



ST. 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*
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*
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SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

Forefeast of Theophany
Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles
9:15 – Theophany Canon
9:30 – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Monday, January 18 – A Day of Strict Fasting -

Vigil Service for the Feast of Theophany at:
St. John: 7pm (450 Glenwood Dr., Ambridge)
St. Nicholas: 7pm (903 Ann St., Homestead)
St. Michael: 7pm (146 Third Ave., Rankin)
St. John: 7pm (211 Cable Ave., East Pittsburgh)

Tuesday, January 19

FEAST OF THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD
9:30am Divine Liturgy with
the Great Blessing of Water

Wednesday, January 20

FEAST OF THE SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN
9:30am Divine Liturgy

Thursday, January 21

9:30am Parastas for all aborted babies

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

33rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday after the Baptism of our Lord
Venerable Theodosius
9:15 – Theophany Canon
9:30 – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17
Tone 8; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
Panachida for +Fr. Michael Shuster (1-yr)

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wed.)

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Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh Icons – If you did not receive your Protecting Veil Icon, please contact Father Dave or Larry Martin as soon as possible.

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On-Line Giving is now available from our parish website! The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple. Now you can also donate from your home and set up a recurring donation. *(There was a glitch in the set up so only donations to the General Stewardship Fund are available at this time.)*

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Holy Water Reminders: Do Not Hoard It!

While Holy Water does not “go bad”, it is best to refresh your water each year. Holy Water from the previous year(s) should be poured outside *(preferably on the corner of your house or in a garden where people are not going to walk on it)*. The best scenario is to **use the water**: take a drink every morning, use in your cooking, etc. We will bless the new Jordan Water on Tuesday. All are encouraged to bring their Holy Water bottle the next time you come to church to get some of the New Jordan Water for your home

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Twitter - *Our parish now has a Twitter account: @SJB_OrthodoxPGH. Any changes to our service schedule or information about a feast day will be shared through this platform.*

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

*(responded with: **Glorify be forever!**)*

Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na viki!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! 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 again soon! If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave.

BULLETIN IS OFFERED:

If you wish to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone, please do so by signing up on the sheet in the church hall or by contacting Fr. Dave (*email, text, or call*). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

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Additional Church Curators Needed –

Our curator list needs expanded! A synonym for *curator* is *steward*. If anyone is interested in being a *steward of their time* and be “on-the-door”, please see Theresa Sharpless.

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2021 Home Blessings Special Announcement

– They will begin on the Feast of Theophany, **January 19th**, but at this time, Home Blessings will be done *by request only*. Per guidance from Metropolitan Gregory, Father Dave will say the prayers with you from your porch and then sprinkle the Holy Water through the doorway of your home. *(He will not walk throughout the inside of the house.)* Please contact Fr Dave to schedule your Home Blessing this coming Theophany season. (He will not contact anyone to schedule blessings at this time, please reach out to him.)

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I will miss the opportunity to sit and talk with you in your homes at this time! We hope and pray that we will be able to resume this beautiful tradition of our Church soon! On August 14 we have the annual Lesser Blessing of Water and I will instead come and visit everyone this August or September for your Home Blessing. (Blessing homes in the fall is an existing practice in other parishes in the area. For practical reasons, it avoids concerns and rescheduling due to snow or ice this time of year.) Thank you for your understanding and assistance in keeping us all safe, healthy, and blessed! - Fr. Dave

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Live-Broadcast – We are blessed with the opportunity to watch our Diocesan Cathedral's services online *(9:00 am Sunday Divine Liturgy)*. 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 via the *live broadcast* on the web at:

www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

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Greeting Cards – Please repurpose your greeting cards and prior church calendar icon tops after the season concludes. The collection box is in the vestibule for the *Holy Transfiguration Monastery*. Thank you for giving back!

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Parish Precautions – *If you were curious, here are a few of the precautions that the parish has been taking and will continue to take as we err on the side of caution with Covid:*

- the open pews, door handles, and light switches are sanitized weekly,
- pans on top of the radiators are being filled with water to increase the humidity in the air (denser air falls to the ground faster taking germs with it)
- the ceiling fans run on low pushing the heat down (and preventing the air to be stagnant)
- 4 windows are cracked in the nave of the church (bringing in fresh air)
- we also continue to wear our masks and keep safe-distancing

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Father or a member of the Parish Council. And as always, if you are feeling ill or have a fever, please stay home and let Father know so that we can pray for you!

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Thursday, January 7

Stewardship:	\$ 2590
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 54
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 2240
Community Outreach:	\$ 10

Total Collections: \$ 794
Relocation: \$ 70

Sunday, January 10

Stewardship:	\$ 220
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 87
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 298

Total Collections: \$ 605
Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 35
Relocation: \$ 50

We must give in trust that God will use it to produce fruit: "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your sowing (resources) and increase the harvest of your righteousness (benevolence)." - 2 Cor. 9:10

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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Shuster Family; John Radick; Lawrence Martin; Eleanor Sanger; Cindy Pavidonis; Tim Martin; Mirilovich Family; Eleanor Sanger; 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 Cindy Pavidonis, Birthday remembrance for Uncle John Huron. May His Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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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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Stewardship Envelopes – The 2021 Envelopes are in the church hall to be picked up. If you would like your envelopes mailed to you, please contact Theresa Sharpless or Father Dave.

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New Sticharion (dalmatic / robe) for our Reader and Alter Boys – Thanks to an anonymous donor, the remaining balance of the \$3,600 to pay for the new robes has been covered. Glory to God and Thank You for your kind generosity!

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Bulletin Sponsor opportunities – If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In 2021 in Honor of (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or In Memory of (the anniversary of a loved one), please do so by signing up on the sheet in the vestibule. If you are not back in church yet, but would still like to sponsor a week, please notify Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested. ***Remember, sponsoring a bulletin in memory of someone does not replace having a Panachida (a short Memorial Service) for them.

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ACRY NEWS

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Pill Bottle Collection – Our ACRY continues it's outreach to "Matthew 25: Ministries" who accepts donations of **CLEAN AND EMPTY** plastic medicine pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies to countries in need. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THE LABEL IS REMOVED AND IT IS NOT STICKY.** Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment. *Contact Theresa Sharpless or Fr. Dave for more information.*

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✦ **Thursday, January 28** – 9:30am Parastas for International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- ✦ **Thursday, February 4** – 9:30am Akathist to St. Xenia

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ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

SPF50

SCRIPTURE • PRAYER • FAMILY



SPF50 (Scripture, Prayer, Family): A Diocese Family Ministry - The 5th Issue of SPF50 is available! (If you are already participating, please contact Fr. Dave.) If you did not start with us on March 1, consider joining now. Make a commitment to reading Scripture and Praying together with your family. (Please contact Fr Dave to fill out the Commitment Card.) Visit the Diocesan SPF50 web page at 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.

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

⁵ As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. ⁶ For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

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Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; ³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight—"

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The Sobor (Assemblage) of the 70 Apostles

Commemorated on January 17/4

The Synaxis (Sobor/Assemblage) of the Seventy Apostles (Disciples) was established by the Orthodox Church so as to indicate the equal honour of each of the Seventy, and to avert dissonance in their veneration. They were chosen by the Lord Jesus Christ, in order to evangelize the Gospel to all the world.

Besides the celebration of the Synaxis of the Holy Disciples, the Church also celebrates the memory of each of them during the course of the year.

With the Descent of the Holy Spirit the disciples preached in various lands. Some accompanied the Apostles from the 12, like the holy Evangelists Mark and Luke, or the companion of the holy Apostle Paul – Timothy, or the disciple of the holy Evangelist John the Theologian – Prochoros, and others. Many of them were

thrown into prison for Christ, and many received the crown of a martyr's death.

To the 70 Disciples are enumerated yet two – the holy Disciple Cephas, to whom the Lord appeared after the Resurrection (1 Cor. 15: 5-6), and Simeon, by nickname Niger (Acts 13:1), wherefore they also were glorified by apostolic preaching.

The Church in particular venerates and praises the 70 Disciples in that they taught to honour the Trinity One-in-Essence and Un-Divided.

In the IX Century the Orthodox Church received from Joseph the Melodist the Kanon for the Day of the Sobor (Assemblage) of the 70 Disciples of Christ.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

A MEDITATION FROM ST. AMPHILOCHIOS:

Count your blessings,
instead of your crosses.
Count your gains,
instead of your losses.
Count your joys,
instead of your woes.
Count your friends,
instead of your foes.
Count your smiles,
instead of your tears.
Count your courage,
instead of your fears.
Count your full years,
instead of your lean.
Count your kind deeds,
instead of your mean.
Count your health,
instead of your wealth.
Count on God,
instead of yourself.

May God bless you and your loved ones as we enter a new year – with hope.

"Don't be sad, my child. Don't worry so much. Even though you have fallen again, get up again. You have been called to a heavenly road. It is not surprising for someone running to stumble. It just takes patience and repentance at every movement." +St. Joseph the Hesychast

ORTHODOX WORDS OF THE WEEK

THEOPHANY ("appearance of God") A manifestation of God in His uncreated glory. The revelation of the Holy Trinity at the Baptism of Christ (Luke 3:21-22) is the greatest theophany and is celebrated in the Orthodox Church on January 19/6. It refers also to Christ's resurrection appearances. Other theophanies throughout the Bible include: God appeared to Abraham in the form of three men (Gen. 18:1-15) and to Jacob in a dream (Gen. 28:10-17).

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EPIPHANY Literally, "a breaking through from above." The word means a manifestation of God. Examples of epiphanies are the burning bush (Ex 3: 1-6) and the Transfiguration of Christ (Mt 17: 1-13).

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The Feast of Theophany is also sometimes referred to as Epiphany by English-speaking Orthodox Christians, but that name more properly refers to the Western Christian feast falling on that same day and commemorating the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus.

PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and Other Needs

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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... Fr. Steven L., Nicholas, Fr. Michael P., Pani Eleanor P., Kylee, Suzanne, Brian, Kristina, Fr. Patrick C., Fr. George L., Brian, Douglas, Dacia, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, 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, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Elizabeth, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Daniel, Dylan, Thomas, and Nicholas *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, 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):

John Sharpless - St John the Baptist (1/20) *(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

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Birthday Prayers for... *Father's Godson,* Alex Schreiber (1/18), *Father's Goddaughter,* Jenna Schreiber (1/18), Kevynn Anton (1/19), Patricia Watson (1/19), *Father's nephew,* Nicholas Dittmore (1/19), Fr Joseph Fester (1/19), Katherine Schrmack (1/22), *Father's niece,* Abiageal Verbanick (1/22), Thomas Lorenzi (1/23) ...*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!*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers...

Dustin, Stephen, Susan, Marilynn, John ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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

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For those preparing for Marriage...

Lexi & Patrick, 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... Marilynn *(due in April)* Pañi Dutko *(June)*, Lindsay *(July)* ...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For the souls of the newly departed...

+Daniel Gavulich (1/8), +Fr. John Baranik (12/20) 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*

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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.*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK

A Prayer before consuming Antidoron and (or) Holy Water

O Lord my God, may Your holy gift and Your holy water be for the enlightenment of my mind, for the increase of my spiritual and bodily strengths, for the health of my soul and body, for the taming of my passions and weaknesses, through Your boundless mercy, through the prayers of Your Most-holy Mother and of all Your Saints. Amen.