

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Rev. Fr. Dave Urban, *Pastor*

Very Rev. Fr. John Branco, *Pastor Emeritus*

Timothy Martin, *Reader*

Matthew Peifer, Stephen Branco, & John Radick, *Cantors*

Matthew Peifer, *Church Council President*

2688 California Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pa 15212

Rectory: 412-766-4691

OrthodoxPittsburgh1937@gmail.com

www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com

www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

June 18, 2017

Volume III

2nd Sunday after Pentecost / Synaxis of the Carpatho-Rusyn Saints

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 1

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16; Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

YOUTH Sunday / Panachida for all deceased Fathers



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

* Monday	Romans 7:1-13	<i>All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. – 1 Tim.3:16-17</i>	Matthew 9:36-10:8
* Tuesday	Romans 7:14-8:2		Matthew 10:9-15
* Wednesday	Romans 8:2-13		Matthew 10:16-22
* Thursday	Romans 8:22-27		Matthew 10:23-31
* Friday	Romans 9:6-19		Matthew 10:32-36; 11:1
* Saturday	Romans 3:28-4:3		Matthew 7:24-8:4

* Apostles' Fast (Peter & Paul Fast) * Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did.

Sunday, June 25 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost /

9:30 am – Deacon's Service w/ Eucharist

Tone 2

Liturgical Color: **Green**

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10; Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

Additional Collection for our Community Outreach

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)

Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na v'iki!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! **Please join us downstairs** for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon! **If you have any questions** in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

This Bulletin is offered:

In memory of
+Anthony and
+Dorothy Horbal.
May their memory
be eternal!

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions for this section to Father by Wednesday.)

Vacation – Father Dave (and family) will be on vacation in Romania from Monday, June 19th thru Tuesday, July 4th. Please contact the following priests for any hospital visits or emergencies:

Fr. Robert Prepelka: 724-266-2879

Fr. Nik Ferencz: 724-953-6046

*Fr. Michael Zak: 412-461-3264

(*Fr Zak will not be available from 6/25-28)

+++ +++ +++

Welcome to the Newly Baptized! **Christopher Stephen Kubis** was baptized and initiated into the Orthodox faith yesterday. May God give good strength to him as he begins his Christian life and bless him, his God-parents, parents, and families!

+++ +++ +++

Ready for Donations – It is time for us to fill our donation bins in the hall for our annual drive for Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City. The delivery date in July will sneak up on us – please bring in your items next week.

+++ +++ +++

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.

Electrical Update – This past Wednesday evening, the junction box in the 'line' from the main panel going up to the subpanel in the church proper was smoking. All proper measures have been taken (fire department, Duquesne Light, electrician...). Work is being done to get the boxes and church up to current code. Your prayers of thanksgiving are greatly appreciated!

+++ +++ +++

Coat Drive – Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn in years – but it still looks good and you don't want to get rid of it? We are now collecting coats and jackets, in good condition, to donate to FOCUS Pittsburgh this August. We will 'store' the clean coats on the coat rack in the church hall.

+++ +++ +++

Holy Fire from Jerusalem for your home - If you would like to take the Holy Fire home, one option is to purchase a 6-day candle (that fits nicely in car cup holders) and take the Light home. (It's not recommended to drive with the windows open.) When the candle is out, we'd appreciate it if you brought the empty glass back to church with you the following week. (Purchase multiple candles and keep the flame going!)

+++ +++ +++

Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; 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**

+++ +++ +++

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship: \$ 777
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: \$ 109
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special \$ 335
Total Donations: \$ 1211
Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 63

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

+++ +++ +++

Coffee Social Stewards Are Needed - The ideas are being kicked around for changing our format for the weekly coffee social. On weeks that no one signs up for the coffee social, we will have a 'pot-luck' meal. On these weeks, we ask that every household brings something small for

a pot-luck surprise spread for the community to enjoy that week! (Don't over think the menu - Plan to *keep it simple* ☺) *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.* Lets keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

+++ +++ +++

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

June 25: **"Pot-Luck"**

July 2: **"Pot-Luck"**

July 7: **"Pot-Luck"**

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

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH



Upcoming Greek Food Festivals:

- June 23-25 - Holy Dormition (12 Washington Ave., Oakmont)
- July 18-22 - Holy Trinity (2930 Beaver Rd., Ambridge)

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>

+++ +++ +++

"The Incredible Race" Orthodox Christian Vacation Church School at Holy Cross (123 Gilkeson Rd., Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228). **Monday, July 24 through Friday, July 28** from 9:00am ~ 12:00 Noon (*8:30am for Monday, July 24th). For all children age 3 through entering 6th grade (*older students, parents, and interested adults are welcome to volunteer!*) Nominal registration fee: \$12 if received by 6/30; \$17 by 7/15; \$22 after 7/15.

+++ +++ +++



"Camp Bible School" - Fellowship, Learning, and Fun at the O.C.A. Archdiocese Center (8641 Peters Rd., Cranberry Twp., PA 16066). **Saturday, July 29** from 11am~5pm with Vespers and Bonfire to follow. For all children Kindergarten through 6th grade. Lunch, Dinner, and Desert by the campfire provided. RSVP to Nicole Yakich at 724-513-3489 by July 15th.

+++ +++ +++

Holy Land Tour "Journey through the land of Jesus" - Hosted by *Taybeh Tours*. 10 day Holy Land Tour from September 13-23, 2017. **Deadline to sign up is June 25th**. Only 25 seats available. Cost is \$2,950 all-inclusive (airline tickets, hotels, 3 meals a day, tour guide, and tips). More information is on the flyer in the Church Hall or by contacting TAYBEH TOURS: Rula Houry: Cell: 724-799-1820 / Email: taybehtours@gmail.com.

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

ST JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2017 Requested Donations List from The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration

Monastery Supplies:

Paper napkins
Toilet tissue
Facial Tissues
Tall Kitchen White Trash bags
Black Trash Bags
Cases of water bottles
Plastic forks (individual, not in sets)
Plastic knives
Plastic spoons
dessert size **paper** plates
9in and 12in **paper** plates
Paper cups for cold drinks (approx 10oz size)

Paper cups for hot drinks (approx 10-12oz size)
Laundry detergents
Fabric softeners, liquid and dryer sheets
Postage Stamps
Used Greeting Cards

Cleaning Supplies:
Clorox Bathroom Cleaner (not wipes)
Clorox Bleach Cleaner
409 Cleaner
Old English Lemon Oil

Simple Green Cleaner
Window Cleaner
Toilet bowl cleaners
Air fresheners

Food Items:
Mixed salted nuts (without peanuts)
Small cans of tuna

Kitchen items:
Sandwich bags
Freezer bags
Paper towels
Wax paper

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

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

Fairness and Credibility *"I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. You know that I have served your father with all my strength; yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times, but God has not permitted him to harm me."* (Genesis 31: 5-7)

Jacob was deceived several times by La'ban. It was not fair how La'ban had treated him yet Jacob persisted until God instructed him to take his wives, children and flocks and leave. I think that most of us at one time or another and to one degree or another have had something happen to us that was just not fair. Most of us took it in stride and continued with other lives. There is an ever increasing movement in this country that there must be an equality of outcomes. Not that we have to work for them but that they should just be given to us. And, furthermore, if that does not happen we are justified in doing something radical.



We talk and complain about how unjust life is and that because somebody else has treasure or material things they must be crooked. They talk about never getting a break in this life and how others were born with a silver spoon in their mouth.

And our children watch and listen.

Is it surprising then that our children leave the church? They have learned from the parents that life is not fair or just. The parents make so big a deal out of the materials things of this world is it any wonder that their minds focus on what is in this world. Why have we taught our children, by example, that inequality has to be solved by us as if there is no God. We spend our lives in anger and being upset that there is no fairness. Our children see no joy, peace and happiness in us. Is that not what we tell our children that God brings to us?

Where do we find in scriptures that life is to be fair? The reason that injustice and inequality is so prominent today is that the hope of eternal life has been dismissed by the younger generations. This is a bad theology that the younger generations are developing. "Moderns" truly believe that "this life is all there is and therefore dismiss the notion of the resurrection of the dead as a myth" states Fr. Barnibus Powell, Ancient Faith Radio. They want their fair share now, in this one and only life that they believe in.

Folks, God has given each of us the gifts that were appropriate to us, what have we done with them? God watches what injustice happens in this life and He will repay. We must stand up to tyranny and wrong but not in a way that it is all up to us. God has blessed all of us richly, no matter how much in poverty we might be. Let us use those gifts that He has given us for our journey to salvation and for assisting others in their journey and not for teaching our children to worship the things of this world as if God did not exist. Let us teach our children by example that there is eternal life and by living our lives as Christ has taught us, using the gifts He has given us, putting our trust in Him, eternal life is in our grasp.

If this is in essence what the current thought is propagating is it any wonder that stewardship is frowned upon. I pay my dues, that is all I have to do; I spent one day two months ago helping clean the church; what does the church do with all the money it gets; what does the priest do all day long to deserve that salary. I did my part let somebody else do theirs. Is it any wonder than that we have no credibility with our children when it comes to the church and stewardship.

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

Our actions speak much louder than our words. We talk a good game about the necessity of church, confession and communion and then miss church because of a football game, fishing trip, golf outing; go to confession and communion once a year. We complain about fasting periods and homilies being too long. And all the time our children are watching and learning.

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

DEACON: The Deacon is the third and lowest degree of the major orders of clergy in the Orthodox Church, following the bishop and the presbyter (priest). The word *deacon* (from Greek) means *server*.

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

LIVING ORTHODOXY

For the next two weeks, we will have a Deacon from our sister parish in Homestead to serve our community. Here's some information about a Deacon:

DUTIES:

The deacon ministers to the priest and bishop in the divine services. This includes:

- Assisting in the celebration of the mysteries of the Church
- Leading the people in the collective prayers (with the blessing of the presiding priest or bishop)
- Reading from the Scriptures during the divine services (with the blessing of the presiding priest or bishop)

- Keeping the decorum of the public worship, including calling people to attention at appropriate times
- Any tasks of the subdeacon or reader (*the two minor orders of the Orthodox Church*)
- Other tasks related to Church life, with the blessing and direction of his priest or bishop.

In some jurisdictions, a deacon may be blessed by his bishop and parish priest to distribute the Eucharist to the faithful, either from a second chalice at a regular liturgy where a priest is serving or in connection with an Obednitsa (Typika) service that is celebrated when the priest is absent.

What a deacon does may depend on jurisdiction - some consider the diaconate as a short interval before the priesthood - but, where permanency or longevity in the diaconate is prized, deacons will often head educational programs and youth groups, perform hospital visitation, missionary work, and conduct social welfare projects.

ETIQUETTE:

For formal occasions (for example, in the heading of a letter or when introducing a speaker), one would politely address or refer to a deacon as "The Rev. Deacon [name]." Deacon is often abbreviated *Dcn.*

In informal settings, for example, in normal conversation, it is appropriate to simply refer to a deacon as "Deacon [name]" or "Father Deacon [name]", depending on the tradition.

Deacons cannot bless, so it is inappropriate to ask a deacon for his blessing; blessings are given only by bishops and priests. In some traditions, however, such as in Greece, the deacon's hand (as well as the hand of an abess of a monastery or, occasionally, an unordained monastic) is sometimes kissed as a sign of respect for the Holy Spirit which operates through that person's office. Neither kissing a deacon's hand nor not kissing it is strictly "right" or "wrong."

TYPIKA SERVICE:

is a brief service that is appointed by the Typikon for certain occasions but may also be conducted when a priest or bishop is not present. There are various modifications that are made to this service to incorporate elements from the Divine Liturgy, some of which are designed to be led by laymen; and in some jurisdictions, it can also be a service led by a deacon which includes the distribution of Holy Communion.

DEACON'S TYPIKA (OBEDNITZA)

This Typika service is a form of Pre-Sanctified Liturgy held by a deacon and authorized by the local bishop when a priest is unavailable. The deacon distributes communion to the faithful present at the service. It should be noted that while this service is blessed in some jurisdictions, it is not universally accepted, nor is it of ancient origin. However, the idea of deacons bringing communion to those unable to attend the Liturgy is an ancient custom, and so it can be argued that the ancient custom provides the basis for this more recent practice.

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Office Hours – Will resume after July 5th - Monday-Friday from 9am–4pm OR by appointment.

Online Community – Please email Fr. Dave at fr.sleepless@gmail.com to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

Phone Tree – Please call Fr. Dave at 412-766-4691 to be added to our Phone Tree.

Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, Saturdays during fasting periods from 11:00am to 1:00 pm, OR by appointment.

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

Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure so he can pray with you and you may receive the Anointing to be fully prepared.

Baptisms – Please consult Father ASAP for details.

Marriages – Please consult Father ASAP for details (before arrangements are made for the hall).

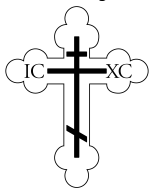
Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations; otherwise burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

+++ +++ +++

“The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times.

The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning.” - *Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++



+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

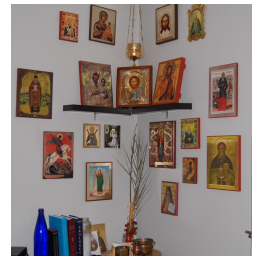
PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & Other Needs **



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

+++ +++ +++



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, Daniel, Herb, Maria, Matthew ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Great-Martyr & Healer.*

+++ +++ +++

Birthday Prayers for... Donna (Lanick) Staub (6/20), Pañi Melissa Chendorain (6/20), Mary Jane Hudak (6/23) ...*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!*

+++ +++ +++



For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Ameer, Andrea, Jason, Nicole, David, Penelope, Tyrone 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.*

+++ +++ +++

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.*

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

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



+++ +++ +++

For the souls of the newly departed... +Helen (Luchik) Ritz and the Priest, +Elias Kozar ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain, sorrow, or mourning. May their memory be eternal!*

+++ +++ +++

* 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.

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

"The law written in their hearts refers to a person's conscience. Because man's conscience is God-given, it has the same power to lead a person to God as the law does. According to St. John Chrysostom, those who are able to follow their conscience to God are more virtuous than those with the law, for they do not have the advantage of concrete instructions yet still desire to please God." *Orthodox Study Bible, Romans 2:15*

+++ +++ +++

"Learn what humility is, you who have devilish pride! What then is humility? To be lowly-minded. And he is lowly-minded who humbles himself, not he who is lowly by necessity. To explain what I say (and pay attention): he who is lowly-minded when he has it in his power to be high-minded, is humble. For he that humbles himself shall be exalted." +St. John Chrysostom

+++ +++ +++

"Hold fast to the blessed and joyful sorrow of holy compunction and do not cease laboring for it until it lifts you high above the things of the world to present you, a cleansed offering, to Christ." +St. John of the Ladder

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

A Prayer for Travel

O God, our God, the true and living way, who did journey with Your servant Joseph; do now journey with Your servant(s), *name(s)*, and deliver *him/her/them* from every storm and snare, and peace and vigor continually provide. Be pleased that, having accomplished every intention of righteousness, according to Your commandment, and being filled with temporal and heavenly blessings, *he/she/they* may return again. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, unto ages of ages. Amen.