

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

2688 California Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa 15212
412-748-0148, *Talk or Text*
OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com

Fast - Free Week
FEBRUARY 9th



TRIODION WEEKS

Publican and the Pharisee

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: **Gold**
Scouting Sunday / Additional Collection for our Capital Improvement / Church School



SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Annual Home Blessings Through February 26

Wed., Feb. 12 – 10 am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the 3 Holy Hierarchs at St. Nicholas in HOMEASTEAD

Saturday, February 15 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy for
the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple and the Blessing of Candles

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

Monday	Venerable Ephraim the Syrian (373)	2 Peter 1:20-2:9	Mark 13:9-13
Tuesday	St. Laurence, recluse of the Kiev Caves (1194)	2 Peter 2:9-22	Mark 13:14-23
Wednesday	Sts. Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom	2 Peter 3:1-18	Mark 13:24-31
Thursday	Holy Wonderworkers & Unmercenaries Cyrus & John (311)	1 John 1:8-2:6	Mark 13:31-14:2
Friday	Martyr Tryphon of Campsada near Apamea in Syria (250)	1 John 2:7-17	Mark 14:3-9
Saturday	St. Anthimus of Chios (1960)	2 Timothy 3:1-9	Luke 20:45-21:4

A FAST FREE WEEK

Normal Fast Week
FEBRUARY 16th



The Prodigal Son Returns!
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble."
Use up/freeze meats this week.

9:15 – Third Hour; 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 2 Liturgical Color: **Gold**
YOUTH Sunday / Blessing of Candles / 1-year Panachida for +Jane Barrett & +Barbara Banofsky

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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.)


FAST-FREE WEEK - There are only a few weeks out of the year that are completely fast-free on the church calendar, and this week is one of those weeks! It comes after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee as we should not be proud of our fasting (but we fast in secret). It also comes in the spirit of purging our kitchen cabinets and refrigerators of all those things from which we fast from in the quickly approaching Great Lent, lest the food go to waste.

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Blessing of Candles – We will bless candles following the Feast Day Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple on **Saturday, February 15th** as well as after the Liturgy on **Sunday February 16th**. All are encouraged to bring in candles from home to be blessed after these two Liturgies. Let's light up the world with our blessed candles!

Pre-Lenten Breakfast – will be on **Sunday, February 23rd**, Meatfare Sunday, immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

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All-Soul Saturdays (*Zadušna Subota*)
 – The All-Soul Saturday Liturgies with Panachidas for 2020 will be on **February 22nd, March 14th, March 21st, March 28th, April 6th, and June 6th**. On these days, we especially pray for the departed loved ones of our families. If you are not working on a Saturday, come to church and pray with us, light two candles (*one for the living and one for the departed*), and remember your departed loved ones. Please inform Fr Dave if there are any additions to be made to the Commemoration Diptychs (*Hramoty*) from last year. Offering Envelopes and cards are available in the vestibule.

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Shuster Family; Lawrence Martin; Mirilovich Family; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; 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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Anonymous \$10,000 Donor – Thank You! Last week the parish received a generous \$10,000 anonymous donation to the General Funds of the Parish. May God grant you many years!

"when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Matthew 6:3-4)

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Food Drive – For the month of February we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry on Pittsburgh's South Side. Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! The list of food items that they are looking for is available in the church hall or at: <http://stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html>

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Trimming our willows – The buds are starting to appear on our pussywillow bushes and trees! Please let Fr Dave know if you would like to join him in trimming them when the time comes...

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Gertrude Hawk Candy – Our Easter Candy Sale forms are in the Church Hall with orders due by **March 1st**. Please see Tim Martin with any questions.

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ACRY NEWS



Pill Bottle Collection – Our ACRY continues it's outreach to "Matthew 25: Ministries" who accepts donations of **CLEAN AND EMPTY** plastic medicine pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies to countries in need. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THE LABEL IS REMOVED AND IT IS NOT STICKY**. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment. *More information is on the bulletin board in the church hall.*

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

February 16: **Open / Potluck**

February 23: Pre-Lenten Breakfast

March 1: **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!

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Reader of the Third Hour:

February 16: John Kirish

February 23: Available to you

March 1: 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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Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 589
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 128
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 380
Community Outreach matching funds transfer:	\$ 359

Total Collections: \$1456

Relocation Fund: \$ 300

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

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January Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 7,922.76

***Expenses = \$ 11,237.86**

Net Deficit = \$ 3,315.10

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 38

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Home Blessing Update:

8 homes (202 miles) and 11 scheduled



Please talk with Fr Dave today to schedule yours. He is interested in visiting with EVERYONE this Theophany

season. Please grab Father when he has his calendar (a.k.a. his phone) or email him to schedule.

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Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of the Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in the home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy.

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Holy Water Reminders: Do Not Hoard It!

While Holy Water does not "go bad", it is best to refresh your water each year. Holy Water from the previous Theophany should be poured outside (preferably on the corner of your house or in a garden where people are not going to walk on it). The best scenario though is to use your Holy Water: take a drink in the mornings, use in your cooking, etc.

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Snowed In? Physically unable to make it to church? – Our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to watch our Cathedral's Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9am. Of course, the best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist. When limitations occur, please take the time Sunday morning to pray with our brothers and sisters via the web at www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/ to watch the live broadcast.

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✧ **Thursday, February 20** – 9:30am Morning Moleben
- ✧ **Saturday, February 22** – 9:30am All Soul Saturday (*Zadušna Subota*) Divine Liturgy & Panachida (1st of 5)
- ✧ **Sunday, February 23** – Meatfare Sunday Annual Pre-Lenten Breakfast
- ✧ **Thursday, February 27** – 9:30am Morning Moleben

"If you want to grab God's attention so He'll hear you during prayer, turn the dial to humility, for God always works in this frequency; then humbly ask for His mercy..."
+Saint Paisios the Athonite, *Precious Vessels of the Holy Spirit*

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Be on the lookout for more info in the next 2 weeks!

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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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Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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Commemorated on Feb. 9 / Jan. 27

Saint John Chrysostom had the warm love and deep respect of the people, and grief over his untimely death lived on in the hearts of Christians. Saint John's student Saint Proclus, Patriarch of Constantinople (434-447), making Divine-

services in the Church of Saint Sophia, preached a sermon which in glorifying Saint John he said: "O John! Thy life was filled with difficulties, but thy death was glorious, thy grave is blessed and reward abundant through the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. O graced one, having conquered the bounds of time and place! Love hath conquered space, unforgetting memory hath annihilated the limits, and place doth not hinder the miracles of the saint". Those who were present in church, deeply touched by the words of Saint Proclus, did not allow him even to finish his sermon. With one accord they began to entreat the Patriarch to intercede with the emperor, so that the relics of Saint John might be transferred to Constantinople. The emperor, overwhelmed by Saint Proclus, gave his consent and made the order to transfer the relics of Saint John. But the people dispatched by him were by no means able to lift up the holy relics – not until that moment when the emperor realising his oversight that he had not

sent the message to Saint John, humbly beseeching of him forgiveness for himself and for his mother Eudoxia. The message was read at the grave of Saint John and after this they easily lifted up the relics, carried them onto a ship and arrived at Constantinople. The reliquary coffin with the relics was placed in the Church of the holy Martyr Irene. The Patriarch opened the coffin: the body of Saint John had remained without decay. The emperor, having approached the coffin with tears, asked forgiveness. All day and night people did not leave the coffin. In the morning the reliquary coffin with its relics was brought to the Church of the Holy Apostles. The people cried out: "Receive back thy throne, father!" Then Patriarch Proclus and the clergy standing at the relics – saw Saint John open his mouth and pronounce: "Peace be to all".

In the IX Century the feastday in honour of the transfer of the relics of Sainted John Chrysostom was written into church singing.

“For even if we do not seek virtue, but at least praise it, we shall perhaps be able to attain it; and even if we do not avoid evil, but at least censure it, we shall perhaps be able to escape it.”
+St. John Chrysostom

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

SIX ACTION STEPS

For An Intentional And Joyful New Year

By Stacey Dorrance from www.filledwithless.com

- #1 - Thank God For Our Blessings
- #2 - Be Present
- #3 - Forgive & Show Mercy
- continued from last week...

#4 – SIMPLIFY & LIGHTEN UP

Clutter – Most of our homes are filled with clutter. Clutter is anything we hang on to that we no longer need. Just as change happens from the inside out, so does de-cluttering our home. Let’s simplify our cabinets, closets and storage areas and keep only those things we adore and use. “You are God’s masterpiece.” (Eph. 2:10) Let our homes reflect God’s handiwork.

Scheduling – Most of us are overbooked. We

rush from place to place, stressed out and anxiety-ridden. We do the same to our children. This is our own doing! Let’s look realistically at our time, let go of commitments, and fill each week with some “White Space.”

Let’s schedule time for Soul-Adorning Activities:

- ✕ Going to Church on Sundays
- ✕ Nightly Dinner with the Family
- ✕ Personal Prayer and Bible Study
- ✕ Recreation and Reflection
- ✕ Friendship Building & Reaching-out to Others

Decluttering our external world also de-clutters our internal world. This will help lighten up our attitude. Those around us will thank us!

Next Week: #5 - CREATE A BUDGET

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ORTHODOX SCOUTING AWARDS

ST. GEORGE AWARD



Can be awarded to a registered Tiger Cub, Cub Scout of the Wolf Rank or Bear Rank in the Boy Scouts of America, or Brownies in the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Trail Life USA, American Heritage Girls in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade. Must also be a communicant

member of an Orthodox Christian Church recognized by the Assembly of Bishops.

CHI-RHO AWARD



Can be awarded to any Orthodox Christian boy or girl who is registered as a Cub Scout, Girl Scout Junior, or in a Camp Fire program Trail Life USA, American Heritage Girls may earn the Chi-Rho emblem. The recipient must be in the fourth or fifth grade and must

attend church school or other formal religious instruction program. Priests are encouraged to adapt these requirements for use with special needs or handicapped youth members of these Scouting movement.

ALPHA OMEGA AWARD



Participants must be a communicant member of an Orthodox Christian Church recognized by the Assembly of Bishops. A student in the sixth through twelfth grade. And a registered Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Explorer, Trail Life USA, American Heritage Girls or Camp Fire member.

PROPHET ELIAS AWARD



The Prophet Elias recognition is for both: 1. Actively registered adult lay volunteers for at least 8 years who serve young people in one or more of the following national youth agencies: Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Trail Life USA, American Heritage Girls, whether sponsored by Eastern Orthodox Church or another sponsoring group, and 2. Adult members of other religious bodies who are active registered leaders for at least 8 years of one of the three national youth agencies who are performing an exceptional service to Eastern Orthodox young people.

How do I earn a religious award?

- 1 You or your scoutmaster orders the award booklet from P.R.A.Y. by calling (314) 638-1017 or by downloading it from this website (www.eocs.org).
- 2 You work on the booklet along with your parish priest or spiritual adviser.
- 3 When completed, the priest or spiritual adviser signs the form in the booklet and you must return it to P.R.A.Y. for the medal & certificate.

How is the award presented?

It is recommended that the award be presented twice, once at the unit level and also at the end of a Sunday Church service along with a scout leader to emphasize that scouting is a viable part of our Orthodox Youth Ministry.

Recognizing our local Scouts today on Orthodox Scouting Sunday:



Eli Mainolfi, Lion Den
Josh Mainolfi, Wolf Den
Lucy Mainolfi, Weeblos

from Troop 457, Zelienople, PA

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.



Fr. James Gleason (2/12), Father's niece, Samantha Ditmore (2/14), Pañi Christyn Dranginis (2/14) ...*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...

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

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

For Pregnant Mothers... Mallory Ann, Caitlinn, Allison, Pañi Stacey, Pañi Ileana, Faith...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & 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... +Melanie Kurtz (1/25), +Robert Pervuznik, Sr. (1/21) +Father Michael Shuster (1/21), +George Rocknage (1/19) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May their Memory in God be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!*

* 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.*

“When an angel comes to us, all who trouble us withdraw at once; then the intellect is completely calm and prays soundly. But at other times, when the attacks of the demons are particularly strong, the intellect does not have a moment's respite. This is because it is weakened by the passions to which it has succumbed in the past. But if it goes on searching, it will find; and if it knocks, the door will be opened (cf. Matt. 7:8).” - Evagrius the Solitary

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Sticheron at Matins from the Lenten Triodion

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-Giver;
for my spirit hastens early towards Your holy temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled;
but in Your compassion purify me by Your gracious mercy. Amen.