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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Viola Peifer; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Barbara Kirish; 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

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Relocation Update – The Church Council went and visited a property in Coraopolis, PA. For various reasons, including structural and location, they felt that it was not good for us to pursue it. We are continuing to explore the 79 corridor. Please keep praying for our future!

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Power Washer – we are currently looking to borrow a power washer for a couple minor maintenance things around the church. Please contact a member of the Church Council if you know of one that we can use.

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Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD) – We invite you to join with other St John's faithful in giving to the annual DDD program. This program greatly supports our ministry at Camp Nazareth and other programs in our diocese. Those who give \$100 (& up) are invited to the Annual Banquet, which this year will be held at 3pm on **Sunday, October 1st** at the Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pgh, PA 15235). Please see Father or Larry Martin, our new local ambassador, for more information.

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Annual Fall Bazaar – St. Michael's (146 Third Ave., Rankin, PA 15104) will hold its annual fall bazaar on **Sunday, October 8th** from 11am to 4pm. Food, crafts, raffles, bingo and fellowship!

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- Assist in painting the foundation of the parish house
- Take one of the coffee social weeks
- Attend additional services

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Dues/Stewardship:	\$ 715
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 121
<u>Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:</u>	<u>\$ 448</u>
Total Donations:	\$ 1284

*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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Coffee Social Stewards Needed – On weeks that no one signs up to host and organize our 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* ☺) Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after. *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!

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

- September 17 – Annual Mtg.: **"Pot Luck"**
- September 24: **catered luncheon**
- September 31: **"Pot Luck"**

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

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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



Orthodoxy on Tap – POYA, the Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults, will host their next event **TONIGHT, Sunday, September 10th** at 6:30 pm at the Sharp Edge Beer Emporium in Shadyside (302 S St Clair St., Pgh., Pa 15206). The guest speaker will be His Grace, Bp. Thomas of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese who will speak on *"Orthodox Spirituality 101"*.

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The Orthodox Young Professionals Group is having their 3rd gathering on **Saturday, September 16th** at 7pm at Social in Bakery Square (6425 Penn Ave., Pgh, PA 15206) for food and drinks. Bring one burning question you have always had about Orthodoxy and Fr. Dean Kokanos will be answering them. We will have a short discussion on a few questions over drinks and then spend the rest of the evening getting to know each other. RSVP by calling or texting Chris Burns at 330-603-6692.

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The Orthodox Family in a Changing World Conference – The Center for Family Care is hosting this conference in an effort to explore critical issues in the family life-cycle including elder care, addiction, special-needs families, the effect of technology on relationships, and sexuality. The conference will be held **September 20-23** at The Hilton Garden Inn Southpointe (1000 Corporate Dr., Canonsburg, PA 15317). Please see the flyer in the Church Hall or contact Father Dave for more information.

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Annual Walk for Missions – For over 25 years, the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood have gathered on the 2nd Sunday in October for the *Walk for Missions*. On **Sunday, October 8th** the walk will begin at South Park Children's Playground Pavilion at 1pm. Lunch and light refreshments will be served following the Walk. Even if you are unable to be with us in person, your donation will be extremely helpful in carrying out this important and necessary work of the Church.

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Revised ST JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



As mentioned last week, in the wake of recent hurricane damage in the USA, we will now be collecting monetary donations for the **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)**. This agency, that is under the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, represents Orthodox Christians in North America and understands its work to include developing in Orthodox Christians a commitment to philanthropy and global cooperative involvement in the work of the Orthodox Church. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Beheading of John the Baptist: Christians recall Salome's deadly request

A vengeful mother, a drunken king and a foolish promise formed the fatal trio that led to one of history's most infamous events: the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist.

Though no sources reveal the martyrdom's specific date, it is estimated between 28 CE and 32 CE. Observed today by both Eastern and Western Christians, this solemn remembrance is almost as old as the feast for John's birth—which is, markedly, one of the oldest feasts of the Church. **Eastern Orthodox Christians keep a strict, solemn fast, and in some countries, devotees refuse to eat from a flat plate, to use a knife or to consume any type of food that is round** — all, of course, objects symbolic of the tools used in the beheading.

A Seductive Dance And A Head On A Platter

Gospels and other ancient sources begin today's story with Herod, a sub-king of Judea under the Roman Empire. When Herod divorced his wife and unlawfully took his brother's wife, Herodias, it was John the Baptist alone who had the courage to rebuke Herod for his actions. Herod threw John in prison. During a raucous birthday party for Herod, Herodias' daughter, Salome, danced seductively before the king and his guests. Drunken and entranced by the dance, Herod promised Salome anything she wanted.

After a quick consultation with her mother, Salome requested John the Baptist's head on a plate. Though fearful of wrath, Herod kept his promise, and had John the Baptist executed.

Following the beheading, traditional stories hold that both Herod and Salome suffered terrible fates. Salome fell through an icy river and died: her body was trapped below the water, while her head was above the ice, in a stance eerily similar to the beheading she had been responsible for. Or, at least, so the stories go.

In The News: Speaking Out Against Christian Persecutions

As John the Baptist spoke out against the unlawful ways of King Herod, so Ronald S. Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, is asking: "Why is the world silent while Christians are being slaughtered in the Middle East and Africa?"

In a stirring piece published in the New York Times, Lauder poses a question for justice, asking everyone from the United Nations to celebrities why no one is taking a stand. Though Jews and Christians don't share everything, they do share a Bible and core beliefs, points out Lauder—and the Jews, who "understand all too well what can happen when the world is silent"—are speaking out, that "This campaign of death must be stopped."

Source: <https://www.readthespirit.com/religious-holidays-festivals/beheading-john-baptist/>

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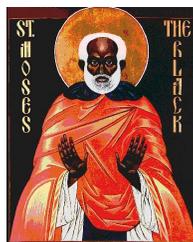
LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: <http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar>

The Monk Moses Murin the Black

Commemorated on Sept 10 / Aug 28

The Monk Moses Murin the Black lived during the 4th Century in Egypt. He was an Ethiopian, and he was black of skin and therefore called "Murin" (meaning "like an Ethiopian"). In his youth he was the slave of an important man, but after he committed a murder, his master banished him, and he joined in with a band of robbers. Because of his mean streak and great physical strength they chose him as their leader. Moses with his band of brigands did many an evil deed – both murders and robberies, so much so that people were afraid even at the mere mention of his name. Moses the brigand spent several years leading suchlike a sinful life, but through the great mercy of God he repented, leaving his band of robbers and going off to one of the wilderness monasteries. And here for a long time he wept, beseeching that they admit him amidst the number of the brethren. The monks were not



convinced of the sincerity of his repentance; but the former robber was not to be driven away nor silenced, in demanding that they should accept him. In the monastery the Monk Moses was completely obedient to the hegumen and the brethren, and he poured forth many a tear, bewailing his sinful life. After a certain while the Monk Moses withdrew to a solitary cell, where he spent the time in prayer and the strictest of fasting in a very austere lifestyle. One time 4 of the robbers of his former band descended upon the cell of the Monk Moses and he, not having lost his great physical strength, he tied them all up and taking them over his shoulder, he brought them to the monastery, where he asked of the elders what to do with them. The elders ordered that they be set free. The robbers, learning that they had chanced upon their former ringleader, and that he had dealt kindly with them – they themselves followed his example: they repented and became monks. And later, when the rest of the band of robbers

heard about the repentance of the Monk Moses, then they too gave up their brigandage and became fervent monks.

The Monk Moses did not quickly become free from the passions. He went often to the monastery hegumen, Abba Isidor, seeking advice on how to be delivered from the passions of profligacy. Being experienced in the spiritual struggle, the elder taught him never to overeat of food, to be partly hungry whilst observing the strictest moderation. But the passions would not cease for the Monk Moses in his dreams. Then Abba Isidor taught him the all-night vigil. The monk stood the whole night at prayer, not being on bended knees so as not to drop off to sleep. From his prolonged struggles the Monk Moses fell into despondency, and when there arose thoughts about leaving his solitary cell, Abba Isidor instead strengthened the resolve of his student. In a vision he showed him many a demon in the west, prepared for battle, and in the East a still greater quantity of holy Angels, likewise readied for fighting. Abba Isidor explained to the Monk Moses, that the power of the Angels would prevail over the power of the demons, and in the long struggle with the passions it was necessary for him to become completely cleansed of his former sins.

The Monk Moses undertook a new effort. Making the rounds by night of the wilderness cells, he carried water from the well to each brother. He did this especially for the elders, who lived far off from the well and who were not easily able to carry their own water. One time, kneeling over the well, the Monk Moses felt a powerful blow upon his back and he fell down at the well like one dead, laying there in that position until dawn. Thus did the devils take revenge upon the monk for his victory over them. In the morning the brethren carried him to his cell, and he lay there a whole year crippled up. Having recovered, the monk with firm resolve confessed to the hegumen, that he would continue to

asceticise. But the Lord Himself put limits to this struggle of many years: Abba Isidor blessed his student and said to him, that the profligate passions had already gone from him. The elder commanded him to commune the Holy Mysteries and in peace to go to his own cell. And from that time the Monk Moses received from the Lord the power over demons.

Having spent many a year at monastic exploits, the Monk Moses was ordained deacon. The bishop attired him in white vesture and said: "Abba Moses is now entirely white". The saint answered: "Vladyka, what makes it purely white – the outer or the inner?" Through humility the saint reckoned himself unworthy to accept the dignity of deacon. One time the bishop decided to test him and he bid the clergy to drive him out of the altar, whilst reviling him for being an unworthy black-Ethiopian. With full humility the monk accepted the abuse. Having put him to the test, the bishop then ordained the monk to be presbyter. And in this dignity the Monk Moses asceticised for 15 years and gathered round himself 75 disciples.

When the monk reached age 75, he forewarned his monks, that soon brigands would descend upon the skete and murder all that were there. The saint blessed his monks to leave in good time, so as to avoid the violent death, His disciples began to beseech the monk to leave together with them, but he replied: "I many a year already have awaited the time, when upon me there should be fulfilled the words which my Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, did speak: "All, who take up the sword, shalt perish by the sword" (Mt. 26:52). After this seven of the brethren remained with the monk, and one of these hid not far off during the coming of the robbers. The robbers killed the Monk Moses and the six monks that remained with him. Their death occurred in about the year 400.

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ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

Ecclesiastical New Year – On this day, when the Jews celebrated the new summer, the Savior, came to Nazareth where He was brought up and entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day as was His custom, and read these words of the Prophet Isaiah: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed Me...to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord*" (Luke 4,18:19). On September 1, 312 the Emperor Constantine the Great won a victory over Maxentius. After this Christians were granted complete freedom to confess their faith. In commemoration of these 2 events the fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council decided to begin the New Year on Sept. 14/1. In its hymns for this day the Holy Church prays "Creator and Fashioner of all things visible and invisible" "bless the crown of the year".

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THINGS TO CONSIDER

Office Hours – 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.

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.

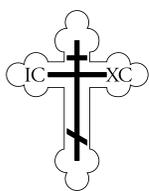
Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, Saturdays during fasting periods from 11:00am to 1:00 pm, OR by appointment.

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.

Baptisms – Please consult Father 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.



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PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and 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.



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For the Health of... Ann, Eleanor D., Julie, Jane, Mildred, Mark, Viola, Juliana, Nathaniel, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Teresa, Susan, Anna Mae, Roberta, Fr Shuster, Thomas, Lawrence, Fredrick, Iris, Helen B., Steven, Bruce, Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Valerie, Michael, Peter, John S. ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Great-Martyr & Healer.*

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For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Ameer, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Olga, John, Sarah and our Church Council and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Jane, Sharon, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, John, Richard, John, Margaret, Sarah, Patricia ...*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... Maj. Michael Repasky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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

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

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Birthday Prayers for... Tina Scherer (9/11), Ann Sefscik (9/14/21), Pañi Andrea Cochran (9/14), Pañi Daria Loposky (9/16)...*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! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*

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Anniversary Prayers for... ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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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 the soul of the newly departed... ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Memory eternal!*

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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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SPIRITUAL VITAMIN FOR THE WEEK

“Every morning you put on your clothes to cover your nakedness and to protect your body from the inclement weather. Why don’t you also clothe your soul with the garment of Faith? Remember every morning the truths of your creed, and look at yourself in the mirror of your Faith. Otherwise, your soul will soon be naked with the nakedness of oblivion.” +*Blessed Augustine*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

A Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion by St. Basil
My mouth is filled with exultation and my tongue with joy,
because I have partaken of Your life-giving mysteries, O Lord.
For that which “eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it occurred to the heart of man” You,
O God have prepared for those who love Your Holy Name;
and You have revealed them unto the small children of Your Holy Church.
Even so, Father, for it seemed pleasing in Your sight,
because You are merciful and we send up glory to You in the highest,
to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.
Amen.