



# 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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## 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.

## SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 #NATIVITY FAST**  
27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, the Patriarchs  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord  
St. Herman, Wonderworker Of Alaska (1836) and  
Synaxis Of The 1<sup>st</sup> Martyrs Of The American Land

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 #NATIVITY FAST**  
28<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday of the Holy Fathers  
Forefeast of the Nativity of our Lord  
Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer (107)  
9:15 – Nativity Canon & Carols (*Kol'ady*)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40  
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25  
Tone 3; Liturgical Color: **Purple**



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**MONDAY, JANUARY 3 #NATIVITY FAST**  
9:30am Prefestive Moleben of the Nativity

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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 6 ##STRICT FAST DAY**  
9:30am Royal Hours of Nativity

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**FRIDAY, JANUARY 7**  
*FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD*  
9:30am Divine Liturgy

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 8 – 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
9:30am Divine Liturgy: Synaxis of the Theotokos

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## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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**Community Outreach** - During the Nativity Fast, we are called to increase our Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving, we are having a **Food Drive Project** for Neighborhood Resilience Project (formerly FOCUS Pittsburgh). *Please bring in non-perishable unexpired food items: canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, canned meats, soups, oatmeal, pasta, peanut butter and jelly, and rice.*),

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**Stewardship Offering** - The end of the civil calendar year is here. Have you made a financial contribution to your parish yet? Please fulfill your stewardship responsibility of *time, talent, and treasure.*

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**Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh Icons** – *In the generosity of St. Nicholas, thank you to the anonymous donor of additional icons of the Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh for every household of the parish! If you did not get an icon last year, please see Fr. Dave or Larry to take yours home today. May God bless the donor of these icons and may He bless all of the homes where the icons are going!*

Spiritual Vitamin:

"Do not fall into despair because of stumbling. I do not mean that you should not feel contrition for them, but that you should not think them incurable."

+St. Isaac the Syrian

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**Embrace The Nativity Fast** – We have turned the corner and less than 2 weeks left in the fasting period in the church referred to as the Nativity Fast, Philip's Fast (*Filipovka*), or sometimes by it's Latin roots, Advent. It runs for 40-days until the Eve of the Nativity on Monday, January 6. As in Great Lent, you should establish for yourself a rule of fasting and stick to it. It is often said that the Nativity Fast is so much more difficult because of the nature of society around us. We can enjoy the season with our extended family & friends and still witness to our Faith and keep the spirit of the Fast! Everyone should try, at a minimum, to keep Monday, Wednesday & Friday as fast days, no matter what is happening on the 'new calendar'. Visit our diocesan webpage for more about the fast: [www.acrod.org/consecration/prayerchallenge/](http://www.acrod.org/consecration/prayerchallenge/) If you have any questions, please talk with Fr. Dave.

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**Confession** – A reminder to make time for you Nativity Fast Confession. Fr. Dave is available after every service as well as by making an appointment. *Prepare the Manger of our Soul for the coming of the new borne Messiah!*

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**Christmas Pot-Luck Returns** – Our January 7<sup>th</sup> Pot-Luck meal after the Divine Liturgy will return next month. As the 3 Wise Men brought gifts to the newborn Child, please bring a bite to share with everyone on the Nativity of our Lord.

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

## OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 1011
Candles/Eternal Lamp Stewardship:	\$ 342
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 552
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 1905</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>

*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; Shuster Family; Mary Jane Hudak; 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

**The Eternal Lamp** was offered last week by Cindy Pavilonis in memory of +Joanne Mondin. May Her 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)

*Spiritual Vitamin:*

"You cannot conquer evil with evil, just as you cannot put out fire by fire, but only by water."  
+St. John of Kronstadt



**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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 its ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

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*Spiritual Vitamin:*

“The devil is the author of all war.”

+St Justin the Philosopher

### ORTHODOXY AROUND THE ‘BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

**Shopping on-line** – The on-line shopping store, Amazon.com, will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our diocese! Simply go to the home page of our Diocesan website, [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org), and click on the AmazonSmiles button in the far left column and then shop as usual (Same products; same prices; same service). **Would someone be willing to research how we can set this up for our parish?**

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**Cantor and Choir Director Positions** – St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Homestead, PA is in need of a fulltime cantor and choir director (filled by one person or two.) Please email Tom Pingor, Parish Council President, at [tpingor@verizon.net](mailto:tpingor@verizon.net) for more information.

### VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddioocese](http://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](http://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioocese](http://youtube.com/acroddioocese)

### SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### *Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11*

<sup>4</sup>When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup>In these you once walked, when you lived in them. <sup>8</sup>But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup>Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

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#### *Gospel: Luke 14:16-24*

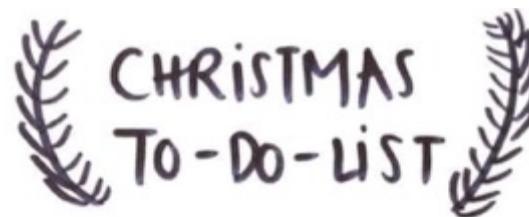
<sup>16</sup>But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; <sup>17</sup>and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ <sup>18</sup>But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ <sup>19</sup>And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ <sup>20</sup>And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ <sup>21</sup>So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ <sup>22</sup>And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ <sup>23</sup>And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. <sup>24</sup>For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

*Spiritual Vitamin:*

“Lips that are always thankful receive blessings from God; and if the heart is in thanksgiving, grace descends into it.”

+St. Isaac the Syrian

### LIVING ORTHODOXY



~~BE~~  
~~buy~~ presents

~~Wrap gifts~~ **SOMEONE IN A HUG**

~~Send gifts~~ **PEACE**

~~SHOP~~ **DONATE**  
~~for food~~

~~See~~ **BE**  
the lights

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### WEEK OF HOLY FOREFATHERS

*Commemorated on the Sunday that falls between the 11th and 17th of December*

On this Sunday, in preparation of the Nativity of our Lord, we remember the Patriarch Abraham and his lineage, ancestors of Christ. The story of Abraham and his faithfulness should be read in the Book of Genesis.

"Through the connection of the holy Ancestors and Patriarchs, Our Saviour Jesus Christ is Himself also, in a way, the fruit of the faith of Abraham. So, when God makes his voice known to each of us while we are still in the strange land of the passions and worldly vanities, we must like Abraham

unhesitatingly leave all that is ours, and follow the divine calling with faith until we reach the Promised Land where, in our turn, we shall be able to give birth spiritually to Christ For, planted in us by faith and Baptism, He has to grow in us through the virtues so as to shine in the light of contemplation. We descendants of Abraham, 'children of the promise' as Isaac was, having become 'sons of God' through the gift of the Holy Spirit, out therefore to see Christ form in us... Let us then for our part become forebears of Christ and continue steadfast in the faith, so that we may keep the feast of his Nativity, saying: It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (*Synaxarion*)

### LIVES OF THE SAINTS

#### **St. Herman, Wonderworker Of Alaska (1836)**

*Patron Saint Of North America*

*Commemorated on December 26/13*

**St Herman**, for many the Patron of North America, was born near Moscow around 1756 to a pious merchant family, and entered monastic life at the age of sixteen, at the Trinity - St Sergius Lavra near St Petersburg. While there he was attacked by a cancer of the face, but the Mother of God appeared to him and healed him completely. He was tonsured a monk in 1783 with the name of Herman (a form of Germanos), and was received into Valaam Monastery on Lake Ladoga. After some time, he was allowed to withdraw to the life of a hermit in the forest, and only came to the monastery for feast days.

In 1793, in response to a request by the Russian-American Commercial Company for missionaries to Alaska, Valaam Monastery was told to select a company of its best monks to travel to America. Eight were chosen, of whom the hermit Herman was one. The company crossed all of Siberia and, almost a year later, first saw Kodiak Island in September 1794. The missionaries set about their work, and found the native Aleut people so receptive to the Gospel of Christ that in the first year about 7,000 were baptized and 1,500 marriages performed.

Despite severe hardships, the missionaries covered huge distances, on foot and in small boats, to reach the scattered fishing settlements of the Aleuts. In general they found a warm reception, but many of the

pagan shamans opposed their message and sometimes stirred up the people against them. It was thus that the Priest-monk Juvenaly was killed in 1796, becoming the First Martyr of North America.

Despite such opposition, the missionaries' major difficulty was with the Russian traders and settlers, who were in the habit of exploiting the Aleuts as they wished, and who had oppressed and disgusted the native people with their immoral behavior. When the missionaries came to the defense of the natives, they were repaid with the opposition of the Russian-American company, whose leadership put countless obstacles in the path of their work. In time, several of the company died at sea, and several more abandoned the mission in discouragement, leaving the monk Herman alone.

He settled on Spruce Island near Kodiak, and once again took up the hermit's life, dwelling in a small cabin in the forest. He spent his days in prayer and mission work, and denied himself every fleshly comfort: he fasted often and lived on a diet of blackberries, mushrooms and vegetables (in Alaska!!). Despite these privations, he founded an orphanage and a school for the natives of the island, cared for the sick in epidemics, and built a chapel where he conducted divine services attended by many. (He was not a priest, but God made up the lack in miraculous ways: at Theophany, Angels descended to bless the waters of the bay, and the Saint would use the holy water to heal the sick). Asked if he was ever lonely or dejected in his solitude, and replied: "I am not alone; God is here as everywhere, and the Angels too. There is no better company."

Saint Herman reposed in peace on Spruce island, at the age of eighty-one, in 1836. At the moment of his departure, his face was radiant with light, and the inhabitants nearby saw a pillar of light rising above his hermitage. His last wish was to be buried on Spruce Island. When some of his well-intended disciples attempted to take his relics back to Kodiak to be buried from the church there, a storm rose up and continued unabated until they had abandoned the plan and buried him as he desired. He was officially glorified in 1970, the first canonized American Saint.

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## PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for  
Special Intentions and Other Needs\**

### **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...** Fr. Thomas, Maria, Paul, Kathleen, Sophia, Alexandra, Meredith, Lucy, Bryce, Ryan, Dennis, Kasamanda, 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, 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):** Patrick Wertz - Saint Sturm of Fulda Monastery (12/30) *(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

**Birthday Prayers for...** Caitlin Brozell (12/28) *...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...** Faith (Sekerak) and Zack Thousands (12/28) *...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*), Allison (*May*) *...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. Dzadoovsky and Trevor Meegan *...through the prayers of St. George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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**For the souls of the newly departed...** +Margaret Ferencz (12/21), +Michael Polanichka, the Priest (12/20), +Michael Macura, the Priest (12/18), +Igor Soroka, the Priest (12/18), +Joanne Mondin (12/15), +Elizabeth (12/12), +John Gido, the Priest (11/25), Pani +Eleanor Polanichka (11/21) *...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.

*Spiritual Vitamin:*

### **Glory be to God for everything!**

"This phrase is a fatal blow to the devil: "Thank God for all things!" It is too great for the one who tells it in every danger, a prerequisite for safety and pleasure. For as soon as one recites it, the cloud of sorrow immediately dissipates. Don't stop saying it and practicing others in it. So the storm that found us, and if it becomes even bigger, it will turn into peace. So those who are tested will get a higher reward alongside their release from suffering. This phrase made Job victorious, this phrase fled the devil, and after filling him with shame made him depart, this is an elimination of all agitation..."

+St. John Chrysostom, 193 Letter.

(It is noted that with this phrase St. John Chrysostom left his last breath, i.e. Glory be to God for everything!)

## DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FOR THE NATIVITY FAST

### **NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENGE 2021**

*Metropolitan Gregory asks each member of our Diocese, either as a family or individually, to pray this every evening of the Nativity Fast.*

O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God: I truly believe and confess that You became flesh and dwelt among us for the salvation of the whole world. At Your Nativity, You endured the cold of the manger to enkindle within me love for You. You were bound in swaddling clothes to deliver me from the chains of sin and death. You were nourished with milk and thereby fed the Body which one day would suffer for my sake.

During these days of fasting and prayer, forgive me – unworthy as I am – all the sins by which I have offended Your infinite goodness. Renew in me fervent faith, unflinching hope, and a charitable desire to serve others. Accept this act of thanksgiving, just as You accepted the gifts and worship of the Wise Men, and preserve us all from dangers that we may adore You and say: Glory to You, O Lord Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen!

**THE CANON OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

**Ode 1:** Christ is born, glorify him! Christ comes from heaven, meet Him! Christ is an earth, be exalted! O all the earth, sing to the Lord, and sing praises in gladness, all people, for He has been glorified.

**Ode 3:** To the Son Who was begotten of the Father without change before all ages, and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin, to Christ our God, let us cry aloud: You have raised up our horn, holy are You, O Lord!

**Ode 4:** Rod of the root of Jesse, and flower that blossomed from his stem, O Christ, You have sprung forth from the Virgin. From the mountain overshadowed by the forest You came, made flesh for her that knew not wedlock, O God not formed from matter. Glory to Your power O Lord!

**Ode 5:** As You are God of Peace and Father of mercies, You have sent to us Your Angel of Great Counsel, granting unto us peace. So are we guided towards the light of the knowledge of God. And watching by night, we glorify You, O Lover of mankind.

**Ode 6:** The sea monster spat forth Jonah as it had received him, like a babe from the womb: while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh: came forth from her yet kept her undefiled. For being Himself not subject to decay. He preserved His Mother free from harm.

**Ode 7:** Scorning the impious decree, the three children brought up together in godliness feared not the threat of fire: but standing in the midst of the flame they sang: "O God of our fathers, blessed are You!"

**Ode 8:** The furnace moist with dew was the image of a wonder past nature. For it burned not the children whom it had received, even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which It had descended. Therefore in praise, let us sing: let the whole creation bless the Lord, and exalt Him above all forever.

**Ode 9:** I behold a strange and wonderful mystery. The cave has become heaven, the throne of the Cherubim, the Virgin. The manger a noble place where lies Christ our God Who cannot be contained. Let us praise Him in song and magnify You!

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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 Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm or by appointment.*

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

**Parish 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. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) 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 Fr. Dave for more details.

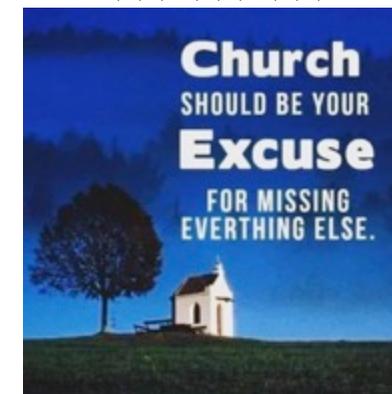
**Adult Chrismation** – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

**Marriages** – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Fr. Dave 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 responsibilities and their stewardship. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

*“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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**How to stay connected with the departed:**

- ✘ Pray for them during the Divine Liturgy,
- ✘ Remember them in your daily prayers,
- ✘ Organize memorial services for their remembrance on their anniversary,
- ✘ Honor their memory by following their good deeds,
- ✘ Light a candle weekly for your departed loved ones,
- ✘ Give alms on their behalf, and
- ✘ Take care of their tombs [graves].

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