



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, 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



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

9:30am Moleben

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the
 Three Holy Hierarchs

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

36th Sunday after Pentecost
 Zacchaeus Sunday
 St. Brigid of Ireland (523)
 9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy
 Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15
 Gospel: Luke 19:1-10
 Tone 3; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
 Scout Sunday
 Add'l collection for our Capital Improvement Fund
 Panachida for +Daniel Gavulich (40-day)

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“As a fish cannot swim without water, and as a
 bird cannot fly without air, so a Christian cannot
 advance a single step without Christ.”
 +St Gregory of Nazianzus

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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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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Protecting Veil of the Theotokos Icons –
LAST CALL If you did not receive your Icon,
 please contact Father Dave or Larry Martin.

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.

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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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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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 – Please consider framing your
 previous church calendar tops: cut them out, use
 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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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.

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“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

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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.

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 335
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 48
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 260
Community Outreach:	\$ 280
Total Collections:	\$ 923
Relocation:	\$ 25

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; 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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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- ✦ **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** – Blessing of candles
- ✦ **Thursday, February 25** – 9:30am Moleben

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

"We must renounce our inhumanity to the wretched. Why do we spend so much on superfluous luxuries instead of helping them? Why do we do these things, my friends and brothers? Why are we so sick in soul like this?"

For it is indeed a sickness, far worse than any bodily illness to act like this. Why do we not rush to help while we still have time? Why do we sit and glut ourselves while our brothers are in such distress? God forbid I should enjoy such superabundance, when the likes of these have nothing at all? So dedicate a little to God, from whom you received so much. Even give Him everything, for he gave you all that you have. You will never be able to surpass God's generosity to you, not if you gave away every single thing you owned, even selling yourself into the bargain." +St Gregory the Theologian

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE



Renewing Your Marriage: Real Tools to Support Real Love – Marriage is hard work. Sometimes, it's harder than it needs to be because we don't have the right tools to help us in our struggles. Join Fr. Nick and Dr. Roxanne Louh for a life-giving online marriage retreat. **Saturday, February 13** from 10:30 am - 3:15 pm. *Drawing on faith and psychology, the Louhs will help you understand what makes couples argue and how you can turn those hard times into strengths. As you learn more about the mind and heart of your marriage, you'll be more able to renew the love that forms the foundation of your relationship.* Only one registration is needed per couple/household. Registration for this event will close on Wednesday, February 10 at 12 (Noon). For more information, visit <https://store.ancientfaith.com/renewing-your-marriage-retreat/>

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

MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Food Drive – This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry** (at Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church, 105 S. 19th St., Pgh, PA 15203). Volunteers are needed on Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:45 to assist in the distribution of these goods. (If interested, please contact Fr Patrick at 412-431-6428 as they are currently not running on a weekly basis.) Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! Here is a list of food items that they are looking for:

- ✓ Ready to eat canned fruit or vegetables
- ✓ Peanut Butter
- ✓ Jelly
- ✓ Canned Soups
- ✓ Canned Chili
- ✓ Macaroni & Cheese
- ✓ Spaghetti Sauce
- ✓ Pasta
- ✓ Noodle/Rice Mixes
- ✓ Small Package of Rice or Noodles
- ✓ Canned Stews
- ✓ Canned or Pouches of Tuna, Salmon or Chicken
- ✓ Boxed Meals ready to be prepared
- ✓ Baked Beans
- ✓ Canned and Boxed 100% Juice
- ✓ Crackers
- ✓ Tuna Helper Box
- ✓ Instant Cereal
- ✓ Boxed Cereal
- ✓ Canned Pastas (Chef Boyardee, Ravioli, etc.)
- ✓ Canned Meats

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of

sinners; ¹⁶but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

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Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar Near Jericho

³⁵As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; ³⁶and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. ³⁷They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." ³⁸And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁰And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹"What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." ⁴²And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." ⁴³And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

I'm sharing this with the permission of Fr. Antony Attallah and his concelebrating priest...

"A couple of months ago, Fr. Antony Attallah, contracted the Coronavirus. Thankfully, he and his family are fine now. I'm only writing this to reflect on a lesson we can all learn from that time. His whole family was infected during a family event on a Sunday, and as we all know by now that there is an incubation period that typically lasts several days until the full onset of symptoms. By Wednesday evening Fr. Antony began to have all the symptoms of Covid, you name it, fever, sore throat, cough, body aches, etc. After taking the Covid test a day later, it was confirmed. No surprise there. As I said, Fr. Antony and his family are fine now, but there

was cause for concern at that time. That Wednesday morning Fr. Antony was serving the Divine Liturgy. He was the celebrant priest and I participated with him. About 50 people were present. Of course we all followed all the safety precautions, but here was a priest carrying the virus (*without symptoms at this point*) who took Communion first and distributed that Communion to everyone else from the same hand, the same body, the same chalice and the same spoon. The timing also didn't help. Studies have shown that the highest degree of viral shedding is 5-8 hours prior to the onset of symptoms. That means you're most contagious at that time. So if there was ever a time when Fr. Antony was most likely to spread the virus it was Wednesday morning, during Liturgy. Anyway, as soon as Fr. Antony realized he was infected, everyone who attended Liturgy was contacted. After a few days, news about everyone's condition surfaced. Not a single person tested positive. A couple of weeks passed, and still not a single person with symptoms. By God's Grace, everyone was fine.

Now, I'm sharing this not to imply that it's impossible to get the virus (or any other illness) from attending Liturgy. It's definitely possible. We stand next to people, we touch surfaces, we breathe the same air, etc. But the Body and Blood of Christ are not like the pews or the door handles in the Church. Many of us are tempted to doubt the power of the Eucharist. We may have even joined debates about 'how' to administer Communion and whether the virus can spread through this method or that method. I have no interest in debating that here, I only wish to emphasize that the **Body and Blood of Christ are the medicine for our souls and bodies**. And I do believe that God allowed this event to happen (especially with such timing) to remind us of this reality and to strengthen our faith. Of course we still need to wear masks, physically distance, sanitize, etc. but it's important for us to put the Eucharist in its proper place. The Eucharist is a consuming fire, purifying us from a disease far more vicious than covid, the disease of sin. The woman with the

flow of blood, who was thought to be impure, was purified when she touched not the body of Christ, but so much as the hem of His garment. She did not transfer her impurity onto Him (as the law would have it), but instead He transferred the power of His healing Grace onto her. How much more will happen when we touch not His garment, but His divine body and consume the bread of life? But this is a matter of faith, as He told her, "Your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction." (Mk 5:34)

I pray we all have this sort of faith. **Faith that it is in the Eucharist that we receive eternal life and the grace of healing.** And I will go so far as to say that even if it is God's Will that such a grace comes in the form of a cross, such as a bodily illness, it will be for a greater glory, as the Lord reminded the messengers of Mary and Martha: "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."(Jn 11:4) So, "without shame and without doubt, eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ, if you are desirous of eternal life." (*St. Gregory Nazianzus*)

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FEAST DAY FEATURE

"Three Saints" – the Assemblage (Sobor, Synaxis) of the Holy Ecumenical Teachers of the Church and Sainted-Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostomos

Commemorated on Feb. 12 / Jan. 30

"Three Saints" – the Assemblage (Sobor, Synaxis) of the Holy Ecumenical Teachers of the Church and Sainted-Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostomos: At Constantinople for a long time there raged disputes about which one of the three sainted-hierarchs should be accorded the primacy of honour. One faction of the people preferred St Basil (Comm. Jan. 14/1), others stood forth for St Gregory the Theologian (Comm. Feb. 7 / Jan. 25), while a third revered St John Chrysostomos (Comm. Nov 26/13).

From this arose among church factions amongst Christians: some called themselves Basilians, others – Gregorians, and the third – Johannites. In accord with the will of God, in the year 1084 the three sainted-hierarchs appeared to the Eucharistic Metropolitan John, and in declaring that they were equal before God, they gave orders that the disputes should stop and that a day in common celebration of their memory should be established.

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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., 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):

(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Charles Kretchek (2/8), Richard Gedid (2/9), Harmonie Torchia (2/11), Pañi Buczak (2/11), Fr. James Gleason (2/12) *...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...

...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*) Pañi 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), 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

St. Gregory of Nazianzus

Tropar (Tone 4) In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Gregory, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.