

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; ³⁰ but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and

caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Jesus Heals the Sick in Gennesaret

³⁴ And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennes'aret.

"Have you seen how the bees follow their queen-bee, or how the ants follow their king-ant Thus should reasonable beings, endued with speech, follow God."
+St. John of Kronstadt

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

August: The Month of Blessings! – I realized this after church last week:
Aug. 2nd: we blessed our **chariots**...
9th: today we are blessed with the anointing of St. Panteleimon **oil**...
16th: next week we will have the Lesser Blessing **Water**, the Blessing of **Honey**, AND the Blessing of **Students and Teachers**...
23rd: we will have the blessing of the **First-Fruits** (and vegetables) of the Harvest
30th: we will have the blessing of **Flowers and Herbs**
August 2020 is full of blessings! We are in this together - let's focus on our blessings

Pittsburgh Forerunners – See below for more information on joining others from our parish as we Trek for Missions!

Coat Drive – Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? We are now collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) [Formerly *FOCUS Pittsburgh (who provide Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter to those who are in need)*]. We will collect the clean coats on the coat rack in the hall through August.

The Dormition Fast Begins Friday – This is our lead-in to the great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. This is one of the four fasting periods of the year when we are called to a special time of increasing our prayer, fasting, and charity. Please contact Father Dave to schedule your confession.



Blessing of Honey – Next Sunday we will bless honey (along with water, students, and teachers). The practice of blessing honey is common in many Orthodox countries. The origin is that in some climates the hives are ready to be "robbed" at this time of the year. In Ukraine, the first day of the Dormition Fast is commemorated as the first of the 'three Saviors,' commemorating our All-Merciful Savior. Honey is blessed on this day, first-fruits on the 'second Savior' (the Transfiguration), and herbs on the 'third Savior' (the Icon 'Not Made By Hands').

Weekly Offerings to God – During this time, if you are not coming to the church, we request that all weekly donations be mailed to:
Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)
For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

Cathedral Live-Broadcast - Our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to watch our Cathedral's Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9am (as well as other services). The best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist, but in the current scenario, please take the time Sunday morning and throughout the week to pray with our brothers and sisters via the *live broadcast* on the web.
www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 485
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 219
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 1442
Community Outreach:	\$ 125
Total Collections:	\$ 2271
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 30
Relocation Fund:	\$ 160

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

July Financial Report:

Donation Income = \$ 4265.59

***Expenses = \$ 7103.32**

Net Deficit = \$ 2837.73

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 15

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Margaret Rusnak; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis; Urban Family.
"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 Tim Martin, in Memory of +Anna Mae Gogal. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

Candles in Church – During this COVID time, if you wish for Father to light your weekly candles, please text, email, or call him with your intentions (*for the living, departed, or other specific*) by Saturday evening. Please mail your candle donation along with your weekly offering to Tim Martin.

A Few Quick Reminders & Updates:

- ✓ If you are going to have surgery or having flu-like symptoms, please contact Father Dave
 - ✓ Sunday Divine Liturgy Services **ARE OPEN** with 23 "spots" for those of the same household to sit at. Plenty of room to safe-distance at this time!
 - ✓ With that said, "Reservations" are **NO LONGER** Requested at this time.
 - ✓ If you are not comfortable at this time to return to church, we understand, but please let Father know.
 - ✓ A Facemask covering your nose and mouth must be worn in the church.
 - ✓ Candles should be lit with a lighter that you bring from home. (*It is a pious Orthodox tradition to say your prayer (intention) when lighting your candle for the living and your candle for the departed.*)
- Please continue to pray along with the cathedral services when you are not able to attend. Through God's strength and guidance we will get through this together!

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✱ **Sunday, August 23** – Blessing of the First-Fruits (and Vegetables) of the Harvest
- ✱ **Sunday, August 30** – Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

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2020 Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic
Has Been **POSTPONED** Until 2021
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OCMC

TREK 4 MISSIONS
GOING THE DISTANCE TO SHARE THE FAITH



2020 Virtual Trek4Missions! The Orthodox Christian Mission Center invites you to take up your cross for our virtual fundraiser. We will begin on the Feast of the Glorification of St. Herman of Alaska (*New Calendar: August 9*) and conclude on the Feast of the Elevation of the Life-Giving Cross (*N.C.: September 14*).

Missionary saints throughout our Church's history have demonstrated the responsibility of sharing the Good News of Christ entrusted to them. Like St. Herman of Alaska, Sts. Cyril and Methodios, St. Nicholas of Japan, and countless others, have left the comfort of their homes and dwellings to bring Christ's love to the world. Today, over 1 billion people have never heard of the Gospel message. We are responsible to reach them as a new missionary generation answering the call to take up our cross to the ends of the earth.

Join local parishes and mission supporters nationwide to **virtually complete 60,000 collective miles** to raise funds and awareness for the training and building up of Orthodox missionaries. St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, *"How can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"* (Romans 10:15). Whether you are a walker, runner, swimmer,

cyclist, or you just like to stay active and can track your miles, you can participate! Help bring the life-transforming Gospel to the world!

The 2020 Virtual Trek4Missions is an opportunity for individuals and parish communities to unite and demonstrate our commitment to Christ's Great Commission *"to make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19). Start by joining team **Pittsburgh Forerunners** and register for the event, then create your own fundraising page with us, and trek on your own terms! The world is our course! Remember to follow your local community's health and safety guidelines during the Trek. There are **NO FEES** to register, and shirts are guaranteed. Could you help us raise \$100,000!

***** IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR LOCAL TEAM, PITTSBURGH FORERUNNERS, (or donating) GO TO THIS WEBSITE:**

<http://secure.ocmc.org/2020-Trek4Missions>

CLICK: "JOIN A TEAM" (or donate)

FIND Pittsburgh Forerunners AND CLICK "JOIN" THEN USE THE PASSWORD "SJBPh2020" TO JOIN OUR TEAM

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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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ST JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be taking a collection for **The Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Monastery** (121 St. Elias Lane, Saxonburg, PA 16056 724.352.3999). We are joining our sister parishes in Pittsburgh as we reach



out to the monastery to help them in any way we can. You can read more about the monastery at www.nativityofthetheotokosmonastery.org. Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

The GreatMartyr and Healer Panteleimon

Commemorated on August 9 / July 27

The GreatMartyr and Healer Panteleimon was born in the city of Nikomedia into the family of the illustrious pagan Eustorgias, and he was named Pantoleon. His mother Ebbula was a christian. She wanted to raise her son in the Christian faith, but she died when the future greatmartyr was still a young lad. His father sent Pantoleon to a fine pagan school, at the completion of which the youth began to study the medical art at Nikomedia under the reknown physician Euphrosynos, and he came to the attention of the emperor Maximian (284-305), who wished to see him at court.

During this time there dwelt secretly at Nikomedia the Priest-Martyr presbyters Hermolaos, Hermippos and Hermocrates – survivors in the Nikomedia Church after the burning of 20,000 Christians in the year 303. Saint Hermolaos saw Pantoleon time and again, when he came to their hideout. One time the presbyter summoned the youth to the hideout and spoke about the Christian faith. After this Pantoleon visited every



day with the priestmartyr Hermolaos.

One time the youth saw upon a street a dead child, bitten by a viper, which was still alongside. Pantoleon began to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ for the resuscitation of the dead child and for the death of the venomous reptile. He firmly resolved, that if his prayer were fulfilled, he would become a follower of Christ and accept Baptism. The child revived, and the viper shattered into pieces before the eyes of Pantoleon.

After this miracle Pantoleon was baptised by Saint Hermolaos with the name Panteleimon (meaning "all-merciful"). Conversing with Eustorgias, Saint Panteleimon prepared him for the acceptance of Christianity, and when the father beheld, how his son healed a blind man by invoking the Name of Jesus Christ, he then believed in Christ and was baptised together with the blind man restored to sight.

After the death of his father, Saint Panteleimon dedicated his life to the suffering, the sick, the misfortunate and the needy. He treated without charge all those who turned to him, healing them in

the Name of Jesus Christ. He visited those held captive in prison – being usually christians, who filled all the prisons, and he healed them of their wounds. In a short while accounts about the charitable physician spread throughout all the city. And forsaking the other doctors, the inhabitants began to turn only to Saint Panteleimon.

The envious doctors made a denunciation to the emperor, that Saint Panteleimon was healing Christian prisoners. Maximian urged the saint to disprove the denunciation and offer sacrifice to idols, but Saint Panteleimon confessed himself a Christian and right in front of the eyes of the emperor he healed a paralytic in the Name of Jesus Christ. The ferocious Maximian executed the healed man who was glorifying Jesus Christ, and gave Saint Panteleimon over to fierce torture.

The Lord appeared to the saint and strengthened him before his sufferings. They suspended the GreatMartyr Panteleimon from a tree and tore at him with iron hooks, burned him with fire and then stretched him on the rack, threw him in boiling oil, and cast him into the sea with a stone about his neck. Throughout all these tortures the greatmartyr remained unhurt and with conviction he denounced the emperor.

During this time there was brought before the court of the pagans the Presbyters Hermolaos, Hermippos and Hermocrates. All three firmly confessed their faith in the Saviour and were beheaded.

By order of the emperor they threw the GreatMartyr Panteleimon to wild beasts for devouring at the circus. But the beasts lay at his feet and shoved at each other in trying to be touched by his hand. The spectators gathered together and began to shout: "Great God of the Christians!" The enraged Maximian ordered the soldiers to stab with the sword anyone who glorified the Name of Christ, and to cut off the head of the GreatMartyr Panteleimon.

They led the saint to the place of execution and tied him to an olive tree. When the greatmartyr prayed, one of the soldiers struck him with a sword, but the sword became soft like wax, and inflicted no wound. The saint ended the prayer, and a Voice was heard, calling the passion-bearer by name and summoning him to the Heavenly Kingdom. Hearing the Voice from Heaven, the soldiers fell down on their knees before the holy martyr and begged forgiveness. The executioners refused to continue with the execution, but the GreatMartyr Panteleimon bid them to fulfill the command of the emperor, saying that otherwise they would have no share with him in the future life. The soldiers tearfully took their leave of the saint with a kiss.

When the saint was beheaded, the olive tree – to which the saint was tied, at the moment of his death was covered with fruit. Many that were present at the execution believed in Christ. The body of the saint – thrown into a bonfire – remained in the fire unharmed and was buried by christians (+ 305). The GreatMartyr Panteleimon's servants Lawrence, Bassos and Probios saw his execution and heard the Voice from Heaven. They recorded the account about the life, the sufferings and death of the holy greatmartyr.

The holy relics of the GreatMartyr Panteleimon were distributed in parts throughout all the Christian world: his venerable head is now located at the Russian Athonite monastery of the GreatMartyr Panteleimon.

The veneration of the holy martyr in the Russian Orthodox Church was already known in the XII Century. Prince Izyaslav – in Baptism Panteleimon – son of Saint Mstislav the Great, had an image of Saint Panteleimon on his helmet. Through the intercession of the saint he remained alive during a battle in the year 1151. On the day of memory of the GreatMartyr Panteleimon, Russian forces won two naval victories over the Swedes (in 1714 near Hanhauze and in 1720 near Grenham).

The GreatMartyr Panteleimon is venerated in the Orthodox Church as a mighty saint, the protector of soldiers. This aspect of his veneration is derived from his first name Pantoleon, which means "a lion in everything". His second name, Panteleimon – given him at Baptism, which means "all-merciful", reveals it self in the veneration of the greatmartyr as healer. The connection between these two patronages of the saint is readily apparent in that soldiers, receiving wounds more frequently than others, are more in need of a physician-healer. Wherefore Christians in waging spiritual warfare also have recourse to this saint with a petition to heal the wounds of the soul.

The name of the holy GreatMartyr and Healer Panteleimon is invoked in the Sacrament of Anointing the Sick, at the Blessing of Water and in the Prayer for the Sick.

The day of commemoration of the holy GreatMartyr and Healer Panteleimon at the Russian monastery on Athos is its temple-feast. The forefeast starts 8 days before the feast, on which days after vespers are sung moliebens with kanons in 8 tones, whereby each day has its own particular canon. The second day of the feast is the monastery feastday. On this day of the feast after vespers is made a collective panikhida in memory of the founders and benefactors of the monastery, and there is blessed and distributed koliva (kutia – wheat or rice boiled with honey).

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“Traversing the fields a bee gathers the ingredients for honey;
traversing the ages the soul infuses sweetness into the mind.”
Ilias the Presbyter (ca. 12th Century), *The Philokalia*

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

The Blessing of Honey

(* PLEASE BRING HONEY FROM YOUR HOUSE NEXT WEEK TO BE BLESSED)

In the Greek Oroligion of 1897 is explained thus the derivation of the **Feast of the Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord (1164)**: "By reason of the sicknesses, often everywhere occurring in August, from of old customarily it was done at Constantinople to carry out the Venerable Wood of the Cross along the roads and streets for the sanctifying of places and for the driving

away of sicknesses. On the eve of the Feast, carrying it out from the imperial treasury, they placed it upon the Holy Table [Altar] of the Great Church (Hagia Sophia – the Wisdom of God). From this feastday up to the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, making litija throughout all the city, they then placed it forth for all the people to venerate. This also is the Issuing-forth of the Venerable Cross".

In the Russian Church this feast is combined also with a remembrance of **the Baptism of Rus'**, on August 1, 988. In the "Account about the making of services in the holy catholic and apostolic great church of the

Uspenie-Dormition", compiled in 1627 by order of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' Philaret, there is provided suchlike an explanation of the feast: "And on the day of the procession of the Venerable Cross there occurs a church-procession **for the sanctification of water** and for the enlightenment of the people, throughout all the towns and places".

In the practice now of the Russian Church, the service of the Lesser Sanctification of Water on August 14/1 is done either before or after Liturgy. Together with the Blessing of Waters, there is made a **Blessing of Honey** (i.e. first-honey for the Saviour: "Saviour of the

Water", "Saviour Moisture"). And from this day the newly harvested honey is blessed and tasted.

https://www.jordanville.org/news_170814_1

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The blessing of new honey is a wonderful tradition. It is done traditionally on the first day of the Dormition Fast (specifically: on the Feast of the Procession of the Precious and Life-giving Cross) along with the blessing of water. While it is not done by all the Orthodox Churches, it is catching on in many parishes across the US

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“Like a bee one should extract from each of the virtues what is most profitable. In this way, by taking a small amount from all of them, one builds up from the practice of the virtues a great honeycomb overflowing with the soul-delighting honey of wisdom.”
+St. Gregory of Sinai (14th Century), *The Philokalia*

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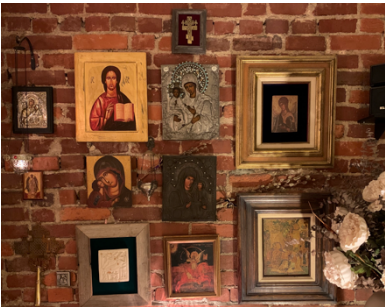
PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & 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.



For the Health of... Thomas, James, Sean, Michael, Kenneth, Wendy, Anthony, Julia, Theresa, Lexi, John, Susan, John, Alexandra D., Pañi Marie, Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Lino, June, for all those battling viruses ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.



grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years! Na Mnohaya I Blahaya L'ita!

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Dustin, Stephen, Daniel, Susan ...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.

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

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Anniversary Prayers for... ...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!

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For Pregnant Mothers... Brittany (due in October) ...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky and Trevor Meegan ...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Ruth Metil (8/5), +Anna Mae Gogal (7/22), +Sonia Urban (7/19), +Carol (7/11), +Louis Haynes (7/2), and those who have passed from the coronavirus ...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!

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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.

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

A Prayer from the Akathist to Saint Panteleimon

Saint Panteleimon, we who suffer from godless persecutors as well as from illnesses and disabilities, beseech thee to increase our love for Jesus Christ Who suffered cruel and unjust treatment for the sake of our salvation. We do not deserve such salvation or any benefits from the saints in Heaven. Yet, since you do freely give, and since all gifts come only through God, we implore you to heal all our afflictions and illumine our souls unto His service and glory. We thank you, Saint Panteleimon, for not rejecting us in our weakness but helping us in our time of need. Amen.

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