



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

Christ is baptized! *In the Jordan!*
Christos Kreščayetsya! *Vo Jordaňii!*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

Sunday after the Baptism of our Lord

Venerable Theodosius
OCN Share the Light Sunday
9:15 – Theophany Canon
9:30 – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Panachida for Mother Alexandra (30-yr), +Paňi
Patricia Patrick (2-yr), +Melanie Kurtz (1-yr),
+Fr. Michael Shuster (1-yr), & newly departed

Thursday, January 28

9:30am Parastas for International Holocaust
Remembrance Day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

34th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Athanasius the Great (373) and St. Cyril
(444), archbishops of Alexandria.
9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16
Gospel: Luke 18:18-27
Additional collection for our community outreach
Tone 1; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

“Take great care of your children. We live at a time when much freedom is given to the expression of thought, but little care is taken that thoughts should be founded on truth. Teach them to love truth.” +St. Macarius of Optina

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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Tuesday – The church will not be open Tuesday for personal prayer this week.

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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 to the:

- ✘ General Stewardship Fund,
- ✘ Capital Improvement Fund, or
- ✘ Relocation Fund.

If you miss coming to church for a week, this allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship.

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Additional Church Curators Needed – Our curator list needs expanded! If anyone is interested in being a *steward of their time* and be “on-the-door”, please contact Theresa Sharpless. (A synonym for *curator* is *steward*.)

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Thank You to the anonymous donor of the bottled spring water gallons to fill our Holy Water font before it was blessed this year! Many Years!

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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.

2021 Home Blessings Special Announcement

– At this time, Home Blessings will be done by request only. Per guidance from Metropolitan Gregory, Father Dave could 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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Framed Icons – Here’s an option to consider for your previous church calendar tops: cut them out, put them in a 5x7 frame, and hang them on your walls. Each year you can add an icon to another room in your home. This is also a nice project to do with our youth!

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Greeting Cards – Please repurpose your greeting cards and prior church calendar icon tops (if not framing them) after this holiday 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

Stewardship: \$ 180
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings: \$ 67
Envelope Stewardship: \$ 560
Community Outreach: \$ 20

Total Collections: \$ 827

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; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; John Radick; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilionis.

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"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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Previous Error – The total collections for January 7 was incorrect in last week's bulletin. The general stewardship collection was: \$ 4,894

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Weekly Offerings to God – During this time, if you are not coming to the church, we request that 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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Parish Directory – Has any of your information changed since our 2018 Parish Directory was published? Please forgive me for not finishing this last year at this time! Please contact me with any changes to your address, email, or phone number. Thank you! – Fr. Dave

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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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Souper Bowl of Caring – On **Sunday, February 7th** we will kick off our February Community Outreach collection for Saint Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry at St Mary's Orthodox Church on the South Side. Please plan to bring in unexpired canned soups.

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✦ **Thursday, February 4** – 9:30am Akathist to St. Xenia of St. Petersburg, Fool-for-Christ
- ✦ **Thursday, February 11** – 9:30am Moleben
- ✦ **Friday, February 12** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs
- ✦ **Sunday, February 14** – Zacchaeus Sunday

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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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"There is nothing better than peace in Christ, for it brings victory over all the evil spirits on earth and in the air. When peace dwells in a man's heart it enables him to contemplate the grace of the Holy Spirit from within. He who dwells in peace collects spiritual gifts as it were with a scoop, and he sheds the light of knowledge on others. All our thoughts, all our desires, all our efforts, and all our actions should make us say constantly with the Church: "O Lord, give us peace!" When a man lives in peace, God reveals mysteries to him." + St. Seraphim of Sarov

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

⁷ But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ

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Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; ¹³ and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Caper'na-um by the sea, in the territory of Zeb'ulun and Naph'tali, ¹⁴ that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "The land of Zeb'ulun and the land of Naph'tali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The Monk Theodosios the Great

Commemorated on January 24/11

The Monk Theodosios the Great lived during the V-VI Centuries, and was the initiator of common-life (coenobitic) monasteries. He was born in Cappadocia of pious parents. Endowed with a splendid voice, he zealously toiled at church reading and singing. And the Monk Theodosios prayed fervently, that the Lord would guide him on the way to salvation.

At his monastery the Monk Theodosios built a home for taking in strangers, separate infirmaries for monks and laymen, and also a shelter for the dying. Seeing that at the Lavra were gathered people from various lands, the monk arranged for Divine-services in the various languages – Greek, Gruzian (Georgian) and Armenian. For communing the Holy Mysteries all gathered in the large church, where Divine-services were done in Greek.

During the reign of the Constantinople emperor Anastasias (491-518) there arose the heresy of Eutykhios and Severus, which recognised neither the sacraments nor the clergy. The emperor joined in with the false-teaching, and the Orthodox began to suffer persecution. The Monk Theodosios stood firmly in defense of Orthodoxy and on behalf of the wilderness monks wrote a missive to the emperor, in which they denounced him and refuted the condemned heresy with the teachings of the OEcumenical Councils. He affirmed moreover, that the wilderness-dwellers and monks would firmly support the Orthodox confession. The emperor showed restraint for a short while, but then he renewed persecution of the Orthodox. The holy elder then manifest great zeal for the truth. Leaving the monastery, he came to Jerusalem and in the "Great" church, stood at the high place and cried out for all to hear: "Whoever honoureth not the four OEcumenical Councils, let them be anathema!". For this bold deed the monk was sent to prison, but soon returned after the death of the emperor.

The Monk Theodosios died at the age of 105, in the year 529. The body of the saint was buried with reverence in the cave, in which he lived at the beginning of his ascetic deeds.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Holy Water Reminders:

2020 Holy Water Available To Take Home:

All are encouraged to bring their Holy Water bottle (or any designated container) the next time you come to church to take the New Jordan Water home with you to use.

Drink Holy Water when we are feeling under the weather. You may bless one another with it (together with the sign of the Cross) prior to tests for our children in school, big days at the office, or before doctor appointments.

"Drink holy water as often as possible. It is the best and most effective medicine. I'm saying that not just as a priest but also from my experience as a doctor." + St. Luke the Physician of Crimea

Do Not Hoard Old Holy Water:

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, in a garden where people are not going to walk on it, for your house plants, etc.*). **The best scenario is to use your Holy Water:** take a drink each morning, use when cooking, etc. Please cut out the devotional prayer this week and use it with your Holy Water.

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... Marcus, Pani Daria, 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, Eleanor, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Elizabeth, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, 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):

Ashley Wertz and Anthony Winkler -
Venerable Anthony the Great (1/30)
(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Mary Ann Brady (1/26), Fr Frank Miloro (1/26), Roberta Kruchkevich (1/27), Allison Kretchek (1/29), Scott Robinson (1/30) *...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 remission of my sins, 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 overcoming of my passions and infirmities, through Your boundless mercy, through the prayers of Your Most-holy Mother, and of all Your Saints.
Amen.