

“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 18, 2024 #DormitionFast vol. X

Forefeast of the Transfiguration
8th Sunday after Pentecost
+Martyr Eusignios of Antioch (362)
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

10:30 am Baptism of Carter Patrick Andrekovich
12-noon – 2 pm Confessions Offered
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 #DormitionFast

Within the Feast of the Transfiguration
9th Sunday after Pentecost
+Martyrs Anicetus and Photius of Nicomedia (305)
9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Cor. 3:9-17; Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34
Tone 8; Liturgical Color: **Blue**

The initiation of the catechumens Barbara and Tyler
Blessing of Grapes and First-Fruits (and vegetables)

~~CANCELED: 12-noon Moleben to the Theotokos~~

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 #DormitionFast

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers & Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28 - FEAST OF THE DORMITION

9:30 am Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

International Overdose Awareness Day

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.
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THIS WEEK’S BULLETIN IS SPONSORED

For the health and safety of our students and teachers. May God grant them many years!
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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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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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***** The Blessing of the First Fruits – Today, Monday, and Sunday** following the Vespers or Divine Liturgy, we will bless our ‘first fruits’ from our gardens (*or from the grocery store*). **everyone** is encouraged to bring in a bowl, basket, or bushel of fruits and/or vegetables!

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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



***** Home Blessings** – Our Annual Home Blessings began on **August 14** after the Lesser Blessing of Water was called for. Fr. Dave is looking forward to visiting *every home* this Aug, Sept, or Oct. **Schedule with Fr. Dave today.**

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***** Church School Teachers** are needed! Please contact Fr. Dave or a Parish Council Member if you are interested

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**** 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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*** 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 10th. *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 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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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!

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 70
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 184
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 223
Community Outreach:	\$ 3
Total Collections:	\$ 480
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 65

*Participating Souls - Sunday Liturgy: 35
Friday Akathist: 5*

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

COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave
* August 25: Barbara, Larry, and Kathy
September 1: _____?
September 8, Godparent Sunday: *Parish Picnic
Pot-Luck at North Park*
** meatless during the Dormition Fast*

* **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.

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Divisions in the Church

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chlo’e’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apol’los,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I am thankful that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Ga’ius; ¹⁵ lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize

also the household of Steph’anas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

¹⁴ As he went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

LIVING OUR FAITH

HOW DOES THE THEOTOKOS “SAVE” US?

By Sister Vassa

“The laws of nature are overcome (Νενίκηνται τῆς φύσεως οἱ ὅροι / Побеждаются естества уставы) in you, O Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death; a virgin after childbearing and alive after death, you ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.” (Canon of Dormition, Ode 9)
On the eve of the great feast (or fast, if we’re on the Older Calendar) of the Dormition of the Theotokos, I’m reflecting on how the above-quoted hymn helps

us better understand its final words: “you ever *save* your inheritance (i.e., all of us), O Theotokos.”

Let’s first note that we do not confuse the Theotokos with our one-and-only Savior. What we are doing, when we affirm that the Theotokos “saves” us, is professing the indispensable role that she played, as Theo-tokos, in His incarnation, without which we would not have salvation.

What is “salvation”? It means “a return to wholeness” from previous fragmentation or separation from that wholeness through all the contradictions of our being. Salvation is accomplished by the “Theo(s)”-part of the “Theo-tokos,” by God, but not without her part, the “tokos” or “birth giving” part. Our incarnate Lord integrates and overcomes our contradictions, like life and death, birth giving and virginity, fruitfulness and barrenness, victory and defeat, divinity and humanity, heaven and earth, spirit and body, by becoming one of us, in the flesh, through one of us – the Theotokos. The Mother of God exemplifies, par excellence, the whole Mother-Church that participates in this integration of the contradictions, in this return to wholeness that is “salvation,” in communion with Christ. The above-quoted hymn celebrates the salvific overcoming or integration of the contradictions in and through our “Theo-tokos.” That is to say, through the synergy of God and the human being that is manifested in her unique vocation, which continues to “save” us on a daily basis.

This is why we say, “Most Holy Theotokos, save us!” – and not, “Mary, save us!” because we are professing our faith in the vital, indispensable part of our salvation that is the incarnation. And this is why traditionally we do not depict the Theotokos alone on icons, but always together with the Lord. It’s not just about her, nor just about God. It’s about both her, – a human being just as human as the rest of us, and God, Who invites all of us to participate in the synergy she exemplifies. We’re all invited to be “blessed” by receiving the Word of God (inside us, in our “wombs”) and then to “keep it” by giving it away; by giving birth to it in our world and sharing it in our own context. As Christ said to the woman who cried out from the crowd and blessed His mother (Lk 11:27): “Moreover, blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it!”

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... William, Boyd, Millicent, Michelle, Mary, Sianna, Kevin, 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...

+David French (8/14), +Gwen Patten (8/10), +Albert “Terry” Kulics (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!*

A Prayer for College Students

Heavenly Father, please be with these students as they go where they do not know. As they seek to grow in knowledge, we ask that they grow in faith. As they start to conquer the world, we hope that they conquer their fears. As they strive to find their place, we pray that they find You. Please go where we cannot, protect when we cannot, give strength that we cannot, and bring them safely home. Amen.

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A Prayer to the Theotokos

(Strive to pray this ten times a day during the Dormition Fast)
Hail Mary, full of grace, O Virgin Birthgiver of God, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to Christ, the Savior and deliverer of our souls.

A Hymn to the Theotokos

You are truly deserving of glory, *
O Birthgiver of God * The ever blessed and most pure mother of our God * More honorable than the Cherubim * And beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim * Who as a virgin gave birth to God the Word *
True Birthgiver of God, * we magnify you!



LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MARTYR EUSIGNIOS

Commemorated on August 18/5

The Martyr Eusignios was born at Antioch in the mid III Century. Over the course of sixty years he served in the Roman armies of the emperors Diocletian, Maximian Hercules, Constantius Chlorus, Constantine the Great and his sons. Saint Eusignios was a companion of Saint Basiliskos (Comm. 3 March and 22 May), and he provided an account of his deed of martyrdom (+ c. 308). At the beginning of the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, Saint Eusignios was a witness to the appearance in the sky of the starry Cross, a prediction of victory. Saint Eusignios retired in his old age from military service and returned to his own country. There he spent his time in prayer, fasting, and attending the temple of God. And thus he lived until the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363), who yearned for a return to paganism. Through the denunciation of one of the Antioch citizens, Saint Eusignios stood trial as a Christian before the emperor Julian in the year 362. He fearlessly accused the emperor of apostasy from Christ, and reproached him with the example of his relative, Constantine the Great, and he described in detail how he himself had been an eyewitness to the appearance in the sky of the sign of the Cross. Julian did not spare the quite old Saint Eusignios, then 110 years old, but rather ordered him beheaded.

VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddioocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
YouTube: youtube.com/acroddioocese

ONLINE BONUSES

Mary's Vocation and Our Own: *Something to Ponder as we Prepare to Celebrate the Dormition*

As we approach the conclusion of the Church year (8/31), the message of hope that the Mother of God imparts to us resonates deeply. Her life and her passing guide us on the path of salvation, illuminating our spiritual journey and pointing us always in the direction of her Son; our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The hymns of the feast day of the Falling-Asleep of the Mother of God resound with the proclamation that the Mother of Life transcends from one state of existence to another. Mary passes not from life to death, but from life to life. Mary' is the Mother of Life. She carried within her womb the uncreated God who, in an act of humility, entered the world through her, in order to save us from death and give to us eternal life. Mary is the living Temple of the Living God. The Theotokos was called by God to serve all of creation in this most special way, and she choose to say yes to the will of God in every moment of her life. Mary is not set apart from the rest of us. She is called to holiness just as we all are, she is human just like the rest of us. What makes her special is that by her own choice, she continually says "yes" to God and "no" to sin. Just like every human being that has ever and will ever live, Mary has the ability to choose. She has free will and the potential to turn away from God's call and disregard her extraordinary vocation, but she remains steadfast in her faith and love for her Son and God.

The story of Mary always points us toward Christ. She exemplifies what faith is through her unwavering submission to the will of God. Mary's life is a testament to her obedience to God's will. She trust's God's calling for her and responds with a resounding "Yes, Lord!" to the call she received. She made the conscious decision to embrace life and light over the darkness of sin and death. Through her choices, she demonstrates that we, too, can follow her example and aspire to imitate her holy life, just like the countless saints throughout history. The passage from life on earth to life in the kingdom of heaven is a journey that we are all called to, and

the Birthgiver of God shows us the way. The promise and great human potential for holiness revealed by Christ's Transfiguration finds its realization in Mary's life and passing. This very promise of salvation, extended to the repentant thief and all humanity, is echoed in the life of Mary and all the great saints of the Church. Mary along with the choir of saints and angels proclaim with faith the words of Saint Paul, "Here I am, Lord, send me!"

Loving Jesus in the manner that Mary did holds the key to passing from life to life rather than from life to death – this is what we see vividly in the icon of the Dormition. In the icon for the feast we Christ receive the pure soul of His mother, Mary. This symbolizes the hope that we too can pass from life to life, if we love Christ in the same way that Mary loves Him. Just as Christ calls Mary to holiness and to the fullness of life in Him, He calls us all to the same life. Mary is a temple of the living God, and we are called to be the same.

Saint Paul's words remind us that we too temples of the living God. Just as Mary housed God within her, we too possess the potential to be dwelling places for the Life-Creating Spirit. Crafted in the divine image and likeness, we are designed for holiness, blessedness, and salvation within God's Kingdom. Our purpose as living Temples of the Holy Spirit is to radiate the light of God for all to witness.

Just as Mary carried God within her womb and became a living Temple of the Living God, we are also called to embody this holy and divine calling. We are created to be Temples of the Holy Spirit and receive Christ, the Holy One into very being through the reception of Holy Communion. As we strive to emulate Mary's example, we seek her intercession and prayers, asking the Mother of God to guide us toward the fulfillment of our divine purpose – to become living Temples of the Living God.

Mary is always showing us the way, pointing to her living Son, our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

*If God the Father
chose her,
God the Holy Spirit
descended upon her,
And God the Son
dwelt in her,
submitted to her in the
days of His youth,
was concerned for her when
hanging on the Cross—
then should not everyone
who confesses the
Holy Trinity venerate her?
Saint John Maximovitch*



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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Code" for reading the bulletin:

*** = new news

** = 2nd time in the bulletin

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

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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/

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Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

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

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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.*

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***** Godparent Sunday** – Our Annual Godparent Sunday celebration will be on **Sunday, September 8**. It is a day to honor them and to encourage the growth of this spiritual relationship. We need to keep the Spiritual bonds alive with our God-parents and God-children. Even more important, we need to keep our life united with our Lord, Jesus Christ. This unites us with one another.

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***** SJB Family Parish Picnic** – Who will you invite to our Parish Picnic on **Sunday, September 8**? Everybody reach out to someone and invite them to our Annual Picnic at the Cabin in North Park after the Divine Liturgy (starting ~11:30 am). If you have not already done so, please sign up on the food sheet on the coffee prep area so we know what people will be bringing.

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**** SJB Yearly Parish Meeting** will be on **Sunday, September 15** following the Divine Liturgy. New Proposals for the Meeting need to be submitted to Larry Martin or Ryan Ferko prior to the meeting. All proposals are much appreciated! Anyone interested in being an officer on the Parish Council, also please see Larry or Ryan.

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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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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 (*5th position open*)

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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 (& 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

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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

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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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/. 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/. 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.

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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 (2nd 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	Tithe	Upper Range	Giving	Middle Range	Giving	Lower Range	Giving	1%	2%	3%	4%
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4	\$2
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6	\$3
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14	\$7
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18	\$9
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22	\$11
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30

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

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A Prayer of Stewardship

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

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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 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... Maxwell, Barbara, 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.