



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*
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
Timothy Martin, *Reader*
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

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Leave-taking of the Feast of the Dormition

Martyr Lupus (306)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

*** 6:00 pm Feast Day Vespers

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 #a day of strict fasting

FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy and Panachida

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Leave-taking of the Feast of the Beheading

Sts. Alexander (340), John (595), & Paul the New (784)

Godparent Sunday

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Tone 3; Liturgical Color: **Red**

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Future Services are listed on our online "Parish Calendar" which is continually updated at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

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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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*** **Time Change** – Please note that evening services will now begin an hour earlier at **6:00 pm**.

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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2021 Home Blessings – After our recent Lesser Blessing of Water, our annual Home Blessings began! Please see Fr. Dave when he has his calendar (a.k.a. his phone) or email him today to schedule your Home Blessing.

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Custodial Assistance - Additional stewards are needed to help around the church (*such as the kitchen, bathrooms, the hall, etc*). Please contact Larry Martin (412-996-6938) to offer your time or if you have a suggestion.

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Godparent Sunday – Our Annual Godparent Sunday celebration will be **Sunday, September 12th**, a day to honor them and to encourage the growth of this spiritual relationship. *We need to keep the Spiritual bonds alive with our God-parents and God-children. Even more important, we need to keep our life united with our Lord, Jesus Christ. This unites us with one another.*

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SJB Yearly Parish Meeting will be on **Sunday, September 19th** following the Divine Liturgy. **New Proposals** for the Meeting need to be submitted to *Larry Martin* or *Matt Peifer*. All proposals are much appreciated! This is the **2nd Official Notice** for the meeting.

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Coat Drive – Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? We are now

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:

In Honor of
Melanie and Michael Shuster's
Anniversary today!

May God Grant You
Good Health and
Many Years!

collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) [Formerly FOCUS Pittsburgh (who provide **Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter to those who are in need**)]. Please place your clean coat(s) on the coat rack in the hall

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Congratulations! to Harmonie and Tom Torchia and their families on the birth of **Dexter Sherwood Torchia** born on 9/1 at 4:49am (9 lb and 21 in). Welcome to our Parish Family!

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Masks – Our Parish Council has discussed and agree that we should continue to follow the CDC guidelines. **We will return to wearing masks inside the church** (regardless of vaccination status). If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to anyone on the Executive Parish Council (Larry, Matt, Rich, Tim, Theresa, and Bob)

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Pittsburgh Forerunners – Join others from our parish in the Virtual Trek4Missions which supports *The Orthodox Christian Mission Center*. To join, go to: secure.ocmc.org/goto/Pittsburgh_4runners Click: "JOIN A TEAM" Then use the password "SJB2021Trek" The trek will run now through 9/17. *This is an opportunity for individuals and parish communities to unite and demonstrate our commitment to Christ's Great Commission "to make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).*

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Church School Teachers are needed. Please contact Fr. Dave or a Parish Council Member if you are interested. We will begin at the beginning of October.

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 656
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 133
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 949
Community Outreach:	\$ 75

Total Collections: \$ 1813

Fundraising Account (Garage Sale): \$ 12

Relocation Fund: \$ 0

In faith that God provides:

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'" – 2 Cor. 9:8-9

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Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Melanie Shuster; Mary Jane Hudak; Eleanor Sanger; Mirilovich Family; Cindy Pavilonis; 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 Matt Peifer in memory of Parents, +Jack and +Viola Peifer. May Their Memory Be Eternal! And by Cindy Pavilonis, for Health of Joanne Neimer. May God grant her many years!

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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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ORTHODOXY AROUND THE ‘BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

Survey - The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA needs your input! Please take the **Orthodox Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey**, designed by experts on the Mental Health Task Force, takes only 15 minutes. *All information you provide is completely anonymous*, and the aggregate data will help the Task Force better understand the mental health needs and experiences of the faithful in order to develop resources and programs for enhanced ministry in our communities. Please take the survey. Scan the QR code or visit:



www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/mental-health-task-force/mental-health-needs-assessment-survey

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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

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

²If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. ³This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴Do we not have the right to our food and drink? ⁵Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? ⁸Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? ⁹For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. ¹¹If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? ¹²If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

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Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; ²⁵and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by

the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; ³³and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MARTYR LUPPOS

Commemorated on Sept 5/Aug 23

The Martyr Luppos lived at the end of the III Century - beginning II Century, and was a faithful servant of the holy GreatMartyr Demetrios of Soluneia (Thessalonika, Comm. 26 October). Being present at the death of his master, he soaked his own clothing with his blood and took a ring from his hand. With this clothing, and likewise with the ring and the name of the GreatMartyr Demetrios, Saint Luppos worked at Soluneia many miracles. He destroyed pagan idols, for which he was subjected to persecution by the pagans, but by the power of God he was preserved unharmed. Saint Luppos voluntarily delivered himself over into the hands of the torturers and by order of the emperor Maximian Galerius he was beheaded by the sword (+ post 306).

Spiritual Vitamin:

What shall we call you, O Prophet? Angel, Apostle, Martyr? Angel, for you have spent your life like those who have no body. Apostle, for you have taught the nations, and Martyr, for your head has been cut off for the sake of Christ. Pray to Him then that our souls may be granted great mercy!

1st Litiya Hymn from the Feast Day Vespers

FEAST DAY FEATURE

The Beheading Of The Prophet, Forerunner Of The Lord, John The Baptist

Commemorated on Sept 11/Aug 29

The Beheading of the Prophet, ForeRunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt. 14: 1-12) and Mark (Mk. 6: 14-29) provide accounts about the Martyr’s end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, holding one-fourth the rule of the Holy Land as governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and into each part put a governor. Herod Antipas received from the emperor Augustus the rule of Galilee). The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife – the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead co-habiting with Herodias, – the wife of his brother Philip (Lk. 3: 19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. The daughter of Herod, Salome, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl he swore to give her anything, whatsoever she would ask, anything up to half his kingdom. The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked, that she be given at once the head of John the Baptist on a plate. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He feared also the people, who loved the holy ForeRunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome. By tradition, the mouth of the dead head of the preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, thou ought not to have the wife of Philip thy brother". Salome took the plate with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod’s steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod was possessor of a parcel of land (the

Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated 24 February). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebasteia, there where the wicked deed had been done. After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain while. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent to him the bound Jesus Christ, over Whom he made mockery (Lk. 23: 7-12).

The judgement of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way for her such that her body was in the water, but her head trapped beneath the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now flailing helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck. The corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter made war against Herod. Having suffered defeat, Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain. And there they were from view.

In memory of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, the feastday established by the Church is also a strict day of fast, – as an expression of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. On this day the Church makes remembrance of soldiers, killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of a war of Russia with the Turks and the Poles.

Spiritual Vitamin:

Tropar for the Feast of the Beheading of St. John

The remembrance of the Just is worthy of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner; for it has shown that you are indeed more worthy of honor than the Prophets. You were found worthy to baptize the Lord Who you foretold. Thereafter you suffered for the truth and rejoicing, also announced the good news to those in the abyss that God had appeared as man taking away the sins of the world and granting to all of us the abundance of mercy.

LIVING ORTHODOXY

The Conclusion of a Feast

The **leavetaking** (Slavonic: otdaniye; Greek: apodosis) of a feast is the final day a feast is celebrated in the Church. In most cases it follows an afterfeast. On the leavetaking, most elements of the festal services are appointed to be served again.

Pascha and most First and Second Class feasts have leavetakings.

- ✘ **Pascha**—afterfeast: 38 days (leavetaking: Wednesday before Ascension)
- ✘ **Ascension**—afterfeast: 8 days (leavetaking: Friday before Pentecost)
- ✘ **Pentecost**—afterfeast: 6 days (leavetaking: following Saturday)
- ✘ **Nativity of the Theotokos** (Sep 21/8)—afterfeast: 4 days (leavetaking: Sep 25/12)
- ✘ **Elevation of the Holy Cross** (Sep 27/14)—afterfeast: 7 days (leavetaking: Oct 4 / Sep 21)
- ✘ **Presentation of the Theotokos** (Dec 4 / Nov 21)—afterfeast: 4 days (leavetaking: Dec 8 / Nov 25)
- ✘ **Nativity of Christ** (Jan 7 / Dec 25)—afterfeast: 6 days (leavetaking: Jan 13 / Dec 31)
- ✘ **Theophany** (Jan 19/6)—afterfeast: 8 days (leavetaking: Jan 27/14)
- ✘ **Presentation of Christ** (Feb 15/2)—afterfeast: 7 days (leavetaking: Feb 22/9)
- ✘ **Transfiguration** (Aug 19/6)—afterfeast: 7 days (leavetaking: Aug 26/13)
- ✘ **Dormition** (Aug 28/15)—afterfeast: 8 days (leavetaking: Sep 5 / Aug 23)

These Third Class Feasts have leavetakings the day after the Feast Day:

- ✘ **St. Demetrios** Nov 8/Oct 26
- ✘ **Nativity of the Forerunner** Jul 7/Jun 24
- ✘ **Ss. Peter and Paul** Jul 12/Jun 29
- ✘ **Beheading of the Forerunner** Sep 11/Aug 29

Spiritual Vitamin:

“Pray, my brethren, to the Mother of God when the storm of enmity and malice bursts forth in your house. She, Who is all-merciful and all-powerful, can easily pacify our hearts.” +St. John of Kronstadt

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... Matthew, Donald, Lawrence, Alli, Casey, Maria, Christopher, John, Frederick, Fr. Patrick, Joanne, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, and Roberta ...*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... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Photios, Fr. Theodore, Deacon Charles, Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanor, 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): Pañi's grandmother Maria Alexe – Nativity of Mary (NC 9/9) *(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

Birthday Prayers for... Danielle Yakemawiz (9/5), Pañi Deborah Zak (9/7), Tina Scherer (9/11) ...*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, Marilynn, John ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

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For those preparing for Marriage... Lauren & Corey, Nicole & Dustin ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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Anniversary Prayers for... Melanie & Michael Shuster (9/5), Marianne & Steven Kubis (9/6), Glenn & Meghan Labas (9/6), *Father's sister, Suzanne & Brian Verbanick (9/8/01) ...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For Pregnant Mothers... Pañi Davina (*due in Sept*), Meredith (*Dec*) ...*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. Dzadovsky and Trevor Meegan ...*through the prayers of St. George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For the souls of the newly departed... +John Urban (8/19), +Thomas Yawkey, the Deacon (8/6) ...*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 PRAYERS OF THE WEEK

A Prayer for College Students

Heavenly Father, please be with these students as they go where they do not know. As they seek to grow in knowledge, we ask that they grow in faith. As they start to conquer the world, we hope that they conquer their fears. As they strive to find their place, we pray that they find You.

Please go where we cannot, protect when we cannot, give strength that we cannot, and bring them safely home. Amen.

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A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

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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Spiritual Vitamin: