



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*



FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY!

APRIL 25th

GREAT WEEK BEGINS



GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9
 Gospel: John 12:1-18

Place your palm branches
 and pussywillows behind
 an icon at home
 and in your car!

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 25 ## HOLY WEEK BEGINS

Hieromartyr Zeno, bishop of Verona (~260)
 9:30 – Divine Liturgy of St. John
 Blessing of branches

#HOLY MONDAY, APRIL 26

6:00pm Bridegroom Matins and confessions

#HOLY TUESDAY, APRIL 27

6:00pm Bridegroom Matins and confessions

#HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

6:00pm Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction)

* *Final opportunity for Confession till after Pascha* *

#HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 29

9:30am Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil

6:00pm Matins of the Passion (12 Gospels)

#HOLY & GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 30

9:30am Royal Hours

6:00pm Vespers & Procession of the Holy Shroud

#HOLY SATURDAY, MAY 1

9:30am Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil

PASCHA – THE FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 2

9:00 am Resurrection Matins

~9:30 am Paschal Divine Liturgy

Blessing of Baskets (*upstairs in the church*)

Liturgical Color: **White**

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**PLEASE SEE “LIVING ORTHODOXY” FOR
 INFORMATION ABOUT EACH SERVICE**

LOOKING AHEAD TO BRIGHT WEEK

✧ **Bright Monday 5/3** 9:30am Paschal Liturgy
 with Gospel procession

✧ **Bright Thursday 5/6** 9:30am Paschal Liturgy
 on the Feast of St. George

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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Great Lent 2021: We Are In This Journey Together! We have reached Holy Week. The Great Fast is over, but this week is a *higher* fasting period. Make this week more intense by coming to the services and in your fasting.

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:

in memory of Mary Jane
 Hudak's mother,
 +Ann Hudak,
 on the 34th anniversary
 of her passing.
 May her memory be eternal!

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

APRIL 30th



GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR
 ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE

Refrain from TV, Internet &
 Phones to honor Christ's Death.

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Journey to Orthodoxy – Congratulations and *God's choicest blessings* to Dustin (Dunstan) Brozell and Steve (John) Zerby who were received into the Orthodox Faith and our parish family yesterday morning. May God grant to His newly-illuminated servants, Dustin (Dunstan) and Steve (John), Many Years of Peace, Health, Happiness and Salvation! Blessings also to their sponsors and families! Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!

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Blessing of Baskets – This year we will bless our baskets upstairs in the Nave of the Church. When you bring your basket Sunday morning, place it at the end of a pew near the center aisle or on the ground in the center aisle next to a pew. Remember that the “traditional” basket contains the foods that the church guides us to have fasted from. Feel free to include something that you fasted from during the Great Fast.

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Monday's Spiritual Vitamin:

“If you give all your life to the earth, the earth will give you a tomb; but if you give your life to heaven, Heaven will give you a throne.”

+St. Ephrem the Syrian

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Panachida Offerings – Reminder: Panachidas (Memorial Services for the Departed) CANNOT be served on the Major Feast Days of our Lord including Palm Sunday (4/25) and Pascha (5/2).

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Cemetery Grave Blessings –

We will begin blessing graves this year on **Sunday, May 9th**. We will celebrate a Panachida at Church and then head to the cemeteries. *If your loved ones are not at one of the two nearby cemeteries, please schedule a time with Fr. Dave to meet before the Feast of Ascension.

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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to make it to church on Sunday morning, please pray at along with our 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/

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 345
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 143
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 375
Total Collections:	\$ 863
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 10
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

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Carol Lorenzi; 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 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 it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

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Tuesday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"When you plant a tree you plant hope,
you plant peace, you plant love, and
you will receive God's blessing."
+St. Amphilochias Makris

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ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

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2021 at Camp Nazareth – Pre-registration has begun for this summer's camping session (and ends at the end of April)! The Pittsburgh week will run **Sunday to Friday, August 1-6**. If you have not received an email from Fr. Dave with registration links and information, please contact him ASAP.

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SPF50 (Scripture, Prayer, Family): A Diocese Family Ministry - The 6th Edition of SPF50 is available! The NEW reading program highlights many **ESSENTIAL Biblical Stories** like Creation, Noah and the Ark, the Exodus, the call of the Prophet Samuel, and many others throughout the Old and New Testaments. *(If you are already participating, please contact Fr. Dave.)* If you did not start with us last year, 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.

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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

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. ⁶Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

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Gospel: John 12:1-18

Mary Anoints Jesus

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Laz'arus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Laz'arus was one of those at table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii [a day's wage] and given to the poor?" ⁶This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. ⁷Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

The Plot to Kill Lazarus

⁹When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Laz'arus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰So the chief priests planned to put Laz'arus also to death, ¹¹because

on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

¹²The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written,

¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on an ass's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Laz'arus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

LIVING ORTHODOXY



Great Lent 2021:

We Are In This Journey Together!

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To assist the faithful in making the most of this holy season, additional resources have been added to our Diocesan Website at:

www.acrod.org/prayercorner/lentenresources/

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Let us come with branches

This week's reflection is written by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicolae, of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas & Liaison to IOCC

Christ's Humility Creates Hope

Let us come with branches to praise Christ the Master in faith like babies, purifying our souls and crying to Him with a loud voice: Blessed are You, O Savior. — *from Matins Of The Feast*
In pronounced contrast to the conquerors of His

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Wednesday's Spiritual Vitamin:

“Let us love that fasting of the soul which, by the cooperation of the Spirit, doth wither the grievous passions and doth strengthen us to do godly deeds, and doth uplift our mind towards Heaven, and doth obtain our sins' forgiveness, grant unto us by the compassionate God.”
- *Triodion, Monday Vespers of the Third Week*

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earthly day, Christ enters the city not on a powerful war horse or at the head of an army but on a donkey. This must have seemed absurd to anyone looking for a king to defeat the Romans. From His birth in a cave to His humiliating death on the cross, Christ's incarnation defies human expectations for His Kingdom. It is established not through war but through love. Not through force but through humility. And we enter into it not through earthly power, success, or accomplishment but with the faith of a child. On Palm Sunday we begin Holy Week, the final road to the Cross. Turning human paradigms on their head, Christ's humility from birth to death creates our greatest hope: a restoration of humanity's communion with God, a renewal of our true nature. Christ's humility renders death powerless and brings us home to Himself. This Holy Week and beyond, may we imitate first the One who emptied Himself! May we find assurance in His victory over death, placing in Him the hope of our salvation! Christ has risen from the dead. By death He has trampled upon death, and to those in the tombs He has given life! —*Apolytikion of Pascha*

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Thursday's Spiritual Vitamin:

“When pride retreats from a man, humility begins to dwell in him, and the more pride is diminished, so much more does humility grow. The one gives way to the other as its opposite. Darkness departs and light appears. Pride is darkness, but humility is light.”
+*St. Tikhon of Zadonsk*

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**WALKING WITH CHRIST IN
THE SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK:
*An Invitation to Journey with Christ in
His Church***

It has often been said of the Orthodox Church that Orthodox believers reckon their lives “from Pascha to Pascha.” The 3-day journey of Pascha constitutes the defining moment not just of our church year, but also of our very lives as the Lord's disciples. The invitation that goes out to each of us in these all-revered days of Holy Week and Pascha is not offered so that we would be *mere spectators*. No, the promise of Holy Week is given to us so that we might be *true participants* at the Lord's side, with the disciples, and with the godly women at the Tomb. May this guide help you and your family to maximize what you are able to attend, so that you, too, might be witnesses of Him and His Glorious Resurrection when on May 2nd we proclaim: *Christ is risen!*

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The Feast of the Entrance of our Lord

The Sunday **Divine Liturgy** commemorates the Great Feast of the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. The Feast of Palms, paired gloriously with Lazarus Saturday, offers us a triumphal foretaste of Christ's Passion and Resurrection; yet, also signals the sad truth that many who at first hail Jesus as Lord turn from His teaching and forsake Him.

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Holy Monday

Bridegroom Matins: In this service we are challenged to ponder the coming of the Lord and our lack of preparation to meet Him. The liturgical texts refer chiefly to the parable of the Ten Virgins, which forms the general theme of the first three days of the week.

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Holy Tuesday

Bridegroom Matins: The theme shifts dramatically to the person of Judas at the Last Supper, who is sharing the Lord's Table, and yet is preparing to betray Him. We also commemorate the woman that was a sinner, who anointed Christ's feet as He sat in the house of Simon. The repentance of the sinful harlot is contrasted with the tragic fall of the chosen disciple.

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Holy Wednesday

Holy Mystery of the Anointing of the Sick (Unction): This Mystery (Sacrament) of the Church provides both physical and spiritual healing with holy oil blessed by the Holy Spirit. Holy unction is a mystery of great comfort to the faithful. It provides uplifting and asks for patience to accept the will of God, whatever the physical outcome.

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Holy Thursday

* **Vesperal Liturgy of the Mystical Supper:** At this time, we commemorate the Last Supper and enter into the eternal mystery of it, which is the Eucharist. The reserve Sacrament that is kept in the Tabernacle is prepared at this service.
* **Matins of the Passion (12 Gospels):** We prepare for Holy & Great Friday hearing the Passion Gospels and encountering Christ Crucified. This is one of the most powerful services in all of Orthodox Holy Week.

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Holy & Good Friday *(a day of strict fasting)*

* **Royal Hours:** We revisit the Cross. We hear the hymns of the previous evening and find Jesus hanging on the Cross for our salvation. *(If you cannot be at the Thursday evening service, know that this service of the Royal Hours covers much of the same content.)* Royal Hours offers a powerful meditation on the Cross and its meaning.
* **Vespers & Procession with the Holy Shroud (Plaščanitsa):** During this service we remember the taking down of the Lord's body from the Cross and His entombment by the Noble Joseph. The burial procession around the inside of the church is done with everyone holding candles. This is a beautiful and moving service for all to participate in!



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Holy Saturday *(a day of strict fasting)*

Vesperal Liturgy: This ushers in the first message of the joyous feast. This service is the Vespers of Pascha itself and announces what is to come. The vestments are dramatically changed from black to white, and we hear “Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered.” On Holy Saturday we strict fast and make preparations all day for Pascha (including the preparation of sumptuous paschal foods).

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Holy Pascha!

* **Resurrection Matins:** Now we gather again to be ready to meet the Risen Lord. But before we make our triumphal Paschal Procession, quietly, the Lord's body (Holy Shroud) is taken from the “Tomb” and placed in victory on the Holy Altar Table. All lights in the church are put out and we wait patiently for the first strains of the Paschal song, “Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior...” The paschal light is lit, the priest begins to chant the hymn and the light is passed from person to person and we exit the church and make our Paschal Procession *(to the Vestibule)*. We now

enter completely into the joy of Pascha. Christ bursts the gates of death and the gates of Paradise are opened. Coming back into the church, we celebrate the Resurrection Matins.

* **Paschal Divine Liturgy:** The morning matins service flows directly into the Divine Liturgy. Certain hymns are replaced with “Christ is risen” as we celebrate Our Lord’s Resurrection.

* **The Blessing of Baskets:**

After Liturgy, the priest will bless the Artos Bread and the Paschal baskets of food (up and down the center aisle).

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Bright Monday

Paschal Liturgy with Gospel Procession: After the Liturgy is just about complete, another procession takes place where the Gospel Good News is read on the four sides of the church. In the brightness of the Resurrection, there is no fasting this week.

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Friday’s Spiritual Vitamin:

“We should accept every affliction without argument, with the thought of the wise thief that we receive these sorrows justly for our sins, for the cleansing and salvation of our souls.

With this attitude every sorrow takes on the quality of sorrow for the Lord’s sake and our personal cross is transformed into the Cross of Christ, and through it we find salvation.”

+Abbot Nikon Vorobiev

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Bridegroom Matins of Holy Week

By Fr. Michael Gillis

Sunday Evening

Tonight we pray the first of three Bridegroom Matins. For Holy Week all of the services are done half a day earlier than normal out of heightened anticipation (*for example, on Sunday evening we are praying the service for Monday morning*). The main hymn of Bridegroom Matins is a reflection based on Matthew 24:42, “**Watch therefore for you know not the hour when the Lord will come,**” and Matthew 25:6, “**At midnight the cry was made, ‘behold the Bridegroom comes.’**”

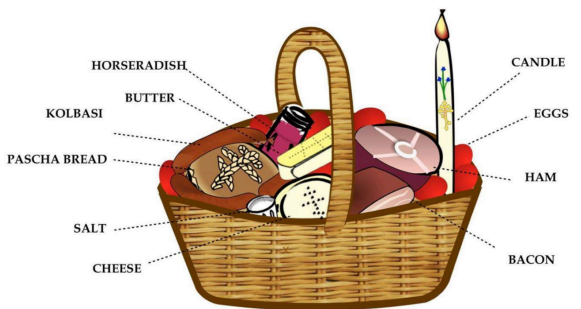
Behold the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night; and blessed is the servant whom He shall find vigilant; and unworthy is he whom he shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul that you not be overcome by sleep, lest you be given up to death and be shut out of the Kingdom. Wherefore, rouse yourself crying out: Holy, Holy, Holy are you our God, through the intercessions of the Theotokos save us.

This hymn, sung three times in a row at each Bridegroom Matins service, reminds us that **each of us must remain vigilant in our relationship with God**. Sleep represents the attitude of not caring, of not anticipating or longing for the awareness of God’s presence in our life. This hymn specifically, and all of Holy Week generally, reminds us that just as the same crowd that shouted ‘Hosannah’ this morning will five days later be shouting ‘Crucify Him,” so we too, if we are not vigilant and attentive to our souls, we too can fall away and miss the coming of God in our lives.

Each Bridegroom Matins service has different themes focusing on various aspects of the last week of Christ’s ministry.

These are sombre themes, but they are meant to be sombre. **We are going with Christ to the Cross**. But even so, the shouts of Hosannah are still ringing in our ears from this morning and the anticipation of the resurrection is beginning to glow dimly in our hearts.

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Assembling A Traditional Easter Basket

One begins with a straw basket filling with foods each holding symbolic significance:

1. Easter Bread (Pascha)

A sweet yeast bread rich in eggs and butter, symbolic of Christ “the Living Bread”. Usually a round loaf with a golden crust and decorated with a braid and cross. Pascha comes from the word Pasch, meaning Passover. In English we use it to refer to the Easter season. In Slavonic the word paska is used to refer to Christ “the new lamb”.

2. Cheese (Rusyn: Hrudka or Sirec)

A special cheese made from egg and milk shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. It is often decorated with cloves in the form of a cross.

3. Ham (Šunka)

The meat popular with the Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolism of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer lamb or veal.

4. Sausage (Kolbasi)

A spicy pork product flavored with garlic, indicative of God’s favor and generosity.

5. Butter (Maslo)

This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a lamb or small cross. Symbolic of Christ the lamb who was offered upon the altar of the Cross for the life of the world.

6. Bacon (Slanina)

Uncooked bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the overabundance of God’s mercy to us.

7. Salt (Sol)

Symbolizes the Truth of the message of Christ. Just as salt preserves food, so the teaching of Christ preserves our eternal life.

8. Horseradish (Chrin)

Horseradish mixed with grated red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bittersweet red colored mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.

9. Decorated Eggs (Pysanký)

Hard boiled eggs brightly decorated with symbols and markings made with beeswax. Eggs were always considered as symbols of the resurrection, the emergence of new life.

*** *We are not limited to only having these items in our basket (nor do we have to have all of them). We fast for 40 days and a tradition is to bring what you have fasted from to the church to bless it before having some again (i.e. chocolate, or gum, or pop, or beer, etc.)*

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The PriestMonk Zenon, Bishop of Verona
Commemorated on April 25/12

The PriestMonk Zenon, Bishop of Verona, was born a Greek and came from Syria. In his early years he accepted monasticism and toiled over the study of Holy Scripture. Wandering through the monasteries, the saint came to the city of Verona and settled there. The people chose him bishop of the city.

The emperors who then ruled, Constantius (353-361) and Valens (364-378), were advocates of the Arian heresy, which had been condemned at the First OEcumenical Council at Nicea in the year 325. Under their patronage the Arians began a persecution against the Orthodox. Saint Zenon bravely endured all the oppression from the heretics. In his sermons and missives he firmly asserted the Orthodox teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ as the Only-Begotten Son of God, Born of the Father before all ages. Saint Zenon wrote 16 lengthy and 77 short discourses and directives. He died in about the year 360.

Sainted Gregory Dialogus (Comm. 12 March) speaks of a miracle, worked in the year 558 on the day of memory of Saint Zenon. Springtime in Italy, it was heavily flooded. The River Tiber overflowed its banks and inundated the surrounding area; the River Atesis flowing past Verona also flooded. The water reached the church built in the name of the PriestMartyr Zenon, and came up to the very windows of the church. The doors of the temple were open, but the water did not rush into it, but stopped at the wall, not harming the church.

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Saturday's Spiritual Vitamin:

“The Holy Orthodox Church has determined the rules of preparation for Holy Communion. The main thing is to prepare the heart for uniting with the Lord. Fasting is necessary for calming the body, and once the body is at peace, the soul is at peace, too.”

+ Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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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... Gary, Sandra, Joanne, Michael, Jerrod, Pamela, Barbara, John, Mary Jane M., Dale, Brian, Kristina, Fr. George L., Douglas, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, 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, 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):

Paňi's brother Florin Popescu

Paňi's mother Liliana Popescu

(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Jaxson Maruscak (4/25), Fr Christopher Rocknage (4/26), Fr Jonathan Bannon (4/29), Maryhelen Hoffman (4/29), Sharon Peifer-Robinson (4/29)

...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...

Susan, Marilyn, 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...

John & Theresa Sharpless (belated 4/21)

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

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For Pregnant Mothers... Paňi Katie (due in June), Carley (July), Lindsay (July), Paňi Davina (September) ...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... +Viola Peifer (4/20), +Levar Green (4/15), +Joseph Dzadony (4/6), +Anthony Dranginis (3/31), +John Cochran (3/25), 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.

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“Inasmuch as our contemplation of the cross increases, so deepens our communion and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.”

Metropolitan Saba

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK

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A PRAYER OF SAINT EPHRAIM
(in the Ruthenian tradition as found in St. Peter Mogila's 1639 Liturgikon (Sluzhebnik))

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. + [Prostration] But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. + [Prostration] Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]

The following triplet is recited 4 times (making a total of 12 bows):

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [bow]
O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me. [bow]
O Lord, forgive me, for my sins are many. [bow]

Then the prayer again with only 1 prostration:
O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]