

# “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, OCTOBER 1

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

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
9:30 am Akathist to St. John

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Venerable Euphrosyne (445)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Gospel: Luke 5-11  
Tone 1; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

**6:00 pm** Feast Day Vespers (*note the time change*)

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

+++ +++ +++

**\*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/)

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

**\*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)

## SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

<sup>16</sup>What agreement has the temple of God with idols?

For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will live in them and move among them,

and I will be their God,

and they shall be my people.

<sup>17</sup>Therefore come out from them,

and be separate from them, says the Lord,

and touch nothing unclean;

then I will welcome you,

<sup>18</sup>and I will be a father to you,

and you shall be my sons and daughters,

says the Lord Almighty.”

<sup>7</sup>Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

+++

**Gospel:** Matthew 15:21-28

**The Canaanite Woman’s Faith**

<sup>21</sup>And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.” <sup>24</sup>He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup>And he answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

+++ +++ +++

**Epistle:** Galatians 2:16-20 (*Sunday after the Cross*)

<sup>16</sup>Knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com +++ 412-748-0148 (*Talk or Text*) +++ OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

+++ +++ +++

**\*\*\* INVITATION** – Who did you invite to our **Parish Picnic** next week on **Sunday, October 8?**

Everybody reach out to someone and invite them to our Annual Parish Picnic at the Cabin in North Park next week after the Divine Liturgy (starting ~11 am).

If you have not already done so, 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 TODAY.** Also, please see Mary Jane Hudak if you are interested in helping with activities at the picnic.

+++ +++ +++

**\*\*\* Blessing of new items** – The first six months in Allison Park have been quite busy and a lot has been accomplished. On **Sunday, October 15** we will bless the new roof, AC units, and boiler after Liturgy (around 11 am). The owners of the companies and workers will be invited to join us.

+++ +++ +++

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

**\*\* Sr. ACRY Meeting** – On **Sunday, October 15**, the first Sr. 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. See Subdeacon Ryan Ferko with any questions.

+++

**\*\* 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.

+++ +++ +++

**\* Church School Teachers** are needed. Please contact Fr. Dave or a Parish Council Member if you are interested in helping with one of the three classes that will be set up.

believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. <sup>17</sup>But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! <sup>18</sup>But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. <sup>19</sup>For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. <sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

+++

**Gospel:** Mark 8:34-9:1 (*Sunday after the Cross*)

<sup>34</sup>And He called to Him the multitude with His disciples, and said to them, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? <sup>37</sup>For what can a man give in return for his life? <sup>38</sup>For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” <sup>9</sup><sup>1</sup>And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

+++ +++ +++

## VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)

Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)

FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddioocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese)

Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)

YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioocese](https://youtube.com/acroddioocese)

+++ +++ +++

+++ +++ +++

### COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

October 8: Parish Picnic Pot-Luck at North Park

October 15: \_\_\_\_\_

October 22: \_\_\_\_\_

+++ +++ +++

#### \*\* 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

+++ +++ +++

\* **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.

+++ +++ +++

**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.*

+++ +++ +++

### OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 592
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 58
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 292
Community Outreach:	\$ 5
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 974</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 700</b>

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

+++ +++ +++

Upcoming IOCC events (*details on the flyers on the bulletin board or contact Fr. Dave*)

\* **Oktoberfest - October 19** (Rusty Gold Brewing Co – Canonsburg) and

\* **Bourbon Tasting - November 2** (McMurray)

+++ +++ +++

\*\* **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.

+++ +++ +++

\*\* **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.**

+++ +++ +++

\*\* **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.

+++ +++ +++

\*\* **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** with the topic of the retreat *Iconography: Awed By The Beauty*. All those 18-35 are welcome to participate. Go to [TINYURL.COM/YAFALL2023](http://TINYURL.COM/YAFALL2023) to register.

+++ +++ +++

### LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

#### Maxims on the Cross

By Met Saba (Esber)

+ The cross is my life and there is no life except through the cross.

+ Jesus will continually look down with open arms because He wants my soul, for which He died, in order to embrace it.

+ The cross is not only a place of divine justice; it is also a place for love to the point of death.

+ The cross is not a fixed point upon which Jesus was hanged on a certain day. Rather, it is the basis for the movement of the Lord's heart towards all humanity.

+ In its outward appearance, the cross was an expression of the injustice of the world, but inwardly the cross is all joy, love and surrender to the Father for the salvation of the world.

+ The cross is the place of the soul's conforming to God: "with Christ you were crucified."

+ The cross is the beacon upon which Christ places the light of the world, by which we become a light for the world.

+ Fleeing the cross is equivalent to fleeing from the glory of God.

+ The cross is a school.... to flee from it is to lose the future.

+ The cross is the sole path to the resurrection... to flee from it is to enter into eternal death.

+ He who loses his cross loses his Christianity.

+ He who loses his cross has lost his path to God.

+ If one loses his cross, his life becomes cold and tepid, without cooperation with God.

+ Constant meditation on the cross of our Lord gains for the soul freedom, peace, power and forgiveness.

+ By its nature, the cross is the strongest and deepest degree of love.

+ Inasmuch as our contemplation of the cross increases, so deepens our communion and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

+ The cross is the path of freedom from the bonds of the world and the lust of the body.

+ If one is trained to taste sweetness in the word of God and the cross, He will make the soul resent every bodily pleasure.

+ The cross is the means of liberation from the self and its crucifixion.

+ The cross is not merely a sort of beautiful spiritual meditation. It is also enduring suffering in order to stand against the sinful world.

+ The cross is our weapon during spiritual warfare.

+ Every struggle against sin in order to preserve my freedom is bearing the cross.

+++ +++ +++

### LIVES OF THE SAINTS

#### THE MONK EUMENIOS

Commemorated on October 1 / September 18

The Monk Eumenios from the time of his youth was noted for his virtuous life. He strove to serve the One God and therefore he shunned worldly temptations. Concerned about salvation of soul, he distributed all his substance to the poor. By the blessing of God the Monk Eumenios was chosen and elevated to the dignity of bishop of the Gortinea Church on the Island of Crete. The saint like a compassionate father comforted his flock in their sorrows, and cared for the orphaned and indigent. He prayers were so strong before God, that once during the time of drought he called forth abundant rain upon the earth. Saint Eumenios wisely and zealously defended the Orthodox faith against the then arising Monophysite heresy. For his opposition to the heresy the saint was banished to the Thebaid, where he died in the VII Century. His body was then transferred and buried in Gortinea.

+++ +++ +++

### PRAYER CORNER

*For the Health of...* Mary, Elizabeth, Patricia, Carol, Matthew, Allison, Jason, Kevin, Mary Jane M., Thomas, Marianne, Kellie, Carlene, David, Donna, George, Beverly, Kelly, Marie, Brian, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, and Michael *...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

+++ +++ +++

*For the souls of the newly departed...* Sean Carey (10/1/23) *...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory!*

## ONLINE BONUSES

**Parish Picnic Directions** – Here are directions to THE CABIN from Allison Park:  
 RIGHT onto Duncan Avenue – .6 mi  
 RIGHT onto Hubbard Road – 500 ft  
 LEFT onto Sample Road - .5 mi  
 RIGHT onto Peebles Road – 1.5 mi  
 RIGHT onto Hemlock Drive – 100 ft.  
 RIGHT onto Babcock Boulevard - .5 mi  
 LEFT onto East Ingomar Road – 600 ft  
 The Cabin is on your LEFT  
 1370 E Ingomar Rd

+++ +++ +++

### 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!

+++ +++ +++

**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

+++ +++ +++



+++ +++ +++

### 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)

+++ +++ +++

## STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



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

+++

\*\*\* **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

+++ +++ +++

## 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%	Tithe 10%	Upper Range Giving 9%	Upper Range Giving 8%	Upper Range Giving 7%	Middle Range Giving 6%	Middle Range Giving 5%	Middle Range Giving 4%	Lower Range Giving 3%	Lower Range Giving 2%	Lower Range Giving 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.

+++ +++ +++

## 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
- Through your generosity and dedication, all of this will come together – one thing at a time!  
 Glory to God for All Things!

+++ +++ +++

**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.

+++ +++ +++

**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 its ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

+++ +++ +++

## MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)**. The OCF is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the *Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA*. OCF is charged with connecting Orthodox college students (and those interested in the Orthodox Christian faith) to Christ and His Church.

The vision of the OCF is to be the loving presence of Christ and the Orthodox Church on college campuses; to be an integral part of students’ spiritual formation by challenging them to explore the Faith; and to inspire students to commit to living an Orthodox Christian way of life daily. This is accomplished via a growing network of on-campus OCF chapters led by talented students, clergy, and lay advisors, as well as through programs

such as Reginald Retreats, College Conferences, Real Break, and the Summer Leadership Institute. Visit [www.ocf.net](http://www.ocf.net) for more info. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

+++ +++ +++

## OCTOBER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of the Parish Council

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
9:30 am Akathist to St. John

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
~11:00 am Parish Picnic at *The Cabin* in North Park

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

**6:00 pm** Feast Day Vespers (*note the time change*)

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
11:00 am Blessing of New Roof & HVAC  
11:30 am Sr. ACRY meeting with elections

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE  
7<sup>TH</sup> ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (787)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

FOUNDING OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY IN 1932

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

CARPATHO-RUSYN DAY IN NORTH AMERICA

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

9:30am Divine Liturgy

+++ +++ +++

## FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

### **The Conception Of The Venerable Prophet, Forerunner And Baptist Of The Lord, John:**

*Commemorated on October 6 / September 23*

The Conception of the Venerable Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The holy Prophet Malachi prophesied that before the Messiah

would appear His Forerunner, who would indicate His coming. The Jews therefore in awaiting the Messiah also awaited the appearance of His Forerunner. In a city of the hills of Judea in the land of Palestine lived the righteous priest Saint Zachariah and his wife Saint Elizabeth, assiduously observing the commandments of the Lord. The couple however had a misfortune: getting up in years they remained childless and they prayed unceasingly to God, that He should grant them a child. One time, when Saint Zachariah was in turn priest at the Temple of Jerusalem, he went during the time of Divine-services into the Sanctuary for making an incensing. Having gone in behind the Sanctuary veil, he beheld an Angel of God, standing at the right side of the incense altar. Saint Zachariah was astonished and halted in fear, but the Angel said to him: "Fear not, Zachariah, thine prayer is heard, and thy wife Elizabeth will bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John". But Righteous Zachariah did not believe the words of the heavenly messenger, and then the Angel said to him: "I – am Gabriel, that standeth before God and am sent to announce this unto thee. But now, thou shalt be mute until the day of birth, since that thou hast not believed my words". Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zachariah and they were astonished, that he had not come out from the Sanctuary after so long a time. And when he did come out, he was supposed to pronounce a blessing upon the people, but could not pronounce it since he had been struck speechless. When Zachariah explained by gestures that he was unable to speak, the people then understood that he had experienced a vision. The prophecy of the Archangel was fulfilled, and Righteous Elizabeth was delivered from her barrenness, having given birth to the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, named John.

+++ +++ +++

### **The Protection (Pokrov) Of The Most-holy Mother Of God:**

*Commemorated on October 14/1*

The Protection of the Mother of God is one of the most beloved feast days on the Orthodox calendar among the Slavic peoples, commemorated on October 1. The feast is celebrated additionally on October 28 in the Greek tradition.

The Russian word Pokrov (Ποκροβ), like the Greek

Skepi (Σκέπη), has a complex meaning. First of all, it refers to a cloak or shroud, but it also means protection or intercession. For this reason, the name of the feast is variously translated as the Veil of Our Lady, the Protecting Veil of the Theotokos, the Protection of the Theotokos, or the Intercession of the Theotokos.

#### The feast

The feast day celebrates the appearance of the Mother of God at Blachernae (Vlaherna) in the tenth century. At the end of St. Andrei (Andrew of Constantinople) Yurodiviy's life, he, with his disciple St. Epiphanius, and a group of people, saw the Mother of God, St. John the Baptist, and several other saints and angels during a vigil in the Church of Blachernae, nearby the city gates. The Blachernae Palace church was where several of her relics were kept. The relics were her robe, veil, and part of her belt that had been transferred from Palestine during the fifth century.

The Theotokos approached the center of the church, knelt down and remained in prayer for a long time. Her face was drowned in tears. Then she took her veil (cerement) off and spread it over the people as a sign of protection. During the time, the people in the city were threatened by a barbarian invasion. After the appearance of the Mother of God, the danger was averted and the city was spared from bloodshed and suffering.

#### Celebration of the feast

The Protection is commemorated most fervently in Slavic churches, probably because St. Andrei was a Slav. The first celebration of the Theotokos's cerement in the Russian Orthodox Church dates back from the 12th century and today is celebrated throughout the Orthodox Church.

The feast day commemorating the miracle is celebrated with an All-Night Vigil, with many of the same elements as occur on Great Feasts of the Theotokos. However, this feast has no afterfeast.

+++ +++ +++

### **Commemoration Of The Holy Fathers Of The Seventh Ecumenical Council (787)**

*Commemorated after October 24/11*

On the Sunday of the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, the Church remembers the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council,

Nicea II, under the holy Patriarch Tarasius.

#### Lights on the earth

The Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils are honored by the Church because, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, they have established one faith for the Church. Guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, the Ecumenical Councils are the highest authority in the Church, infallible.

#### Commemoration

This feast is commemorated on October 11, if it is a Sunday. If October 11 is not a Sunday, the Slavic tradition uses the preceding Sunday when the eleventh falls before Thursday, and the next Sunday otherwise, the Greek practice will use the Sunday which follows October 11.

## 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.

+++

*“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

+++ +++

### The Jesus Prayer

(Inhale) O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
(Exhale) have mercy on me, a sinner!

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

+++ +++

## PRAYER CORNER #2

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & other needs\**

+++ +++

**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.

+++ +++

**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.*

+++ +++

### October Namedays:

John Kirish - Venerable John Kukuzelis the Singer (10/14)

Kenneth Parks - Venerable Cainnech (10/24)  
*...May God grant them many and blessed years!*

+++ +++

### October Birthdays:

Genevive Martellotti (10/3/98)

Matthew Mirilovich (10/6/05)

John Gaydos, III (10/7/95)

Sophie Jesko (10/7/14)

Father’s sister, Melissa Ditmore (10/11)

Father’s mother, Andrea Urban (10/11)

Kevin Anton (10/12)

Sheila Jesko (10/13/75)

Frank Martellotti (10/15/92)

Cameron Watson (10/17)

Rhonda Gogal (10/19)

Fr. Robert Buczak (10/20/60)

Alyssa Duray (10/23) (Josh Winkler’s step-daughter)

Fr. Daniel Vaskalis (10/24)

Paula Watson (10/25)

Doloris Bowser (10/26/35)

Kaitlyn Duray (10/26) (Josh Winkler’s step-daughter)

Fr. Mark Leasure (10/26)

Sarah Fucsko - 10/27

Mareena Shuster (10/29/95)

Ryan Schrmack (10/30/86)

Waylon David Gavulich (10/31/22)

Noah Winkler (10/31/09)

*...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!*

+++ +++

**For our Catechumens & Inquirers...** Tyler  
*...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

+++ +++

**For those preparing for Marriage...** Francis & Alexandra...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

+++ +++

### October Anniversaries:

Rich & Renee Mirilovich (10/1/94)

Allen & Anastasia (Martin) Dzambo (10/2/04)

Brian & Rhonda Gogal (10/5)

Chi-Wing & Deborah (Brancho) Chow (10/08/05)

John & Jane Gaydos (10/9/93)

Meredith & Ryan Blobner (10/12/13)

*...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

+++ +++

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

+++ +++

**For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...** Thomas R. Dzadovsky *...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

+++ +++

\* 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.*

+++ +++ +++

#### **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.

+++ +++ +++

#### **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.

+++ +++ +++



#### **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.

+++ +++ +++

#### **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.

+++ +++ +++