

CHRIST IS RISEN!
*Christ is Risen From The Dead, Trampling
 Down Death By Death and To Those In The
 Tombs Bestowing Life!*
INDEED HE IS RISEN!



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

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



Reverend Dave Urban, *Pastor*
 Very Reverend John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*
 Timothy Martin, *Reader*
 Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
 Matthew Peifer, *Church Council President*
www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

2688 California Avenue
 Pittsburgh, Pa 15212
 412-748-0148, *Talk or Text*
 OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com

FEAST OF FEASTS!

APRIL 8th
 NO FASTING!



BRIGHT WEEK

HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1: 1-17

Greet everyone with
 "CHRIST IS RISEN!"

& say it before
 good morning and goodnight!

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy

Parish Family Photo / Children's Egg Hunt following Liturgy / Beginning of a Fast Free Week

Liturgical Color: **White**

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR BRIGHT WEEK

Monday, April 8 – 9:30am Paschal Divine Liturgy with Gospel Procession

Wednesday, April 10 – 7pm Akathist to St Panteleimon with holy anointing

Friday, April 12 – 9:30am Paschal Divine Liturgy, "Life-Giving Spring" of the Theotokos

Saturday, April 13 – 11am Mystery of Holy Baptism & Initiation into the Orthodox Faith of **Anthony Winkler**

The Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.



Bright Monday	St. Matrona of Thessalonica (4th c.)	Acts 1:12-17; 21-26	John 1:18-28
Bright Tuesday	"Iveron" Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos	Acts 2:14-21	Luke 24:12-35
Bright Wednesday	Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Holy Mount Sinai	Acts 2:22-36	John 1:35-51
Bright Thursday	St. Sophronius, bishop of Irkutsk (1771)	Acts 2:38-43	John 3:1-15
Bright Friday	"Life-giving Spring" Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos	Acts 3:1-8	John 2:12-22
Bright Saturday	Venerable Euthymius, monk, of Suzdal (1404)	Acts 3:11-16	John 3:22-33

A FAST FREE Week - Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Feast (in moderation) as they did!

No Kneeling in Prayer for 50 Days

Sunday, April 15 – 2nd Sunday of Pascha: St Thomas Sunday

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: Acts 5: 12- 20; Gospel: John 20: 19- 31

Breaking of the Artos / YOUTH Sunday / Add'l Collection for our CAP Fund / Semi-Annual Meeting

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

Christ is risen! (Indeed He is risen!)

Christos Voskrese! (Voistinu Voskrese!)

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

PASCHAL COMMEMORATIONS (to be remembered at Proskomedia all week)

Processional Candles Are Offered By Larry Martin In Memory Of Parents And Grandparents,
 Lawrence & Anastasia Martin And John & Helen Kailyar

Incense For Kadilo (Censer) Is Offered By Cindy Pavilonis For Mallory Anne Pavilonis And Jonathan
 Michael Knall For A Blessed Start To Their Life Together (4/28/18)

Charcoal For Kadilo (Censer) Is Offered Anonymously In Memory Of Nimic, Pitto, & Anton Families

Priest's Triple Paschal Candle Is Offered By Matt Peifer In Memory Of Father, Jack Peifer

Vesperal Loaves Are Offered Anonymously In Humble Thanksgiving For All Blessings Received.

Sacramental Wine Is Offered By Eleanor Dussling In Memory Of Metropolitan Nicholas Smisko;
 By Eleanor Dussling For The Good Health Of James & Kathy Schrmack And Their Family; And
 By Bob & Gina Fall In Memory Of Mothers, Alice Fall And Marion Mercurio

Eucharistic Bread Is Offered Anonymously (Bezmena) – For The Health And Life Our Of Parish

7 Candles On Altar Candelabra Are Offered By Melanie Paieski In Memory Of Mother, Catherine Gaydos

7 Candles On Altar Candelabra Are Offered By Theresa Sharpless In Memory Of Nick & Anna Buhonick

Decorated Candle On Altar Is Offered By Juliana Anton In Memory Of The Nimick, Pitto, & Anton Families

5 Decorated Candles On Altar Are Offered By Eleanor Sanger In Memory Of Family

Decorated Candles On Altar, Preparation Table, Tetrapod, And 4 Candles In Front Of Iconostasis
 Are Offered By Melanie & Michael Shuster In Memory Of Horbal And Shuster Families

Festive Oil Is Offered By John Gaydos In Memory Of Wife, Catherine

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

A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

**Christ is risen! (Indeed He is risen!)
Christos Voskresel! (Voistinu Voskresel!)**

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:
Anonymously
(Bezmena)
For The Health Of
Our Parish And
Parishioners*

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Tuesday, April 17 – 9:30am Akathist to the Holy Resurrection of Christ
Sunday, April 22 – 9:30am Deacon's Service with Eucharist
Sunday, April 29 – Additional collection for our Community Outreach

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

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Dear Family of St. John's, Christ is risen! (Indeed He is risen!)

We have arrived after our spiritual journey to the Feast of Feasts, PASCCHA! May the joy of this feast not be short lived. May the joy be shared with our neighbors as we greet each other with the Paschal greeting:

Christ is risen! (responded with: Indeed He is risen!). Have a blessed Bright Week and Paschal season.

Hristos a inviat! (Adevărat a inviat!) With Love, Maria, Sophia, Pañi Alexandra, and Father Dave

+++ +++ +++

Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Pani Brancho; Roberta Kruchkevich; Joanne Nelson; Jane Barrett; Julie Potoski; Theresa Sharpless; Melanie Paieski; Cindy Pavilonis; Mike Puhac; 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, Sr., in Memory of Wife, Catherine; by John Gaydos, Jr., in Memory of Mother, Catherine; by Carol Lorenzi, in Memory of Parents, Mike & Olga Tongel. May Their Memory Be Eternal!

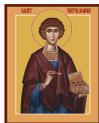
+++ +++ +++

Photo Hunt – Do you have any photos from St. John's Parish events from between **1932 & 1937**? Please contact Fr Dave if you do.

+++ +++ +++

Calling All Graduates – if you will be graduating from High School, a University, or a Trade School this year, please contact Father ASAP.

+++ +++ +++



Akathist to St Panteleimon – will be on **Wednesday, April 10th** at 7pm with holy anointing. *The Great Martyr Panteleimon is venerated in the Orthodox Church as a mighty saint, the protector of soldiers and Patron Saint of physicians and when meeting a difficult situation. This aspect of his veneration is derived from his first name Pantoleon, which means "a lion in everything". His second name, Panteleimon – given him at Baptism, which means "all-merciful", reveals it self in the veneration of the great martyr as healer. The connection between these two patronages of the saint is readily apparent in that soldiers are more in need of a physician-healer. Wherefore Christians in waging spiritual warfare also have recourse to this saint with a petition to heal the wounds of the soul.*

+++ +++ +++



ACRY Booklet – The 70th ACRY Bowling Tournament will be held in Perth Amboy, NJ (May 25-28). There is a sheet in the Church hall for anyone who wishes to be a Patron (\$10), Booster (\$5), or have a Memorial listing (\$5) in the commemorative booklet.

+++ +++ +++

Panachida Offerings – Panachidas (*Memorial Services for the Departed*) **cannot** be served on the Major Feast Days of our Lord as well as from Palm Sunday through St. Thomas Sunday.

+++ +++ +++

3rd Official Notice – Our Parish Semi-Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday, April 15th** following the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to discussing current church topics with the congregation.

+++ +++ +++

Clergy Convocation – Fr Dave will be at Camp Nazareth from Tuesday to Friday, **April 17-20**. For hospital calls, please contact **Fr. Tom Soroka** from our sister OCA parish (at **412-299-3942** or frthomas@OrthodoxPittsburgh.org). Please call the **camp** with any emergencies (**724-662-4840**).

+++ +++ +++

Vacation – Fr Dave will be unavailable from **April 21-28**. Please contact the following priests for any hospital visits or other emergencies:

- Fr. Robert Prepelka: 724-266-2879
- Fr. Nik Ferencz: 724-953-6046
- Fr. Michael Zak: 412-461-3264

+++ +++ +++



Family Day (June 3rd) Raffle Tickets are available from Theresa Sharpless. This is the only diocesan-wide fundraiser for camp and it is a significant source of income for the Camp Nazareth program and our children. Raffle tickets are \$20 each with prizes exceeding \$20,000. Support our camp: buy (*at least*) one. + + + The Family Day flyer is hanging in the church hall with details for the day!



Cemetery Grave Blessing – We will bless graves this year on **Sunday, May 6th**. We will celebrate a Panachida at Church and head to the cemetery after the coffee social to bless the graves.

+++ +++ +++

Italian Feast and Basket Raffle – This annual ACRY event will be held on **Saturday, May 19th**. Baskets are needed. There is a sign up sheet in the Church Hall with more details. All profits will go towards our church.

+++ +++ +++

Altar Boy Retreat – the Annual Altar Boy Retreat will take place from **Sunday June 24th to Wednesday, June 27th** at Christ The Saviour Seminary (Johnstown, PA). Registration information will be coming soon.

+++ +++ +++

Young Women's Encounter – the 5th Annual YWE will take place from **Sunday June 24th to Wednesday, June 27th** at the Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Christian Church in Windber, PA. *The YWE is designed specifically for our young women to provide them an opportunity to spend time in fellowship with each other, have fun, and pray together. They learn about our faith and to listen for God's call to each of us to use our unique gifts and abilities.* Young women in our Diocese ages 12-18 are encouraged to attend. You may contact Pañi Eleni Stagon, acrodywe@gmail.com for more information.

+++ +++ +++



112 Days Till Camp! – Early bird discount rates are available through **May 15th**. Information regarding registration is available at: www.CampNazareth.org. Please act fast to save 20 bucks! Our ACRY is offering a partial 'Campership' for assistance and other assistance is also available. **Please talk with Fr Dave before registering to get the online code that you will need.** *If you have never been to Camp Nazareth, you do not know what you are missing!* Our Deanery Camping week is **July 29 – Aug 4**. Please talk to Fr Dave if you have any questions.

+++ +++ +++



Our annual garage sale will be on **August 24th & 25th**. Tax-deductible clean donations will be accepted starting on **Sunday, May 20th**. Let us collect what is 'extra' for us, as it may be needed by someone else! This stewardship community outreach is here to help others!

+++ +++ +++

Bulletin Sponsor – Please contact Fr Dave or sign up in the Vestibule to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone. An additional stewardship offering to the Church is kindly requested.

Visit Our Diocese On-Line

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

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 1290
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 223
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 951.51
Presanctified:	\$ 242
Lenten Mission Collection:	\$ 333
Community Outreach:	\$ 40

Total Collections: \$ 3079.51

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

March Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 5829.41

***Expenses = \$ 5993.53**

Net Deficit = \$ 164.12

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 52



Looking FURTHER Ahead

Some 2018 dates of interest:

- ?? ? – Graduate Sunday
- May 2 – Feast of Mid-Pentecost
- May 6 – Grave Blessings
- May 17 – Feast of Ascension
- May 25-28 - ACRY Bowling Tournament (in Perth Amboy, NJ)
- May 26 – 5th All Souls Saturday
- May 27 – Feast of Pentecost
- May 28-Jun. 3 – Fast Free Week
- Jun. 1-3 – Family Camp at Camp Nazareth (CN)
- Jun. 3 – Family Day at Camp Nazareth
- Jun. 4 – Apostles Fast begins
- Jun. 24-27 – Young Women's Encounter AND Altar Boy's Retreat
- Jul. 7 – Feast of the Nativity of St John
- Jul. 8 – Church Picnic at "The Cabin" in North Park
- Jul. 12 – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
- Jul. 27 – Faith Night at PNC Park
- Jul. 29 - Aug. 4 – Pittsburgh Deanery Week at CN
- Aug. 2 – Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias
- Aug. 5 – Annual Blessing of Vehicles
- Aug. 5-11 – Science and Nature Week at CN
- Aug. 14 – Dormition Fast Begins
- Aug. 19 – Feast of the Transfiguration with the Blessing of Fruit and Vegetables
- Aug. 24-25 – Annual Garage Sale
- Aug. 28 – Feast of the Dormition
- Aug. 31 - Sep. 3 – ACRY Convention
- Sep. 2 – Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

Please, Save the Dates!

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Lk. 6:31)

- Pray for our parish
- Come to our semi-annual meeting
- Join the ACRY
- Assist with the Dinner & Basket Raffle
- Donate to our parish or one of it's outreaches
- Attend additional services
- Sponsor a Coffee Social

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

April 15: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

April 22: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

April 29: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

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. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

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

ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Designer Purse Bash – The 2nd Annual Purse Bash will be on **Saturday, April 21st** at St. Nicholas Church (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120). Doors open at 4pm with the Buffet served at 4:30. Tickets are \$30 per person and include 3 chances at the prizes plus a full meal. Grand Prize is a Louis Vuitton valued at over \$900! For more info, see the flyer in the Church Hall or contact Jessica Krchmar (412-290-3526 / jessicakrchmar@gmail.com).

+++ +++ +++

Diocesan Senior Retreat – *“I consider the days of old, I remember the years long ago... I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord.” (Psalm 77:5)* The inaugural Senior Citizen's retreat at Camp Nazareth will take place from **April 23-28!** All our Seniors, age 65 & older, are called to join Bp. Gregory at the Camp for 3 days of worship, fellowship, learning, fun, time for reflection & relaxation, and time spent together in fellowship in order to be spiritually rejuvenated. The Retreat is being offered with you, our Seniors, specifically in mind. Register online at www.acrod.org. There you will also find other necessary information about the Retreat. Alternately, you may print the Registration Form and send it in via mail. *(Please let Fr Dave know if you need one.)*

+++ +++ +++

Young Adult Spring Retreat: “God’s Plan... Your Plan: Will it ever make sense?” – Will be held at Camp Nazareth **May 4-6**. Keynote speakers will be His Grace, Bishop Gregory and Steven Christoforou. Open to young adults (19-35) of all jurisdictions. Fee is \$75 (Financial aid is available if needed, please contact Fr. Loposky at 724.662.4840 or fr.stephen.loposky@gmail.com). Register online at www.acrod.org and clicking the link. *The weekend event will be filled with learning, fun, fellowship, worship, and time for reflection and rejuvenation!*

+++ +++ +++

Team IOCC at the Pittsburgh Marathon – If you are a runner that does marathons, or one of the other events, they are trying to put together a Team IOCC for marathon weekend (**May 6-7**) where the runners get people to sponsor them and the money raised goes to IOCC. Any questions should be directed to: Chris Weber, chw5017@gmail.com or 724-991-9516.

+++ +++ +++



42nd Annual Slavjane Folk Ensemble Concert will be on **Saturday, May 12th** at 2pm at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart H.S. Auditorium (1504 Woodcrest Ave., Coraopolis, PA 15108). Featured in this year's concert are songs and dances from Carpatho-Rus', Croatia, and Dalmatia. Guest performers this year will be Pittsburgh Area Slovak (PAS) Ensemble. Immediately after the concert, join them for a dinner dance reception at Holy Trinity Social Hall (5720 Steubenville Pike, McKees Rocks, PA 15136) with homemade ethnic food and pastries will be available for purchase along with a Rusyn (*Chinese*) Auction. Entertainment will be provided by Orkestar Zabava. Tickets can be bought in advance and will also be available at the door. Concert tickets are \$10, student tickets are \$5, children 5 and under are free, and Reception only tickets are \$5. Please contact Dean Poloka at 412-877-9351 to order your tickets or for more information.

+++ +++ +++

Bulgarian Folk Ensemble “Otets Paissii” – Come join us for a night of Bulgarian entertainment on **Saturday, May 12th** at 6pm at West Mifflin Middle School (81 Commonwealth Ave., West Mifflin, PA 15122). Featured Groups include: Otets Paissii, Carica Milica Serbian Choir, members of Danka Group, Folk Faktory, Folklore Group Hrvatski Tanac, Jr. Tamburitzens of Duquesne, Shareni Chorapi, and the Trafford Jr. Tamburitzens. A Vencherinka (dinner-dance) immediately follows at BMNECC (449-451 West Eighth Ave., West Homestead, PA 15120) There will be Live Music by "Nyama Signal" for dancing and listening pleasure

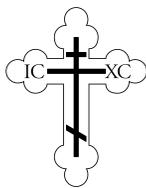
+++ +++ +++

Pan-Orthodox Singles Gathering – The Pittsburgh IOCC is sponsoring a singles gathering on **Tuesday, May 29th** at Duke's Upper Deck (122 W 8th Ave, Homestead, PA 15120). More details to come...

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

SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father can meet M-F 9:30a–4p or by appointment.
Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.
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 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, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, 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.
Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home



and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.
Baptisms – Please consult Father for 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 not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. 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.

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

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

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1 In the first book, O The-oph'ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. ⁴And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, ⁵for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samar'ia and to the end of the earth."

+++ +++ +++

Gospel: John 1:1-17

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the

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

beginning with God; ³all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. ¹⁵(John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") ¹⁶And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

LIVING ORTHODOXY



The **Paschal greeting** is a custom among Orthodox Christians, consisting of a greeting and response. Instead of "hello" or its equivalent, greet another person with "Christ is Risen!". The response is "Indeed, He Is Risen!". This greeting is used during liturgical services AND informally at other times, starting with the feast of Pascha (*Easter*) until Ascension (known as the *Paschal season/Paschaltide*).

Church Slavonic –

Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Greek – Khristós Anésti! Alithós Anésti!

Romanian – Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

*** *If greeted in a language you are unfamiliar with, translate and respond in English!*

+++ +++ +++

Why Attend Church?

Can God's Temple be Duplicated at Home?

Over the years I have met people who have chosen not to join a church, choosing, rather, to "worship" at home. Some have convinced themselves church is a waste of time, and feel they can be close to God while staying home on a Sunday morning. Others believe none of the churches teach the bible according to their own interpretation, and choosing to worship in the privacy of their own home, assure themselves they won't have to hear any false teachings.

Some people have chosen to stay away from church because of past conflict with a clergyman, or perhaps got tired of hearing pleas for money, and have convinced themselves that giving to a charity is money better spent (in reality, church goers tend to outspend non-church goers in charitable giving).

In truth, God has given us the Church as the very place wherein we can grow spiritually, while enjoying the protection, and the blessings, of being in weekly contact with other believers. Just like an earthly family, we don't always enjoy the presence of other members, but it is often those difficult and uncomfortable moments that help us grow the

most. As well, there are blessings that would never be experienced, should we remain apart from fellow Christians.

In Luke 4:16, we read that Our Lord Jesus Christ was regularly in the temple, for "He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom." It was Christ's regular practice to go to church, "As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place." If Our Lord Jesus made it a priority to meet together with other believers, how can we excuse ourselves from doing the same.

Perhaps the most important reason for weekly church attendance lies in the fact that it is only in the church where we can receive Holy Communion, for Our Lord went so far as to say that unless we eat of His flesh, and drink of His blood, we will have no life in us (Jn. 6:53). It is in the reception of Holy Communion where we receive the grace needed to grow spiritually, and where we are empowered to live in all holiness and truth.

Finally, the neglect of corporate worship grieves the Holy Spirit who lives within the individual believer and the Church as a whole, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30)".

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

+++ +++ +++

The Life-Giving Spring: A Feastday Of Mary, The Theotokos

From the Children's Word

Do you have a friend named Zoe? Her name means "life" in Greek, and every year on the Friday after Pascha (Easter), we celebrate her nameday.

On this day, we celebrate the feast of the "Life-Giving Spring." The icon is kind of strange. In the icon, you see Mary, the Theotokos, in a fountain, with water flowing out of it!

Once, more than 1,500 years ago, Emperor Leo (but before he became emperor) tried to help a blind man find water. Leo heard a voice telling



him where to go. He found a spring, flowing with water. He put some of the water on the blind man and the man suddenly could see.

Later, Emperor Leo built a big church over the spring, and he dedicated it to the Theotokos, the Mother of our Lord. Lots of sick people came to the spring and came back all better.

We remember this special church, because we know that Mary, the Theotokos, always gives life to us. It was Mary who became the mother of God! And today, on Easter, He gave life to us, too!

If you go to church on Friday, you will see how the great feast of the Resurrection isn't over yet! The church is still decorated and everything is bright!

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

STEWARDSHIP: A Way Of Life

Thank you! Dakujem! Spasiba! Multumesc!



– to everyone who prepared dishes for today's **Cover-Dish Coffee Social!** The coffee social is a vital part of our parish life and a form of our stewardship to God.

– to those who participated in the **black bag challenge** placed at the beginning of Lent! If you wish, bring your bag in for our garage sale in August. Please leave the bag (*or box*) in the storage room at the bottom of the men's room steps.

– to those who filled your **OCMC coin boxes** during Great Lent to contribute towards our April Community Outreach of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC).

+++ +++ +++

6 Reasons Why Tithing is Good for an Orthodox Parish

Excerpt from Fr Andrew Stephen Damick

Tithing is good for the Orthodox Christian and therefore good for the Orthodox parish. So why don't more Orthodox Christians tithe?

We know the usual reasons: We're not used to it. Back in the old country the government paid for the church. The parish was founded on the "dues" model. Tithing is "Protestant." Orthodox people are stingy. We just don't have it in our culture.

Those things are all true in one way or another, but I don't think those are the real reasons that we do not tithe very much as Orthodox Christians. There are some who do, of course, but it's not very many of us. So what is the reason why we're so terrible at tithing?

I believe that it is because we don't know why we tithe.

And because we don't know why, we don't do it. And when we don't do it, then we come up with the various reasons given above as the cause of our non-tithing. But those aren't the real reasons. It's because we don't know why we should tithe.

Now, the reasons I am going to list below are not all equally important. Indeed, if I had to answer the question, "Why should I tithe?" I would answer only with #1. That's the real reason. #2-#6 are essentially useful effects of tithing that should help us to focus on #1.

So here are six of my reasons. #1 is the most important and really the point of all of it.

1. tithing enables us to be saved.

As Christians, we want to be saved. We want to be healed. We want to "go to heaven" rather than to hell when we die (setting aside for the moment all the details). We want to become like Christ. Tithing doesn't purchase all that for us, but tithing is a powerful way that we give of ourselves, that

we turn over what we have to God so that we are opened to receiving His healing and blessing.

It's a basic principle of Christian spiritual life that we cannot receive God's blessing if we are holding back on Him. Why? We can't be filled with God if we remain full of ourselves. Tithing helps us to empty ourselves.

Don't get me wrong—giving money is not the *only* way that we work out our salvation and become open to receiving blessings. But whatever we have, we have to give to God. And if we have money, then we have to give money. If we don't have money, then of course we don't have to give it. But we have to give what we have, whatever it is, and with the way our culture is so grasping and possessive about money, it really is one of the *best* things for us to give if we can.

Money is one of the places where we spiritually hurt the most! So we need to pay attention to that wound.

[Have you noticed that our monthly financial summaries tend to be in the negative?

Let's all take a step up]

Stewardship of Treasure Guide													
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?													
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	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.

Continued Next Week With:

- tithing shows that we're serious.
- tithing is absolutely orthodox.
- tithing becomes ministry.
- tithing ends money problems for the parish
- tithing changes a parish culture.

From: <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/roadsfromemmaus/2015/10/27/6-reasons-why-tithing-is-good-for-an-orthodox-parish/>

SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

"What is most important on the holy day of Pascha is our Communion with the Risen Christ, which is principally manifest in the reception of the Holy Mysteries at the holy service, and for which we repeatedly pray in the services of Great Lent." +*St. John the Wonderworker*

MONDAY

"So, read the Fathers, even one or two lines a day. They are very strengthening vitamins for the soul." +*Elder Paisios of Mount Athos*

TUESDAY

"What is it that the God-man gives to man which no one else is capable of giving? It is victory over death, over sin, and over the devil, Eternal Life, Eternal Truth, Eternal Justice, Eternal Virtue, Eternal Love, Eternal Joy: the entire fullness of the Godhead and of Divine Perfection." +*St. Justin Popovich*

WEDNESDAY

"Compassion for others and sympathy for their failings will bring the heart closer to the heart of God than any form of judging." +*St. Hesychius the Presbyter*

THURSDAY

"Now the Church consists of both her earthly and heavenly parts, for the Son of God came to earth and became man that He might lead man into heaven and make him once again a citizen of Paradise, returning to him his original state of sinlessness and wholeness and uniting him unto Himself." +*St. John*

FRIDAY

"He who restrains his mouth from speech guards his heart from passions." +*St. Isaac the Syrian*

SATURDAY

"It is a trick of the demons to make us believe that we can only pray when external circumstances are favorable. We must pray all of the time." +*Elder Sergei of Vanves*

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

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.

+++ +++ +++



For the Health of... Mildred, Anna Mae, Andrew, Julie, Jane, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Matthew, Patricia, Lino, Pañi Connie, David, Fr James, and Edward ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

+++ +++ +++

For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, John S., Ameer, Joshua, Anthony, Ashley, John, and Noella, *our seminarians:* Nathaniel, Vince, Michael, and Daniel, *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Donald, Jane, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, Kenneth, Gina, Robert, Jillian, Wendy, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, John, Richard, John, Margaret, Sarah, Patricia, *and for those working towards our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

+++ +++ +++

Birthday Prayers for... Jenelle Speca (4/10), Melanie Paieski (4/14), *Father's Uncle Dan Urban (4/15), Father's Father Dave Urban (4/15) ...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!*

+++ +++ +++

For those preparing for Marriage... Nicole & Seminarian Subdeacon Nathaniel, Kristyn & Seminarian Vince, and Nicole & Jeffrey ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia & all Holy Martyrs.*

+++ +++ +++

For Expectant Mothers... Meredith, Brittany, Harmonie, Pañi Stacey, Aimee, and Lindsay ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & 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... ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal Memory!*

+++ +++ +++

* 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 & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to Orthodox Christians.*

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

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

Kondak from the Feast of Pascha

You descended into the grave, O Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of death. As Conqueror You arose, O Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Rejoice!", granting peace to Your Apostles, and offering resurrection to the fallen.

