

²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; ²⁵ and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and

forgave him the debt.²⁸ But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.'²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt.³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me;³³ and should not you have

had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'³⁴ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt.³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

"Pray to God so that He will strengthen you. Patiently accept your falls and, having stood up, immediately run to God, not remaining in that place where you have fallen... Don't let anything deprive you of hope!" +St. Nektarios of Aegina

PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

St. John the Baptist Executive Parish Council Meeting Highlights

Recently our Parish Council discussed and debated over many topics and here are a few highlights:

Annual Meeting is canceled – As our attendance trend is low along with health safety concerns, the 2020 Annual Meeting for St. John the Baptist will not happen as it normally would. The reports that would have been presented at the meeting will be put together and made available to everyone. *Please continue to pray for our parish community and our future as we continue to look to grow Orthodoxy!*

"the floor is now open for questions, concerns, or comments..." – (**This idea was discussed outside of the last council meeting.*) Though we will not have the annual meeting, dialogue can still happen! Please prepare any questions, concerns, or comments and submit them to Matt Peifer or Larry Martin over the next couple weeks so that they can be addressed in the appropriate yearly reports.

2020 Garage Sale & Turkey Bingo are cancelled – Our end of summer Garage Sale and Turkey Bingo have also been cancelled due to the current safety concerns in Allegheny County.

2020 Church School – We want your feedback. A survey will be put together for the students, the parents, and the teachers to see what route we want to take this fall for our Church School Program.

Difficult Decisions – The above decisions were difficult to make. Everyone's safety and best interests were of most importance. As we gather in the Nave of the Church for the Divine Liturgy, we are able to spread out. For the above activities in the hall, there would not be enough room to properly have "safe-distancing".

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.

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.

Our Stewardship Gifts To God

Stewardship:	\$ 293
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 103
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 512
Parish House Donation:	\$ 250
Total Collections:	\$ 1158
Relocation Fund:	\$ 40

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Joanne Nelson; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Mirilovich Family; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; 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

The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by Cindy Pavilonis, In Memory of Anna Louise Pavilonis. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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.

- 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!

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/

LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

* **Friday, September 11** – Feast of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist; a day of strict-fasting

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH & OUR DIOCESE

2020 Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic
Has Been POSTPONED Until 2021

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2020 Virtual Trek4Missions! The Orthodox Christian Mission Center invites you to take up your cross for our virtual fundraiser which runs through **September 14**.

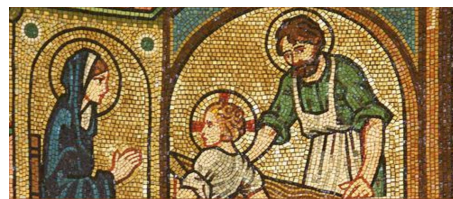
Update - The Trek4Mission continues to grow every day. Together, OCMC trekkers have completed **2,295.26 miles** and raised **\$37,022.00**. Our team **Pittsburgh Forerunners** is working hard to add to these numbers. Every step we make helps spread the Gospel message.

Did you know that the Apostles were the first Christian missionaries? The Holy Apostle St. Andrew, the First-Called, traveled to where the city of Kiev now stands in Ukraine. That's 2,262 miles from Jerusalem, where he began his ministry!

To support our team, please visit http://secure.ocmc.org/goto/Pittsburgh_Forerunners. If you would like to join (*it is not too late*), use the team password **"SJPgh2020"**.

Help us share the faith!

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Orthodox Parenting Online Conference

Saturday, September 19 from Noon to 4pm

THEME: Difficult Conversations

12:00 – "Is God Real?" by Fr. Patrick Cardine

12:30 – "Sexuality", Fr. Raphael Barberg

1:00 – "When Parents Disagree", Kh. Kerry Pappas

1:30 – "The influence of Friends", Fr. Michael Nasser

2:00 – "Sibling Rivalry", Kh. Gigi Shadid

2:30 – "Discipline vs. Anger", Fr. John Finley

3:00 – "Difficult Conversations", Dr. Philip Mamalakis

Register for this FREE conference at:

<https://mailchi.mp/a60dd8312645/2020-fall-parenting-conference>

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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

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

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

Blessed Laurence, Fool-for-Christ and Kaluzhsk Wonderworker

Commemorated on August 23/10

Blessed Lavrentii, Fool-for-Christ and Kaluzhsk Wonderworker, lived at the beginning of the XVI Century at the distance of an half-verst from old Kaluga near a forest church in honour of the Nativity of Christ, set upon an high hill.

There was a long underground entrance from his dwelling to the church, where he heard Divine-services. He lived also at the home of the Kaluzhsk prince Simeon Ioannovich. It is conjectured, that Blessed Lavrentii was descended from the noble Khitrov boyar lineage, since his name initiates their lineage memorial at the Peremyshl'sk Liotkov monastery, situated in the Kaluzhsk diocese. Blessed Lavrentii went barefoot both winter and summer, in a shirt and sheepskin coat. By the deeds of his own doing he so raised himself up, that while still alive he was glorified by gifts of grace.

When the Crimean Tatars fell upon Kaluga in May 1512, Blessed Lavrentii, then in the home of the



prince, suddenly shouted out in a loud voice: "Give me my sharp axe, for the curs fall upon prince Simeon and it is necessary to defend him!" Saying this, he seized the axe and left. Suddenly having come on board ship next the prince, Righteous Lavrentii inspired and encouraged the soldiers, and in that very hour they defeated the enemy. He is depicted in icons with an axe in his right hand, set upon a long axe-handle. It is certain that prince Simeon (+ 1518), owing him his safety, built in his memory a monastery on the place of the saint's deeds.

Blessed Lavrentii died on 10 August 1515, evidently, on his nameday. It is known, that the memory of the saint is honoured also on 8 July.

Blessed Lavrentii was glorified, it seems, in the second half of the XVI Century. Thus, tsar Ivan the Terrible in a gramota of donation to the monastery (1565) wrote: "Monastery of the Nativity of Christ, wherein lieth Lavrentii, Fool-for-Christ". In the Life, the first posthumous miracle is recorded under the year 1621 – the healing of the paralysed boyar Kologrivov, who became well after doing a molieben to the saint.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

9 Rules for a Christian Lifestyle

by St. Benedict of Nursia

1. Prefer nothing to the love of Christ,
2. Know for certain that God sees you everywhere,
3. Venerate the seniors and love the juniors,
4. Do not make a false peace,

5. When you see any good in yourself, attribute it to God, not to self,
6. When you begin anything, pray that it may be carried through by Him to its conclusion,
7. In case of discord with anyone, make peace before sunset,
8. In the love of Christ, pray for your enemies, and
9. Do not wish to be called holy before you are.

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+Elder Thaddeaus

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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.

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For the Health of... Thomas, James, Sean, Michael,
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.*

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For the Special Intentions of... Metropolitan Gregory, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Thomas, John, Daniel and Dylan *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Anthony, Mary Jane, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Margaret, John, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...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):

Lawrence Martin - Blessed Laurence, fool-for-Christ at Kaluga (8/23), Father's sister, Suzanne Verbanick – Holy Martyress Susanna the Virgin (8/24)

(please contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Igumen Patrick (8/23), Renee Mirilovich (8/24), Fr. Michael Kabel (8/27), Meredith Blobner (8/28), Adam Zak (8/28), Andrew Gogal (8/29), Lucillia Mainolfi (8/29), Claudia (Herbert) Pido (8/29)...*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 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... Sharon & Ryan
Dzadony (8/25) ...*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... +Dolores Smoley (8/22), +Ruth Metil (8/5), +Anna Mae Gogal (7/22), +Sonia Urban (7/19), 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 of Thanksgiving to the Theotokos after partaking of Holy Communion

O most holy Lady Theotokos, the light of my darkened soul, my hope, my protection, my refuge, my rest, and my joy: I thank you, for you have permitted me, the unworthy, to be a partaker of the most pure Body and precious Blood of your Son.

Give the light of understanding to the eyes of my heart, you that gave birth to the True Light.

Enliven me who am deadened by sin, you that gave birth to the Fountain of Immortality.

Have mercy on me, O loving Mother of the merciful God.

Grant me compunction and contrition of heart, humility in my thoughts, and a release from the slavery of my own reasonings.

And enable me, even to my last breath, to receive the sanctification of the most pure Mysteries, for the healing of soul and body.

Grant me tears of repentance and confession, that I may glorify you all the days of my life, for you are blessed and greatly glorified to the ages.

Amen.

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