

# “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 be 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, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

37<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Zacchaeus Sunday  
Holy Martyr Agatha (251)  
Youth Sunday  
Blessing of Candles  
Church School

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### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 - *TRIODION BEGINS*

38<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee  
Holy Martyr Agatha (251)  
9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15;  
Gospel: Luke 18:10-14  
Tone 5; Liturgical Color: **Gold**  
Scout Sunday

### A FAST FREE WEEK

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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)

## SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Epistle:** 1 Timothy 4:9-15

<sup>9</sup>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. <sup>10</sup>For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. <sup>11</sup>Command and teach these things. <sup>12</sup>Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. <sup>13</sup>Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. <sup>14</sup>Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. <sup>15</sup>Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress

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**Gospel:** Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>And there was a man named Zacchae’us; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. <sup>3</sup>And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchae’us, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” <sup>6</sup>So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. <sup>7</sup>And when they saw it they all murmured, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” <sup>8</sup>And Zacchae’us stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.” <sup>9</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

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## 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)

## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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\*\*\* **What’s New?** – Almost every week, something is being added or changed in and around the church. What did you notice that is new this week?

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\*\*\* **Chandelier Update** – The Chandelier that was donated by our sister parish in Potomac, MD, has been transported to Pittsburgh! The electrical is being evaluated to see if it needs changed. More updates will be coming...

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\*\* **Wine Tasting** – St. Barbara’s Philoptochos is hosting a Wine Tasting on **Saturday, February 24** at 7:00 pm at Riverside Event Center (12 Washington Ave., Oakmont, PA 15139). Tickets are \$50 per person. Contact Christina to RSVP at 412-370-3431 or scan the QR code on the flyer in the vestibule.

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**All-Soul Saturday (Zadušna Subota)**  
Liturgies with Panachidas for 2024 will begin on **Saturday, March 2 (rescheduled from the 9<sup>th</sup>)**. On these days, we especially pray for the departed loved ones of our families. If you are not working on a Saturday, come to church, pray with us, and light two candles for your living and departed loved ones. **Please inform Fr Dave if there are any additions to be made to your Commemoration Diptychs (Hramoty)**. Envelopes and cards are available in the vestibule. [\*\*\* This is different from the “Monthly Memorial” that we will be having on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month which is specific to each month.]

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\* **First Aid Supplies** – A number of First Aid supplies were donated to the church to stock our First Aid kit. Too many items were donated! Please stop in the Muli-Purpose room and take whatever you like!

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\*\*\* **Pittsburgh Penguins** – Would you be interested in a parish family outing to a Pittsburgh Penguin hockey game? Please contact Fr Dave ASAP so we can start arranging this! Let’s Go Pens!

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\* **Electrician** – Please contact Fr. Dave if you have an electrician that you would recommend.

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\*\* **Food Drive** – For the month of February we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry on Pittsburgh’s South Side**. Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! The list of food items they are looking for is available in the Feb Newsletter, online bulletin, church hall, or: [stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html](http://stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html)

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\*\* **Choir Concert** – On **Sunday, March 3** at 5:30 pm, the Pan-Orthodox Choir of Pittsburgh will perform, “*Orthodox Hymns of Lent and Pascha*” at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (1066 Washington Rd., Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228).

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\*\* **Monthly Memorial** – Starting next month, we will offer a Panachida on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month**. If you would like to remember the anniversary of a departed loved one, please fill out the envelope that is on the curator’s desk in the vestibule and give it to Father Dave by the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of that month. All names for the month will be combined together. (An exception to this is remembering the 40-day memorial following one’s passing from this life.) *Customarily in the Orthodox Church, Panachidas are offered at 40 days; at 3, 6, and 9 months; at 1 year; at 3 years; annually on All Soul Saturdays; and (at the family’s request) on the anniversary of their passing from this life to our eternal life. Making and offering the Koliva (Boiled Wheat) is also encouraged. Remember, sponsoring the bulletin in memory of someone should not replace having the prayers of a Panachida Service.*

**OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 0
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 47
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 173
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 220</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Juliana & Fred Anton; Cindy Pavilonis; Eleanor Sanger; Kathy Schrmack

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\*\*\* **Pre-Lenten Breakfast** will be on **Sunday, March 10**. Please sign up in the hall so we have a rough idea of how many will stay for the fellowship.

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**\*\* Important Upcoming Liturgical Dates:**

The Great Fast Begins: Monday, March 18  
 Holy Week: Monday, April 29  
 Pascha: Sunday, May 5

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\*\* **Coffee Social Request** – Could we fill the Coffee Social Steward schedule a month in advance so we don't have a bunch of question marks on the schedule? The box below would then be a reminder as to who signed up and not looking for someone.

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**COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS**

*Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave*  
 February 25: Liz Radomsky  
 March 3: \_\_\_\_\_?  
 March 10: \_\_\_\_\_?

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\* **Third Hour** – Chanting of the Third Hour before Sunday Divine Liturgies has returned. If you are interested in reading or chanting this short prayer service, please contact Fr. Dave.

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**THIRD HOUR**

*Please let Fr. Dave know if you are interested in reading or chanting the Third Hour at 9:15*

February 25: \_\_\_\_\_?  
 March 3: \_\_\_\_\_?  
 March 10: \_\_\_\_\_?

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\*\*\* **Health & Beauty Donations** – For Matthew Mirilovich's Senior Project at Seneca Valley High School, he is leading a project to support families in need through Family Links of Western PA. He is collecting new and unopened travel size containers of:

- + Body Wash + Deodorant
- + Shampoo + Feminine Hygiene Products
- + Conditioner + Toothpaste
- + Body Lotion + Toothbrushes

Donations can be dropped off in the church basement through **Sunday, March 10**. Monetary donations are also an option (*he will then purchase the items*).

**LIVES OF THE SAINTS**

**THE HOLY MARTYRESS AGATHA**

*Commemorated on February 18/5*

The Holy Martyress Agatha was the daughter of rich and respected Christian parents from the city of Palermo (formerly called Panorum) in Sicily. During the time of the persecution under the emperor Decius (249-251), the city governor of Catana, Centianus, – having heard about the wealth and beauty of Agatha, sent his soldiers after her to bring her to trial as a Christian. At Catana they housed the saint with a certain rich woman, who had five daughters. They all attempted to provide temptations for Saint Agatha by means of fine clothes, amusements and entertainment, urging her to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, but the saint would not give in to their tricks, and disdaining all the delights, she prayed the Lord to grant her the strength for the act of martyrdom. At the interrogation under Centianus, the holy martyress was swayed neither by the flattery, nor by the threats, and she was subjected to cruel jeering: they tore at her bosom with iron hooks, and finally, they cut off her breasts. In prison the holy Apostle Peter appeared to her and healed her of her wounds. Led again to torture, Saint Agatha astonished Centianus, in that her bosom was unharmed. They thereupon began to torture her anew. At this moment in the city there began an earthquake, and the earth opened up and swallowed the closest companions of Centianus. The terrified inhabitants rushed to Centianus, demanding that he stop the tortures. Fearing a revolt by the people, Centianus sent Saint Agatha back to prison, where the martyress, in offering up thanks to God, peacefully gave up her soul to the Lord.

**LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH**

**Why Orthodox Light Oil Lamps and Candles Before Relics and Icons**

*by St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

1. Because our faith is light. Christ said: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). The light of the vigil lamp reminds us of that light by which Christ illumines our souls.
2. In order to remind us of the radiant character of the saint before whose icon we light the vigil lamp, for saints are called sons of light (John 12:36, Luke 16:8).
3. In order to serve as a reproach to us for our dark deeds, for our evil thoughts and desires, and in order to call us to the path of evangelical light; and so that we would more zealously try to fulfill the commandments of the Savior: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works" (Matt. 5:16).
4. So that the vigil lamp would be our small sacrifice to God, Who gave Himself completely as a sacrifice for us, and as a small sign of our great gratitude and radiant love for Him from Whom we ask in prayer for life, and health, and salvation and everything that only boundless heavenly love can bestow.
5. So that terror would strike the evil powers who sometimes assail us even at the time of prayer and lead away our thoughts from the Creator. The evil powers love the darkness and tremble at every light, especially at that which belongs to God and to those who please Him.
6. So that this light would rouse us to selflessness. Just as the oil and wick burn in the vigil lamp, submissive to our will, so let our souls also burn with the flame of love in all our sufferings, always being submissive to God's will.
7. In order to teach us that just as the vigil lamp cannot be lit without our hand, so too, our heart, our inward vigil lamp, cannot be lit without the holy fire of God's grace, even if it were to be filled with all the virtues. All these virtues of ours are, after all, like combustible material, but the fire which ignites them proceeds from God.
8. In order to remind us that before anything else the Creator of the world created light, and after that everything else in order: And God said, let there be

light: and there was light (Genesis 1:3). And it must be so also at the beginning of our spiritual life, so that before anything else the light of Christ's truth would shine within us. From this light of Christ's truth subsequently every good is created, springs up and grows in us.

**May the Light of Christ illumine you as well!**

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**PRAYER CORNER**

*For the Health of...* Paul, Thomas, Cheryl, David, Mary, Lawrence V., Christopher, Robert, Joanne, Patricia, Jason, Carlene, David, Donna, George, Kelly, Marie, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, and Michael  
*...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

**A PRAYER WHEN LIGHTING A CANDLE**

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Set our hearts on fire with love for You, O Christ our God, so that in its flame we may love You with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, so that by keeping Your commandments we may glorify You, the giver of all good gifts. Amen.

**A PRAYER WHEN LEAVING A CHURCH:**

**THE HYMN OF ST. SYMEON**

Now let Your servant, depart in peace, O Master, according to Your Word. For my eyes have seen Your Salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people. The Light of revelation for the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. Amen.

## ONLINE BONUSES

**On Lighting Candles in the Church** – In lighting our two candles, the first thing we should do is make an offering for them. Everything that we have is from God and the first step is to give back to Him for all of His many blessings. The next step is to venerate the icons that guard the candles and lift our prayers to God on high. Next, we light a candle, remembering all of our loved ones who are sick (or who we just want to pray for) and then a candle for our loved ones who have passed into the next life. We beseech God to have mercy on their souls. Lastly, as we light the candles, we quietly say “Lord have mercy,” repenting for our own sinfulness while at the same time “re-igniting” our own flame and recommitting our whole life to God. Thus we begin again to live as light, helping others see the Way in a world of darkness. The importance of lighting our own candles is that you are able to say a prayer for your loved ones. “We light candles for the forgiveness of sins of **both** those who light the candles and of those for whom the candles are lit.” (*Holy Father Nicodemus of Mount Athos*) “Let light shine out of darkness, [and] Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” (1 Cor. 4:6)

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### When We Fall We Must Get Up Again

*Abbot Tryphon, from his blog The Morning Offering*  
It is often the case that we fail to keep God’s commandments and find ourselves despondent, unable to make progress in the battle over our sins. The same sins seem to constantly plague us. Despondency is our enemy, for it is the tool the demons use to keep us distracted from the goal. They want us to give up the battle. Holiness does not come easily but requires true struggle. When you fall, get up again. If you fall again, get up again, ever keeping your eyes on God Who will help you overcome your sins. Pray for God’s help each time you start anew, even if you start a hundred times in a given day. Progress towards holiness comes each time we get up and start anew. Each step we take towards God brings us closer to our goal.

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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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## FEBRUARY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Church School

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:30am Akathist to St. Xenia of St. Petersburg

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS: ST. BASIL  
THE GREAT, ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, AND  
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 (40 days after Nativity)

FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD  
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of Candles

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Zacchaeus Sunday  
9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 Divine Liturgy  
Youth Sunday  
Blessing of Candles  
Church School

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - TRIODION BEGINS

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee  
9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 pm Divine Liturgy  
Scout Sunday

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## MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Food Drive** – This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry** (at Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church, 105 S. 19<sup>th</sup> St., Pgh, PA 15203). Volunteers are needed bi-weekly on Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:45 to assist in the distribution of these goods. (If interested, please contact Fr Patrick first at 412-431-6428) Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! Here is a list of food items that they are looking for:

- ✓ Ready to eat canned fruit or vegetables
- ✓ Peanut Butter
- ✓ Jelly
- ✓ Canned Soups
- ✓ Canned Chili
- ✓ Macaroni & Cheese
- ✓ Spaghetti Sauce
- ✓ Pasta
- ✓ Noodle/Rice Mixes
- ✓ Small Package of Rice or Noodles
- ✓ Canned Stews
- ✓ Canned or Pouches of Tuna, Salmon or Chicken
- ✓ Boxed Meals ready to be prepared
- ✓ Baked Beans
- ✓ Canned and Boxed 100% Juice
- ✓ Crackers
- ✓ Tuna Helper Box
- ✓ Instant Cereal
- ✓ Boxed Cereal
- ✓ Canned Pastas (Chef Boyardee, Ravioli, etc.)
- ✓ Canned Meats

[stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html](http://stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html)

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## ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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### CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

*Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:*

- ✗ \*\*\* A chandelier for the nave has been donated by our sister parish in Potomac, MD. It is in Pittsburgh (but not at the church yet).
- ✗ \*\* Quotes for a new electrical panel are being received. IF You Have An Electrician You Would Recommend – Please Contact Fr. Dave. (*covered by an anonymous donor*)
- ✗ \* We have returned to the Nave of the Church for services going forward! Thank You for your stewardship in this journey!
- ✗ \* Foam-insulation was installed in the Sanctuary (roughly \$5,000 – donations requested)
- ✗ \* New drywall was installed in the Sanctuary (roughly \$7,000 – donations requested)
- ✗ A contract was signed on 11/3 for new windows on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor that will be installed around February or March (*cost is \$28,000 – covered by an anonymous donor*)  
*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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\*\*\* **Special Intentions** – Did you ever wonder for what reasons would a person’s name go under “For the Special Intentions of...” on our Prayer Page? A special intention request is very diversified! It could be when one is under extreme job stress, struggling with spiritual issues, infertility, dealing with the loss of a loved one... the list goes on. As with the other lists on our page, one does not have to be Orthodox to be added.

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\*\*\* **Prayer requests** – During the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, prayers are said for the sick and those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin. If silent prayers are requested, they will be offered quietly at the Altar at all services. All those

listed in the “Prayer Corner” are prayed for during the Proskomedia (*Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion*). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our prayer list.

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**Speaking With Your Priest** - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers. With love in Christ, Fr. Dave

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**2023-24 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 Schmack (*5<sup>th</sup> position open*)

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**AROUND OUR DIOCESE & DA ‘BURGH**

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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\*\*\* **Kardiotissa Icon** – The Kardiotissa Icon will be traveling to our sister parish in Monongahela on **Friday, April 5**. More details will be coming...

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\*\* **Make plans to go to Camp Nazareth Events!**

- ✘ April 5-7 - ACRY Spring Encounter
- ✘ April 9-11 - Sts. Joachim & Anna Seniors Retreat (*age 55 and over*)
- ✘ April 12-14 - Young Adult Retreat
- ✘ May 31 – June 2 - Family Camp
- ✘ June 2 - Family Day
- ✘ July 28- Aug 3 - Pgh Deanery Camping Week

- ✘ August 4-10 - Science & Nature Camp (ages 8-18)
- ✘ October 25-27 - Young Adult Retreat
- ✘ November 8-10 - ACRY Encounter

Please, Save the Dates and head to  
339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137

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**STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET**

**TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES**

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\* **2023 Summary – LAST CALL** - If you would like a copy of your 2023 SJB Donation Summary, please contact Rich Mirilovich at 412-523-1848 or [jrmrsqrd@gmail.com](mailto:jrmrsqrd@gmail.com).

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**Additional Church Curators Needed** – A synonym for *curator* is *steward*. Please see Larry Martin if you are interested in being a *steward of their time* and be “on-the-door”. Our curator list needs expanded!

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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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**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 your offering to the curator who sits at the desk in the vestibule (to the right after you enter),
- ✘ there are multiple baskets around the church for you to drop your offering in, or
- ✘ when saying your prayers and lighting 2 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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**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.

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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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**Stewardship of Treasure Guide**

**Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?**

Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe			Upper Range Giving					Middle Range Giving			Lower Range Giving		
	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%		
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4	\$2		
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6	\$3		
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8	\$4		
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5		
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6		
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14	\$7		
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8		
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18	\$9		
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10		
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22	\$11		
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20		
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30		

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).  
2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE% would be.

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**FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH**

**"Three Holy Hierarchs" – the Assemblage (Sobor, Synaxis) of the Holy Ecumenical Teachers of the Church and Sainted-Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostomos**  
*Commemorated on Feb. 12 / Jan. 30*

"Three Saints" – the Assemblage (Sobor, Synaxis) of the Holy Ecumenical Teachers of the Church and Sainted-Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostomos: At Constantinople for a long time there raged disputes about which one of the three sainted-hierarchs should be accorded the primacy of honour. One faction of the people preferred St Basil (Comm. Jan. 14/1), others stood forth for St Gregory the Theologian (Comm. Feb. 7 / Jan. 25), while a third revered St John Chrysostomos (Comm. Nov 26/13).

From this arose among church factions amongst Christians: some called themselves Basilians, others – Gregorians, and the third – Johannites.

In accord with the will of God, in the year 1084 the three sainted-hierarchs appeared to the Eucharistic Metropolitan John, and in declaring that they were equal before God, they gave orders that the disputes should stop and that a day in common celebration of their memory should be established.

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**On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord**

*Commemorated on February 15/2*

On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Lk 2: 22-40). On the 40th day after birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple – the centre of religious life of the God-chosen nation. By the Law of Moses (Lev 12) a woman, having given birth to a child of the male gender, was forbidden for 40 days to enter into the Temple of God. After this interval the mother came to the Temple with the child, so as to offer to the Lord thanksgiving and a purification sacrifice. The MostHoly Virgin, the Mother of God, did not have need for purification, since without defilement she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity, but in profound humility she submitted to the precepts of the Law.

At this time there lived at Jerusalem the righteous elder Simeon (the account about him is located under the day of his commemoration – 3 February). It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold Christ the Saviour. By inspiration from above, the pious elder went to the Temple at that very moment when the MostHoly Mother of God and Righteous Joseph had brought there the Infant Jesus, so as to fulfill the ritual ceremony of the Law. The God-Bearer Simeon took the God-Infant in his arms, and having given thanks to God, he uttered a prophecy about the Saviour of the world: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, O Lord, with peace according to Thy word, wherefore hath mine eyes beheld Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to the enlightening of gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Lk 2: 29-32). Righteous Simeon said to the MostHoly Virgin: "Behold, This One is set for the fall and rising up of many in Israel and for the sign spoken against, and for Thee Thyself a sword shalt pierce the soul, so that the thoughts of many hearts might be revealed" (Lk 2: 35).

At the Temple also the 84 year old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (Comm. 3 February), "who did not leave the temple, serving God both day and night in fasting and prayer. And she also at that time, having drawn near, glorified the Lord and spake about Him (the God-Infant) to all awaiting deliverance at Jerusalem" (Lk 2: 37-38).

Before the Birth of Christ, all righteous men and women lived by faith in the Future Messiah the Saviour of the world, and they awaited His coming. The final righteous ones of the closing Old Testament – Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna – were deemed worthy to meet at the Temple the Bearer of the New Testament, in the Person of Whom both Divinity and humanity do meet.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. It is known, that on the day of this solemnity were proclaimed sermons by Sainted Bishops Methodios of Pataria (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphylokios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). But in spite of its early origin,

this feast was not so solemnly celebrated until the VI Century. During the reign of Justinian in the year 528, a catastrophe befell Antioch – an earthquake, in which many people perished. And upon this misfortune there followed others. In the year 544 there appeared a pestilential plague, daily carrying off several thousand people. During these days of widespread travail, it was revealed to a certain pious christian that the celebration of the Meeting of the Lord should be done more solemnly.

When at the day of the Meeting of the Lord the all-night vigil was finally made with church procession, the disasters at Byzantium ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established in 544 that the Meeting of the Lord should be done more solemnly.

Church melodists adorned this feast with many a church work of song: in the VII Century – Sainted Andrew Archbishop of Crete; in the VIII Century – Sainted Cosma Bishop of Maium, Monk John Damascene, Sainted Germanos Patriarch of Constantinople; and in the IX Century – Sainted Joseph the Studite, Archbishop of Thessalonika.

With the event of the Meeting of the Lord is associated the icon of the MostHoly Mother of God named: "the Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy", which it is necessary to distinguish from the icon "Seven Arrows".

The icon "Simeon's Prophecy" symbolises the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous elder Simeon: "for Thee Thyself a sword shalt pierce the soul" (Lk 2: 35).

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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...)*

ONLINE  
PRAYER CORNER

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

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**A Prayer For The Sick:** O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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**For the Special Intentions of...** His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Stephen B., Fr. Thomas B., Protodeacon Gregory B., 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*: Dcn Peter S, Nicolas W., Seamus M., Samuel L., Timothy P., Nicholas L., Alexander H., *and our Parish Council and Curators*: Lawrence, Subdeacon Ryan, Timothy, Rich, Elizabeth, Robert, Gina, John, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth 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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**February Namedays:**

Timothy Martin, Reader – Apostle Timothy of the 70 (2/4)

Dolores Bowser - Virgin-martyr Dorothea (2/19)  
*Father's Godson, Zachariah Kalaluhi – Prophet Zachariah (2/21)*

*...May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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**February Birthdays:**

Anthony Winkler (2/1), Fr. Marc Wisnosky (2/1), Fr. Edward Pehanich (2/4), *Pañi's mother*, Alexandrina Liana Popescu (2/6), Charles Kretchek (2/8), Richard Gedid (2/9), Harmonie Torchia (2/11), Pañi Buczak (2/11), Fr. James Gleason (2/12), Matthew Peifer (2/13), *Father's niece*, Samantha Ditmore (2/14), Pañi Christyn Dranginis (2/14), W. Dylan Mushinsky

(2/17), James Hanchulak (2/17), John Petrovich (2/18), Eleanor Sanger (2/19), Carly Anton (2/21), Barbara Kirish (2/22), Theresa Sharpless (2/22), *Father's nephew*, Brian Verbanick, Jr (2/22), Fr Stephen Krivonak (2/23), Fr William Bennett (2/28), His-All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew I (2/29/40) *...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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**February Anniversaries:**

Cynthia & Jeffrey Morrison (2/5)

Derek and Ashley (Wertz) Andrekovich (2/18)  
*...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Ashley (*due in March*) *...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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**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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\* 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 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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