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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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Relocation Update – Last month our Relocation Fund went above \$50,000! THANK YOU for your generosity to this account as we look to our future and growing Orthodoxy in the Pittsburgh region! Please be aware that these monies came unsolicited (*without a capital campaign*) and spontaneously from people’s hearts. Thank you for your vision in making offerings to this account on a weekly or periodic basis. If you have not contributed to this account and would like to, please designate an additional offering for the “relocation fund” in your envelope (*brought to the church or mailed to Tim*) or tell the curator when you get to the church and give your weekly offering. Again, thank you for your generosity and vision!!!

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Summer Parish Picnic Canceled – As events are currently being adjusted, the Executive Parish Council has decided to cancel this year’s parish picnic. We were not penalized for canceling but given a credit for a rental next summer. Glory to God!

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Garden Blessing – Did you have any time to get a garden in during the quarantine time? It’s time to get it blessed! (*The format of the blessing is similar to our annual home blessing.*) Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested.

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Home Blessings Resume – Speaking of home blessings... For those who did not have their home blessed prior to the Great Fast, please contact Fr Dave to arrange a time.

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The Holy Apostles’ Fast (Peter and Paul Fast) - *One of the four fasting seasons of the Christian year, along with Great Lent (the Great Fast), Nativity Fast (Advent), & the Dormition Fast, this one in particular culminates with our celebration of Saints Peter & Paul on Sunday, July 12th. Take the time to grow spiritually by fasting from something over the next few weeks.*

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

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Reminders for attending St. John’s – Following His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory’s guidelines along with our Parish Council and Pittsburgh going green:

- ✓ Sunday Divine Liturgy Services **ARE OPEN** With A **HIGHER** Limit. **OUR LIMIT IS TECHNICALLY OVER 100, BUT WE WANT TO MAKE SURE ALL ARE COMFORTABLE so for now...**
- ✓ “Reservations” Are Still Requested And Can Be Made By Contacting Father Between Monday And Friday At NOON Via A Phone Call Or Text Message To 412-748-0148. (*Do not email for this.*) Father will send out a confirmation email **on Friday.**
- ✓ If You Are Not Comfortable At This Time To Return To Church, We Understand But Please Let Father Know.
- ✓ A Facemask must be worn in the church.
- ✓ Candles should be lit with a lighter that you bring from home. (*It is a pious Orthodox tradition to say your prayer (intention) when lighting your candle for the living and your candle for the departed.*)

Our approach is fluid in that we are flexible to adjusting things as they are needed. Please continue to pray along with the cathedral services when you are not able to attend. Through God’s strength and guidance we will get through this together!

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Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 45
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 101
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 823
Total Collections:	\$ 969
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 60
Relocation Fund:	\$ 70

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

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mirilovich Family; 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 Cindy Pavilonis, in Memory of Father, Joseph Pavilonis, and Grandfathers, George Huron and Anton Pavilonis. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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Candles in Church – During this time of COVID-19, if you wish for Father to light your weekly candles, please text, email, or call him with your intentions (*for the living, departed, or other specific*) by Saturday evening. Please mail your candle donation along with your weekly offering to Tim Martin.

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Weekly Offerings to God – During this time, if you are not coming to the church, we request that all weekly donations be mailed to:

Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., 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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June Community Outreach – *for The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration will NOT include physical donations for the monastery this year.*

We ask that you make an additional offering by the end of the month for this outreach effort. For those unable to come to church yet, there is a Community Outreach envelope in our boxes that can be sent to Tim Martin (see below for his address). Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!

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Third Hour to Return – As we are leaving Paschaltide (the time from Pascha to Pentecost), we will now return to having the Third Hour read or chanted prior to the Divine Liturgy each Sunday. If you wish to read or chant it, please let Fr. Dave know.

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Weekly Bulletin Email – If you are not receiving the bulletin in an email at the beginning of each week, please email Father Dave at: fr.sleepless@gmail.com

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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 (as well as other services). The best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist, but in the current scenario, please take the time Sunday morning and throughout the week to pray with our brothers and sisters via the *live broadcast* on the web. www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

✦ July 7 – Feast of St. John the Forerunner

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

2020 ACRY Convention – *The annual ACRY convention scheduled for Labor Day weekend has been cancelled. The host parish, Binghamton, NY, has agreed to host the 2021 convention instead.*

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VIRTUAL Young Women's Encounter will be June 28 – July 1. Registration is now open at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eh0nmdms2d4de57a&llr=oblwu7zab>. The Retreat will be virtual this year, on Facebook, Zoom, and perhaps other platforms. However, this is still a time for our faithful young women ages 12 to 18 to join other young women from all over our Diocese for fun and fellowship!

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VIRTUAL Altar Boy Retreat will be June 28 – July 1. Registration is now open (www.acrod.org/news/2020-press/abr2020). The Retreat will be virtual this year, on Facebook, Zoom, and perhaps other platforms. However, this is still a time for our faithful Altar Servers to join other Altar Boys from all over our Diocese for fun and fellowship!

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41 Days Till VIRTUAL Camp! Camp Nazareth will be offering our campers a 2020 Summer Camp Experience

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in lieu of being able to be in-person at Camp. The Summer Camp Experience will offer each camper a personalized care package delivered to their home, the opportunity to get together online with their Camp Family and Friends, the ability to engage in "live" groups discussions and cabin time with their fellow campers, attend services, enjoy crafts and games, hear stories and sermons, watch videos, learn about our Faith, and much more. Just like a Summer Week AT Camp, the online 2020 CN Summer Camp Experience will have a variety of activities, will be full of surprises, and will be full of both faith in Christ and fun in Christ! The Experience for our campers will help them remember why their connection with Christ and with each other is so important. Pittsburgh Deanery will be from **July 26-July 31**. Register today at: www.campnazareth.org/summercamp/register-for-camp/ Registration runs until July 1

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

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

St. Theodore, bishop of Rostov and Suzdal (1023)

Commemorated on June 21/8

By birth a Greek, the first bishop of Rostov, he was enthroned as bishop in the year 991. At that time pagans occupied the Rostov territory and St. Theodore had much work to do to enlighten them in the Christian faith. The rough and wild pagans rendered many insults to the hierarch



and once even drove him away. St. Theodore then settled in Suzdal and here enlightened many by the light of the true faith and after much apostolic labor he died in Suzdal. Not much is known about the last years of the life of St. Theodore. He died in the year 1023. His uncovered relics lie in the Suzdal Theotokos-Nativity Cathedral.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Saints Were People Just Like Ourselves: Are We Striving To Be Like The Saints?

by Very Rev. Archimandrite Nektarios Serfes

"Our Church honors saints not as gods, but as faithful servants, as holy men and friends of God"

+St. Nektarios of Aegina

On Holy Mt. Athos in Greece, a visitor asked the Elder (Abbot) Chrysostomos of St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite Monastery: 'what is the mission of the church?' The pious Elder replied: 'the mission of the Church is to make people saints.'

Saints were people just like ourselves. The Orthodox Church has indeed given birth to many saints, and many of us know about them. We even know on which day the Church celebrates the saint we are named after, as this is called the 'names day', and is also known as the 'angels day'.

Spiritual nourishment is vital for all of us, and an important part of this "food" is the time we spend reading the lives of the saints and mediating upon them. Reading Holy Scripture, reading the lives of the saints and the writings of the Holy Fathers of the Church—this is a discipline for us, and we gain strength, wisdom and nourishment for our minds and souls by undertaking this discipline regularly.

There is a danger that we may think that the saints, about whom we read, lived lives to a standard we simply cannot attain. Their life stories, though, are examples of how we too should live our lives spiritually. They did not start 'at the top' in a state of perfection but,

like us 'at the bottom'. They, just like us, began their spiritual walk encumbered with grievous sins. They, like us, came before the presence of our mighty and Holy God and prostrated themselves in repentance and humility of spirit. By His grace they were saved, cleansed, and forgiven, and so were able to attain, step by step, the Kingdom of Heaven. Any one of us who piously struggles to attain the Kingdom of Heaven does so through repentance which our Merciful Lord grants us by His suffering for us.

As the saints looked upon the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, they shared in His sufferings. They struggled, they fasted, and they prayed constantly, never forgetting their purpose on this earth—to seek out their salvation. This is our purpose on this earth too, to be like the saints, and struggle both inwardly and outwardly for our salvation, walking every day along the path towards the salvation that is an eternal promise to us.

The saints received, just as we can, the guidance and presence of the Holy Spirit, which is granted to all those who seek God, and our theosis (the vision of God) with Him. The Lord our God gave the saints this great spiritual resource, and at the same time great grace, so that they were able to embrace the whole world with love.

Of course we have hardships in our lives, and sometimes we even languish in affliction. We may feel that our hearts are withering away within us, and our souls become despondent as we seem to be far from our loving God. Remember that the saints went through these same situations in their lives, and, seeking the power and grace of the Holy Spirit, they sought to overcome these struggles, never giving up, maintaining

their regular disciplines of prayer and asceticism, and holding firmly on to their hope, faith and love for our God. We have to do the same thing as the saints. We too must struggle with the same determination, having the same hope, faith and love for our God, and being in prayer as often as possible.

Then again, the saints constantly fasted, disciplining their bodies, and were obedient to all the fast days ordained by the Church. Are we obedient when the Church calls us to fast during the Lenten periods, and on every Wednesday and Friday? The saints loved to fast and pray because these disciplines kept them close to God. Let us follow their great examples by fasting and praying with the same love for our God. Do not forget to participate in the prayers that are offered on behalf of a patron saint, such as the Troparion, or Dismissal Hymns of the saint. We would then be able to accomplish so much spiritually, being equipped with great spiritual weapons to deal with our inner struggles.

When we do something wrong, our Lord God is waiting for us to repent, and our Gracious God loves us more when we are in the state of repentance. He is always glad to hear us cry to Him when we are truly sorry for our sins. Even the saints see our lives just as does our Lord God. They see the way we fail even to love one another. They see that we fall into the trap of constantly judging others. And they know for sure that we do not have full freedom spiritually from our sins and the effects of these sins.

So, by their examples, the saints have taught us that we can too overcome our sins, and faults, when we realize that the way to return to the peace and grace of our Lord God is to repent, to be sorry for what we have done

wrong in our lifetime. Therefore, we should as often as possible remember the saints of the Orthodox Church, and especially the saint who we are named after, who will help guide us on the path towards our salvation. Seek to learn as much as you can about your patron saint. Including also the Dismissal and Kontakion hymns of your patron saint. Look at the way the life affects and trains you, and share what you have learned with others. Let your life and witness become an example, just as is the life of the saint. This is how we should live as pious and faithful Orthodox Christians.

The saints love us with a profound love bestowed upon them by our Lord, who graced them with the Holy Spirit. Does our soul burn with the same love for our Lord God and His saints? Do we too have the same love for one another? Or has our love grown dim? While the saints were with us, they learned of the love of God through the Holy Spirit, so let us humbly and piously seek the same blessings from our Lord God. Let us strive to accomplish what is truly our mission on this earth: to be like the saints, loving our God and loving one another. This is our mission as faithful and loving children of our Holy Orthodox Church: to be like the saints, and to be ever watchful. Amen. May all the saints pray for us!

“Truly, then, education signifies illumination—illumination through sanctification in the Holy Spirit who is the vehicle and the creator of holiness and of the light of knowledge. The saints, because they are sanctified and illuminated by the Holy Spirit, are also true teachers and educators.”

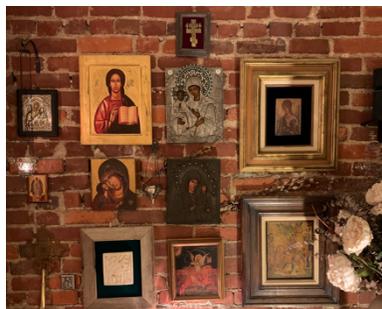
+St. Justin (Popovic) of Chelije in Serbia

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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.



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For the Health of... Kenneth, Wendy, Thomas, Anthony, Fr. George Livanos, Julia, Theresa, Lynn, Fr. Michael Rustick, Ella, Lexi, John, Susan, John, Alexandra D., Pañi Marie, Sonja, Anna Mae, 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.*

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For the Special Intentions of... Metropolitan Gregory, Susan, 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):
(please contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Mary Jane Hudak (6/23), Margaret Spirnak (6/24), Anna Mae Gogal (6/25), Pañi

Marianna Bannon (6/25), Nicole Maruscak (6/27) ...*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!*

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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... Danielle & Shane Yakemawiz (6/26), Daniel & Linda Gavulich (6/27) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For Pregnant Mothers... 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. Dzadoovsky, 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... +Sister Nymphodora (Eleanor Dussling) (6/17), +Michael Psenechnuk, the priest (6/6), +Carol (5/27), +Kimberly Young (5/17), Pañi +Patsy Joseph (5/14), +George Hutnyan, the Priest (5/12), 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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