



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church



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

Father Dave Urban, Pastor
Very Reverend Father 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

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

FEAST OF FEASTS!

APRIL 28th
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!

8:45am Resurrection Matins / Paschal Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Color: **White**

Parish Family Photo / Blessing of Baskets / Children's Egg Hunt

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR BRIGHT WEEK

Bright Monday, April 29 - 9:30am Paschal Divine Liturgy with Gospel Procession

Bright Tuesday at St. Nicholas (903 Ann St., Homestead) - 9:30am Paschal Divine Liturgy

Bright Saturday at St. John the Baptist (211 Cable Ave., East Pittsburgh) - 9:00am Paschal Divine Liturgy

Bright Monday	Virgin-martyrs Agape, Irene, & Chionia in Illyria (304)	Acts 1:12-17; 21-26	John 1:18-28
Bright Tuesday	Venerable Zosimas of Solovki (1478)	Acts 2:14-21	Luke 24:12-35
Bright Wednesday	Venerable John, disciple of St. Gregory (820)	Acts 2:22-36	John 1:35-51
Bright Thursday	St. Tryphon, patriarch of Constantinople (933)	Acts 2:38-43	John 3:1-15
Bright Friday	Apostle Zacchaeus, bishop of Caesarea (1st c.)	Acts 3:1-8	John 2:12-22
Bright Saturday	Hieromartyr Theodore of Perge (2 nd c.)	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, May 5 – 2nd Sunday of Pascha: St Thomas Sunday

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Color: **White**

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

Breaking of the Artos / Add'l Collection for Community Outreach (& OCMC Coin Boxes) / Semi-Annual Meeting

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Christ is risen! (responded with: **Indeed He is risen!**)

Christos Voskrese! (**Voistinu Voskrese!**)

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 Father Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

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This Bulletin Is Offered:

By John Gaydos, Sr.
In Memory Of
Wife, Catherine.
May Her Memory
Be Eternal!

PASCHAL COMMEMORATIONS (to be remembered at Proskomedie [Preparation prayers] all week)

Processional Candles Are Offered By Melanie & Michael Shuster In Memory Of Horbal & Shuster Families

Incense For Censer By Pavilonis & Niemer Families In Honor Of Mallory & Jonathan Knall's 1st Anniversary

Charcoal For Kadilo (Censer) By Bob & Gina Fall In Memory Of Mothers, +Alice Fall & +Marion Mercurio

Priest's Triple Paschal Candle By Lawrence Martin In Memory Of +Stephen & +Anastasia Gaydos

Vesperal Loaves By Kirish Family For All Blessings Received

Sacramental Wine & Eucharistic Bread By Lawrence Martin For Health & Welfare Of Our Parishioners

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

7 Candles On Altar Candelabra By Carol Lorenzi In Memory Of +Michael & +Olga Tongel

6 Decorated Candles On Altar By Eleanor Sanger In Memory Of Family & Loved Ones

2 Decorated Candles On Altar By Melanie & Michael Shuster For Good Health Of Family Members

2 Decorated Candles On Preparation Table By Mary Jane Hudak

4 Candles In Front Of Iconostasis By Lawrence Martin In Memory Of Parents & Grandparents

2 Decorated Candles On Tetrapod By Rich & Renee Mirilovich For Health Of Family & Friends

Festive Oil By Melanie Paieski For Health & Family Well Being

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



Monday, May 6 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of St. George

Sunday, May 12 – Mother’s Day / Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

Sunday, May 19 – Cemetery Grave Blessings following our coffee social

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

Dearest Family of St. John’s, Christ is risen! (*Indeed He is risen!*)

May the work that you have accomplished during the Great Fast continue in your heart as we live in the joy of the Resurrection! Have a blessed Bright Week & Paschal season! Hristos a înviat! (*Adevărat a înviat!*)

With Love, Maria, Sophia, Pańi Alexandra, and Father Dave

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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Pańi Branco; Barbara Kirish; Joanne Nelson; Mike Puhac; Margaret Rusnak; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis.

“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; and by John Gaydos, Jr., In Memory of Mother, Catherine. May Her Memory Be Eternal!

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Thank You! – To everyone who helped with the children’s egg hunt! Thank you!

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ACRY Booklet – The 71st ACRY Bowling Tournament will be held in Potomac, MD (May 24-27). If anyone wishes to be a Patron (\$10), Booster (\$5), or have a Memorial listing (\$10) in the commemorative booklet, please email Father today (*deadline is May 1st*).

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Relocation Update – ALL are invited to take a drive and look at the recent property that the Relocation Committee has discussed and looked at:

**1520 Shipley Lane
Franklin Park, Pa 15143**

The 17 acres is zoned as Residential-1 and a *Place of Worship* is “contingent”. The owners responded that they “would entertain an offer with a zoning contingency on it. In that case, the Church would be able to break the deal if the zoning application was denied.” We look forward to discussing this more at our Semi-Annual Meeting!

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Please continue to talk with the Relocation Committee or Father with any thoughts or concerns about our next steps in our journey together. (*Committee includes: Sharon P, Larry M, Carol L, John K, John Righetti, Lynn M, Matt P, Peggy Rusnak, Rich M, Sharon D, Tim M, & Todd Tusick*)

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3rd Official Notice – Our Parish Semi-Annual Meeting will be **NEXT WEEK, Sunday, May 5th** following the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to discussing current church topics with the parishioners. (**For road closures, please note that this is the same day as the Pittsburgh Marathon.*)

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Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 570
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 177
Envelopes:	\$ 848
Presanctified:	\$ 235

Total Collections: \$ 1830

Relocation Fund: \$ 600

Give Generously: “For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own free will.” 2 Cor 8:3

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

May 5: **Open / “Pot Luck”**

May 12: **Open / “Pot Luck”**

May 19: **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!

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

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Clergy Convocation – Fr Dave will be at Camp Nazareth from Tuesday to Friday, **May 7-10**. 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**).

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Cemetery Grave Blessings – We will bless graves this year on **Sunday, May 19th**. We will celebrate a Panachida at Church and head to the cemetery after the coffee social to bless the graves.

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Italian Feast and Basket Raffle – which was scheduled in May has been POSTPONED. The new date has not been finalized yet... stay tuned!

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Reader of the Third Hour:

May 5: *available*

May 12: John Kirish

May 19: John Kirish

This should begin by 9:15 and can be read OR chanted. Please contact Fr Dave if you are interested in participating in this wonderful stewardship prayer opportunity!



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Family Day (June 2nd) Raffle Tickets have arrived. **We Are Looking For Someone To Handle Selling These – Please See Father ASAP If You Are Able.** 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!

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76 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 14-20**. Please talk to Fr Dave if you have any questions.

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Garage Sale Chairperson Needed – Please contact a member of the church council or Father if you would be willing to chair our annual garage sale this year. This stewardship community outreach is here to help others!

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Faith Night at PNC Park – this year will not actually be at night, but an afternoon game! **Saturday, June 22nd** at 4:05 (Pittsburgh Pirates vs. San Diego Padres). We will be organizing a group of tickets (and extending this offer to our Pittsburgh and Tri-State Deaneries as well.) Please contact Wendy Martellotti at martellotti11@verizon.net or 412-583-6254 to reserve your tickets. *(Please plan to pre-pay.) And Let’s Go Bucs!*

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Altar Boy Retreat – the Annual Altar Boy Retreat for young men aged 7-18 will take place from **Sunday June 30th to Wednesday, July 3rd** at Christ The Saviour Seminary (Johnstown, PA). Contact Father Dave for registration information.

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Young Women’s Encounter – the 6th Annual YWE will take place from **Sunday June 30th to Wednesday, July 3rd** at Saints Peter and Paul Church (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.

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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 requested.

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Panachida (Memorial Service) Requests – If you desire to offer a Panachida in memory of your departed loved ones, please, contact Fr. Dave prior to Sunday to make these arrangements. *Dependent on the number of requests, they may be combined with other families commemorations.*

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Looking FURTHER Ahead

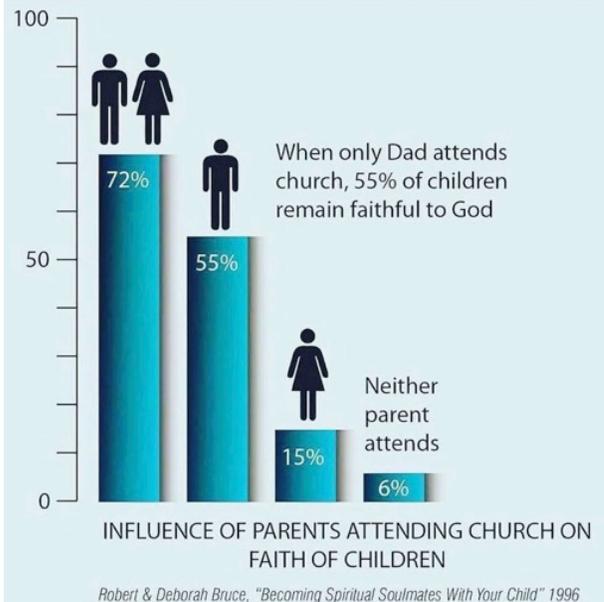
Some 2019 dates of interest:

- ??? ?? – Graduate Sunday
- May 13-16 – Senior Retreat at CN
- May 19 – Grave Blessings
- May 22 – Feast of Mid-Pentecost
- May 24-27 - ACRY Bowling Tourny (Potomac, MD)
- May 31-Jun. 2 – Family Camp at Camp Nazareth
- Jun. 2 – Family Day at Camp Nazareth
- Jun. 2 – Orthodox Day at PNC Park
- Jun. 6 – Feast of Ascension
- Jun. 15 – 5th All Souls Saturday
- Jun. 16 – Feast of Pentecost
- Jun. 16-22 – Fast Free Week
- Jun. 22 – Faith Night at PNC Park
- Jun. 24 – Apostles Fast begins
- Jun. 30 – Jul. 3 – Young Women’s Encounter AND Altar Boy’s Retreat
- Jul. 7 – Feast of the Nativity of St John AND Church Picnic at “The Cabin” in North Park
- Jul. 12 – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
- Jul. 14-20 – Pittsburgh Deanery Week at CN
- Aug. 2 – Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias
- Aug. 4 – Annual Blessing of Vehicles
- Aug. 4-10 – Science and Nature Week at CN
- Aug. 14 – Dormition Fast Begins
- Aug. 19 – Feast of the Transfiguration
- Aug. 25 – Blessing of Fruit and Vegetables
- Aug. 28 – Feast of the Dormition
- Aug. 30 - Sep. 3 – 75th ACRY Convention (Taylor, PA)
- Sep. 1 – Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

Please, Save the Dates!

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



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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



Much has been talked about over the recent years about Orthodox Christian Stewardship. Your Church Council and Fr. Dave want to hear more from you about Stewardship. (Here is the 4th in a series of questions to reflect on.)

The Parish Stewardship Self-Assessment:

4. Creating an environment of overwhelming hospitality and evangelization.

- ✓ Do we treat those coming to our parish as if we would welcome them to our homes?
- ✓ When new people come to our parish do we notice them, greet them, invite them to be a part of our community?
- ✓ Are all people invited to use their gifts of time, talent, and treasure?
- ✓ Do we welcome diversity of people, ethnicities, and traditions in our community?
- ✓ Do we take advantage of being hospitable to fallen away Orthodox or Non-Orthodox families at the time of Divine Liturgies, funerals, or other family celebrations?

Over the past couple months, a series of stewardship questions or ideas have been posted in the bulletin. Please talk with members of the Church Council, Fr. Dave, or leave thoughts anonymously in an envelope on the desk in the vestibule as we continue to learn and grow in stewardship together.

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ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

Matins – (from the Latin, matutinae, "morning"), also called *Orthros* (from Greek, meaning "morning", "dawn" or "day break"), is the longest and most complex of the daily cycle of services. Matins is celebrated in the morning, unless it is celebrated as part of a vigil in the evening.

Matins services related to the Paschal feast:

- **Bridegroom Matins:** served on Great and Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- **Great and Holy Friday Matins:** there are twelve Gospel lessons; Antiphons are used (originating in a different office). The tropar sung at the 15th antiphon is, *Today is hung upon the cross...*
- **Great and Holy Saturday Matins:** This contains some elements of the old cathedral office: procession with the shroud (plaščanitsa), reading of three pericopes (*Old Testament, epistle, Gospel*) at the end.
- **Paschal Matins:** This is celebrated from Pascha Sunday until Thomas Sunday. The six psalms and the praises are not part of this service.

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE



Camp Nazareth Work Day – The St. Nicholas Men's Club is going to camp **Saturday, May 4th** for a light duty maintenance day starting at 8am and working until about 4pm. Lunch will be provided by the camp. (You can either drive up Friday evening or Saturday morning.) Please contact Father TODAY if any men are interested.

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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 4-5**) where the runners get people to sponsor them and the money raised goes to IOCC. Any questions, please visit: <https://ioccc.org/events/ioccc-pittsburgh-events>

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Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **May 5-11** – St Nicholas (419 S Dithridge St., Pittsburgh) *Greek*
- **May 11** – St Vladimir (73 S 18th St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203) *Ukrainian*

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2nd Annual Diocesan Senior Retreat will be on **May 13-16**. Information is on our bulletin board as well as here: <https://www.acrod.org/news/events/10731> Registration deadline is May 8th.

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Carpatho-Rusyn Society 25th Anniversary – Everyone is welcome to join us **Friday, May 17 & Saturday, May 18**. Some events are free while others have a cost, please see the flyer in the church hall. For reservations and information please visit www.c-rs.org or call 412-567-3077. Here are highlights for the weekend: **Friday May 17:** 6:30pm Slavjane Folk Ensemble; 7pm Concert By Harmonia Band. **Saturday May 18:** 8am **Rusin Slavonic Divine Liturgy** (At St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 146 Third Ave Rankin, Pa 15104); 9-11am **Meet And Greet With Prof. Paul Robert Magocsi**; 11am **Rusyn Bus Tour**; 11am **Wooden Churches Of The Carpatho-Rusyns**; 1pm **I Am Carpatho-Rusyn, I Lived In Five Different Countries And Never Moved**; 6pm **Awards Dinner And Dance Honoring Prof. Paul Robert Magocsi And Robert Hanich, M.D.**

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Designer Purse Bash – The 3rd Annual Purse Bash will be on **Saturday, May 18th** 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 which include a full meal and 4 chances at the prizes. For more info, see the flyer in the Church Hall or contact Jessica Krchmar at 412-290-3526 or jessicakrchmar@gmail.com.

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Family Camp will be on **May 31 – June 2**. Here is the link to all the information. <http://campnazareth.org/summercamp/news/family-camp-2019> Registration for this event is now open.

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Archangel Icons Studio presents Icon Workshops - Iconographer Michael Kapeluck will conduct 3 workshops (**June 10-15; July 22-27; or August 12-17, 2019**) which will be an intense 6 days where the student will create an icon using acrylic/gouache techniques. Learn basic color mixing, drawing and painting techniques. Be instructed in the history and theology of the icon. Receive personal instruction and demonstration for each stage of painting. Gain a deeper understanding of the mystical art of the icon and its place in the Church. For more information, contact Michael at kapeluck@verizon.net.

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2019 Camp Nazareth Summer Program for Pittsburgh will be **July 14-20**. Visit campnazareth.org or our bulletin board for more information. Online registration is opened.

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Science and Nature Camp will be on **August 4-10**. Here is the link to all the information. <http://campnazareth.org/science-camp> Registration for this event has begun.

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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.

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“The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning.” - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

The Holy Women Martyrs Basilissa and Anastasia

Commemorated on April 28/15

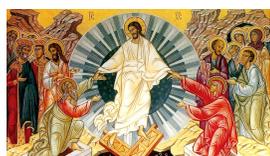
The Holy Women Martyrs Basilissa and Anastasia lived in Rome and were enlightened with the light of the Christian faith by the holy Apostles Peter and Paul. They devoted themselves to the service of the Lord. When the emperor Nero (54-68) persecuted Christians and gave them over to torture and execution, Saints Basilissa and Anastasia intrepidly took up the bodies of the



holy martyrs and gave them reverent burial. Rumours about this reached Nero. Saints Basilissa and Anastasia were then locked up in prison. They subjected them to cruel tortures: they scourged them with whips, tore at their skin with hooks, and burned at them with fire. But the holy martyresses remained unyielding and bravely confessed their faith in Christ the Saviour. By command of Nero they were beheaded with the sword (+ c. 68).

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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

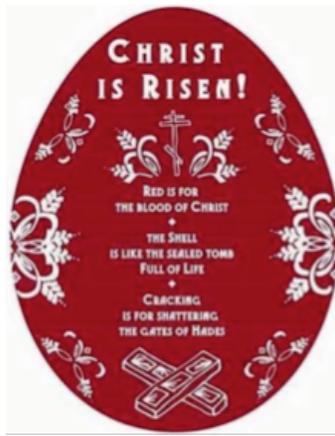
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It Takes Time: Anything that is quickly obtained is also easily lost

Since we Americans have grown accustomed to having everything happen quickly, and without delay, we also expect our spiritual lives to be on the same quick time line. We don't have the patience to build upon the knowledge of the holy fathers, so we don't practice regular spiritual reading. Our church attendance is limited to the essential Sunday Liturgy, and even then we arrive late and perhaps leave before the Thanksgiving Prayers have been concluded.

If fasting is difficult for us, we don't fast at all. If keeping a Prayer Rule is tedious, we don't try to



develop a set time for our prayers. If our mind wanders during prayer, we let it, avoiding even the least amount of struggle.

We are like gardeners who buy flowers for our gardens that come fully grown, allowing us to drop them into the soil, so they look good without the germination of seeds, providing us with instant beauty. Yet Saint Isaac the Syrian tells us that "anything that is quickly obtained is also easily lost,

whereas everything found with toil is also kept with careful watching."

With love in the Risen Christ, Abbot Tryphon

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

"If one loses his cross, his life becomes cold and tepid, without cooperation with God." - Metropolitan Saba (Esber)

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"By whatever passions enemies may attack you, endure it without falling into despondency, without anger, meekly and humbly, and do not allow any movement of impatience, malice, murmuring, and blasphemy to arise in your heart." +Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt

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"Blessed is he who strives to please the Lord as others try to please men." +St. John of the Ladder

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"The whole idea here is to be able to see the other person as a brother and feel his pain. It is this very pain that moves God and brings about the miracle. For there is nothing else which moves God as much as a noble and sacrificial spirit. But now, in our time, this kind of nobility is rare, because self-love and self-interest have entered the picture." +St. Paisios of Mount Athos

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"Once we have gained— through the familiarity of long practice and the guidance of blessed instruction and direction— the ability to repel and dismiss those thoughts which would trouble the heart, we instead water its depths only with those thoughts that come from God. These are thoughts which have their origins in the divine and aim at the virtues." - Bishop Irenei Steenberg

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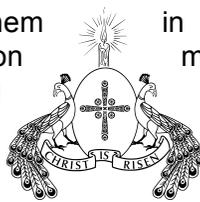
SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

"Of all the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures." +Saint John Chrysostom

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, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. 4 And 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, 5 for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."



The Ascension of Jesus

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But 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. 2 He was in the beginning with God; 3 all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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

9 The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. 11 He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; 13 who were

"We should do one hour of Bible reading for every hour we spend watching television [or surfing the internet]." – Joseph Letendre, *When You Pray: A Practical Guide to an Orthodox Life of Prayer*, pg. 32

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 fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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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... Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Gary, Lino, Louis, June, Helen, Steven, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N., Emily, Anthony, Eleanor, Daniel, Stephen, Abbot Tryphon ...through the prayers of *St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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For the Special Intentions of... Metropolitan Gregory, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Michael, Daniel, and Dylan *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Donald, Jane, Margaret, Eleanor, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Todd *and for those who labor 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.*



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Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day): *your name here* – Saint ___ (*Please contact Fr Dave with your Patron Saint*)

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Birthday Prayers for... Fr Jonathan Bannon (4/29), Sharon Peifer-Robinson (4/29), Anna Karoline Dzadony (5/3) ...*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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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Dustin, Stephen, Peter, Anthony, Sheila, Anna Marie, Katie, Alexis, Sophie ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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

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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 Expectant Mothers... Pañi Eleni, Faith, Hayley, Lauren ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St Irene Chrysovalantou.*



Congratulations! to Donald Gavulich and Carley Seibert and their families on the birth of **Donald James Gavulich** born on 4/23 at 1:39 pm (6 lb 14 oz and 19 in). Welcome to our Parish Family! *“Preserve her and this child which she has borne. Cover her with the shelter of thy wings from this day until her final end, through the prayers of the most Holy Theotokos and of all the saints. Amen”* – from *Prayers for a Woman on the First Day after Childbirth*

For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky, Devin Meegan, and Trevor Meegan ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For the souls of the newly departed... +John “Bratso” Wuchenich (3/15), +Rose Mary Radick (3/19), +William Littlemeyer, Jr. (3/28), +Leona Haynes (4/13), Alexander Zerby (4/22) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal be their Memory!*

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

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

A prayer for our Neighborhoods by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.