

"THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER" *Our Parish Weekly Bulletin*

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

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS! Glory to Jesus Christ! (responded with: Glory forever!)
Slava Isusu Christu! (*Slava na viki!*) We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop again soon! Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 - TRIODION BEGINS

St. Meletios, Archbishop of Antioch (c.357)
Scout Sunday

A FAST FREE WEEK

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024 *** RESCHEDULED ***

ALL-SOULS (1ST OF 5) (*Zadušna Subota*)
9:30am Divine Liturgy & Panachida

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

Apostles Archippus and Philemon of the 70 (1st c.)
9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 Divine Liturgy
Tone 6; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

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

www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/

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

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from the Lenten Triodion

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-Giver; for my spirit hastens early towards Your holy temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled; but in Your compassion purify me by Your gracious mercy. Amen.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

¹⁰Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Ico'nium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹²Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

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Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

¹⁰"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS

THEMES / GOSPEL READING

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Fast - Free Week

FEBRUARY 25th



TRIODION WEEKS

Publican and the Pharisee

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15
Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.

Normal Fast Week

MARCH 3rd



The Prodigal Son Returns!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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Scouts & Scout Leaders from our parish:

Oberon Latuch, Wolf Den,
Troop 207, Sacred Heart

Maria Urban and Sophia Urban, Brownies,
Troop 52491, Sacred Heart



Thank you to all of our Scouts and Scout Leaders for all that you do in and for our communities! Many Years!

Mnohaya L'ita!

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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 hall (*on the table to the left as you enter*) through **Sunday, March 10**. Monetary donations are also an option (*he will then purchase the items*).

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***** The Great Fast 2024** – With the beginning of the Triodion, there is **no fasting on Wednesday or Friday** this week, so that we do not boast, as did the Pharisee.

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All-Soul Saturday (*Zadušna Subota*)
Liturgies with Panachidas for 2024 will be on this **Saturday, March 2** (*rescheduled from the 9th*), **March 30, April 6, April 13, and June 15** (*rescheduled from the 22nd*). 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* – *List of the Deceased*)**. Envelopes and cards are available in the vestibule. [*** *This is different from the "Monthly Memorial" that we will be having on the 2nd Sunday of each month which is specific to each month.*]

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LAST CALL * 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

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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 different this week? Let Fr. Dave know what you noticed...

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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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***** 31 Books of March Sale^{XL}** – The Ancient Faith Store will most likely be offering different books for 50% off each day of the month of March! Visit the site daily (or sign up for their emails) and keep an eye out for a book that will help you along your Spiritual Journey! (Contact Fr Dave with any questions.) Visit: store.ancientfaith.com/31-books-of-march/

If You Are Looking To Add A Couple Dollars To Your Order To Get Free Shipping, Please Call or Text Father Dave As He Has A Couple Suggestions That Are Small And Would Be Helpful To Our Church.

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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 **2nd 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 1st 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.*

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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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***** Presanctified Liturgies** – The schedule for our Wednesday services will be different this year. With the growing Orthodox Christian presence in the area, instead of each week having the service here, we will take two weeks and pray at our sister Orthodox Parishes in the North Hills! In the desire to provide a greater fellowship among our parishes and communities, we will be sharing in three Wednesday Presanctified Liturgies. Our schedule will be thus:

- March 20** at 6:00 pm at St. John the Baptist
- March 27** at **7:00** pm at St. Alexander Nevsky OCA Cathedral (1600 Guyton Rd., Allison Park)
- April 3** at **6:30** pm at Holy Trinity GOA Church (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh)
- April 10** at 6:00 pm at SJB with the other parishes coming to us
- April 17 & 24** at 6:00 pm at SJB

**** Please note the different times when we visit*

All our parishioners are invited to attend all the services. What a wonderful way to build Orthodox fellowship and a stronger connection among our North Hills sister parishes. Each service will be followed by a Lenten meal.

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***** Attention Singers** – Soon we will be having the Liturgy of St. Basil on Sundays and the Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evenings -- Would anyone like to practice some of these melodies before we start the services? Please contact Fr. Dave if interested...

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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

March 3: _____?_____

March 10 : _____?_____

March 17 : _____?_____

***** New Windows** – Glory to God! The installation of our new windows is scheduled to begin tomorrow, **February 26!** May God continue to guide our journey!

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 1059
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 144
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 653
Community Outreach:	\$ 3
Total Collections:	\$ 1859
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 225

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Ryan and Sharon Dzadony; Mary Jane Hudak; Tim Martin; Carol and Tom Lorenzi; Eleanor Sanger; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack ; Marianne Kubis ; Cindy Pavilonis

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The **Eternal Lamp** was offered last week by Cindy Pavilonis in memory of +John Neimer. May His Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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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	
<i>Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave</i>	
March 3:	Tim Martin
March 10 :	Pre-Lenten Breakfast
March 17 (* meatless):	_____?_____

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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.

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***** Lenten Retreat** – Save the date for the Central Region Lenten Retreat on **Saturday, April 20** at St. Nicholas (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120)

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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.

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[“By the Waters of Babylon” is the entire Psalm 137, sung to a plaintive melody, during Matins (the morning service). It is only sung in church the three Sundays that precede Great Lent: Sunday of the Prodigal Son, The Last Judgment (Meatfare), and Forgiveness (Cheesefare).]

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**A Prayer in Exile (Psalm 137):
Longing for Zion in a Foreign Land**

By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.
² On the willows there
we hung up our harps.
³ For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
⁴ How shall we sing the LORD’s song
in a foreign land?
⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!
⁶ Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy!
⁷ Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom
the day of Jerusalem,
how they said, “Raze it, raze it!
Down to its foundations!”
⁸ O daughter of Babylon, you who are devastated!
Happy shall he be who requites you
with what you have done to us!
⁹ Happy shall he be who takes your little ones
and dashes them against the rock!

ONLINE BONUSES

6 FACTS about the *Triodion*



Begins on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Ends on Pascha, with the service of the Midnight Office

Contains hymns for 10 Sundays and over 70 individual days

Originally written in Greek as early as the 9th century

Its precursors are dated to the 5th and 6th centuries

Refers to both the book and the period before Great Lent



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The Mother of God

The Place of the Holy Virgin in our Lives

The Holy Virgin is a stumbling block for many protestants looking into Orthodoxy. The idea that this woman described in the Gospels in such humble terms could be called Mother of God seems unbiblical to them. She was never called Mother of God in the Bible, they say, so why would she be given such an exalted title? She was, they think, simply the mother of Jesus.

From the earliest of times the Church has seen fit to call her exalted among women, even more exalted than the heavenly hosts. Her role in the history of salvation has been seen as pivotal from the time of the very first century for her humility and obedience before God made her the New Eve. Whereby death entered the world through the disobedience of the first mother, Eve, the Holy Virgin became the New Eve the moment she answered, "be it done according to Thy word", agreeing to be the Mother of Christ.

The very first icon was painted depicting Mary holding the child Jesus by none other than the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke. The Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God was painted on a board from the

table at which the Savior ate together with His All-Pure Mother and Righteous Joseph. The Mother of God, upon seeing this image, exclaimed, "Henceforth, all generations shall call Me blessed. The grace of both My Son and Me shall be with this icon." She was thus recognized by the Church for her pivotal role with the title Theotokos, which means God-bearer.

The Council of Ephesus decreed in 431 that Mary is Theotokos because her son Jesus is one person who is both God and man, divine and human. To call her only the mother of Jesus was seen as heretical because to do so would be to suggest that Jesus was simply a man, apart from being God at the same time. The balance of being both God and Man was thus preserved by the Church from the earliest of times.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to announce to the Virgin the birth of the Saviour: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women." (Luke 1:28) This angelic salutation forms a part of the hymn of the Church most frequently sung in her honor, in imitation of the words of this angelic messenger of God. Elizabeth, the Virgin's cousin, considered it an honor for the Mother of her Lord to visit her. "And whence is this to me that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:43) There is no difference between saying "Mother of God" and "Mother of the Lord". Surely, God is the Lord! (Psalm 118:27) During her visit to Elizabeth, the Blessed Virgin spoke the words that form the principal hymn sung in her honor at the Matins service.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed." (Luke 1: 47-48)

Elizabeth, having been "filled with the Holy Spirit", cried out: "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb." (Luke 1:41, 42) This honor given the Theotokos by her cousin is exactly what all generations of the Church do when they call her blessed. When Jesus beheld His mother and His disciple John standing by the cross, He entrusted him with her care, but He also established a new spiritual relationship between them in saying to the disciple: "Behold thy Mother!" (John 19:27) In

making this declaration our Lord made His Mother the Mother of all Christians!

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

SAINT MELETIOS, ARCHBISHOP OF ANTIOCH

Commemorated on February 12

Saint Meletios, Archbishop of Antioch, was at first a bishop of Sebasteia in Armenia (c.357), and afterwards he was summoned by the emperor Constantius to Antioch to help defend against the Arian heresy, and received there the cathedra-seat.

Saint Meletios struggled quite zealously against the Arian error, but through the intrigues of the heretics he was thrice deposed from his cathedra-seat; Constantius had become surrounded by the Arians and had been swayed over to their position. In all this Saint Meletios was distinguished by an extraordinary gentleness, and he constantly led along his flock by the example of his own virtue and kindly disposition, presupposing that upon suchlike a soil sprouts more readily the seeds of the true teaching of the faith.

Saint Meletios was the one who ordained as deacon the future hierarch Saint Basil the Great. And Saint Meletios also baptised and encouraged the growth under him of another of the greatest luminaries of Orthodoxy – Saint John Chrysostom, who afterwards wrote an eulogy to his former archpastor.

After Constantius, the throne was occupied by Julian the Apostate, and the saint again was expelled, having to hide himself away in secret places for his safety. But again returning under the emperor Jovian in the year 363, Saint Meletios wrote his theological tract, "Exposition of the Faith", which facilitated the conversion to Orthodoxy of many of the Arians.

In the year 381, under the emperor Theodosius the Great (379-395), the Second OEcumenical Council was convened. Already in the year 380 the saint had set off on his way to the Second OEcumenical Council at Constantinople, and came to preside over it. Before the start of the Council, Saint Meletios raised up his hand displaying three fingers, and then

conjoining together two fingers and bending the one he blessed the people, proclaiming: "We apprehend three hypostatic-persons, and we speak about one self-same nature," – and with this declaration of the saint there flashed the fire of a lightning-bolt. During the time of the Council Saint Meletios expired to the Lord. Saint Gregory of Nyssa honoured the memory of the deceased with an eulogistic word.

There are preserved discourses of Saint Meletios concerning the One-in-Essence nature of the Son of God with God the Father, and also his letter to the emperor Jovian about the confessing of the Holy Trinity. The relics of Saint Meletios were transferred from Constantinople to Antioch.

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddioecese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
YouTube: 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. 19th 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

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**ADDITIONAL
BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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*** Important Upcoming Liturgical Dates:**

The Great Fast Begins: Monday, March 18
Holy Week: Monday, April 29
Pascha: Sunday, May 5
Ascension: Thursday, June 13
Pentecost: Sunday, June 23

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CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:

- ✘ *** New windows on the 1st floor will be installed beginning February 26 (*cost is \$28,000 – covered by an anonymous donor*)
- ✘ ** 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*)
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 Schrmack (*5th 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.

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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 (2nd best is to mail it in to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue it’s ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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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			Tithe				Upper Range Giving				Middle Range Giving				Lower Range Giving								
	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%	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	\$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	\$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	\$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	\$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	\$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	\$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	\$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	\$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	\$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	\$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	\$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	\$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 Patara (+ 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, Ameer, 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 Kalaluhu – 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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