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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Melanie Shuster; Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Roberta Kruchkevich; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Barbara Kirish; Cindy Pavilonis; Patty Watson.

“I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” - John 8:12

The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by John Gaydos, Jr., In Memory of Mother, Catherine; and by Olga Radick, In Memory of Sister, Mary (Donley) Creedon. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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Coffee Social Stewards Are Needed! The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors. *Please* sign up on the list in the church hall to keep this critical ministry alive in our parish! (Don't over think the menu - Plan to *keep it simple* ☺) **We thank the ACRY who has hosted the social since October.**

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Garage Sale Items – The church hall is now ready to receive your articles that you are not using in your house, yet could be of good use to someone else! Begin bringing them in when you come for a service at the church.

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P Faith Night at PNC Park – is **Thursday, August 17th** at 7:05 vs the St Louis Cardinals. Please contact **Wendy Martelotti** (martelotti11@verizon.net) if you are interested in getting a ticket. *More details coming in the near future... and Let's Go Bucs!*

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Visit Our Parish & Diocese On-Line

St John's: www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com
Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Spring Retreat - *“Humility and Obedience,”* by Dr. Christopher Veniamin (from St. Tikhon's Seminary) will be on **Saturday, June 10th** from 10:30am-2:30pm at the St. John the Divine Orthodox Church (42 McKee Ave., Monessen, PA 15062). Registration is \$20 and due by June 3rd. Contact Fr. Evansky (724-266-5009 / frbill158@verizon.net) for more details. *Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Pgh and W PA (OCA)*

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Slavjane Folk Ensemble Concert – This year's dinner-theater concert will be held at St. Elias Social Hall (4200 Homestead Duquesne Rd., Munhall, PA 15120) on **Saturday, June 10th**. Doors open at 5:00 pm; concert begins at 6:00 pm. Adult tickets are \$5 and youth under 16 are free. Please contact Dean Poloka at 412-877-9351 to order your tickets or for further information.

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Upcoming Greek Food Festivals:

- June 5-10 - All Saints (601 West McMurray Rd., Canonsburg)
- June 12-17 - Koimissis (2111 Davidson St., Aliquippa)
- June 13-16 - Holy Cross (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh)
- June 23-25 - Holy Dormition (12 Washington Ave., Oakmont)

Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church hall for times and more information or visit <http://www.holytrinitypgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide>

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

May 28: Mary Jane Hudak

June 4: **OPEN**

June 11: **OPEN**

Thank you to all those who support this critical ministry of our Church!

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Calendar Party will be held at our sister parish of St Michael's in Rankin on **Sunday, June 4th**. Doors open at 12:30, luncheon at 1:00 with an \$18 donation requested. Fun! Games! and Fellowship!

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Family Day - Plan now to attend Family Day at Camp Nazareth on **June 11th**. Either attend Liturgy on the North Side and drive up to camp for lunch and a relaxing afternoon (*it takes about an hour and 10 minutes to make the trip*) or go to camp for Liturgy at 10am. The flyer is hanging in the church hall with additional details for the day!

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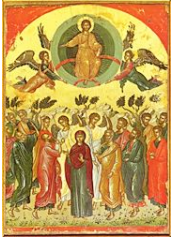
Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 70
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 238
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special	\$ 508
Mother's Day Flowers:	\$ 100
Loose Money:	\$ 92
Total Donations:	\$ 958
Fundraising Account:	\$ 1832

Collection for the Saints:

“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper.” 1 Cor 16:2





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FEAST DAY FEATURE:

Tropar from the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God; You delighted the Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through this blessing they were assured that You are the Son of God, the redeemer of the World.

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

From: <http://www.acrod.org/ministries/stewardship/stewardship-blog/>

The Biblical connotation of Stewardship “Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How are we robbing thee?’ In your tithes and offerings.” (Malachi 3:8)

In 2010, the Diocesan Stewardship Commission after much research provided the Diocese with a true Biblical connotation of Stewardship which reads:

“Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a *Christ-centered* lifestyle, which acknowledges *accountability, reverence, and responsibility* before God. Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a call to all of the faithful to share *willingly and cheerfully* the gifts that God has bestowed on them including sharing these gifts for God’s work in His Church.”

What a wonderful definition of Stewardship. And although this definition has been circulating through the Diocese for almost seven years now we find that when the word “stewardship” is brought up, most people immediately fall back on the Western Christian concept of “MONEY.” Where in the Commission’s definition do you see, “give us money.” What it says is to *center your life around Christ*, put Him first, before all things. Don’t just give Christ an hour or two on Sunday or a Feast Day and then go back to your secular lives forgetting what you just heard and experienced in the Liturgy.

Accountability, reverence, and responsibility; what in the world does that mean? It means that the way you live your life will be accountable to God at the awesome judgment seat! You ask for a good accounting at that awesome judgment seat every Sunday in the Liturgy, that is if you are paying attention.

You are responsible for the gifts that God has given you not to do as you want with them but to use them on your journey to salvation (Theosis) as well as to share with others on their journey. They are to be used for the glory of God, not for your personal comfort. You are responsible for using the time and talents He has given you to help others by teaching adult classes, youth ministry, Sunday school, active in prayer groups as well as Bible discussion groups. You are expected to welcome visitors and strangers into the church, make them feel wanted and at home so that the Holy Spirit might



work in them. You are admonished to provide financial support to your parish for operating expenses as well as Orthodox Outreach to the community.

The Church is not a place you come just to be enriched, partaking of the Body and Blood of Our Savior, and then go home to your secular life and comforts. You made a covenant with God when you were Baptized, and you recommit to this covenant each time you enter the Church and cross yourself. That covenant was to be a member of the body of Christ, the Church. That commitment is to do EVERYTHING within your power to help the Church and each and every member of the church. It takes work: it takes PARTICIPATION. There is that word again, participation, “being in communion.”

You are to do this *willingly and cheerfully* for God loves a cheerful giver! Folks, your salvation is in the balance here. The Commission states that “Stewardship is a Way of Life.” That sums it all up, it can also have a subtitle, “Stewardship is a Way of Salvation.” If you are not giving in proportion to what you have received for the glory of God and the service of your neighbor, then you are not following Christ’s new commandment, (John 13:34), “to love your neighbor as I have loved you.” If you are not practicing the commandments, then your salvation is in jeopardy.

If you can’t remember the beautiful, Biblical definition of Stewardship that the Commission wrote, Bill Marianes, GOA, summed it up this way, “What are you doing with the gifts that God has given you?” Are you using them for the glory of God or your comforts?

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- Take one of the coffee social weeks
- Bring in a lightly used coat for FOCUS
- Join the ACRY
- Attend additional services
- Bring in items for the Garage Sale
- Donate to our parish
- Donate to our Monthly Community Outreach

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Explanation of *why* and *when* Panachidas (short Memorial Services) are served

- Remembering the deceased in prayer to God is an important expression of love and faith.
- On the **3rd** day (in honor of the Holy Trinity and Christ’s three day burial),
- On the **9th** day (in honor of the orders of angels), and
- On the **40th** day (in honor of the Feast of the Ascension and Christ’s 40 days on earth after His Resurrection).

From: <http://www.orthodox.net/articles/excerpts-from-on-end-of-our-life-st-symeon-thessaloniki.html>

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Sustainable Living: Stewards of what God has given us

Our monastery has two large organic vegetable gardens, and we purchase all our additional food from organic sources. We believe living without chemicals to be much healthier for ourselves and the planet. Raising free range chickens and ducks, and eating only organic eggs fits in with our overall view of living as good stewards of the earth. We are hoping to soon have the solar panels that were donated to the monastery installed, so we can give witness to the importance of sustainable living. As Christians we should be concerned with how we impact the earth, and sustainability and simple living is all a part of taking better care of our planet as custodians of what God has given us.

Our hens and ducks, like all animals, are God's creatures. They have feelings, as is quite evident to anyone who's raised them, and they deserve to be treated with loving care. I can only image the pain and suffering that "egg factories" inflict on hens that are forced to live an unspeakably



horrible life cramped in small cages, treated as egg producing machines, rather than creatures created by a loving God.

It is important we treat all animals with love and respect. Our fowl will live out their lives beyond their egg producing years and will never be slaughtered for eating. But if one is going to eat meat, he should make sure the animals destined for his table were raised with kindness and are not subjected to unnecessary pain and suffering.

The earth belongs to God, and the animals, plants, soil, and water, are all meant by God as gifts that sustain us as travelers into His Kingdom. Our God expects us to be good stewards of the natural world, and guardians of this material realm. We should never take for granted the beauty that surrounds us, and the animals that share the miracle that is life.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

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What the church calendar is for From *Theology That Sticks* by Joel J. Miller

During the Easter season it's worth asking why Christians follow a liturgical calendar in the first place. People can't help but follow some sort of calendar. The real question is whether we do it consciously or unconsciously; our spiritual health might depend on our answer.

Consider the various schedules and agendas set for us. There's a commercial calendar, electoral calendar, sports calendar, agricultural calendar, work calendar, and more.

Focus on the first for just a moment.

Scoot past a shopping mall a week after Halloween, and the whole place turns red and green. Pumpkins give way to snowflakes. Kids are still gnawing through their trick-or-treat bags, and Thanksgiving is a couple weeks out. Yet stores are already hyping the so-called holiday shopping season. Whose agenda drives that—and how does it affect us?

Priorities and values

We mark time with our priorities. Our calendars represent our values, and we conform our lives to them. That's why Jesus, as a Jew, celebrated all the Jewish feasts. Holy days like Passover and Hanukkah were—and are—integral to Jewish experience and identity.

Events of the past compose our present. To honor those events—and let them more intentionally shape our present—we bring them into the now by observance. That's what Memorial Day in America explicitly does. But other holidays like the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving work the same way.

We are marked by how we mark time. And observance is all the more meaningful and transformative when it comes to God's saving activity in human history.

Celebrating Easter makes present the power of the Resurrection in our lives. That's why the early Christians began commemorating the day and other annual holy days as well. They were identifying with those events, making them

present, and transforming their lives in light of their significance.

Formed and deformed

This calendar dynamic works unconsciously as well as consciously—and the results can vary significantly. The agendas that drive our commercial, corporate, or entertainment calendars are not bad in themselves.

Neither are they good in themselves. Our priorities must be reordered so they serve our sanctification instead of becoming accidental obstacles to it. If we are not consciously doing that, we often react to the prompts and signals of the world's many calendars with little awareness of how we are conforming our efforts and energies to their agendas.

James K. A. Smith discusses this in his new book, *You Are What You Love*, with an eye on consumerism:

"I don't *think* my way into consumerism. Rather, I'm covertly conscripted into a way of life because I have been *formed* by cultural practices that are nothing less than secular liturgies. My loves [desires, wants, priorities] have been automated by rituals I didn't even realize were liturgies."

These "cultural liturgies" form and deform us, says Smith. And the evidence is everywhere around us, as well as in us.



Redeeming the time

Two verses come to mind when I consider the role of calendars: "teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom" from Psalm 90, and "mak[e] the most of the time, because the days are evil" from Ephesians 5.

The first tells me we can number our days poorly or well, foolishly or wisely, by our standards or by God's, and that our hearts are transformed by numbering our days well. The second tells me that there's something at stake here. If we do not redeem the time we're given, we will suffer the consequences.

The church gives us seasons like Lent and Advent, days like Easter and Christmas, Annunciation and Pentecost to help us redeem the time and transform our hearts. That's what calendars can do. They not only direct our time,

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

“The hour has come signifies Christ is Lord over time. “He voluntarily willed to ascend the Cross in the flesh” (*hymn of Orthodoxy Sunday*). Glorify refers to the redemption of all creation that will be accomplished through the Cross and Resurrection— the purpose for which Christ was sent into the world. In this redemption, the Father and the Son are glorified. This is why the Cross, which is a sign of death, is glorified in the Church as “life-giving” and the “weapon of peace.” - *Orthodox Study Bible, John 17:1*

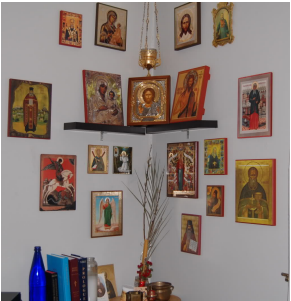
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PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & Other Needs *

NO KNEELING IN PRAYER – We will offer prayers to God in a standing position for the next **50** days. As you pray at home, please remember that you should be praying in a standing position. The reason for standing is that kneeling indicates a kind of *penitential position* and with the Resurrection of Christ we are in a *joyful season* and have no need of having sorrow in our hearts.

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

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For the Health of... Helen R., Ann, Eleanor D., Julie, Jane, Mildred, Mark, Viola, Juliana, Nathaniel, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Teresa, David, Larry, Susan, Anna Mae, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Lawrence, Fredrick, Donald, Iris, Helen B., Sharon, Dustin, Dan ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Great-Martyr & Healer.*

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Birthday Prayers for... Kenneth Parks (belated 5/22), Michael Horbal (5/29), Melanie Shuster (5/30), June Sefscik (6/1) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace & love all the days of their lives & may He grant them many & blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*

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Anniversary Prayers for... Dustin & Caitlin Brozell (6/1) and Adam & Jean Zak (6/2) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Scott, Sarah, Nancy, Amee, Andrea, Christopher, Ryan, Marianne, Jason and our Church Council and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Jane, Sharon, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, John, Richard, John, and Margaret ...*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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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Sgt. Walter Dylan Mushinsky, Maj. Michael Repasky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For Expectant Mothers... Nicole, Jessica, Sharon, Roxanne, & Pañi Katie ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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

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For those preparing for Marriage... ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia & all Holy Martyrs.*

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you would 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 and sisters in Christ. Those whom we add to the list do **NOT** need to be Orthodox Christians.

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

Prokimen from the Feast of Ascension

Be exalted above the heavens, O God, and let Your glory be over all the earth.
Voznesisja na nebesa Bože, i po vsej ze mi slava tvoja.