



St. 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*

Subdeacon Ryan Ferko

Timothy Martin, *Reader*

Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*

Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*

www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

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SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Martyr Charitina of Amisus (304)

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

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15 (4th Sunday of Luke)

Panachida for +Barbara Wisnosky (1-year),

+Leona (Smoley) Hawke (40-day)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

9-10:30am Church open for personal prayer

(enter from the side door)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

9:30 Morning Moleben (*Prayer Service*) to

St. Nectarios with holy anointing

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher

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

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31 (5th Sunday of Luke)

Tone 5; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

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Our Cathedral's Online Services can be viewed at: www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

"There is nothing impossible unto those who believe; lively and unshaken faith can accomplish great miracles in the twinkling of an eye. Besides, even without our sincere and firm faith, miracles are accomplished, such as the miracles of the Mysteries of the Church."
+St. John of Kronstadt

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wed.)

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Ventilation in the church – Did you notice a few of the windows open the past few weeks even though it was cooler out? As we gather in community at the church, there are multiple recommended precautions that we are following. Because we do not have filtered forced air heat, we are going with the recommendation to have the ceiling fan on low and a few windows open to allow the air to not be stagnate.

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First-Aid Assistance – Is there a medical professional who could inspect and help us stock our First-Aid kits at the church? Please contact Father if you are able to be a steward with your talents.

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 60
Candles/Eternal Lamp:	\$ 91
Envelopes/Stewardship:	\$ 817
Community Outreach:	\$ 30
Parish House Offering:	\$ 200

Total Collections: \$ 1198

Relocation Fund: \$ 100

We must give in trust that God will use it to produce fruit: "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your sowing (resources) and increase the harvest of your righteousness (benevolence)." - 2 Cor. 9:10

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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! 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 again soon! **If you have any questions** in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave.

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 church hall or by contacting Fr. Dave (*email, text, or call*). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

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Palms and Pussywillows – As we gather again in community at the church, there are plenty of blessed palms and pussywillows from earlier in the year for everyone to take home.

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

✠ **November 21** – The Synaxis of the Leader of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael, and the Other Heavenly Bodiless Hosts

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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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"We must start everything that we do by calling on God's name."
+St. Hilarion of Optina

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Parishioners of St. John's Church,
Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Since our annual meeting has been cancelled for safety reasons amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be keeping the current Church council members until we can hold elections. Acting as Parish Council President, I would like to appoint Matt Peifer as the Vice-President so that the parish council will have all the positions occupied.

It is my belief that Matt will continue to contribute to our church's mission in serving our parish and community, now in the capacity as our Vice President.

I look forward to serving you and our Church.

Yours in Orthodoxy,

Larry Martin, Parish Council President

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

A Fresh Look At Racism: "A View From The Heart" – A forum on the experiences of and responses to racism as seen from the hearts of Orthodox Christians. Hear their stories, ask questions and open your heart to answer the challenge of Jesus Christ in our relationship toward all people: "A new commandment I give you: Love one another" (John 18.34). Presenters will be: Fr. Paul Abernathy, Fr. Joseph Gardner, Vasilios Scoumis, Ted Stewart, and Alexandra Abboud. This FREE event will be held **TONIGHT, Sunday, November 1 from 6:30-8:30pm** in the Grand Room of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237) with limited in-person attendance. It will be simulcast via Zoom for those wishing to participate online. Advance registration at <https://holytrinitypgh.org/events> is required for both in-person and online.

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A Faith Based Look At Tuesday: Please visit <https://www.erienewsnow.com/clip/15150399/fait-h-based-look-at-election-day-fr-nicholas-mihaly-pastor-of-st-nicholas-orthodox-church?fbclid=IwAR2ePFIE0gQlGodOYijj9kJHgv7rS-AdeFICy0rHbMdN2rkuwvOEGlQRxJl> for an insightful look at Tuesday's election from Fr. Nicholas Mihaly, pastor of our sister parish of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Erie, PA.

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"Journey of Hope & Resilience" Open House – The Neighborhood Resilience Project has a 3-night open house scheduled **November 17-19 from 6-9pm** each night at 2038 Bedford Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Come take a trip through the new facility, see the chapel for St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church, learn about their programs, and meet the people who make the work possible. It will also include a walk through and discussion of how the trauma response vehicle is used to bring Hope and Resilience to the community. The event is FREE to attend, though donations will be requested. People can

sign up at http://bit.ly/NRP_Tour. There are also sponsorship opportunities available. The sponsorship levels vary and those interested should contact Fr. Dave for more info. We hope this evening will provide a much needed positive

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Young Adult (aged 18-40) Fall Retreat this year will be via Zoom on **Saturday, November 14th** from 9:30am – 12 Noon and 6:30 – 8:30pm. *Are you finding peace and joy in the middle of this storm? How do you block the noise How do you find stillness, peace, and even, joy?* The theme will be: "In Your Presence, There Is Fullness Of Joy". Presenters will be Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa, Very Rev. Fr. Stephen Loposky, Fr. Gregory Jensen, and Fr. Anastasios Athanasiou. Sign-up for FREE at <https://tinyurl.com/2020YAFallRetreat>. Visit www.acrod.org (middle of the page) for more information

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17th Annual Cookie Walk – "Virtually!" Experience the "Virtual Walk" in the comfort of your own home! Order Cookies and Pay Online. Being held now through November 15. "No in-person orders." Cookie Pickup: Saturday, December 12, 9 AM – 12 Noon at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Hall (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA.) For Questions, Contact: Rachel at 412-877-9878 OR Sherri at 412-874-4190! Sponsored by St. Matrona Ladies Society.

VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddioocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
YouTube: youtube.com/acroddioocese

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

¹⁶yet who know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in

order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. ¹⁷But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. ¹⁹For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

⁵"A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

The Purpose of the Parables

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word,

hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

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"When reading the Holy Scriptures, he who is humble and engaged in spiritual work will apply everything to himself and not to someone else."
+St. Mark the Ascetic

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Let the children come to Church, even if they slept there, even if they played and ate, even if they came late, even if they talked and made noise... It is enough that they chose the Church rather than going anywhere else! They shook off sleep and came to Church. They left their play and came to Church.

Today they play and joke, tomorrow they will pray and chant, and after tomorrow they will serve, and afterwards they will become leaders in the church. Who amongst us didn't behave like them when he was their age?

Do not reproach a child or dismiss him. Whatever he does, do not reject his commitment to the Church. Be kind to them, be nice to them, and teach them with patience, compassion and wisdom. Smile to them. Give them gifts. Hug them kindly. Encourage them and make them feel how we rejoice that they are present with us. Today they connect emotionally with the Church, tomorrow they will connect spiritually.

Of all that we have, children are the most precious. Our Lord Jesus Christ blessed children, hugged them, and had them stand in the midst, in front of everyone, to show that they should get the most attention and care.

Anba Macarius, *Bishop of Al Menia & Abu Koras*

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Struggling with Prayer: What do we do when our prayer becomes dry?

When we find ourselves struggling with prayer, and feel that it has become dry and lifeless, we are sometimes tempted to stop praying. When our prayer has become a struggle, it is good to

remember that God knows our needs, and even knows what we want to say when we don't seem to know. This is the time we need to just pray without worrying about it. When we find we can't keep our minds focused on the formal morning and evening prayers, as found in our prayer book, it is perfectly acceptable to simply light our lampada (hanging oil lamp), sit quietly before our icons, and let silence be our voice. God wants to enter into our heart, and requires only our permission and cooperation. This relationship does not require an emotional response, for, like all relationships, we are not always open to an emotional response. Being real with God is far more important than being emotional, since emotions can be contrived and fleshly. As in all relationships, there are times when we do feel moved by emotions, but the lack of such feelings in no way represents a lack of love for God, because God cares for us, and God knows we love him, even when suffering in those dry times.

With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt
Commemorated on November 1/October 19
"Saint John of Kronstadt was a married priest, who lived with his wife in virginity. Through his untiring labours in his priestly duties and love for the poor and sinners, he was granted by our Lord great gifts of clairvoyance and miracle-working, to such a degree that in the last years of his life miracles of healings — both of body and of soul — were performed countless times each day through his prayers, often for people who had only written to him asking his help. During his lifetime he was known throughout Russia, as well as in the Western world. He has left us his diary My Life in Christ as a spiritual treasure for Christians of every age; simple in language, it expounds the deepest mysteries of our Faith with that wisdom which is given only to a heart purified by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Foreseeing as a true prophet the Revolution of 1917, he unsparingly rebuked the growing

apostasy among the people; he foretold that the very name of Russia would be changed. As the darkness of unbelief grew thicker, he shone forth as a beacon of unquenchable piety, comforting the faithful through the many miracles that he worked and the fatherly love and simplicity with which he received all. Saint John reposed in peace in 1908." (*Great Horologion*)



"My God! Your name is Love: do not abandon me, the erring. Your name is Strength: strengthen me, the stumbling and falling. Your name is Light: enlighten my soul, darkened by worldly passions. Your name is Peace: console my restless soul. Your name is Mercy, do not cease to show mercy to me."
+St. John of Kronstadt

PRAYER CORNER

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

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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... Pani Kathy Dutko, Fr. Patrick, Katie, Fr. George L., Brian, Douglas,

Thomas, Dacia, James, Sean, Michael, Julia, Theresa, 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, Amee, 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):
(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Fr Joseph Birthisel (11/2), Jason Shelpman, Jr (11/4), Viola Peifer (11/4), Nicholas Kubis (11/6) ...*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!*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers...
Dustin, Stephen, 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... Lexi & Patrick, Lauren & Corey, Ashley & Derek
...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

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Anniversary Prayers for... Doug & Elizabeth

(Radomsky) Delaney (11/1) ...*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*), Elaine (*November*) ...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...
+George Puhac (10/6), +Paul, +Sylvia Louise, +Dorothy, +Leona (Smoley) Hawke (9/25), 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*

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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.*

"I have often repented of having spoken, but never of having been silent."
+St Arsenius the Great

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK

A Prayer to the Holy Trinity

The Father is my hope,
the Son is my refuge, and
the Holy Spirit is my protection.
O Holy Trinity, glory to You!