

# “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 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, MARCH 3, 2024

Apostles Archippus and Philemon of the 70 (1<sup>st</sup> c.)  
Church School

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 9 – FEAST OF THE FIRST AND SECOND FINDINGS OF THE HEAD OF ST JOHN

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#### SUNDAY, MARCH 10

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Sainted Porphyrios, Archbishop of Gaza (420)

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Tone 7; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Panachida - Monthly Memorial

Pre-Lenten Pot-Luck Brunch

Sr. ACRY Meeting

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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 Corinthians 6:12-20

#### Glorify God in Body and Spirit

<sup>12</sup>“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. <sup>13</sup>“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”--and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.” <sup>17</sup>But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

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*Gospel:* Luke 15:11-32

#### The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

<sup>11</sup>And he said, “There was a man who had two sons; <sup>12</sup>and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. <sup>15</sup>So he went and joined himself to

Normal Fast Week

MARCH 3rd



The Prodigal Son Returns!

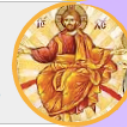
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

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

Meatfare

MARCH 10th

FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY



The Last Judgement

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2  
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.

one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. <sup>16</sup>And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.’” <sup>20</sup>And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; <sup>23</sup>and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; <sup>24</sup>for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup>but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ <sup>31</sup>And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

### BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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\*\*\* **2024 Great Fast** – The Triodion has begun... it is time to prepare for the opportunity ahead!

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\* **Pre-Lenten Brunch** will be **NEXT Sunday, March 10**. Please sign up in the hall so we have a rough idea of how many will stay for the fellowship. ALSO, it will be a Pot-Luck this year! Please contact Kathy Schrmack or sign up with what you will bring.

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\*\*\* **ACRY Meeting** – There will be a Sr. ACRY meeting **next week, March 10**, after the Pre-Lenten Brunch. Contact Subdeacon Ryan with any questions.

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\*\*\* **Candy Sale** – We are selling Anderson’s Candy and the catalogs are in the church hall. Orders are due by **March 15** (*sorry for the short notice! There was a weird delay this year...*). Candy will be delivered March 23. \* Please try and sell some! We need to sell \$500 worth of candy to get the 30% profit from this fundraiser. Please see Tim Martin with any questions.

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

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

\*\*\* **Thank you!** to everyone who brought in physical or monetary donations for St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry. If anyone would like to deliver our donations to the South Side, please contact Fr. Dave.

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\*\*\* **31 Books of March Sale**<sup>XL</sup> – 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/](http://store.ancientfaith.com/31-books-of-march/)

If You Would Like To Buy Something For The Church Library Or 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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\*\* **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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\*\* **Lenten Retreat** – Save the date for the Central Region Lenten Retreat on **Saturday, April 20** at St. Nicholas (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120)

\* **Monthly Memorial** – Starting this 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.

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\*\*\* **Nameday, Birthday, and Anniversary Prayer List is being reset** – Our parish prayer list of key dates and special occasions in our lives will be reset going forward (starting 3/1/24). Please contact Fr. Dave with any questions.

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\*\* **New Windows** – Glory to God! The installation of our new windows began, **February 26!** May God continue to guide our journey!

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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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\*\*\* **St Constantine School** – After over 2 years searching for a place to call home, a location has been found! In just under 6 months, the St. Constantine School will be opening their doors and welcoming students, faculty, and families into 934 Forest Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15202 located on the south side of Ross Township. Stay tuned for more information about this new Orthodox School in Pittsburgh!

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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.

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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 am*

March 10 :	_____?
March 17 :	_____?
March 24 :	_____?

**OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 50
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 78
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 258
Community Outreach:	\$ 110
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 496</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Eleanor Sanger; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Fred and Julianna Anton; Mary Jane Hudak; Rich and Renee Mirilovich; Melanie Paieski; Cindy Pavidonis

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**December Financial Report:**

**General Stewardship = \$ 4537.22**  
*(includes \$ 214.72 from online stewardship)*  
**\*Expenses = \$ 5618.29**  
**Net Deficit = \$ 1081.07**  
**Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 425**  
 Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 36  
*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

**Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Report:**

*(September through last month)*  
**General Stewardship = \$ 50,054**  
**\*Expenses = \$ 38,293**  
**Net Income = \$ 11,761**  
*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*  
 Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 31

**Church Financial Account Balances:**

*Balances as of the end of last month*  
**General Stewardship = \$ 84,235**  
*includes the "Fundraising Account"*  
**Capital Improvement Funds = \$ 70,448**  
*of which \$ 49,102 in this fund is borrowed*

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**COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS**

*Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave*  
 March 10 : Pot-Luck Pre-Lenten Breakfast  
 March 17 (\* meatless): \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_  
 March 24 (\* meatless): \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER CORNER**

**For the Health of...** Paul, Thomas, Cheryl, 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.  
<sup>2</sup> On the willows there  
we hung up our harps.  
<sup>3</sup> For there our captors  
required of us songs,  
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,  
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"  
<sup>4</sup> How shall we sing the LORD's song  
in a foreign land?  
<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither!  
<sup>6</sup> 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!  
<sup>7</sup> Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom  
the day of Jerusalem,  
how they said, "Raze it, raze it!  
Down to its foundations!"  
<sup>8</sup> O daughter of Babylon, you who are devastated!  
Happy shall he be who requites you  
with what you have done to us!  
<sup>9</sup> 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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#### 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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#### LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### THE HOLY DISCIPLES FROM THE SEVENTY: ARCHIPPOS, PHILEMON AND APTHEA (2ND COMM. 22 NOVEMBER)

*Commemorated on February 19, November 22*

The Holy Disciples from the Seventy: Archippos, Philemon and Apthea (2nd Comm. 22 November) were students and companions of the holy Apostle Paul. In the Epistle to Philemon, the Apostle Paul names Saint Archippos as his companion.

The Disciple Archippos was bishop of the city of Colossa in Phrygia. The Disciple Philemon was an eminent citizen of this city, and in his home the Christians gathered to celebrate Divine-services. He

was likewise ordained to the dignity of bishop by the Apostle Paul and he went about the cities of Phrygia, preaching the Gospel. Later on, he became archpastor of the city of Gaza. Saint Apthea, his spouse, took into her home the sick and vagrants, zealously attending to them. She was indeed a veritable co-worker to her spouse in proclaiming the Word of God.

During the persecution against Christians under the emperor Nero (54-68), the holy Disciples Archippos and Philemon and Equal-to-the-Apostles Apthea were brought to trial by the city-governor Artocles for confessing faith in Christ. The Disciple Archippos was brutally hacked at with knives. After torture, they buried Saints Philemon and Apthea up to the waist in the ground, and stoned them until the holy martyrs died.

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#### MARCH SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

**ALL-SOULS (1<sup>ST</sup> OF 5) (Zadušna Subota)**

9:30am Divine Liturgy & Panachida

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024**

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Church School

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9 – FEAST OF THE FIRST AND SECOND FINDINGS OF THE HEAD OF ST JOHN**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10**

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Panachida - Monthly Memorial

Pre-Lenten Pot-Luck Brunch

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13**

ANNIVERSARY IN ALLISON PARK

6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15**

6:30 pm Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Youth Sunday

Rite of Forgiveness

Church School

**CLEAN MONDAY, MARCH 18 #TheGreatFast**

THE GREAT FAST BEGINS

6:30 pm Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**CLEAN TUESDAY, MARCH 19 #TheGreatFast**

6:30 pm Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**CLEAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 #TheGreatFast**

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

with community meal following

**CLEAN THURSDAY, MARCH 21 #TheGreatFast**

6:30 pm Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**CLEAN FRIDAY, MARCH 22 #TheGreatFast**

\* 9:30 am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**OR \* 6:30 pm Lenten Service**

**CLEAN SATURDAY, MARCH 23 #TheGreatFast**

11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24 #TheGreatFast**

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 Divine Liturgy

Procession of Icons (*Bring an icon to church*)

4:30 pm Sunday of Orthodoxy at Holy Trinity

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 #TheGreatFast**

7:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at

St. Alexander Nevsky OCA Cathedral

(1600 Guyton Rd., Allison Park)

with community meal following

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29 #TheGreatFast**

\* 9:30 am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**OR \* 6:30 pm Lenten Service**

**ALL-SOUL'S SATURDAY (Zadušna Subota),**

**MARCH 30 #TheGreatFast**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (*2<sup>nd</sup> of 5*)

11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31 #TheGreatFast**

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 pm Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm Deanery Lenten Mission in East Pittsburgh

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#### MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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## ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)*

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**\*\*\* 2024 Parish Picnic** – Save the date for our Parish Family Picnic at The Cabin on **Sunday, September 8**

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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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (*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**

**First (4 C.) & Second (452) Discovery Of The Head Of The Prophet, Forerunner And Baptist John**  
*Commemorated on March 9 / February 24*

After the cutting off of the Head of the Prophet, ForeRunner and Baptist John (Comm. 29 August), his body was buried by disciples in the Samaritan city of Sebasteia, and the venerable head was hidden by Herodias in an unclean place. Pious Joanna, wife of king Herod's steward Chuza (there is made mention about him by the holy evangelist Luke – Lk 8: 3), secretly took the holy head and placed it into a vessel and buried it on the Mount of Olives – in one of the properties of Herod. After many years this property passed into the possession of the dignitary Innocentius, who began to build a church there. When they dug a trench for the foundation, the vessel with the venerable head of John the Baptist was uncovered. Innocentius recognised the great holiness of it from the signs of grace occurring from it. Thus occurred the First Discovery of the Head. Innocentius preserved it with great piety, but before his own death, fearful so that the holy relic should not be abused by unbelievers, he again hid it in that same place, where it was found...Upon his death the church fell into ruin and was destroyed.

During the days of Equal-to-the-Apostles Constantine the Great (+ 337, Comm. 21 May), when the Christian faith began to flourish, the holy ForeRunner himself appeared twice unto two monks journeying to Jerusalem on pilgrimage to the holy places, and he revealed the location of his venerable head. The monks uncovered the holy relic and, placing it into a sack of camel-hair, they proceeded homewards. Along the way they encountered an unnamed potter and gave him to carry the precious burden. Not knowing what he was carrying, the potter continued on his way. But the holy ForeRunner himself appeared to him and ordered him to flee from the careless and lazy monks, together with that which was in his hands. The potter concealed himself from the monks and at home he preserved the venerable head with reverence. Before his death he sealed it into a water-carrying vessel and gave it over to his sister.

From that time the venerable head was successively preserved by pious Christians, until the priest Eustathios infected with the Arian heresy – came into possession of it. He seduced a multitude of the infirm, healed by the holy head, adding abundance to the heresy. When his blasphemy was uncovered, he was compelled to flee. Having buried the holy relic in a cave, near Emessus, the heretic intended to afterwards return and again take possession of it for disseminating falsehood. But God did not permit this. Pious monks settled into the cave, and then at this place arose a monastery. In the year 452 Saint John the Baptist in a vision to the archimandrite of this monastery Marcellus indicated the place of concealment of his head. This became celebrated as the Second Discovery. The holy relic was transferred to Emessus, and later to Constantinople.

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Icon of Christ's Extreme Humility

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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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**\*\*\* NAMEDAY, BIRTHDAY, and Anniversary Prayer List is being reset** – Our parish prayer list of key dates and special occasions in our lives will be reset going forward (starting 3/1/24). Please see Fr. Dave with any questions!

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### March Namedays:

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

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### March Birthdays:

Alisha Zak (3/1), Matthew Wensel (3/3), Lillian Fucsko (3/4), Christopher Kubis (3/6), Fr Daniel Mahler (3/6), Randall Paieski (3/9), *Father's nephew,*

Michael Verbanick (3/9), *Father's God-mother*,  
Andrea Babbie (3/10), Allen Dzambo (3/11), Noella  
Gaydos (3/14), Fr David Cochran (3/18), Pañi Alison  
Archer (3/21), Marianne Kubis (3/29), Ben Anton  
(3/30)

...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all  
the days of their lives and may He grant them many  
and blessed years!*

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

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

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**March Anniversaries:**

Lindsay & AJ Matolyak-Ferraz (3/6/21)  
...*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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