



# Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church



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

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Very Reverend Father John Brancho, Pastor Emeritus  
Timothy Martin, Reader  
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April 26, 2020

Volume V



**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!**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pascha: St. Thomas Sunday

ONLINE Divine Liturgy

Tone 1

Liturgical Color: **White**

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

**SERVED BY PRIEST & CANTOR ONLY** with Additional Prayers for COVID-19; Breaking of the Artos

### SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Please check online ([www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/bulletins/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/bulletins/)) for our Cathedral's  
**Schedule Of Services** ([www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/))

Monday	St. Martin the Confessor, pope of Rome (655)	Acts 3:19-26	John 2:1-11
Tuesday	Martyr Sabbas the Goth of Buzau in Wallachia (Romania) (372)	Acts 4:1-10	John 3:16-21
* Wednesday	Virgin-martyrs Agape, Irene, and Chionia in Illyria (304)	Acts 4:13-22	John 5:17-24
Thursday	Venerable Zosimas of Solovki (1478)	Acts 4:23-31	John 5:24-30
* Friday	Venerable John, disciple of St. Gregory of Decapolis (820)	Acts 5:1-11	John 5:30-6:2
Saturday	St. Tryphon, patriarch of Constantinople (933)	Acts 5:21-33	John 6:14-27

\* Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!

**No Kneeling in Prayer; Replace "O Heavenly King" with the Paschal Tropar** (see *Living Orthodoxy*)

May 3 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Myrrbearing Women; Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus

ONLINE Divine Liturgy

Tone 2

Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: Acts 6:1–7; Gospel: Mark 15:43–16:8

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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:

In memory of  
+Helen Kailyar  
(birthday 4/27)

May Her Memory  
Be Eternal!

#### Anonymous Feelings of Gratitude:

"It's been a difficult Great Lent, but we made our little church work! Not sure if this was intended to happen, but I think we were more spiritually closer as a family this year. Perhaps the personal focus at home and ensuring we did not disconnect from our faith was a bright spot to this plague. (Also, the SPF program was really good for us.)

[Please share with Fr. Dave something that you are surprised that you became grateful for during our quarantine time. Anonymous inspirations will be shared in the bulletin. (Please see the: Fear Zone → Learning Zone → Growing Zone: "Where am I during COVID-19?" in the Pascha Bulletin.)]

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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 5:12–20

#### The Apostles Heal Many

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by

at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

#### Paschal Greeting

(used instead of 'hello', before 'good morning', etc.)

Christ IS risen!

(responded with: **Indeed He IS risen!**)

**The Apostles Are Persecuted**

<sup>17</sup> But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sad'ducees, and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup> they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. <sup>19</sup> But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, <sup>20</sup> "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

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**Gospel: John 20:19-31**

**Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."



**Jesus and Thomas**

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other

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disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

**The Purpose of This Book**

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

*Paschal Greeting in Church Slavonic:  
Christos voskrese! (Voistinu voskrese!)  
If greeted in a language you are unfamiliar with,  
translate & respond in English (then learn the response)*

**GUEST SERMON**

**The Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom**

If anyone is devout and a lover of God, let him enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival.

If anyone is a wise servant, let him, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord.

If anyone has wearied himself in fasting, let him now receive his recompense.

If anyone has labored from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If anyone has come at the third hour, with thanksgiving let him keep the feast. If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; for he shall suffer no loss. If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near without hesitation. If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let him not fear on account of his delay. For the Master is gracious and receives the last, even as the first; he gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, just as to him who has labored from the first. He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first; to the one he gives, and to the other he is gracious. He both honors the work and praises the intention.

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and, whether first or last, receive your reward. O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy! O you ascetics and you negligent, celebrate the day! You that have fasted and you that have disregarded the fast, rejoice today! The table is rich-laden; feast royally, all of you! The calf is fatted; let no one go forth hungry!

Let all partake of the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of goodness.

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Let no one lament his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed.

Let no one mourn his transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death has set us free.

He that was taken by death has annihilated it! He descended into hades and took hades captive! He embittered it when it tasted his flesh! And anticipating this Isaiah exclaimed, "Hades was embittered when it encountered thee in the lower regions." It was embittered, for it was abolished! It was embittered, for it was mocked! It was embittered, for it was purged! It was embittered, for it was despoiled! It was embittered, for it was bound in chains!

It took a body and, face to face, met God! It took earth and encountered heaven! It took what it saw but crumbled before what it had not seen!

"O death, where is thy sting? O hades, where is thy victory?"

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!

Christ is risen, and life reigns!

Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb!

For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First-fruits of them that slept.

To him be glory and might unto ages of ages. Amen.

**PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**



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

**Having flu-like symptoms? PLEASE KEEP FR. DAVE POSTED OF ANY ILLNESSES SO TO BE ADDED TO OUR PRAYER LIST!**

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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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**"20 seconds" of Prayer** – Following the CDC recommendations, as you wash your hands, instead of singing your ABCs, pray! It takes roughly 20-seconds to pray *The Lord's Prayer*, sing *O Heavenly King*, pray *Hail Mary (twice)*, sing *You are truly deserving*, or say the *Jesus Prayer (5 times)*.

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Tim Martin; Shuster Family; Cindy Pavilionis; Jesko Family.

***"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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**Candles in Church** – If you wish for Father to light your weekly candles, please email or call him with your intentions and mail your candle donation to Tim Martin.

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**Now On Instagram (with a new name)** (SJB\_Orthodox\_Pittsburgh) – Our Parish now has an Instagram page! Father will post a picture before (or after) each service at the church.

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**Praying with online services from your domestic church** - Sunday Liturgies at St. John's will be celebrated **BUT WITH ONLY THE PRIEST AND CANTOR IN ATTENDANCE**. This comes from the Protocol from our Metropolitan. We will pray for our parish and the world. PLEASE watch services online! Here are the words of Fr. Matthew Dutko concerning watching services online:

- *"Wake up at the normal time that you always do on a Sunday. If you have kids, wake them up. Shower, get dressed in your Sunday finest and gather together in front of a computer screen.*

- *Light a candle and burn some incense [if you do not have any, contact Fr. Dave who can recommend online sites to order from]. When the Liturgy begins, pray and sing as you always do.*

- *Even though you will be in your home-church, don't let the distractions of being in your own home get in the way. For that hour or so, you will be with your parish family in prayer. I know it's not the same, but we will still be praying to our Lord, all together, all at the same time; just like we always do."*

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**Cathedral Live-Broadcast** - Our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to watch our Cathedral's Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9am (and other services). The best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist, but with these current limitations, please take the time Sunday morning, Wednesday evening, and throughout the week to pray with our brothers and sisters via the *live broadcast* on the web. [www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/)

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## ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE



**SPF50 (Scripture, Prayer, Family): A Diocese Family Ministry** - The second Issue of SPF50 is available NOW!! It is a digital edition. If you didn't start with us on March 1, consider joining now. Make a commitment to reading Scripture and Praying together with your family. Visit the Diocesan Website at [acrod.org](http://acrod.org) and look for the SPF50 section or go directly to the SPF50 web page at [www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50](http://www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50) to find out more about SPF50 and how to help your family read Scripture and Pray together at home. Don't forget to fill out the Commitment Card which is available in the SPF50 Section of the Diocesan Website, and return the card to your priest.

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Our Stewardship Gifts To God	
Stewardship:	\$ 565
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 77
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 3369
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 4011</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

*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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**Weekly Offerings to God** – During this time that we are in, we request that all weekly donations be mailed to:



Tim Martin  
2225 McAleer Road  
Sewickley, PA 15143

For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

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

*Paschal Greeting in Greek:  
Khristós anésti! (Alithós anésti!)*

**Census Forms:** If you have not done your census form yet... when you fill it in, check the box for your race then type in or print Carpatho Rusyn. (Not just Rusyn) There is no guarantee the census bureau will lump the two together. Please pass this on to ALL your Carpatho Rusyn friends and family members.

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**Weekly Bulletin Email** – If you would like to receive the bulletin in an email at the beginning of each week, please email Father Dave at: [fr.sleepless@gmail.com](mailto:fr.sleepless@gmail.com)

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*Paschal Greeting in Romanian:  
Hristos a înviat! (Adevărat a înviat!)*

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### LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✘ Please Continue to Pray (and wash your hands)
- ✘ Wed. June 3 – 7pm – Mystery of Holy Unction

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**Pysanky in June!** Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie has rescheduled their 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale to **Saturday, June 6** from 11am to 4pm. Pysanky, folk arts, food, basket raffles, food, door prizes and, of course, more food! It is not too early to put this on your calendar!

#### Visit Our Diocese On-Line

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

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: [www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar) © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

### The PriestMartyr Artemon

Commemorated on April 26/13

The PriestMartyr Artemon was born of Christian parents in Syrian Laodiceia in the first half of the III

Century. From the time of his youthful years he dedicated himself to the service of the Church. At 16 years of age the saint was made a reader and in this position he laboured during the course of 12 years. For his zealously in Divine Services, Sainted-



Church or in our private prayers at home. Before His passion, Jesus taught His disciples that He *must leave so that the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, can come.* (John 16:7) The removal of this familiar prayer from the cycle of the services emphasizes the importance of the descent of the Holy Spirit that we celebrate at Holy Pentecost. "O Heavenly King" will be heard again at the Aposticha of the Festal Great Vespers for Pentecost

and thereafter returned to our services and prayers. Blessed Feast to all!

Fr. Dn. David Keim serves the community of All Saints Antiochian Orthodox Church of Raleigh, NC.

*Paschal Greeting in Arabic:*  
El Messieh kahm! (*Hakken kahm!*)

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## PRAYER CORNER

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

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



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

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**For those preparing for Marriage...**  
Lauren & Corey, Ashley & Derek  
...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 Pregnant Mothers...** Faith (June), Mallory Ann (July) ...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.

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**For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...** Thomas R. Dzadozsky, 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...**  
+Darline Labas (4/13), +Philip Fall (4/9), +Jack Scherer (4/1), +Phyliss Stienstra (3/28), mother of Fr. Dcn. Stienstra, +Harry (3/23), +Ron (3/19), +Henry, and those who have passed from the coronavirus ...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May their Memory in God be Eternal! *Vičnaya Pamyat!*

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\* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you 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 only Orthodox Christians.***

*Paschal Greeting in Swahili:*  
Kristo amefufukka! (*Kweli amefufukka!*)

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## DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

### A PRAYER TO THE MOTHER OF GOD DURING THIS TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

*With the Blessing of Metropolitan Gregory (ACROD) – 3-31-2020*

O Most-Holy Ever-Virgin Mary, Theotokos: receive this heartfelt supplication from us, your unworthy servants. We run to you tearfully, O Sovereign Lady, as this dreadful illness spreads through the whole world. Listen to the much-afflicted sighs of your ailing people and grant healing of soul and body. As a loving Mother, cover your suffering children everywhere with your protecting veil. In times of despair, console the faint-hearted, strengthen the weak, and enlighten those with embittered hearts. Guide the minds and hands of our doctors and nurses, that they may serve as instruments of the all-powerful Physician, Christ our Savior.

You are the strong intercessor for our city, our country, and the whole world, O Queen of All.

Present our prayers before the throne of the King of Glory, your Son and our God, that He may be merciful towards us and grant His grace to those who honor you and bow before your holy icon with faith and love.

O joy of the sorrowful and consolation of the afflicted, stretch out your hands which are full of health and cures, so that having quickly received your wondrous help, we may glorify the Life-giving and Undivided Trinity: the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.



**For the Health of...** Lynn, Fr. Michael Ellis, Candice, Fr. Michael Rustick, Ella, Lexi, John, Susan, John, Alexandra D., Pañi Marie, Sonja, Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Lino, June, for all those battling viruses ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.

**For the Special Intentions of...** Metropolitan Gregory, Callum, Killian, Caitlin, Dustin, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Thomas, John, Daniel and Dylan *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Anthony, Mary Jane, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Margaret, John, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...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):**  
*(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

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**Birthday Prayers for...** Fr Christopher Rocknage (4/26), Fr Jonathan Bannon (4/29), Maryhelen Hoffman (4/29), Sharon Peifer (4/29) ...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 Mnohaya I Blahaya L'ita!*

