



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
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September 22, 2019

Volume V

14th Sunday after Pentecost / within the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos Sunday before the Universal Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord / Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim & Anna

9:15 - Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 5 Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 / Galatians 6:11-18; Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 / John 3:13-17

Panachida for +Mary Mirilovich (9/22/02) & +Anna Radick (9/22/95) / Garage Sale cleanup during coffee social



SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Friday, September 27 – a Strict Fast day – 9:30am Procession of the Holy Cross and
Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

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

Monday	Venerable Paul the Obedient (13th c.)`	Galatians 2:11-16	Mark 5:24-34
Tuesday	Venerable Euphrosynus the Cook (9th c.)	Galatians 2:21-3:7	Mark 6:1-7
* Wednesday	Venerable Athanasius (1401)	Galatians 3:15-22	Mark 6:7-13
Thursday	Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion (1st c.)	Galatians 3:23-4:5	Mark 6:30-45
* Friday	St. Maria of Tarsus (607)	Galatians 4:8-21	Mark 6:45-53
Saturday	Great-martyr Nicetas the Goth (372)	1 Corinthians 4:17-5:5	Matthew 24:1-13

** Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!*

September 29 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost / Great-martyr Euphemia the All-praised (304) /
Sunday after the Universal Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of the Lord

9:15 - Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 6 Liturgical Color: **Red**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 / Galatians 2:16-20; Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46 / Mark 8:34-9:1

We will honor our First Confession students / SERMON SERIES: Holy Confession / Add'l collection for
our community outreach, Orthodox Christian Fellowship / Noon to Dusk – Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic

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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! 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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This Bulletin Is Offered:

If you wish to sponsor a
bulletin In Honor of
(anniversary, birthday, etc.)
or In Memory of someone,
please do so by signing up
on the sheet in the
vestibule of the Church or
by contacting Fr. Dave. An
additional stewardship
offering to the Church is
requested.



PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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Additional Church Curators Needed –
Our curator list has become shorter. If anyone is
interested and willing to be “trained” to be “on-
the-door”, please see Theresa Sharpless.

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Additional Church School Teachers Needed –
Would you be interested in assisting with our
Church School Program? We are looking to have
multiple classes: Pre-K – 2nd grade; 3rd – 7th; and
8th – 12th. Please contact Father Dave if you can
be a steward of your talents.

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2nd Annual Deanery Family Picnic will be held
on **Sunday, September 29th** in Schenley Park
(5075 Overlook Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15260) at the
Vietnam Veterans Shelter (a bigger facility than
last year) from Noon (after church) to Dusk (no

Steeler Game that day). A food sign-up sheet is
in the hall for pot-luck items that will be brought
to the picnic. Live music will be from **2 to 4**. Plan
to come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with our
brothers and sisters from our sister Deanery
Parishes. Get together with old friends and
family! Make new friends! Come enjoy God's
creation in one of the best parks in Pittsburgh!

Here are directions from downtown:

- from 376 E, take exit 72A onto Forbes Ave
- turn RIGHT onto Craft Ave
- turn LEFT onto Boulevard of the Allies
- go past St George Antiochian Orthodox Church
- in 0.5 miles, turn RIGHT onto Overlook Drive
- in 800 ft., the Vietnam Veterans' Pavilion will
be on your LEFT

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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Shuster Family; Lawrence Martin; Mirilovich Family; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Kirish Family; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; 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**

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Strict Fast on Friday 9/27 – Why do we Strict Fast (no meat or dairy) on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross? For one, we fast as we reflect on why God allowed His only Son to die on the Cross for our sins. *Fasting is a discipline that strengthens our faith!*

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Congratulations to our 2020-2021 **Church Council**: President: Matthew Peifer; Vice-President: Lawrence Martin; Treasurer: Timothy Martin, Reader; Financial Secretary: Rich Mirilovich; Recording Secretary: Theresa Sharpless; Chief Auditor: Robert Fall; Auditors: Gina Fall, Jane Gaydos, Anthony Jesko, Mary Jane Hudak; and to our dedicated **Curators**: Theresa Sharpless, Kenneth Dzadoovsky, Gina Fall, Robert Fall, Jane Gaydos, Jillian Gaydos, John Gaydos, Wendy Martellotti, Lawrence Martin, John Sharpless, and Patricia Watson. Thank you! for your dedication to our parish!

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Thank You! To those who have previously served on the Church Council! Your time and talents helped in many many ways! Thank you and may our Lord continue to bless you!

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Parish Annual Meeting Highlights (*not found elsewhere in the bulletin*) –

- **Relocation Update** – There is nothing to report as Matt and Fr. Dave continue to work with the realtor looking for property.
- **Sobor Proposals** – the Church Council and Parish agree to vote “yes” on the proposals
- **Changing Calendars** – The proposal to survey the parishioners about changing to the “new” revised calendar was voted down.
- **Suspending Parish Semi-Annual Meeting** - The proposal to suspend the Semi-Annual meeting was passed. The reasons for this were discussed including: a) This meeting has typically been informative based only. With our bulletin, bulletin board, and website, the need for an informative meeting is not necessary. b) We have seen a 15% decrease in those who come to Liturgy on that Sunday over the past few years.

THANK YOU to everyone who stayed for the meeting! For those that were not there, you were missed!

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

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Food Festival at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church (East Pittsburgh) will be **THIS Saturday, September 28**. Please contact Father for more information.

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Mediterranean Food Festival at St. George Orthodox Church (Bridgeville) will be **THIS Friday thru Sunday (9/27-29)**. Please contact Father for more information.

Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 75
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 203
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 368
Total Collections:	\$ 646
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 135
Relocation Fund:	\$ 550

Give Generously: "For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own free will." 2 Cor 8:3

Steeler Ticket Raffle - We will be having a Relocation Raffle with 1st Prize being 2 Steeler Tickets (vs. the Bills) and 2nd Prize of \$100. Tickets will be \$5 each and the winner will be drawn at this year's Turkey Bingo. Please see Sharon Peifer or Carol Lorenzi for tickets.

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Sermon Series on the Mysteries of the Church - Father Dave will offer a series of sermons on the main Mysteries (Sacraments) of the Church: *Baptism & Chrismation, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), Confession, Holy Anointing (Unction), Marriage, and Ordination (Holy Orders)*. **If you have a specific question that he may be able to address, PLEASE let him know ASAP.**

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Basket Raffle - our ACRY will host this year's Basket Raffle on **Saturday, October 26th**. More details coming soon but mark your calendars now!

Reader of the Third Hour:

September 29: *Available to you*
October 4: John Kirish
October 11: *Available to you*

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!

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

September 29: **Amee Francken**
October 4: **Open / Potluck**
October 11: **Open / Potluck**

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!

2020 Camp Nazareth Dates – Save the dates – Pittsburgh week will be **July 26 – August 1, 2020**. Please plan vacations around this so that your children can experience the beauty of our CN!

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✘ **Friday**, October 4 – 9:30 Akathist to St. John
- ✘ **Thursday**, October 10 – 9:30 Moleben for Parents Grieving a Miscarriage, Stillbirth, or Loss of a Child

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Annual Fall Festival at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120) will be **Friday-Saturday, October 11-12** from 11 AM to 7 PM with Ethnic Foods, Bake Sale, and Basket Raffles. Bingo will be on Saturday along with a "Haunted School House" for kids. For more information, call Tom Pingor at 412-462-8462 or see the flyer in the church hall.

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Slavic Food Festival at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (McKees Rocks) will be **Saturday, October 12**. Please contact Father for more info.

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25th Annual 7-K Walk/Run for Missions "Fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission" –

will be on **Sunday, October 13th** 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 info, 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!

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Cognac Tasting to benefit IOCC will be at the Leaf & Bean (3525 Washington Rd., McMurray, PA) on **Thursday, October 17** from 7p to 10p. Please contact Father for more information.

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Fall Bazaar at St. Michael's Orthodox Church (Rankin) will be on **Sunday, October 20**. Please contact Father for more information.

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Young Adult Fall Retreat – will be run **October 25-27** at Camp Nazareth. Keynote Speaker this year will be Rev. Fr. Ken Bachofsky, Professor of Old & New Testament at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Seminary. Get the chance to explore Camp Nazareth during the Fall! The weekend event will be filled with learning, fun, fellowship, worship, and time for reflection and rejuvenation! See Father Dave for more information.

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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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IN THE COMMUNITY

Vender & Craft Fair – Brighton Heights Lutheran Church (3830 California Avenue) will be holding a Vendor & Craft Fair on **Saturday, October 5th** from 10a to 3p to support their youth activities. Raffles and food will also be available. For more information, please contact bhlcsecretary@outlook.com / 412-761-4585 / or visit www.BrightonHeightsLutheranChurch.com

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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: Galatians 6:11-18

Final Admonitions and Benediction

¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. ¹⁴ But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶ Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷ Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on

my body the marks of Jesus. ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

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Gospel: John 3:13-17

The Parable of the Talents

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

"We must not avoid Communion because we deem ourselves to be sinful. We must approach it more often for the healing of the soul but with much humility and faith considering ourselves unworthy. Otherwise it is impossible to receive communion once a year, as certain people do such people manifest more pride than humility for when they receive, they think of themselves as worthy" +St. John Cassian

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

Righteous Saint Joakim and Anna

Commemorated on September 22/9

Righteous Saint Joakim, son of Barpathir, was a descendant of King David, to whom God had revealed that from the descendants of his line would be born the Saviour of the world. Righteous Saint Anna was the daughter of Matthan and through her father she was of the tribe of Levi, and through her mother – of the tribe of Judah. The spouses lived at Nazareth in Galilee. They were childless into their old age and all their life they grieved over this. They had to endure derision and scorn, since at that time childlessness was considered a disgrace. But they never grumbled and only but fervently prayed to God, humbly trusting on His will. Once during the time of a great feast, the gifts which Righteous Joakim took to Jerusalem for offering to God were not accepted by the priest Ruben, who considered that a childless man was not worthy to offer sacrifice to God. This pained the old man very



much, and he, regarding himself the most sinful of people, decided not to return home, but to settle in solitude in a desolate place. His righteous spouse Anna, having learned, what sort of humiliation her husband had endured, in prayer and fasting began sorrowfully to pray to God for granting her a child. In his desolate solitude and with fasting Righteous Joakim also besought God for this. And the prayer of the saintly couple was heard: to both of them an Angel announced, that there would be born of them a Daughter, Who would bless all the race of mankind. By order of this Heavenly Messenger, Righteous Joakim and Anna met at Jerusalem, where through the promise of God was born to them the Daughter, named Mary. Saint Joakim died a few years later after the Entry into the Temple of his Blessed Daughter, at about age 80. Saint Anna died at age 70, two years after him, spending the time in the Temple alongside her Daughter.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Preparing to receive Holy Communion

The most important element in the spiritual renewal of the Orthodox Christian is the Mystery of Holy Communion. It is the one sacrament that transcends all other sacraments. When we receive Holy Communion we receive Jesus Himself into us. So great is this Mystery that we are left without any possible response which would express what God has done. Therefore, we offer the only answer we can, 'Thank you'.

The Greek word for Thanksgiving is "Eucharisto". We refer to Holy Communion as "the Eucharist" and offer thanksgiving to God for this great mystery whereby God not only sanctifies the bread and wine, but also changes them into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you... For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed" (John 6:53, 55).

Therefore, if receiving the Eucharist is receiving Jesus, we must take care to approach the Eucharist in a proper manner. The way we approach this awesome mystery determines whether our participation will be a blessing in our lives, or whether we are condemning ourselves.

Fasting

• **Fasting is a spiritual discipline which was and is intended to enhance our participation in the Eucharist** - it is not to be seen as an excuse to keep away from the Chalice.

Fasting is a discipline which is not restricted only to food. It is more than simply not eating. It is also not lying, stealing, cheating, committing adultery, gossiping, quarrelling etc. We must abstain from all forms of evil. To think that by only setting a few days aside to omit certain foods from our diet makes us worthy to receive the Eucharist is to be spiritually naive.

- The Eucharistic Fast involves total abstinence from any food or drink in the morning prior to receiving the Eucharist. If therefore, you keep the Eucharistic Fast, and there exists no moral reason for you to stay away from Chalice, you become obligated to come forward and receive Christ as He is offered at the liturgy.
- So strongly did the Church feel about this that we find in the ninth Apostolic Canon of the Holy Apostle, the following: *"All those faithful who enter and listen to the Scriptures, but do not stay for prayer and Holy Communion must be excommunicated, on the grounds that they are causing the Church a breach of Order"*. The early Orthodox Church attended liturgy for one reason - the Eucharist.
- **Fasting was never intended to be a barrier to keep us from Christ, but a bridge to lead us to fuller participation in the life of Christ.**
- Special considerations are taken when one needs to eat to take their medications in the morning. One should not fast from their medicines, but rather talk with your Spiritual Father about this.

Confession

- In general, two views emerge concerning Confession and the Eucharist. The first sees Confession as necessary before each participation in the Eucharist. The second sees Confession as a periodic practice not required before every participation in the Eucharist.

The result of viewing Confession as a prerequisite to every participation in the Eucharist is that it does not enhance one's spiritual life but hinders it. It hinders it because Confession becomes an excuse not to take Holy Communion, much like fasting becomes an excuse to stay away from the Chalice.

the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Father for more details.

Adult Chrismation – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also

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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(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... Michael, Fr. Lev Holowaty, Daniel, Emilia, Olga, Jake, Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Gary, Lino, Louis, June, Helen, Doug, Joanne, Anthony ...*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... Metropolitan Gregory, Alisha, Aaron, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Sean, Thomas, John, Daniel and Dylan *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Donald, Jane, Margaret, Eleanor, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Melanie, Michael, John, John, 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.*

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Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):

Sharon Peifer - Righteous Anna (9/22)

(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Mark Martellotti (9/22), Father's brother-in-law, Brian Verbanick, Sr (9/22), Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak (9/24), Fr. R. Michael Zak

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:



A PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING THE EUCHARIST (HOLY COMMUNION)

O Lord, born of the Virgin, do not look upon my transgressions, but cleanse my heart and make it a temple for Your most pure Body and precious Blood. Do not cast me away from Your presence, You Whose mercy is without measure.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

How do I dare to have communion of Your holy things unworthy as I am? For if I dare to draw near to You with those who are worthy and it appears that I have no wedding garment, I but receive the condemnation of my most sinful soul. Cleanse my impure soul, O Lord, and save me, for You love mankind.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The multitude of my transgressions is great, O Mother of God:

I flee to your purity, seeking salvation. Visit my soul in my weakness and pray to your Son, our God, to grant me the remission of my evil deeds, you who alone are blessed.

required.

Marriages – are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Father ASAP for more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall).

Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations; otherwise burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

(9/24), AJ Ferraz (9/26), Cora Dzadoony (9/28), Andrew Mirilovich (9/28), Shane Yakemawiz (9/28) ...*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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For our Catechumens & Inquirers...

Dustin, Stephen, Peter, Daniel ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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

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Anniversary Prayers for... Ken & Paula Watson (9/24), Charles & Allison Kretchek (9/26), John & Barbara Kirish (9/28) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For Pregnant Mothers... Caitlinn ...*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. Dzadoovsky, Devin Meegan, and Trevor Meegan ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Douglas Painter (8/22), +Harry Coe (8/26) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal be their Memory!*

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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.