

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*

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

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 vol. X

11th Sunday after Pentecost
Martyrs Adrian and Natalia
God-Parent Sunday

Monthly Memorial Panachida for: +Irene (Rusnak) Kurtz (27-year), +Peter Silon (25-yr), +Mary Mirilovich (22-yr), +Leona (Smoley) Hawke (4-yr), God loving Bishop John R Martin (40-yr), and departed Godparents and Grandparents
~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
today we should fast from meat and dairy while not eating from plates, but rather bowls

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

11th Sunday after Pentecost
Venerables Anthony (1073) and Theodosius (1074) of the Pečerskaya Lavra (Kiev Caves)
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Youth Sunday
Tone 3; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
Parish Yearly Meeting following Liturgy

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9 – 11 am Church open for personal prayer

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

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

THIS WEEK’S BULLETIN IS SPONSORED
for the health of Tim Martin, Reader, on his birthday. May God grant him many years!

+++ +++ +++

*** **Remembering the Feast of the Beheading** – Saint John was a holy prophet and an innocent man (see Mark 6:14-30). His beheading was a preview of the crucifixion of Our Lord; the Innocent Lamb Who is greater than all the prophets. **A Strict Fast from meat and dairy** is observed on his Feast Day, **September 11**, in commemoration of the murder of the man Jesus called, “the greatest man born of woman.” Also, in commemoration of the way that St. John was martyred, pious Rusyn Orthodox will not eat from a plate but only from a bowl, will not use knives to eat with, and will not eat foods that are round or come as a ‘head’ (cabbage, lettuce, etc.). Use these as teaching tools for those around us. **Vespers** the evening before will be at **6:30 pm. Divine Liturgy** (and Panachida) on 9/11 will be at **9:30 am.**

+++ +++ +++

*** **Ukrainian Food Festival** at Sts Peter and Paul Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106) will be on **Friday & Saturday, September 13 & 14** from 11 am to 7 pm. Enjoy Pirohi, Holubki, Kielbasa, Halushki, Borscht, things from the outdoor Grill, Ukrainian Pastries, and more (Eat-In or Take-Out). There will also be a Basket Raffle, Church Tours, and much more!

+++ +++ +++

* **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 third Official Notice for the meeting.

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

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:
✘ *** The Parish Council Voted to go with Kodiak Excavating to install 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*). The cost will be about \$31,000. Donations to the Capital Improvement Fund are requested.
✘ * The Kitchen Storage Room has been modified, partially painted, new lights added, and additional shelves put in place.
✘ * A new refrigerator is being researched.

+++

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!

+++ +++ +++

* **Church School Teachers** are needed! Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested.

+++ +++ +++

* **Coat Drive LAST CALL** - 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.

+++ +++ +++



* **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.**

*** **Pittsburgh Water Blessing** – The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh has organized a River Water Blessing to be held on **Sunday, September 15** at 4 pm at the Dormition of the Theotokos Orthodox Church (12 Washington Ave., Oakmont, PA 15139). See Fr. Dave for more info

+++ +++ +++

*** **Romanian Food Festival** - Enjoy homemade authentic Romanian food on Saturday (from 12-6) & Sunday (1-5), **September 21 & 22** at St. Andrew the Apostle Romanian Orthodox Church (56 Glenn Way McKees Rocks, PA 15136). A sample of the foods will be: grilled pork sausages, roasted potatoes, cabbage salad, Carpathian cheese pastry, famous mici (Romanian skinless sausage), crepes, Amandina cakes, and more!

+++ +++ +++

*** **Sr ACRY** – Our next St. ACRY meeting will be on **Sunday, September 29** after the coffee social.

+++ +++ +++

*** **Oktoberfest Happy Hour** to Benefit the IOCC will be on **Thursday, October 10** from 6–9 PM at the Rusty Gold Brewing Company (43 W. Pike St., Canonsburg, PA 15317). Donations welcome and 20% of food and beverage proceeds will benefit the IOCC. For more info: contact Kevin Reck at 724-344-5610 or kevinreck@gmail.com

+++ +++ +++

** **Resignation** – In August Mary Jane Hudak resigned from her Parish Council position. We thank her for her years of stewardship to the parish! May God grant you Many Years!

+++ +++ +++

* **Initiation of the Catechumens** - On Sunday 8/25 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.*)

COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave
September 15, Yearly Meeting: Parish Council
September 22: _____?
September 29: Matt & Kim Opsitos

**** St Macrina Orthodox Homeschool Co-op** - The Mission of the St. Macrina Orthodox Homeschool Co-op strives to * promote spiritual growth for children and parents * cultivate friendships among children and parents * provide learning opportunities in subject areas that fall outside what is focused on at home * go on field trips and other group outings.

They meet weekly on **Tuesdays from 9am-1pm** at St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland, Pittsburgh, PA. The day begins with a brief Matins service and a short lesson in the church. The children then head to the gym for an organized game, sport, or exercise. They then split into groups based roughly on age for further lessons or activities. They finish with a potluck meal and free time. Parents are expected to volunteer in some capacity - the amount of commitment varies from season to season and year to year. The group currently includes students from grades preK to 6th, plus a nursery room for younger children. If you are interested in more information, please fill out the form at: <https://forms.gle/3qpwyv7gTEbby11w9>.

For any other questions don't hesitate to reach out to Laura Powell: powell.laurabeth@gmail.com or Maria Gavrilos: mariagavrilos13@gmail.com

+++ +++ +++

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

² If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³ This is my defense to those who would examine me.

⁴ Do we not have the right to our food and drink? ⁵ Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶ Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

⁸ Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? ⁹ For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? ¹² If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

+++

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; ²⁵ and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; ³³ and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

+++ +++ +++

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MARTYRS ADRIAN AND NATALIA

Commemorated on September 8 / August 26

The Martyrs Adrian and Natalia were married in their youth for one year prior to their martyrdom. They lived in Bithynian Nicomedia during the time of the emperor Maximian (305-311). Having started his persecution, the emperor promised a reward to whomever would inform on Christians to bring them to trial. There began the denunciations, and through one of these there were seized 23 Christians, hiding in a cave near Nicomedia. They were tortured, urged to worship idols, and then taken to the judgement palace, in order to record their names and responses. Adrian, the head of the judgement palace, looking on as they brought in the people suffering with such courage for their faith, and how firmly and fearlessly they confessed Christ, asked: "What rewards do ye expect from your God for suffering?" The martyrs replied: "Such rewards, as we are not able to describe, nor thy mind comprehend". Inspired, Saint Adrian told the scribes: "Write me down also, that I be a Christian and with joy I do die for Christ God". The scribes reported about this to the emperor, who summoned Saint Adrian and asked: "Really, hast thou gone mad, that thou dost want to die? Come, cross out thine name from the lists and offer sacrifice to the gods, asking their forgiveness". Saint Adrian answered: "I am not mad, but the rather have been converted to health of mind". Maximian then ordered Adrian to be thrown into prison. His wife, Saint Natalia, knowing that her husband was suffering for Christ, rejoiced, since she herself was secretly a Christian. She hastened to the prison and encouraged her husband saying: "Blest be thou, mine lord, in that thou hast believed on Christ, wherein thou hast obtained a great treasure. Regret not anything of earth, neither beauty, nor youth (Adrian was then 28 years of age), nor riches. Everything worldly - is dust and ashes. Only faith and good deeds be pleasing to God". On the pledge of the other martyrs, they released Saint Adrian from prison to relate to his wife about the day of execution. Saint Natalia at first thought, that he had renounced Christ and thus had been set free, and she did not want to let him into the house. The saint persuaded his wife, that

he had not fled martyrdom, but rather had come to give her the news of the day of his execution.

They tortured Saint Adrian cruelly. The emperor advised the saint to have pity on himself and call on the gods, but the martyr answered: "Let thine gods say, what blessings they promise me, and then I shalt worship them, but if they cannot speak thus, then why should I worship them?" Saint Natalia did not cease to encourage her husband. She asked him also to convey for her a foremost prayer to God, that they would not compel her into a marriage with a pagan after his death. The executioner ordered the hands and the legs of the saints to be broken on the anvil. Saint Natalia, fearing that her husband would hesitate in seeing the sufferings of the other martyrs, besought the executioner to begin the execution with him and let her herself put his hands and legs on the anvil. They wanted to burn the bodies of the saints, but a strong storm arose and the fire went out. Many of the executioners even were struck by lightning. Saint Natalia took the hand of her spouse and kept it at home. Soon an army commander asked the emperor's approval to wed Saint Natalia, who was both young and rich. But she hid herself away in Byzantium. Here Saint Adrian appeared to her in a dream and said, that she would soon be at rest in the Lord. The anemic martyress, worn down by her former sufferings, in fact soon expired to God.

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Carol, Joseph, Suzanne, Nicholas, Sherry, Charles, William, Boyd, Millicent, Michelle, Mary, Sianna, Kevin, Helen, 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 souls of the newly departed...
+Alva Ferraz, +Sister Dorothy Dolak (9/1), +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!*

ONLINE BONUSES



+++ +++

Why Have Your Home Blessed?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Homes are traditionally blessed with Holy Water each year bringing the blessings of the Waters sanctified on the Feast of Theophany, the celebration of our Lord's baptism. **The priest brings this Holy Water into the home to personally bless each family member by renewing the awareness of God's presence in our homes.** A home can be blessed at any time.

HOW TO PREPARE

The home blessing should be scheduled when the entire family will be present, if at all possible. When coming to the home, the priest brings everything needed for the blessing, but the family should make the following two arrangements: Have a written list of the names of all living members of the household, along with the names of anyone else to be included in prayer. Also have a list of departed loved ones that you wish to be prayed for.

If the home has an icon corner, the candle(s) may be lit, as well as a censer if available. Otherwise, a clean table with a cloth on it should be prepared (preferably a white cloth). The house should have all radios and televisions off during the Blessing.

The priest will bless all rooms of the house. In homes with children, it is nice for the little ones to carry a candle and "lead" the priest throughout the home. An adult member of the home may also do this. While the home is blessed, the priest will lead the family in singing the Troparion (hymn) of the season repeatedly until the whole home is blessed.

It is a pious custom among some to give the priest a donation at this time but this is in no way expected. In the same way, while many families enjoy hosting the priest to a meal or snack, this too is not expected and often impossible due to other scheduled home blessings [and is not recommended during Covid]. The home blessing does, however, provide an opportunity for the priest to spend dedicated time alone with the family, answering any questions anyone may have or addressing any issues for which he may be of some help or support.

[Source: <https://stnicholasgr.com/houseblessing/>]

Weaving Christ into Our Lives

The blessing of homes by Holy Water maintains the spiritual association between the 'family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. ... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings." (*Marriage and the Christian Home*, p.25.)

If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They can show him their rooms or pets or favorite toys. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

In Summary

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us [by the Fall of Adam and Eve]. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants

it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the home, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing.

Source: <http://ww1.antiochian.org/why-do-we-have-our-homes-blessed>

PLEASE REACH OUT TO FR. DAVE TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR HOME BLESSING

+++ +++

LIVING OUR FAITH

NEW YEAR, NEW GOALS: The New Year is upon Us... the Ecclesiastical New Year!

By Pres Mallory Kasapakis

Presbytera (Pani) Mallory provides an inside and outside perspective to the Orthodox Church, as a convert to the Orthodox faith and now a Presbytera.

The leaves are starting to turn and the days are getting shorter, but our church year is just beginning. When we think about the seasons of the church, instinctively we think of Great and Holy Lent or the Nativity Season, yet the importance of the Ecclesiastical New Year (celebrated on September 1st) is often forgotten. Without question there is beauty and purpose in each distinct period of the Ecclesiastical Year. Our liturgical calendar is filled with great feasts, saint commemorations, fasting, and reading schedules, each specifically and purposefully placed by the Church in its wisdom to help keep us "on track" throughout the year. This new season is the appointed time for Orthodox Christians to recalibrate and reset, with the Church at our center.

We are all given the same 24 hours in a day, but how we use and prioritize our time makes all the difference in accomplishing our goals. God has given us this gift of time and He expects us to use it wisely so that we may glorify Him. He calls us to be good stewards and to take care of our time just as we do our talents and treasures. Even so, we don't always know how to make the best of our time. According to Development Academy and Acuity Training, less than 1 in 5 people (18%) have a proper time management system. Thousands of books and online resources promise "time management and

productivity" assistance. Indeed, this topic is one of the most popular in personal development categories and tops podcast charts on all platforms. In most cases, we desire more productive hours in our day; we strive to be more intentional in our work and try hard to make space for a different type of success. Ultimately, we want to become more efficient and effective at what we do.

Can we apply these very business-minded practices of time management and productivity to our daily spiritual lives? Would they help us become more effective and a better Orthodox Christians? Let's look at this approach in more detail.

+++

STEP 1: Goal Setting

In this time of fall planning and preparation, ask yourself: "How can I realign my heart, my family's priorities, and most importantly my time with the Church?" Over the past several years our family has set "New Year's Resolutions" for the Ecclesiastical New Year, just as others do at the beginning of the calendar year.

Examples of goals might include spending more time in prayer, following stricter fasting practices, and becoming more involved within the church community, perhaps by attending a new ministry or joining a Bible study. Each person and family will set goals unique to their particular situation in life.

+++

STEP 2: Prioritization

Prioritizing our responsibilities is difficult for many. There are certain non-negotiables: sleep, eat, exercise, clean our homes, work in order to provide for our families. But we also have to make time for God and the Church. Attending Divine Liturgy and receiving the Eucharist is something we must do as Orthodox Christians. Another non-negotiable is educating ourselves about the Orthodox Faith through catechism and study.

St. John Chrysostom said:

We spare neither labors nor means in order to teach our children secular sciences, so that they can serve well the earthly authorities. Only the knowledge of the holy Faith, the service of the Heavenly King are a matter of indifference to us. We allow them to attend spectacles but we care little whether they go to

Church and stand within it reverently. We demand an account from them of what they learned in their secular institutes—why do we not demand an account from them of what they heard in the Lord’s house? —Twenty-first Homily on the Epistle to the Ephesians.

Our ultimate goal is making the active choice to prioritize the events and activities that will bring us closer to God.

+++

STEP 3: Stay Organized

Once we have prioritized our responsibilities, it’s time to open our Google calendars or dust off our planners and use them. One of the best forms of accountability is to write down. Take our goals and priorities and put an action to them; add them to our calendars, sync our church’s calendar and activities to the calendar on our phone; decide upon the activities we will attend. Circle Divine Liturgy every Sunday and make it a priority.

+++

STEP 4: Establish a Routine

Humans are creatures of habit, so consistency is key. Adding meaningful practices into our daily routine doesn’t have to be inconvenient. A widely used tool in time management is to combine similar tasks. Think of ways to streamline your schedule and be efficient with your time. For example, while your child is attending a GOYA meeting, schedule a time for prayer or listen to a weekly Bible study from the OCN website. If your resolution this Ecclesiastical Year is to spend more time in Scripture, then include the Church’s daily reading (available as an App) before you read the news headlines or your emails. These simple practices do not add much time to your already regular routine, but the benefits to your spiritual life are immeasurable.

+++

Set some time to clear your mind and listen to what God is calling you to do in this Ecclesiastical New Year!

source: <https://myocn.net/newyear-newgoals/>

+++ +++

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!

+++ +++

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

+++ +++

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)

+++

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

+++

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

+++

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

+++

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

+++ +++



+++ +++



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!

+++ +++

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.

+++

“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

+++ ++++ +++

The Jesus Prayer

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

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

SEP. COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)**. The OCF is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the *Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA*. OCF is charged with connecting Orthodox college students (and those interested in the Orthodox Christian faith) to Christ and His Church.

The vision of the OCF is to be the loving presence of Christ and the Orthodox Church on college campuses; to be an integral part of students’ spiritual formation by challenging them to explore the Faith; and to inspire students to commit to living an Orthodox Christian way of life daily. This is accomplished via a growing network of on-campus OCF chapters led by talented students, clergy, and lay advisors, as well as through programs such as Reginald Retreats, College Conferences, Real Break, and the Summer Leadership Institute.

Visit www.ocf.net for more info. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

+++ +++ +++

FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

The Beheading Of The Prophet, Forerunner Of The Lord, John The Baptist

Commemorated on Sept 11/Aug 29

The Beheading of the Prophet, ForeRunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt. 14: 1-12) and Mark (Mk. 6: 14-29) provide accounts about the Martyr's end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, holding one-fourth the rule of the Holy Land as governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and into each part put a governor. Herod Antipas received from the emperor Augustus the rule of Galilee). The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his

lawful wife – the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead co-habiting with Herodias, – the wife of his brother Philip (Lk. 3: 19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. The daughter of Herod, Salome, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl he swore to give her anything, whatsoever she would ask, anything up to half his kingdom. The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked, that she be given at once the head of John the Baptist on a plate. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He feared also the people, who loved the holy ForeRunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome. By tradition, the mouth of the dead head of the preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, thou ought not to have the wife of Philip thy brother". Salome took the plate with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod was possessor of a parcel of land (the Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated 24 February). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebasteia, there where the wicked deed had been done. After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain while. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent to him the bound Jesus Christ, over Whom he made mockery (Lk. 23: 7-12).

The judgement of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way for her such that her body was in the water, but her head trapped beneath the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now flailing helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck. The corpse was not found, but they brought

the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter made war against Herod. Having suffered defeat, Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligula (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain. And there they were from view.

In memory of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, the feastday established by the Church is also a strict day of fast, – as an expression of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. On this day the Church makes remembrance of soldiers, killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of a war of Russia with the Turks and the Poles.

Spiritual Vitamin:

Tropar for the Feast of the Beheading of St. John

The remembrance of the Just is worthy of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner; for it has shown that you are indeed more worthy of honor than the Prophets. You were found worthy to baptize the Lord Who you foretold. Thereafter you suffered for the truth and rejoicing, also announced the good news to those in the abyss that God had appeared as man taking away the sins of the world and granting to all of us the abundance of mercy.

+++ +++ +++

The Nativity Of The Theotokos, Our Most Holy Lady Mother Of God And Ever Virgin Mary

Commemorated on September 21/8

The Holy Virgin and Theotokos Mary was born to elderly and previously barren parents by the names of Joachim and Anna, in answer to their prayers. Orthodox Christians do not hold to the Roman Catholic doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, in which it is supposed that Mary was preserved from the ancestral sin that befalls us all as descendents of Adam and Eve, in anticipation of her giving birth to the sinless Christ. The Orthodox believe that Mary indeed received the ancestral sin, having been conceived in the normal way of humanity, and thus needed salvation like all mankind. Orthodox thought does vary on whether Mary actually ever sinned, though there is general

agreement that she was cleansed from sin at the Annunciation.

+++ +++ +++

The Elevation Of The Venerable And Life-Creating Cross Of The Lord

Commemorated on September 27/14

This feast commemorates two events:

1) The finding of the Cross by the Empress Helen (the mother of St. Constantine the Great) on Golgotha in 326 AD, the place where Christ was crucified.

On the spot where the Cross was discovered, St. Helen had found a hitherto unknown flower of rare beauty and fragrance, which has been named "Vasiliko," or Basil, meaning the flower of royalty. Note that the word "Vasiliko" means "of the King," since the word "Basileus" in Greek means "King"; so, the plant Vasiliko, Basil, is tied to the Precious Cross of the King of Glory, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Underneath the Basil, the Cross of Christ was found, but with it were the other two crosses, those used to crucify the two thieves on either side of Christ. The sign with the inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews", also lay among the three crosses. In order to determine which one was the true cross, a sick woman was told to kiss each of the three crosses. The woman kissed the first cross with no result. She kissed the second cross and again nothing happened. However, when the ailing woman kissed the True Cross, she was immediately made well. It so happened that a funeral procession was passing that way, and so the body of the dead man was placed on each of the crosses, and when it was placed on the True Cross, the dead man came to life — thus the name the "Life-Giving" Cross, which gives life not only to that man, but to each person who believes in the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and His all-glorious three day Resurrection.

When the true Cross was identified, it was lifted on high for all the people to see, who then continually sang Kyrie eleison, a practice which is still enacted at current celebrations of this feast.

2) The recovery of the Cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified from the Persians. The Persians had captured the True Cross as a prize of war when they sacked Jerusalem in 614 AD. It was recovered by the forces of the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman

Empire) in 627 AD, when Emperor Heraclius decisively defeated the Sassanid Persians at The Battle of Nineveh, surrounding their capital Ctesiphon, recovering the True Cross, and breaking the power of the Sassanid dynasty. The Elevation took place on March 21, 630 AD, when Emperor Heraclius entered Jerusalem amidst great rejoicing, and together with Patriarch Zacharios (609-632), transferred the Cross of Christ with great solemnity into the temple of the Resurrection, joyously held up for veneration by the Christian faithful.

This is one of the two feast days which is held as a strict fast.

+++ +++ +++

ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Code" for reading the bulletin:

*** = new news

** = 2nd time in the bulletin

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online:

www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral//live/

+++ +++ +++

Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

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

+++ +++ +++

Fall Retreat - Young Adults, join us for an enriching weekend at Camp Nazareth for our upcoming Fall Retreat on **October 25-27** hosted by The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Y2AM, the Orthodox Church in America and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church USA. We are SO blessed to welcome Alex Balouris to talk about Caring for God's Creation: The Self. Register here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/2jppqh2e>

+++ +++ +++

*** **Bourbon Tasting** to Benefit the IOCC will be on

Thursday, November 7 at 7 pm at the Leaf & Bean (3525 Washington Rd., McMurray, PA 15317). Tickets are \$60 and include a Leaf & Bean gift, three bourbon samples, and light hors d'oeuvres. Register at ioccc.org/pittsburgh, or mail checks payable to IOCC to Nick Terezis (306 Marberry Dr.,

+++ +++ +++



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.

+++ +++ +++

** **Ride Share** – We were blessed to have a number of college students with us 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. **ALSO** – the idea of having an Uber Fund was brought up last week...

+++ +++ +++

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)

+++ +++ +++

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

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

+++ +++ +++

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)*

+++ +++ +++

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!

+++ +++ +++

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.

+++ +++ +++

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.

+++ +++ +++

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.

+++ +++ +++

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.*

+++ +++ +++

A Prayer of Stewardship

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

+++ +++ +++

SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

through regular attendance of services, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (*and receive these Mysteries no less than once a year*); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and share their stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures which includes financially supporting the parish.

Baptisms – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Fr. Dave for more details.

Adult Chrismation – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

Marriages – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays in the church. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall). It is critical that marriages are blessed in the church.

Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual responsibilities and their stewardship. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

+++

“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

+++ +++ +++

The Jesus Prayer

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

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

+++ +++ +++

ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & other needs*

+++ +++ +++

A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant(s) *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.

+++ +++ +++

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 Alexa - Nativity of Mary (NC 9/9)

Cora Dzadony - 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 Dzadony (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!*

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

September Anniversaries:

Marianne & Steven Kubis (9/6/14)

Father's sister, Suzanne & Brian Verbanick (9/8/01)

Barbara & Richard Gedid (9/17/83)

Thomas & Carol Lorenzi (9/19/70)

Charles & Allison Kretchek (9/26/15)

John & Barbara Kirish (9/28/96)

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

+++ +++ +++

For Pregnant Mothers... Anna (*due in September*), Lexi (*October*), Mallory (*March*), Lindsay ...*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. Dzadovsky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

+++ +++ +++

* 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.*

+++ +++ +++

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.

+++ +++ +++

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.

+++ +++ +++

A Prayer for Peace

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen.

+++ +++ +++



+++ +++ +++

A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America

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

+++ +++ +++

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.

+++ +++ +++

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.