

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*

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

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024 vol. X

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
+Martyr Menas

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

9:30 – 11:30 am Church open for personal prayer

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

9:30 – 11:30 am Church open for personal prayer

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

6:30 pm Moleben of Thanksgiving



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 #NATIVITYFAST

NATIVITY FAST BEGINS (PHILIP'S FAST / FILIPOVKA)
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 #NATIVITYFAST

23rd Sunday after Pentecost
+Martyr Platon (266)

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21 (*9th Sunday of Luke*)

Tone 6; Liturgical Color: **Red**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 #NATIVITYFAST

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 #NATIVITYFAST

FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 #NATIVITYFAST

9:30 am Akathist Hymn to St. Nicholas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 #NATIVITYFAST

9:00 am Winter Maintenance & Decorating Morning

11a-1p Mystery (Sacrament) of Confession offered
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“Code” for reading the bulletin:

*** = new news ** = 2nd time in the bulletin

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

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

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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**** Prayer Service of Thanksgiving** – We will offer the Moleben of Thanksgiving on **Wednesday, Nov 27 at 6:30 pm** on the eve of our local holiday. All ages are encouraged to come and give thanks!

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 ***** #GivingTuesday** is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated the **Tuesday** following Thanksgiving after the widely recognized shopping events *Black Friday* and *Cyber Monday*, #GivingTuesday (**December 3**) kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. If you will be donating online, please consider supporting the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops or one of its official affiliates (such as IOCC, OCF, OCMC, OCPM, OVC, OYM, OCAMPR, FOCUS-NA. To see their full names visit: www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/affiliates/) or other Orthodox organizations such as EOCS, OCEC, OCN...

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**** Winter Maintenance & Decorating Morning** - On **Saturday, December 7** our periodic parish maintenance morning will return! All are asked to come and help repair some little things, do a deep cleaning, and decorate for Christmas. Please sign up on the sheet in the hall if you are able to offer any of your time that morning.

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 720
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 88
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 418
Total Collections:	\$ 1226
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 100

Participating Souls - Sunday Liturgy: 49

Wednesday Feast Day Vespers: 6

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

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***** St. Matrona Cookie Walk** – the 21st Annual event will be held on **Saturday, December 14** from 10am to 2pm (or until sold out) at Ss. Peter and Paul Church (220 Mansfield Blvd, Carnegie). If you haven't experienced this, you really should! Most cookies sold by the pound. No online orders. Email smladiessociety@gmail.com for more info.

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*** Food Festival** – Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church (214 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106) will be having their Christmas Food Festival featuring all the traditional favorites on **Saturday, December 14** from 10 am to 12 pm. Orders Must Be Placed Online At www.hvroc.org. Call 412-276-6234 with any questions.

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Final Admonitions and Benediction

¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the

*** Isaiah 44 Project: Life-giving water to Malawi

- This project, supported by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church as well as many other organizations, is dedicated to providing clean, safe water to those who literally do not have any. Malawi, in South Central Africa, is the location in which this project digs wells and provides water in the midst of none. Fr. Bob Holet will be offering a talk about this project at Sts Peter & Paul Church (220 Mansfield Ave., Carnegie, PA 15106) on **Saturday, December 7**. Vespers is at 6pm, the talk is immediately after. More about this valuable and worthwhile project can be found at: https://www.uocofusa.org/news_230209_2, and <https://www.orthodoxsteward.com/isaiah-44-project-about/>. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and see! (See flyer on the bulletin board)

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

* December 1: _____?

* December 8: Sarandou Family

in honor of St. Catherine

* December 15: St. Nicholas Breakfast

**meatless during the fast*

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*** The St Nicholas Charity Dinner**, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Deanery to benefit our Christ the Saviour Seminary, will be on **Sunday, December 8** at the Bulgarian-Macedonian Hall - BMNECC (449 West Eighth Ave., West Homestead, PA 15120). Doors open at **5:00 pm** with a Buffett Dinner at 5:30. Adults - \$40; Teens - \$30; Ages 5-12 - \$15 (*checks payable to "Pittsburgh Deanery"*). Come meet the seminarians, enjoy the fellowship, carol sing-a-long, and a special guest! *Please order your tickets by Sunday, December 1.*

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*** OCF** – Are you in college? Is your child or grandchild in college? How active is the local chapter of the OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship)? Please contact Fr. Dave with some details

law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. ¹⁴ But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶ Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷ Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

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Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, ³⁴ and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY GREATMARTYR MENAS

Commemorated on November 24/11

The Holy GreatMartyr Menas, an Egyptian by birth, was a soldier and served in the city Kotuan under the centurion Firmilian during the reign of the emperors Diocletian and Maximian (284-305). When the co-emperors began the then fiercest persecution against Christians in history, the saint lost all desire to serve these persecutors and, having left the service, he withdrew to a mountain, where he asceticised in fasting and prayer. Once during the time of a pagan feastday he happened to arrive in the city, in which earlier he had served. At the climax of the festal games, which all the city had come out to see, rang out the accusing voice of the saint of God, preaching faith in Christ, the Saviour of the world.

At trial before the governor Pyrrhos the saint bravely confessed his faith and said, that he had come hither, in order to denounce all of impiety. Saint Menas spurned he suggestion to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, and he was put to cruel tortures, after which he as beheaded. This occurred in the year 304. The body of the holy martyr as ordered to be burnt. Christians by night gathered up from the burnt-out fire the undestroyed remains of the martyr, which later were installed in a church in his name, built after the cessation of the persecution at the place of the suffering and death of the GreatMartyr Menas.

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Carol, Daniel, Allen, Elizabeth, Robert, Matthew, David, Stephanie, Suzanne, William, Boyd, Millicent, Barbara, Paul, Robert, Kelly, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, and Michael
...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Charles Popovich (10/16) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory!*

IOCC Thanksgiving Prayer for Those in Need

O Heavenly King, Comforter, who grants all blessings, we thank You for Your abundant grace and mercies. Help us to be good stewards of Your treasury through the ministry of IOCC. Help us to strip ourselves of our earthly adornment, so that the poor may be sufficiently clothed and fed. And, by so loving our neighbor, adorn us with the everlasting pearls of virtue instead. Where there is suffering, help us to bring Your mercy; where there is despair, Your hope. Where there is war, allow us to present You who are the Prince of Peace; where there is pain, You who are the Comforter; Where there is hatred, You who are Love; where there is death and destruction; You who are the Resurrection and Life. Daily guide our work in and through IOCC so that we may do all things, in every place and at all times, for Your glory. Amen.

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A Prayer of Thanksgiving to the Theotokos after partaking of Holy Communion

O most holy Lady Theotokos, the light of my darkened soul, my hope, my protection, my refuge, my rest, and my joy: I thank you, for you have permitted me, the unworthy, to be a partaker of the most pure Body and precious Blood of your Son.

Give the light of understanding to the eyes of my heart, you that gave birth to the True Light.

Enliven me who am deadened by sin, you that gave birth to the Fountain of Immortality.

Have mercy on me, O loving Mother of the merciful God.

Grant me compunction and contrition of heart, humility in my thoughts, and a release from the slavery of my own reasonings.

And enable me, even to my last breath, to receive the sanctification of the most pure Mysteries, for the healing of soul and body.

Grant me tears of repentance and confession, that I may glorify you all the days of my life, for you are blessed and greatly glorified to the ages. Amen.

NATIVITY FAST

PRAYER CHALLENGE 2024

Metropolitan Gregory asks each member of our Diocese, either as a family or individually, to pray this every evening of the Nativity Fast.

All-Merciful Savior, You are the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29) When

You were born in a cave and placed in a manger, an angel announced this good news to the

shepherds. (Luke 2:8) They came to adore You, the Good Shepherd Who lays down His life for the

sheep. (John 10:11) As we journey through these holy days of preparation to celebrate Your

Nativity, we humbly implore You: Look with compassion upon our families, our churches, our country,

and the whole world. When we stray from Your presence, lead us back to You. Gather us into one

flock. (John 10:16) Guide us to springs of living water and wipe away every tear from our eyes. (Rev. 7:17)

Number us among the sheep at Your right hand who continually cry out: "To Him who sits upon the

throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Rev. 5:13) Amen!

ONLINE BONUSES

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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Loneliness in Modern Life: What to Do?

by *Matushka Ann McLellan Lardas*
(from pravmir.com/2014)

Recent conversations have led me to think more than usual about loneliness in modern life. I often speak of clergy life as being all of us fighting the same battle, from different foxholes. But loneliness is a factor, a reality, and I think it's worse for the laity. The closer one stands to the altar, the more one gets that "Christ is in our midst" is not a mindless greeting but the statement of a profound reality. When one lives far from church, both physically and metaphorically, it becomes harder to keep this in mind. What to do?

On a pragmatic level, the best thing is to find other Christians and spend time with them, first and foremost in church, sure, but in the ancient times the Agape meal was considered part of the service. Now it's too hot, it's too cold, the Sisterhood doesn't serve things you can eat, the kids have a ball game or a birthday party — we leave each other in the narthex till next week. And so all of us on some level feel abandoned and alone.

How to fix it? The first thing is to pray for each other, every day. Even if it's just that you're walking through Walmart and see something that reminds you of your godson, this is from God, this is your chance to say, "God bless my godchildren and be with them! Mother of God, cover them with your veil! Guardian angels of my godchildren, thank you, protect them, correct their thoughts and keep them from despair!" If we react appropriately to these little flashes, like instant messages from God, we will build the foundation in our hearts, and the people we pray for will on some level know. Somehow, they will feel the love, they will have new courage.

Secondly, we need to feed each other. Does someone

in your parish live near? Invite them over for supper! Does someone in your parish live alone? When you make too much of something, put that last serving of pasta or last piece of pie in a container and drop it at their house, sharing a word or two in passing.

Thirdly, bring the people whom you miss, in church, to the services with you. Start by bringing them in your heart. Pray for them, light candles, ask God to lead them to come to church with you. Then, call them up, or pick them up, or invite them, or encourage them. When you hear the barrage of reasons why people don't want to come — the old ladies who criticize or the young people who dress wrong, the priest who speaks too much or too little — all you have to say is this: "Yes, but I love you and I miss you. Who can separate us from the love of God?"

We don't have to start big. We just have to start. Because in curing the loneliness around us, we will notice, to our surprise, that our own bruised and empty hearts have suddenly become whole and full. Baby steps are fine. We just have to start walking the walk.

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** Random Tidbits...** Father Dave 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 (Sacrament) of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

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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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* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

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Speaking With Your Priest - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers. With love in Christ, Fr. Dave

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CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:

- ✘ *** The building committee and Parish Council continue to discuss our plan of action going forward with work in the church proper. Please be patient with us! Also, remember that for a project like the one that we are undertaking, work goes top down so the ceiling and walls will be done before the floor. As mentioned, please be patient with us!
- ✘ ** At the yearly meeting, a vote passed 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*). Due to supply chain and other issues, this work will be done in the spring. A contract has been signed. The cost will be over \$30,000. Donations to the Capital Improvement Fund are requested.

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Glorify 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!

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

9:30 – 11:30 am Church open for personal prayer

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

FEAST OF THE GREAT MARTYR DEMETRIUS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Blessing of the Parish Council Officers
Monthly Memorial (Panachida)
Sr. ACRY Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

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, NOVEMBER 17 - IOCC SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

FEAST OF THE SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL
MICHAEL AND THE OTHER BODILESS POWERS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

6:30 pm Moleben of Thanksgiving

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 #NATIVITYFAST

NATIVITY FAST BEGINS (PHILIP'S FAST / FILIPOVKA)

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 #NATIVITYFAST

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 #NATIVITYFAST

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 #NATIVITYFAST

FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 #NATIVITYFAST

9:30 am Akathist Hymn to St. Nicholas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 #NATIVITYFAST

9:00 am Winter Maintenance & Decorating Morning
11a-1p Mystery (Sacrament) of Confession offered

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FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

The Holy Greatmartyr Demetrios Of Solunecia

Commemorated on November 8 / October 26

Tropar (Tone 3) The entire world has found you to be a great champion in times of peril; for you put the heathen to flight, O victorious one. As you brought to naught the boasts of Lyaeus, and gave courage to Nestor in the stadium, in the same way, O Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, entreat Christ God, that He grant us great mercy.

Kondak (Tone 2) God, Who has given you invincible strength, Demetrios, has adorned the Church with the royal purple of the streams of your blood, and has kept your city unharmed, for you are its support.

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The Celebration Of The Sobor (Assemblage) Of The Leader Of The Heavenly Hosts Michael, & The Other Heavenly Bodiless Hosts

Commemorated on November 21 / 8

Tropar (Tone 4) Commanders of the heavenly hosts, we who are unworthy beseech you, by your prayers encompass us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory, and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry to you: "Deliver us from all harm, for you are the commanders of the powers on high!"

Kondak (Tone 2) Commanders of God's armies and ministers of the divine glory, princes of the bodiless angels and guides of mankind, ask for what is good for us, and for great mercy, supreme commanders of the Bodiless Hosts.

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2024-25 SJB PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Lawrence Martin
Vice-President: Elizabeth Radomsky
Treasurer: Timothy Martin, Reader
Financial Secretary: Rich Mirilovich
Recording Secretary: Gina Fall
Chief Auditor: Robert Fall
Auditors: Subdeacon Ryan Ferko,
John Kirish, Kimberly Opsitos,
Matthew Opsitos, and Kathy Schrmack

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES
PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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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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Why Should I Join the Local ACRY?

The ACRY is an Orthodox Christian family fellowship dedicated to the purpose of encouraging spiritual growth through charitable and apostolic missionary works, prayer and fellowship for the Glory of God and the building up of the Church and our Diocese. The local ACRY focuses on outreach to the community in various forms and fellowship within. This could be a fundraiser or family event at the church grounds to introduce people to our parish, or the volunteering of our time to help support a community event. In addition to these, the ACRY has the opportunity to branch out and meet other members of our diocesan ACRY community through deanery and nation events and partake in outreach at a broader level.

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* Lots–O–Luck Calendars – The National ACRY Lots-O-Luck Calendars are available. \$25 per ticket gets you a years worth of prizes totaling \$10,000! Please see Subdeacon Ryan Ferko for tickets.

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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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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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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 15%	12%	10%	Upper Range Giving 9%	8%	7%	Middle Range Giving 6%	5%	4%	Lower Range Giving 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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NOV. COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting monetary donations for the **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)**. This agency, that is under the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, represents Orthodox Christians in North America and understands its work to include developing in Orthodox Christians a commitment to philanthropy and global cooperative involvement in the work of the Orthodox Church. They have a yearly campaign called a “day of giving Sunday” before Thanksgiving. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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“The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning.” - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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The Jesus Prayer

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

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

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ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & other needs*

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

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For the Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Stephen B., Fr. Thomas B., Protodeacon Gregory B., Kevin, 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., Nicholas L., Alexander H., *and our Parish Council and Curators:* Lawrence, Subdeacon Ryan, Timothy, Rich, Elizabeth, Robert, Gina, John, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches *...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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***** NAMEDAY, BIRTHDAY, and ANNIVERSARY PRAYER LIST IS BEING RESET** – Our parish prayer list of key dates and special occasions in our lives will be reset going forward (starting 3/1/24). If one of your special days is missing – please let Fr Dave know ASAP. See Fr. Dave with any questions.

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November Namedays:

Urban Family – Holy Disciple Urban of the 70 (11/13)

Makaela Kirish - Archangel Michael (11/21)

Cindy Pavilonis - Saint Cyntianus (11/28)

Matthew Mirilovich - Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (11/29)

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

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November Birthdays:

Fr Joseph Birthisel (11/2), Subdeacon Ryan Ferko (11/4), Matt Opsitos (11/4), Jason Shelpman, Jr (11/4), Nicholas Kubis (11/6), Caitlin Carlisle (11/9), Fr. James Blomeley (11/14), Cindy Pavilonis (11/14), Kim Opsitos (11/21), Fr Michael Rustick (11/21), *Father's sister*, Suzanne Verbanick (11/25), Stephen Brancho (11/26), Fr. Michael Ellis (11/26), Pañi Peggy Teklinski (11/26), Victor Zerby (11/27), Pañi Ileana Bennett (11/28), Chi-Wing Chow (11/29) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!*

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

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

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November Anniversaries:

Doug & Elizabeth (Radomsky) Delaney (11/1)
Thomas & Harmonie Torchia (11/12/11)
Alisha & Aaron Zak (11/15/15)

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

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For Pregnant Mothers...

Mallory (*due in March*), Lindsay (*April*) ...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...

Thomas R. Dzdovsky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (*in the case of answered prayers*) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another.** Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg

the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to only Orthodox Christians.*

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Special Intentions – Did you ever wonder for what reasons would a person's name go under "For the Special Intentions of..." on our Prayer Page? A special intention request is very diversified! It could be when one is under extreme job stress, struggling with spiritual issues, infertility, dealing with the loss of a loved one... the list goes on. As with the other lists on our page, one does not have to be Orthodox to be added.

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Prayer requests – During the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, prayers are said for the sick and those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin. If silent prayers are requested, they will be offered quietly at the Altar at all services. All those listed in the "Prayer Corner" are prayed for during the Proskomedia (*Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion*). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our prayer list.

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A Prayer for Peace

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

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A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America

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

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A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (*name*), and our spiritual father (*name*), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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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.

A Prayer in Front of an Icon of Christ

We bow in worship to Your most pure icon, O Good One, and ask You to forgive our sins, O Christ our God: for of Your own good will, You were please to ascend the Cross in the flesh, that You might free from slavery to the enemy those whom You had created. Therefore, we cry out to You: You have filled all things with joy, O our Saviour, for You cam to save the world. Amen.

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A Prayer in Front of an Icon of the Theotokos

Make us worthy of mercy, O Theotokos, fountain of tenderness. Look upon us sinners and reveal your power as you always do, for we have put our hope in you. We cry to you, "Rejoice," as Gabriel, the leader of the angels, once did. Amen.