



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

please wear masks following the CDC guidelines

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

1st Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of All Saints
9:30 am Divine Liturgy w/ Fr. Robert Prepelka
Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2
Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33,37-38,19:27-30

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30 *APOSTLES' FAST

7:00 pm Akathist to Sts. Peter and Paul

THURSDAY, JULY 1 *APOSTLES' FAST

9:30 am Morning Moleben

SUNDAY, JULY 4 *APOSTLES' FAST

2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Synaxis of Regional Saints
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Romans 2:10-16; Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23
Tone 1; Liturgical Color: **Green**

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

www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

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Future Services – Our online "Parish Calendar" is continually updated on our website at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

Monday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"When you see a shrine, make the sign of the Cross and call upon the Saint who is honored there, for the Saints are there and their grace helps us."

- Elder Iakovos Tsalikes

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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Thank you Fr Robert for joining us today! May God grant you many years!

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The Holy Apostles' Fast (Peter and Paul Fast)

- One of the four fasting seasons of the Christian year, along with Great Lent (the Great Fast), Nativity Fast (Advent), & the Dormition Fast, this one in particular culminates with our celebration of Saints Peter & Paul on July 12th. *Take the time to grow spiritually by fasting from something over the next few weeks.*

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Return to Kneeling in Prayer – At the Vespers service last Sunday evening on Pentecost, the Kneeling Prayers were prayed. The Orthodox community has now returned to kneeling in prayer, but not on Sundays. Sunday is the day of the Resurrection" and we celebrate a "little Pascha" each week. The custom in Orthodoxy of not kneeling because of the Resurrectional theme of the day dates back to the 1st Ecumenical Council.

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Curator Stewards – *As we look for more curators to be stewards of their time and help "at the door", please consider coming early one Sunday just to see what happens. Please contact Theresa Sharpless for more information.*

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Coffee Social – *Please feel free to bring in individually packaged items for our parish family to enjoy during our coffee socials.*

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

*(responded with: **Glory 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.

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 1045
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 255
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 499
Total Collections:	\$ 1819
Relocation Fund:	\$ 50

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Mary Jane Hudak; Carol Lorenzi; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Cindy Pavilonis; Eleanor Sanger; Melanie Shuster; Patty Watson

"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 Father and Godfather, +Lawrence and +Clifford Enslin. May Their Memory Be Eternal! *Vičnaya Pamyat!*

Tuesday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"The candles lit before icons of saints reflect their ardent love for God for Whose sake they gave up everything that man prizes in life, including their very lives, as did the holy apostles, martyrs and others. These candles also mean that these saints are lamps burning for us and providing light for us by their own saintly living, their virtues and their ardent intercession for us before God through their constant prayers by day and night. The burning candles also stand for our ardent zeal and the sincere sacrifice we make out of reverence and gratitude to them for their solicitude on our behalf before God."

+ St. John of Kronstadt

Church Picnic – *The Parish Council is looking for an "activity coordinator" for our upcoming parish picnic on July 18 at The Cabin in North Park. Please contact Larry Martin if you are interested.*

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Church School – *As we prepare for Church School to return this fall, we are looking for additional teachers to participate with the stewardship of their time and talents. Please contact Gina Fall if you are interested.*

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GARAGE SALE We will have our Garage Sale on **August 13-15** (Friday and Saturday from 9am to 3pm and, new this year, Sunday from 12-noon to 3pm). Tax-deductible donations for the sale (that are clean and with all of their parts) are being accepted now through **July 23** (*no TV's or clothing please*). **WHEN YOU BRING YOUR ITEMS IN, PLACE THEM DIRECTLY ON THE TABLES AS WE CONTINUOUSLY SET UP AS A COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY EVENT.** If you are not able to bring your items in on a Sunday, please contact Fr Dave (OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com / 412-748-0148) to arrange dropping them off. Your extra items will be a treasure to someone else!

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Stewards needed for each day – whether you can offer your time all day or even just for 2 hours, please sign up on the sheet in the hall as we prepare for the return of our garage sale.

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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.

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE ‘BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

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: Hebrews 11:33-12:2

³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not

receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Example of Jesus

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

³² So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. ³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

²⁷ Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?” ²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many that are first will be last, and the last first.

Wednesday’s Spiritual Vitamin:

“Behold, for years and generations, the way of God has been leveled by the cross and by death. How is this with thee, that thou seest the afflictions of the way as if they were out of the way? Doest not thou wish to follow the steps of the saints? Or doest thou wish to go a way which is especially for thee, without suffering? the way unto God is a daily cross. No one can ascend unto heaven with comfort, we know where the way of comfort leads.”

+ St. Isaac the Syrian

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The Holy Prophet Elisha (Elisei)

Commemorated on June 27/14

The Holy Prophet Elisha (Elisei) lived in the IX Century before the Birth of Christ, and was a native of the village of Abelmaum, near Jordan. By the command of the Lord he was called to prophetic service by the holy Prophet of God Elisha (Ilias, Elijah) (Comm. 20 July).

When it became time for the holy Prophet Elisha to be taken up to Heaven, he said to Elisha: "Ask, what shalt I do for thee, before that I be taken from thee". Elisha boldly asked for a double portion of the grace of God: "The Spirit, which be in thee, let it be upon me twofold". The Prophet Elisha said: "Thou dost ask the difficult; if thou seest as I be taken from thee, then so shalt it be for thee, but if thou seest not, it wilt not be" (4 [2] Kings 2: 12). And when they went along the way and conversed, there appeared a fiery chariot and horses and parted them both. Elisha cried out: "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horse!" (4 [2] Kings 2: 12). Picking up the cloak (mantle) of his teacher which fell from the sky, Elisha received the power and prophetic gift of Elisha. He spent more than 65 years in prophetic service, under six Israelite kings (from Ahab to Joash). "And in those days he trembled not before the prince, and no one could overcome him" (Sirach 48: 13 ["Sirach" in the canon of Old Testament books is found in Catholic but not Protestant English translations of the Bible, rendered as "Ecclesiasticus"]). The holy prophet worked numerous miracles. He divided the waters of the Jordan, having smitten it with the mantle of the Prophet Elisha; he made fit for drinking the waters of a Jericho spring; by an abundant bringing forth of water by his prayer he saved the armies of the kings of Israel and Judah that stood in an arid wilderness; he delivered a poor widow from death by starvation through a miraculous increase of oil in a vessel. The Shunamite woman showing hospitality to the prophet was gladdened by the birth of a son through his prayer, and when the child died, he

was raised back to life by the prophet. The Syrian military-commander Namaan was healed from leprosy but the servant of the prophet, Gehazi, was afflicted since he disobeyed the prophet and on the sly took money from Namaan. Elisha predicted to the Israelite king Joash the victory over his enemies and by the power of his prayer worked many other miracles (4 [2] Kings 3-13). The holy Prophet Elisha died in old age at Samaria. "And in life he worked miracles, and at death astounding was his deed" (Sir. 48: 15). A year after his death, a corpse was thrown into the cave wherein lay his remains, and came alive by a mere touch to his bones. The Prophet Elisha, just like his teacher the Prophet Elisha, left behind them no books, since their prophetic preaching was but oral. Jesus, son of Sirach, inscribed eulogistic praise to both the great prophets (Sir. 48: 1-15).

Saint John Damascene compiled a canon in honour of the Prophet Elisha, and at Constantinople a church was built in his name.

Julian the Apostate (361-363) gave orders to burn the relics of the Prophet Elisha, Abdia (Obadiah) and John the Forerunner, but the remains of the holy relics were preserved by believers, and part of them were transferred to Alexandria.

Thursday’s Spiritual Vitamin:

“The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, who fills the whole universe, passes through all believing, meek, humble, good, and simple human souls, dwelling in them, vivifying and strengthening them. He becomes one spirit with them and everything to them – light, strength, peace, joy, success in their undertakings, especially in a pious life, and everything good – “going through all understanding, pure and most subtle spirits” (Wisdom of Solomon vii, 23). “We have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (I Cor. xii.13). All pious people are filled with the Spirit of God similarly as a sponge is filled with water.”

+ St. John of Kronstadt

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Sunday of All Saints

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

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On the special dedications of the seven days of the week: when and to whom to pray

by Archimandrite Nazary (Omelyanenko),
teacher in the Kiev theological schools

The liturgical life of the Orthodox Church is cyclical, made up of three liturgical cycles: the yearly, weekly, and daily. The yearly contains within itself movable and immovable feasts, repeating themselves year after year; the weekly consists of the seven days of the week which are dedicated to the most important events of the Savior's earthly life and the most revered saints; the daily cycle is made up of the nine liturgical services which are repeated every day.

Thus, each of the seven days of the week has its own dedication in the Orthodox Church. Some of them, such as Sunday, Wednesday and Friday, were especially honored already in the ancient Church, and their meanings have not changed throughout the centuries. [Our diocese has dedicated prayers for each day of the week for different intentions. These will be found in the brackets.]

- **Sunday** is a little Pascha—the day of the bright Resurrection of Christ, by which eternal life is granted to all mankind, [Diocesan Clergy]
- **Monday** is dedicated to the Heavenly Powers (Angels), [Parish Renewal]

- **Tuesday** to the prophets, especially St. John the Forerunner, [Evangelization]
- **Wednesday** is the day of Judas' betrayal of the Savior, and therefore the Cross of Christ is especially honored, [Vocations / Seminary]
- **Thursday** is dedicated to the Holy Apostles and St. Nicholas, [Youth / Camp Nazareth]
- **Friday** is the day of the Savior's sacrifice on the Cross, [Monastics] and
- **Saturday** we especially honor all the saints, first among them the Theotokos, and we also remember all the departed.

Sunday is dedicated to the Lord. How can we spend this day properly?

Sunday is a little Pascha. It is dedicated to the Lord and especially revered by Christians since Apostolic times. Every believer should go to church on Sundays in order to participate in the Divine Liturgy. Inasmuch as the Resurrection of Christ is the hope of all men we especially honor this day. It is best of all to spend this day after the Liturgy in charitable deeds: visiting the sick, helping those in need, and visiting the elderly. It would also behoove you on Sunday to devote a few hours to reading the Holy Scriptures and saying some prayers. It would be good to analyze the events of the preceding week (what good or bad things happened during this time) and trying to organize a specific plan of action for your spiritual life in the coming seven days. In this way, the core of the spiritual life, which is formed by a man's participation in Church services and by moral advancement, will help a man even in difficult life circumstances not to depart from the path leading to Truth.

For more about the rest of the days of the week, please visit:

<https://orthochristian.com/97364.html>

[For our diocesan Special Daily Prayers, visit:
www.acrod.org/prayercorner/prayer/specialprayers]

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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... Michelle, Frederick, Fr. Patrick, Joseph, Gary, Joanne, Barbara, Mary Jane M., Brian, Kristina, Fr. George L., Sean, Julia, Susan, John, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, and 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, Fr. Photios, Fr. Theodore, Deacon Charles, Carlene, 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:* Dylan, Thomas, Nicholas, and Aydin *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... Nicole Maruscak (6/27), Ryan Dzadoyn (6/28), Father's niece, Aislinn Verbanick (6/28), Fr. Paul Abernathy (6/29), John Radick (6/29), Elizabeth Radomsky (6/29), Fr Miles Zdinak (6/29), Joanna Delaney (7/2)

...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 preparing for Marriage... Lexi & Patrick, Lauren & Corey ...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... Carley (due in July), Lindsay (July), Theresa (August), Pañi Davina (September) ...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadoynsky and Trevor Meegan ...through the prayers of St. George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Dale Fisher (6/15), +Stephen Hall, the Deacon (6/10), 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

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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

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A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy (Sunday)

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (name), and our spiritual father (name), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear.

Present solutions to life’s problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector.

Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes.

Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night.

Amen.

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Friday’s Spiritual Vitamin:

“All of us sin constantly. We slip and fall. In reality, we fall into a trap set by the demons. The Holy Fathers and the Saints always tell us, ‘It is important to get up immediately after a fall and to keep on walking toward God’. Even if we fall a hundred times a day, it does not matter; we must get up and go on walking toward God without looking back.

What has happened has happened – it is in the past. Just keep on going, all the while asking for help from God.”

+ Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City is our community outreach for the month of June. www.orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org

There was a delay in hearing a response from the sisters at the monastery as they verified the list with each other of what they can use. Though this is the last weekend of the month, we will continue to collect items through the first 2 Sundays in July.

Here is an updated list of items that they can use at this time.

General Supplies:

- *Toilet tissue (most needed)
- *Facial Tissues (most needed)
- *paper towels (most needed)
- tall kitchen white trash bags
- napkins
- dessert size **paper** plates (go "green" by getting paper)
- 9 in. and 12 in. **paper** plates (go "green" by getting paper)
- plastic forks
- plastic soup spoons

Cleaning Supplies:

- *Clorox Bathroom Cleaner (most needed)
- *Clorox Bleach Cleaner (most needed)
- *409 cleaner (most needed)
- Windex cleaner

- Dish washing liquid (refill)
- Handi-wipes
- Aluminum foil (not heavy duty)

Food Items:

- Variety of raw nuts (walnuts, pecans, almonds)
- powdered sugar
- canola oil
- cooking spray
- salted canned nuts
- honey – large jars
- granola bars – snack bars - for guest houses
- dried fruit – prunes, raisins, apricots
- white sugar
- Brita water filters
- Microwave popcorn

Extra things:

- A few outdoor toys for play area
 - o balls, bats, mitts, etc.

Please place any collected items on the pews in front of the bulletin boards in the church hall.