



Saint 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*
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
Matthew Peifer, *Church 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

September 30, 2018

Volume IV

18th Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday after the Universal Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord / Martyrs Sophia and her three daughters: Faith, Hope, & Love (137)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 1

Liturgical Color: **Red**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 / Galatians 2:16-20; Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35 / Mark 8:34-9:1

*Add'l collection for our community outreach, Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) /
Blessing of our new Chalice set / Panachida for +Bp John R Martin (34 year anniversary) /
Noon to Dusk - Pittsburgh Deanery Family Picnic*



SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Wednesday, October 3 – 7pm Exploring Orthodoxy (*in Wexford*)

Friday, October 5 – 9:30am Akathist to St. John the Baptist for the Feast of his Conception

The opportunity for the Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

Monday	Venerable Eumenes, bishop of Gortyna (7th c.)	Philippians 1:1-7	Luke 3:19-22
Tuesday	St. Theodore, prince of Smolensk & Yaroslav (1299)	Philippians 1:8-14	Luke 3:23-4:1
* Wednesday	Holy Martyr and Confessor Michael (1245)	Philippians 1:12-20	Luke 4:1-15
Thursday	Apostle Quadratus of the Seventy (130)	Philippians 1:20-27	Luke 4:16-22
* Friday	Prophet Jonah (9th c. B.C.)	Philippians 1:27-2:4	Luke 4:22-30
Saturday	The Conception of the Honorable, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John	1 Corinthians 15:58-16:3	Luke 4:31-36

** Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did.*

Sunday, October 7 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla (1st c)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tone 2

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9; Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 (1st Sunday of Luke)

Panachida for +Ann Sefscik (1 year anniversary)

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)
Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava Na Viki!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! **Please join us downstairs** for coffee and a bite to eat. 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 in again soon!

If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Father Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++



LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



Wednesday, October 10 – 7pm Final Exploring Orthodoxy for the 2018 at Eat 'n' Park in Wexford

Thursday, October 11 – 9:30am Akathist to the Theotokos, Healer of Cancer, with holy anointing

Sunday, October 14 – Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos (Pokrov) / Add'l collection for our CAP Fund

Tuesday, October 16 – 9:30 Moleben for Parents Grieving a Miscarriage, Stillbirth, or Loss of a Child

Sunday, Oct. 21 – YOUTH Sunday / Panachida for the Founders of our Parish (Founded 10/23/1932)

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++



PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions for this section to Father by Wednesday.)



Inaugural Deanery Family Picnic will be held **TODAY (9/30)** from Noon to Dusk (*i.e., from after church till the start of the Steeler Game*) in Schenley Park at the Anderson Pavilion (199 Chas Anderson Memorial Bridge, Pittsburgh, PA 15213) Just 15 minutes from NS. *Grab last week's bulletin for detailed directions from downtown.*

Here are some highlights of what's to come:

- fellowship with our sister parishes,
- variety of food
- live musicians strolling from 2-4
- awesome playgrounds for the kids

Get together with old friends and family! Make new friends! Come enjoy God's creation in one of the best parks in Pittsburgh!

Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Anastasia Dzambo; Lawrence Martin; Barbara Kirish; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Rich Milirovich; John Radick.

“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; and by Tim Martin, in Memory of Mother, Anastasia. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

Thank You! – to the kind and generous donors for our new Chalice Set! May God grant you many and blessed years!

Patron Saint Commemorations – Please note that we will begin commemorating our Patron Saints during the Proskomedia (*Preparation*) prayers of the Divine Liturgy and during the Great Entrance prayers. Please contact Father Dave to confirm that he has the date of your Name’s Day. Here are a couple website to search if you are not sure when your Name Day is:

orthodoxwiki.org/Patron_saint
christopherklitou.com/when_is_my_nameday_d.htm
holotrinityorthodox.com/calendar/

LAST CALL for 2018 Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD) – Those who give \$100 (& up) are invited to the Annual Banquet, which will be held on **Sunday, October 7th (With new times: Doors open at 4 / Dinner at 5)** at the Edgewood Country Club (100 Churchill Rd., Pgh, PA 15235). Please see Father Dave for more information.

Reading (or Chanting) of the Third Hour – Beginning soon, we will have the 3rd Hour read prior to the start of the Divine Liturgy. This will begin by 9:15. If you are interested in this prayerful stewardship of the church, please contact Fr Dave.

Exploring Orthodoxy for teenagers through senior (citizens) – TWO WEEKS LEFT! We will meet every **Wednesday (thru Oct. 10th)** from 7 to 8:15pm at the Eat ‘n Park off of the Wexford exit of 79 (2650 Brandt School Road, Wexford, Pa 15090 / 724-940-3270) for our *Exploring Orthodoxy* Discussions. We will examine the priestly prayers of St John Chrysostom’s Divine Liturgy. We hope and pray that everyone is able to attend these tangent oriented discussions about Orthodoxy! Come for a bite to eat and learn about your faith! (If you need a ride, please contact Fr. Dave.)

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 351
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 197
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 621
Total Collections:	\$ 1189
Relocation Fund:	\$ 70
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	

Akathist to St John – On Friday, October 5th, we will gather at 9:30am to pray the Akathist Hymn to St John, the Forerunner, and our Patron Saint. The Church Commemorates his Conception on Saturday.

Akathist to the Healer of Cancer – October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Our prayers continue to be needed. On **Thursday, October 11th** we will have the Akathist to the Theotokos, the Healer of Cancer, at 9:30am.

Candle and Cleaning Assistance Needed – On Saturday October 13th and 20th, Cindy will not be available to do the weekly maintenance around the church. If you are able to be a steward of your time and help these weeks, please contact Fr Dave this week.

Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos (Pokrov) – Sunday, October 14th, we will celebrate this Feast. It is an old custom to bring fresh flowers to church on the Feasts of the Theotokos to honor her. All are encouraged to bring a bouquet in two weeks and place it on the solea in front of the icon of Mary on the Iconostasis. It’s not often that Feast Days fall on a Sunday – come and celebrate the Divine Liturgy with us!

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

- As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Lk. 6:31)*
- Pray for our parish and it’s future
 - Sponsor a Coffee Social
 - Offer to help with candles and cleaning October 13th and/or 20th
 - Offer to Read/Chant the Third Hour

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

October 7: **Gina and Bob Fall**
October 14: **Theresa Sharpless**
October 21: **Olga Radick**

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!

ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH

Young Adult Fall Retreat - Clear your schedules for **October 5-7** and come join us for a weekend of fellowship and discussions on **how your faith and politics relate to one another**. The weekend will consist of small discussion groups with special guest moderators Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, Fr. Stephen Loposky and Fr. Nicholas Halkias. Get the chance to explore Camp Nazareth during the Fall and take part in additional activities including making your own Raku pottery and growing closer with fellow participants on the Low Ropes Course. See Father Dave for more information.

+++ +++ +++

The Miraculous Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Theotokos will be visiting the Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery (121 St. Elias Lane, Saxonburg, PA 16056 / 724-352-3999) on **Saturday, October 6th** from 8:15a to 1:30p. (Divine Liturgy will be at 8:30.) The Monastery will provide hospitality throughout the visitation. They ask for your continued prayers for their Monastery. In Christ's Love, Gerontissa Theophano & her Sisterhood. www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org

+++ +++ +++

Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **October 11-12** – All Saints (601 West McMurray Rd., Canonsburg) *Greek*
- **October 12-13** – St. Nicholas (903 Ann St., Homestead) *Carpatho-Rusyn*
- **October 13** – St Vladimir (73 S 18th St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203) *Ukrainian*
- **October 14** – St. Michael (146 3rd Ave., Rankin) *Carpatho-Rusyn*
- **October 19-21** – St. George (New Church / New Location: 3230 Washington Pike, Bridgeville) *Mediterranean* www.StGeorgeBridgeville.org

+++ +++ +++



25th Annual 7-K Walk/Run for Missions “Fulfilling Jesus’ Great Commission” – will be on **Sunday, October 14th** at South Park Children’s Playground Pavilion (Corrigan & Brownsville Rd., South Park, PA 15129) sponsored by the *Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh*. Pre-register by Oct. 1st at www.holycrosspgh.org/events OR register at 1pm at South Park. Walk begins at 2pm. There will be complimentary refreshments before the walk and a light lunch following the walk. FREE T-Shirt for children 8 years and under who raise \$50 or others who raise \$100 or more. Bring your pledge forms and collected money to the event (make checks payable to “Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood”). Even if you are unable to be with us in person, your donation will be extremely helpful in carrying out this important and necessary work of the Church. For more information, email faith.williard@pittsburghmoves.com or stevekrakora@hotmail.com, or call 412-251-3207. Proceeds earmarked for the Guatemalan Seminarians and Mission work of Fr. John and Presbyteria Sandy Chakos. Visit www.TheWordFromGuatemala.com to follow the blog of this mission!

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

¹⁶ yet who know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. ¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

³⁴ And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” ⁹ ¹ And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”



LIVING ORTHODOXY

When Did Christians Begin to Make the Sign of the Cross?

Question: Can you tell us about the history of the sign of the cross since the early Christian times? As far as I know, neither Jesus nor his apostles made the sign of the cross. When did this tradition appear?

The Rev Athanasios Gumerov from Sretensky Monastery: We do not have any worship texts written by the Christians of the Apostolic age. Therefore, we cannot resolve the issue of whether the sign of the cross was used in the primitive Church unequivocally. Absence of definitive knowledge does not mean that we must deny the possibility for the sign of the cross to appear in the earliest Christian communities. Some researchers unambiguously state that “The custom of making



Position of the fingers of the right hand in making the sign of the cross.

the sign of the cross begins in the Apostolic times” (*The Comprehensive Orthodox Theological Encyclopedia*. Saint Petersburg, published by P.P. Soykin, year n/a, p. 1485). As early as Tertullian’s time, the sign of the cross has already become an established tradition among Christians. Tertullian writes in his treatise *De Corona* (ca. 211) that we guard our forehead with the sign of the cross in all circumstances of our daily lives: when we enter a house or leave it, when we put on our clothes, when we kindle lights, when we go to bed or begin to do something.

The sign of the cross isn’t just a part of a religious ritual. **It’s a mighty weapon.** There are many examples in the collections of sayings by the Holy Fathers and the lives of the saints of the real spiritual power that the image of the Cross

possesses. Didn't the God-enlightened Apostles know it? We find an interesting testimony in *The Spiritual Meadow* by John Moschos. When a priest named Conon from the monastery of Pentucla left the monastery, he met St John the Baptist who meekly implored him to return to the monastery, promising to make the monk free from temptations. Abba Conon refused. St John

made him sit on a hill, opened his garment and made the sign of the cross three times. (See Chapter 3). The great John the Forerunner descended from Heaven. Could he have learned to make the sign of the cross from people?
Translated by The Catalog of Good Deeds

+++ + + + + + + + +
How to Choose Your Patron Saint?

When you choose a patron saint, you bear their name. Naming and name changes play a significant part of biblical history. Abram is changed to Abraham. Sarai to Sarah. Jacob is changed to Israel. The Apostle Peter from Simon. Many early Christians took the names of martyrs. The man who murdered Saint Matthew the Apostle, when he became a Christian, took the name of Matthew. When the Orthodox are baptized as children or adults they take a name of a saint. When an Orthodox Christian becomes a monk, a new name is given at that time as well. In the life after this one, we are told we will be given a new name still (Revelation 2:17).

We do this to honor the saints, to remember their sacrifice and example. It unites us to the ancientness of the faith through their personhood. Beside walking into a parish and seeing the icons of the saints lining the walls being a physical representation of that "great cloud of witnesses", **we pick one saint amongst them all and keep them close to us.** We pray with them as we might pray with those still on this side of the eternal. As Paul instructed the faithful



to follow after his example, we also try to follow the example of those faithful servants of God who have already carved out a path.

With patron saints also come **name days**. A name day is the day one's patron saint is honored. **A name day is considered to be more important than one's own birthday as it represents one's baptism.** If possible we will attend a service at church, have some sort or celebration at home, reflect on their example and try to do likewise.

There are various ways in which one takes a saint's name. It is common to take a name of a saint whose name they already share. A person named Andrew will choose Saint Andrew. Someone named James might choose Saint James. Sometimes a saint will be honored by the baptized's middle name. I have some friends who no longer go by the name they were born with and I have only known them by their baptismal name. In Serbian churches, there is a patron saint for the entire family rather than for every individual.

Source: ourorthodoxlife.blogspot.com.by/2010/12/patron-saints.html

+++
ORTHODOX WORDS OF THE WEEK

Name Day is the day on which an Orthodox Christian celebrates the feast of their patron saint. If a particular saint has more than one feast day, usually only one date is chosen as the name day.

+++ + + + + + + + +
Patron Saint is regarded as the intercessor and advocate in heaven of a nation, place, craft, activity, class, or person.

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

+++
LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

Martyrs Sophia and her three daughters: Faith, Hope, & Love (137)

Commemorated on September 30/17

The Holy Martyresses Vera (Faith), Nadezhda (Hope) and Liubov' (Love) were born in Italy. Their mother, Saint Sophia (Wisdom), was a pious Christian widow. Having named her daughters with the names of the three Christian virtues, Saint Sophia raised them up in love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ and they openly confessed it before everyone. The official Antiochus made denunciation about them to the emperor Adrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realising that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He should send them the strength not to fear impending torture and death. When the



holy virgins with their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure: it seemed that they had been called out to some happy festivity, rather than to torture. Summoning the sisters in turn, Adrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls (Vera was 12, Nadezhda was 10 and Liubov' was 9) remained unyielding. Then the emperor gave orders to fiercely torture them: they burned at the holy virgins over an iron grating, they threw them into a red-hot oven and then into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord by His Unseen Power preserved them. The youngest one, Liubov', they tied to a wheel and beat at her with canes, until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. And undergoing unreported torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the faith. They subjected Saint Sophia to another and

grievous torture: the mother was forced to look upon the suffering of her daughters. But she displayed adamant courage and during this whole while she urged the girls to endure the torments in the Name of the Heavenly Bridegroom. All three maidens with joy met their martyr's end. They were beheaded.

In order to intensify the inner suffering of Saint Sophia, the emperor decided to let her take

up the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and reverently conveyed them on a wagon beyond the city and buried them on an high place. Saint Sophia sat there for three days not leaving the graves of her daughters, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Believers buried her body there also. the relics of the holy martyresses since the year 777 rest at El'zasa, in the church of Esho.

+++ +

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.

+ +

For the Health of... Julie, Jane, Mildred, Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Gary, Lino, David, Melissa, Louis, Marjorie, Jonathan, Danielle, June, Helen, Steven, Thomas, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N. ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; & St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

+ +

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, Rose *our seminarians:* 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, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

+ +

Patron Saint Commemorations: St Sophia (9/30) – Sophia Urban. (contact Fr Dave to make sure he has your date.)

+ +

Birthday Prayers for... Genevive Martellotti (10/3), Matthew Mirilovich (10/6) ...*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!*

+ +

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

+ +

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

+ +

Anniversary Prayers for... Rich & Renee Mirilovich (10/1), Allen & Anastasia Dzambo (10/2), Brian & Rhonda Gogal (10/5) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

+ +

For Expectant Mothers... Lindsay, Mary Ann, Elyse, Lauren, Pañi Marianna
...*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
...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

+ +

For the souls of the newly departed... +Anna Evanisko (Pañi Miloro's mother), The Priest, Fr. +Dragan Filipovic
...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal Memory!*

+ +

* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you would 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 Orthodox Christians.*

+ +

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

A Prayer for Pañis (Priest Wives, Presbytera (Gr), Preoteasa (Rom), Matushkas (Rus), Popadija (Ser))
(St. Sophia, commemorated today, is the Patron Saint of our Pañis)

O Almighty and Sovereign Father, who have said that in quietness and trust we would find our strength (Isaiah 30:15) and who have given strength to the wives of Your servants in every age, from Elizabeth the wife of Zechariah in ancient days to Matushka Olga of Alaska in our own: bless Your handmaidens, the clergy wives of Your Church, and fill them with Your joy. As they wait upon You, renew their strength (Isaiah 40:31), and defend them from all assaults of visible and invisible enemies. Let them find refuge under the shelter of Your wings, that protected by Your love they may ever praise You. Give them courage and perseverance that they may pass victoriously through this age and finally receive their reward in the age to come. Grant this, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with You and the all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, we ascribe all might, majesty, dominion, and power, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.