



# 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*  
[www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149](https://www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149)

2688 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15212  
 412-748-0148, *Talk or Text*  
[OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com](mailto:OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com)  
[www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com](http://www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com)  
*Instagram:* SJB\_Orthodox\_Pittsburgh  
*NEW \*\*\* Twitter:* @SJB\_OrthodoxPGH



Fast - Free Week  
**FEBRUARY 21st**



TRIODION WEEKS  
**Publican and the Pharisee**  
 Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15  
 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Show compassion on the poor  
 and distressed. Trust in God,  
 not yourself and ask for His help  
 before every task this week.

## SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 – TRIODION BEGINS**  
 Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee  
 Within the Feast of the Presentation of Christ  
 Prophet Zechariah (520 BC)  
 9:15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy  
 Blessing of Candles  
 A Fast FREE Week

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23**  
 9-10:30am Church open for personal prayer  
*(enter from the side door)*

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
 9:30am Moleben

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28**  
 Sunday of the Prodigal Son  
 Apostle Onesimus of the Seventy (109)  
 9:15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy  
 Tone 5; Liturgical Color: **Gold**  
 Add'l collection for our Community Outreach

“Sinners who acknowledge their sinfulness  
 and are ready to sincerely repent,  
 are closer to the kingdom of heaven than those,  
 such as the Pharisees, who exalt themselves  
 with their apparent righteousness.”  
 - Archbishop Averky (Taushev)  
*Commentary on the Holy Scriptures*

## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Gertrude Hawk Candy** – There was an issue  
 getting order forms this spring from Gertrude  
 Hawk. If you are interested in getting an order  
 form from one of our sister parishes, please  
 contact Fr Dave today.

+ + + + +  
**We are in this together: Great Lent 2021** - Our  
 Journey To Pascha has begun. Today we begin  
 the series of Sundays known as the Triodion.  
 These weeks are meant to prepare us for Great  
 Lent (which prepares us for Holy Week which  
 prepares us for Pascha). Please reach out to Fr.  
 Dave if you have questions about this important  
 fasting period that is around the corner.

+ + + + +  
**Fast-Free Week** - There are only a few weeks  
 out of the year that are completely fast-free on  
 the church calendar, and this week is one of  
 those weeks! It comes after the Sunday of the  
 Publican and the Pharisee as we should not be  
 proud of our fasting (but we fast in secret). It also  
 comes in the spirit of purging our kitchen  
 cabinets and refrigerators of all those things from  
 which we will fast from in the approaching Great  
 Fast, lest the food go to waste.

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.

Normal Fast Week  
**FEBRUARY 28th**



**The Prodigal Son Returns!**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

**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.

Schedule a Confession. Every morning  
 say, “Today I will be humble.”  
 Use up/freeze meats this week.

*Book Suggestion for the Great Fast:*  
**FASTING FOR THE FEASTS: A STARTER BOOK**  
 by Pañi Marianna Bannon

Fasting for the Feasts is intended for those who  
 may have never fasted before. In addition to over  
 40 recipes, the book includes a brief introduction  
 as to the “why” behind fasting. The Table of  
 Contents includes (but not limited to): Fasting  
 Cycles in the Church; Stocking a Fasting-  
 Friendly Pantry; Nutritional Information; and  
 Preparing a Church Potluck.

Lulu Publishing ISBN # 978-1304800817  
 Coil Bound: \$ 15.00  
 Paperback Binding: \$ 10.00  
 Kindle Version: \$ 4.99

+ + + + +  
**Book suggestion** – This year, Fr Dave would  
 like to pre-order *closer to the number needed* of  
 our suggested book for the Great Fast. Please  
 let him know by the end of the week if you are  
 interested in a copy.

+ + + + +  
**Presanctified Liturgies** – Due to the limited  
 room size and Covid precautions, this year we  
 will *not* be renting the meeting room at the hotel  
 in Wexford for our Wednesday evening  
 Presanctified Liturgy. We will have the service at  
**6:00pm** at the church each Wednesday (without  
 a meal afterwards).

+ + + + +

**Food Drive** – For the month of February we  
 will be collecting unexpired food and  
 donations in order to make a delivery to **St.  
 Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry on  
 Pittsburgh's South Side**. Thank you in  
 advance for your prayers and offerings this  
 month! The list of food items they are looking  
 for is available in the church hall or at:  
[stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html](http://stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html)

+ + + + +



**All-Soul Saturday (Zadušna Subota)**  
 Liturgies with Panachidas for 2021 will be on  
**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and June 19<sup>th</sup>**. On  
 these days, we especially pray for the departed  
 loved ones of our families. If you are not working  
 on a Saturday, come to church and pray with us,  
 light two candles (*one for the living and one for  
 the departed*), and remember your departed loved  
 ones. **Please inform Fr Dave if there are any  
 additions to be made to your Commemoration  
 Diptychs (Hramoty) from last year.** Offering  
 Envelopes and cards are available in the  
 vestibule.

+ + + + +

**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*.)

+++ +++ +++  
**Live-Broadcast** – If you are unable to make it to church on Sunday morning, please pray along with our Diocesan Cathedral’s services online at 9:00 am.

[www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/)  
The best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist, but in the current scenario, please take the time Sunday morning to pray via the *live broadcast* on the web. Their bulletin has the schedule of weekday services to be broadcast.

[www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/bulletins/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/bulletins/)  
+++ +++ +++

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship:	\$ 200
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 143
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 390
Community Outreach:	\$ 30
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 733</b>
<b>Relocation:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<i>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</i>	

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Nelson Family; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Cindy Pavilionis.

+++  
**“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 +Mary Gaydos Daniella (Birthday Remembrance). May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!  
+++ +++ +++

**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

+++ +++ +++  
**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.



**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.

+++ +++ +++  
**LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY**  
✧ **Thursday, March 4** – 9:30am Moleben  
✧ **Saturday, March 6** – 9:30am All Soul Saturday (*Zadušna Subota*) Divine Liturgy & Panachida (1<sup>st</sup> of 5)

**ORTHODOXY AROUND THE ‘BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE**

53<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale** at Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106) will be **Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>** from 11 AM to 4 PM. Pysanky displays, Ostrich eggs, wooden, eggs and more! Ukrainian Foods, Folk Arts and Crafts, Basket Raffles, Door Prizes, and more. For more info, contact the parish at 412-527-5359, or visit: [www.orthodoxcarnegie.org](http://www.orthodoxcarnegie.org)

+++ +++ +++

**Diocesan Lenten Retreat: An Online Spiritual Gathering for Adults and Teenagers** – On **Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>** our diocese will have a virtual Zoom retreat from **Noon to 1:30pm**. The keynote presentation will be given by Fr. Jonathan Bannon titled: **Nepsis-Watchfulness: Being Attentive in a Distracted Age**. Sponsored by the National Sr. ACRY and open to all for free. Register now at: [www.acrod.org/retreat](http://www.acrod.org/retreat)

+++ +++ +++  
**VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE**  
Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddiocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](https://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

**SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Epistle:** 2 Timothy 3:10-15  
<sup>10</sup>Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup>my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Ico’nium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup>Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup>while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. <sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus

+++ +++ +++  
**Gospel:** Luke 18:10-14  
<sup>10</sup>“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far

off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**LIVING ORTHODOXY**

**MOVE FROM CRISIS TO CHRIST-LIKENESS: What to do during a time of uncertainty**

- ✧ **BE HOPEFUL** (You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in Your word. – Psalm 119:114) Take time to assess what you **know** to be true and **don’t fantasize** about what may or may not happen in the future.
- ✧ **REMEMBER GOD’S LOVE** (I trust in God’s unfailing love for ever and ever. – Psalm 52:8) God’s unfailing, unconditional love endures forever and will sustain us regardless of what may be happening in the world.
- ✧ **BE PATIENT** (Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. – Colossians 3:12) Don’t **react** to the uncertainties of the situation but **act** with compassion, kindness, and patience as a situation develops.
- ✧ **STAY CONNECTED** (Therefore encourage one another and build each other up. – 1 Thessalonians 5:11) If you can’t visit, take time to call your loved ones and neighbors to check on them and show you care for them.
- ✧ **PRAY** (Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. – Philippians 4:6) Seek out God through prayer and trust in His sovereignty. Pray for one another because Jesus Christ commanded us to do so. By praying for others we are imitating Christ.
- ✧ **HELP** (Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. – Galatians 6:2) When possible, help someone in need. Consider picking up groceries for a homebound or making food for a family in need.

## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### The Prophet Zechariah the Sickle-Seer from amongst the 12 Minor Prophets

*Commemorated on February 21/8*

The Prophet Zechariah the Sickle-Seer from amongst the 12 Minor Prophets was descended from the Levite tribe, called in the Book of Nehemiah-Ezra the chief priestly lineage. He was called to prophetic service at a young age and became, in the wondrous expression of churchly song, "a spectator of supra-worldly visions". In particular within the Book of the Prophet Zechariah there is contained inspired details about the coming of the Messiah (6: 12); about the last days of the earthly life of the Saviour, and about the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem on a young donkey (9: 9); about the betrayal of the Lord for 30 pieces of silver and the purchase with them of the potter's field (11: 12-13); about the piercing of the side of the Saviour (12: 10); about the scattering of the apostles from the Garden of Gethsemane (13: 7); about the sun's eclipse at the time of the sufferings on the Cross of the Saviour (14: 6-7). "Enlightened by dawns all above", the Prophet Zechariah "saw the future as the presently existing". According to tradition, this "most true God-proclaimer" lived to old age and was buried not far from Jerusalem, alongside his illustrious contemporary and companion the Prophet Haggai. The title "Sickle-Seer" given Zechariah is connected to one of the revelations to him, in which he saw a scroll flying in the air, curved to the likeness of a menacing sickle (5:1-2).



“Watch your heart throughout your life; examine it, listen to it, and see what prevents it from uniting itself with the Lord. Let this be your supreme and constant study, and with God’s help you will easily observe what estranges you from Him, and what draws you to Him and unite you to Him. It is the evil spirit more than anything else that stands between our hearts and God; he estranges us from God by the several vices, or by the desires of the flesh, and by worldly pride.”

+St. John of Kronstadt

+ + + + +

## PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for  
Special Intentions and 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...** Matthew, Alexandra, Joseph, Marcus, Nicholas, Brian, Kristina, Fr. George L., Brian, Douglas, 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.**

+ + + + +

**For the Special Intentions of...** Metropolitan Gregory, Georgia, Eleanora, 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.**

+ + + + +

**Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):**  
*Father's Godson, Zachariah Kalaluhi – Prophet (2/21) (contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

+ + + + +

**Birthday Prayers for...** Carly Anton (2/21), Barbara Kirish (2/22), Theresa Sharpless (2/22), *Father's nephew, Brian Verbanick, Jr (2/22), Fr Stephen Krivonak (2/23)*  
*...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!*

+ + + + +

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

+ + + + +

**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.**

+ + + + +

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

+ + + + +

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

+ + + + +

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

+ + + + +

**For the souls of the newly departed...**  
+Vlatka Zgonc (2/10), 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*

+ + + + +

\* 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.*

+ + + + +

## DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS OF THE WEEK

### from the Lenten Triodion

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-Giver; for my spirit hastens early towards Your holy temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled; but in Your compassion purify me by Your gracious mercy. Amen.

### The Jesus Prayer

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner!

### A Prayer When Lighting A Candle

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,  
and forever. Amen.*

Set our hearts on fire with love for You, O Christ our God, so that in its flame we may love You with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, so that by keeping Your commandments we may glorify You, the giver of all good gifts. Amen.

