

# “THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*

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

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ! (*responded with: Glory forever!*) Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na viki!) We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning. We wish God’s Blessings to all who 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

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024** vol. X

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
+Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalen (1<sup>st</sup> c.)  
Annual Blessing of Chariots (*Cars, Trucks, Boats, Bicycles, and other modes of transportation*)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7**

9:30 – 11:30 am Church open for personal prayer  
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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11**

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
+Holy Martyr Callinikos (250)  
9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Romans 15:1-7; Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35  
Tone 6; Liturgical Color: **Gold**  
Lesser Blessing of Water and of Honey  
Monthly Memorial Panachida for: +*Cecilia Urban* (1-yr), +*John Hriecenak, The Priest* (24-yr), +*John Urban* (3-yr), +*Paul Herbert, The Priest* (8-yr), +*Peter E Molchany, The Priest* (34-yr), +*Joseph Olas, The Priest* (57-yr)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14 #DormitionFast**

FEAST OF THE PROCESSION OF THE CROSS (in 1164)  
Dormition Fast begins  
Home Blessings begin

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 16 #DormitionFast**

6:30 pm Akathist in Honor of the Dormition

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 #DormitionFast**

11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered

## SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Epistle:** *Romans 12:6-14*

<sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

**Marks of the True Christian**

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

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**Gospel:** *Matthew 9:1-8*

**Jesus Heals a Paralytic**

<sup>9</sup> And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. <sup>2</sup> And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” <sup>3</sup> And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” <sup>4</sup> But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? <sup>5</sup> For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk?’ <sup>6</sup> But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, take up your bed and go home.” <sup>7</sup> And he rose and went home. <sup>8</sup> When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

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## 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

## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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\*\*\* **Trek4Missions** - Please join us for the annual OCMC Trek4Missions held from **Aug 10 to Sep 14!** This event is the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's largest virtual fundraiser that challenges participants to be physically active while raising awareness and financial support for our mission work to unite the world to Jesus Christ and His Church. If anyone is interested in spearheading and leading a local team (our previous team’s name was **Pittsburgh Forerunners**), please contact Fr. Dave so that we can begin together on Aug 10<sup>th</sup>. *The Trek4Missions is an opportunity for individuals and parish communities to unite and demonstrate our commitment to Christ’s Great Commission “to make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).* Plan to walk, run, ride your bike, and more to show your support for Christ's call to each of us. Everyone who registers will receive a free Trek4Missions t-shirt! There are no fees to register.

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\*\* **August: A Month of Special Blessings!** – Live the Orthodox Faith and plan ahead for the many special blessings that are offered in August:

**August 4:** Blessing of Chariots (Vehicles)

**August 11:** Lesser Blessing of Water and of Honey

**August 18:** Blessing of Students & Teachers

**August 18, 19 & 25:** Blessing of the First-Fruits (and vegetables)

**Aug. 27, 28 & Sep. 1:** Blessing of Flowers & Herbs  
*Life is full of blessings! Orthodoxy is awesome!*

*Let’s focus on the blessings in our lives!*

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\*\* **McKeesport’s International Village** will be on **August 13-15** from 3 to 9 pm at Renziehausen Park (3580 Tulip Dr., McKeesport, PA 15132). Admission is \$2 at the gate with numerous food booths and performances each night. More information can be found on their website: [www.internationalvillage.info/](http://www.internationalvillage.info/)

## OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 168
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 77
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 825
Community Outreach:	\$ 25

**Total Collections:** **\$ 1094**

**Capital Improvement Fund:** **\$ 0**

*Participating Souls: 44*

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Carol and Tom Lorenzi; Tim Martin; Kathy Schmack; Fred and Juliana Anton; Cindy Pavilonis

## July Financial Report:

**General Stewardship = \$ 5611.67**  
*(includes \$ 367.67 from online stewardship)*

**\*Expenses = \$ 6142.76**

**Net Deficit = \$ 531.09**

**Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 280**

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 40  
*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

## Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Report:

*(September through last month)*

**General Stewardship = \$ 82,960**

**\*Expenses = \$ 68,549**

**Net Income = \$ 14,411**

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 34

\*\* **New School Year Blessing** – We will have additional prayers on Sunday, **August 18** for students and teachers who are heading back to school. *If you are leaving for college prior to 8/18, please let Fr. Dave know.*

## COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

August 11: \_\_\_\_\_?

\* August 18: \_\_\_\_\_?

\* August 25: \_\_\_\_\_?

*\* meatless during the Dormition Fast*

**\*\* Diaper Drive** - St. John's in Ambridge is sponsoring a diaper drive for Adoption Connection, PA, which is a Beaver Co. non-profit adoption and fostering agency. Here are the details:

- The Adoption Connection's community closet, which supplies needed items to foster families and local residents in need, is in great need of diapers and wipes. All sizes are needed, but especially larger sizes (4-6).
- **Please drop off donations to our church in Allison Park by August 17**
- Call Mary Gido with any questions: 412-496-1121

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**\*\* Fall Retreat** - On Saturday, **September 7** Frederica Mathewes-Green will lead a retreat entitled "The Church's Unborn Witness to Life" at St. Alexander Nevsky (8290 Thompson Run Road) from 9:30 to 3:00. The 2 sessions will be: *Pro-Life Orthodoxy Through the Centuries* and *Post-Abortion Women Speak*. Registratoin Deadline is September 1.

### FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

#### The Holy Prophet Elias (Ilias or Elijah)

Commemorated on August 2 / July 20



We bless vehicles in honor of the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias who was carried to heaven in a fiery chariot (see 2 Kings chapter 2 in the Old Testament). **Annual**

**Blessing of Chariots** - Fr Dave will bless vehicles after the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, August 4**

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#### The Procession (Carrying-forth) of the Venerable Wood of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord

Commemorated on August 14/1



"By reason of the sicknesses, often everywhere occurring in August, from of old (~1164), customarily it was done at Constantinople to carry out the Venerable Wood of the Cross along the roads and streets for the sanctifying of places and for the driving away of sicknesses. On the eve of the Feast, carrying it out from the imperial treasury, they placed it upon the Holy Table [Altar] of the Great Church (Hagia Sophia - the Wisdom of God). From this feastday up to the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, making litija throughout all the city, they then placed it forth for all the people to venerate." (1897 Greek Orologion) In the Russian Church this feast is combined also with a

remembrance of **the Baptism of Rus'**, on August 1, 988. In the "Account about the making of services in the holy catholic and apostolic great church of the Dormition", compiled in 1627 by order of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' Philaret, there is provided suchlike an explanation of the feast: *"And on the day of the procession of the Venerable Cross there occurs a church-procession for the Lesser Sanctification of Water and for the enlightenment of the people, throughout all the towns and places"*.



Together with the Blessing of Waters, there is made a **Blessing of Honey** (i.e. first-honey for the Saviour: "Saviour of the Water", "Saviour Moisture"). And

from this day the newly harvested honey is blessed and tasted. *The origin is that in some climates, such as in Ukraine, the hives are ready to be "robbed" at this time of the year.* **Bring your honey to be blessed on Sunday, August 11**

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#### The Transfiguration Of Our Lord God And Saviour Jesus Christ

Commemorated on August 19/6



"The Christian practice to bless the fruits in church can be traced back to Apostolic times. There is a Prayer of Thanksgiving for the new fruits in the

work of St. Hyppolytus, *the Apostolic Tradition*, composed in about 220. St. Hippolytus mentions the following fruits usually blessed: grapes, figs, pomegranates, pears, mulberries, peaches, and almonds. The sixth Ecumenical Council, celebrated in Constantinople (680-681), prescribed that the new "wheat and grapes" were to be blessed in church on the feast of the Holy Transfiguration (canon 28)." **We will bless our grapes and 'first fruits' from our gardens** (or purchased from the grocery store) **after Vespers on August 18, after Liturgy on August 19, and after the Liturgy the Sunday after the Feast Day.** Everyone is encouraged to bring in a bowl, basket, or bushel of fruits and/or vegetables!

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#### The "Falling-Asleep" ("Dormition" or "Uspenie") Of The Theotokos, Our Most-Holy Lady Mother Of God And Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemorated on August 28/15

Holy Tradition tells us that all the Apostles, with the exception of St. Thomas, were transported mystically to Jerusalem in order to be with the Mother of God - the Theotokos - as she reposed, and to be present at her burial. When the Apostle Thomas arrived the next day, the Apostles opened the tomb so that he could kiss her farewell. As the tomb was opened, the body of the Most Pure Virgin was missing, and the cave was filled with flowers and the sweet fragrance of Paradise. This was a sure sign of her great purity and holiness to the faithful. Therefore as part of our celebration of the Dormition, we will **bless flowers and fragrant herbs after Vespers on August 27, after Liturgy on August 28, and after the Liturgy the Sunday after the Feast Day.** - and the faithful traditionally keep them in their homes. The herbs, used as natural medicine, are blessed in commemoration of the numerous healings and the extraordinary grace bestowed on the pilgrims at the blessed tomb of the Mother of God. **Everyone is encouraged to bring in a bouquet or basket of flowers and/or herbs from your garden or the store to be blessed!**

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### AUG. COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



\*\*\* This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD) Program**. "The Distinguished Diocesan Donors program strives to provide the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese with the necessary resources to bring a resurgence of life and an abundance of growth to its apostolates and ministries." For more information, visit [www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/](http://www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/). We ask that you make an additional offering by the end of the month for this outreach effort. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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\*\*\* **COAT DRIVE** Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? We are now collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) [Formerly FOCUS Pittsburgh (who provide Food, Occupation, Clothing,

*Understanding, and Shelter to those who are in need)]*. Please place your clean coat(s) on the coat rack in the downstairs hallway this month.

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### PRAYER CORNER

**For the Health of...** Gwen, Marcus, Kathleen M., Petra, Robert, Helen, Cynthia, Barbara, Thomas, Paul, Mary, Cheryl, Robert, Joanne, Jason, Carlene, Kelly, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, and Michael *...through the prayers of St. Nectarius the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer*

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#### August Namedays:

Lawrence Martin - Blessed Laurence, fool-for-Christ (8/23)  
*Father's sister*, Suzanne Verbanick - Holy Martyress Susanna (8/24)

Pañi Alexandra Urban - Saint Alexander (8/30 NC)  
*...May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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#### August Birthdays:

Sharon Dzadony (8/2), Bobby Paieski (8/03), Steven Anton (8/4), Joseph Mainolfi, Jr. (8/4), Nicholas Dzambo (8/5), John Gaydos Jr. (8/6), Isabelle Opsitos (8/8), Matthew Opsitos (8/8), Kathleen Benedetti Anton (8/9), Michael Tongel (8/11), Lindsay Matolyak-Ferraz (8/12), Jim Schrmack (8/12), Jane Gaydos (8/13), Craig Bowser (8/16), *Fr. Paul Herbert's son-in-law*, Ernest Pido (8/20), Maria Urban (8/21), Sophia Urban (8/21), Everly Marie Torchia (8/22), Igumen Patrick (8/23), Renee Mirilovich (8/24), Judith Figura (8/27), Fr. Michael Kabel (8/27), Meredith Blobner (8/28), Adam Zak (8/28), Lucillia Mainolfi (8/29), Claudia (Herbert) Pido (8/29), Kyle Jozwiskowski (8/30)

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

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#### August Anniversaries:

Kris & Caitlin Carlisle (8/6)  
 Robert & Gina Fall (8/6/17)  
 Ben & Tina Scherer (8/7/82)  
 Nick & Jane Sarandou (8/21/83)  
 Sharon & Ryan Dzadony (8/25/12)

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

## ONLINE BONUSES

### Out of the Depths:

#### I Am Created in the Image and Likeness of God

Published by Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis on  
March 20, 2024

*Then God said, "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

**Genesis 1:26-27**

As we take our first steps on the journey of Great Lent, as we cry out to God, as we begin to examine the depths of our souls, it is important to go back to the beginning, to something that is critical for the foundation of life and faith—and that is that each of us has value. We know this from the story of creation. The very first thing one has to believe in order to be a Christian is that God created everything, including us. Someone greater than us made us. Logic would say that there is no way that a lesser being can create a greater being, so someone lesser than us did not make us. Nor can someone equal to us have made us. Which means that someone greater than us made us and that is God. We are not random acts, but purposeful creations of His hands.

The account of creation in the book of Genesis tells of God purposefully acting at every step of creation. He created light, then heaven, earth, plants, sun, moon, stars, fish, birds, and mammals. At each stage of creation, God looked at what He created and *saw that it was good*. (Genesis 1:10, 1:12, 1:18, 1:21, 1:25)

After creating all of this, God said, in Genesis 1:26-27, *"Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."* So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. The word for "image" in Greek is "eikona" which we also translate as "icon." The icons in our churches are holy

images. So, when God made human beings, He made them as images/icons of God. He made us to reflect Him. He put Himself into each of us. That is what we call a soul, the God-like part of each of us.

Everything that God made was perfect. He didn't create imperfect things. Imperfection entered the world through sin. God made us to reflect Him. In Genesis 1:31, we read that *God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was VERY good*. The descriptive word "very" is only used here in the account of creation, because with the creation of mankind, God had the crowning jewel of creation. Now creation was complete.

If God is in each of us, (whether we acknowledge that or not, He is) then each of us has infinite value, in His eyes, and we should have infinite value in the eyes of others. There are many people who struggle with low self-esteem, who think they have no value, and that is simply not the case. God made each of us and so we each have infinite value.

The Divine services of our church are created to be sensory experiences. We see things, we hear things, we smell things, we taste things, we touch things. The best kind of learning is experiential learning, where one has an experience and can remember that experience. Experiential learning is a lot more effective than learning by lecture. Thus, our worship is meant to be an occasion not only for praising God but learning about Him and about ourselves.

One of the experiences we have in our Divine services is the visual and auditory practice of the priest using the censer. At almost every service, the priest censens the icons in the church. He censens the Altar Table, as it is the throne of God. He censens the icons on the icon screen, the Holy images of Christ, the Virgin Mary, the angels and the saints. And then he censens the people, and why? Because the people are holy images, just like the saints and the angels. This should be a visual and auditory reminder that we are called to be saints and that we have value, each of us, even if we've messed things up. The priest doesn't cense only the people that who identify themselves as righteous, or who he thinks are righteous. He censens ALL the people, EVERY time.

During Great Lent, it is the custom in some churches for the priest to use a censer that does not have bells

on it. The bells on the censer—there are twelve, representing the twelve Apostles—are an auditory reminder that we are also apostles, charged at our baptisms with the same Great Commission that they were, to *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20) We are reminded to go and make noise about the faith in a good way. The absence of bells comes from Jesus' teaching in Matthew 26:31, when He said to the Disciples *"You will all fall away because of Me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'" When the going got tough, and Jesus was arrested, all the Disciples, save for John, scattered. When we sin, we scatter from Christ as well.*

We do not stop using the censer during the weekdays of Great Lent. We still cense all the icons and the people, even with a censer without bells. Because when we sin and we scatter, we still have value in the eyes of God. The absence of bells is itself an auditory reminder to be careful and vigilant in our battle to reflect God while avoiding sin, to not fall away in times of temptation.

At a recent retreat, I gave a presentation on this topic of the censer and how we all have value, and after the retreat, a young man approached me and said, "Thank you for your presentation. I actually didn't think I had any value." Which made me happy, and sad. Happy for reassuring someone that they mattered, that they had value. Sad because one of God's beautifully created people was walking through life questioning if he had any value.

If you are like this person, questioning your own value, or even if you have any value, let me assure you that you do. We are all created after God's image and likeness, we are all icons of Him. We devalue ourselves when we sin. We reclaim our value when we repent and because He has infinite capacity to forgive. As we begin this journey, wherever you are in your life, remember that you have value. The best place to start over is to go back to the very beginning and reestablish in your mind and your own soul, that

you have value, because God made you after His own image, as an icon of Himself.

*Have mercy on me, O God. Have mercy on me. As the potter molds the clay, You fashioned me, giving me flesh and bones, breath and life. But accept me in repentance, O my Maker and Deliverer and Judge. (Canon of St. Andrew, Ode One, Trans. by Fr. Seraphim Dedes)*

Wherever you are in your life, especially if you feel stuck in stress, sin, shame or despair, remember that you have value in the eyes of God!

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## SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

God listens, not to our voice, but to our heart. He does not need to be prodded with shouts, since He sees our thoughts, as the Lord proved when He asked, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?" And elsewhere He stated: "All the assemblies shall know that I am He who searches minds and hearts."

**Saint Cyprian of Carthage**

*The Lord's Prayer, Third Century*

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## VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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## MONTHLY SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

FEAST OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIAS

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### SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Annual Blessing of Chariots (*Cars, Trucks, Boats,  
Bicycles, and other modes of transportation*)

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11**

9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Monthly Memorial Panachida  
Lesser Blessing of Water and of Honey

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14 #DormitionFast**

FEAST OF THE PROCESSION OF THE CROSS (in 1164)  
Dormition Fast begins  
Home Blessings begin

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 16 #DormitionFast**

6:30 pm Akathist in Honor of the Dormition

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 #DormitionFast**

11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 #DormitionFast**

9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Youth Sunday  
Blessing of Students and Teachers  
12-noon Feast Day Vespers & Blessing of Grapes  
and First-Fruits (and vegetables)

**MONDAY, AUGUST 19 #DormitionFast**

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION  
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Grapes  
and First-Fruits (and vegetables)

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23 #DormitionFast**

6:30 pm Paraklis to the Mother of God

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 #DormitionFast**

11:00 am Baptism  
12-noon – 2 pm Confessions Offered

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 #DormitionFast**

9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of Grapes and First-Fruits (and vegetables)  
12-noon Moleben to the Theotokos

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 #DormitionFast**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers & Blessing of Flowers  
and Herbs

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28**

FEAST OF THE DORMITION

9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 30**

12-Noon Overdose Awareness Prayer Service at  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (325 Oliver Ave,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 31**

International Overdose Awareness Day

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**ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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\*\*\* **Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD)** – We invite you to join with other St John’s faithful in giving individually to the annual DDD program. This program greatly supports our ministry at Camp Nazareth and other programs in our diocese. For more information, please get a brochure in the vestibule, see Larry Martin (*our local ambassador*) or Fr. Dave, or visit [www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/](http://www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/). Checks payable to: Distinguished Diocesan Donors can be mailed to: Diocesan Chancery, 312 Garfield St., Johnstown, PA 15906.

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

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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)



**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.

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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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**“Code” for reading the bulletin:**

\*\*\* = new news

\*\* = 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the bulletin

\* = at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in the bulletin

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**CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE**

*Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:*

✘ \* The Construction Committee will be starting various little projects around the church in the upcoming weeks (around vacations and summer schedules). Please contact Fr. Dave if you have an idea of an improvement that we should look into.

✘ upcoming contractor projects include an outdoor sign, new doors, and possibly putting drywall on the ceiling 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!

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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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**Summer Travels** – As we are in the midst of summer vacations and time away, please do not forget about our parish. We continue to function even when you are away. If possible, mail your regular offering in or ‘catch up’ when you return. It is all a part of our stewardship!

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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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**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. (*please grab the coffee grounds before taking the bag*)

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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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**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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**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 its ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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Stewardship of Treasure Guide												
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?												
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe	Tithe	Upper Range Giving				Middle Range Giving			Lower Range Giving		
	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4	\$2
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6	\$3
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14	\$7
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18	\$9
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22	\$11
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).  
2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE% would be.

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### 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.

### LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY MYRH-BEARER EQUAL-UNTO-THE-APOSTLES MARY MAGDALENE.  
Commemorated on Aug 4 / July 22

The Holy Myrh-Bearer Equal-unto-the-Apostles Mary Magdalene. On the banks of Lake Genesareth (Galilee), between the cities of Capharnum and Tiberias, was situated the small city of Magdala, the remains of which have survived to our day. Now at this place stands only the small village of Mejhdel.

In Magdala sometime formerly the woman was born and grew up, whose name has entered forever into the Gospel account. The Gospel tells us nothing about the youthful years of Mary, but tradition informs us, that Mary from Magdala was young and pretty, and led a sinful life. It says in the Gospels, that the Lord expelled seven devils from Mary. From the moment of healing Mary led a new life. She became a true disciple of the Saviour.

The Gospel relates that Mary followed after the Lord, when He went with the Apostles through the cities and villages of Judea and Galilee preaching

about the Kingdom of God. Together with the pious women – Joanna, wife of Khuza (steward of Herod), Susanna and others, she served Him from her own possessions (Lk 8, 1-3) and undoubtedly, shared with the Apostles the evangelic tasks, in common with the other women. The Evangelist Luke, evidently, has her in view together with the other women, stating that at the moment of the Procession of Christ onto Golgotha, when after the Scourging He took on Himself the heavy Cross, collapsing under its weight, the women followed after Him weeping and wailing, but He consoled them. The Gospel relates that Mary Magdalene was present on Golgotha at the moment of the Lord's Crucifixion. While all the disciples of the Saviour ran away, she remained fearlessly at the Cross together with the Mother of God and the Apostle John.

The evangelists enumerate among those standing at the Cross moreover also the mother of the Apostle James the Less, and Salome, and other women followers of the Lord from Galilee itself, but all mention first Mary Magdalene; but the Apostle John aside the Mother of God, names only her and Mary Cleopas. This indicates how much she stood out from amidst all the women gathered round the Lord.

She was faithful to Him not only in the days of His Glory, but also at the moment of His Extreme Humiliation and Insult. As the Evangelist Matthew relates, she was present at the Burial of the Lord. Before her eyes Joseph and Nikodemus went out to the tomb with His lifeless Body; before her eyes they covered over the entrance to the cave with a large stone, behind which went the Sun of Life...

Faithful to the Law in which she was trained, Mary together with the other women stayed all the following day at rest, because it was the great day of the Sabbath, coinciding in that year with the Feast of Passover. But all the rest of the peaceful day the women succeeded in storing up aromatics, to go at dawn Sunday to the Grave of the Lord and Teacher and according to the custom of the Jews to anoint His Body with funereal aromatics.

It is necessary to suggest that, having agreed to go on the first day of the week to the Tomb early in the morning, the holy women, having gone separately on Friday evening to their own homes, did not have the

possibility to meet together with one another on Saturday, and how only at the break of dawn the following day did they go to the Sepulchre, not all together, but each from their own house.

The Evangelist Matthew writes, that the women came to the grave at dawn, or as the Evangelist Mark expresses, extremely early before the rising of the sun; the Evangelist John, as it were elaborating upon these, says that Mary came to the grave so early that it was still dark. Obviously, she waited impatiently for the end of night, but it was not daybreak when round about darkness still ruled – she ran there where lay the Body of the Lord.

Now then, Mary went to the Tomb alone. Seeing the stone pushed away from the cave, she rushed away in fear thither where dwelt the close Apostles of Christ – Peter and John. Hearing the strange message that the Lord was gone from the tomb, both Apostles ran to the tomb and, seeing the shroud and winding cloths, they were amazed. The Apostles went and told no one nothing, but Mary stood about the entrance to the gloomy tomb and wept. Here in this dark tomb still so recently lay her lifeless Lord. Wanting proof that the tomb really was empty, she went down to it – and here a strange light suddenly prevailed upon her. She saw two angels in white garments, the one sitting at the head, the other at the foot, where the Body of Jesus had been placed. She heard the question:

"Woman, why weepest thou?" – she answered them with the words which she had said to the Apostles: "They have taken my Lord, and I do not know, where they have put Him". Having said this, she turned around, and at this moment saw the Risen Jesus standing about the grave, but she did not recognise Him.

He asked Mary: "Woman, why weepest thou? Whom dost thou seek?" She answered thinking that she was seeing the gardener: "Sir, if thou hast taken him, tell where thou hast put Him, and I will reclaim Him".

But at this moment she recognised the Lord's voice, a voice which was known from the day He healed her. This was the voice in those days and years, when together with the other pious women she followed the Lord through all the cities and places where His preaching was heard. She gave a joyful

shout "Rabbi" that means Teacher.

Respect and love, fondness and deep veneration, a feeling of thankfulness and recognition at His Splendour as great Teacher – all came together in this single outcry. She was able to say nothing more and she threw herself down at the feet of her Teacher, to wash them with tears of joy. But the Lord said to her: "Touch me not, for I am still not ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and tell them: "I ascend to My Father and your Father and to My God and to your God".

She came to herself and again ran to the Apostles, so as to do the will of Him sending her to preach. Again she ran into the house, where the Apostles stayed still in dismay, and announced to them the joyous message "I have seen the Lord!" This was the first preaching in the world about the Resurrection.

The Apostles were obliged to proclaim the Glad Tidings to the world, but she proclaimed it to the Apostles themselves...

Holy Scripture does not tell us about the life of Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection of Christ, but it is impossible to doubt, that if in the terrifying minutes of Christ's Crucifixion she was the foot of His Cross with His All-Pure Mother and John, undoubtedly, she stayed with them during all the happier time after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Thus in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles Saint Luke writes: that all the Apostles with one mind stayed in prayer and supplication, with certain women and Mary the Mother of Jesus and His brethren.

Holy Tradition testifies, that when the Apostles departed from Jerusalem for preaching to all the ends of the earth, then together with them also went Mary Magdalene to preach. A daring woman, whose heart was full of reminiscence of the Resurrection, she went beyond her native borders and set off to preach in pagan Rome. And everywhere she proclaimed to people about Christ and His Teaching, and when many did not believe that Christ is risen, she repeated to them what she had said to the Apostles on the radiant morning of the Resurrection: "I have seen the Lord!" With this preaching she made the rounds of all Italy.

Tradition relates, that in Italy Mary Magdalene visited the Emperor Tiberias (14-37 AD) and

proclaimed to him about Christ's Resurrection. According to tradition, she took him a red egg as a symbol of the Resurrection, a symbol of new life with the words: "Christ is Risen!" Then she told the emperor about this, that in his Province of Judea was the innocently condemned Jesus the Galilean, an holy man, a maker of miracles, powerful before God and all mankind, executed on the instigation of the Jewish High-Priests and the sentence affirmed by the procurator named by Tiberias, Pontius Pilate.

Mary repeated the words of the Apostles, that believing in the Redemption of Christ from the vanity of life is not as with perishable silver or gold, but rather the precious Blood of Christ is like a spotless and pure Lamb.

Thanks to Mary Magdalene the custom to give each other paschal eggs on the day of the Luminous Resurrection of Christ spread among Christians over all the world. On one ancient hand-written Greek *ustav*, written on parchment, kept in the monastery library of Saint Athanasias near Thessalonika (Solunea), is an established prayer read on the day of Holy Pascha for the blessing of eggs and cheese, in which it is indicated, that the Hegumen (Abbot) in passing out the blessed eggs says to the brethren: "Thus have we received from the holy fathers, who preserved this custom from the very time of the holy apostles, wherefore the holy equal-unto-the-apostles Mary Magdalene first showed believers the example of this joyful offering".

Mary Magdalene continued her preaching in Italy and in the city of Rome itself. Evidently, the Apostle Paul has precisely her in view in his Epistle to the Romans (16, 6), where together with other ascetics of evangelic preaching he mentions Mary (Mariam), who as he expresses "has done much for us". Evidently, she extensively served the Church in its means of subsistence and its difficulties, being exposed to dangers, and sharing with the Apostles the labours of preaching.

According to Church tradition, she remained in Rome until the arrival of the Apostle Paul, and for two more years still, following his departure from Rome after the first court judgment upon him. From Rome Saint Mary Magdalene, already bent with age, moved to Ephesus where unceasingly laboured the

holy Apostle John, who with her wrote the first 20 Chapters of his Gospel. There the saint finished her earthly life and was buried.

Her holy relics were transferred in the IX Century to the capital of the Byzantine Empire – Constantinople, and placed in the monastery Church of Saint Lazarus. In the era of the Crusader campaigns they were transferred to Italy and placed at Rome under the altar of the Lateran Cathedral. Part of the relics of Mary Magdalene are located in France near Marseilles, where over them at the foot of a steep mountain is erected in her honour a splendid church.

The Orthodox Church honours the holy memory of Saint Mary Magdalene – the woman, called by the Lord Himself from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.

Formerly immersed in sin and having received healing, she sincerely and irrevocably began a new life and never wavered from the path. Mary loved the Lord Who called her to a new life. She was faithful to Him not only then – when He having expelled from her the seven demons and surrounded by enthusiastic crowds passed through the cities and villages of Palestine, winning for Himself the glory of a miracle-worker – but also then when all the disciples in fear deserted Him and He, humiliated and crucified, hung in torment upon the Cross. This is why the Lord, knowing her faithfulness, appeared to her first, and esteemed her worthy to be first proclaiming His Resurrection.

## 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...)

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## 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, David, Donna, George, *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). If one of your special days is missing – please let Fr. Dave know ASAP. See Fr. Dave with any questions.

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### August Namedays:

Lawrence Martin - Blessed Laurence, fool-for-Christ at Kaluga (8/23)

Father's sister, Suzanne Verbanick – Holy Martyress Susanna the Virgin (8/24)

Pañi Alexandra Urban - Saint Alexander (8/30 NC) *...May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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### August Birthdays:

Sharon Dzadony (8/2), Bobby Paieski (8/03), Steven Anton (8/4), Joseph Mainolfi, Jr. (8/4), Nicholas Dzambo (8/5), John Gaydos Jr. (8/6), Isabelle Opsitos (8/8), Matthew Opsitos (8/8), Kathleen Benedetti Anton (8/9), Michael Tongel (8/11), Lindsay Matolyak-Ferraz (8/12), Jim Schmack (8/12), Jane Gaydos (8/13), Craig Bowser (8/16), *Fr. Paul Herbert's son-in-law*, Ernest Pido (8/20), Maria Urban (8/21), Sophia Urban (8/21), Everly Marie Torchia (8/22), Igumen Patrick (8/23), Renee Mirilovich (8/24), Judith Figura (8/27), Fr. Michael Kabel (8/27), Meredith Blobner (8/28), Adam Zak (8/28), Lucillia Mainolfi (8/29), Claudia (Herbert) Pido (8/29), Kyle Jozwiskowski (8/30) *...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!*

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

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

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### August Anniversaries:

Robert & Gina Fall (8/6/17)

Ben & Tina Scherer (8/7/82)

Kris & Caitlin Carlisle (8/6)

Nick & Jane Sarandou (8/21/83)

Sharon & Ryan Dzadony (8/25/12)

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

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Lexi (*due in 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...**

*...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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**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 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.



### A prayer for our Neighborhoods

*by Archbishop Demetrios of America*

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

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### A Prayer 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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### An Orthodox Prayer Before A Journey

Lord Jesus Christ my God, be my Companion, guide and protector during *my/our* journey. Keep *me/us* from all danger, misfortune and temptation. By Your divine power grant *me/us* a peaceful and successful journey and safe arrival. In You *I/we* place *my/our* hope and trust and You *I/we* praise, honor and glorify, together with Your Father and Holy Spirit now and forever and unto ages of ages. Amen.