



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*
 Timothy Martin, *Reader*
 Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
 Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
 Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*
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SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

34th Sunday after Pentecost
 St. Athanasius the Great (373) and St. Cyril
 (444), archbishops of Alexandria.
 9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy
 Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16
 Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

9-10:30am Church open for personal prayer
(enter from the side door)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:30am Akathist to St. Xenia of St. Petersburg

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

35th Sunday after Pentecost
 St. Gregory (Nazianzus) the Theologian
 9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy
 Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17
 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43
 Tone 2; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
 Collection of unexpired canned soups



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“There is nothing on earth higher, greater, or
 more holy than the Divine Liturgy; nothing more
 solemn; nothing more life-giving.”
 St. John of Kronstadt

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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On-Line Giving is now available from our parish
 website! The best option is to come to church
 and give your offering to God in His Temple.
 Now you can also donate from your home and
 set up a recurring donation to the:

- ✕ General Stewardship Fund,
- ✕ Capital Improvement Fund, or
- ✕ Relocation Fund.

If you miss coming to church for a week, this
 allows you another option to “catch up” on your
 weekly stewardship.

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Akathist to St. Xenia with holy anointing
 – This Akathist covers many topics. Within it,
 Orthodox Prayers are offered to Save a
 Marriage, for the Healing of Mental Illness, to
 Find a Spouse, a Home, or a Job! (*St Xenia is*
the patron saint for finding employment.)
 Whether any of these areas are a concern for
 you or not, come and pray on **Thursday,**
February 4th for those who it will benefit!

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Souper Bowl of Caring – **NEXT Sunday,**
February 7th we will kick off our February
 Community Outreach collection for Saint Cyril of
 White Lake Food Pantry at St Mary's Orthodox
 Church on the South Side. Please plan to bring
 in unexpired canned soups.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

(responded with: Glorify 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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Additional Church Curators Needed –
 Our curator list needs expanded! If anyone is
 interested in being a *steward of their time* and be
 “on-the-door”, please contact Theresa
 Sharpless. (A synonym for *curator* is *steward*.)

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Parish Directory – Has any of your information
 changed since our 2018 Parish Directory was
 published? (Forgive me for not finishing this last
 year at this time!) Please contact me with any
 changes to your address, email, or phone
 number. Thank you! – Fr. Dave

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Calling all scouts! We will observe
 Scout Sunday on **February 14th** where we pause
 from our busy routine to remember the many
 contributions that the Scouting Community has
 made to make our world a better place to live.
 For our youth in Scouting and to our Adult
 Leaders, please send Fr. Dave your Unit
 Number, location, current rank, and any office or
 position you hold in your organization by
 Wednesday, **February 10th**.



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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 **Monday, February 15th** as well as after the
 Liturgy on **Sunday February 21st**. 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!

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2021 Home Blessings Special Announcement
 – *At this time, Home Blessings will be done by*
request only. Per guidance from Metropolitan
Gregory, Father Dave could say the prayers with
you from your porch and then sprinkle the Holy
Water through the doorway of your home. (He
will not walk throughout the inside of the house.)
Please contact Fr Dave to schedule your Home
Blessing this coming Theophany season. (He will
not contact anyone to schedule blessings at this
time, please reach out to him.)

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I will miss the opportunity to sit and talk with you
in your homes at this time! We hope and pray
that we will be able to resume this beautiful
tradition of our Church soon! On August 14 we
have the annual Lesser Blessing of Water and I
will instead come and visit everyone this August
or September for your Home Blessing. (Blessing
homes in the fall is an existing practice in other
parishes in the area. For practical reasons, it
avoids concerns and rescheduling due to snow
or ice this time of year.) Thank you for your
understanding and assistance in keeping us all
safe, healthy, and blessed! - Fr. Dave

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Live-Broadcast – We are blessed with the opportunity to watch our Diocesan Cathedral's services online (9:00 am Sunday Divine Liturgy). 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 via the *live broadcast* on the web at: www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

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Framed Icons – Here's an option to consider for your previous church calendar tops: cut them out, put them in a 5x7 frame, and hang them on your walls. Each year you can add an icon to another room in your home. This is also a nice project to do with our youth!

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Greeting Cards – Please repurpose your greeting cards and prior church calendar icon tops (if not framing them) after this holiday season concludes. The collection box is in the vestibule for the Holy Transfiguration Monastery. Thank you for giving back!

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Parish Precautions – If you were curious, here are a few of the precautions that the parish has been taking and will continue to take as we err on the side of caution with Covid:

- the open pews, door handles, and light switches are sanitized weekly,
- pans on top of the radiators are being filled with water to increase the humidity in the air (denser air falls to the ground faster taking germs with it)
- the ceiling fans run on low pushing the heat down (and preventing the air to be stagnant)
- 4 windows are cracked in the nave of the church (bringing in fresh air)
- we also continue to wear our masks and keep safe-distancing

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Father or a member of the Parish Council. And as always, if you are feeling ill or have a fever, please stay home and let Father know so that we can pray for you!

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 160
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 77
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 714
Parish House Donation:	\$ 200
Total Collections:	\$ 1151
Relocation:	\$ 50

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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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Mirilovich Family; Eleanor Sanger; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis.

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"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 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.

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Stewardship Envelopes – The 2021 Envelopes are in the church hall to be picked up. If you would like your envelopes mailed to you, please contact Theresa Sharpless or Father Dave.

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Thank You to the anonymous donor of the bottled spring water gallons to fill our Holy Water font before it was blessed this year! Many Years!

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Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh Icons – If you did not receive your Protecting Veil Icon, please contact Father Dave or Larry Martin as soon as possible.

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ACRY NEWS

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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. Contact Theresa Sharpless or Fr. Dave for more information.

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✠ **Thursday, February 11** – 9:30am Moleben
- ✠ **Friday, February 12** – 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs
- ✠ **Sunday, February 14** – Zacchaeus Sunday
- ✠ **Monday, February 15** – 9:30 Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Presentation of Christ and blessing of candles
- ✠ **Thursday, February 18** – 9:30am Moleben
- ✠ **Sunday, February 21** – Publican and Pharisee Sunday / blessing of candles

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ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

SPF50
SCRIPTURE • PRAYER • FAMILY



SPF50 (Scripture, Prayer, Family): A Diocese Family Ministry - The 5th Issue of SPF50 is available! (If you are already participating, please contact Fr. Dave.) If you did not start with us on March 1, consider joining now. Make a commitment to reading Scripture and Praying together with your family. (Please contact Fr Dave to fill out the Commitment Card.) Visit the Diocesan SPF50 web page at www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50 to find out more about SPF50 and how to help your family read Scripture and Pray together at home.

VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, ¹³ forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

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Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

The Rich Ruler

¹⁸ And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone." ²⁰ You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" ²¹ And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." ²² And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²³ But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. ²⁴ Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Sainted Athanasias and Cyril, Archbishops of Alexandria

Commemorated on January 31/18

Sainted Athanasias and Cyril, Archbishops of Alexandria, have a conjoined feast established to them in acknowledgement of the profound gratitude of Holy Church for their incessant lengthy labour in affirmation of the dogmas of the Orthodox faith and their zealous defense of such against heretical teachings.

St. Athanasius (Individually feast on May 2) took part in the First Ecumenical Council when he was still a deacon. He surpassed everyone there in his zeal to uphold the teaching that Christ is one Essence with the Father. He departed in 373.

St. Cyril (Individually feast on June 9) presided at the Third Ecumenical Council in 431, which dealt with blasphemy against the Most Holy Theotokos. He reposed in 444.



LIVING ORTHODOXY

Holy Water Reminders:

2020 Holy Water Available To Take Home:

All are encouraged to bring their Holy Water bottle (or any designated container) the next time you come to church to take the New Jordan Water home with you to use.

Drink Holy Water when we are feeling under the weather. You may bless one another with it (together with the sign of the Cross) prior to tests for our children in school, big days at the office, or before doctor appointments.

“Drink holy water as often as possible. It is the best and most effective medicine. I’m saying that not just as a priest but also from my experience as a doctor.” + St. Luke the Physician of Crimea

Do Not Hoard Old Holy Water:

While Holy Water does not “go bad”, it is best to refresh your water each year. Holy Water from the previous year(s) should be poured outside (*preferably on the corner of your house, in a garden where people are not going to walk on it, for your house plants, etc.*). **The best scenario is to use your Holy Water:** take a drink each morning, use when cooking, etc. Please cut out the devotional prayer this week and use it with your Holy Water.

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... Marcus, Pani Daria, Nicholas, Fr. Michael P., Pani Eleanor P., Kylee, Suzanne, Brian, Kristina, Fr. Patrick C., Fr. George L., Brian, Douglas, Dacia, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, 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, Georgia, Eleanor, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Elizabeth, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Daniel, Dylan,

Thomas, and Nicholas *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, 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): Timothy Martin, Reader – Apostle Timothy of the 70 (2/4) (*contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint*)

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Birthday Prayers for... Anthony Winkler (2/1), Fr. Marc Wisnosky (2/1), Fr. Edward Pehanich (2/4), *Paňi’s mother*, Alexandrina Liana Popescu (2/6) *...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, Marilynn, John *...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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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 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...

Cynthia & Jeffrey Morrison (2/5) *...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For Pregnant Mothers... Marilynn (*due in April*) Paňi Dutko (*June*), Lindsay (*July*) *...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For the souls of the newly departed...

+Daniel Gavulich (1/8), +Fr. John Baranik (12/20) 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.**

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK

(A parishioner made a great suggestion: cut out the following prayer and tape it to the back of your Holy Water bottle)

A Prayer before consuming Antidoron and (or) Holy Water

O Lord my God, may Your holy gift and Your holy water be for the remission of my sins, for the enlightenment of my mind, for the increase of my spiritual and bodily strengths, for the health of my soul and body, for the overcoming of my passions and infirmities, through Your boundless mercy, through the prayers of Your Most-holy Mother, and of all Your Saints.
Amen.