

## “THE VOICE” Our Parish Monthly Newsletter

John the Baptist said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ (Jn 1:23)



# CHRIST IS RISEN!

*Christ is Risen From The Dead, Trampling  
Down Death By Death and To Those In The  
Tombs Bestowing Life!*

# INDEED HE IS RISEN!

### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

**Christ is risen!** (*responded with: **Indeed He is risen!***) Christos voskrese! (*Voistinu voskrese!*)  
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 are with us today and hope you come again soon!  
Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.

### UPCOMING SERVICES

**BRIGHT WEEK:** A FAST FREE Week! Let us Imitate Christ & the Saints & Feast (*in moderation*)!

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**There is no kneeling in prayer for 50 days  
(until Pentecost) and omit the prayer**

**“O Heavenly King” as we anticipate the Holy Spirit**

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**MONDAY, MAY 6 #BRIGHTWEEK**

FEAST OF ST. GEORGE

9:30 am Paschal Liturgy with Paschal Procession

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 #BRIGHTWEEK**

**6:00 pm** Akathist to the Holy Resurrection of Christ

**6:30 pm** Parish Council Meeting

~~Cancelled: THU, MAY 9 #BRIGHTWEEK 6:30 Vespers~~

**FRIDAY, MAY 10 #BRIGHTWEEK**

9:30 am Paschal Divine Liturgy

### PASCHAL GREETING:

(use instead of ‘hello’, before ‘good morning’, etc.)

**Christ is risen!**

(*responded with: **Indeed He is risen!***)

**SUNDAY, MAY 12** THE FEAST OF ST. THOMAS

9:20 Paschal Canon

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Liturgical Color: **White**

Breaking of the Artos Bread

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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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**\*Calendar** - Future Services are updated online at:

[www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar)

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

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

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*Paschal Greeting in Church Slavonic:*

Christos voskrese! (*Voistinu voskrese!*)

If greeted in a language you are unfamiliar with, translate, respond in English, then learn the response



## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*

Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*

Subdeacon Ryan Ferko, Kris Carlisle, Reader, Timothy Martin, Reader

Stephen Brancho, Subdeacon Ryan Ferko, & John Radick, *Cantors*

Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*

[www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-Allison-Park](http://www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-Allison-Park)

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412-748-0148, *Talk or Text*

OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

Instagram: SJB\_Orthodox\_Pittsburgh

Twitter: @SJB\_OrthodoxPGH

FEAST OF FEASTS!

**MAY 5th**

NO FASTING!



BRIGHT WEEK

**HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)**

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17

Greet everyone with

“CHRIST IS RISEN!”

& say it before

good morning and goodnight!

Dear St. John the Baptist Family – Christ is risen! (*Indeed, He is risen!*)

Thanks be to God, this past year has seen development and changes in various aspects. Many have been wonderful to watch the progression. At this time, we also mourn the loss of our loved ones, but we are blessed and comforted with the joy and hope of the Resurrection! Christ is risen and this brings us peace! Let us share this joy with all of our neighbors around us! Hristos a inviat! (*Adevărat a înviat!*)

With love in the risen Lord, Fr. Dave, Pañi Alexandra, Maria, Sophia, and Snoopy

### SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Epistle: Acts 1:1-8*

**The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

1 In the first book, O The-oph’ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

**The Ascension of Jesus**

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my

witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samar’ia and to the end of the earth.”

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*Gospel: John 1:1-17*

**The Word Became Flesh**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God; <sup>3</sup>all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness to him, and cried, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

### BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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\*\*\* **THANK YOU** to everyone who brought something in for our Pot-Luck Paschal Meal or helped in anyway preparing for this Feast of Feasts!

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\*\*\* **Funeral Arrangements** for +Eleanor Sanger are as followed: Viewing will be at Kunsak’s Funeral Home (3552 California Avenue) on **Tuesday** from 2-4 & 6-8 with a Panachida at 7:45. The Bright Week Funeral Service will be on **Wednesday** at 10:00 am at SJB. May her memory be eternal! Christ is risen!

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\*\*\* **Clergy Convocation** - Fr. Dave will be at Camp Nazareth from **Monday thru Thursday, May 13-16** for our Diocesan Clergy Convocation. In case of a pastoral emergency, since cell reception is poor at the camp, either call the camp (724-662-4840), Fr. John Touloumes (412-366-8700), or Fr. John Mikita (412-366-4647). For general questions or ideas, please call and leave me a voicemail, text, or email.

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\*\*\* **Monthly Memorial** – Our May Panachida (Memorial Service) for those departed in the month will be on **Sunday, May 19**. This will coincide with our Panachida before having our Grave Blessings at the cemeteries. Please use the envelopes in the vestibule to give Fr. Dave any names by May 12.

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\*\* **Blessing of Graves** – Our annual grave blessings at the cemeteries will be on **May 19**. We will celebrate a Panachida after Liturgy and then head to the cemeteries after the coffee social. \*\*\* *If your loved ones are not at one of the two cemeteries on the North Side, please schedule a time with Fr. Dave to meet (if possible) before the Feast of Ascension.*

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\*\*\* **The Resilience Bowl** - The Neighborhood Resilience Project along with Troy and Theodora Polamalu Proudly Present: *The Resilience Bowl* on **Tuesday, May 21** at Acrisure Stadium! This will be an exciting new football-inspired event designed to raise money and awareness for the Neighborhood Resilience Project (*led by Fr. Paul Abernathy*). Ticket info: General Admission ticket for ages 0–22 is \$10, 23–64 \$20, 65+ \$10 and includes: \* Admission to the Great FedEx Hall and Fun Zone and seating at Acrisure Stadium to view Celebrity Flag Football Game. Black and Gold Ticket is \$300 that includes: \* Admission to the pre-game reception at the PNC Champion’s Club \*Limited celebrity access \* Premium seating to view the Celebrity Flag Football Game and \* Access to the Silent Auction. For more info, see the flyer on the bulletin board, visit [www.theresiliencebowl.org](http://www.theresiliencebowl.org) or email [trb@neighborhoodresilience.org](mailto:trb@neighborhoodresilience.org) with any questions.

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\*\* **Calling All Graduates** – Please notify Fr. Dave of your graduation information by **May 19**. Graduate Sunday will be at the end of May or beginning of June  
High School Students: *your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, and where you will attend in the Fall with your intended major in college (or undecided at this time).* Trade School, College, Graduate and Post-Graduate Students: *where you went, your field of study, and degree you will earn.*

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\*\*\* **The Tamburitians** – The season finale for The Tamburitians will be on **Saturday, June 1** at 5:00 pm at Point Park University’s Pittsburgh Playhouse (350 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222). Performance tickets start at \$20. Additional reception and dinner pricing available by calling 412-224-2071.

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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/acroddioocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioocese](https://youtube.com/acroddioocese)

*Paschal Greeting in Romanian:*  
Hristos a înviat! (*Adevărat a înviat!*)

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### AND Looking FURTHER Ahead...

Some 2024 dates of interest at St. John’s:

- **May 5 – Pascha, the Feast of Feasts**
- **May 6-11 – Fast Free Week**
- **May 19 – Cemetery Grave Blessings**
- **May 29 – Feast of Mid-Pentecost**
- **May/June. ??? – Graduate Sunday**
- **May 31-June 2 – Family Camp at Camp Nazareth**
- **June 2 – Family Day at CN**
- **June 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Finding of the Head of St. John**
- **June 13 – Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord**
- **June 15 – 5<sup>th</sup> All Souls Saturday**
- **June 23 – Feast of Pentecost**
- **June 24-29 – Fast Free Week**
- **July 1 – Apostles’ Fast begins**
- **July 7 – Feast of the Nativity of St John**
- **July 12 – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul**
- **July 28 – Aug 3 – Pittsburgh Deanery Camping Week at Camp Nazareth**
- **Aug. 2 – Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias**
- **Aug. 4 – Blessing of Chariots**
- **Aug. 4-10 – Science & Nature Camp (ages 8-18) at Camp Nazareth**
- **Aug. 14 – Dormition Fast Begins, Lesser Blessing of Water, and Home Blessings Begin**
- **Aug. 19 – Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Blessing of Fruit and Vegetables**
- **Aug. 18 – Blessing of Students and Teachers**
- **Aug. 25 – Blessing of Fruit and Vegetables**
- **Aug. 28 – Feast of the Dormition and Blessing of Flowers and Herbs**
- **Sep. 1 – Blessing of Flowers and Herbs**
- **Sep. 8 – Parish Picnic at “The Cabin”**

*Please, Save the Dates!*

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\*\*\* **Annual Church Picnic** – “The Cabin” in North Park is booked for **Sunday, September 8, 2024** for our end of summer picnic. Please save the date!

*Paschal Greeting in Greek:*  
Khristós anésti! (*Alithós anésti!*)

### PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Dear Fellow Parishioners,  
Christ is Risen! *Indeed He is Risen!*

As we celebrate this Paschal season and with major building projects now completed in our church, let’s begin new efforts in sharing the Light of the risen Lord in Allison Park, Hampton Twp., and beyond. May our *little village* family community work together to establish further outreach in the North Hills neighborhoods.

Wishing you Many Years and a Blessed Pascha!  
Larry Martin, *SJB Parish Council President*

\*\* **Congratulations!** to Ashley and John Gaydos, III and their families on the birth of **Waylon John Gaydos** born on April 26 (5 lb 3 oz) 7 weeks early. Welcome to our Parish Family!

*“Preserve her and this child which she has borne. Cover her with the shelter of thy wings from this day until her final end, through the prayers of the most Holy Theotokos and of all the saints. Amen”*  
– from *Prayers for a Woman on the First Day after Childbirth*

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\* **LAST CALL - 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.

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**ACRY NEWS**

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\*\*\* **Sr. ACRY Meeting** – The next ACRY meeting will be scheduled soon! In the meantime, please contact Subdeacon Ryan with any questions about the organization. For any members who did not pay their dues yet, please see Tim Martin. ALSO – look for information soon about the restart of the Jr. ACRY!

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!**

### CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

- Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:*
- ✂ \*\*\* Our outdoor maintenance shed is up *(donated by an anonymous donor)*
  - ✂ \*\*\* We have accepted a bid for replacing our electrical panel. *(donated by an anonymous donor)*
  - ✂ \*\* The iconostasis is up!

**Glory to God for All Things!** Through your generosity and dedication, all of this is coming together – one thing at a time! **Thank you!** Many stewards keep coming to the church and working very hard to make improvements. May God grant you many years!

### THIS MONTH'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

- SUNDAY, MAY 5 #Pascha** - THE FEAST OF FEASTS  
9:00 am Resurrection Matins with procession  
~9:40 am Paschal Divine Liturgy
- MONDAY, MAY 6 #BRIGHTWEEK**  
FEAST OF ST. GEORGE  
9:30 am Paschal Liturgy with Paschal Procession
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 #BRIGHTWEEK**  
**6:00 pm** Akathist to the Holy Resurrection of Christ  
*6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting*
- FRIDAY, MAY 10 #BRIGHTWEEK**  
9:30 am Paschal Divine Liturgy  
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- SUNDAY, MAY 12 - MOTHER'S DAY**  
THE FEAST OF ST. THOMAS  
9:20 Paschal Canon; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Breaking of the Artos Bread
- SATURDAY, MAY 18**  
6:30 pm Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup  
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- SUNDAY, MAY 19**  
9:20 am Paschal Canon; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Monthly Memorial Panachida  
Youth Sunday and Church School  
Blessing of Graves  
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- SUNDAY, MAY 26**  
9:20 am Paschal Canon; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
- TUESDAY, MAY 28**  
6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 29** FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

### ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

\*\*\* **St Constantine School** is excited to be opening this fall! This Orthodox School will be at 934 Forest Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15202 located on the south side of Ross Township. If you have any questions about the application process – please call (412) 204-7153 or email [pittsburgh@saintconstantine.org](mailto:pittsburgh@saintconstantine.org) or visit [https://linktr.ee/TSCS\\_PGH?utm\\_source=linktree\\_pr\\_ofile\\_share&tsid=004caa00-dd42-4431-9e42-73d39bbe2073](https://linktr.ee/TSCS_PGH?utm_source=linktree_pr_ofile_share&tsid=004caa00-dd42-4431-9e42-73d39bbe2073)

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\*\*\* The Next Upcoming **Greek Food Festival** will be at St Nicholas (419 S Dithridge St., Pittsburgh) from **May 6 to 12**

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\*\*\* **Family Camp at Camp Nazareth** – Cabins are still available for this year's Family Camp from **Friday, May 31 to Sunday, June 2** (prior to Family Day). For more information, please contact Fr. Dave.

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\*\*\* **Family Day at Camp Nazareth** will be on **Sunday, June 2**. Divine Liturgy will be at 10am. There will be great food, music entertainment, swimming, craft activities, games, and more! The pricing for lunch is as follows: Adults: \$10; Children 5-13: \$6; Children Under 5: Free; Family Price: \$30 *(Includes 2 Parents & All Children Under Age 13)*

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\*\*\* **Pittsburgh Deanery Week at Camp Nazareth** is **July 28 to August 3**. Registration for all campers, ages 8-18 has begun! Information is available on the Camp's Website: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org).

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\*\*\* **Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic** – Are you interested in attending a picnic with our sister parishes this summer? Please let Fr. Dave know your thoughts...

*Paschal Greeting in Spanish:  
¡Cristo ha resucitado!  
(¡En verdad ha resucitado!)*

### STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

#### TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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\*\*\* **Grass Maintenance** – The new shed is up and the donated lawnmower and weedwhacker will be here this week. Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested in being a part of a rotation of folks who will maintain the grass throughout the summer.

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\*\*\* **Kitchen Committee** – Please see Fr. Dave if you would be willing to be on a committee to organize the kitchen and storage room and help keep it that way.

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\*\*\* **Garbage and Recycling** – Did you ever notice that we do not have a dumpster at the church? Being non-residential without pick up in Allison Park, all of our garbage and recycling heads to stewards' houses. If you would be willing to stick around at the end of coffee social and take a bag, please let Larry know.

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\*\*\* **Third Hour** – Prior to upcoming Liturgies, we will be chanting the Paschal Canon. After Ascension, we will return to chanting (or reading) the Third Hour. If you would like to be in the rotation for this, please let Fr. Dave know.

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\*\*\* **Ride Share** – We have received a couple requests from people who are interested in getting a ride to the church. Please contact Fr. Dave or Larry if you would be willing to bring someone to the church.

#### COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

May 12:	_____?
May 19:	_____?
May 26:	_____?

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\*\*\* **Did you know...** we have about 30 active families at SJB. If each family committed to one Sunday a year for the coffee social – that takes care of more than half the year! Please consider signing up in advance to host the coffee social (you are more than welcome to combine with someone else if you wish!)

- PASCHAL COMMEMORATIONS**  
**Processional Candles (At Vespers & Matins) –**  
In Memory Of  
The Departed Loved Ones Of The Martin Family
- Censer (Kadilo) Incense –**  
IMO Of The Pavilonis Family
  - Censer (Kadilo) Charcoal –**  
IMO +Julia Beshanick
  - Graveside Candles –**  
IMO Silon And Schrmack Parents
  - Vesperal Litiya Loaves –**  
IMO Members Of The Luchik Family:  
+Anna, +John, +George, +Lt. Michael, +Mary,  
+John, +Doris, And +Anna
  - Vesperal Litiya Wheat –**  
IMO +John And +Catherine Gaydos
  - Vesperal Litiya Wine –**  
IMO +Helen & +George Ritz
  - Priest's Triple Paschal Candle –**  
IMO +Eleanor Sanger
  - Prosporhan (Eucharistic Bread) –**  
IMO +Anastasia And +Lawrence Martin
  - Sacramental Wine –**  
IMO +John And +Helen Kailyar
  - Pascha Bulletin –**  
IMO +Stephen Fucsko, Sr.
  - Altar 7-Candle Candelabra –**  
IMO +Nicholas And +Anna Buhonick
  - 2 Altar Vigil Candles –**  
IMO The Hudak And Shelpman Families
  - 2 Preparation Table Candles –**  
IMO +Olga Radick
  - 2 Deacon's Table Candles –**  
For The Health Of Valerie Enslin
  - Altar Server Candles –**  
For The Health Of Our Parish Family
  - 4 Iconostasis Candles –**  
IMO +Nora Barber
  - 2 Tetrapod Candles –**  
IMO +Kathleen Ferko
  - Altar Flowers –**  
For God's Blessings On  
The Mirilovich Family And Friends
  - Tetrapod Flowers –**  
IMO Kirish And Kanouff Families
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### OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 461
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 117
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 440
Community Outreach:	\$ 38
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 1056</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 100</b>

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Carol and Tom Lorenzi; Eleanor Sanger; Rich and Renee Mirilovich; Melanie Paieski; Cindy Pavilonis

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**Christ Cross Candles** were offered last week in memory of departed family and friends of the Urban and Popescu families. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Christ is risen!

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**Theotokos Cross Candles** were offered last week anonymously for the health of those celebrating their Palm Sunday Name Day. Many Years!

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#### March Financial Report:

**General Stewardship = \$ 5368.72**  
(includes \$ 194.72 from online stewardship)

**\*Expenses = \$ 5140.09**

**Net Deficit = \$ 228.63**

**Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 2250**

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 44  
\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board

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

(September through last month)

**General Stewardship = \$ 62,137**

**\*Expenses = \$ 49,230**

**Net Surplus = \$ 12,907**

\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board  
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 33

\*\*\* **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!

### 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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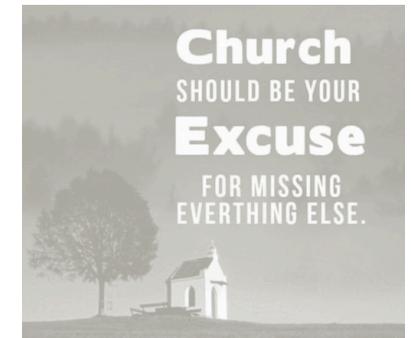
#### The Jesus Prayer

(Inhale) O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
(Exhale) have mercy on me, a sinner!

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

*Paschal Greeting in Italian:*  
Cristo è risorto! (*È veramente risorto!*)

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#### 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 Health of...** Waylon, Ashley, Nicholas, Patrick, Thomas, Paul, Mary, Christopher, Robert, Joanne, 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*

**THE ANGEL EXCLAIMED TO HER, “FULL OF GRACE, REJOICE O PURE VIRGIN. AGAIN I SAY REJOICE, YOUR SON IS RISEN FROM HIS THREE DAYS IN THE TOMB, AND HE HAS RAISED ALL THE DEAD. LET ALL PEOPLE REJOICE!”**

**O SHINE, O SHINE, O NEW JERUSALEM: FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON YOU. O ZION, SING WITH JOY AND REJOICE. AND YOU, PURE MOTHER OF GOD, REJOICE IN THE RESURRECTION OF YOUR SON.**

**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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**May Namedays:**

Robert Fall - St Robert, Abbot of Blois (5/8)  
 Mark Tongel - St. Mark the Evangelist (5/8)  
 Subdeacon Ryan Ferko – St. Thomas Sunday (5/12)  
 Thomas Lorenzi – St. Thomas Sunday (5/12)  
 Renee Mirilovich - Great-martyr Irene (5/18)  
 Christopher Bowser - Martyr Christopher (5/22)  
 Christopher Kubis - Martyr Christopher (5/22)  
 ...*May God grant them many and blessed years!*

+++ +++ +++  
**May Birthdays:**

Anna Dzadony (5/3), Fr Matthew Stagon (5/4), Donald Bodnar (5/6), Fr Thomas Soroka (5/6), Ethan Gogal (5/7), Jillian Gaydos (5/14), Robert Mozes (5/16), Pañi Alexandra Urban (5/16), Natasha Kretchek (5/19), Patrick Wertz (5/19), Linda Gavulich (5/20), Kenneth Parks (5/22), Elias Mainolfi (5/24), Fr Jonathan Tobias (5/27) ...*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.*

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

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**May Anniversaries:**

*Father's Godparents,* Dick & Andrea Babbie (5/7)  
*Father's Best Man,* Joe & Sarah Lavra (5/7/05)  
 Derrick and Ashley (Wertz) Andrekovich (5/16/20)  
 Melissa & Christopher Ditmore (5/17/98)  
 Fr Dave's Ordination to the Priesthood (5/17/15)  
 Ernest & Claudia (Herbert) Pido (5/19/90)  
 Fr Dave & Pañi Alexandra (5/25)  
 Jim & Katherine Schrmack (5/26/79)  
 ...*through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Carly (*due in June*), Allison (*October*) ...*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...** +His Grace, Bishop Matthias (5/4), +Eleanor Sanger (5/2), +John Ferraz (3/24) ...*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.*

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**DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FOR BRIGHT WEEK**

The Paschal Hours is sung for all the Hours, Compline, Midnight Office, Prayers after Communion, and Private Devotions (Morning and Evening Prayers) for all of Bright (*Renewal*) Week. (It is also sung on the

leave-taking of Pascha, the eve of Ascension)

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**PASCHAL HOURS** *When said privately at home*  
 Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. (3 times)

**The Resurrection Prayer (Kievan Tone 6 samohlasen)**  
 Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, \* let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, \* the only sinless one. \* We venerate your Cross, O Christ, \* and we praise and glorify your holy Resurrection, \* for You are our God, \* and we know no other than You: \* we call on your Name. \* Come, all you faithful, \* let us venerate Christ's holy Resurrection. \* For behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. \* Let us ever bless the Lord, \* praising his Resurrection, \* for by enduring the Cross for us, \*\*\* He has destroyed death by death. (3 times)

**Hypakoe (Ipakoje) of Pascha (Tone 4 Samopodoben)**  
 Before the dawn Mary came with the women \* and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.\* And they heard from the angel: \* "He abides in life everlasting. \* Why seek Him among the dead as if He were a man? \* Behold the burial shroud! \* Go and proclaim to the world: \* 'That the Lord is risen and has conquered death.' \* For He is the Son of God, \*\*\* and He is the Savior of mankind!"

**Kondak of Pascha (Tone 8)**

You descended into the grave, O Immortal One; \* yet You destroyed the power of death. \* As Conqueror, You arose, O Christ God, \* saying to the myrrh-bearing women: "Rejoice," \* granting peace to your apostles \*\*\* and offering resurrection to the fallen.

**Tropar of the Paschal Office (Tone 8)**

When your Body was in the tomb and your Soul was in hell, \* when You were in paradise with the thief, \* You were at the same time, O Christ, as God upon your throne \*\*\* with the Father and the Spirit, infinite and filling all things.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:  
 O Christ, your tomb, the fount of our resurrection \* is indeed a giver of life more splendid than Paradise \*\*\*

and more radiant than any royal chamber.  
 Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
 Hail, holy and divine dwelling of the Most High, \* for through you, O Theotokos, \* joy has been given to those who cry out: \*\*\* "Blessed are you among women, O Lady most pure!"  
 Lord, have mercy. (40 times)  
 Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
 O shine, O shine, O new Jerusalem: \* for the Glory of the Lord is risen upon you. \* O Zion, sing with joy and rejoice. \* And you, pure Mother of God, \*\*\* rejoice in the Resurrection of your Son.  
 Lord, have mercy. (3 times) O Lord, bless us!  
 Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

*[When the Paschal Hours is said in place of Compline or Evening Prayers, we insert the following Prayer of St. Basil the Great prior to the last "Christ is risen"]*  
*Blessed are you Lord, Master almighty, who made the day light with the light of the sun and the night radiant with the rays of fire; who have granted us to pass through the length of the day and to draw near the beginnings of the night. Hear our supplication and that of all your people. And pardoning all of us our offences, voluntary and involuntary, accept our evening entreaties and send down the multitude of your rich mercy and acts of compassion on your inheritance. Wall us about with your holy Angels; arm us with the arms of justice; fence us with the rampart of your truth; guard us by your power; deliver us from every misfortune and from every trick of the adversary. Grant us also that both the present day with the coming night and all the days of our life may be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, without stumbling, without dreams, through the intercessions of the All-holy Theotokos and of all the Saints who have been well-pleasing to you since time began. For Yours it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.]*

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. (3 times)

## ONLINE BONUSES

### **Pascha Traditions Around the World!**

*Published by myOCN on April 30, 2024*

Around the world, Orthodox Christians will soon be participating in the same services in celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. Much of Holy Week and Pascha is shared by Orthodox Christians across many cultures, which connects us spiritually. Nevertheless, the variety of cultures found within Orthodox Christianity means that there are many ways to celebrate. Here are just a few traditions you may enjoy or observe this Pascha!

#### **Easter Bread**

Many Orthodox cultures have a special bread baked for Pascha. For example, In Greece, Tsoureki is a sweet, braided bread made with flour, sugar, eggs, butter, milk, and yeast. It often contains aromatic flavorings such as mahlepi (ground cherry pits) or mastiha (mastic resin), which impart a unique fragrance and taste. In Bulgaria, Kozunak shares a similar base with Tsoureki, but is often flavored with citrus zest and sometimes filled with nuts or chocolate.

In Russia, Kulich is common—a tall, cylindrical sweet bread. It may also contain dried fruits such as raisins, and it's often flavored with vanilla or cardamom.

#### **Pysanky Eggs**

Ukrainian Orthodox Christians decorate eggs using a traditional wax-resist method called “pysanky.” These intricately decorated eggs feature symbols of Christian faith and are exchanged as gifts during Paschal celebrations.

#### **Red Eggs and Egg Games**

You may be more familiar with red hard boiled eggs for Pascha. In the Greek Orthodox Church, it is common to dye eggs red, as representative of Christ's blood. Traditionally, eggs achieve their red color through the use of natural pigments like onion skins, but today red dye may be used instead. The eggs are blessed by the priest during the liturgy, and then enjoyed at the Paschal celebration. Some people play games with the eggs, including egg rolling competitions, and a tapping game where two eggs are hit against each other, and the winner is the one

whose egg remains unbroken.

#### **Basket Covers**

Another tradition in Ukraine and Eastern Europe is the creation of decorative covers for Pascha baskets, which involves decorating cloth using dyes or embroidery techniques like “vyshyvanka” to add Orthodox motifs or symbols, floral borders and traditional patterns. These decorated cloths are used to cover Easter baskets filled with traditional foods for blessing by the priest.

#### **Paskha Cheese**

In Ukraine and Russia, you may find versions of a special cheese-based dessert called “Paskha,” a dense, rich cheese dessert made with farmer's cheese (tvorog), sugar, eggs, butter, and sometimes sour cream. It may also contain dried fruits, nuts, or candied peel, and it's flavored with vanilla or citrus zest. Paskha is traditionally molded into a truncated pyramid shape, symbolizing the tomb of Christ and decorated with religious symbols such as crosses or the letters “XB” (Christ is Risen).

#### **Maamoul Cookies**

Lebanese Christians prepare special cookies called “maamoul” for Pascha. These cookies are filled with dates, nuts, or figs, and shaped into intricate molds. They are often served during the Paschal feast.

#### **Red Wine**

In Moldovan Orthodox tradition, Pascha is celebrated with the sharing of red wine. Families gather together to drink wine and toast to the resurrection of Christ during the Paschal feast.

#### **Koljivo**

In Serbia, it's common to serve “Koljivo” (also known as Kolyva) made from boiled wheat berries mixed with honey, nuts, and sometimes raisins. As well as being served during memorial services for the departed, Serbians often serve Koljivo as part of the Paschal feast.

#### **Duduk Music**

Though the Paschal liturgies remain the same, the sounds that accompany them may differ between cultures. Armenian Orthodox Christians celebrate Pascha with traditional music played on the duduk, a woodwind instrument made of apricot wood. The haunting melodies of the duduk accompany Paschal liturgies and processions.

#### **Anastasi**

Some Orthodox Christians break their Lenten fast with a festive meal (called “Anastasi” in Greek) immediately after the late night Paschal liturgy. Traditional greek dishes for Anastasi include lamb, magiritsa soup (made with lamb offal), and Tsoureki bread.

#### **Bonfires**

In some Eastern European countries like Romania and Serbia, particularly in rural areas, “Luminata” or “Vidovdan” (bonfires) may be lit on Holy Saturday night, to celebrate Christ's resurrection and the triumph of light over darkness.

#### **Holy Fire**

One of the oldest and most significant Paschal traditions is the miraculous appearance of the Holy Fire in Jerusalem, at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Palestinian Christians, Orthodox believers from across the region and visitors from around the world gather to witness the miraculous appearance of the Holy Fire—a miraculous light that appears inside the tomb of Christ at the celebration of His resurrection. The Patriarch of Jerusalem enters the tomb and emerges with the Holy Fire, which is then shared with the faithful.

Whatever your traditions may be, old or new, we wish you a Blessed Pascha!

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Let us pray for all Orthodox Christians, especially those suffering, and all people during this holiest of weeks.

<https://myocn.net/pascha-traditions-around-the-world/>

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*Paschal Greeting in Swahili:  
Kristo amefufukka! (Kweli amefufukka!)*

PATRIARCHAL +BARTHOLOMEW  
ENCYCLICAL FOR HOLY PASCHA

BY GOD'S MERCY ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH  
TO THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH:  
MAY THE GRACE, PEACE AND MERCY OF  
CHRIST RISEN IN GLORY BE WITH YOU ALL  
\* \* \*

Most honorable brother Hierarchs and beloved children in the Lord,

By the pleasure and grace of God, the giver of all gifts, having run the race of Holy and Great Lent and spent with compunction the Week of our Lord's Passion, behold we delight in the celebration of His splendid Resurrection, through which we were redeemed from the tyranny of Hades.

The glorious Resurrection of the Lord Christ from the dead is a shared resurrection of the entire race of mortals and a foretaste of the perfection of all, as well as of the fulfilment of the Divine Oikonomia in the heavenly Kingdom. We participate in the ineffable mystery of the Resurrection in the Church, being sanctified in its sacraments and experiencing Pascha, “which has opened to us the gates of Paradise,” not as a recollection of an event in the past, but as the quintessence of ecclesiastical life, as the presence of Christ ever among us, closer to us than we to ourselves. On Pascha, the Orthodox faithful discover their true selves as being in Christ; they are integrated into the movement of all things to the End Times, “with inexpressible and glorious joy” (1 Peter 1.8), as “children of light . . . and children of day” (1 Thess. 5.5).

The central feature of Orthodox life is its Resurrectional pulse. Philosophers have wrongly described Orthodox spirituality as “sullen” and “autumnal.” By contrast, Westerners rightly praise the refined perceptiveness of the Orthodox in relation to the meaning and depth of the paschal experience. Yet this faith never forgets that the way to the Resurrection passes through the Cross. Orthodox spirituality does not recognize the utopianism of a Resurrection without Crucifixion, nor the pessimism of the Cross without the Resurrection. For this reason, in the Orthodox experience, evil does not have the final word in history, while faith in the Resurrection serves as the motivation for the struggle against the presence of evil and its consequences in the world, acting as a powerful transformative force. In the Orthodox self-consciousness, there is no place for surrender to evil or for indifference toward the development of human affairs. On the contrary, its contribution to the transformation of history has theological basis and existential grounding and it unfolds without running the risk of identifying the Church with the world. The

Orthodox believer is conscious of the antithesis between worldly reality and eschatological perfection. And so he or she cannot remain idle before any negative dimensions of the world. For this reason, the Orthodox Church has never considered the struggle for transforming the world as a meaningless matter. Our faith in the Resurrection has preserved the Church both from introversion and indifference for the world, as well as from secularization.

For us Orthodox, the entire mystery and existential treasure of our piety is condensed into Pascha. When we hear that the Myrrh-bearers “were astonished” upon “entering the tomb and seeing a young man dressed in bright clothes” (Mark 16.5), this characterizes the vastness and essence of our experience of faith as the experience of existential wonder. When we hear that “they were astonished,” this means that we find ourselves before a mystery that becomes deeper the more we approach it, in accordance with what has been said, that our faith “is not a journey from mystery to knowledge, but from knowledge to mystery.”

While the denial of mystery existentially reduces human nature, the respect of mystery opens to us the gates of heaven. Faith in the Resurrection is the deepest and clearest expression of our freedom; or rather, it is the birth of freedom as a voluntary acceptance of the supreme divine gift, namely of deification by grace. As “experienced Resurrection,” the Orthodox Church is the space of “authentic freedom” that for the Christian life is the foundation, way, and destiny. The Resurrection of Christ is the good news of freedom, the gift of freedom, and the guarantee of “shared freedom” in the “eternal life” of the Kingdom of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

With these sentiments, most precious brothers and beloved children, filled with the complete joy of participating in “the feast that is shared by all,” having received light from the unwaning light and given glory to Christ risen from the dead and brought life to all – even as we remember during this all-festal “chosen and holy day” all of our brothers and sisters in difficult circumstances – we pray to our Lord “who trampled down death by death,” the God

of peace, that He might bring peace to the world and guide our steps toward every deed that is good and pleasing to Him, proclaiming the all-joyous hymn “Christ is Risen!”

At the Phanar, Holy Pascha 2024

+ Bartholomew of Constantinople

Fervent supplicant for you all to the Risen Lord

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*Paschal Greeting in Arabic:*  
El Messieh kahm! (*Hakken kahm!*)

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**LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH**

### Paschal Greetings from Around the World

The **Paschal greeting** is a custom among Orthodox Christians, consisting of a greeting and response. Instead of "hello" or its equivalent, one is to greet another person with "Christ is Risen!". The response is "Truly, He is risen!" (or "Indeed, He is risen!"). This greeting is used during liturgical services and informally at other times, starting with the [feast of Pascha](#) and lasting until [Ascension](#) – the period known as the *Paschal season* or *Paschaltide*.

In practice, this greeting is typically used only with people that one already knows are Orthodox. In some cultures (for example in Russia), it was also customary to exchange a triple kiss after the greeting. Orthodox Christians often compile lists of the greeting in various languages, as it is used around the world, and these are sometimes recited in church or in other formal settings as an act of Orthodox unity across languages and cultures.

Language	Greeting	Response
Aleut:	Khristus anahgrecum!	Alhecum anahgrecum!
Aleut:	Khris-tusax agla-gikux!	Agangu-lakan agla-gikux!
Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall!	Vertet U Ngjall!
Alutuq:	Khris-tusaq ungu-uixtuq!	Pijii-nuq ungu-uixtuq!
Amharic:	Kristos tenestwal!	Bergit tenestwal!
Anglo-Saxon:	Crist aras!	Crist sodhlice aras!

Language	Greeting	Response
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav ee merelotz!	Orhnia! eh harootyunuh kristosee!
Athabaskan:	Xristosi banuytashtch'ey!	Gheli banuytashtch'ey!
Bulgarian:	Hristos voskrese!	Vo istina voskrese!
Byelorussian:	Khrystos uvaskros!	Saprawdy uvaskros!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole!	Queshi fuhuole!
Coptic:	Pchristos aftooun!	Alethos aftooun!
Czech:	Vstal z mrtvých Kristus!	Vpravdě vstal z mrtvých!
Danish:	Kristus er opstanden!	Ja, sandelig opstanden!
Dutch:	Christus is opgestaan!	Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!
English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Eritrean-Tigre:	Christos tensiou!	Bahake tensiou!
Esperanto:	Kristo levigis!	Vere levigis!
Estonian:	Kristus on üles tõusnud!	Ta on tõesti üles tõusnud!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!	Exai' ab-her eokala!
Finnish:	Kristus nousi kuolleista!	Totisesti nousi!
French:	Le Christ est réssuscité!	En verite il est réssuscité!
Gaelic:	Taw creest eeren!	Taw shay eeren guhdyne!
Georgian:	Kriste aghsdga!	Cheshmaritad aghsdga!
German:	Christus ist auferstanden!	Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Hawaiian:	Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!	Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!
Hebrew:	Ha Masheeha houh quam!	Be emet quam!
Hungarian:	Krisztus	Valoban feltamadt!

Language	Greeting	Response
	feltamadt!	
Ibo ( Nigeria):	Jesu Kristi ebiliwo!	Ezia o' biliwo!
Indian (Malayalam):	Christu uyirthezhunnettu!	Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!
Indonesian:	Kristus telah bangkit!	Benar dia telah bangkit!
Italian:	Cristo e' risorto!	Veramente e' risorto!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu!	Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Javanese:	Kristus sampun wungu!	Tuhu sampun wungu!
Korean:	Kristo gesso!	Buhar ha sho nay!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit!	Vere resurrexit!
Latvian:	Kristus ir augsham sales!	Teyasham ir augsham sales vinsch!
Lugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Amajim ajukkide!
Norwegian:	Christus er oppstanden!	Sandelig han er oppstanden!
Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal!	Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal!
Portuguese:	Cristo ressuscitou!	Em verdade ressuscitou!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adevărat a înviat!
Russian:	Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha!	Satvam upastitaha!
Serbian:	Hristos vaskrse!	Vaistunu vaskrse!
Slovak:	Christos vstal z mrtvych!	Vpravde vstal z mrtvych!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka!	Kweli amefufukka!
Swedish:	Kristus är uppstånden!	Han är sannerligen uppstånden!
Syriac:	M'shee ho dkom!	Ha koo qam!
Tlingit:	Krisdos kuᵶ wudigút!	X'éiga kuᵶ wudigút!
Turkish:	Hristos diril - di!	Hakikaten diril - di!

Language	Greeting	Response
Ugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Kweli ajukkide!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!
Welsh:	Atgyfododd Crist!	Atgyfododd yn wir!
Yupik:	Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq!	Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!
Zulu:	UKristu uvukile!	Ngempela uvukile!

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### How to benefit from liturgy

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1) Attend early                                    | 6) Enjoy the sermon             |
| 2) Sing passionately                               | 7) Pray the Jesus prayer        |
| 3) Be reverent                                     | 8) Have faith in the liturgy    |
| 4) Pray the prayer before and after Holy Communion | 9) Choose quality over quantity |
| 5) Listen carefully to the readings                |                                 |



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*Paschal Greeting in French:  
Le Christ est réssuscité!  
(En verite il est réssuscité!)*

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### ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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*)

**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 Proskomedion (*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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**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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**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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*Paschal Greeting in Gaelic:  
Taw creest ereen! (Taw shay ereen guhdyne!)*

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### LIVES OF THE SAINTS

#### THE MONK THEODORE SIKEOTES

Commemorated on May 5 / April 22

The Monk Theodore Sikeotes was born in the mid VI Century in the village of Sikea, not far from the city of Anastasiupolis (Asia Minor), in a pious family. When his mother Maria conceived the saint, she had in a dream a vision, that a bright star had overshadowed her womb. A perspicacious elder, to whom she turned, then explained that this was the grace of God overshadowing the infant conceived in her.

When the boy reached six years of age, his mother presented him a golden sash, since she intended that her son should become a soldier. But in a dream vision by night there appeared to her the GreatMartyr George (Comm. 23 April), and he bid her not think about military service for her son, since the boy was destined to serve God. The saint's father, Kosma, had served as a messenger of the emperor Justinian the Great (527-565), and he died early. The boy remained in the care of his mother, with whom lived also his grandmother Epidia, his aunt Dispenia and his little sister Vlatta.

In school, Saint Theodore displayed great talents for his study, chief of which was an unchildlike ability for reasoning and wisdom: he was quiet, mild, he always knew how to calm his comrades, and he did not permit fights or quarrels amongst them. At his mother's house lived also the pious elder, Stephen. Imitating him, Saint Theodore at age 8 began during Great Lent to eat only a small morsel of bread in the evenings. In order that his mother should not force him to take supper with everyone, the boy returned home from school only towards evening-time, after he had communed the Holy Mysteries together with the elder Stephen. At the request of his mother, the teacher began to send him off to supper at the end of lessons. But Saint Theodore nonetheless skipped off to the church of the GreatMartyr George, where the

patron saint of the temple appeared to him in the form of a youth and ushered him into the church.

When Saint Theodore reached age 10, he fell deathly ill. They brought him to the church of Saint John the Baptist and placed him in front of the altar. The boy was healed by two drops of dew, fallen from the face of the Saviour on the dome of the temple. At this time by night the GreatMartyr George began appearing to the boy, and also leading him off to his own temple to pray until morning. His mother, fearing the night-time dangers of the forest path, spoke with her son about not going at night. One time, when the boy had already gone, she angrily went after him to the church, and she dragged him out by the hair and tied him to his bed. But that very night in a dream vision the GreatMartyr George appeared to her, and threateningly she commanded her not to hinder the lad from going to church. And both Elpidia and Dispenia had the same vision. The women then became persuaded of the special vocation of Saint Theodore and they no more hindered him from his efforts, and even his little sister Vlatta began to imitate him.

At twelve years of age the saint was granted in a vivid dream to behold Christ on the Throne of the Kingdom of Glory, and Who said to him: "Asceticise, Theodore, so as to obtain perfected reward in the Heavenly Kingdom".

From that time Saint Theodore began to toil all the more fervently. Both the First Week and the Cross-Veneration Week of Great Lent he spent in complete silence.

The devil thought upon how to destroy him. He appeared to the saintly lad in the form of his classmate Gerontios, and urged him to jump off a precipice, and even showed him in what manner how to. But his protector the GreatMartyr George saved the boy.

One time the boy set off for a blessing to the wilderness elder Glykerios. During this time there was a terrible drought throughout all the land, and the elder said: "Child, on bended knee let us pray to the Lord, that He send rain. And in such manner shalt we learn, whether our prayers be pleasing to the Lord". The old man and the boy, on bended knee, began to pray – and immediately it began to rain. Then the

elder said to Saint Theodore, that upon him was the grace of God, and he blessed him to become a monk, when the time should come.

At fourteen years of age Saint Theodore left home and lived nearby the church of the GreatMartyr George. His mother brought him food, but Saint Theodore left everything on the stones by the church, and he ate over the course of a day only a single prosphora loaf of bread. And even at so young an age, the Monk Theodore was granted the gift of healing: through his prayer a demon-possessed youth was restored to health.

The Monk Theodore then fled human glory and he withdrew into complete solitude. Under a large boulder not far from the church of the GreatMartyr George, he dug out a cave and persuaded a certain deacon to cover over the entrance with ground, leaving only a small opening for air. The deacon brought him bread and water and he told no one, where the monk had hidden himself.

For two years the Monk Theodore lived in this seclusion and complete quiet. His kinsfolk bewept the saint and they thought, that he had been devoured by wild beasts.

But the deacon finally revealed the secret, since he was afraid that the Monk Theodore would perish in the narrow cave, and moreover he pitied the weeping mother. They plucked the Monk Theodore out of the cave half-alive.

The mother wanted to take her son home and restore him back to health, but the saint remained nearby the church of the GreatMartyr George, and after several days he was completely well.

News about the exploits of the youth reached the local bishop Theodosios. And thus in the church of the GreatMartyr George he was ordained to the dignity of deacon, and later – to priest, although the monk was only 17 years of age.

After a certain while the Monk Theodore set off for veneration to the holy places in Jerusalem, and there at the Khozebite Laura near Jordan, he accepted monasticism.

When he returned to his native land, he again continued to live nearby the church of the GreatMartyr George. His grandmother Elpidia, his sister Vlatta and his mother on the advice of the monk

withdrew to a monastery, and his aunt died in a good confession.

The ascetic life of the young priestmonk attracted to him people seeking salvation. The monk tonsured into monasticism the youth Epiphanius, and later on a pious woman, healed of sickness by the saint, brought him her son Philumenos. Then came also the virtuous youth John. Brethren thus gradually gathered around the monk.

The Monk Theodore continued to bear his burdensome exploits. At his request a blacksmith made for him an iron cage without a roof, and so tight that in it, it was possible only to stand. In this cage in heavy chains the monk stood from Holy Pascha until the Nativity of Christ. From the Baptism of the Lord until Holy Pascha he secluded himself in his cave, from which he emerged only for the making of Divine-services on Saturdays and Sundays. Throughout the whole of the Forty-Day Great Lent the saint ate only greens, and on Saturdays and Sundays spring-grain bread.

Asceticising in such manner, he received from the Lord the power over wild animals. Bears and wolves came up to him and took food from his hand. Through the prayer of the monk, those afflicted with leprosy were healed, and from whole districts devils were cast out. In the nearby village of Magatia, when locusts threatening the crops appeared, its people turned with a request for help to the Monk Theodore. He sent them off to church. After Divine Liturgy, which he served, the villagers returned home and learned that during this while all the locusts had died.

When the military-commander Maurice was returning to Constantinople by way of Galatia after a Persian war, the monk predicted to him, that he would become emperor. The prediction came true, and the emperor Maurice (582-602) fulfilled the request of the monk – he sent the monastery bread each year for the multitude of people being fed there.

The small temple of the GreatMartyr George could not accommodate all those that wanted to pray in it. Then through the efforts of the saint a beautiful new church was built. During this while the Anastasiupolis bishop happened to die. The people of the city besought the Ancyra metropolitan Paul to install the Monk Theodore as their bishop.

So that the saint should not resist, the messengers of the metropolitan and the Anastasiupolis people dragged him out of his cell by force and carried him off to the city.

Having become bishop, Saint Theodore toiled much for the welfare of the Church. But his soul yearned for the solitary communion with God. After several years he set off to venerate at the holy places in Jerusalem. And there, concealing his identity, he settled at the Laura monastery of the Monk Sava, where he lived in solitude from the Nativity of Christ until Pascha. Then the GreatMartyr George led him to return to Anastasiupolis.

Secret enemies tried to poison the saint, but the Mother of God gave him three small pieces of grain. The saint them and remained unharmed. Saint Theodore felt weighed down with the burden of being a bishop and he besought the Constantinople patriarch Kyriakos (595-606) for a release to return to his own monastery and celebrate Divine-services there.

The sanctity of the monk was so evident, that during the time of his celebrating the Eucharist, the grace of the Holy Spirit, in a visage of radiant porphyry, overshadowed the Holy Gifts. One time, when the monk lifted the discus with the Divine Lamb and proclaimed "Holy Things unto the Holy", – the Divine Lamb raised itself up into the air, and then resettled itself again upon the discus.

All the Orthodox Church venerated the Monk Theodore as a saint, even while he was yet alive.

In one of the cities of Galatia, a terrible event occurred: during the time of a church procession the wooden crosses being carried began of themselves to strike and chip at one another, with the result that the Constantinople Patriarch Thomas (607-610, Comm. 21 March) summoned to him the Monk Theodore, asking of him the secret of this terrible portent. Having the gift of foresight, the Monk Theodore explained, that this was a sign of coming misfortunes for the Church of God (he was thus prophetically indicating the future heresy of the Iconoclasts). In grief the holy Patriarch Thomas besought the monk to pray for him for a quick death, so that he should not see the coming woe.

In the year 610 the holy Patriarch Thomas reposed, having besought blessing of the Monk

Theodore. And in the year 613 the Monk Theodore Sikeotes also expired to the Lord.

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**COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY**

to be announced next week

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**FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH**

to be added next week

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**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.

**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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