

# "THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER" *Our Parish Weekly Bulletin*

*O Holy John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of the Lord, pray to God for us!*

## UPCOMING SERVICES

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

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

Blessed Andrew, Fool-for-Christ (911)

Youth Sunday

11:00 am Blessing of New Items

11:30 am Sr. ACRY meeting

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE

7<sup>TH</sup> ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (787)

Holy Apostle James (1<sup>st</sup>. C)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16 (*Holy Fathers*)

Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: John 17:1-13 (*Holy Fathers*)

Luke 7:11-16 (*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Luke*)

Tone 3; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

11:30 am Pumpkin Patch trip to Shenot's Farm & Market (3754 Wexford Run Rd., Wexford)

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

FOUNDING OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY IN 1932

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

CARPATHO-RUSYN DAY IN NORTH AMERICA

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

10 am to Noon – Tree Planting Workshop

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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 11:31-12:9*

<sup>31</sup>The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. <sup>32</sup>At Damascus, the governor under King Ar'etas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, <sup>33</sup>but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

### Paul's Visions and Revelations

12 I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—<sup>4</sup>and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. <sup>7</sup>And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

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*Gospel: Luke 6:31-36*

<sup>31</sup>And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup>"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to

## 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)

you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

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## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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**\*\*\* Thank You** to everyone who played a part in last week's Parish Picnic! The weather was not the warmest, but the warmth of everyone's company made the day beautiful! Thank you especially for anyone who brought in food or items for the basket raffle! May God grant you many years!

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**\*\*\* 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday** – We have a birthday card for everyone to sign for Martha Danchak, a parishioner at St. Michael's in Rankin, who will be turning 99 this month. Please take a moment and sign the card today. May God grant her many years!

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**\*Oktoberfest** – On **Thursday, October 19** from 6 to 9pm, IOCC will be hosting a Happy Hour fundraiser at the Rusty Gold Brewing Company (43 W. Pike St., Canonsburg, 15317). 20% of food and beverage proceeds will benefit IOCC charities. Contact Kevin Reck at 724-344-5610 or [kevinsreck@gmail.com](mailto:kevinsreck@gmail.com) for more information. *The next upcoming IOCC event will be a **Bourbon Tasting** on **November 2** in McMurray (for details contact Fr. Dave)*

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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.

**\*\* Pumpkin Patch** – On **Sunday, October 22** after the coffee social we will venture over to Shenot's Farm & Market (3754 Wexford Run Rd., Wexford, PA 15090) for an afternoon of fun! For \$5 you can take a hay ride to a pumpkin patch and corn field mazes ☺ fun for all ages! (*Free under three*) It is only 17 minutes (8.6 miles) from our church. More info at: <https://www.shenotfarm.com/fall-events-2023.html>

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**\*\*\* Tree Planting Workshop** – This just in – on **Saturday, October 28**, *Tree Pittsburgh* will be hosting a tree planting workshop at St. John's from 10am to 12-noon! This educational and fun workshop is for all ages. Register before the 23<sup>rd</sup> as there is a limit of 20 people for the event. Light refreshments will be served. Learn more about Tree Pittsburgh at [www.TreePittsburgh.org](http://www.TreePittsburgh.org)

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**\*\* Young Adult Fall Retreat** at Camp Nazareth will be held **October 27-29** with the topic of the retreat *Iconography: Awed By The Beauty*. Go to [TINYURL.COM/YAFALL2023](http://TINYURL.COM/YAFALL2023) to register. All those aged 18 to 35 are invited.

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**\*\* Fall Retreat** - On **Saturday, October 28** from 9:30am to 4:45pm, St. George Orthodox Cathedral (3400 Dawson Street, Pittsburgh, PA) is hosting a retreat by Dr. Jeannie Scarvelis Constantinou called *"The True Orthodox Mind and Lifestyle: Why it Matters"*. (Dr. Constantinou wrote the well-known book "Thinking Orthodox: Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Christian Mind".) Please register and RSVP at [www.sgcoakland.org](http://www.sgcoakland.org) or call 412-681-2988. A \$30 donation is requested. Lunch, refreshments, and coffee will be provided. *Dr. Eugenia Constantinou hosts the popular podcast Search the Scriptures Live! on Ancient Faith Radio. She has been a professor and visiting lecturer on the Bible, patristic interpretation of Scripture, and early Christianity at Orthodox and non-Orthodox universities and schools of theology.*

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### OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 500
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 94
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 170
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 764</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 25</b>
<b>Cap Fund from Parish Picnic:</b>	<b>\$ 725</b>



**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Carol and Tom Lorenzi; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Kathy Schmack; Mary Jane Hudak; Cindy Pavilonis

### September Financial Report:

**General Stewardship = \$ 5447.72**  
*(includes \$ 762.67 from online stewardship)*  
**\*Expenses = \$ 4839.63**  
**Net Income = \$ 608.09**  
**Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 1165**  
 Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 30  
*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

### COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

October 22: \_\_\_\_\_  
 October 29: \_\_\_\_\_  
 November 5: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \* **LAST CALL for 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 fall. **Please schedule with Fr. Dave today.**

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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.*

+++ **Random Tidbits...** Father Dave 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.

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 \*\* **Youth Encounter at CN November 10-12** –The National ACRY Encounter is a yearly gathering for all of our youth ages 8 to 18 at Camp Nazareth. It's a great weekend for our kids! They have lots of great activities being planned and our kids can look forward to lots of their Camp favorites with a few special features thrown in! Registration is now open. The cost is \$110 (*scholarships are available*). Please contact Fr. Dave for the registration link.

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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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 \* **Medicine Bottles** – 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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 \* **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.

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese)  
 Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](http://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
 YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioecese](http://youtube.com/acroddioecese)

### LIVES OF THE SAINTS

#### BLESSED ANDREW, FOOL-FOR-CHRIST

Commemorated on October 15/2

Blessed Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, was a Slav and he lived in the X Century at Constantinople. From his early years he loved God's Church and the Holy Scriptures. One time during a dream-vision the saint beheld two armies. In the one were men in radiant garb, in the other – black and fierce devils. An Angel of God, which held in hand wondrous crowns, said to Andrew, that these crowns – were not adornments from the earthly world, but rather a celestial treasure, with which the Lord rewards His warriors, victorious over the dark hordes. "Proceed with this good deed, – said the Angel to Andrew, – be a fool for My sake and much wilt thou receive in the day of My Kingdom". The saint perceived, that it was the Lord Himself summoning him to this deed. And from that time Andrew began to go about the streets in rags, as though his mind had become muddled. For many years the saint endured mockery and insults. With indifference he underwent beatings, hunger and thirst, cold and heat, begging alms and giving them away to others of the poor. For his great forbearance and humility the saint received from the Lord the gift of prophecy and perspicacity, saving many from perils of soul, and he unmasked many an impiety.

During a time of prayer at the Blakhernae church, Saint Andrew was vouchsafed to behold the Most Holy Mother of God, veiling those praying with Her omophor (the account of this is under 1 October). Blessed Andrew died in the year 936.

### PRAYER CORNER

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

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**For the Health of...** Joanne, 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.*

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#### 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!*

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**October Birthdays:** Genevive Martellotti (10/3), Matthew Mirilovich (10/6), John Gaydos, III (10/7), Sophie Jesko (10/7), *Father's sister*, Melissa Ditmore (10/11), *Father's mother*, Andrea Urban (10/11), Kevin Anton (10/12), Sheila Jesko (10/13), Frank Martellotti (10/15), Cameron Watson (10/17), Rhonda Gogal (10/19), Fr. Robert Buczak (10/20), Alyssa Duray (10/23), Fr. Daniel Vaskalis (10/24), Paula Watson (10/25), Doloris Bowser (10/26), Kaitlyn Duray (10/26), Fr. Mark Leasure (10/26), Sarah Fucsko (10/27), Mareena Shuster (10/29), Ryan Schmack (10/30), Waylon Gavulich (10/31), Noah Winkler (10/31) *...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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#### October Anniversaries:

Rich & Renee Mirilovich (10/1)  
 Allen & Anastasia (Martin) Dzambo (10/2)  
 Brian & Rhonda Gogal (10/5)  
 Chi-Wing & Deborah (Brancho) Chow (10/08)  
 John & Jane Gaydos (10/9)  
 Meredith & Ryan Blobner (10/12)

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

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#### For the souls of the newly departed...

Pañi Mary Buletza (10/8), Sean Carey (10/1)  
*...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory!*

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#### A Prayer for College Students

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

## ONLINE BONUSES

### 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 from the past 3 months:*

- ✘ 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 the week of October 9 (anonymous donor)
- ✘ A new boiler was installed September 11 to October 10 (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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### 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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### 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

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## 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!*

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## 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.

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### **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) Yurodivyi'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.

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### **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.

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## 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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**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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**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 of Stewardship

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the good steward, who redeemed Adam and Eve of their failed stewardship by offering Yourself for the life of the world. You did teach us in the feeding of the multitudes that whatever we give to God is returned to us multiplied. You did praise those good and faithful servants in the parable of the talents who returned to the Master their gifts. So help us to learn the joy of stewardship, remembering that everything we have comes from You and belongs to You. We know, Lord, that we often live in fear of the future and insecurity. Help us to remember the lilies of the field and so to trust in Your providence. Grant to us a cheerful and generous spirit. Enkindle in the hearts of all Your people a zealous love for You. For You are the Good Steward, and to You we give thanks, praise and glory, together with Your Father and Your all holy good and life-giving Spirit now and ever and onto the ages of ages. 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.

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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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### A Prayer of Thanksgiving to the Theotokos after partaking of Holy Communion

O most holy Lady Theotokos, the light of my darkened soul, my hope, my protection, my refuge, my rest, and my joy: I thank you, for you have permitted me, the unworthy, to be a partaker of the most pure Body and precious Blood of your Son. Give the light of understanding to the eyes of my heart, you that gave birth to the True Light. Enliven me who am deadened by sin, you that gave birth to the Fountain of Immortality. Have mercy on me, O loving Mother of the merciful God.

Grant me compunction and contrition of heart, humility in my thoughts, and a release from the slavery of my own reasonings. And enable me, even to my last breath, to receive the sanctification of the most pure Mysteries, for the healing of soul and body. Grant me tears of repentance and confession, that I may glorify you all the days of my life, for you are blessed and greatly glorified to the ages. Amen.