

House Blessings Resume – For those who did not have their house blessed prior to the Great Fast, please contact Fr Dave to arrange a time.

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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; 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 John Gaydos, Jr., in Memory of Mother, Catherine. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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Young Women's Encounter – The 5th Annual Diocesan Young Women's Encounter will be held from **July 1-4** in Windber, PA. Any young woman aged 12-18 is encouraged to go. For more information please talk to Fr. Dave or email Pañi Eleni Stagon at: acrodywe@gmail.com.

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Altar Boy's Retreat – The 2018 Diocesan Altar Boy Retreat will be held **July 1-4** in Johnstown, PA. If you are interested in attending, please see Fr. Dave for more information.

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Annual Church Picnic – Just a reminder that our annual picnic to be held at *The Cabin* in North Park will be on **Sunday, July 8th** from Noon to about 5pm.

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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Lk. 6:31)

- Pray for our parish
- Attend additional services
- Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Donate towards Bibles for Babies

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Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues: \$ 46
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: \$ 155
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special: \$ 603
Community Outreach: \$ 70

Total Collections: \$ 874

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 20

Collection for the Saints: "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper." 1 Cor 16:2

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

June 10: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

June 17: **Open / "Pot Luck"**

June 24: **Ditmore / Urban / Verbanick**

The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

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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
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH

Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **TODAY June 3** – St Andrew (56 Glenn Way, McKees Rocks) *Romanian*
- **June 4-9** – All Saints (601 West McMurray Rd., Canonsburg) *Greek*
- **June 11-16** – Koimissis (2111 Davidson St., Aliquippa) *Greek*
- **June 12-15** – Holy Cross (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh) *Greek*
- **June 22-24** – Holy Dormition (12 Washington Ave., Oakmont) *Greek*



Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church hall for times and more information or visit holytrinitypgh.org/pittsburgh-greek-festivals-guide

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ST JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for ***The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration***. This drive is in preparation for their patronal feast day celebration later this summer. *This is the 50th Anniversary of the Monastery!* Please place your physical donations on the bar in the Church Hall. We will also take up our monthly community outreach monetary collection at the end of the month for them. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

2018 Requested Donations List

Monastery Supplies:

Toilet tissue
Facial Tissues
Paper Towels
Paper napkins
Tall Kitchen White
Trash Bags
Dessert size **paper** plates
9 in. and 12 in. **paper** plates

Cleaning Supplies:

Clorox Bathroom Cleaner
(not wipes)
Clorox Bleach Cleaner
409 Cleaner
Dish washing liquid (refill)

Food Items:

sugar & creamers containers
for coffee hour
powdered sugar
canola oil
cooking spray
salted canned nuts
honey – large jars
honey bear jars – small
granola bars – snack bars
small cans of chick peas
(plain not seasoned)

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: *Hebrews 11:33-12:2*

³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated— ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Example of Jesus

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set

before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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Gospel: *Matthew 10:32-33,37-38,19:27-30*

³²So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. ³⁷He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ²⁷Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?” ²⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. ³⁰But many that are first will be last, and the last first.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: <https://www.goarch.org/-/sunday-of-all-saints>

Sunday of All Saints

The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives.

Background

Honoring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honorable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the Apostle Paul, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in

manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we honor all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Savior" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxastikon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and

especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor on this day, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

Icon of the Sunday of All Saints

The icon of the Sunday of All Saints depicts our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ seated above the throne of heaven surrounded by the Saints. The rows of Saints included the Archangel Michael and other



Angels, the Theotokos and John the Baptist, the Apostles, Bishops, Great Martyrs, Ascetics and Monastics. To the side of the throne are Adam and Eve, bowing in reverence to Christ. They are joined by the Saints, who are lifting their hands in worship to the King of Glory. At the lower left of the icon is the Patriarch Abraham who has a righteous soul in his bosom, as told in the story of Lazarus and the rich man in the Gospel. At the lower center is the Good Thief who was crucified with Christ. On the lower right is the Patriarch Jacob.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

The Apostles’ Fast

By: Andreas Houpos

Modified from: goannun.org/the-apostles-fast/

Every year, the question pops up: “Apostles’ Fast?’ What Apostles’ Fast?” Indeed, you may be reading this and not have an idea what you’re getting yourself into right now. For many of us, the idea of fasting at this time of year may seem strange. After all, we only recently were chanting “Christ is risen,” and just celebrated Pentecost — to say nothing of the weather becoming more pleasant, school ending, and vacations pending — so doesn’t the idea of fasting seem out of place? These are good and fair questions. Still, we might consider a better and more pertinent question to be: “What can I learn about the Apostles’ Fast?”

What is the Apostles’ Fast?

The Apostles’ Fast is so called because it is attributed to the Apostles of Christ. From the Resurrection of Christ until one week after Pentecost, the Church does not prescribe any extraordinary fasting. Following the festal period of Pentecost, however, the action of the Church reflects what was happening with Christ’s Apostles: after celebrating the resurrection of Christ, and the reception of the Holy Spirit, it was time for them to get to work. As prayer and fasting are indispensable to the mission of the Gospel, we know that the Apostles dedicated some time to this. Very early in the history of the Church, a formal fasting period was established to honor this preparatory period of the Apostles and the resulting glory of their accomplishments. The earliest evidence available to us of this fast is found in the homilies of Pope Leo I (d. 461), though it was certainly established much earlier.

When is the Apostles’ Fast Observed?

The Apostles’ Fast is unique among the fasts of the Church in that its length is variable. It is observed from the second Monday after Pentecost until the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul on July 12/June 29. Because the date of Pascha (and, therefore that of Pentecost) is variable, the length of the fast can vary greatly. In fact, in 1923, when some Orthodox Churches adopted the “New” Gregorian calendar, yet others refused to do so and continued to use the Church’s traditional “Old” or Julian calendar, one of the main arguments against the change was that the Apostles’ Fast would be severely

diminished or even omitted entirely. In fact, this phenomenon of the diminishment of the Fast may explain why so many people not attuned to the liturgical life of the Church are not familiar with or are surprised by the Apostles’ Fast.

Why Do We Observe this Fast?

As was mentioned above, this fast was instituted to honor the preparations of the Apostles after Pentecost and before setting off on their missionary journeys. We could say that there are three purposes for this fast in particular.

1) Temperance

This fast gives us a chance to slow things down a bit and to be mindful of self-control. Fasting is an indispensable element of our Christian calling, in part because it helps us stay focused on our apostolic mission: to make disciples of all nations.

2) Remembrance

We take this opportunity to honor the faith, preparation, sacrifice, hard work, and success of the Apostles of Christ. In fact, we honor them in two ways: by depriving ourselves on their behalf, and by emulating them.

3) Participation

Coming out of the season of Pascha, Ascension, and Pentecost, this is our reminder and opportunity to recommit to our Lord’s command to go and make disciples of all nations, and that *we must also prepare for this work in our own lives by practicing self-discipline.*

If you are new to this fast and were not expecting and prepared for it, and if you are concerned about honoring the teachings and prescriptions of the Church, the answer is **not** to say “Oh, well—maybe next year,” but to do what you can. As with any type of fasting, the Church offers very clear prescriptions in terms of what foods are to be avoided, which are permitted, and when the fast is to be observed and for how long. However, the point of fasting is never to simply follow rules or to check something off a list. The point of fasting is to strengthen our resolve and to complement the virtue of prayerfulness. Of course, this means obeying the Church’s teachings goes hand-in-hand. Still, if you are unsure of fasting guidelines or your ability to meet them, or if you think you have an extenuating circumstance that would prevent you from following a fast as it is prescribed, then simply ask Father Dave.

SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Amvon Prayer of Sunday of All Saints - O Lord Thou art glorified in the Council of Thy holy ones, Thou art the boast of the Apostles, the joy of the prophets, the support of the martyrs, the joy of the saints, and the crown of the Birth-giver! Give us Thy peace. Guide and guard our lives by Thy merciful goodness that we may be deemed worthy to imitate their struggles, and pleasing Thee, to come to future happiness with them. For it is Thou, O Christ our God, Who give us everlasting gifts, and we give glory to Thee, together with Thy eternal Father and Thy all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

MONDAY

"Blessed are you Simon, son of Jonah, for Christ the Son of the Living God said to you, O Apostle Peter: You are worthy of glory. How may we be worthy of your blessedness, O blessed one of God? Truly, because of our loving duty, we may come to you in faith and now we sing to you: Rejoice, powerful pillar of the Orthodox Faith and Its confirmation!" - Ikos 1, Akathist Hymn to Apostle Peter and Apostle Paul

TUESDAY

"Do not grow cold through the example and the lukewarmness of the multitude, but live as do the few, so that with the few you may deserve to be found in the kingdom. 'For many are called, but few are chosen'." +St. John Cassian

WEDNESDAY

"And conversely: if a man considers himself a believer, and has no misfortunes or illnesses, then this, according to the holy fathers, is a sign that he has not found favor with the Lord." - Abbot Nikon Vorobiev

THURSDAY

"Be indulgent to others in that in which you yourself sin." +St. John of Kronstadt

FRIDAY

What is above all desirable for man? The avoidance of sin, the remission and forgiveness of sins and the attainment of holiness." +St. John of Kronstadt

SATURDAY

"Christ leads us out of separation from God, away from a "self" defined by our will and passions, into a new life that is the work of His hands, the fruit of His will, the created glory of His eternal, unending and glorious life." - Bishop Irenei Steenberg

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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. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver him/her from sickness and bitter pain. Heal him/her so that he/she may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Julie, Jane, Mildred, Anna Mae, Andrew, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Matthew, Patricia, Lino, David, Edward, Melissa, Louis, Marjorie, Jonathan, Ivana, Donna, Doug, Danielle, Pañi Patty Patrick ...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... Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, John S., Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Ashley, John, and Noella, our seminarians: Nathaniel, Vince, Michael, and Daniel, and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee: Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Donald, Jane, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, Kenneth, Gina, Robert, Jillian, Wendy, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, John, Richard, John, Margaret, Sarah, Patricia, and for those working towards our Community Outreach, The Monastery of the Transfiguration ...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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Birthday Prayers for... Penelope Maruscak (6/5), Pañi Eleni Stagon (6/5), Lindsey (Winkler) Kovats (6/6), Justin Winkler (6/7), Gina Mercurio (6/8) ...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 Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

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Anniversary Prayers for... Stephen & Jennifer Brancho (6/6), Sharon & Scott Robinson (6/6), Pañi's Parents, Stelian & Alexandrina Popescu (6/9) ...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!

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For those preparing for Marriage... Nicole & Jeffrey ...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

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For Expectant Mothers... Brittany, Harmonie, Aimee, Lindsay, and Mary Ann ...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St Irene Chrysovalantou.

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Ashley and Patrick ...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS OF THE WEEK:

A prayer for our Neighborhoods by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.