

## “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, SEPTEMBER 24

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross  
Canonization (1978) of St. Xenia (18<sup>th</sup> C.)

#### 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

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross  
Venerable Eumenes (7<sup>th</sup> C.)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Tone 8; Liturgical Color: **Red**

Blessing of the Parish Council

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**\*Live-Broadcast** – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online:

[www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/)

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

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

[www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar)

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

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### SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### *Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10*

6 Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, “At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation.” Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in any one’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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#### *Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30*

#### **The Parable of the Talents**

<sup>14</sup>“For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents,<sup>[a]</sup> to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have

### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor* +++ 2201 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, Pa 15101

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

made five talents more.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’

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#### *Sunday before the Cross Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18* **Final Admonitions and Benediction**

<sup>11</sup>See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. <sup>12</sup>It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup>For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. <sup>14</sup>But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup>For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. <sup>16</sup>Peace and

mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God.

<sup>17</sup>Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

<sup>18</sup>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

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#### *Sunday before the Cross Gospel: John 3:13-17*

<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.” <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

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### BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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**\*\*\* Strict Fast 9/27** – Why do we Strict Fast (no meat or dairy) on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross? For one, we fast as we reflect on why God allowed His only Son to die on the Cross for our sins. *Fasting is a discipline that strengthens our faith!*

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**\*\*\* Parish Picnic and Basket Raffle** – Our Annual Parish Picnic will be on **Sunday, October 8** at the Cabin at North Park after the Divine Liturgy. PLEASE sign up on the food sheet in the multi purpose room so we know what people will be bringing. We will once again have a basket raffle at the picnic. PRESALE TICKETS FOR THE RAFFLE WILL BEGIN OCTOBER 1. Also, please see Mary Jane Hudak if you are interested in helping with activities at the picnic.

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\*\*\* ACRY NEWS \*\*\*

**ACRY Open-House** - On Sunday, October 1, we will have an ACRY Open-House during and after the coffee social. Questions like what is the ACRY or why should I be in the ACRY will be answered. All are welcome to be apart of this!

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**Why Should I Join the Local ACRY?**

*Here's a preview:*

The ACRY is an Orthodox Christian family fellowship dedicated to the purpose of encouraging spiritual growth through charitable and apostolic missionary works, prayer and fellowship for the Glory of God and the building up of the Church and our Diocese. The local ACRY focuses on outreach to the community in various forms and fellowship within. This could be a fundraiser or family event at the church grounds to introduce people to our parish, or the volunteering of our time to help support a community event. In addition to these, the ACRY has the opportunity to branch out and meet other members of our diocesan ACRY community through deanery and nation events and partake in outreach at a broader level.

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**ACRY Meeting** – On Sunday, October 15, the first ACRY meeting for the Church Year will occur after the Blessing of the roof, boiler, and AC. Nominations for local officers is one item on the agenda.

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**Lots-O-Luck Calendars** – The National ACRY Lots-O-Luck Calendars are available. \$25 per ticket gets you a years worth of prizes totaling \$10,000! Please see Subdeacon Ryan Ferko for tickets.

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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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**A Few Yearly Meeting Highlights:**

- **home blessings** – reminder to schedule
- **church school** – a survey will be sent to parents to consider schedule and an availability sheet
- **church school classes** – we will have three classes this year (pre-first confession class, confession class, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up). **Teachers** are still needed
- **adult study class** – a request was made for *Orthodoxy 101* to restart
- **Sr ACRY** – Subdeacon Ryan Ferko will lead a restart of our Sr ACRY
- **Jr ACRY** – a junior chapter will also be started
- **community events** – ideas of ways to reach out to the surrounding communities were discussed including a possible Craft Show, Soup Sale, Family Game Night, Cookie Walk, or a Raffle.
- **parish event** – maybe having a Bowling Outing

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**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 (*5<sup>th</sup> position open*)

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

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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.**

**Pointers** for preparing for your home blessing can be found in the online bulletin or the monthly newsletter.

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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 [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/centennial](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/centennial), with more information to come over the summer.

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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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\*\* **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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\*\*\* **Young Adult Fall Retreat** at Camp Nazareth, a joint effort of ACROD, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church USA, will be held **October 27-29**. All those 18-35 are welcome to participate. Go to [TINYURL.COM/YAFALL2023](http://TINYURL.COM/YAFALL2023) to register. The topic of the retreat will be *Iconography: Awed By The Beauty*

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**COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS**

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

October 1: Bob and Gina Fall  
October 8: *Parish Picnic Pot-Luck at North Park*  
October 15: \_\_\_\_\_

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**OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Stewardship Offerings:    | \$ 300         |
| Candle Stewardship:       | \$ 54          |
| Envelope Stewardship:     | \$ 1520        |
| <b>Total Collections:</b> | <b>\$ 1874</b> |

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Carol and Tom Lorenzi; Tim Martin; Eleanor Sanger; Rich and Renee Mirilovich; Cindy Pavilonis

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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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**PRAYER CORNER**

**For the Health of...** Patricia, Carol, 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 souls of the newly departed...**  
*...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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## ONLINE BONUSES

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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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**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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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### CANONIZATION (1978) OF ST. XENIA OF ST. PETERSBURG (18TH C.).

Commemorated on September 24/11

She was born about 1730, and as a young woman married an army colonel named Andrei, a handsome and dashing man fond of worldly living. When she was twenty-six years old, her husband died suddenly after drinking with his friends, leaving Xenia a childless widow. Soon afterward, she gave away all her possessions and disappeared from St Petersburg for eight years; it is believed that she spent the time in a hermitage, or even a monastery, learning the ways of the spiritual life. When she returned to St Petersburg, she appeared to have lost her reason: she dressed in her husband's army overcoat, and would only answer to his name. She lived without a home, wandering the streets of the city, mocked and abused by many. She accepted alms from charitable people, but immediately gave them away to the poor: her only food came from meals that she sometimes accepted from those she knew. At night she withdrew to a field outside the city where she knelt in prayer until morning.

Slowly, the people of the city noticed signs of a holiness that underlay her seemingly deranged life: she showed a gift of prophecy, and her very presence almost always proved to be a blessing. The Synaxarion says "The blessing of God seemed to accompany her wherever she went: when she entered a shop the day's takings would be noticeably greater; when a cabman gave her a lift he would get plenty of custom; when she embraced a sick child it would soon get better. So compassion, before long, gave way to veneration, and people generally came to regard her as the true guardian angel of the city."

Forty-five years after her husband's death, St Xenia reposed in peace at the age of seventy-one, sometime around 1800. Her tomb immediately became a place of pilgrimage: so many people took soil from the gravesite as a blessing that new soil had to be supplied regularly; finally a stone slab was placed over the grave, but this too was gradually chipped away by the faithful. Miracles, healings and appearances of St Xenia occur to this day, to those

who visit her tomb or who simply ask her intercessions. Her prayers are invoked especially for help in finding employment, a home, or a spouse (all of which she renounced in her own life). A pious custom is to offer a Panachida / Trisagion Service for the repose of her husband Andrei, for whom she prayed fervently throughout her life.

Saint Xenia was first officially glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia in 1978; then by the Moscow Patriarchate in 1988.

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## STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



### TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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**\*\*\* Can You Go Up A Percentage?** – At our yearly meeting the idea, or request, was made for everyone to evaluate their giving to the parish and see if you can go up a % over the next year as we were at a deficit for 2022-23

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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% | Tithe 12% | Upper Range Giving 10% | 9%    | 8%    | 7%    | Middle Range Giving 6% | 5%    | 4%    | 3%   | 2%   | 1%   | Lower Range Giving |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|------|------|------|--------------------|
| \$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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### VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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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 19 (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 was installed September 11 to September 22 (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
- 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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**On-Line Giving** is available from our parish website to donate to the: *General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund.* The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2<sup>nd</sup> best is to mail it in to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue it’s ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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**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 Lopusky, 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;

**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

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy;  
Blessing of New Roof & HVAC

**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 to come back! Generally speaking, sincere and regular participation in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and in the Mysteries of Confession and Communion 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 & 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, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our diocesan seminarians:* Nicholas, Dylan, Thomas, Samuel, Timothy, Nicholas, Aydin, Subdeacon Seamus, Nicholas, *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth, John, Wendy, Margaret, John, Patricia, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches* ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

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### September Namedays:

*Pañi’s grandmother* Maria Alexa – Nativity of Mary (NC 9/9)

Cora Dzadony - 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!*

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### 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 Loposky (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 Dzadony (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 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.

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