

**“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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**UPCOMING SERVICES**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

Translation of the relics of Martyr Wencslaus

**CLEAN MONDAY, MARCH 18** #TheGreatFast

THE GREAT FAST BEGINS

*A day of strict fasting*

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

6:30 pm Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**CLEAN SATURDAY, MARCH 23** #TheGreatFast

11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24** #TheGreatFast

St. Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem (638)

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Tone 1; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

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

6:30 pm Paraklis to the Theotokos

**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

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**SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4*

**An Urgent Appeal**

<sup>11</sup> Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Do Not Judge Another**

<sup>14</sup> As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. <sup>2</sup> One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

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*Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21*

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**Concerning Fasting**

<sup>16</sup> “And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Cheesefare  
**MARCH 17th**  
FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY



**Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!**  
FORGIVENESS SUNDAY  
Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4  
Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.

1st Sunday of Lent  
**MARCH 24th**



GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS  
**SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY**  
Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2  
Gospel: John 1:43-51

Bring an icon to church for a procession.

**Concerning Treasures**

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

**BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!**

**Glory be to Jesus Christ!** (*responded with:* Glory forever!) 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.

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**\*\* “Clean Week” Services** – The first week of the Great Fast is known as “Clean Week”. We will have services each evening. All are encouraged to come to as many services as your schedule allows. **The Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete** was “written in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, It is the backbone of Orthodox services for the first week of Great Lent and sets the tone for a Christian’s self reflection and repentance appropriate to the season.”

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**\*\* Fellowship Meals** - Got Soup? A small ‘t’ tradition in many Orthodox parishes is to have soup (or other light meal) following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts during the Great Fast. We will have this meal after our Wednesday evening services at our parish and when we travel to the other North Hills Orthodox parishes. A sign up sheet is in the church hall for those interested in bringing in food.

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**\*\*\* Great Lent 2024** – It’s hard to imagine the journey that our parish has been on over the past year. One year ago today we had our final Liturgy (of the Presanctified Gifts) on the North Side. We can reflect back over this year and see things that worked for our parish, things that we missed, and things that we could have done differently. This is true for our soul as well. As our journey through the Great Fast is upon us, we can reflect back and see things that worked in our lives, things that we missed, and things that we could have done differently. In this season of repentance, let’s go to the Mystery of Confession and cleanse our souls as we prepare for Pascha! Please reach out to me with any questions about this great fasting period that we are entering. I am thankful that our God is merciful and forgives. I humbly ask for your forgiveness for the many wrongs that I have done. *With love in Christ*, Fr. Dave

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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 **St. John the Baptist with the other parishes coming to us**

**April 17 & 24** at 6:00 pm at SJB

**\*\* Please note the different times when we travel \*\***

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

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\*\*\* **Bring an Icon to Church** – Next week, on **Orthodoxy Sunday, March 25**, you are encouraged to bring an icon from home to hold during the Divine Liturgy and to use in our procession of icons at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

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\*\* **Sunday of Orthodoxy Service** - The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh is hosting the annual service on the Sunday of Orthodoxy on **Sunday, March 24** at 4:30 pm at Holy Trinity (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh)

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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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**\*\* Deanery Lenten Mission Schedule**

All are again encouraged to attend services at our sister parishes this spring. Not only is it beautiful fellowship with other Orthodox, but each church is unique and you get to see the differences first hand.

Confessions start at 3:30, Vespers at 4:00, and

Fellowship Meal following

**March 31** - St John the Baptist

211 Cable Ave., **East Pittsburgh**, PA 15112

**April 7** - St Michael the Archangel

146 Third Ave., **Rankin**, PA 15104

**April 14** - St John the Baptist

2201 Duncan Ave., **Allison Park**

**April 21** - St John the Baptist

450 Glenwood Ave., **Ambridge**, PA 15003

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

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\*\*\* **Thank you!** Many stewards keep coming to the church and working very hard to make improvements. Most recently the pews from the North Side were installed. A LOT of cleaning has occurred as well – Thank You! May God grant you many years!

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\*\*\* **Church Messenger** – Our monthly publication of the *Church Messenger* is sent to all of our Diocesan households. IF you do not receive this, please let Fr. Dave know ASAP.

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\*\* **Bookstore Coordinator** – Would you be willing to take care of our bookstore? The process is easy and will not take up much of your time. If interested or if you have any questions, please contact Fr. Dave.

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\*\* **Weeping Icon** – The Kardiotissa (*Tender Heart*) Icon will be traveling to St. Nicholas (314 6<sup>th</sup> St., Monongahela, PA 15063) on **Friday, April 5** at **7:00 pm**. Please contact Fr. Dave with any questions.

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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

✘ **Aug. 4-10** - Science & Nature Camp (*ages 8-18*)

✘ **October 25-27** - Young Adult Retreat

✘ **November 8-10** - ACRY Encounter

*Please, Save the Dates and go to camp!*

*339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137*

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**COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS**

*Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave*

\* March 24: \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_

\* March 31: \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_

\* April 7: \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_

*\* meatless during the Great Fast*

**OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 217

Candle Stewardship: \$ 308.25

Envelope Stewardship: \$ 468

Community Outreach: \$ 20

**Total Collections: \$ 1013.25**

**Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 225**

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Jane Gaydos; Lorenzi Family; Lawrence Martin; Matthew Peifer; Kathy Schrmack; Anton Family; Mary Jane Hudak; Eleanor Sanger; Mirilovich Family; Cindy Pavilonis

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The *Eternal Lamp* was offered by Matt Peifer in memory of his parent, +Jack and +Viola Peifer. May their memory be eternal!

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The *Christ Cross* was offered last week by Matt Peifer for the health of the Peifer family. Many Years!

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\*\* **Lenten Coin Boxes** – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Mt 28:19) Coin boxes are available in the vestibule to collect your spare change throughout the Great Fast for our Community Outreach next month (OCMC). More information is available at [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org). “Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share” (1 Tim 6:18)

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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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\*\* **Spring Maintenance Morning** – With the Lenten Retreat falling on the Saturday that we normally had our spring maintenance morning, a creative reschedule may happen... stay tuned!

**LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH**



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**A Note About The Mystery Of Confession**

Confessions will be heard in front of the Icon of Christ. Confessions will be heard *following every service*, from **11am – 1pm** on most Saturdays during Great Lent, and at other times by appointment: please contact Fr. Dave to arrange this. If you have a regular Spiritual Father, or wish to go to another Orthodox priest to have your confession heard, no problem! but please let Fr. Dave know. Do not wait to plan for your confession! Confessions will only be heard *through Holy Wednesday*.

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**SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR THE GREAT FAST (GREAT LENT):**

We are called to increase our *Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving* during this time...

**PRAYER:**

- ✘ Attend as many of the services as possible and be strengthened in community prayer.
- ✘ Come to the Mystery of Confession (*offered after every service, on most Saturdays during the Great Fast, or by appointment*).
- ✘ Approach the Chalice to receive the Holy Eucharist as often as possible.
- ✘ Also, add additional prayers to your personal *Prayer Rule* at home. (See the attached about reading the Book of Psalms during Great Lent.)

**FASTING:**

- ✘ The Great Fast begins tomorrow, March 8. This is a day of strict fasting (no meat or dairy products). Likewise, strict fast on Great & Holy Friday (4/22) and Great & Holy Saturday (4/23)
- ✘ The tradition of the Orthodox Church is a strict fast (*no meat or dairy products eaten*) by all of the faithful for the entire 40 days of the Great Fast and for all of Holy Week.
- ✘ If you cannot physically do this, adopt a fasting rule and stick to it for the duration of the Great Fast (*see*

Father for some guidance). Here are a few examples:

- a) strict fast on certain days of the week while keeping a meat fast on the others;
- b) fast only from meat;
- c) fast from meat for certain weeks (*Clean Week, Cross Week, and Holy Week*); or
- d) fast from meat on Wednesdays, Fridays, and all of Holy Week (*April 18-23*).
- ✦ The more effort you put forth in your fasting, the more spiritually uplifting your Lenten Season will be!
- ✦ A minimum three (3) hour fast from all food and drink for those receiving Communion at the evening Pre-sanctified Liturgy (*the regular "midnight Fast" is called for the Liturgies of St. John Chrysostom & St. Basil the Great*)
- ✦ The sick and infirm are not bound by the fast at any time.
- ✦ Those requiring medications or certain prescribed diets are to follow their physician's instructions.
- ✦ Lastly, the Great Fast is not a "40 day diet program" or simply a "dietary adjustment" (or "label Lent").

#### ALMSGIVING:

- ✦ Find a way to give more of your time, talent, and treasures.

A general guideline for the Great Fast is this:

Try to do more than last year.

Please reach out if you have questions about this important fasting period that we are blessed with. This is an opportunity, not an obligation. May our journey to Pascha be a spiritually beautiful one! – Fr. Dave



Icon of Christ's Extreme Humility

#### SUGGESTED LENTEN READINGS

The following suggested readings for the Great Fast are available in our Bookstore for a reasonable donation (about 50% off).  
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**When You Fast: The Why and How of Christian Self-Discipline** by Joseph Letendre (\$6)  
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**Pilgrimage to Pascha: A Daily Devotional for Great Lent** by Archpriest Steven John Belonick (\$7)  
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**Thinking Orthodox: Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Christian Mind** by Eugenia Constantinou (\$12)  
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*In Addition To* the above books, another option is to use our borrowing Library located in the Multi-Purpose Room.

This is a great option **for our youth** as there are many books for them to take advantage of!

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If you have questions about any book – please do not hesitate to ask Fr. Dave!

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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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#### VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddioecese](http://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](http://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioecese](http://youtube.com/acroddioecese)

#### PRAYER CORNER

**For the Health of...** John, 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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**For the souls of the newly departed...**  
+Michael Matolyak Jr (3/11)  
...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory!  
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#### A Prayer for the Beginning of the Great Fast

O God, Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those far away at sea or in the air, Who foretold these holy days of fasting in the Law, the Prophets and the Evangelists: Grant all of us to proceed in purity along the course of the Fast, to keep the Faith undivided and to preserve Your commandments all the days of our lives.

Command an angel of peace to preserve our comings-in and goings-out for all good works, being obedient together and serving together for a perfect communion of Your Most-pure Mysteries. Accept, O Master, the bending of the knees and the fasting of Your servants, granting to them spiritual blessings, and to all of us, in Christ Jesus our Lord, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your Most-holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever and onto the ages of ages. Amen.

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#### A Spiritual Vitamin:

"A vainglorious ascetic is cheated both ways: he exhausts his body and gets no reward. It is not he who depreciates himself who shows humility, but he who maintains the same love for every man who reproaches him." +St. John Climacus

#### THE PRAYER OF SAINT EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

*(in the Ruthenian tradition as found in St. Peter Mogila's 1639 Liturgikon (Sluzhebnik))*

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. + [Prostration]

But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love.

+ [Prostration]  
Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen.

+ [Prostration]

*The following triplet is recited 4 times (making a total of 12 bows):*

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [bow]

O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me. [bow]

O Lord, forgive me, for my sins are many. [bow]

*Then the prayer again with only one prostration:*

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. But give to me,

Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins,

and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen.

+ [Prostration]

## ONLINE BONUSES

### It's "Go Time!"

By Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis

Great Lent actually begins with the setting of the sun on Forgiveness Sunday. There is a special service called "Forgiveness Vespers" that is held in many parishes. This service not only includes the opportunity to ask forgiveness from fellow parishioners, but it contains the proclamation that Great Lent is now upon us. This announcement, chanted in a hymn called "The Great Prokeimenon" reads as follows:

*Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted; hear me speedily. Give heed to my soul and redeem it. (Great Prokeimenon, Forgiveness Vespers, Trans. by Fr. Seraphim Dedes)*

Thus, the Divine Liturgy on the morning of Forgiveness Sunday is the last liturgical gathering before the beginning of Great Lent, the last instructions before the journey of Great Lent begins, and so there are some appropriate pieces of advice for the faithful as we are about to set out on the journey.

Saint Paul tell us that it is "*full time now for you to wake from sleep*" (Romans 13:11). These words are said appropriately today to get our attention. If we have been spiritually sleeping this year, it's time to wake up and start a journey to spiritual renewal. "*Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed*" (13:11). Another year has passed in our lives, we are closer to the Day of Judgement, which potentially is the day of our salvation, or our condemnation. Lent is a time to work on our salvation.

"*The day is at hand.*" (13:12) Lent is about to begin. "*Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.*" (13:12) It is time to set aside sinful habits and renew our walk with the Lord, our "*light*" and to put on ourselves the "*armor of light*"—love, forgiveness, patience, charity. "*Let us conduct ourselves becomingly*" to befit the season we are entering. This is not a time for reveling and drunkenness, debauchery and licentiousness, quarreling or jealousy. (13:13) It is a time to "*put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*" (13:14) This is one of the

reasons we are fasting, to put away something that gratifies the flesh, food, and to put on the "discipline" of living a Christian life. This is the ideal.

Saint Paul, in his Epistle to the Romans, even in the early years of the church, was astute enough to realize that each person approaches his or her journey to Christ with various levels of maturity and sincerity. This is still the same to this day. There are some who are going to make a very austere fast, a very engaged journey. There are others whose lives won't be affected at all during Lent. Some will come to every service, and some will come only on Good Friday and Pascha. Saint Paul reminds us "*let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats.*" (14:3) The journey of Great Lent isn't a competition against other people of who can fast the strictest or attend the most services, or deprive oneself the most. Rather the journey of Lent, while it takes place in a public forum, the church, is private and personal to each person making it. This will be confirmed in the Gospel lesson that will be reflected on next.

"*Who are you (we) to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls.*" (14:4) This is very true. As regards our fellow Christians, our role is to encourage, not judge. I try to encourage people to come to church more during Lent, to fast, to go to confession, etc. But it is not my place, or our place, to cast judgment on what others choose to do or not to do during Lent. At the end, we will each stand alone before our Master, Jesus Christ, and stand or fall on our own merits—our own faith and works. Therefore, my role in Lent is to focus on my own journey to salvation, working on my faults, disciplining my body and my mind, and recommitting myself to the Christian life. It is also my role to encourage others to do the same. However this is done with encouragement, and not judgment.

It's not too late to make a plan for how you'll spend this Lent. Use the day to plan out how you'll cast off your "*works of darkness and put on the armor of (Christ's) light*" (13:12) so that when we reach the feast of Pascha in seven weeks, and receive again the Light of Christ, your heart is fully prepared, emptied

of darkness, and ready to be illumined again by the Light of the Resurrected Christ!

*The time has come – the start of our spiritual contests, the victory over demons, the full armor of self-control, the angels' dignity, the confidence before God. Thereby did Moses become conversant with the Creator, and heard the invisible voice. Lord, through fasting make us worthy to worship Your Passion and holy Resurrection, as You love humanity. (Doxastikon from Matins, Sunday of the Forgiveness, Trans. by Fr. Seraphim Dedes)*

It's "Go Time!"

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### The Transfer Of The Relics Of Holy Nobleborn Prince Vyacheslav Of Czechia:

*Commemorated on March 17/4*

The Holy Nobleborn Prince Vyacheslav of the Czechs was a grandson of the holy Martyress and Princess Liudmila (Comm. 16 September), and he was raised by her in deep piety. He began to rule at age 18 after the death of his father prince Bratislav (+ 920). In spite of his youthful age, he ruled wisely and justly and concerned himself much about the Christian enlightenment of the people. The holy prince was a widely educated man, and he studied in the Latin and Greek languages. Saint Vyacheslav was peace-loving. He built and embellished churches, and in the Czech capital Prague he raised up a magnificent church in the name of Saint Vitus, and he had respect for the clergy. Envious nobles decided to murder the saint and at first to incite his mother against him, and later to urge his younger brother, Boleslav, to occupy the princely throne. Boleslav invited his brother to the dedication of a church, and then asked him to tarry and stay for still another day. In spite of the warnings of his servants, the holy prince refused to believe in a conspiracy and exposed his life to the will of God. On the following day, 28 September 935, when the nobleborn Vyacheslav went to matins, he was wickedly murdered at the doors of the church by his own brother by birth and that one's servants. His body was stabbed and thrown down without burial. The mother, hearing about the murder of her son, found and placed him in a recently consecrated church at the

princely court. They were not able to wash off the blood splashed on the church doors, but after 3 days it disappeared by itself. Repenting himself, the perpetrator of the fratricide transferred the relics of Saint Vyacheslav to Prague, where they were placed in the church of Saint Vitus, which the martyr himself had constructed (the transfer of the relics of Saint Vyacheslav is celebrated on 4 March). The memory of the Nobleborn Prince Vyacheslav is honoured from of old in the Russian Orthodox Church. (There exists conjecture, that the death of the saint occurred instead in the year 929).

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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE GREAT FAST

### FORGIVENESS 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

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### CLEAN SATURDAY, MARCH 23 #TheGreatFast

11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered

### SUNDAY, MARCH 24 #TheGreatFast

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

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  
6:30 pm Paraklis to the Theotokos  
**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  
ST. GREGORY PALAMAS  
9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 pm Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great  
4:00 pm Deanery Lenten Mission in East Pittsburgh  
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**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3** #TheGreatFast  
**6:30** pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at  
Holy Trinity GOA Church  
(985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh)  
with community meal following  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 5** #TheGreatFast  
6:30 pm Akathist Hymn to the Passion of our Lord  
**ALL-SOUL'S SATURDAY** (*Zadušna Subota*),  
**APRIL 6** #TheGreatFast  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (*3<sup>rd</sup> of 5*)  
11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 7** #TheGreatFast  
FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION  
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS  
9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 pm Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great  
4:00 pm Deanery Lenten Mission in Rankin  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10** #TheGreatFast  
**6:00** pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at SJB  
(*hosting the other two parishes*)  
with community meal following  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 12** #TheGreatFast  
6:30 pm Moleben to the Holy Cross  
**ALL-SOUL'S SATURDAY** (*Zadušna Subota*),  
**APRIL 13** #TheGreatFast  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (*4<sup>th</sup> of 5*)  
11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered  
  
... to be continued

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY**

National Jr. ACRY Project / local ZOE for Life chapter

**ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

**\*Live-Broadcast** – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online:  
[www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/)

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

**\*Calendar** - Future Services are updated online at:  
[www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar)  
(Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)

**\* NAMEDAY, BIRTHDAY, and ANNIVERSARY Prayer Lists are 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.

**\* 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!

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

**CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE**  
*Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:*  
✘ \*\*\* Installation of our **pews** will occur this week (*contact Fr. Dave if you want to help*)  
✘ \*\*\* The installation of our new **windows** is complete - Glory to God! Come see the light! (*cost was \$28,000 - covered by an anonymous donor*)  
✘ \*\*\* The **chandelier** that was generously donated to our parish will not be installed. After seeing first-hand the state of the aged electrical and supports, it was reconsidered. Other options are being explored.  
✘ \* 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*)  
**Glory to God for All Things!**  
Through your generosity and dedication, all of this will come together – one thing at a time!

**\*\*\* 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.

**\*\*\* 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.

**Speaking With Your Priest** - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It

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

**2023-24 SJB PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS**  
President: Lawrence Martin  
Vice-President: Subdeacon Ryan Ferko  
Treasurer: Timothy Martin, Reader  
Financial Secretary: Rich Mirilovich  
Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Radomsky  
Chief Auditor: Robert Fall  
Auditors: Gina Fall, John Kirish, Mary Jane Hudak, Kathy Schrmack (*5<sup>th</sup> position open*)

**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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**STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET**

**TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES**

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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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**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%   |  |  |  |
| \$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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**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. Dzadoovsky *...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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

+Michael Matolyak Jr (3/11)

*...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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**A Prayer Of Repentance (Psalm 50/51)**

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your great mercy; And according to the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my iniquity, And my sin is continually before me. Against You only have I sinned, And done this evil before You. That You might be justified in Your words, And prevail when You judge. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, And in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, You have loved truth; The hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made clear to me. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; You shall wash me and I shall be made whiter than snow. You shall make me to hear joy and gladness, The bones which have been humbled shall rejoice. Turn Your face away from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

Create a clean heart in me, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, And take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And with Your governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Your ways, And the ungodly shall turn back to You.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, who are the God of my salvation, My tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, And my mouth shall declare Your praise.

For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; With whole burnt offerings You shall not be pleased. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, A heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion; And let the walls of Jerusalem be built Then shall You be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole burnt offerings; Then shall they offer bullocks upon Your altar.