the First Ecumenical Council decided to begin the New Year on the first of September (See January 1, March 1 and the Paschalia). In its hymns for this day the Holy Church prays "Creator and Fashioner of all things visible and invisible" "bless the crown of the year", "grant fruitful seasons and rains from heaven for those on earth", "bless our comings and goings, direct the works of our hands

and grant us forgiveness of offences", "grant peace to Thy churches", "overthrow heresies", "protect our cities unbesieged, make glad our faithful Sovereigns by Thy power, giving them victories against enemies".

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The Nativity Of The Theotokos, Our Most Holy Lady Mother Of God And Ever Virgin Mary

Commemorated on September 21/8

Amvon Prayer for the Feast: Lord Christ our God, You are without beginning and surpass all essence. You see and rule all. You are a God Who work wonders and make the unexpected come to pass. Alone You accomplish great deeds. Lord, Who hear our petitions, You are the Savior of those in despair and confusion. You reward good desires arising from prayer. For Your servants Joachim and Anna, who lived blamelessly together, You changed the sorrow of barrenness to the joy of children. You gave them a beautiful offspring, a shoot growing from the root of Jesse mystically foretold by lips inspired by God. From this shoot You planned that the flower guiding the world aright would be born according to the flesh. Now You, a fountain of all goodness and enlightenment and giver of riches, have sprung up. Born of a Virgin, You filled the community with grace and showed forth the birth of salvation. As we partake of Your divine Mysteries and deifying Liturgy, deliver us from a sterile barrenness in good works and deem us worthy to make virtue our offering to You always, that we may have a right to a place in the land of the just in Your kingdom. Free us from bitter and continual warfare, relieve all oppression and lift the yoke of slavery from all men, that all may be wholly free from tyranny and judgment. Bless Your people and protect Your inheritance, save us from all temptations of the enemy, and from afflictions. Increase the glory of people under the law of Christ and exalt them. Give them earthly and heavenly good things, and an abundance of crops. For You provide and, indeed, create all that is good. Through the prayers of Your all-pure Mother and our Lady, with whom we return worship and adoration to You, together with Your eternal Father, and Your life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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The Elevation Of The Venerable And Life-Creating Cross Of The Lord

Commemorated on September 27/14

Amvon Prayer for the Feast: Lord, You dwell in the heights and it is You Who exalt all, for by Your own will You endured being lifted up upon the Cross, so that by Your pure outstretched hands You might draw all to Yourself. You entirely humbled Yourself, going down as far as Hades, so that You might be lifted up and lift up our souls beyond the falsehood of pride and the vanity of conceit. By theology You are lifted up before the nations of the world, as You are glorified by the lifting up of hands on high in sacrifices of praise to the Father. You were denounced by being raised upon the Cross, and by being taken down You destroyed the power of hell, triumphed over death and ransomed Your people from the original fall. We celebrate today Your divine victory and bow before the manifestation of Your sign of victory. Do not ignore our prayers, for we ask You, and have asked You, in Your compassion and mercy, to be a strong help for us against the rational powers threatening to corrupt our souls. Be kind to us as You were to the Israelites of old, who were healed from the bite of serpents by looking up at a bronze serpent raised by the hand of Moses. Humble those who raise up against us in sin, and lift us up in valor against him who would throw obstacles on our path. Lord, quiet the uprisings of barbarous people, crush weapons of hatred and the arrogance of tyrants on behalf of those whose only boast is the Cross. For the hands of Moses lifted up were a type of the Cross and when his hands were lifted up the Israelites turned back the onslaughts of Amalek. Throw down all those who lift their hands against Your Church, destroy all instigations raised against Your wisdom, bar up all mouths opened in blasphemy, but enlighten all those darkened by ignorance, and open our minds to Your thoughts, that strengthened by meditation on Your heavenly and blessed good gifts, we may come to that true exaltation of those of Your flock who enjoy Your pasture and live in the happiness of Your kingdom. For it is You Who raise up and bring low, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 2:30pm 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

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & 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 Health of... Matthew, Allison, 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 Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. David S., Fr. Myron, Dcn. Dean, Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, 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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September Namedays:

Pañi’s grandmother Maria Alexa – Nativity of Mary (NC 9/9)
Cora Dzacony - Martyr Coralia (9/14)
Penelope Maruscak - Martyr Penelope (9/14)
Maria Urban - Nativity of Mary (9/21)
Sharon Peifer - Righteous Anna (9/22)
Sophia Urban - Martyr Sophia (9/30)
...May God grant them many and blessed years!

September Birthdays:

Samuel Mainolfi (9/1), Dexter Torchia (9/1), Timothy Martin, Reader (9/2), Ruth Herbert (9/2), Ashley Wertz Andrekovich (9/2), Fr. Bob Teklinski (9/3), Danielle Yakemawiz (9/5), Pañi Deborah Zak (9/7), Tina Scherer (9/11), Pañi Andrea Cochran (9/14), Pañi Daria Lopusky (9/16), Cindy Morrison (9/17), Fr. Vincent Dranginis (9/19), Fr. Kenneth Ellis (9/19), Fr. Dave Urban (9/19), Fr. Matthew Moriak (9/20), Fr. David Smoley (9/20), Mark Martellotti (9/22), *Father’s brother-in-law*, Brian Verbanick, Sr (9/22), Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak (9/24), Fr. R. Michael Zak (9/24), AJ (Matolyak) Ferraz (9/26), Cora Dzacony (9/28), Andrew Mirilovich (9/28), Shane Yakemawiz (9/28), Juliana Anton (9/29), Wendy Martellotti (9/29), Fr Dcn Art Steinstra (9/30) *...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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September Anniversaries:

Melanie & Michael Shuster (9/5/82), Marianne & Steven Kubis (9/6/14), *Father’s sister*, Suzanne & Brian Verbanick (9/8/01), Barbara & Richard Gedid (9/17/83), Thomas & Carol Lorenzi (9/19/70), Ken & Paula Watson (9/24), Charles & Allison Kretchek (9/26/15), John & Barbara Kirish (9/28/96)
...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas

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For Pregnant Mothers... Ashley (*due in December*), Lauren (*December*)...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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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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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 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.

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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.

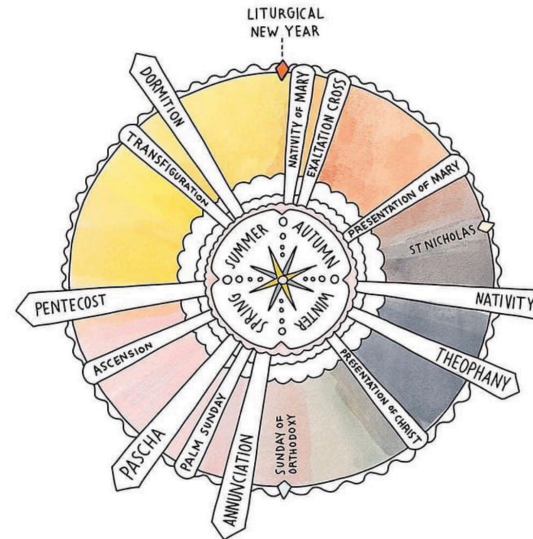
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A prayer for our Neighborhoods

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.

ONLINE BONUSES



2023-24 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, John Kirish, Mary Jane Hudak, Kathy Schrmack (*5th position open*)

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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

