



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*
 Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
 Timothy Martin, *Reader*
 Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
 Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*
www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

2688 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15212
 412-748-0148, *Talk or Text*
OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com
Instagram: SJB_Orthodox_Pittsburgh
Twitter: @SJB_OrthodoxPGH

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

please wear masks following the CDC guidelines

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

7th Sunday after Pentecost
 Hiermartyr Hermolaus
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
 Panachida for +Joseph Olas, The Priest
 (54-year), +Mary Spirnak (38-year today),
 +John Hriecenak, The Priest (21-yr), +Ruth
 Metil (1-year), +Olga Radick (9-month),
 +George Livanos, the Priest (40-day)
 Annual Blessing of Chariots (*Cars, Trucks, Boats,*
Bicycles, and other modes of transportation)

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

7 pm Akathist to St. Panteleimon with holy anointing

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

9:30 am Morning Moleben

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 13-14

Garage Sale from 9 am to 3 pm (HELP NEEDED)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15 #DORMITION FAST

8th Sunday after Pentecost
 Blessed Basil of Moscow, fool-for-Christ (1552)
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18;
 Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22
 Tone 7; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
 Lesser Blessing of Water, the Blessing of
 Honey, & the Blessing of Students & Teachers
Garage Sale from Noon to 3 pm

+++ +++ ++

Future Services are listed on our online "Parish Calendar" which is continually updated at:
www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

+++ +++ ++

Masks – As previously followed, please wear masks following CDC guidelines.

+++ +++ ++

Recent Parish Council Meeting Highlights:

- ✧ There is a concern that we will not have enough help for the **Garage Sale**. If you have not signed up on the sheet in the hall, please call Mary Jane Hudak (724-900-8830) or Larry Martin (412-996-6938) with your availability. The stewardship of your time will make this community event a success!
- ✧ **Fence Repair** issues have prevented previous folks from repairing the fence on Woodland Avenue. If you have experience working with chain-link fences, please call Fr Dave or Larry Martin (412-996-6938)
- ✧ **Church School Teachers** are needed. Please contact a Parish Council Member if you are interested
- ✧ New **custodial assistance** will be needed starting September 1. A few ideas were discussed including creating "Cleaning Teams" that can rotate each week (or month). Please contact Larry Martin (412-996-6938)
- ✧ **Annual Meeting** will be Sunday, September 19

+++ +++ ++

Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church on Sunday morning, please pray along with our Cathedral's services online at **9:00 am**.

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

+++ +++ ++

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

*(responded with: **Glory 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:

In Memory of
 +Joseph and +Ann
 Shuster

May There Memory
 Be Eternal!

Akathist to St Panteleimon 8/9 @ 7p – Monday the church remembers St Panteleimon, the Unmercenary Healer, who "dedicated his life to the suffering, the sick, the unfortunate and the needy". Father was blessed to receive some of his oil and all will be anointed following the service. *"Panteleimon, saintly champion and healer, intercede with our merciful God to grant our souls remission of sins."* (Tropar, tone 3)

+++ +++ ++



IS THIS WEEK from **August 13-15:** Friday and Saturday from 9am to 3pm and, *new this year*, Sunday from 12-noon to 3pm. **STEWARDS NEEDED FOR EACH DAY** WHETHER YOU CAN OFFER YOUR TIME ALL DAY OR EVEN JUST FOR 2 HOURS, PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET IN THE HALL OR CONTACT MARY JANE HUDAK (724-900-8830) OR LARRY MARTIN (412-996-6938) AS WE PREPARE FOR THE RETURN OF THIS! **EVENT. We need our parishioners to support this community event.**

+++ +++ ++

#Dormition Fast Begins Saturday – This is our lead-in to the great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. This is one of the four fasting periods of the year when we are called to a special time of increasing our prayer, fasting, and charity. Please contact Father Dave to schedule your confession.

Monday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"You cannot destroy the passions on your own, but ask God, and He will destroy them, if this is profitable for you." + St. Anatoly of Optina

August: The Month of Special Blessings! – Live Orthodoxy and plan ahead for the many special blessings that are scheduled for the upcoming Sundays this month:

Aug. 8th: Blessing of Chariots

15th: the Lesser Blessing Water, the Blessing of Honey, & the Blessing of Students and Teachers

22nd: Blessing of the First-Fruits (& vegetables)

29th: Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

August is full of blessings! Orthodoxy is awesome! We are in this together - let's focus on the blessings in our lives!

+++ +++ ++

Blessing of Honey – Next Sunday we will bless honey (along with water, students, and teachers). The practice of blessing honey is common in many Orthodox countries. The origin is that in some climates the hives are ready to be "robbed" at this time of the year. In Ukraine, the first day of the Dormition Fast is commemorated as the first of the 'three Saviors,' commemorating our All-Merciful Savior. Honey is blessed on this day, first-fruits on the 'second Savior' (Transfiguration), and herbs on the 'third Savior' (the Icon 'Not Made By Hands').

+++ +++ ++

New School Year Blessing – We will have additional prayers on Sunday, **August 15th** for students and teachers who are going back to school. *(If you are leaving for college prior to 8/15, please let Father Dave know ASAP.)*

+++ +++ ++

Did you get behind? - If you by chance got behind in your weekly stewardship offerings to the church, please catch up as we are approaching our "fiscal" year-end in August.

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 160
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 148
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 625
Community Outreach:	\$ 5
Parish House Offering:	\$ 300
Total Collections:	\$ 1238
Relocation Fund:	\$ 50

In faith that God provides:

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'" – 2 Cor. 9:8-9

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Mary Jane Hudak; Lawrence Martin; Eleanor Sanger; Mirilovich Family; Patty Watson; Michael Puhac; 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 Matt Peifer, in memory of Parents, +Jack and +Viola Peifer. May Their Memory Be Eternal!

+++ +++ ++

Weekly Offerings to God – During this time, if you are not yet coming to the church, we request that weekly donations be mailed to Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)



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 (2nd best is to mail it in). 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. For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE



Virtual Trek4Missions is back! The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) invites you to take up your cross for our 2nd annual virtual fundraiser which will begin on the (*New Calendar*) Feast of the Glorification of St. Herman of Alaska **August 9th** and conclude on **September 17**.

The 2021 Virtual Trek4Missions is an opportunity for individuals and parish communities to unite and demonstrate our commitment to Christ's Great Commission "to make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Plan to walk, run, ride your bike, and more to show your support for Christ's call to each of us.

If anyone is interested in spearheading and leading a local team (last year's team name was **Pittsburgh Forerunners**), please contact Fr. Dave so that we can begin together on August 9th. Talk to your teammates from last year and get the band back together! Everyone who registers will receive a FREE Trek4Missions t-shirt! There are NO FEES to register, and shirts are guaranteed.

+++ +++ ++

SPF50 (Scripture, Prayer, Family): A Diocese Family Ministry - The 7th Edition of SPF50 is available! As you are aware, praying together and reading Scripture together are pillars of a Christ-centered Orthodox Christian family. While families may desire to have these activities in their home, they may not be sure how to start. SPF50 intends to help our families bridge that gap. (*If you are already participating, please contact Fr. Dave.*) If you did not start with us last year, 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.

+++ +++ ++

A Virtual Young Women's Encounter (YWE) has been organized for **August 15-17**. All of our parish daughters, ages 12-18, are encouraged to participate as much as possible in this retreat. Please contact Fr Dave or email Pañi Eleni Stagon at acrodywe@gmail.com for more information.

+++ +++ ++

The wonder-working Icon of the Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Theotokos of Hawaii will visit the Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Monastery (121 St. Elias Lane, Saxonburg, PA 16056) on **Tuesday, August 24th** from 5 pm to 8:30 p.m. and on **Wednesday, August 25th** from 8 am to 12-Noon. *The Icon is miraculous and the anointing of Her myrrh has been a source of solace for many faithful.* Call 724.352.3999 with any questions or visit: www.nativityofthetheotokosmonastery.org

+++ +++ ++

Tuesday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"Like a bee one should extract from each of the virtues what is most profitable. In this way, by taking a small amount from all of them, one builds up from the practice of the virtues a great honeycomb overflowing with the soul-delighting honey of wisdom."

+St. Gregory of Sinai (14th Century), The Philokalia

+++ +++ ++

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

+++ +++ ++

Wednesday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"Humble thought is shown not by the one who blames himself but by the one who, being rebuked by another, does not diminish the love for him." +Saint John Jacob of Neamt

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Please Others, Not Yourselfes

15 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; ²let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. ³For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

+++ +++ ++

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

²⁷And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." ²⁸When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." ²⁹Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." ³⁰And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." ³¹But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

Jesus Heals One Who Was Mute

³²As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. ³³And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was

anything like this seen in Israel.” ³⁴ But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.”

The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few
³⁵ And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

Thursday’s Spiritual Vitamin:
“Woe unto those who have withdrawn themselves from the Church: they will become completely possessed by the spirit of the world, by the spirit of evil.” +St. John of Kronstadt

LIVING ORTHODOXY

6 Times to Make the Sign of the Cross in the Car



The blessing of new honey is a wonderful tradition. It is done traditionally on the first day of the Dormition Fast (specifically: on the Feast of the Procession of the Precious and Life-giving Cross) along with the blessing of water. While it is not done by all the Orthodox Churches, it is catching on in many parishes across the US

The Blessing of Honey
(* PLEASE BRING HONEY FROM YOUR HOUSE NEXT WEEK TO BE BLESSED)

In the Greek Orologion of 1897 is explained thus the derivation of **the Feast of the Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord (1164)**: "By reason of the sicknesses, often everywhere occurring in August, from of old customarily it was done at Constantinople to carry out the Venerable Wood of the Cross along the roads and streets for the sanctifying of places and for the driving away of sicknesses. On the eve of the Feast, carrying it out from the imperial treasury, they placed it upon the Holy Table [Altar] of the Great Church (Hagia Sophia – the Wisdom of God). From this feastday up to the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, making litija throughout all the city, they then placed it forth for all the people to venerate. This also is the Issuing-forth of the Venerable Cross". In the Russian Church this feast is combined also with a remembrance of **the Baptism of Rus'**, on August 1, 988. In the "Account about the making of services in the holy catholic and apostolic great church of the Usenie-Dormition", compiled in 1627 by order of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' Philaret, there is provided suchlike an explanation of the feast: "And on the day of the procession of the Venerable Cross there occurs a church-procession **for the sanctification of water** and for the enlightenment of the people, throughout all the towns and places". In the practice now of the Russian Church, the service of the Lesser Sanctification of Water on August 14/1 is done either before or after Liturgy. Together with the Blessing of Waters, there is made a **Blessing of Honey** (i.e. first-honey for the Saviour: "Saviour of the Water", "Saviour Moisture"). And from this day the newly harvested honey is blessed and tasted.

www.jordanville.org/news_170814_1

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(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 the Health of... Fr John P, Pañi Eleanor P, John, Pañi Deborah, Christopher, John, Michelle, Frederick, Fr. Patrick, Joseph, Joanne, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, and Roberta ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

+ + + + +
For the Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Photios, Fr. Theodore, Deacon Charles, Carlene, 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:* Dylan, Thomas, Nicholas, and Aydin *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.*

+ + + + +
Patronal Feast Days (Name’s Day):
(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)
+ + + + +

Birthday Prayers for... Diane Labas (8/8), Killian Brozell (8/9), Michael Tongel (8/11), Nicole Martellotti (8/12), Lindsay Matolyak-Ferraz (8/12), Jim Schrmack (8/12), Jane Gaydos (8/13), Wade Winkler (8/14)
...*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!
+ + + + +

For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Susan, Marilyn, John ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*
+ + + + +

For those preparing for Marriage... Lauren & Corey, Nicole & Dustin ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*
+ + + + +

Anniversary Prayers for... ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*
+ + + + +

For Pregnant Mothers... Theresa (due in August), Pañi Davina (September) ...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*
+ + + + +

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.*
+ + + + +

For the souls of the newly departed...
+Henry (7/24), +Michael Petitta (7/19) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May their Memory in God be Eternal*

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK

A Prayer from the Akathist to St Panteleimon
Saint Panteleimon, we who suffer from godless persecutors as well as from illnesses and disabilities, beseech thee to increase our love for Jesus Christ Who suffered cruel and unjust treatment for the sake of our salvation. We do not deserve such salvation or any benefits from the saints in Heaven. Yet, since you do freely give, and since all gifts come only through God, we implore you to heal all our afflictions and illumine our souls unto His service and glory. We thank you, Saint Panteleimon, for not rejecting us in our weakness but helping us in our time of need. Amen.

+++ +++

A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop *(name)*, and our spiritual father *(name)*, and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

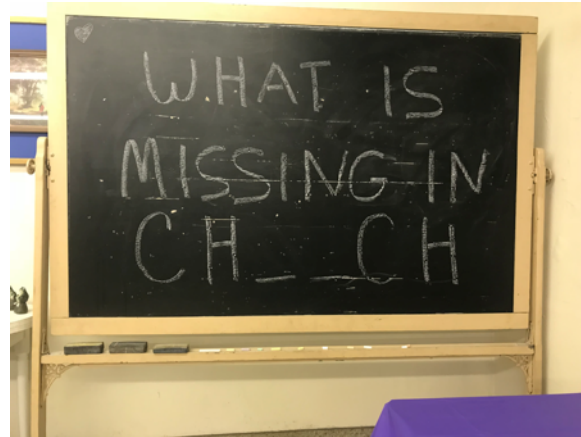
+++ +++

Friday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"So also He is in the priest's blessing by the sigh of the cross, in which He Himself appears, and as though Him self blesses. Hence the importance of a priest's blessing. And even our customary making of the sign of the cross has also God's power, if only we make it with faith." +St. John of Kronstadt

+++ +++

* 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.*



+++ +++

Saturday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"Pray, my brethren, to the Theotokos, the Mother of God, when the storm of enmity and malice bursts forth in your house. She, Who is all-merciful and all-powerful, can easily pacify the hearts of men."

+St. John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt
My Life in Christ p.179

+++ +++

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE PRIESTMARTYRS HERMOLAUS, HERMIPPOS AND HERMOCRATES, CLERGY OF NICOMEDIA

Commemorated on Aug 8/Jul 26

The PriestMartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippos and Hermocrates, Clergy of Nicomedia, were among the small number of those remaining alive after the burning of 20,000 Christians of the Nicomedia Church in the year 303 (Comm. 28 December), – done upon the orders of the emperor Maximian (284-305). They hid themselves in remote places and did not cease to teach pagans the Christian faith. Often there passed by the house, in which Saint Hermolaus had concealed himself, the young pagan named Pantoleon (Holy GreatMartyr Panteleimon, Comm. 27 July). One time Saint Hermolaus

chanced upon the youth and asked him to stop by for him at the house. In their conversation Saint Hermolaus began to explain to his guest the falseness, impiety and vanity of worshipping the pagan gods. From that day on Pantoleon began daily to visit Saint Hermolaus and received of him holy Baptism. When the trial of the holy GreatMartyr Panteleimon was being held, Saints Hermolaus, Hermippos and Hermocrates, were also arrested. The Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saint Hermolaus on an evening and revealed to him, that on the following day he would suffer for Him and receive a martyr's crown. Saints Hermippos and Hermocrates were arrested and brought to trial after Saint Hermolaus. All three were given the chance to abjure from Christ and offer sacrifice to idols. But they resolutely refused, confessed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and were prepared gladly to die for Him. The pagans began to threaten the holy priests with torture and death. Suddenly a strong earthquake occurred, and the idols and pagan temple collapsed and shattered. A report was made about this to the emperor. The enraged Maximian gave the holy martyrs over to torture and pronounced upon them a sentence of death. Bravely enduring all the torments, the holy PriestMartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippos and Hermocrates were beheaded in about the year 305.

+++ +++

All humans are made in God's image; but to be in God's likeness is granted only to those who through great love have brought their own freedom into subjection to God. For only when we do not belong to ourselves do we become like God who through love has reconciled us to himself."

Saint Diadochos of Photiki

+++ +++