



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*
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SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

please wear masks following the CDC guidelines

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15 #DORMITION FAST

8th Sunday after Pentecost
Blessed Basil of Moscow, fool-for-Christ (1552)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Lesser Blessing of Water, the Blessing of Honey, & the Blessing of Students & Teachers
Garage Sale from Noon to 3 pm

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18 #DORMITION FAST

7 pm Feast Day Vespers

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19 #DORMITION FAST

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
9:30 am Liturgy & Blessing of 1st Fruits & Veggies

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22 #DORMITION FAST

9th Sunday after Pentecost
Apostle Matthias (63)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34
Tone 8; Liturgical Color: **Blue**
Panachida for +Paul Herbert, The Priest (5-year), +Peter E Molchany, The Priest (31-year)
Blessing of the First-Fruits (& vegetables)



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Future Services are listed on our online "Parish Calendar" which is continually updated at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

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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/

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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Masks – Our Parish Council has discussed and agree that we should continue to follow the CDC guidelines. **We will return to wearing masks inside the church** (regardless of vaccination status). If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to anyone on the Executive Parish Council (Larry, Matt, Rich, Tim, Theresa, and Bob)

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#Dormition Fast Has Begun – 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.

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The Blessing of the First Fruits – On **Thursday** and **Sunday** following the Divine Liturgy, we will bless our 'first fruits' from our gardens (*or purchased from the grocery store*). **Everyone** is encouraged to bring in a bowl, basket, or bushel of fruits and/or vegetables!

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Coat Drive – Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? We are now collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) [Formerly **FOCUS Pittsburgh** (who provide **Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter to those who are in need**)]. Please place your clean coat(s) on the coat rack in the hall

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.

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Pittsburgh Forerunners – Join others from our parish in the Virtual Trek4Missions which supports *The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)*. To join, go to:

secure.ocmc.org/goto/Pittsburgh_4runners

Click: "JOIN A TEAM"

Then use the password "SJB2021Trek"

The trek will run from August 9 to September 17. *This 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.

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

Aug. 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!

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Monday'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

BULLETIN IS OFFERED:

In Memory of
+Anna Louise Pavilonis
on the 13th Anniversary
of her passing today.

May Her Memory
Be Eternal!

Recent Parish Council Meeting Highlights:

- ✘ **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
 - ✘ Additional **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
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Though the garage sale still runs today, it is not too early to thank those beautiful stewards of their time who have been so dedicated to this community event so far! May God grant you many years!

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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.

Tuesday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"The Most Holy Mother of God prays for us ceaselessly. She is always visiting us. Whenever we turn to her in our heart, she is there. After the Lord, she is the greatest protection for mankind... She is constantly by our side, and all too often we forget her."
+Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 156
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 85
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 264
Total Collections:	\$ 505
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 55
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; Lawrence Martin; Melanie Shuster; Mary Jane Hudak; 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 Matt Peifer, in memory of Parents, +Jack and +Viola Peifer. May Their Memory Be Eternal!

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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

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 Divine Liturgy will be offered at 8am). *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

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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.

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Wednesday’s Spiritual Vitamin:

“Everything in this life passes away — only God remains, only He is worth struggling towards. We have a choice: to follow the way of this world, of the society that surrounds us, and thereby find ourselves outside of God; or to choose the way of life, to choose God Who calls us and for Whom our heart is searching.”

+St. Seraphim Rose

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the DDD (Distinguished Diocesan Donors) Fund of our diocese. We ask that you make an additional offering by the end of the month for this outreach effort. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Divisions in the Church

¹⁰I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chlo’e’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apol’los,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I am thankful that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Ga’ius; ¹⁵lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Steph’anas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

¹⁴As he went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus Walks on the Water

²²Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Thursday’s Spiritual Vitamin:

“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

LIVING ORTHODOXY

The Dormition Fast

The Righteous Hyperechius was a monk who has been quoted in the Ancient Fathers of the Desert, the Sayings of the Desert Fathers, and The Great Synaxarites. The following are a sample of his wisdom:

+ *He who disregards fasting is like a rampaging stallion.*

+ *Fasting acts like a bit and bridle against sinning.*

+ *Vigil turns night into day by the power of prayer. This provokes tears and summons forth mercy from on high.*

+ *The truly wise is he who teaches not only by word but also by deed.*
 + *He who does not constrain his tongue when he is angry will neither be able to constrain his passions.*
 + *It is better to eat meat and drink wine rather than devour thy brother's flesh through slander.*
 + *By slandering God, the serpent was able to cast the first-formed out of Paradise.*
 We are in the middle of the Dormition Fast (August 14-27). May the wisdom of the Righteous Hyperechius inspire us to a greater discipline of prayer and fasting!

Friday's Spiritual Vitamin:
Make a new beginning of your fasting every day
 "This is the mark of Christianity: however much a man toils, and however many righteous deeds he performs, to feel that he has done nothing, and in fasting to say, 'This is not fasting,' and in praying, 'This is not prayer,' and in perseverance at prayer, 'I have shown no perseverance; I am only just beginning to practice and to take pains'; and even if he is righteous before God, he should say, 'I am not righteous, not I; I do not take pains, but I only make a beginning every day.' He should every day have the hope and the joy and the expectation of the coming kingdom and deliverance, and to say, 'If today I have not been delivered, I shall tomorrow.'"
 + St. Macarius the Great of Egypt,

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The Transfer From Jerusalem To Constantinople Of The Relics Of The Holy FirstMartyr Stephen
Commemorated on August 15/2

After the holy FirstMartyr Archdeacon Stephen was pelted with stones by the Jews, they threw his holy body without burial for devouring by the beasts and birds. The reknown Jewish law-teacher Gamaliel, having begun to be inclined towards faith in Jesus Christ as the Messiah and also defending the Apostles at the Sanhedrin (Acts 5: 34-40), on the second night sent people devoted to him to take up the body of the Firstmartyr. Gamaliel gave him burial on his own grounds, in a cave, not far from Jerusalem. When in turn there died the secret

disciple of the Lord, Nicodemus, who had come to Christ at night (Jn. 3: 1-21; 7: 50-52; 19: 38-42), Gamaliel likewise buried him nearby the grave of Archdeacon Stephen. Afterwards Gamaliel himself, having accepted holy Baptism together with his son Habib, was buried near the grave of the FirstMartyr Stephen and Saint Nicodemus. In the year 415 the relics of the saint were uncovered in a miraculous manner and solemnly transferred to Jerusalem by the archbishop John together with the bishops Eleutherios of Sebasteia and Eleutherios of Jericho. From that time began healings from the relics. Afterwards, during the reign of holy nobleborn emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450), the relics of the holy FirstMartyr Stephen were transferred from Jerusalem to Constantinople and placed in a church in honour of the holy Deacon Laurentius, and after the construction of a temple in honour of the FirstMartyr Stephen the relics were transferred there on 2 August in about the year 428. The right hand of the FirstMartyr is preserved in the Serapionov chamber of the Troitsky-Sergiev Lavra.

FEAST DAY FEATURE

The **Transfiguration** of Christ is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on August 19/6. Jesus had gone with his disciples Peter, James, and John to Mount Tabor. Christ's appearance was changed while they watched into a glorious radiant figure. There appeared Elijah and Moses, speaking with Jesus. The disciples were amazed and terribly afraid. This event shows forth the divinity of Christ, so that the disciples would understand after his Ascension that He was truly the radiant splendor of the Father, and that his Passion was voluntary (Mark 9:2-9). It also shows the possibility of our own theosis. This event was the subject of some debates between St. Gregory of Palamas and Barlaam of Calabria. Barlaam believed that the light shining from Jesus was created light, while Gregory maintained the disciples were given grace to perceive the uncreated light of God. This supported Gregory's larger argument that although we cannot know God in His essence, we can know Him in his energies, as He reveals Himself.
<https://orthodoxwiki.org/Transfiguration>

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 John P, Pañi Eleanor P, John, 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.
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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, Ameer, 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.*
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Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):
(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)
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Birthday Prayers for... Craig Bowser (8/16), Anthony Jesko (Jr) (8/16), Donna Horbal (8/17), Emma Martellotti (8/18), Fr. Herbert's son-in-law, Ernest Pido (8/20), Ana Karen Peña-Juarez (8/21), Maria Urban (8/21), Sophia Urban (8/21)
...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... Susan, Marilyn, John *...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*
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For those preparing for Marriage... Lauren & Corey, Nicole & Dustin *...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*
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For Pregnant Mothers... Harmonie (*due in August*), Theresa (*August*), Pañi Davina (*September*), Meredith (*December*) *...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*
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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 the souls of the newly departed...
 +Thomas Yawkey, the Deacon (8/6), +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*

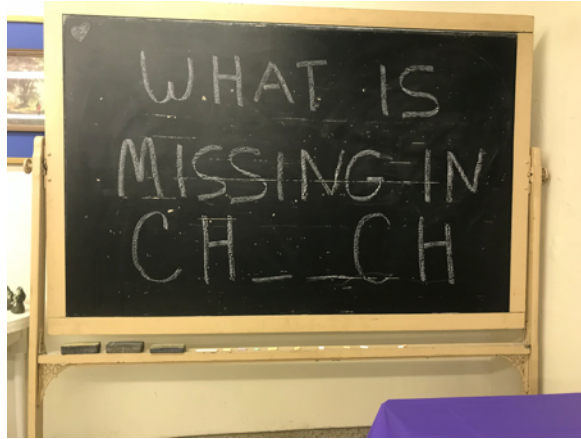
DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK

A PRAYER TO THE THEOTOKOS
 Hail Mary, full of grace, O Virgin Birthgiver of God, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to Christ, the Savior and deliverer of our souls.
(strive to pray this ten times a day during the Dormition Fast)

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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.



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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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* 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.*