

“THE VOICE” Our Parish “Bi-Monthly” Newsletter

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

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ! (*responded with: Glory forever!*) Slava Isusu Christu! (*Slava na viki!*)
We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning.
We wish God’s Blessings to all who are with us today and hope you come again soon!
Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024 #DormitionFast vol. X
Within the Feast of the Transfiguration
9th Sunday after Pentecost
+Martyrs Anicetus and Pothius of Nicomedia (305)
The initiation of the catechumens Barbara and Tyler
Blessing of Grapes and First-Fruits (and vegetables)

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, Pgh)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31
International Overdose Awareness Day
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
After-feast Of The Dormition
10th Sunday after Pentecost
+Martyr Andrew Stratelates (3rd c)
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23
Tone 1; Liturgical Color: **Blue**
Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
6:00 pm Moleben to St. Nectarios with Anointing
6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (*All are welcome to come & listen to the discussions at the meeting*)

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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***** Blessing of Flowers and Herbs** – After services on **Aug. 27, 28 & Sep. 1** we will be Blessing Flowers & Herbs in honor of the Feast of the Dormition. Everyone is encouraged to bring some in from your yard, grocery store, or florist! *Life is full of blessings!*
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***** Greek Food Festival** – Holy Trinity will have their festival from **August 29 to September 1** from 11am to 9pm at 985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh. Visit their website for more information: www.HolyTrinityPgh.org
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**** Church School Teachers** are needed! Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested
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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*
Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko; Readers: Kris Carlisle, Nicholas Ditmore, & Timothy Martin
Stephen Brancho, Subdeacon Ryan Ferko, & John Radick, *Cantors*
Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*
www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-Allison-Park

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412-748-0148, *Talk or Text*
OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com
Instagram: SJB_Orthodox_Pittsburgh
Twitter: @SJB_OrthodoxPGH

*** 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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***** 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. This is the first Official Notice for the meeting.
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***** Initiation of the Catechumens** - Today we enrolled Barbara and Tyler into the catechumenate. They begin their next step in becoming a member of the Orthodox Church. Let us continue to keep Barbara and Tyler in our personal prayers! (**When previous catechumens were received into the church, these prayers were done at the time of their reception into the Faith. Separating the prayers is becoming a more common practice.*)
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***** Ride Share** – We were blessed to have a number of college students with us last week for our Student Blessing. When their schedules work out, they will need rides from Point Park, Duquesne, or Pitt. We have also received requests from a couple other people who are interested in getting a ride to the church. Please contact Fr. Dave or Larry if you would be able to bring your “neighbor” to the church.
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**** 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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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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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 670
Candle Stewardship: \$ 72
Envelope Stewardship: \$ 638

Total Collections: \$ 1380
Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 0

Participating Souls - Sunday Liturgy: 60
Sunday Vespers: 9
Monday Feast Day Liturgy: 1
Friday Paraklis: 8

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Rich and Renee Mirilovich; Fred and Juliana Anton; Cindy Pavilonis

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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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* **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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"Code" for reading the bulletin:

*** = new news
** = 2nd time in the bulletin
* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin
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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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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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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave
September 1: _____?
September 8, Godparent Sunday: *Parish Picnic*
Pot-Luck at North Park
September 15, Yearly Meeting: _____?

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

After-feast Of The Dormition
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

6:00 pm Moleben to St. Nectarios with Anointing
6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (*All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting*)

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
God-Parent Sunday
Monthly Memorial Panachida
~11:30 am Parish Family Picnic w/ Pot-luck meal

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - A day of strict-fasting

FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
Panachida for those who lost their lives from terrorist attacks

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

ECCLESIASTICAL (*LITURGICAL*) NEW YEAR
9:30 am Moleben for the New Year

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Youth Sunday
Parish Yearly Meeting following Liturgy

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 - A day of strict-fasting

FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

FEAST OF SAINT SOPHIA
9:30 am Akathist to St. Sophia

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LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD IN 2024

- Sep/Oct - Home Blessings Continue
- Sep 8 - God-Parents/God-Children Sunday
- Sep 8 - Parish Picnic at The Cabin in North Park
- Sep 15 – Annual Yearly Meeting
- Oct 6 - Feast of the Conception of St. John
- Oct 14 - Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos
- Oct 23 - Founding of St John's Parish in 1932
- Oct 26 - Carpatho-Rusyn Day in North America
- Nov 8 - Feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius
- Nov 21 - Feast of the Holy Archangels
- Nov 28 - Moleben of Thanksgiving
- Nov 28 - Nativity Fast begins
- Dec 4 - Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos
- Dec 8 – St. Nicholas Charity Dinner to benefit Christ the Savior Seminary
- Dec 19 - Feast of St. Nicholas

Please, Save the Dates!

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MARTYRS ANICETAS AND PHOTIOS

Commemorated on August 25/12

The Martyrs Anicetas and Photios (his nephew) were natives of Nicomedia. Anicetas, a military official, denounced the emperor Diocletian (284-305) for having set up in the city square an implement of execution for frightening Christians. The enraged emperor ordered Saint Anicetas to be tortured, and later condemned him to be devoured by wild beasts. But the lions they set loose became gentle and fondled up to him. Suddenly there began a strong earthquake, resulting in the collapse of the pagan temple of Hercules, and many pagans perished beneath the crumbled city walls. The executioner took up a sword to cut off the saint's head, but he himself fell down insensible. They tried to break Saint Anicetas on the wheel and burn him with fire, but the wheel stopped and the fire went out. They threw the martyr into a furnace with boiling tin, but the tin got cold. Thus the Lord preserved His servant for the edification of many. The martyr's nephew, Saint Photios, saluted the sufferer and turn to the emperor, remarking: "O idol-worshipper, thine gods – be nothing!" The sword, held over the new confessor, instead struck the executioner himself. Then the martyrs were thrown into prison. After three days Diocletian began to urge them: "Worship our gods, and I shalt give ye glory and riches". The martyrs answered: "Perish thou with thine honour and riches!" Then they tied them by the legs to wild horses, but the saints, dragged along the ground, remained unharmed. They did not suffer either in the heated up bath-house, which tumbled apart. Finally Diocletian ordered a great furnace to be fired up, and many Christians, inspired by the deeds of Saints Anicetas and Photios, went in themselves with the words: "We are Christians!" They all died with prayer on their lips. The bodies of Saints Anicetas and Photios were not harmed by the fire, and even their hair remained whole. seeing this, many of the pagans came to believe in Christ. This event happened in the year 305.

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

⁹For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

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Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Jesus Walks on the Water

²²Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out for fear. ²⁷But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

²⁸And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; ³⁰but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why

did you doubt?" ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Jesus Heals the Sick in Gennesaret

³⁴And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennes'aret.

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LIVING OUR FAITH

TITLES OF THE MOTHER OF GOD IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

PANAGIA ("MOST-HOLY")

The Mother of God is named Most Holy because she is the perfect example of cooperation between God and man's free will: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to they word."

MOST-PURE

She was sinless, except for the inherited sin of all humanity, of which she was purified through the conception of the Son of God.

MOST-BLESSED, GLORIOUS LADY

The Church honors the Mother of God, because she made possible the coming of God the Son into the world, which means salvation would have been impossible without her obedience to God's will.

THEOTOKOS ("BIRTH-GIVER OF GOD")

Theotokos is the Greek word meaning "Birth-Giver of God". This name was approved at the 3rd Ecumenical Council in Ephesus (in 431) in order to combat the heresy of Nestorius.

EVER-VIRGIN

The Mother of God is Ever-Virgin, more precisely she remained a virgin before, during, and after giving birth to our Lord Jesus Christ.

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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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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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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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

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

ORTHODOX WORDS OF THE WEEK

An **inquirer** is a non-Orthodox person visiting an Orthodox Congregation regularly. Such inquirers are usually seeking to learn more about Orthodox Christianity, and are open to the possibility of becoming Orthodox Christians themselves. A person may remain an inquirer forever, but most will commonly move from this informal stage of inquiry to the more formal stage of becoming a Catechumen after, on average, a few months of regular attendance.

A **catechumen** is one who is preparing for baptism in the Church. In modern usage, *catechumen* can also refer to one who is preparing for chrismation (or another form of reception) to be received from a non-Orthodox Christian community.

In the ancient Church, the **catechumenate**, or time during which one is a catechumen, often lasted for as much as three years and included not only participation in the divine services but also **catechesis**, formal instruction from a teacher, often the bishop or appointed catechist. The initial prayers of exorcism over the one being made a catechumen are the traditional manner of receiving a catechumen into the community of the Church.

Catechumens are understood to be Christians upon beginning their catechumenate, and should they die before baptism, they are traditionally given an Orthodox funeral.

As the Church eventually became the majority religion of the lands in which it sojourned, the catechumenate as an institution gradually died out in many places, as most Christians were being baptized shortly after birth. As Orthodoxy has moved into the West and Far East and begun gaining converts to the faith, the catechumenate has been significantly rejuvenated.

Catechetical instruction in Orthodoxy in America does not typically last the three years which was common in the time of St. John Chrysostom, but typically can last from six months to over a year, depending on the practice of the bishop, his jurisdiction, the practice of the priest, and the level of spiritual maturity of the catechumen.

The Orthodox Church has no formal **catechism**, a single body of work that details the specifics of its faith.

From: <https://orthodoxwiki.org/>

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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*** **Tissues** – The church is in need of lotion facial tissues. Please pick some up this week and bring them 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 its ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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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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PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & other needs*
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A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Suzanne, Nicholas, Sherry, Charles, 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

+++ +++

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.

+++ +++

*** **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.

+++ +++

September Namedays:

Pañi's grandmother Maria Alexe –
Nativity of Mary (NC 9/9)

Cora Dzdony - Martyr Coralia (9/14)

Maria Urban - Nativity of Mary (9/21)

Sophia Urban - Martyr Sophia (9/30)

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

+++ +++

September Birthdays:

Samuel Mainolfi (9/1), Dexter Torchia (9/1), Timothy Martin, Reader (9/2), Ruth Herbert (9/2), Ashley Wertz Andrekovich (9/2), Fr. Bob Teklinski (9/3), Pañi Deborah Zak (9/7), Tina Scherer (9/11), Pañi Andrea Cochran (9/14), Pañi Daria Loposky (9/16), Cindy Morrison (9/17), Bonnie Carlisle (9/18), Fr. Vincent Dranginis (9/19), Fr. Kenneth Ellis (9/19), Fr. Dave Urban (9/19), Fr. Matthew Moriak (9/20), Fr. David Smoley (9/20), Ron Nelson (9/22), *Father's brother-in-law*, Brian Verbanick, Sr (9/22), Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak (9/24), Fr. R. Michael Zak (9/24), AJ (Matolyak) Ferraz (9/26), Cora Loren Dzdony

(9/28), Andrew Mirilovich (9/28), Juliana Anton (9/29), Fr Dcn Art Steinstra (9/30) ...*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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Charles & Allison Kretchek (9/26/15)

John & Barbara Kirish (9/28/96)

...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas

+++ +++

For Pregnant Mothers... Lexi (*due in October*) ...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.

+++ +++

For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzdovsky ...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

+++ +++

For the souls of the newly departed...

+David French (8/14), +George Myers (8/12), +Gwen Patten (8/10), +Albert "Terry" Kulics (8/9), +Nicholas Fuga (8/8), +Kathleen Mahar (8/7), +Carol Greenwald (7/20) ...*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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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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A Prayer to the Theotokos

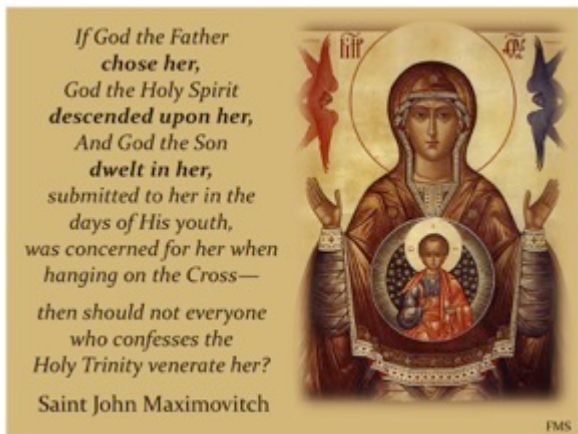
(Strive to pray this ten times a day during the Dormition Fast)
Hail Mary, full of grace, O Virgin Birthgiver of God, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to Christ, the Savior and deliverer of our souls.

+++ +++

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!

ONLINE BONUSES



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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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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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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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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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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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A Prayer of Stewardship

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

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 2:30pm OR by appointment.

Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

Parish Phone Tree - Please call Fr. Dave to be added.

Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

Holy Communion/Eucharist – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not prepared or not of the Orthodox Faith may receive a *blessing* from the chalice.

How to receive - Please remember the following helpful hints aimed at helping to preserve the solemnity and safety of the Holy Mystery. Anyone wearing lipstick should remove it before receiving. Be sure to offer your baptismal name to the priest before receiving. Please take great care that the red cloth held by the acolytes (servers) is fully under your chin (*you should not hold it*), then use the centuries-old practice of receiving: please fully open your mouth, tilt your head back, receive the Holy Gifts, wait until They are securely in your mouth and so that none of the holy and precious Body and Blood of Christ is accidentally spilled. Thank you for your cooperation, and may God have mercy on us all!

Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home and we want you to come back! Generally speaking, sincere and regular participation in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and in the Mysteries of Confession and Communion are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

Parishioners in “good standing” are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John’s Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish

ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & other needs*

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A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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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...)

+++ +++ +++

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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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.

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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.