

"THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER" *Our Parish Weekly Bulletin*

O Holy John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of the Lord, pray to God for us!

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.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Dormition of the Righteous Anna, mother of the Theotokos
Blessing of Students & Teachers

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

* **7:00 pm** Akathist to St. Panteleimon & Anointing
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 14 #DormitionFast

FEAST OF THE PROCESSION OF THE CROSS (in 1164)

9th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Cor. 3:9-17; Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Tone 8; Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Lesser Blessing of Water and Blessing of Honey

Home Blessings Begin

Dormition Fast Begins

MONDAY, AUGUST 15 #DormitionFast

Canceled 9:30 am Akathist

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)
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Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:

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/

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.)
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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 3) 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.
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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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Thank You! The Parish Picnic was beautiful in many ways last week! THANK YOU to anyone who helped in any way for this event. Many years!
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***** August: The Month of Special Blessings!** – Plan ahead for the many special blessings that are prescribed by the church in August: 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**). BRING IN backpacks, honey, fruit/vegetables, and flowers/herbs this month!

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor* +++ 2688 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15212

www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com +++ 412-748-0148 (*Talk or Text*) +++ OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

Recent Parish Council Meeting Highlights:

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***** Garage Sale will be September 16-17, 2022** – Our new dates are set for a 2-day garage sale. 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 90th Anniversary Luncheon in October.*)
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90th Anniversary Luncheon tickets will be \$30 per person. Also, someone has graciously donated towards the favors on the tables. Thank you! May God grant you many Years!
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Relocation Finance Update – St Nicholas in Homestead is exploring the idea of “loaning” us \$25,000 with an additional \$25,000 “line of credit”
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Relocation Negotiation Update – A meeting will occur on Monday afternoon with two of the pastors from the Alison Park Church, both realtors, two parish council members from here, and Fr. Dave.

May God continue to guide our journey!

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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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**** 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.

This Bulletin Is Sponsored
In Memory Of The Passing Of
+Anne and +Joseph Shuster
May their memory be eternal!

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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 8th. 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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**** 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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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."** Visit his website, <https://archangelicons.com/> or his Facebook page to see his impressive portfolio of icon projects. 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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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings (Parish Picnic):	\$ 390
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 207
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 270
Community Outreach:	\$ 55
Total Collections:	\$ 922
Relocation Fund:	\$ 2050

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July Financial Report:

General Stewardship = \$ 3343.72

(includes \$ 194.72 from online stewardship)

***Expenses = \$ 4298.05**

Net Deficit = \$ 954.33

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: **20**

Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Report:

(September through last month)

General Stewardship = \$ 72,182

***Expenses = \$ 71,205**

Net Surplus = \$ 977

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: **29**

*** **Did you get behind?** - If you by chance got behind in your weekly (or monthly) stewardship offerings to the church, please *catch up* as we are approaching our "fiscal" year-end in August.

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Mirilovich Family; Cindy Pavilonis

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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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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 (2nd 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.

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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.

VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
YouTube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Divisions in the Church

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chlo'e's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. ¹² What I mean is

that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apol'los," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I am thankful that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Ga'ius; ¹⁵ lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Steph'anas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

¹⁴ As he went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

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Spotted Lanternfly – Did you know that the North Side is considered a 'quarantine zone' for the high numbers of the Spotted Lanternfly? Please kill this invader if you see them! They are very harmful to trees, flowers, and plants. They may have taken over one of our willow trees.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The Falling-Asleep (Dormition-USpenie) Of Righteous Anna, Mother Of The Most-holy Theotokos

Commemorated on August 7 / July 25

The Falling-Asleep (Dormition-USpenie) of Righteous Anna, Mother of the MostHoly Mother of God: The God-wise, God-blest and Blessed Anna was the daughter of the priest Nathan and his wife Mary, from the tribe of Levi by descent of Aaron. According to tradition, she died peacefully in Jerusalem at age 79, before the Annunciation of the MostHoly Virgin Mary. During the reign of the holy Saint Justinian the Emperor (527-565), a church was built in her honour at Deutera. And emperor Justinian II (685-695; 705-711) restored her church, since Righteous Anna had appeared to his pregnant wife. And it was at this time that her body and omaphorion (veil) were transferred to Constantinople.

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Joshua, 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 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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ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES

How Does One Become a True Orthodox Christian?

*Deacon Haralambos (Charles) Joiner on
pravmir.com*

How Does One Become a True Orthodox Christian?

Experience of Faith is most important I have been involved with the catechizing of adults for almost 20 years. In my experience there is only one way one becomes a true Orthodox Christian. It is by experience. There are seekers who long for the original historic Church, who want to gain the proper understanding of doctrine, or only are rebelling against a leader like the pope in the Catholic Church. Also, there are those who have married into an Orthodox family. Their interest is primarily to learn the traditions, both religious and cultural, of their spouse, to fit in, to support their spouse, and to become a dutiful mate. In none of these cases will one readily adopt the Orthodox way of life. To become a true believer requires an experience of God, an inner realization of our higher purpose and destiny. This may be aided and nurtured with a study of church history and church doctrine, but that is not sufficient.

Why do Children fall away when they become adults?

Likewise Orthodox parents frequently see their children fall away from the Orthodox way of life. This happens even though they have been brought up in the faith, attended Sunday school regularly and required to take communion each Sunday. Something changes when then become adults and begin to make choices based on their own will, they often do not continue in the way of life they were taught once they feel liberated from parental control.

So How can we bring one to a faith based on the love of God and a sincere desire to perfect oneself in their ability to live by everything Jesus has taught us? Can we just explain it in clear and simple terms?

No! Faith is something that must be experienced and rooted in the heart. It is not something that can be grasped by the mind. Can you have a conversation about your sincere faith with someone who is not practicing the Orthodox way of life or not yet familiar with the way of the Church? What have you experienced as a result?

I always thought it was important for a person to understand the underlying idea behind any situation. So why is it that we can't explain our faith using simple language, why we go to church and what for, and why we need to have Holy Communion and Holy Confession? How successful have you been even with close friends and relatives?

We can't nurture a feeling of love of God with threats of fearful images?

We should not threaten them with stories about hell and eternal damnation or separation from God. They don't now fear being separated from God. They are immersed in their own belief in the superiority of their own will. They don't experience the need for God.

One needs to have a proper fear of God?

This is a feeling of awe, not being afraid. It includes a feeling of respect and of love. To have this proper fear requires a feeling of the presence of God in our life. This is different than the fear we feel when facing difficulties in life. This is often when one calls out to God for help, but how long does this last? What have you observed? When we face a dangerous or difficult situation we naturally think of God, but his is not necessarily the proper fear of God. It's more self-centered.

The only way we can develop the appropriate fear of God is through a personal reconciliation with the eventuality of death. When we seriously reflect on our death, we become uncomfortable about what happens after death. This discomfort cannot be eliminated until we experience His presence, His love and the hope of

eternal life He promises those who choose to follow Him. It is to no avail to try and scare someone telling them they will go to hell if that don't do....

What is needed is this feeling of awe.

Awe is when we acquire a realization of God's ever presence, when we experience His love. This only comes through a personal experience.

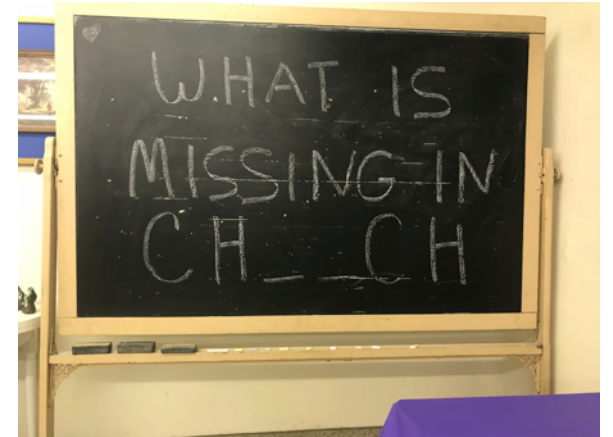
This is the basis of our problem in trying to bring others into the true faith for their salvation.

We can provide the context for this experience through the teaching of the Gospel, the understanding of proper doctrine, and the knowledge of the ascetic practices that open and cleanse our hearts of sin. The Church services when conducted in a mystical fashion, the hymnology when sung with angelic like voices, and the communal activities provided can all help. They alone still are not sufficient. We can pray that God will at some point awaken those we love to experience His presence. Once they have this personal experience of His presence and love all the teaching and practices will take on meaning. Then there will then be a motivation out of love to follow the way of life taught by the church.

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Spiritual Vitamin:

“When you get up after sleep, it's a foretaste of the resurrection of the dead, which awaits all of us, and you should direct your thoughts to God. You should offer the first fruits of the functioning of your mind as a sacrifice to him, before it allows unprofitable impressions to impinge on it.”
+Saint Ignatius Brianchaninov



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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 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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SECOND 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 Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. David S., Fr. Myron, Dcn. Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanor, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, 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.

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).
2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE% would be.