



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*
www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

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Twitter: @SJB_OrthodoxPGH

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

please wear masks as we follow the CDC guidelines

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

19th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Apostle Luke (1st C.)

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

20th Sunday after Pentecost
Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius (355)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31 (*5th Sunday of Luke*)

Tone 2; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Panachida +Olga Radick (1-yr), +Richard Radick (21-yr), +Viola Peifer (6-mo), +Jack Peifer (BD 10/29)

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Future Services are listed on our online "Parish Calendar" which is continually updated at: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar (Please ask Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)

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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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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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Turkey Bingo for 2021 is CANCELLED as we err on the precautionous side with the current state of Covid.

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SJB 90th Anniversary – Mark your digital calendars as we will celebrate with Met. Gregory on **Sunday, October 9, 2022.**

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Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD) – We invite you to join with other St John's faithful in giving to the annual DDD program. This program greatly supports our ministry at Camp Nazareth and other programs in our diocese. For more information, please get a brochure in the vestibule, see Larry Martin (our local ambassador) or Fr. Dave, or visit www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/

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Spiritual Vitamin:

"Everyone has the responsibility of understanding the deeper meaning of life... If they did this, then people would not be mean and petty, nor would they grumble with one another." +St Paisios of Mount Athos

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.

Speaking With Your Priest - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers.

With love in Christ, *Fr. Dave*

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 695
Candles/Eternal Lamp Stewardship:	\$ 116
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 184
Total Collections:	\$ 995
Relocation Fund:	\$ 50

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

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family, Tim Martin, Lawrence Martin, Melanie Shuster, Eleanor Sanger, Mirilovich Family, Patty Watson, Cindy Pavidonis

"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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The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by Matthew Peifer in memory of his parents, +Jack and +Viola Peifer. May Their Memory Be Eternal!

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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, and/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

18th Annual Cookie Walk - Ss Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Carnegie. Order Cookies and Pay Online: **now thru Nov. 21** at www.stmatronacookiewalk.com. No in-person orders. Cookie Pick-up Saturday, December 11 from 9 AM – 12 noon at the Church Hall. Questions: Rachel at 412-877-9878 or Sherri at 412-874-4190

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Dinner and Wine Paring - Come enjoy a traditional family-style Middle Eastern feast with four wine pairings on **Sunday, November 14** at 5:30 pm at Khalil's Restaurant (4757 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh, Pa 15213). Tickets are \$75 per person. Seating is limited. RSVP by Nov. 6 to reserve your space! Tickets & Sponsorships at: www.ioc.org/pittsburgh. For more info, contact Zelfa at zkhalil@live.com or 412.417.4706.

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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

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. ³²At Damascus, the governor under King Ar'etas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize

me, ³³but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

Paul's Visions and Revelations

¹²I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; ⁹but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

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Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

⁵"A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and

choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

The Purpose of the Parables

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

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Spiritual Vitamin:

"Love one another. There is no greater power for unity and peace. There is no greater gift you can give to our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no greater gift you can give to your children. There is no greater gift you can give to each other . . . than love." - *His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew*

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LIVING ORTHODOXY



Apostolic Visit

HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

2021 Visit of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the USA

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America will welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States for an official visit from October 23 through November 3.

The official visit will begin in Washington, DC and is expected to include meetings, luncheons, and official dinners with the President of the United States, Joe Biden, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Ambassador of Greece to the United States Alexandra Papadopoulou, and Turkish Ambassador to the United States Hasan Murat Mercan. Events scheduled in Washington, DC include a Pan-Orthodox Patriarchal Chorostasia at Saint Sophia Cathedral; followed by the inaugural induction of the Senators for Orthodoxy and Hellenism; a Luncheon with the Hierarchs; a Dinner Tribute by the Order of AHEPA; the Blessing of the Permanent Exhibition of Orthodox Christian Cultural Heritage at the Museum of the Bible, and an Ecumenical Reception on Capitol Hill by the National Council of Churches.

On October 27, the official delegation will arrive at Pittsburgh International Airport for an official welcome and then visit Evgenia's House of Hope in Weirton, WV. Following will be a Doxology at the Church of All Saints in Weirton. The visit will continue at South Bend International Airport in South Bend, IN.

On Thursday, October 28, a welcome Doxology will be held at St. Andrew Church, followed by a meeting with the University of Notre Dame President and a cultural concert in honor of His All-Holiness at Notre Dame. In the evening, His All-Holiness will receive an honorary degree from the University.

On Friday, October 29, the Official Delegation will travel to New York City, where Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will address the Archdiocesan Council, National Philoptochos Board, and the Order of St. Andrew National Council.

Saturday, October 30, the Official Delegation will meet with clergy and presvyteres [priest wives] of the Archdiocese and students of Holy Cross School of Theology at the Chioles Family Hall of Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. In the evening, the Delegation will attend the Patriarch Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet at the Grand Ballroom, New York Hilton Hotel with toast master, former Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Honorable Alex Azar.

On Sunday, October 31, the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Elpidophoros and members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese will be celebrated at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, followed by the Investiture of the 2020/2021 Archon Classes of the Order of Saint Andrew by His All-Holiness

On Monday, November 1, the American Jewish Committee will present the highest award to His All-Holiness for interreligious relations and advancing Orthodox-Jewish relations. Following, the Ecumenical Patriarch will offer a Blessing of Water and blessing of Archdiocesan Staff in the Chapel of St. Paul, followed by a lunch hosted by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros for Religious Leaders of New York.

On Tuesday, November 2, His All-Holiness will preside at the Opening of the Doors Ceremony at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. Later, His All-Holiness will receive a presentation from the IJCIC at the New York Hilton.

The Official visit will conclude on Wednesday, November 3 with a Farewell send-off at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey.

For more information about the visit and to read his remarks during the visit, go to: www.goarch.org/EPVisit2021

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The Holy Disciple And Evangelist Luke *Commemorated on October 31/18*

The Holy Disciple and Evangelist Luke, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a Disciple from amongst the Seventy, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil. 1: 24, 2 Tim. 4: 10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and here he fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. Included amidst the number of the Seventy Disciples, Saint Luke was sent by the Lord with the others for the first preaching about the

Kingdom of Heaven while yet during the earthly life of the Saviour (Lk. 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saints Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

The Disciple Luke took part in the second missionary journey of the Apostle Paul, and from that time they were inseparable. At a point when all his co-workers had left the Apostle Paul, the Disciple Luke stayed on with him to tackle all the toiling of pious deeds (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyr's death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, Saint Luke left Rome to preach in Achaea, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. In the city of Thebes he finished his life in martyrdom.

Tradition ascribes to him the writing of the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of He born of Me and My mercy be with these icons", – said the All-Pure Virgin in beholding the icons. Saint Luke wrote likewise icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. His Gospel was written by Saint Luke in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. Saint Luke in the preliminary verses (1:3) spells out exactly the aim of his work: he recorded in greater detail the chronological course of events in the framework of everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings, and by doing so he provided a firmer historical basis of Christian hope (1:4). He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him (2:19, 51).

In the theological content of the Gospel of Luke there stands out first of all the teaching about the universal salvation effected by the Lord Jesus Christ, and about the universal significance of the preaching of the Gospel [in

Latin and Greek, the roots mean "good-news"].

The holy disciple likewise wrote in the years 62-63 at Rome, the Book of the Acts of the Holy Apostles. The Acts, which is a continuation of the Four Gospels, speaks about the works and effects of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Saviour. At the centre of the narrative – is the Council of the holy Apostles at Jerusalem (year 51 A.D.), a Church event of great critical significance, with a dogmatic basis for the distancing of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dispersion into the world (Acts 15:6-29). The theological objective of the Book of Acts is that of the Dispensation-Economy of the Holy Spirit, actualised in the Church founded by the Lord Jesus Christ, from the time of the Ascension and Pentecost to the Second Coming of Christ.

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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... Sharon, Trona, Robert, Gavin, Fr. Mark L., Florin, Robert, Douglas, Christopher, John, 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, 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 diocesan seminarians*: Nicholas, Dylan, Tom, Samuel, Timothy, Nicholas, Aydin *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee*: Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth, John, Wendy, Margaret, John, Patricia, 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... Noah Winkler (10/31), Fr Joseph Birthisel (11/2), Subdeacon Ryan Ferko (11/4), Jason Shelpman, Jr (11/4), Nicholas Kubis (11/6) ...*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...

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... Nicole & Dustin ...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

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Anniversary Prayers for... Doug & Elizabeth (Radomsky) Delaney (11/1) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For Pregnant Mothers... Meredith (due in 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. Dzadozsky and Trevor Meegan ...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Christopher Kurtz (10/3), +Lawrence Barriger, the Priest (10/2) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory.*

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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 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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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 CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Mon. thru Fri. from 8:30am and 3:00pm or by appointment.

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Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

Phone Tree – Please call Fr. Dave to be added.

Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr. Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure so he can pray with you and you may receive the Anointing to be fully prepared.

Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

Holy Communion/Eucharist – The

reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive a *blessing* from the chalice.

Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

Baptisms – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Father for more details.

Adult Chrismation – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

Marriages – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Father ASAP for more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall).

Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and financial

obligations; otherwise burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

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“The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning.” - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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