



# 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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## UPCOMING SERVICES

### SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the  
First Six Ecumenical Councils  
Martyr Hyacinth of Amastris (4<sup>th</sup> C.)  
Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday  
Blessing of Chariots (*Cars, Trucks, Boats, Bicycles,*  
*etc.*) to be offered at the Parish Picnic  
12-5 Parish Picnic at “the Cabin” in North Park

### MONDAY, AUGUST 1

Canceled on the NS: ~~7:00 pm Feast Day Vespers~~  
\* *Fr. Dave will be serving Vespers at St. Nicholas*  
*at 7pm with Fr. Michael (903 Ann St, Homestead)*

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

FEAST OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIAS  
9:45 am Festal Divine Liturgy  
Annual Blessing of Chariots (Vehicles)



### SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Dormition of the Righteous Anna, mother of the Theotokos  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 1 Cor. 1:10-18; Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22  
Tone 7; Liturgical Color: **Gold**  
Blessing of Students & Teachers

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**Calendar** - Future Services are updated online at:  
[www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar)  
(Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)

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**Live-Broadcast** – If you are unable to attend church  
services, please pray along with our Cathedral online:  
[www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/)

## AUGUST SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### MONDAY, AUGUST 1

Canceled: ~~7:00 pm Feast Day Vespers~~

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

FEAST OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIAS  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Chariots

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of Students and Teachers

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

9:30 am Akathist to St. Panteleimon & Anointing

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

FEAST OF THE PROCESSION OF THE CROSS (in 1164)  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Lesser Blessing of Water and Blessing of Honey  
Home Blessings begin  
Dormition Fast Begins

### MONDAY, AUGUST 15 #DormitionFast

9:30 am Akathist in Honor of the Dormition

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17 #DormitionFast

9:30 am Paraklis to the Theotokos

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 18 #DormitionFast

7:00 pm Feast Day Vespers

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 #DormitionFast

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION  
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Grapes  
and First-Fruits (and vegetables)

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 21 #DormitionFast

9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of Grapes and First-Fruits (and vegetables)

### MONDAY, AUGUST 22 #DormitionFast

9:30 am Paraklis to the Theotokos

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24 #DormitionFast

9:30 am Moleben to the Theotokos

## Early Edition of “THE VOICE” Our Parish Monthly Newsletter

John the Baptist said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ (Jn 1:23)

### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory to Jesus Christ! (*responded with: Glory 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! Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 26 #DormitionFast

Noon Overdose Awareness Prayer Service at Trinity  
Episcopal Cathedral (325 Oliver Ave, Pgh, PA 15222)

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 #DormitionFast

7:00 pm Feast Day Vespers

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

FEAST OF THE DORMITION  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

7:00 pm Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup and  
Panachida for those departed who have overdosed

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## RELOCATION UPDATE

### Recent Questions:

**“Has a realtor or developer looked at our 4 properties to come up with an asking price?”**

Yes, both have come to the North Side properties at different times. Both came up with the asking price of \$150,000. (By the way, the church building and parish house are on the same parcel.) A third opinion is being looked into.

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**“Will the “transformation” of the new property happen all at once?”**

The beautification of the Duncan Avenue property will happen in multiple phases. Phase 1 will include (but not limited to): installing the first tier of the iconostasis, hanging items on the walls (such as icons, the Holy Shroud (Plaschanitsa), and the 4 banners), also “installing” the candle stands. Phase 2 (and maybe a 3<sup>rd</sup>) can include various other ideas to be discussed in the future. The key with Phase 1 is getting into the new building and beginning services.

\* **Update from the Diocese** – The diocese has reviewed and discussed our request from June 9 to borrow \$200,000. A few things have changed and evolved since this request was made - including our bank accounts going from \$200,000 to over \$315,000. They were willing to lend us \$60,000 (for 5 years; interest free for 6 months and then 2% until the loan is paid off) with the recommendation of us taking the loan from Wesbanco. They would expect to be paid back after our properties on the North Side sell.

\* **Counter Offer Update** – Over the past couple weeks the Allison Park Church countered their offer of \$390,000 with \$315,000 along with our four properties going to them in the deal.

\* **Next Steps** – SJB Parish Council will evaluate all of this information and continue forward with what is best for our parish community.

**May God continue to guide our journey!**

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*As updates are available, they will be shared here.*  
*Please contact Larry or Fr. Dave with any questions*

## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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**ACRY Convention in Rockaway, NJ** – A reminder that the deadline for all 2022 Convention forms and reservations is **Tomorrow, August 1**. Please find additional information at the ACRY website: [www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/)  
If you have any questions please contact Barbara Fitzgerald, chairperson at 973-742-9275 (land line), 973-493-4671 (cell) or [sheffieldfitz@optonline.net](mailto:sheffieldfitz@optonline.net)  
They hope you can join them for a wonderful weekend that the Rockaway parish has planned!

**\*\* August: The Month of Special Blessings!** – Plan ahead for the many special blessings that are prescribed by the church upcoming in August: Blessing of Chariots (Vehicles) (**Jul 31 & Aug 2**), Blessing of Students and Teachers (**8/7**), Lesser Blessing of Water and Blessing of Honey (**8/14**), Blessing of the First-Fruits (& vegetables) (**8/19 & 21**), and Blessing of Flowers & Herbs (**8/28**).

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**New School Year Blessing** – We will have additional prayers on Sunday, **August 7<sup>th</sup>** for students and teachers who are heading back to school. *If you are leaving for college prior to 8/7, please let Fr. Dave.*

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**\*\*\* Home Blessings** – Our Annual Home Blessings will begin on **Sunday, August 14** after the Lesser Blessing of Water. Fr. Dave is looking forward to visiting *every home* this August, September, or October. It is not too early to schedule with him today.

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**#Dormition Fast** – This is our lead-in to the great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. This 2-week Fast (from August 14-27) is one of the four fasting periods of the year when we are called to a special time of increasing our prayer, fasting, and charity. Increase your prayer by coming to confession (offered after any of the services).

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**\*\* 2022 Garage Sale** – We will be having a garage sale this fall on the North Side. *(The new dates have not been finalized yet.)* Please bring your donations to the hall and place them on the tables. *(Proceeds from the Garage Sale will go to offset some of the costs of our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon in October.)*

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**\*\* Curator Stewards** – Do you know what happens when you are a curator? As we look for more curators to be stewards of their time and help “at the door”, consider coming early one Sunday just to see what goes on. Please contact Larry Martin for more info.

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### 2022 Home Blessings

#### How to prepare for your home blessing?

1. See Fr. Dave, email him (fr.sleepless@gmail.com), call or text him (412-748-0148) today with your preferred windows of time for him to visit.
2. Have a white cloth placed on the dining room or kitchen table, an icon and/or a cross, and a candle to be lit. (Fr Dave will provide the Holy Water for the blessing.)
3. Have a list of names of those who live in the home (including your pets) and a list of the departed members of your family and friends you wish to have prayed for during the service.
4. Have all TVs, radios, and cell phones turned off.
5. Have on the table anything to be blessed (such as an Icon, Cross, etc.).
6. Participation is important! Have everyone in the family gather around the table and join in the blessing. Invite neighbors and friends over to be a part of this beautiful tradition as well!
7. If you need to discuss a personal matter, this is a good time to do so!

#### Home blessings will take place from August 14 through October 14

It would be ideal if he could come on a weekday between 8:30am and 3:30pm. IF this is not possible, certain evening, Saturday, and Sunday times will be available. Fr Dave looks forward to spending this time with your family!

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**\*\*\* Sitter Requested** - Janice Kerr, a parishioner from the Homestead parish who lives in Aliquippa, is in need of a sitter for her husband Don who recently suffered a stroke and cannot be left alone. Janice needs some help for a few hours a week to sit with Don when she has appointments. She will compensate the sitter for their time. If interested, call Janice at 724-457-7712.

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**\* Healthy Snacks** – The “grab-n-go” snack options for our coffee social are getting low. Please consider bringing in a box of something for everyone to share.

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**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

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#### OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 50
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 72
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 54

**Total Collections:** **\$ 176**

**Relocation Fund:** **\$ 108,050**

*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; Melanie Shuster; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavidonis.

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*“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 John Gaydos, Jr. in memory of mother, +Catherine Gaydos. May Her Memory Be Eternal! *Vičnaya Pamyat!*

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**On-Line Giving** is available from our parish website to donate to the: *General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund.* 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 to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue it’s ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

**Bulletin Sponsor** – If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (nameday, birthday, anniversary, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

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#### MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD) Program.** “The Distinguished Diocesan Donors program strives to provide the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese with the necessary resources to bring a resurgence of life and an abundance of growth to its apostolates and ministries.” For more information, visit [www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/](http://www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/). We ask that you make an additional offering by the end of the month for this outreach effort. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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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 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 during the month of August.

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#### 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](https://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese)  
 Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
 YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioocese](https://youtube.com/acroddioocese)

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## ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

**\*\* Holy Transfiguration Monastery** – Each year the monastery, located at *321 Monastery Lane, Ellwood City, PA 16117*, hosts its Patronal Feast Day Celebrations and Pilgrimage on **August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>** for the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (*Revised Calendar Dates*). Here is the schedule:

**Friday, August 5** 6:00 pm Festal Vigil Service;  
**Saturday August 6** 9:30 am Akathist and procession;  
10:00 Hierarchical Liturgy; 12:30 Catered Picnic Lunch; 2:30 Holy Unction and anointing of pilgrims;  
6:00 pm Great Vespers

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**\*\* Trek4Missions** - Please join us for our 3rd annual OCMC Trek4Missions held from **Monday, August 8 to Sunday, September 18!** This event is the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's largest virtual fundraiser that challenges participants to be physically active while raising awareness and financial support for our mission work to unite the world to Jesus Christ and His Church.

*The Trek4Missions 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). Plan to walk, run, ride your bike, and more to show your support for Christ's call to each of us.*

If anyone is interested in spearheading and leading a local team (last year's team name was **Pittsburgh Forerunners**), please contact Fr. Dave so that we can begin together on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Talk to your teammates from last year and get the band back together! Everyone who registers will receive a free Trek4Missions t-shirt! There are no fees to register.

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**Icon Presentation** - On **Tuesday, August 9**, St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church (601 Boone Ave, Canonsburg) is hosting a presentation by Carnegie-based iconographer Michael Kapeluck entitled, "**One Day in the Life of an Iconographer.**" If you visit his website, <https://archangelicons.com/> or his Facebook page, you'll see that he has an impressive portfolio of

icon projects at more than 30 churches. If you have any questions about iconography, be sure to ask them during the question-and-answer session after his presentation. With this lecture occurring during the Fast of the Holy Dormition (on the Revised New Calendar), the evening will begin with the Supplication of the Holy Theotokos service at 5:30 pm. After prayers, there will be some refreshments available before Mr. Kapeluck's 7:00 presentation. Everyone is invited to join St. John's for what promises to be a very interesting evening!

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**\* Science and Nature Week** at Camp Nazareth will be from **August 14-20**. More information is online at: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org).

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**\*\* Ukrainian Relief Dinner and Prayer Service** – the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) will host a service and dinner at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Oakland on **Sunday, September 25** at 4pm. Please contact Fr. Dave for more information.

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## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Epistle: Romans 15:1-7*

**Please Others, Not Yourself**

15 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; <sup>2</sup>let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. <sup>3</sup>For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." <sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike**

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

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*Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16 (for Holy Fathers)*

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and

imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. <sup>9</sup>Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. <sup>10</sup>We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup>For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup>So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. <sup>13</sup>Therefore let us go forth to him outside the camp, and bear the abuse he endured. <sup>14</sup>For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. <sup>15</sup>Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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*Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35*

**Jesus Heals Two Blind Men**

<sup>27</sup>And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." <sup>28</sup>When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." <sup>29</sup>Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." <sup>30</sup>And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." <sup>31</sup>But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

**Jesus Heals One Who Was Mute**

<sup>32</sup>As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. <sup>33</sup>And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." <sup>34</sup>But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

**The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few**

<sup>35</sup>And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

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*Gospel: John 17:1-13 (for Holy Fathers)*

**Jesus Prays for His Disciples**

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, <sup>2</sup>since thou hast given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom thou hast given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou gave me to do; <sup>5</sup>and now, Father, glorify thou me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made. <sup>6</sup>"I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou gave me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gave them to me, and they have kept thy word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything that thou hast given me is from thee; <sup>8</sup>for I have given them the words which thou gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from thee; and they have believed that thou didst send me. <sup>9</sup>I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom thou hast given me, for they are thine; <sup>10</sup>all mine are thine, and thine are mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I kept them in thy name, which thou hast given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves

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## STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

As summer is here and many will be taking much deserved time away, please do not forget your parish church. Just like at home, the bills still need to be paid whether you are here or not. If you are going to be away from the parish for a week or more, please either mail your stewardship offering in, "catch up" the next time you come, or use the online button on the parish website. Your continued support of the parish is appreciated!

## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### As we bless “chariots” this week, here are 6 Times to Make the Sign of the Cross in the Car

- When you get in the car...  
...for fair weather and safe travel.
- When you pass a Church...  
...to honor your God and Savior.
- When you pass a Cemetery or Funeral...  
...to remember the departed.
- When you see or hear an Ambulance...  
...to strengthen the sick or dying.
- When you pass an accident...  
...to comfort those in peril.
- When you pass a police car...  
...to protect them (and to avoid a ticket).

FMS

## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### The Holy Martyr Iacynthos (Hyacinthe)

Commemorated on July 31/18

The Holy Martyr Iacynthos (Hyacinthe) (IV) was born into a pious Christian family in the city of Amastridea (now Amastra in Anatolia). An Angel which appeared gave him his name. As a three year old boy Saint Iacynthos besought of God that a dead infant might be resurrected, and the Lord hearkened to his childish prayer: the dead one arose. Both lads afterwards grew up together, and together they asceticised in virtuous life. Saint Iacynthos once noticed, how the pagans were worshipping a tree, and so he chopped it down. For this they subjected him to harsh tortures. They smashed out all his teeth, and having bound him with rope, they dragged him along the ground and threw him in prison. And it was there that the holy sufferer expired to God.

## ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

**PROPHET** - Descriptive title given to accepted spokespersons of God (or their opposites, “false prophets”); a PERSON who speaks in the name of God. One who proclaims the will of God and/ or foretells the future, especially the coming and mission of Christ, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. (See Dt 18:18; Acts 28:25.)

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## FEAST DAY FEATURES

### The Commemoration Of The Holy Fathers Of The First Six Ecumenical Councils

Commemorated on the Sunday closest to July 29/16

In the Ninth Article of the Nicea-Constantinople Symbol of Faith proclaimed by the holy Fathers of the First and Second Ecumenical Councils, we confess our faith in “One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.” By virtue of the catholic nature of the Church, an Ecumenical Council is the Church’s supreme authority, and possesses the competence to resolve major questions of church life. An Ecumenical Council is comprised of archpastors and pastors of the Church, and representatives of all the local Churches, from every land of the “oikumene” (i.e. from all the whole inhabited world).

The Orthodox Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils:

- ✘ The First Ecumenical Council (Nicea I) was convened in the year 325 against the heresy of Arius, in the city of Nicea in Bithynia under Saint Constantine the Great, Equal of the Apostles.
- ✘ The Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople I) was convened in the year 381 against the heresy of Macedonias, by the emperor Theodosius the Great.
- ✘ The Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus) was convened in the year 431 against the heresy of Nestorius, in the city of Ephesus by the emperor Theodosius the Younger.
- ✘ The Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon) was convened in the year 451, against the Monophysite heresy, in the city of Chalcedon under the emperor Marcian.

- ✘ The Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II) “Concerning the Three Chapters,” was convened in the year 553, under the emperor Justinian the Great.
- ✘ The Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III) met during the years 680-681, to fight the Monothelite heresy, under the emperor Constantine Pogonatos.

The fact that the Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicea II) is not commemorated today testifies to the antiquity of today’s celebration. The Seventh Council, commemorated on the Sunday nearest to October 11, was convened at Nicea in the year 787 against the Iconoclast heresy, under the emperor Constantine and his mother Irene.

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as “lights upon the earth,” guiding us to the true Faith. “Adorned with the robe of truth,” the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible.

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### The Holy Prophet Elias (Ilias or Elijah)

Commemorated on August 2 / July 20

We bless vehicles in honor of the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias who was carried to heaven in a fiery chariot (see 2 Kings chapter 2 in the Old Testament).



### Annual Blessing of Chariots –

Fr Dave will bless vehicles at our Parish Picnic today, after the Divine Liturgy on **Tuesday, August 2, OR another time if those do not work for you.**

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### The Procession (Carrying-forth) of the Venerable Wood of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord

Commemorated on August 14/1

“By reason of the sicknesses, often everywhere occurring in August, from of old (~1164), customarily it was done at Constantinople to carry out the Venerable Wood of the Cross along the roads and streets for the sanctifying of places and for the driving away of sicknesses. On the eve of the Feast, carrying it

out from the imperial treasury, they placed it upon the Holy Table [Altar] of the Great Church (Hagia Sophia – the Wisdom of God). From this feastday up to the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, making litija throughout all the city, they then placed it forth for all the people to venerate.” (1897 Greek Orologion)



In the Russian Church this feast is combined also with a remembrance of **the Baptism of Rus'**, on August 1, 988. In the "Account about the making of services in the holy catholic and apostolic great church of the Dormition", compiled in 1627 by order of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' Philaret, there is provided suchlike an explanation of the feast: "And on the day of the procession of the Venerable Cross there occurs a church-procession for **the Lesser Sanctification of Water** and for the enlightenment of the people, throughout all the towns and places".



Together with the Blessing of Waters, there is made a **Blessing of Honey** (i.e. first-honey for the Saviour: "Saviour of the Water", "Saviour Moisture"). And from this day the newly harvested honey is blessed and tasted. *The origin is that in some climates, such as in Ukraine, the hives are ready to be "robbed" at this time of the year.* **Bring your honey to be blessed on Sunday, August 14**

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### The Transfiguration Of Our Lord God And Saviour Jesus Christ

Commemorated on August 19/6



“The Christian practice to bless the fruits in church can be traced back to Apostolic times. There is a Prayer of Thanksgiving for the new fruits in the work of St. Hippolytus, *the Apostolic Tradition*, composed in about 220. St. Hippolytus mentions the following fruits usually blessed: grapes, figs, pomegranates, pears, mulberries, peaches, and almonds. The sixth Ecumenical Council, celebrated in Constantinople (680-681), prescribed that the new

“wheat and grapes” were to be blessed in church on the feast of the Holy Transfiguration (canon 28).” **We will bless our grapes and ‘first fruits’ from our gardens** (or purchased from the grocery store) **on August 19 and 21.** Everyone is encouraged to bring in a bowl, basket, or bushel of fruits and/or vegetables!

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**The "Falling-Asleep" ("Dormition", "Uspenie", "Koimesis") Of The Theotokos, Our Most-Holy Lady Mother Of God And Ever-Virgin Mary**

*Commemorated on August 28/15*

Holy Tradition tells us that all the Apostles, with the exception of St. Thomas, were transported mystically to Jerusalem in order to be with the Mother of God – the Theotokos – as she reposed, and to be present at her burial. When the Apostle Thomas arrived the next day, the Apostles opened the tomb so that he could kiss her farewell. As the tomb was opened, the body of the Most Pure Virgin was missing, and the cave was filled with flowers and the sweet fragrance of Paradise. This was a sure sign of her great purity and holiness to the faithful.

Therefore as part of our celebration of Dormition on **Sunday, August 28** we **bless flowers and fragrant herbs** – and the faithful traditionally keep them in their homes. The herbs, used as natural medicine, are blessed in commemoration of the numerous healings and the extraordinary grace bestowed on the pilgrims at the blessed tomb of the Mother of God. **Everyone is encouraged to bring in a bouquet or basket of flowers and/or herbs from your garden or the store to be blessed!**

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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...** George, John, Emily, Beverly, Kelly, Michelle, Paul, Kathleen, Joanne, Marie, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, 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. David S., Fr. Myron, Dcn. Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our diocesan seminarians:* Nicholas, Dylan, Thomas, Samuel, Timothy, Nicholas, Aydin, Subdeacon Seamus, Nicholas, *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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**August Namedays:**

Patricia Watson - St Patricia (8/22)  
Lawrence Martin - Blessed Laurence, fool-for-Christ at Kaluga (8/23)  
*Father's sister,* Suzanne Verbanick – Holy Martyress Susanna the Virgin (8/24)  
Pañi Alexandra Urban - Saint Alexander (8/30 NC)  
*...May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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**August Birthdays:**

Sharon (Lorenzi) Dzadony (8/2), Robert ‘Bobby’ Paieski (8/03), Steven Anton (8/4), Joseph Mainolfi, Jr. (8/4), Nicholas Dzambo (8/5), John Gaydos Jr. (8/6), Rylie Elle Winkler (8/7), Diane Labas (8/8), Killian Brozell (8/9), Michael Tongel (8/11), Nicole Martellotti (8/12), Lindsay Matolyak-Ferraz (8/12), Jim Schrmack (8/12), Jane Gaydos (8/13), Wade Winkler (8/14), Craig Bowser (8/16), Anthony Jesko (Jr) (8/16), Donna Horbal (8/17), Emma Martellotti (8/18), *Fr. Paul Herbert's son-in-law,* Ernest Pido (8/20), Ana Karen Peña-Juarez (8/21),

Maria Urban (8/21), Sophia Urban (8/21), Everly Marie Torchia (8/22), Igumen Patrick (8/23), Renee Mirilovich (8/24), Fr. Michael Kabel (8/27), Meredith Blobner (8/28), Adam Zak (8/28), Lucillia Mainolfi (8/29), Claudia (Herbert) Pido (8/29)  
*...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!*

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**For our Catechumens & Inquirers...** Tyler, Susan *...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

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

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**August Anniversaries:**

Steve & Elaine Buhonick (8/6)  
Robert & Gina Fall (8/6/17)  
Ben & Tina Scherer (8/7/82)  
Ana Karen & W. Dylan Mushinsky (8/22)  
Sharon & Ryan Dzadony (8/25/12)  
*...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Caitlin (*due in September*), Mallory (*September*), Carley (*October*) *...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...**  
*...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.*

**DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK**

**A Prayer Before Starting A Journey**

O God, our God, the true and living way, who did journey with Your servant Joseph; journey with Your servant *name(s)*, and deliver *him/her/them* from every storm and snare, and provide peace and vigor continually. Be pleased that, having accomplished every intention of righteousness, according to Your commandment, and being filled with temporal and heavenly blessings, *he/she/they* may return again. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

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**A Prayer of a Married Couple**

O merciful God, we ask You always to remind us that the married state is holy, and that we must keep it so. Grant us Your grace, that we may continue in faithfulness and love; increase in us the spirit of mutual understanding and trust, that no quarrel or strife may come between us. Grant us Your blessings, that we may stand before our friends and in Your sight as a loving family; and finally, by your mercy, count us worthy of everlasting life. For You are our sanctification and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Peace

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen.

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### The Jesus Prayer

*(Inhale)* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
*(Exhale)* have mercy on me, a sinner!

*(Repeat until your heart is calm...)*

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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.*

**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.

**Parishioners in “good standing”** are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John’s Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular attendance of services, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (*and receive these Mysteries no less than once a year*); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and share their stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures which includes financially supporting the parish.

**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.

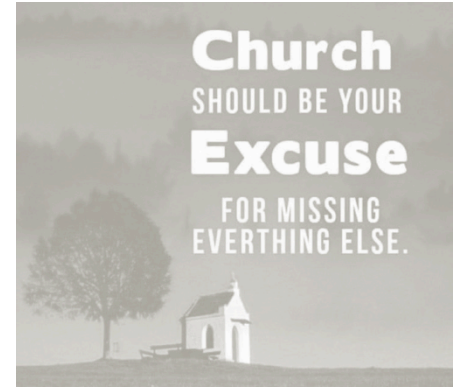
**Marriages** – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall). It is critical that marriages are blessed in our church.

**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.

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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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### ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES

#### **Why Have Your Home Blessed?**

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Homes are traditionally blessed with Holy Water each year bringing the blessings of the Waters sanctified on the Feast of Theophany, the celebration of our Lord’s baptism. **The priest brings this Holy Water into the home to personally bless each family member by renewing the awareness of God’s presence in our homes.** A home can be blessed at any time.

#### HOW TO PREPARE

The home blessing should be scheduled when the entire family will be present, if at all possible. When coming to the home, the priest brings everything needed for the blessing, but the family should make the following two arrangements:

Have a written list of the names of all living members of the household, along with the names of anyone else to be included in prayer. Also have a list of departed loved ones that you wish to be prayed for.

If the home has an icon corner, the candle(s) may be lit, as well as a censer if available. Otherwise, a clean table with a cloth on it should be prepared (preferably a white cloth). The house should have all radios and televisions off during the Blessing.

The priest will bless all rooms of the house. In homes with children, it is nice for the little ones to carry a candle and “lead” the priest throughout the home. An adult member of the home may also do this. While the home is blessed, the priest will lead the family in singing the Troparion (hymn) of the season repeatedly

until the whole home is blessed.

It is a pious custom among some to give the priest a donation at this time but this is in no way expected. In the same way, while many families enjoy hosting the priest to a meal or snack, this too is not expected and often impossible due to other scheduled home blessings *[and is not recommended during Covid]*. The home blessing does, however, provide an opportunity for the priest to spend dedicated time alone with the family, answering any questions anyone may have or addressing any issues for which he may be of some help or support.

[Source: <https://stnicholasgr.com/houseblessing/>]

### **Weaving Christ into Our Lives**

The blessing of homes by Holy Water maintains the spiritual association between the 'family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. ... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings." (*Marriage and the Christian Home*, p.25.)

If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They can show him their rooms or pets or favorite toys. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

### **In Summary**

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us [by the Fall of Adam and Eve]. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the home, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing.

Source: <http://www1.antiochian.org/why-do-we-have-our-homes-blessed>

**PLEASE REACH OUT TO FATHER DAVE  
TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR HOME  
BLESSING**

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“Those who sin do so not because they sin but because they don't repent. The fruit of faith is holy and unwaning light and the holy light is an addition to and an increase of faith. Because wherever the light streams forth, faith increases and ascends to the heights.” +Saint Symeon the New Theologian