

# “THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*

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

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS! Glory 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 pray for 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, FEBRUARY 23, 2025** vol. X

Hieromartyr Charalampus (202).

Pre-Lenten Breakfast

Add'l Offering requested for S. Side Food Pantry

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

**6:00 pm** Moleben to the Theotokos with Anointing

**6:30 pm** Parish Council Meeting (*All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting*)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 1 \*\*\* RESCHEDULED \*\*\***

**ALL-SOULS** (*1<sup>st</sup> OF 5*) (*Zadušna Subota*)

**9:30am** Divine Liturgy & Panachida

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2**

Great-martyr Theodore the Tyro (306)

**9:15 am** Third Hour

**9:30 am** Divine Liturgy

Tone 3; Liturgical Color: **Gold → Purple**

Rite of Forgiveness

**CLEAN MONDAY, MARCH 3 #TheGreatFast**

THE GREAT FAST BEGINS

A Day of Strict Fasting

**6:30 pm** Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**CLEAN TUESDAY, MARCH 4 #TheGreatFast**

**6:30 pm** Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**CLEAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 #TheGreatFast**

**6:00 pm** Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

with community meal following

**CLEAN THURSDAY, MARCH 6 #TheGreatFast**

**6:30 pm** Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**CLEAN FRIDAY, MARCH 7 #TheGreatFast**

**9:30 am** Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

**CLEAN SATURDAY, MARCH 8 #TheGreatFast**

**11 am – 1 pm** Confessions Offered

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## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*\*\* **Welcome!** to Ray and Kathy as they entered into the Catechumenate this past week! May God continue to guide you in your steps on your journey! Many Years!

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\*\*\* **Thank You** to everyone who helped in anyway with our Pre-Lenten Breakfast! Many years!

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\*\* **IOCC Benefit** – There will be a Happy Hour fundraiser on **Thursday, February 27** from 6 to 9 pm at Allusion Brewing Company (1701 Duncan Ave., suite 2, McCandless, PA 15101) where 20% of the proceeds will benefit IOCC's global humanitarian work. Go and fellowship with other parishioners before Great Lent is upon us and get introduced to IOCC's mission and the chapter here in Pittsburgh. The event page can be found online at the following address: [Pittsburgh Happy Hour to Benefit IOCC](https://www.pittsburghhappyhour.com/benefit-iocc)

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\*\* **IOCC Benefit Show** - Lacey Sturm’s Kenotic Metanoia Tour with Special Guest *Young Other* will come to Pittsburgh at Spirit Hall (242 51st St, Pittsburgh, PA 15201) on **Friday, February 28** with the doors opening at 7pm and the show starting at 8pm. Net proceeds will be donated to IOCC.org. To learn more visit [www.spiritpgh.com/calendar/2025/2/28/lacey-sturm](https://www.spiritpgh.com/calendar/2025/2/28/lacey-sturm)

# OUR 2025 JOURNEY TO PASCHA

*Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon*

## SUNDAYS

## THEMES & READINGS

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

**Meatfare**

**FEBRUARY 23rd**

FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY



**The Last Judgement**

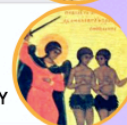
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2  
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Pray facing East this week.  
Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him!  
Use up/freeze dairy this week.

**Cheesefare**

**MARCH 2nd**

FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY



**Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!**

**FORGIVENESS SUNDAY**

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4  
Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.

\*\* **New Pittsburgh Dean Announced** - Met. Gregory has appointed Very Rev. Nicholas Ferencz, PhD, as Dean of the Pittsburgh Deanery, effective as of February 10, 2025. Axios! Many Years!

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\* **All-Soul Saturday (Zadušna Subota)** Liturgies with Panachidas for 2025 will begin on **March 1 (rescheduled from 2/22)**. On these days, we especially pray for the departed loved ones of our families. If you are not working on a Saturday, come to church, pray with us, and light two candles for your living and departed loved ones. **Please inform Fr Dave if there are any additions to be made to your Commemoration Diptychs (Hramoty)**. Envelopes and cards are available in the vestibule. [\*\*\* *This is different from the “Monthly Memorial” that we will be having on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month which is specific to each month.*]

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\*\* **Pre-Lenten Retreat** – On **Saturday, March 1** at the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (1600 Guyton Rd., Allison Park) a retreat titled “*The Book of Job: suffering and victory of Christ of Satan*” will be presented by Very Rev. Dr. Victor Gorodenchuk (Dean of St. Stephen Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA) from 10 am to 3 pm. There is a \$20 registration fee. Please RSVP by 2/24 to Fr. David Vernak at [frdavidvernak@verizon.net](mailto:frdavidvernak@verizon.net) or 201-704-6217.

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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!**

\*\*\* **Great Lent 2025** - Our Journey To Pascha has begun! We are in the series of Sundays known as the Triodion. These weeks are meant to prepare us for Great Lent (*which prepares us for Holy Week... which prepares us for Pascha*). Please reach out to Fr. Dave with your questions about this important fasting period that is around the corner. **Today is Meatfare Sunday**, traditionally the last day for meat before the Great Fast. Begin to prepare yourself for the 40-day journey that begins in one week on **March 3**.

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\*\*\* **Candy Sale** – We are selling Anderson’s Candy and the catalogs are in the church hall. Orders due date will be coming soon. \* Please try and sell some! *Last year we needed to sell \$500 worth of candy to get the 30% profit from this fundraiser.* Please see Tim Martin with any questions.

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\*\*\* **31 Books of March Sale<sup>XL</sup>** – The Ancient Faith Store will most likely be offering different books for 50% off each day of the month of March! Visit the site daily (or sign up for their emails) and keep an eye out for a book that will help you along your Spiritual Journey! (Contact Fr Dave with any questions.) Visit: [store.ancientfaith.com/31-books-of-march/](https://store.ancientfaith.com/31-books-of-march/) *If You Would Like To Buy Something For The Church Library Or If You Are Looking To Add A Couple Dollars To Your Order To Get Free Shipping, Please Call or Text Father Dave Before Ordering As He Has A Couple Suggestions That Are Small And Would Be Helpful To Our Church.*

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\*\*\* **Rite of Forgiveness** – After the Divine Liturgy next **Sunday, March 2**, we will have prayers from Vespers and the Rite of Forgiveness as a community immediately following the Liturgy. **Let's pray that we begin the Great Fast on the right foot: taking the step of forgiveness together.**

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\*\*\* **“Clean Week” Services** – The first week of the Great Fast is known as “Clean Week”. We will have services each evening. *All* are encouraged to come to as many services as your schedule allows. **The Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete** was “written in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, *The Great Canon still maintains relevance for the modern age. It is the backbone of Orthodox services for the first week of Great Lent and sets the tone for a Christian's self reflection and repentance appropriate to the season.*”

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\*\*\* **Fellowship Meals** - Got Soup? A small ‘t’ tradition in many Orthodox parishes is to have soup (or other light meal) following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts during the Great Fast. We will have this meal after our Wednesday evening services at our parish and when we travel to the other North Hills Orthodox parishes. A sign up sheet is in the church hall for those interested in bringing in food.

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\*\*\* **Sunday of Orthodoxy Service** - The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh is hosting the annual service on the Sunday of Orthodoxy on **Sunday, March 9** at 4:30 pm at Holy Cross (123 Gilkeson Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15228)

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\*\* **Iconography School** – Fr. George of Aliquippa has started online iconography classes! Please see the flyer for details or contact Fr. Dave.

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\* **Food Drive** – For the month of February we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry on Pittsburgh's South Side**. Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! The list of food items they are looking for is available in the previous Feb. bulletins, in the online bulletin, or [stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html](http://stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html)

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\*\*\* **Lenten Coin Boxes** – Coin boxes are available in the vestibule to collect your spare change throughout the Great Fast for our upcoming Community Outreach (OCMC). More information is available at [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org). “Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share” (1 Tim 6:18)

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\*\*\* **Deanery Lenten Mission Schedule**

All are encouraged to attend services at our sister parishes this spring. Not only is it beautiful fellowship with other Orthodox, but each church is unique and you get to see the differences first hand.

Confessions start at 3:30, Vespers at 4:00, and Fellowship Meal following

**March 16** - St Michael the Archangel  
146 Third Ave., **Rankin**, PA 15104

**March 23** - St John the Baptist  
2201 Duncan Ave., **Allison Park**

**March 30** - St John the Baptist  
450 Glenwood Ave., **Ambridge**, PA 15003

**April 6** - St John the Baptist  
211 Cable Ave., **East Pittsburgh**, PA 15112

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**from the Lenten Triodion**

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-Giver; for my spirit hastens early towards Your holy temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled; but in Your compassion purify me by Your gracious mercy. Amen.

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\*\* **Make plans to go to Camp Nazareth in 2025!**

- ✘ March 14-16 - Young Adult Retreat (ages 18-35)
- ✘ March 21-23 - Spring Encounter (ages 8-18)
- ✘ May 2-4 - Sts. Joachim & Anna Seniors Retreat (age 55 and over)
- ✘ May 30 - June 1 - Family Camp
- ✘ June 1 - Family Day
- ✘ July 20-26 - Pgh Deanery Camping Week
- ✘ Aug 10-13 - Science & Nature Camp (ages 8-18)
- ✘ October 10-12 – CN Alumni Weekend
- ✘ Oct 31-Nov 2 - Young Adult Retreat (ages 18-35)
- ✘ November 7-9 - Fall Encounter (ages 8-18)

**Please, Save the Dates and head to**  
339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137

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\*\* **Presanctified Liturgies** – The schedule for the Wednesday services will be similar to last year. With the growing Orthodox Christian presence in the area, instead of each week having the service here, we will take two weeks and pray at our sister Orthodox Parishes in the North Hills! In the desire to provide a greater fellowship among our parishes and communities, we will be sharing in three Wednesday Presanctified Liturgies. Our schedule will be thus:

**March 5** at 6:00 pm at St. John the Baptist

**March 12** at \* **7:00** pm at St. Alexander Nevsky OCA Cathedral (1600 Guyton Rd., Allison Park)

**March 19** at 6:00 pm at SJB with the other parishes coming to us

**March 26** at \* **6:30** pm at Holy Trinity GOA Church (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh)

**April 2 & 9** at 6:00 pm at SJB

All our parishioners are invited to attend all the services - *what a wonderful way to build Orthodox fellowship and a stronger connection among our North Hills sister parishes.* Each service will be followed by a Lenten meal. \* *Please note the different times when we visit*

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\*\*\* **Lenten Retreat** – Save the date for the Central Region Lenten Retreat on **Saturday, April 5** starting at 10 am at St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120)

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**OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 305
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 44
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 215
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 564</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 30</b>
<i>Participating Souls – Sunday Liturgy: 33</i>	

**Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials** were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Cindy Pavilonis

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The **Eternal Lamp** was offered last week by Cindy Pavilonis for the health of Joseph Huron. Many Years

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**COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS**

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

March 2: (meatless) \_\_\_\_\_?

March 9: (meatless) \_\_\_\_\_?

March 16: (meatless) \_\_\_\_\_?

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**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

<sup>8</sup>Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup>And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup>Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

**The Rights of an Apostle**

9 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? <sup>2</sup>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.



**Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-46

**The Judgment of the Nations**

<sup>31</sup>“When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I

was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?’ <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ <sup>46</sup> And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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**VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE**  
 Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
 Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
 FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddioecese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese)  
 Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
 YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioecese](https://youtube.com/acroddioecese)

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**LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH**

**CANDLES, CANDLES EVERYWHERE**  
*(Excerpts from Sacred Symbols That Speak by Anthony Coniaris)*  
 Every time we light a candle, then, the flame and the light should remind us of God Who in the history of salvation has appeared time and again as fire and light. Let us look briefly at the meaning of candles as used in our worship. The Sanctuary Lamp, otherwise known as the Ever-Burning Light (Akoimitos) that burns constantly, usually suspended from the ceiling over the Tabernacle on the Holy Table, reminds us of

God's constant presence in our midst. He never leaves us or forsakes us. Other candles are extinguished after services but never the Ever-Burning Light. A symbol of God's unfailing presence in our midst, the flame flickers endlessly.

Many Orthodox Christians light a candle upon entering church. This simple act is deeply meaningful. It means that in the liturgy when the word of God is preached, the Holy Spirit will come to remove the veil (2 Cor. 3:15 and 4:6) of blindness from our eyes, the veil of lack of understanding and make the light of Christ shine in our hearts. Lighting a candle on entering church expresses our belief that Jesus is the Light of the World and that as His disciple, I am called daily to reflect His light in my life. It reminds us that when we were baptized we received Jesus Who is the Light of the World. Like Him, instead of cursing the darkness, we are to be lighting candles of hope and love in the lives of people. As we light that candle on entering the church we can pray the beautiful words of the Psalmist, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

We light the Paschal Candle at the midnight Easter liturgy to remind us that Christ has gone on before us into the darkness of death and has overcome that darkness, transforming it into unwaning light. "Come, receive light from the unwaning light and glorify Christ Who is risen from the dead." The Paschal Candle proclaims our faith that the Resurrected Christ "has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (col. 1:13-14).

When the priest comes out in procession with the Gospel Book during the liturgy, he is preceded by acolytes carrying candles to show that the word of God, to use words of the Psalmist, is "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path." The candles that precede the procession with the Gospel Book speak loud and clear. They tell us that the word of God is light for the darkness in which we walk. Its purpose is to prevent us from stumbling; to show us the way; to lead us home to God.

In some Orthodox churches in the Middle East, I have

seen an object resembling an ostrich egg suspended immediately above the flickering flame of hanging votive lights. The symbolism of the ostrich egg has to do with the heat produced by the flame of the votive candle. Just as an ostrich must sit on the egg for a long time in order to slowly hatch it with the heat of its body, so the Christian must remain close to the flame of Christ. He must stay close to the church and must nurture his faith through daily prayer and regular communion with Christ through the Eucharist. Only then will faith grow, develop, mature and come to life. The ostrich egg represents the embryonic state of faith which can spring to life through patient and faithful asceticism (man's struggle to keep the commandments of Christ), producing a life full of the fruits of the Spirit, a life that will glorify the Trinity. St. Symeon of Thessalonika, the New Theologian, says that the reason vigil lights are placed before the icons of the saints is to show that without the Light, Who is Christ, the saints are nothing. It is only as the light of Christ shines upon them that they become alive and resplendent.

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**A PRAYER WHEN LIGHTING A CANDLE**  
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*  
 Set our hearts on fire with love for You, O Christ our God, so that in its flame we may love You with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, so that by keeping Your commandments we may glorify You, the giver of all good gifts.  
 Amen.

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**PRAYER CORNER**

*For the Health of...* Joseph, Shawn, John, Valerie, Jon, Bella, Reed, Maria O., Cheryl, Christina, Daniel, Elizabeth, Robert, 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...**  
 +Patricia Law (2/19)

*...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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*["By the Waters of Babylon" is the entire Psalm 137, sung to a plaintive melody, during Matins (the morning service). It is only sung in church the three Sundays that precede Great Lent: Sunday of the Prodigal Son, The Last Judgment (Meatfare), and Forgiveness (Cheese-fare).]*  
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**A Prayer in Exile (Psalm 137):  
 Longing for Zion in a Foreign Land**

By the waters of Babylon,  
 there we sat down and wept,  
 when we remembered Zion.  
<sup>2</sup> On the willows there  
 we hung up our harps.  
<sup>3</sup> For there our captors  
 required of us songs,  
 and our tormentors, mirth, saying,  
 "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"  
<sup>4</sup> How shall we sing the LORD's song  
 in a foreign land?  
<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
 let my right hand wither!  
<sup>6</sup> Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth,  
 if I do not remember you,  
 if I do not set Jerusalem  
 above my highest joy!  
<sup>7</sup> Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom  
 the day of Jerusalem,  
 how they said, "Raze it, raze it!  
 Down to its foundations!"  
<sup>8</sup> O daughter of Babylon, you who are devastated!  
 Happy shall he be who requites you  
 with what you have done to us!  
<sup>9</sup> Happy shall he be who takes your little ones  
 and dashes them against the rock!

## ONLINE BONUSES

### TRIODION: GETTING READY FOR LENT

The significance of the four Sundays.

The word Triodion is used frequently and it is used to denote the three-odes used during the matins canon that are specifically Lenten. During the time before Lent, the Church in Her wisdom offers us five preparatory Sundays (Russian Tradition) to get us ready to enter the season of Great Lent. The Lenten Triodion officially begins with the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee.

#### First Sunday: Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican

To get our attention, the Church's Gospel this week focuses on true and false repentance by comparing actions and words. The Pharisee correctly 'practiced the faith' in regards to Jewish prayer and fasting, but within him the love of God was not present. The publican outwardly lived a sinful life as a tax collector for Rome, but inwardly realized the sin that was dominating him. The Pharisee demanded God's approval while the publican pleaded for God's mercy. The lesson for us is to diligently practice the 'outward' aspects of our Faith while inwardly realizing nothing we can do will earn God's favor and that we need to constantly seek His mercy. The central theme of this Gospel is the need for humility.

#### Second Sunday: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Modern dictionaries often translate 'repentance' as 'regret' or 'feeling sorry' for having done something. However, the true meaning of the word metanoia (repent) in the New Testament is to 'change one's mind (nous) or purpose' (*Vines*). Just as the Prodigal son left his father, realized the misery of his 'new' life, and returned to ask forgiveness, we too must realize that we have left our Father for the world and need to 'change' our life and return to Him. This Gospel gives us the assurance that God the Father will joyfully welcome us back if we turn from the sin in our life. This Sunday emphasizes repentance and the loving embrace of the Father.

#### Third Sunday: Sunday of the Last Judgment

James 2:17 states "...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." The corporal (physical) works of mercy, which the Lord uses to pass judgment, are a

reflection of the love or lack thereof in the hearts of the 'sheep and goats'. Individual repentance and love of God has been emphasized in the first two Sundays: love of neighbor, 'icons of Christ', is the central focus here. Giving alms and other exterior actions of love are also a vital part of the Lenten journey. This parable does not imply that we can 'work' our way into heaven but rather if our soul shows no active love for man then we really don't have true love of God.

#### Fourth Sunday: Forgiveness Sunday

This Sunday summarizes the readings of the previous three weeks and prepares us for Lent. Like the Prodigal we must turn and leave behind the things of the world, of the past. We must forgive others or God will not forgive us. Why? Because we ask God to do that each time we pray the Lord's Prayer! We must not be like the Pharisee and draw attention to our fasting by trying to gain sympathy or praise of men. Finally, we must begin to store spiritual treasure in heaven by using our earthly treasure to help others through alms and other works of mercy. With this attitude we are ready for a successful Lent.

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### The Priestmartyr Charalampios, Bishop Of Magnezia, The Martyrs Porphyry And Baptos And The Three Martyresses

*Commemorated on February 23/10*

The PriestMartyr Charalampios, Bishop of Magnezia, the Martyrs Porphyry and Baptos and the Three Martyresses suffered in the year 202.

Saint Charalampios, bishop of the Thessalonian city of Magnezia (northwest region of Greece), successfully spread faith in Christ the Saviour. News

about his preaching reached the governor of the district Lucian and the military-commander Lucius. The saint was arrested and brought to trial, where he firmly confessed his faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifice to idols. Despite the decrepit age of the bishop (he was already 113 years of age), they subjected him to monstrous tortures: they lacerated his body with iron hooks, while they scourged all his skin from head to foot. During this the saint turned to his tormentors: "I bless you, brethren, ye have restored my spirit!"

Having seen the endurance of the elder and his complete lack of malice, two soldiers – Porphyry and Baptos openly confessed Christ, for which they were immediately beheaded with a sword. Being present at the sufferings of bishop Charalampios were likewise three women who began to glorify Christ and were quickly martyred.

The enraged Lucius himself seized hold of the instruments of torture and began to tear at the priest-martyr, but suddenly his hand was cut off as though by a sword. Also arriving at the place of execution the governor spat in the face of the saint, and immediately he bent backwards. Then Lucius began to beseech the saint for forgiveness, and through his prayer both torturers at once received healing. During this a multitude of witnesses came to believe in Christ. Among them also was Lucius, who fell at the feet of the holy elder, begging forgiveness.

Lucian reported about the occurrence to the emperor Septimus Severus (193-211), situated at this time at Pisidian Antioch (western part of Asia Minor). The emperor gave orders to bring Saint Charalampios to him, and this was done with a stupid ferocity: they dragged the priest-martyr, having tied a rope to his beard. The emperor then gave orders to torture the bishop more intensely, and they began to burn at him with fire. But the Power of God aided to the saint, and he remained unharmed. Besides this, miracles were done through his prayer: he raised up a dead youth, and healed a demoniac tormented by devils for 35 years, so that the people in a multitude began to believe in Christ the Saviour. Even Galina the daughter of the emperor began to believe in Christ, and twice smashed idols in a pagan temple. By order of the emperor they beat the saint with stones about

the mouth, and they wanted to set afire his beard, from which the flames went forth burning the torturer. Full of wickedness, Septimus Severus and his dignitary Crispus hurled blasphemy at the Lord, mockingly summoning Him to come down to the earth, and bragging of their own power and might. In wrath the Lord quaked the earth, great fear fell upon all, both the impious ones were suspended in mid-air held by invisible bounds, and only by the prayer of the saint were they put down. The dazed emperor was shaken in his former impiety, but again quickly fell into error and gave orders to torture the saint. And finally, he sentenced him to beheading with a sword. During the time of his final prayer, the saint was vouchsafed to behold the Saviour Himself and besought Him to grant that place where his remains would repose, in peace, would be fruitful for people, bringing forgiveness of sins and salvation. The Lord promised to fulfill the request and ascended to heaven, bearing with Him the soul of the priestmartyr Charalampios – who through the mercy of God accepted a peaceful death before execution. The daughter of the emperor, blessed Galina, buried the body of the martyr with great honour.

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## FEB. COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

**Food Drive** – This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry** (at Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church, 105 S. 19<sup>th</sup> St., Pgh, PA 15203). Volunteers are needed on Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:45 to assist in the distribution of these goods. (If interested, please contact Fr Patrick first at 412-431-6428) Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! Here is a list of food items that they are looking for:

- ✓ Ready to eat canned fruit or vegetables
- ✓ Peanut Butter
- ✓ Jelly
- ✓ Canned Soups
- ✓ Canned Chili
- ✓ Macaroni & Cheese
- ✓ Spaghetti Sauce
- ✓ Pasta

- ✓ Noodle/Rice Mixes
- ✓ Small Package of Rice or Noodles
- ✓ Canned Stews
- ✓ Canned or Pouches of Tuna, Salmon or Chicken
- ✓ Boxed Meals ready to be prepared
- ✓ Baked Beans
- ✓ Canned and Boxed 100% Juice
- ✓ Crackers
- ✓ Tuna Helper Box
- ✓ Instant Cereal
- ✓ Boxed Cereal
- ✓ Canned Pastas (Chef Boyardee, Ravioli, etc.)
- ✓ Canned Meats

[stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html](http://stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html)

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**ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)*

**\* Important Upcoming Liturgical Dates:**

The Great Fast Begins: Monday, March 3  
 Palm Sunday / Holy Week: Sunday, April 13  
 Pascha: Sunday, April 20

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\*\*\* **Real-Break Fundraiser** - This summer, through the grace of God and the OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship), Nicholas Ditmore has been given an amazing opportunity to travel to Romania through their *Real Break Program*. In order to go on this trip, he is asking for your prayers and your consideration in donating for his trip. He is grateful for your support! Visit:

[https://orthodoxchristianfellowship.givingfuel.com/crowd/real-break-romania-2025/fundraiser/21731?fbclid=IwY2xjawIqGQ1leHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHVzJg6nChCAuIP35r8YgcvQ-gJd6pqqdbnBxN1\\_H\\_eQne\\_SoE57WRpBYNAw\\_aem4luTO4jSOilo7dYSNi\\_Xtg](https://orthodoxchristianfellowship.givingfuel.com/crowd/real-break-romania-2025/fundraiser/21731?fbclid=IwY2xjawIqGQ1leHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHVzJg6nChCAuIP35r8YgcvQ-gJd6pqqdbnBxN1_H_eQne_SoE57WRpBYNAw_aem4luTO4jSOilo7dYSNi_Xtg)

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\*\*\* **Very Rev. Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko 10th Anniversary of his Falling Asleep** - Join us on Saturday March 22, 2025 at **Transfiguration Monastery** (321 Monastery Ln, Ellwood City, PA 16117) for:

9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by Memorial Service  
 12 noon - Memorial Luncheon  
 1:30pm Reflections and Remarks (Serge Schmemmann and V.Rev. Alexander Garklavs)  
 3:30pm Great Vespers with Procession of the Holy Cross  
 See flyer in hall for details. *(Services and Reflections will be streamed on our YouTube Channel)*

[www.orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org/](http://www.orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org/)

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\*\*\* **Pittsburgh Marathon - Walk or Run with Team IOCC** - Help change lives around the world! Join us on Saturday, May 3 at the Pittsburgh Marathon Weekend. Choose a Race as a Solo Participant or Form Your Own Team! (5K, 4-Mile Fitness Challenge, Kids Marathon, Pet Walk, Toddler Trot, Champions Mile) SIGN UP NOW AT [iocc.org/pgh](http://iocc.org/pgh). Questions? Contact Dean Stambolis at [DeanStambolis@verizon.net](mailto:DeanStambolis@verizon.net) or 412.874.9572.

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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/](http://www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/)

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**Calendar** - Future Services are updated online at:

[www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar)

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

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**“Code” for reading the bulletin:**

\*\*\* = new news    \*\* = 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the bulletin

\* = at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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\* **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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**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 Schmack

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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](mailto: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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**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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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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**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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**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%	Upper Range Giving 10%	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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**MONTHLY SCHEDULE**

- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2**  
 Zacchaeus Sunday  
 9:15 am Third Hour  
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
*take down remaining Christmas decorations*
- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
 6:30 pm Akathist to St. Xenia and holy anointing  
 7:15 pm Exploring Orthodoxy 101
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - TRIODION BEGINS**  
 Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee  
 9:15 am Third Hour  
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
 Monthly Memorial (Panachida)  
**A FAST FREE WEEK**
- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
 SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS: ST. BASIL THE GREAT, ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, AND ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM.
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14**  
 6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

Blessing of Candles  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15** (*40 days after Nativity*)  
 FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD  
 9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy  
 Blessing of Candles

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16**  
 Sunday of the Prodigal Son  
 9:15 am Third Hour  
 9:30 Divine Liturgy  
 Youth Sunday  
 Blessing of Candles

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23**  
 Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)  
 9:15 am Third Hour  
 9:30 pm Divine Liturgy  
 Pre-Lenten Breakfast

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**FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH**

**KONDAK HYMNS OF THE FEASTS:**

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**Coming Soon...**

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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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### February NAMEDAYS:

Timothy Martin, Reader – Apostle Timothy of the 70 (2/4)

Dolores Bowser - Virgin-martyr Dorothea (2/19)

Father’s Godson, Zachariah Kalaluhi – Prophet Zachariah (2/21)

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

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### February Birthdays:

Fr. Marc Wisnosky (2/1), Chris Bowser (2/6), Fr. Edward Pehanich (2/4), Pañi’s mother, Alexandrina Liana Popescu (2/6), Charles Kretchek (2/8), Richard Gedid (2/9), Harmonie Torchia (2/11), Pañi Kathy Buczak (2/11), Fr. James Gleason (2/12), Matthew Peifer (2/13), Samantha Ditmore (2/14), James Hanchulak (2/17), Barbara Leone (2/19), Carly Jozwiskowski (2/21), Barbara Kirish (2/22), *Father’s nephew,* Brian Verbanick, Jr (2/22), Fr Stephen Krivonak (2/23), Fr William Bennett (2/28), His-All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew I (2/29/40)

...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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### February Anniversaries:

Cynthia & Jeffrey Morrison (2/5)

Joanne & Ron Nelson (2/10)

Derek and Ashley (Wertz) Andrekovich (2/18)

Carly & Kyle Jozwiskowski (2/29)

...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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