

# “THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Weekly Bulletin*

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

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

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

*There is no kneeling in prayer for 50 days (until Pentecost) and omit the prayer “O Heavenly King” as we anticipate the Holy Spirit*

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024 – **GRADUATE SUNDAY**

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha  
Sunday of the Man Born Blind

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

*FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD*

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

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SUNDAY, JUNE 16 – **FATHER’S DAY**

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha  
Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13

Liturgical Color: **White**

Youth Sunday

Panachida – Monthly Memorial (*rescheduled*)

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## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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### PASCHAL GREETING:

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

**Christ is risen!**

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

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\*\*\* **Thank You** to the St. Nicholas Choir of Homestead for singing the responses to today’s Divine Liturgy! May your stewardship to the church be rewarded in the Heavenly Kingdom! Many Years! Christ is risen!

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\*\*\* **Feast Day Vespers** – In the Orthodox Church, Vespers is prescribed to be done on a daily basis (*which happens in a lot of monasteries*). Great Vespers is appointed to be served on Saturday nights and on the eves of Feast Days (*ranked higher than Fourth Class*). We will offer this service on **Wednesday at 6:30 pm** on the eve of the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

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\*\* **Monthly Memorial** – Our June Panachida will be rescheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, **June 16**. Please give Fr. Dave the envelope from the vestibule with any names to be remembered.

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\*\*\* **Garden Blessing** – The time of year has come for getting our gardens blessed. (*The format of the blessing is similar to our annual home blessing.*) Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested.

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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

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor* +++ 2201 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, Pa 15101  
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com +++ 412-748-0148 (*Talk or Text*) +++ OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

## CONGRATULATIONS 2024 GRADUATES!!!

### From High School...



**Katherine (Brancho) Chow**



graduated from Thomas S. Wootton High School in Rockville MD, receiving a Humanities & Arts Capstone Diploma and the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy. She was a school ambassador and a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and National English Honor Society. She participated in marching band/indoor guard as the guard captain and soloist. She will study at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University majoring in Science, Technology, and International Affairs.



**Nicholas Ditmore**



graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School where he was involved in the marching band, honor’s band, jazz band, soccer team, Mock Trial, and the school musicals. He was a member of the National Honor Society, an AP Scholar, and a Scholar Athlete. He is also involved with the Rankin Jr Tamburitians and is an Eagle Scout. He will be attending the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Political Science with a minor in Slovak studies.



**Matthew Mirilovich**



graduated with Highest Honors from Seneca Valley High School. He was a member of the National Honor Society and played volleyball for the school team and Steel City Volleyball Club for the past 6 seasons. He was a two-year varsity letterman and one year WPIAL 3A Section All Star. Matthew will be attending Penn State University majoring in Supply Chain Management.

### ... And Beyond



**Joanna Delaney** graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelors of Science in Kinesiology. She was on the executive board for a pre-health Honors Society called *Alpha Epsilon Delta* where her position was primary dance THON chair. She was involved with THON as a dancer relations committee member for three years. In addition, she was also a deans list recipient.

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*May God Grant You Many and Blessed Years of Success!*



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

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\*\*\* **2023 Altar Boy Retreat** - Registration is open for this Annual Diocesan event to be held from **Sunday June 30 to Wednesday July 3**. Please contact Fr. Dave for more information.

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\*\*\* **Golf anyone?** The St. Alexander Nevsky Annual Golf Outing will be on **Monday, July 15** at Connoquenessing Country Club (Ellwood City) with Shotgun start at 9:30 am. Deadline to register is June 28. Please contact Alex Glisan (724-831-6466) with any questions.

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\*\*\* **Christmas in July Craft Market** - St. Nicholas (903 Ann Street, Homestead, PA 15120) will host a vendor and craft event on **Saturday, July 20** from 10 am to 2 pm. Café Nikoli will be open along with a bake sale, 50/50, and basket raffles.

\*\*\* **Is your child registered yet?** The Pittsburgh Deanery Week at Camp Nazareth is **July 28 to August 3**. Registration for all campers, ages 8-18, is open. Information is available on the Camp's Website: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org). The camp is located at 339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137. Please see Fr. Dave with any questions.

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\*\* **Ping-Pong** – A ping-pong table has been donated to the church. Would you be able to help set it up in the multi-purpose room? Please let Fr. Dave know.

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\*\* **Joining the ACRY** – If you would like to become a part of our philanthropic organization of the ACRY (American Carpatho-Russian Youth), which is open to all ages, please contact Subdeacon Ryan Ferko at 484-744-2771 or [rferko85@yahoo.com](mailto:rferko85@yahoo.com).

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\*\* **Annual Parish Picnic** – Our annual Parish Family Picnic at “the Cabin” in North Park is set for **Sunday, September 8, 2024**. We will have a pot-luck meal, outdoor games, and a relaxing fun day. Please save the date on your calendar today! If you have any questions, please see a member of the Parish Council.

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\*\*\* **Third Hour** – Prior to recent Liturgies, we have been chanting the Paschal Canon. After Ascension (on Thursday), we will return to chanting (or reading) the Third Hour. If you would like to be in the rotation for this or have any questions, please see Fr. Dave.

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### THIRD HOUR

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

June 16:	Ken Parks
June 23:	_____?
June 30:	_____?

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

### OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 745
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 92
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 240
Community Outreach:	\$ 20
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 1097</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

### May Financial Report:

**General Stewardship = \$ 8792.13**  
(includes \$ 324.13 from online stewardship)  
**\*Expenses = \$ 7605.49**  
**Net Income = \$ 1186.64**  
**Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 405**  
(of which \$300 donated in memory of  
+Eleanor Sanger by the Spirnak Family)  
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 42  
\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board

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

(September through last month)  
**General Stewardship = \$ 61,789**  
**\*Expenses = \$ 59,992**  
**Net Income = \$ 1797**  
\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board  
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 33

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Kathy Schrmack; Tim Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; +Eleanor Sanger; Margie Sanger; Cindy Pavilonis  
The **Christ Candle Cross** was offered last week by Patty Watson in memory of +Eleanor Sanger.  
May Her Memory Be Eternal! Christ is risen!

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### COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave  
June 16 (Father's Day): Ken Parks  
June 23 (Pentecost): \_\_\_\_\_?  
June 30: \_\_\_\_\_?

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

### SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Epistle: Acts 16: 16– 34*

#### Paul and Silas in Prison

<sup>16</sup>As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. <sup>17</sup>She followed Paul and us, crying, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” <sup>18</sup>And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup>But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; <sup>20</sup>and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, “These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. <sup>21</sup>They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” <sup>22</sup>The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. <sup>23</sup>And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. <sup>24</sup>Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup>But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, <sup>26</sup>and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. <sup>27</sup>When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” <sup>29</sup>And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, <sup>30</sup>and brought them out and said, “Men, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup>And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” <sup>32</sup>And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. <sup>33</sup>And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his

family. <sup>34</sup>Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

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*Gospel: John 9: 1– 38*

#### A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

<sup>9</sup>As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Silo'am” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, “Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he”; others said, “No, but he is like him.” He said, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>They said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Silo'am and wash’; so I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

#### The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” There was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they again said to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind?”



How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup> but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." <sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup> And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

**Spiritual Blindness**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.

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

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**LIVES OF THE SAINTS**

**The Priestmartyr Therapontos, Bishop Of Sardis**  
Commemorated on June 9 / May 27

The PriestMartyr Therapontos, Bishop of Sardis suffered for Christ during the III Century (the city of Sardis, or Sarda, was situated in the Asia Minor district of Lydia). In fulfilling his priestly service, Saint Therapontos enlightened with the light of the Christian faith and baptised many of the pagan-Hellenes (Greeks). For this, he was brought to trial before the governor Julian and fearlessly declared himself a Christian bishop. They threw him into prison, where for a long time he languished with hunger and thirst, and then they gave him over to cruel tortures, but the torments did not break the saint's valiant confessing of faith. In chains they led off the saint to the city of Sinaion in Phrygia, and thence to Ancyra. In these cities they again tortured him. They took him to the River Astala, where they stretched him cross-form and bare upon the ground, fastened to four posts driven into the ground, and they beat him fiercely. After this torture, they took the passion-bearer of Christ off to the outskirts of the Satalia diocese, part of the Sardis metropolitanate, and here after long beatings Saint Therapontos ended with his martyr's deed. The dry posts, to which the saint had been tied, and having soaked up his blood, gave forth green shoots and grew into large trees, the leaves of which were found to have curative powers through which many people received graced healing.

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**CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE**

*Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:*  
 ✕ \*\* The push-matic electrical panel has been replaced (*donated by an anonymous donor*)  
 ✕ \* Our outdoor maintenance shed is up (*donated by an anonymous donor*)  
 ✕ *upcoming projects include an outdoor sign, new doors, and drywall in the nave of the church.*

**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!

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY**

**Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City** is our Community Outreach this month. Along with monetary donations that we will collect throughout the month, here is last year's list that they requested assistance with:

- ✓ LED Light bulbs
- ✓ AA and AAA Batteries
- ✓ Match Books
- ✓ Zip lock bags
- ✓ Bottles of Water
- ✓ Canned fuzzy water
- ✓ Tuna in water
- ✓ Toilet paper
- ✓ Facial Tissues
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Napkins
- ✓ Tall white kitchen trash bags
- ✓ Black trash bags
- ✓ White plastic knives
- ✓ White plastic spoons
- ✓ 10 or 12 oz. paper cups for cold drinks
- ✓ Chlorox bathroom cleaner
- ✓ 409 type cleaner
- ✓ Chlorox bleach cleaner
- ✓ Simple green (gallon size)
- ✓ Windex
- ✓ Dawn dish soap
- ✓ Salted mixed nuts
- ✓ Raisins
- ✓ Coffee mate non dairy creamer powder (small sizes)
- ✓ HE Laundry detergent
- ✓ Fabric softener
- ✓ Canola oil
- ✓ Honey
- ✓ Cooking spray

*Fr. Dave will update this list if changes are requested*

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

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**PRAYER CORNER**

**For Our Graduates...** Katherine (*Brancho*) Chow, Joanna Delaney, Nicholas Ditmore, Matthew Mirilovich ...*may they be guided in God's Light and His Will all the days of their lives.*

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**For the Health of...** Daria, Matthew, Helen, Cynthia, Barbara, Nicholas, Patrick, Thomas, Paul, Mary, Cheryl, 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*

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**For the souls of the newly departed...**

+Mary Evelyn Steiner (5/25), +His Grace, Bishop Matthias (5/4), +Eleanor Sanger (5/2)  
 ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory! Christ is risen!*

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**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.**

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

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

## ONLINE BONUSES

### THE MANY FORMS OF “BLINDNESS”

Today, the Sixth Sunday of Pascha, the Orthodox Church commemorates what is commonly called the Sunday of the Blind Man. A touching tale is related to us in the Gospel lesson, as we witness another miracle performed by Christ, Who gives sight to a man who had been blind from birth. How thrilling it must have been for this poor soul to have a whole new world opened up to him! How he must have rejoiced at his first experience of beholding the beauty of God’s creation! Others, however, continued to exhibit another curious form of “blindness” long after this man was given the ability to see our Lord. The Pharisees and scribes “closed their eyes” to the reality of this miraculous event! They refused to “see” the Hand of God in this matter. Instead, they insinuated that the Blind Man was lying: that perhaps he had his sight all along! The hardness of their hearts would not allow them to view Jesus for what He truly was: The Light That ‘had come to enlighten the world.

The message placed before us this Sunday is a simple one. Only Christ can open the “eyes of our souls” and make us children of light. Only Christ can illuminate and overshadow the darkness caused by sin, making visible to us the eternal joys of heaven. We must, therefore, never allow ourselves to be “blinded” by the pleasures of this world. If we are, however, temporarily afflicted in this manner, we would be wise to heed the advice placed before us in today’s

*Kontakion Hymn: I come to You, O Christ, with the eyes of my soul as blind as those of the man born blind, and in repentance, I cry to You: You are the light of supreme brightness for all of those who are in darkness.*

*Spiritual Vitamin:*

“The more perseverance and humility one has the quicker one can be rid of the enemy.”

*Abbot Nikon Vorobiev*

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## THIS MONTH’S SERVICE SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY, JUNE 2

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan Woman  
9:20 am Paschal Canon  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Church School

*Family Day at Camp Nazareth*

### FRIDAY, JUNE 7

FEAST OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> FINDING OF THE HEAD OF ST JOHN  
9:30 am Akathist to St John the Baptist

### ALL-SOUL’S SATURDAY, JUNE 8

**RESCHEDULED** (*Zadušna Subota*)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (5<sup>th</sup> of 5)  
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### SUNDAY, JUNE 9 – GRADUATE SUNDAY

9:20 am Paschal Canon  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy with responses sung by the  
St. Nicholas Choir of Homestead

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

### THURSDAY, JUNE 13

*FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD*  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
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### SUNDAY, JUNE 16 – FATHER’S DAY

9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Youth Sunday  
Panachida – Monthly Memorial (*rescheduled*)  
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### SUNDAY, JUNE 23 FEAST OF PENTECOST, THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; “RUSALJA”

9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy with Fr. Robert Prepelka  
Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost following Liturgy  
**A FAST FREE WEEK**  
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### SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Sunday of All Saints  
9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy with Fr. Robert Prepelka

### MONDAY, JULY 1

APOSTLES’ (PETER AND PAUL) FAST BEGINS  
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## FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Discovery of the Venerable Head of John, the Holy Prophet, Fore-Runner, and Baptizer of the Lord

Commemorated on June 7 / May 25

The Third Discovery of the Venerable Head of the Holy Prophet, Fore-Runner and Baptist of the Lord John occurred in about the year 850 (the account about the First and Second Discoveries is located under 24 February). During the time of unrest at Constantinople connected with the exile of Sainted John Chrysostom (Comm. 13 November), the head of Saint John the Fore-Runner was found in the city of Emesia. It was transferred from there during the time of Saracen raids (about 820-820) to Komana and there – during a period of iconoclast persecution, it was hidden in the ground. When the veneration of icons was restored, Patriarch Ignatios (847-857) during the time of prayer at night was shown in a vision the place, where the head of Saint John the Fore-Runner was concealed. The hierarch communicated this to the emperor, who dispatched a delegation to Komana, and there the head was found a third time at the place decreed by the patriarch in about the year 850. Afterwards the head was again transferred to Constantinople, and here on 25 May it was placed in a church at the court. Part of the head is located at Athos. In memory of the Third Discovery of the Head of the Baptist of the Lord John, the celebration is on 25 May.

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### Pentecost (also called *Descent of the Holy Spirit* or *Trinity Day*)

The Orthodox Church sees Pentecost as the final fulfillment of the mission of Jesus Christ and the first beginning of the messianic age of the Kingdom of God, mystically present in His Church. It is traditionally called the beginning of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Besides celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit, the feast also celebrates the full revelation of the divine Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Hymns of the Church, celebrate the sign of the final act of God's self-disclosure to the world of His creation.

To Orthodox Christians, the feast of Pentecost is not just a celebration of an event in history. It also is a celebration of their membership in the Church. They have lived Pentecost and received "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" in the sacrament of chrismation.

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## ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

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

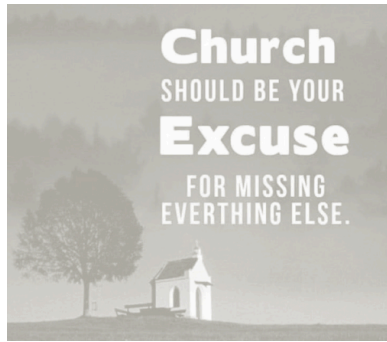
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## 2023-24 SJB PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

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

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**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 Crew** – Please see Fr. Dave if you would be willing to be on a committee to organize and clean the kitchen and storage room and then help keep it organized, stocked, and clean.

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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.

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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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Stewardship of Treasure Guide															
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?															
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithel			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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**A Prayer of Stewardship**

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the good steward, who redeemed Adam and Eve of their failed stewardship by offering Yourself for the life of the world. You did teach us in the feeding of the multitudes that whatever we give to God is returned to us multiplied. You did praise those good and faithful servants in the parable of the talents who returned to the Master their gifts. So help us to learn the joy of stewardship, remembering that everything we have comes from You and belongs to You. We know, Lord, that we often live in fear of the future and insecurity. Help us to remember the lilies of the field and so to trust in Your providence. Grant to us a cheerful and generous spirit. Enkindle in the hearts of all Your people a zealous love for You. For You are the Good Steward, and to You we give thanks, praise and glory, together with Your Father and Your all holy good and life-giving Spirit now and ever and onto the ages of ages. Amen.

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**Bulletin Sponsor** - If you wish to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (nameday, birthday, anniversary, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested. *Remember, sponsoring a bulletin in memory of someone does not replace having a Panachida (Memorial Service) for them.*

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**LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH**

**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

## 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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### June Namedays:

Tristan Bowser - St. Dunstan (6/1)

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

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### June Birthdays:

June Sefscik (6/1), Pañi Eleni Stagon (6/5), Emily Opsitos (6/6), Gina Fall (6/8), Christina (Brancho) Chow (6/12), Makaela Kirish (6/12), Fr. Nicholas Mihaly (6/13), John Fucsko (6/15), Rebecca Zak (6/15), Julia Lanick (6/16/27), Aaron Zak (6/16),

Katherine Chow (6/20), Donna (Lanick) Staub (6/20), Pañi Melissa Chendorain (6/20), Mary Jane Hudak (6/23), Margaret Spirnak (6/24), Pañi Marianna Bannon (6/25), Ryan Dzadony (6/28), *Father's niece*, Aislinn Verbanick (6/28), Fr. Paul Abernathy (6/29), Colton Gavulich (6/29), John Radick (6/29), Elizabeth Radomsky (6/29), Fr Miles Zdinak (6/29) *...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...

Alexandra & Maxwell Anton, Allison & Michael, Francis & Alexandra...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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### June Anniversaries:

Adam & Jean Zak (6/2/12)

Matt and Kim Opsitos (6/4/94)

Stephen & Jennifer Brancho (6/6/09)

Kira & Michael Fischer (6/7/03)

Audrey & Florian Rajakovich (6/9/96)

*Father's Parents, Dave & Andrea Urban (6/16/68)*

John & Sarah Fucsko (6/18/11)

*...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Carly (*due in June*), Allison (*October*), Lexi (*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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\* 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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**Special Intentions** – Did you ever wonder for what reasons would a person's name go under "For the Special Intentions of..." on our Prayer Page? A special intention request is very diversified! It could be when one is under extreme job stress, struggling with spiritual issues, infertility, dealing with the loss of a loved one... the list goes on. As with the other lists on our page, one does not have to be Orthodox to be added.

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**Prayer requests** – During the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, prayers are said for the sick and those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin. If silent prayers are requested, they will be offered quietly at the Altar at all services. All those listed in the "Prayer Corner" are prayed for during the Proskomedia (*Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion*). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our prayer list.

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### 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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### The Jesus Prayer

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

(*Repeat until your heart is calm...*)

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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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