



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

2688 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15212
412-748-0148, *Talk or Text*
OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com
Instagram: SJB_Orthodox_Pittsburgh
*NEW *** Twitter:* @SJB_OrthodoxPGH

Normal Fast Week
FEBRUARY 28th



The Prodigal Son Returns!
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

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

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.

Meatfare
MARCH 7th
FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY



The Last Judgement
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him!
Use up/freeze dairy this week.

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Apostle Onesimus of the Seventy (109)
9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy
Add'l collection for our Community Outreach

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

9:30am All Soul Saturday (*Zadušna Subota*)
Divine Liturgy & Panachida (*1st of 3*)

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Sunday of the Last Judgment
Venerable Athanasius the Confessor (826)
9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy
Tone 6; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

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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.
- A Hymn from Matins

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Lenten 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 TODAY if you are interested.

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Great Lent 2021: We are in this together!
Our Journey To Pascha has begun. We are in the weeks meant to prepare us for Great Lent (which prepares us for Holy Week - which prepares us for Pascha, the Feast of Feasts). Please reach out to Fr. Dave if you have questions about this important fasting period that is around the corner.

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"Clean Week" Services – The first week of the Great Fast is known as "Clean Week". We will have services in the evenings and mornings:

- Monday 6:00 pm** Canon of Repentance
- Tuesday 9:30 am** Canon of Repentance
- Wednesdays 6:00 pm** Presanctified Liturgy
- Thursday 9:30 am** Canon of Repentance
- Fridays 9:30 am** Presanctified Liturgy

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Online Parish Calendar Updated – The Parish Calendar on our website has been updated with the additional services throughout the Great Fast. If you would like a printed copy, please let Fr. Dave know.

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).

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All-Soul Saturday (Zadušna Subota) Liturgies with Panachidas for 2021 will be on **March 6th, 27th, April 3rd, 10th, and June 19th**. 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 and curator table in the hall.

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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/

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/

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

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Food Drive – Thank you to everyone who donated dry goods or monies this month for our community outreach, **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry** in South Side Pittsburgh.

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

✘ **Tuesday, March 9** – 9:30am Akathist to St. John the Baptist on the Feast of the 2nd and 3rd findings of the head of St. John

✘ **Thursday, March 11** – 9:30am Moleben

✘ **Clean Week, March 15-20** – listed above

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 25
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 155
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 484
Community Outreach:	\$ 20
Total Collections:	\$ 684
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 5
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

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Shuster Family; Kirish Family; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Mirilovich Family; 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 yet coming to the church, we request that weekly donations be mailed to Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)



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 (2nd best is to mail it in). 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. For our parish to continue its ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

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ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

The next **"The Vine and the Branches"** online Diocesan Youth event for youth ages 5-18 (K to 12th Grade) will be **Sunday, March 7** from 6:00-7:30p for ages 5-12 and from 7:00-8:30p for ages 13-18. His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory is calling all our youth to once again come together online in order to strengthen their faith and connect with their peers around the Diocese. The schedule includes time for a message from the Metropolitan, games to help us get to know each other, activities on the theme of The Vine and the Branches, some entertainment from around the Diocese (special guest appearances!), and time just to see and talk with one another. His Eminence is looking forward to seeing all of you! Registration is quick and easy at: [The Vine and the Branches - 3/7/21](#) Registration closes on **Thursday, March 4** so register TODAY!

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53rd Annual **Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale** at Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106) will be **Sunday, March 28th** 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

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Diocesan Lenten Retreat: An Online Spiritual Gathering for Adults and Teenagers presented by Fr. Jonathan Bannon titled: Nepsis-Watchfulness: Being Attentive in a Distracted Age. – This virtual retreat will occur from **Noon to 1:30pm on Saturday, April 3rd** via "Zoom". This free retreat is sponsored by the National Sr. ACRY and open to all. Register now at: www.acrod.org/retreat

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: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Glorify God in Body and Spirit

¹²"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. ¹³"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." ¹⁷But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

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Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

¹¹And he said, "There was a man who had two sons; ¹²and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰And he arose and

came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; ²³and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; ²⁴for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Onesimus, A Disciple from the 70

Commemorated on February 28/15

In his youth, St. Onesimus was a servant of Philemon, a Christian of distinguished lineage who lived in the city of Colossae, Phrygia. Fearing punishment for an offense against his master, Onesimus fled to Rome, but he was imprisoned for being a runaway slave. In prison he came across the Apostle Paul and was enlightened by him, and was baptized. St. Paul was personally acquainted with Philemon, and wrote him a letter filled with love, asking him to forgive the runaway slave and to accept him like a brother. He sent Onesimus with this letter. After St. Philemon received the letter, he not only forgave Onesimus, but also sent him back to Paul in Rome. Afterwards, Philemon was consecrated bishop of the city of Gaza. After the martyrdom of the Apostle Paul, St. Onesimus served the apostles until

their end, and he was made a bishop. After the death of the holy apostles he preached the Gospel in many lands and cities of Spain, Carpetania, Colossae, and Patras. In his old age, Onesimus occupied the bishop's throne at Ephesus, after the Apostle Timothy. Onesimus was the Bishop of Byzantium from the year 54 to 68. In the year 109, St. Onesimus was arrested and brought to trial before the Eparch Tertillus, during the reign of the Emperor Trajan. He held the saint in prison for 18 days, and then sent him to prison in the city of Puteoli. Later he was stoned and beheaded for still maintaining his faith in Christ. A certain illustrious woman took the body of the martyr and placed it in a silver coffin.

ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

REPENTANCE Literally, “a change of mind” or attitude, and thus of behavior. God is the author of *repentance*, which is an integral part of baptism, confession, and ongoing spiritual life. Repentance is not simply sorrow for sins but a firm determination to turn away from sin to a new life of righteousness in Jesus Christ. (See Matt. 4:17; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 John 1:9)

LIVING ORTHODOXY

By the Waters of Babylon The Great Fast, Our Exile

by Fr. Seraphim (Rose) March 1965

[“By the Waters of Babylon” is the entire Psalm 137, sung to a plaintive melody, during Matins (the morning service). It is only sung in church the three Sundays that precede Great Lent: Sunday of the Prodigal Son, The Last Judgment (Meatfare), and Forgiveness (Cheese-fare).]

This weekend, at the Sunday Vigil of the Prodigal Son, we will sing Psalm 135.

“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion”.

In these words of the Lenten psalm, we Orthodox Christians, the New Israel, remember that we are in exile. For Orthodox Russians, banished from Holy Russia, [This homily was written in 1965, when the church in Russia was still under captivity to the Communist regime.] the Psalm has a special meaning; but all Orthodox Christians, too, live in exile in this

world, longing to return to our true home, Heaven.

For us the Great Fast is a session of exile ordained for us by our Mother, the Church, to keep fresh in us the memory of Zion from which we have wandered so far. We have deserved our exile and we have great need of it because of our great sinfulness. Only through the chastisement of exile, which we remember in the fasting, prayer and repentance of this season, Do we remain mindful of our Zion?

“If I forget thee, O Jerusalem...”

Weak and forgetful, even in the midst of the Great Fast **we live as though Jerusalem did not exist for us.** We fall in love with the world, **our Babylon**; we are seduced by the frivolous pastimes of this “strange land” and neglect the services and discipline of the Church which remind us of our true home. Worse yet, we love our very captors - for our sins hold us captive more surely than any human master - and in their service we pass in idleness the precious days of Lent when we should be preparing to meet the Rising Sun of the New Jerusalem, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is still time; we must remember our true home and weep over the sins which have exiled us from it. Let us take to heart the words of St. John of the Ladder: “Exile is separation from everything in order to keep the mind inseparable from God. An exile loves and produces continual weeping.” Exiled from Paradise, we must become exiled from the world if we hope to return.

This we may do by spending these days in fasting, prayer, separation from the world, attendance at the services of the Church, in tears of repentance, in preparation for the joyful Feast that is to end this time of exile; and by bearing witness to all in this “strange land” of our remembrance of that even greater Feast that shall be when our Lord returns to take His people to the New Jerusalem, from which there shall be no more exile, for it is eternal.

<http://www.orthodox.net/greatlent/by-the-waters-of-babylon-the-great-fast-our-exile.html>

PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for
Special Intentions and Other Needs
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For the Health of... Anthony, Dale, 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.
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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, Ameer, 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... Fr William Bennett (2/28), His-All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew I (2/29), Alisha Zak (3/1), Matthew Wensel (3/3), Christopher Kubis (3/6), Michael Shuster (3/6), Fr Daniel Mahler (3/6) ...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.

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

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS OF THE WEEK

A Prayer in Exile (Psalm 137): Longing for Zion in a Foreign Land

By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.

² On the willows there
we hung up our harps.

³ For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

⁴ How shall we sing the LORD's song
in a foreign land?

⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

⁶ Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy!

⁷ Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom
the day of Jerusalem,
how they said, “Raze it, raze it!
Down to its foundations!”

⁸ O daughter of Babylon, you who are devastated!
Happy shall he be who requites you
with what you have done to us!

⁹ Happy shall he be who takes your little ones
and dashes them against the rock!

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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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Anniversary Prayers for...

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

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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.*