

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

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

### UPCOMING SERVICES

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024** vol. X  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
+Holy Martyr Callinikos (250)  
Monthly Memorial Panachida: +*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)*  
Blessing of Honey

**MONDAY, AUGUST 12**  
9:30 – 11:30 am Church open for personal prayer

**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 and Lesser Blessing of Water

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 #DormitionFast**  
11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered  
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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 #DormitionFast**  
Forefeast of the Transfiguration  
8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
+Martyr Eusignios of Antioch (362)  
9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 1 Cor. 1:10-18; Gospel: Mat. 14:14-22  
Tone 7; Liturgical Color: **Blue**  
Youth Sunday  
Blessing of Students (& backpacks) 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 24 #DormitionFast**  
11:00 am Baptism  
12-noon – 2 pm Confessions Offered

### 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.

### SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Epistle: Romans 15:1-7*

#### Please Others, Not Yourself

15 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; <sup>2</sup> let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. <sup>3</sup> For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." <sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

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*Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35*

#### Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

<sup>27</sup> And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." <sup>28</sup> When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." <sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." <sup>30</sup> And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged

### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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them, "See that no one knows it." <sup>31</sup> But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

#### Jesus Heals One Who Was Mute

<sup>32</sup> As they were going away, behold, a mute demoniac was brought to him. <sup>33</sup> And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." <sup>34</sup> But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

#### The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few

<sup>35</sup> And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

### 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 our local team. The 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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**\* 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.*

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

**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/)

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**\* 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 18**

➤ Call Mary Gido with any questions: 412-496-1121

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### OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 290

Candle Stewardship: \$ 57

Envelope Stewardship: \$ 128

**Total Collections: \$ 475**

**Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 100 (for refrigerator)**

*Participating Souls: 22*

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

### COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

\* August 18: Ken Parks & Tim Martin

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

September 1: \_\_\_\_\_?

\* meatless during the Dormition Fast

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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.

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### CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:

- ✘ \*\*\* The Kitchen Storage Room has been modified, partially painted, new lights added, and additional shelves put in place.
- ✘ \*\*\* A new refrigerator is being researched.
- ✘ \*\*\* Quotes are being received for getting a French Drain in the front of the church and for the ground on the side and back to be re-graded (to keep water away from the building)

#### 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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### 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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### 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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\*\*\* **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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\*\*\* **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.

#### 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)

### LIVES OF THE SAINTS

#### THE HOLY MARTYR CALLINIKOS

Commemorated on August 11 / July 29

The Holy Martyr Callinikos (III-IV), a native of Cilicia, was raised from childhood in the Christian faith. In grief that many misguided people would perish for eternity in their worshipping of idols, he went through the cities and villages to proclaim Jesus Christ and His teachings to the pagans. With the Word of God he converted many to Christianity. In the Galatian city of Ancyra the holy confessor was arrested and brought to trial before a governor named Sacerdonus, a fierce persecutor of Christians. The governor, threatening martyrdom and death, ordered the saint to offer sacrifice to the idols. But the saint fearlessly declared that he was not afraid of martyrdom, since every believer in Christ receives from Him strength in ordeals, and through death inherits an eternal blessed life. They cruelly beat the saint with ox thongs and tore at his body with iron hooks, but he endured everything with patience and calm. This led to a still greater fury in Sacerdonus, and he commanded to shod the saint in sandals with sharp nails within, and that with whips they should drive the martyr to the city of Gangra for burning. The pathway was arduous, and the soldiers who accompanied the condemned man, were weak from thirst. In despair they began to implore the saint, that he beseech the Lord for saving water. The unassuming saint, taking pity on his tormentors, with the help of God drew forth from a stone a miraculous spring of water. The astonished soldiers were pervaded with a sense of sympathy for their rescuer and they wanted even to set him free, but fear of execution compelled them to convey the martyr further. In Gangra Saint Callinikos, with joy having offered up thanks to the Lord, Who had vouchsafed him the crown of martyrdom, went himself into the blazing bonfire and gave up his soul to God. His body, remaining unharmed, was reverently given burial by believers.

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### SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

“It is not good to recite the Jesus Prayer out loud with others because everyone has their own rhythm.

Prayer is a very intimate thing which needs a certain amount of personal freedom in order to take place.

Everyone must especially have the freedom to stop when he has arrived at a good state, as Saint Seraphim of Sarov said, “Why should i keep calling on God when He is already here?”

+Elder Sergei of Vanves, *Life & Teachings* p.111

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“Real knowledge is patiently to accept affliction and not to blame others for our own misfortunes.”

+St Mark the Ascetic, *Philokalia, Vol. 1* p.130

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“One of the first tricks of the enemy against us is the idea of trusting in oneself: that is, if not renouncing, then at least not feeling the need for the help of grace.

The enemy as it were says: “Do not go to the light where they wish to give you some kind of new powers. You are good just the way you are!” And a man gives himself over to repose. But in the meantime the enemy is throwing a rock (some kind of unpleasantness) at one; others he is leading into a slippery place (the deception of the passions); for yet others he is strewing with flowers a closed noose (deceptively good conditions).”

+St. Theophan the Recluse, *Raising Them Right: A Saint's Advice on Raising Children* p.18

### PRAYER CORNER

**For the Health of...** David, Marcus, Kevin, Petra, Robert, Helen, Cynthia, Barbara, Thomas, Paul, Mary, Cheryl, Robert, Joanne, Jason, Carlene, Kelly, 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...**

+Gwen Patten (8/10), +Terry Kulic (8/9),

+Nicholas Fuga (8/8), +Kathleen Mahar (8/7)

...*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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### ONLINE BONUSES

#### Blessing of Fruit on the Feast of the Transfiguration: Become a Fruit Bearing Tree!

On the Feast of the Transfiguration, it is customary in the Orthodox Church to bless the first fruits of the season.

Just as a tiny seed, when nurtured and cared for, can grow into a mighty tree that bears abundant fruit, so too do we have the potential within us to become holy like Christ. Each of us carries within us the seeds of holiness, planted by God at our Baptism. These seeds must be nurtured with prayer, repentance, and the Sacraments, growing into a life that reflects the light of Christ for all to see.



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The tree of the fruit also brings to mind another tree—the Tree of the Cross. Just as the wood of the Cross became the instrument of our salvation, the fruit we bless symbolizes the spiritual fruit we are called to bear in our lives. This transformation from seed to tree to fruit parallels our own spiritual journey, where, through Christ, we are called to transform and offer the fruit of our lives back to God.



The way to this transfiguration in our own lives is the same road of sacrifice that Christ traveled before us to His Cross. If we are to become holy like Christ is

holy, then we must answer His call to hold nothing back, just as he holds nothing back on the Cross. Christ gives all of himself for us. All of His love, forgiveness, and mercy is shown to us through the wood of the Cross, wood that started out its journey as a tiny seed.

As we bless the fruit on this feast day, remember your own spiritual potential and the call to nurture it with the same care and attention we give to the physical seeds that grow into fruit-bearing trees. May our lives, like the blessed fruit, become offerings of love, joy, and goodness to God. Become the mighty tree that bears fruit as God created you to be!



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### ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### “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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**#DORMITION FAST** – This is our lead-in to the great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. This 2-week Fast (from August 14-27) is one of the four fasting periods of the year when we are called to a special time of increasing our prayer, fasting, and charity. Increase your prayer by coming to confession (offered after any of the services and on Saturdays).

**BOOK SUGGESTION: *Mary, Worthy of All Praise: Reflections on the Virgin Mary.*** This book shares meditations on the Paraklis Service for each day during the Dormition Fast. It can be found (at least) on Amazon (ISBN # 9781888212716) where you can get a used copy for less than \$10.

O Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

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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)

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\*\*\* **Home Blessings** – Our Annual Home Blessings will begin on **Sunday, August 14** after the Lesser Blessing of Water. Fr. Dave is looking forward to visiting *every home* this August, September, or October. **It is not too early to schedule with Fr. Dave today.**

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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.

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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.*

### 2024 Home Blessings

#### How to prepare for your home blessing?

1. See Fr. Dave, email him

(fr.sleepless@gmail.com), call or text him (412-748-0148) today with your preferred windows of time for him to visit.

2. Have a white cloth (*or white napkin*) placed on the dining room or kitchen table, an icon and/or a cross, and a candle to be lit. (Fr Dave will provide the Holy Water for the blessing.)

3. Have a list of names of those who live in the home (*including your pets*) and a list of the departed members of your family and friends you wish to have prayed for during the service.

4. Have all TVs, radios, and cell phones turned off.

5. Have on the table anything to be blessed (*such as an Icon, Cross, etc.*).

6. Participation is important! Have everyone in the family gather around the table and join in the blessing. Invite neighbors and friends over to be a part of this beautiful tradition as well!

7. If you need to discuss a personal matter, this is a good time to do so!

#### Home blessings will take place from August 14 through October 14

It would be ideal if Father could come on a weekday between 8:30am and 3:30pm. If this is not possible, certain evening, Saturday, and Sunday times will be available. Fr Dave looks forward to spending this time with your family!

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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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## 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 24 #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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## 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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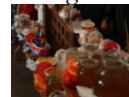
### The Procession (Carrying-forth) of the Venerable Wood of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord

*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. Hippolytus, *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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## STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

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

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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 it’s 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	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.

### 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, Amee, 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 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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**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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\* 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.

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### A prayer for our Neighborhoods

*by Archbishop Demetrios of America*

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

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**A Prayer 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**

O Lord Jesus Christ *my/our* God, be *my/our* 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.