

Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



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Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*
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November 4, 2018

Volume IV

**23rd Sunday after Pentecost / 5th Lukan Sunday /
7 Holy Youths (7 Sleepers) of Ephesus (250)**

9:15am – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Tone 6

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10; Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, November 7 – 9:30am 1st & 3rd Hours

CANCELLED: Thur. 11/8 Liturgy for the Feast of St. Demetrius (*Fr will be attending a Squirrel Hill support group*)

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

Monday	Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord (63)	1 Thessalonians 2:20-3:8	Luke 10:22-24
Tuesday	Martyr Arethas of Omir (523)	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 11:1-10
* Wednesday	Martyrs Marcian & Martyrius of Constantinople (355)	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Luke 11:9-13
Thursday	Great-martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher (306)	1 Thessalonians 5:1-8	Luke 11:14-23
* Friday	Martyr Nestor of Thessalonica (306)	1 Thess. 5:9-13,24-28	Luke 11:23-26
Saturday	Great-martyr Parasceva of Iconium (3rd c.)	2 Corinthians 11:1-6	Luke 8:16-21

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

Sunday, November 11 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost / 6th Sunday of Luke /
Venerable Abramius of Rostov (Valaam) (1073)

9:15am – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy

Tone 7

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22; Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement Fund

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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!

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



Thursday, November 15 – 9:30am Moleben to the Theotokos with holy anointing

Sunday, November 18 – YOUTH Sunday / 2pm Turkey Bingo

Thursday, November 22 (*Thanksgiving*) – 9:30am Moleben to St. Nectarios with holy anointing

Sunday, November 25 – God Parent/Child(ren) Sunday / Additional Collection for our Community Outreach (IOCC) / Panachida for deceased God Parents and Children

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

Special Meeting Results – Last week following the Divine Liturgy we had our Special Parish Meeting and vote about our future. The proposal was such: *To secure a 3-year lease in Wexford on VIP Drive for the purpose of relocation and growth of our existing Parish, for the amount of \$3150 per month. All regular services will begin at the leased location after Nativity (January 7, 2019).* Our Metropolitan gave his blessing and supports this proposal. The results of the vote were: 18 – Yes; 10 – No; 1 – abstention. The Metropolitan, Johnstown, and the realtor have been contacted as we continue this journey. Fr. John Touloumes (Pastor of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, McCandles) gave these thoughts, "Glory to God!

Welcome to the neighborhood brother! We at Holy Trinity Church look forward to having another sister light of Orthodoxy up here." Thank you to everyone who came and participated in last week's meeting. May God continue to bless us as missionaries and doers of His Word!

Readers of the Third Hour:

November 4: John Kirish

November 11: OPEN

November 18: OPEN

This should begin by 9:15 and can be read or chanted. Please contact Fr Dave if you are interested in participating in this wonderful stewardship prayer opportunity!

Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Barbara Kirish; Don Gavulich; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis; 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. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!



Annual Turkey Bingo – will occur on **Sunday, November 18th**. Donation is \$10 for admission which includes 3 cards. The doors will open at **2pm** and the games begin at 3pm. All Bingo winners will receive a turkey as a prize. Plan to have supper at the church hall as the *Carpathian Kitchen* will be open and plenty of refreshments will be available.

In conjunction with the bingo we will also have a raffle of sporting tickets, Auction, Food Raffle, and baked goods available.

We ask you to help **to donate unexpired food and/or paper products to be a part of the food basket raffle**, and to prepare some homemade baked goods to be sold the afternoon of the bingo.

*Advertising flyers have been made. Please let Father know how many you want and he will print them for you. *** Form letters are also available to approach businesses for supplies or donations.*

WE NEED STEWARDS (VOLUNTEERS)
To Step Forward With Your Time, Talents,
And God Given Gifts To Make This A
Successful Community Event!
Please see a Church Council member to offer your help

Thank you in advance for your support!



ACRY NEWS

Lots-O-Luck Calendars – The National ACRY Lots-O-Luck Calendars are available. \$25 per ticket for a year's worth of prizes totaling \$10,000! Please see Theresa Sharpless for tickets.

Membership Drive – The next ACRY meeting will be on **Next Sunday 11/11** as part of their membership drive. Please plan to come to the meeting with any questions that you have about our Sr. ACRY.



Soup or Chili Sale – Our ACRY will be selling soup for \$4 a pint on **Sunday, November 18th**. Plan to take home a couple varieties home to keep you warm.

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 525
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 165
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 957
Community Outreach:	\$ 107

Total Collections: \$ 1754
Relocation Fund: \$ 90

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

October Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 6041.92

***Expenses = \$ 6250.82**

Net Deficit = \$ 208.90

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 42

Christmas at FOCUS – We have again offered to donate 4 sheet cakes, 300 bottles of water, 300 napkins, and 300 plasticware sets to FOCUS Pittsburgh for their annual Christmas Dinner for those in need. In addition, they are asking for \$25 gift cards from Target. Please see **Kathy Schmack** if you are able to make a physical or monetary donation towards this wonderful event which will be held on **Saturday, December 22nd**. Your prayers and stewardship are greatly appreciated!

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

November 11: **Kirish Family**
November 11: ???

November 18: ??? (*Turkey Bingo Day*)

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!

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 Read/Chant the Third Hour

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

ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH



Visitation of the Myrrh-streaming Tender-Heart Icon of the Theotokos, the "Kardiotissa" – On **Friday, November 9th**, the weeping icon from our sister parish in Taylor, PA will be visiting Holy Cross Orthodox Church (Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, PA) for an All-night Vigil. The Icon will arrive at 6p; Small Paraklesis Service at 7p; Festive Matins at 10p; Divine Liturgy at 11:30p; Light Meal at 1am. The church will then be open all night before the icon departs Saturday morning.

Orthodoxy on Tap – The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) will meet for their next "Orthodoxy on Tap" on **Sun., Nov. 11th** at 6:30p at the Industry Public House (4305 Butler St.). All young adults (21-39) are



invited for an evening of appetizers, beverages, socialization and growth in their Orthodox Faith. Speaker will be Fr. Joseph Fester of St. John's in East Pittsburgh who will speak on "Orthodoxy in Thailand & Georgia" from which he and his wife recently returned.

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Dinner and Wine Paring to Benefit IOCC – Sunday, November 11th from 6p~8p at Khalil's II Restaurant (4757 Baum Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213). Come enjoy a traditional family style Middle Eastern feast with four wine pairings. Tickets are \$75 per person. Limited seating available. Contact Danielle Opacic at dopacic@verizon.net or 412-915-5525 to register.

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Becoming Truly Human - Small Group Leaders Workshop - You are invited to attend a very special workshop on **Saturday, November 17th** (10:30 am - 4 pm) to train those interested in knowing more about reaching out those in our community who are NOT Orthodox and likely have little or no church background. This 5-hour workshop being held at St. George Orthodox Cathedral (3400 Dawson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213) is open to all of those *who would like to learn more about introducing their friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to the Orthodox church using a very relational approach which demonstrates respect and builds trust.* We ask that those attending bring a \$25 donation to "Truly Human, LLC" to help cover some of the costs of the materials related to this workshop. Please go this link to register: www.becomingtrulyhuman.com/register.

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

“Of all the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures.” +Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God— 9 not because of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

The Rich Man and Lazarus

19 “There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate lay a poor man named Laz’arus, full of sores, 21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 The poor man

died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Laz’arus in his bosom. 24 And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Laz’arus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Laz’arus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ 27 And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house, 28 for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ 30 And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.’”

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ST JOHN’S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting monetary donations for the **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)**. This agency, that is under the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, represents Orthodox Christians in North America and understands its work to include developing in Orthodox Christians a commitment to philanthropy and global cooperative involvement in the work of the Orthodox Church. They have a yearly campaign called a “day of giving Sunday” before Thanksgiving. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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LIVING ORTHODOXY



Statement on the Recent Attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America expresses its deep sympathies as we mourn the loss of innocent

lives and pray for the speedy recovery of those wounded in the recent attack on the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Remembering the Message from our Assembly meeting just last month, we reiterate our “denunciation of all violence, whether caused by senseless acts related to weapons and shootings or instigated by abhorrent acts of discrimination and prejudice.”

Indeed the heinous and murderous act of terror on October 27, 2018, sprang from a place of deep prejudice against people and religion. We unequivocally condemn this rampage as a sin against the local community, religion, and humanity.

We call upon all Christians and all people of good will to stand in solidarity with the families of the

victims and the survivors. We pray fervently to the Almighty God for the spiritual healing of the entire congregation and community, especially those in Pittsburgh. In this era of frequent and unprecedented attacks on basic freedoms, especially freedom of religion, it is through love and harmony that hearts might be softened and transformed. For only through love will evil be neutralized, violence cease, and peace prevail.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus – Maximilian, Iamblichus, Martinian, Dionysius, Antoninus, Constantine (Hexakustodianos) and John

Commemorated on Nov 4/Oct 22

The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblichus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Eksacustodianus (Constantine) and Antoninus, lived in the 3rd Century. Saint Maximilian was the son of the Ephesus city administrator, and the other six youths – were sons of other illustrious Ephesus citizens. The youths were friends from childhood, and all were together in military service. When the emperor Decius (249-251) arrived in Ephesus, he commanded all the citizenry to appear for offering sacrifice to the pagan gods; torture and death by execution awaited the recalcitrant. By denunciation from those currying the emperor's favour, the seven youths of Ephesus were summoned to reply to the charges. Standing before the emperor, the seven youths confessed their faith in Christ. Their illustrious military decorations – the military sashes – were quickly taken from them. Decius however set them at liberty, hoping, that they would change their minds while he was away on military campaign. The youths fled from the city and hid in a cave on Mount Okhlonos, where they passed the time at prayer, preparing for the deed of martyrdom. The very youngest of them – Saint Iamblichus, having clothed himself in beggar's attire, went into the city and bought bread. In one of these journeys into the city he heard, that the emperor had returned and sought them, so as to bring them to trial. Saint Maximilian exhorted his companions to come out of the cave and bravely appear at trial. Having learned where the lads were hidden, the emperor gave orders to seal the entrance of the cave with stones, so that the lads would perish in it from hunger and thirst. Two of the dignitaries, coming before the walled-up entrance to the cave, were secret christians. Wanting to preserve the memory of the saints, they set in among the stones a sealed container, in which were located two tin sheaves. On them were inscribed the names of the seven youths and the details of their suffering and death.

But the Lord brought upon the youths a miraculous sleep, continuing almost two centuries. During this while the persecutions against Christians had ceased, although during the reign of the holy nobleborn emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) there had appeared heretics who rejected the belief in the Resurrection of the Dead at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them said: "How can there be a resurrection of the dead, when there would be neither soul, nor body, since they are disintegrated?" Others affirmed: "Only the souls alone would have a



restoration, since it would be impossible for bodies to arise and live after a thousand years, when even the dust from them would not remain". The Lord therefore revealed the mystery of the awaited Resurrection of the Dead and of the Future Life also through His seven youths.

The master of that region of land, on which Mount Okhlonos was situated, discovered the stone construction, and his workers opened up the entrance to the cave. The Lord had kept alive the youths, and they as it were awoke from their habitual sleep, not suspecting, that almost 200 years had elapsed. Their bodies and clothing were completely undecayed. Preparing to accept torture, the youths entrusted to Saint Iamblichus yet once again to buy bread for them in the city to keep up their strength. Going towards the city, the youth was astonished, seeing the holy cross on the gates. And hearing the freely uttered Name of Jesus Christ, he began to doubt that he was approaching his own city. Praying for the bread, the youth gave the merchant money with the image of the emperor Decius on it, and he was detained, as one possibly concealing an horde of old money. They took Saint Iamblichus to the city administrator, who at this time happened to be the bishop of Ephesus. Hearing the bewildering answers of the youth, the bishop perceived, that God was revealing through him some sort of mystery, and set out himself with other people to the cave. At the entrance to the cave the bishop took out the sealed container and opened it. He read upon the tin sheaves the names of the seven youths and the details of the sealing-up of the cave on the orders of the emperor Decius. Going into the cave and seeing the youths alive, everyone rejoiced and perceived that the Lord, through their awakening from long sleep, was disclosing to the Church the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead. Soon the emperor himself arrived in Ephesus and conversed with the youths in the cave. Then the holy youths in view of everyone lay down their heads upon the ground and again fell asleep, this time until the General Resurrection. The emperor wanted to place each of the youths into a jeweled coffin, but appearing to him in a dream, the holy youths said, that their bodies were to be left in the cave upon the ground. In the XII Century the Russian pilgrim the hegumen Daniel saw in the cave these holy remains of the seven youths.

A second commemoration of the seven youths is celebrated on 22 October. (By one tradition, which entered into the Russian Prologue [of Saints Lives], the youths a second time fell asleep on this day; according to the notes of the Greek Menaion of 1870, they fell asleep first on 4 August, and woke up on 22 October. The holy youths are mentioned also in the service of the Church New Year – 1 September).

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

"Keep the commandments, and you will find peace; love God, and you will attain spiritual knowledge."
+St. Thalassios the Libyan

"The Word of God must be understood as the holy fathers understood it, as the Orthodox Church understands it, and not as we ourselves might wish." - Priest Daniel Sysoev

"Establish in your heart the following truth: one thing alone is worthy of all our hatred— that is, sin or vice; and towards men nourish exclusively love." +St. John of Kronstadt

"God's desire to save you is incomparably greater than that of your enemy to destroy you."
+St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain

“Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honour your patience.” +St. John Climacus

"Learn to know the spirit of the age, study it, so whenever possible you will be able to avoid its influence." – Bishop Ignatius Brianchaninov

“Spiritual Father, when someone is not needy but pretends to be, should we help him? - Christ said, We should give to him who begs from us without examining. Even if someone who begs from you is not in need, you should still give to him. Be happy in giving to him.” +Elder Paisios of Mount Athos

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and Other Needs **

A collection of religious icons, including depictions of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and various saints, displayed on a wall. A small lamp hangs above the icons, and a decorative branch is in the foreground.

For the Health of... Julie, Jane, Mildred, Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Gary, Lino, David, Melissa, Louis, June, Helen, Steven, Thomas, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N., Danielle
...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, Lawrence, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Donald, Jane, Eleanor, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Margaret, Todd ***and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach, IOCC ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.***

Birthday Prayers for... Jason Shelpman, Jr (11/4), Viola Peifer (11/4), Olga Radick (11/7) ...*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 Mnohaya 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.

Anniversary Prayers for... ..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, Faith, Pañi 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, Devin Meegan, and Trevor Meegan *...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

For the souls of the newly departed... +Susan Semancik ...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.*

Prayer of the Hours

O Christ our God, in all times and places You are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all people to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem us, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble and distress; surround us with your holy Angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.