

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*

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

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

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

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 vol. X

Sunday after the Baptism of Our Lord
31st Sunday after Pentecost; Tone 6
Martyrs Ermil And Stratonik
Honoring our First Confession Class

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

Canceled: 6:30 pm Parastas for aborted babies
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

32nd Sunday after Pentecost; Tone 7
Zacchaeus Sunday
Venerable Euthymios the Great
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15; Gospel: Luke 19:1-10
Liturgical Color: **Gold**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

6:30 pm Akathist to St. Xenia with holy anointing
7:15 pm Exploring Orthodox 101
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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)

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD’S
CHOICEST BLESSINGS TO OUR
2024 FIRST CONFESSION CLASS:

JOSHUA MAINOLFI

MARIA URBAN

SOPHIA URBAN

We honor them as they have taken part in another Mystery (*Sacrament*) of the Orthodox Church, one that will serve them well in their spiritual growth all the days of their lives. Many thanks to their parents and teachers in preparing them for this Mystery.

May God Grant to our First Confession Class, Joshua Mainolfi, Maria Urban, and Sophia Urban, Peace, Health, and a Long-Life for Many Happy and Blessed Years! Many Years!
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***** A Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas** – The new book, *Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas*, is a publication of the Diocesan Carpatho-Rusyn Heritage Working Group. It contains Rusyn and American Christmas Carols (Koljady) in English and Rusyn plus the text for the Holy Night Supper (Svjatyj Večer) prayer service (Velija). We now have it in our parish bookstore and a \$10 donation per book is requested.
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***** Calling all scouts!** For our youth in Scouting and to our Adult Leaders, please send Fr. Dave your Unit Number, location, current rank, and any office or position you hold in your organization **As Soon As You Can** so we can set up our Scout Sunday
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***** Annual Church Picnic** – “The Cabin” in North Park is booked for **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025** for our end of summer picnic. **Please Save The Date!**

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

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Holy Water Reminders

2025 Holy Water Available To Take Home - Plan to take our Theophany Holy Water home with you! Bring in a container (or pick up a *Holy Water Bottle* from our bookstore), fill it up, and use it. Drink Holy Water every morning (or at least when you are not feeling well). Throw a splash into your cooking. Also, together with the sign of the Cross, you may bless one another with it prior to tests for our children in school, big days at the office, before doctor appointments, etc. Please cut out the devotional prayer this week (in the prayer corner section) and use it with your Holy Water.

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Do Not Hoard Old Holy Water - While Holy Water does not “go bad”, it is best to refresh your water each year. Holy Water from the previous Theophany should be poured outside (*preferably on the corner of your house or in a garden where people are not going to walk on it*). **The best scenario, though, is to use your Holy Water** (see above for examples).
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Spiritual Vitamin:

“Drink holy water as often as possible. It is the best and most effective medicine. I’m saying that not just as a priest but also from my experience as a doctor.”
+St. Luke the Physician of Crimea
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*** 2024 Summary** – If you would like a statement of your 2024 SJB Donation Summary, please contact Rich Mirilovich at 412-523-1848 or jrmrsqrd@gmail.com.
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*** Greeting Cards** – Please repurpose your greeting cards (*and if you do not frame them, calendar icons*) after the season concludes. The collection box is in the vestibule for the *Holy Transfiguration Monastery*. Thank you for giving back! *By the way – this collection is taken year round.*

THIS WEEK’S BULLETIN IS SPONSORED

for the health of our First Confession Class:
Joshua, Maria, and Sophia
May God grant them many years!
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***** Mad Mex Fundraising Dinner** – Join the Saint Constantine School of Pittsburgh on **Tuesday, February 4** at 7:00 pm for a fundraiser dinner at Mad Mex (2 Robinson Plaza, Pittsburgh, PA 15205) to benefit the school. Tickets are \$60 per person, which includes buffet dinner, a drink, and gratuity. (Ask Father for the menu.) 100% of ticket proceeds go directly to the school so this is an amazing opportunity to relax and have fun, dine with friends, and support the school! Attire and atmosphere is comfy and casual. They would love to see new faces as well, so please feel free to bring along new friends who are interested in supporting the school. Don't wait too long, as seating is limited! Contact Andrew Fournaridis, Director of Development, with any questions at: afournaridis@saintconstantine.org or 412-759-5965. Click this link to purchase tickets:

https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=610c9d7d-dd86-4d73-bb7b-4b5c3a8f7912&envId=p-E6s1zn-4mE2IKhR_ZPRGFw&zone=usa
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***** Souper Bowl of Caring** – On **Sunday, February 9th** we ask that you bring in unexpired cans of soup for our February Community Outreach collection for Saint Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry at St Mary’s Orthodox Church on the South Side.
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*** Framed Icons** – Please consider framing your previous church calendar tops: cut them out, use a 5x7 frame, and hang them on your walls. Each year you can add an icon to another room in your home. This is also a nice project to do with our youth!

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 745
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 73
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 255
Total Collections:	\$ 1073
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 0
<i>Participating Souls – Sunday Liturgy: 33</i>	

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

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

February 2:	_____?
February 9:	_____?
February 16:	Sr. ACRY

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**** 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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“Code” for reading the bulletin:

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

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 (Sunday After)

⁷But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” ⁹(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ

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Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday After)

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

¹²Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; ¹³and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Caper’na-um by the sea, in the territory of Zeb’ulun and Naph’tali, ¹⁴that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“The land of Zeb’ulun and the land of Naph’tali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

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Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; ¹⁶but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

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Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar Near Jericho

³⁵As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; ³⁶and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. ³⁷They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” ³⁸And he cried, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ³⁹And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁰And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹“What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me receive my sight.” ⁴²And Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” ⁴³And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The Holy Martyrs Ermil And Stratonik

Commemorated on January 26/13

The Holy Martyrs Ermil and Stratonik, by origin Slavs, lived at the beginning of the IV Century during the time of persecution against Christians by the emperor Licinius (307-324). They were friends. Saint Ermil served as deacon in the city of Singedonum (Belgrade). Condemned by Licinius to imprisonment, he was long and cruelly tortured for the Name of Christ, but he remained unyielding. Saint Stratonik was a superintendent of the prison and a secret christian. Seeing the agonising torments of his friend, he was not able to keep from weeping, and he revealed that he was a christian. They subjected him also to torture. After the torturing, they put the martyrs into a net and threw them into the Danube/Dunai. On the third day, the bodies of the saints were discovered on the bank of the river by christians and buried near Singedonum. Their venerable heads are located in the Church of Saint Sophia, where the Russian pilgrim Antonii saw them in the year 1200.

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Valerie, Jon, Joseph, Felix, Bella, Reed, Maria O., Cheryl, Christina, Carol, Daniel, Elizabeth, Robert, Matthew, David, 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...

+Miroslaw Tschaikowsky, +Julian Naumenko, +George Lavra (1/11), +Warren Hern, +Michael Miklos, the Priest (1/3) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God’s Memory!*

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A PRAYER BEFORE CONSUMING ANTIDORON AND/OR HOLY WATER

O Lord my God, may Your holy gift and Your holy water be for the remission of my sins, for the enlightenment of my mind, for the increase of my spiritual and bodily strengths, for the health of my soul and body, for the overcoming of my passions and infirmities, through Your boundless mercy, through the prayers of Your Most-holy Mother, and of all Your Saints.
Amen.

ONLINE BONUSES

Tropar for the Feast of the Theophany

At Your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, worship of the trinity was revealed, for the Father's voice bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, who appeared and enlightened the world, glory to You!

Kondak for the Feast of the Theophany

You have appeared today to the inhabited earth, and Your light, O Lord, has been marked upon us, who with knowledge sing Your praise. You have come, You are made manifest, the Light that no man can approach."

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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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:

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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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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

LESSONS FROM THE FATHERS

On Confession of One's Sins

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"Whoever has escaped from a prison will not wish to see it another time. Whoever has been delivered from captivity prays that he will never fall into captivity (that is, repentance consists in not returning to one's former sins)."

Venerable Ephraim the Syrian

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"Whoever offers repentance ought not only to wash his sin with tears, but ought to cover his former transgressions with better deeds, lest the sin be imputed to him."

Hierarch Ambrose of Milan

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"If the inclination for them (sins) has also been extirpated from our hearts, this serves as proof that they are forgiven us."

Venerable John Cassian

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES

*** STEWARD, translated from the Greek word oikonomos, means a caretaker, a faithful manager of all of God's gifts. As Stewards, each of us are called upon to respond to God's gifts through offering our

gifts of time, talent and treasure. This is our form of supporting our parish and it leaves us with the question, "How will I respond to God's gifts this year?" Our gifts represent who we are and how we care about God and His Church. How can we live with the framework of being a caretaker of the blessings God gives us?

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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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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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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,
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 McAler Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to "catch up" on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue its ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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Bulletin Sponsor - If you wish to sponsor a bulletin

In Honor of (nameday, birthday, anniversary, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested. Remember, sponsoring a bulletin in memory of someone does not replace having a Panachida (Memorial Service) for them.

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CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:
 ✕ * The 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!

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Glory to God for All Things!

Through your generosity and dedication, all of this is coming together – one thing at a time!
Thank you! Many stewards keep coming to the church and working very hard to make improvements. May God grant you many years!

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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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JAN. COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Orthodox Christian Network**. (This is the site that Father uses to get the “Children’s Word” that is distributed each week.) The Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) is an official agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. **MyOCN is YourOCN!** Visit www.myocn.net to see the variety of materials they provide online! Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!

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FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

KONDAK HYMNS OF THE FEASTS:

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Feast Of The Nativity According To The Flesh Of Our Lord, God And Saviour Jesus Christ.
 Commemorated on January 7 / December 25

The Virgin today gives birth to the highest Being: and the earth provides the Inaccessible One with a cave. The angels with the shepherds glorify Him; the Wise Men journey with the star, because for our sake is born a little Child, the Pre-Eternal God.

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Synaxis (Sobor-Assemblage) Of The Most Holy Theotokos, Mother Of God

Commemorated on January 8 / December 26
 He Who before the morning star was begotten without mother of the Father, is today without father made flesh of you upon earth. A star announces the good tidings to the Magi, while angels with shepherds sing the praises of your undefiled child-bearing, O you who are full of grace.

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Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Commemorated on January 14 / 1
 The Lord of All endures circumcision and His goodness purifies the sins of men and grants salvation to the world today. Therefore, Basil the priest and torchbearer of the Creator, the divine mystic of Christ, rejoices on high.

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Feast of the Holy Theophany of Our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ (Baptism of the Lord)

Commemorated on January 19 / 6
 You have appeared today to the inhabited earth, and Your light, O Lord, has been marked upon us, who with knowledge sing Your praise. You have come, You are made manifest, the Light that no man can approach.

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Synaxis Of The Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner And Baptist, John

Commemorated on January 20 / 7
 Your presence in the flesh terrified the Jordan River, and it reversed its course from fear. John, hesitated in fear, to baptize You even though it was foretold by the prophets. The angels were overtaken with wonder when they saw You being baptized as a Man. All those who were in darkness, enlightened, sang praises to You, O Lord, Who appeared and shed Your Light upon all.

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025 #NATIVITYFAST
 Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord
 Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ
 Sunday of the Holy Fathers
 9:15 am Nativity Canon & Carols (Koljady)
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
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MONDAY, JANUARY 6 #NATIVITY FAST
 A Day of Strict Fasting
 Canceled: 9:30 Royal Hours of Nativity
7:00 pm Great Compline (Velikij Povečerije)
 Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7
 FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
 9:15 am Nativity Canon & Carols (Koljady)
 9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
 Parish Family Photo
 Nativity Pot-Luck Meal
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FAST FREE until the eve of Theophany (Sviatki – “Holy Days”)

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 – 2ND DAY OF CHRISTMAS
 FEAST OF THE SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9 – 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS
 FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 #NATIVITYFAST
 Sunday after Nativity and before Theophany
 Sunday of the Holy Ancestors (Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, Holy Righteous David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord)
 9:15 am Nativity Canon & Carols (Koljady)
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
 Monthly Memorial (Panachida)
 Sr. ACRY Meeting

MONDAY, JANUARY 13
 Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Nativity of Christ
 No Vespers Scheduled

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14
 FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD
 FEAST OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT
 9:20 am Theophany Canon
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Stewardship of Treasure Guide

Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?

Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe 15%	Tithe 12%	Tithe 10%	Upper Range Giving 9%	Upper Range Giving 8%	Upper Range Giving 7%	Middle Range Giving 6%	Middle Range Giving 5%	Middle Range Giving 4%	Lower Range Giving 3%	Lower Range Giving 2%	Lower Range Giving 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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take down the Manger Scene after Coffee Social

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

9:30 am Royal Hours of Theophany

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 ## STRICT FAST DAY

5:00 pm 2nd Holy Night Supper

6:30 pm Great Compline (Velikij Povečerije)

Vigil Service with the Great Blessing of Water
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

9:20 am Theophany Canon

9:30 Divine Liturgy

Youth Sunday

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

FEAST OF THE SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Canceled: ~~9:30 Divine Liturgy~~

?? WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22 (OR 29TH)

6:30 pm Parastas (Memorial) for aborted babies

7:00 pm Exploring Orthodox 101
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

9:20 Theophany Canon

9:30 Divine Liturgy

?? WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 (OR 22ND)

6:30 pm Parastas (Memorial) for aborted babies

7:00 pm Exploring Orthodox 101
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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 3:30pm 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

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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Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions *

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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., Stephanie 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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January Namedays:

Juliana Anton – Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (1/3)

Stephen Brancho - Holy Protomartyr & Archdeacon Stephen (1/9)

Ashley Wertz Andrekovich - Venerable Anthony the Great (1/30)

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

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January Birthdays:

Carol Lorenzi (1/2), Joshua Mainolfi (1/3), Elizabeth Fucsko (1/7), Jason Shelpmann (1/9), Pañi Kathy Fester (1/13), Fred G. Anton (1/16), Pañi Fedornock (1/16), *Father's Godson*, Alex Schreiber (1/18), *Father's Goddaughter*, Jenna Schreiber (1/18), Kevynn Christina Anton (1/19), Nicholas Ditmore (1/19), Fr Joseph Fester (1/19), Katherine Schrmack (1/22), *Father's niece*, Abigeal Verbanick (1/22), Thomas Lorenzi (1/23), Mary Ann Brady (1/26), Fr Frank Miloro (1/26), Allison Kretchek (1/29)

...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...

Raymond, Kathryn, 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... Nicholas & Cassie, Allison & Michael ...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

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January Anniversaries:

...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. Dzadovsky ...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our Parish List. The words

of the Gospel are true: it is good to pray for one another. Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to only Orthodox Christians.*

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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