



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

RELOCATION UPDATE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
 11th Sunday after Pentecost
 Venerable Macarius the Roman, abbot (1550)
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
 Blessing of Flowers (and Herbs)
 Panachida for +John Urban (1-yr), +Andrew Gogal
 (4-yr), +Anna Mae Gogal (2-yr), and +Helen
 Kailyar (24-yr)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

7:00 pm Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

12th Sunday after Pentecost
 Martyred Bishop Goraz of Prague
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26
 Tone 3; Liturgical Color: **Blue**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:30 am Moleben to St. Nectarios with anointing

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

* **6:00 pm** Feast Day Vespers
Please note the time change as we approach winter
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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/

*** The Allison Park Church **did not accept** our counter offer given to them last week which our Parish Council proposed and unanimously passed:
"After review of the August 11, 2022 inspection report, we are prepared to offer \$200,000 and our four North Side properties for the 2201 property. To justify the price reduction, we would have to address three major needs: the roof, HVAC (boiler, heat pump, and AC), and the electrical panel. The estimated cost of such repairs are estimated to be approximately \$115,000."

May God continue to guide our journey as we continue discussions with them.

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

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:30 am Moleben to St. Nectarios with anointing

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

* **6:00 pm** Feast Day Vespers (*note time change)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - A day of strict-fasting

FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
 9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

ECCLESIASTICAL (LITURGICAL) NEW YEAR

9:30 am Moleben for the New Year

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16-17

9:00 am to 3:00 pm Garage Sale

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
 Yearly Parish Meeting

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.

This Bulletin Is Sponsored

In Memory Of The Passing Of
 +Helen Kailyar (24-year Anniversary)
 May her memory be eternal!

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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Home Blessings – Our Annual Home Blessings began after the Lesser Blessing of Water. Fr. Dave is looking forward to visiting every home this August, September, and October. Please schedule with him today.

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International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on **August 31st** each year that aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses. On this day, we will have an Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup at **7:00 pm** on behalf of those who suffer from alcoholism and other addictions. All are encouraged to come and pray. We also encourage those who have friends or family members who struggle with addiction, as well as those who work in the field of recovery, to come and pray with us!

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**** Sunday School Teachers** are needed. Please contact Fr. Dave or a Parish Council Member if you are interested in guiding our youth. Sunday School will begin **Sunday, October 16**. God-Willing, we will have a large First Confession Class this year.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

* **6:00 pm** Feast Day Vespers

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
 9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:30 am Moleben to the Holy Cross

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

* **6:00 pm** Feast Day Vespers

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 - A day of strict-fasting

FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
 9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9:30 am Akathist to St. Sophia

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LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD IN 2022

- **Sep/Oct - Home Blessings Continue**
- Oct 2 - God-Parents/God-Children Sunday
- Oct 2 - 4th Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic
- Oct 6 - Feast of the Conception of St. John
- Oct 9 - 90th Anniversary Liturgy and Luncheon
- Oct 14 - Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos
- Oct 23 - Found of St John's Parish in 1932
- Oct 26 - Carpatho-Rusyn Day in North America
- Nov 8 - Feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius
- Nov 21 - Feast of the Holy Archangels
- Nov 20 - Turkey Bingo
- Nov 24 - Moleben of Thanksgiving
- Nov 28 - Nativity Fast begins
- Dec 4 - Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos
- Dec 11 - Seminary Benefit Dinner
- Dec 19 - Feast of St. Nicholas
- Jan 7 - Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Please, Save the Dates!

GARAGE SALE

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 *up until* Labor Day. (*Proceeds from the Garage Sale will go to offset some of the costs of our 90th Anniversary Luncheon in October.*)

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SJB Yearly Parish Meeting will be on **Sunday, September 18** following the Divine Liturgy. **New Proposals** for the Meeting need to be submitted to *Larry Martin* or *Matt Peifer*. All proposals are much appreciated! Parish Council positions that will be open include Recording Secretary and Auditor. All Parish Council Members need to be active in the Mysteries of the Church as well as stewards of the church. This is the **1st Official Notice** for the meeting.

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***** Godparent Sunday** – Our Annual Godparent Sunday celebration will be on for **Sunday, October 2 (new date)**. It is a day to honor them and to encourage the growth of this spiritual relationship. We need to keep the Spiritual bonds alive with our God-parents and God-children. Even more important, we need to keep our life united with our Lord, Jesus Christ. This unites us with one another.

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***** 90th Anniversary Luncheon on Sunday, October 9** - Tickets will be \$30 per person (*child prices are being finalized*). Please sign up on the sheet in the hall or call 412-748-0148 and pre-pay Tim Martin.

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*** Spotted Lanternfly** – Did you know that the North Side is considered a ‘quarantine zone’ for the high numbers of the invasive Spotted Lanternfly? Please kill this invader if you see them! At this time, they are very harmful to trees, flowers, and plants. (For example, they may have taken over one of our pussywillow trees.)

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 205
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 257
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 129
Total Collections:	\$ 591
Fundraising Account (Garage Sale):	\$ 20
Relocation Fund:	\$ 50

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

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Timothy Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Kathy Schmack; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis

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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.

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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

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

**** Did you get behind?** - If you by chance got behind in your weekly (or monthly) stewardship offerings to the church, please *catch up* as August is the end of our “fiscal” year-end. Through your generosity, let’s continue to stay “in the black” and “above water”.

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LAST CALL For our Community Outreach 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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**** 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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ORTHODOXY AROUND THE ‘BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

*** 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.

If anyone is interested in leading a local team (last year’s team name was *Pittsburgh Forerunners*), **please contact Fr. Dave**. Everyone who registers will receive a free Trek4Missions t-shirt! There are no fees to register.

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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.

MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In the month of September, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Seminarians and Christ the Saviour Seminary**. (*The St. Nicholas Charity Dinner, a fundraiser for the seminary, is scheduled for December 11.*) Please continue to pray for our Diocesan Seminarians: *Nicholas, Dylan, Thomas, Samuel, Timothy, Nicholas, Aydin, Subdeacon Seamus, and Nicholas*. Thank you in advance for your prayers for our seminarians and offerings for the seminary!

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12 (Sunday)

² If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³ This is my defense to those who would examine me.

⁴ Do we not have the right to our food and drink? ⁵ Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶ Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

⁸ Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? ⁹ For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned?

¹⁰ Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? ¹² If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

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Gospel: *Matthew 18:23-35 (Sunday)*

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; ²⁵and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; ³³and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

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Epistle: *Philippians 2:5-11 (Feast Day)*

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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Gospel: *Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Feast Day)*

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; ⁴²one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her.”

True Blessedness

²⁷As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that nursed you!” ²⁸But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Venerable Macarius the Roman, abbot (1550)

Commemorated on August 28/15

Saint Macarius the Roman was born at the end of the fifteenth century into a wealthy family of Rome. His parents raised him in piety and gave him an excellent education. He might have expected a successful career in public service, but he did not desire honors or earthly glory. Instead, he focused on how to save his soul.

He lived in an age when the Christian West was shaken by the Protestant Reformation. While others around him were pursuing luxury and lascivious pleasures, he studied the Holy Scriptures and the writings of the Fathers. Saint Macarius was grieved to see so many darkened by sin and worldly vanity, and was disturbed by the rebellions and conflicts within the Western Church. With tears, he asked God to show him the path of salvation, and his prayer did not go unanswered. He came to realize that he would find the safe harbor of salvation in the Orthodox Church.

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THIS MONTH’S FEAST DAY FEATURES

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

The Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on August 15. The Feast of the Dormition, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

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Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Commemorated on September 11 / August 29

The Beheading of St. John the Forerunner is the commemoration of the martyrdom of John the Forerunner. Although the Forerunner was beheaded in the Spring, around the time of the Passover, this feast was fixed for August, when a church was dedicated in its honor. The accounts about the martyrdom of John the Baptist are provided by Ss. Matthew (14:1-12) and Mark (6:14-29). It was in the 32nd year after the Birth of Christ. It is a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint.

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Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Commemorated on September 21/8

The Holy Virgin and Theotokos Mary was born to elderly and previously barren parents by the names of Joachim and Anna, in answer to their prayers. Orthodox Christians do not hold to the Roman Catholic doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, in which it is supposed that Mary was preserved from the ancestral sin that befalls us all as descendents of Adam and Eve, in anticipation of her giving birth to the sinless Christ. The Orthodox believe that Mary indeed received the ancestral sin, having been conceived in the normal way of humanity, and thus needed salvation like all mankind. Orthodox thought does vary on whether Mary actually ever sinned, though there is general agreement that she was cleansed from sin at the Annunciation.

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Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Commemorated on September 27/14

This feast commemorates two events:

1) The finding of the Cross by the Empress Helen (the mother of St. Constantine the Great) on Golgotha in 326 AD, the place where Christ was crucified.

On the spot where the Cross was discovered, St. Helen had found a hitherto unknown flower of rare beauty and fragrance, which has been named "Vasiliko," or Basil, meaning the flower of royalty. Note that the word "Vasiliko" means "of the King," since the word "Basileus" in Greek means "King"; so, the plant Vasiliko, Basil, is tied to the Precious Cross of the King of Glory, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Underneath the Basil, the Cross of Christ was found, but with it were the other two crosses, those used to crucify the two thieves on either side of Christ. The sign with the inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews", also lay among the three crosses. In order to determine which one was the true cross, a sick woman was told to kiss each of the three crosses. The woman kissed the first cross with no result. She kissed the second cross and again nothing happened. However, when the ailing woman kissed the True Cross, she was immediately made well. It so happened that a funeral procession was passing that way, and so the body of the dead man was placed on each of the crosses, and when it was placed on the True Cross, the dead man came to life — thus the name the “Life-Giving” Cross, which gives life not only to that man, but to each person who believes in the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and His all-glorious three day Resurrection.

When the true Cross was identified, it was lifted on high for all the people to see, who then continually sang Kyrie eleison, a practice which is still enacted at current celebrations of this feast.

2) The recovery of the Cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified from the Persians. The Persians had captured the True Cross as a prize of war when they sacked Jerusalem in 614 AD. It was recovered by the forces of the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire) in 627 AD, when Emperor Heraclius decisively defeated the Sassanid Persians at The Battle of Nineveh, surrounding their capital

Ctesiphon, recovering the True Cross, and breaking the power of the Sassanid dynasty. The Elevation took place on March 21, 630 AD, when Emperor Heraclius entered Jerusalem amidst great rejoicing, and together with Patriarch Zacharios (609-632), transferred the Cross of Christ with great solemnity into the temple of the Resurrection, joyously held up for veneration by the Christian faithful. This is one of the two feast days which is held as a strict fast.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

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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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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Spiritual Vitamin:

From Vespers for the Feast of the Dormition:

Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Come all who love to keep the feasts, come let us form a choir! Come let us crown the Church with songs, as the ark of God goes to her rest! For today heaven opens wide as it receives the Mother of Him Who cannot be contained. The earth, as it yields up the source of Life, is robed in blessing and majesty. The hosts of Angels, present with the fellowship of the Apostles, gaze in great fear at her who bore the Author of life, now that she is translated from life to life let us all venerate and implore her: “O Lady, forget not your tie of kinship with those who keep in faith the feast of your holy Dormition!”

Now and ever and forever. Amen.
Sing, O people! Sing the praises of the Mother of our God; for today she delivers her soul, full of light, into the immaculate hands of Him Who was made incarnate of her without seed. And she entreats Him without ceasing to grant the earth peace and great mercy.

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... Liana, 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 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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September Namedays:

Pañi’s grandmother Maria Alexa - Nativity of Mary (NC 9/9)
Cora D zadony - Martyr Coralia (9/14)
Penelope Maruscak - Martyr Penelope (9/14)
Maria Urban - Nativity of Mary (9/21)
Sharon Peifer - Righteous Anna (9/22)
Sophia Urban - Martyr Sophia (9/30)
...May God grant them many and blessed years!

+++ +++ +++
September Birthdays:
Samuel Mainolfi (9/1), Dexter Torchia (9/1), Timothy Martin, Reader (9/2), Ruth Herbert (9/2), Ashley Wertz (9/2), Fr. Bob Teklinski (9/3), Danielle Yakemawiz (9/5), Pañi Deborah Zak (9/7), Tina Scherer (9/11), Pañi Andrea Cochran (9/14), Pañi Daria Loposky (9/16), Cindy Morrison (9/17), Fr. Vincent Dranginis (9/19), Fr. Kenneth Ellis (9/19), Fr. Dave Urban (9/19), Fr. Matthew Moriak (9/20), Fr. David Smoley (9/20), Mark Martellotti (9/22), *Father's brother-in-law*, Brian Verbanick, Sr (9/22), Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak (9/24), Fr. R. Michael Zak (9/24), AJ (Matolyak) Ferraz (9/26), Cora Loren Dzadony (9/28), Andrew Mirilovich (9/28), Shane Yakemawiz (9/28), Juliana Anton (9/29), Wendy Martellotti (9/29), Fr Dcn Art Steinstra (9/30)
...*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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September Anniversaries:
Melanie & Michael Shuster (9/5/82)
Marianne & Steven Kubis (9/6/14)
Glenn & Meghan (Pagley) Labas (9/6/08)
Father's sister, Suzanne & Brian Verbanick (9/8/01)
Barbara & Richard Gedid (9/17/83)
Patricia & Louis Deluca (9/17)
Thomas & Carol Lorenzi (9/19/70)
Ken & Paula Watson (9/24)
Charles & Allison Kretchek (9/26/15)
John & Barbara Kirish (9/28/96)
...*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. 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... +Donna (Wetzel) Jedlicka (8/9) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory.*
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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (*in the case of answered prayers*) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another.** Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is **NOT** limited to only Orthodox Christians.*
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Spiritual Vitamin:
“She who is higher than the heavens and more glorious than the Cherubim, she who is held in greater honor than all creation, she who by reason of her surpassing purity became the receiver of the everlasting essence, today commends her most pure soul into the hands of her Son. With her all things are filled with joy and she bestows great mercy on us.”
- *Stichera for the Litiya of Dormition Vespers*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK

A Prayer for College Students
Heavenly Father, please be with these students as they go where they do not know. As they seek to grow in knowledge, we ask that they grow in faith. As they start to conquer the world, we hope that they conquer their fears. As they strive to find their place, we pray that they find You. Please go where we cannot, protect when we cannot, give strength that we cannot, and bring them safely home. Amen.

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A Prayer to the Theotokos
Hail Mary, full of grace, O Virgin Birthgiver of God, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to Christ, the Savior and deliverer of our souls.



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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 Vitamin:
“O Birthgiver of God, in giving birth you retained virginity and in your falling asleep you did not forsake the world. You are the Mother of Life and have passed into life, and by your prayers you have delivered our souls from death.”
– Tropar for the Feast of the Dormition
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ONLINE BULLETIN BONUS

Icon of the Dormition

From <https://churchmotherofgod.org/>

This **Icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos**, is found on the Iconostas of our church, in the row of great feasts.

The Dormition of the Theotokos is one of the twelve great feast days. This icon represents the peaceful death of the Theotokos. We view another icon of the Dormition, as we leave the church. It is a gentle reminder that we all pray for **"A Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful"**.

About the Icon

The Icon of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos shows her on her deathbed surrounded by the Apostles. Christ is standing in the center looking at His mother. He is holding a small child clothed in white representing the soul of the Virgin Mary. With His golden garments, the angels above His head, and the mandorla surrounding Him, Christ is depicted in His divine glory.

The posture of the Apostles direct attention toward the Theotokos. On the right Saint Peter censures the body of the Theotokos. On the left Saint Paul bows low in honor of her.

Together with the Apostles are several bishops and women. The bishops traditionally represented are James, the brother of the Lord, Timothy, Heirotheus,

and/or Dionysius the Areopagite. They are shown wearing episcopal vestments. The women are members of the church in Jerusalem.

In front of the bed of the Theotokos is a candle. Above the candle is the body of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. Standing over His mother is Christ holding her most pure soul. Above Christ the gates of heaven stand open, ready to receive the Mother of God.

This great Feast of the Church and the icon celebrates a fundamental teaching of our faith—the Resurrection of the body. In the case of the Theotokos, this has been accomplished by the divine will of God. Thus, this Feast is a feast of hope, hope in Resurrection and life eternal. Like those who gathered around the body of the Virgin Mary, we gather around our departed loved ones and commend their souls into the hands of Christ. As we remember those who have reposed in the faith before us and have passed on into the communion of the Saints, we prepare ourselves to one day be received into the new life of the age to come.

We also affirm through this Feast as we journey toward our heavenly abode that the Mother of God intercedes for us. Through Christ she has become the mother of all of the children of God, embracing us with divine love.

About the Feast

By Fr. Thomas Hopko

The feast of the **Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos** is celebrated on the fifteenth of August, preceded by a two-week fast. This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

As with the nativity of the Virgin and the feast of her entrance to the temple, there are no biblical or historical sources for this feast. The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, not "voluntarily" as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins. In the Gospel of the feast, however, in the liturgical services and in the Dormition icon, the Church proclaims as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings and death of this world; and that having truly died, she was raised up by her Son as the **Mother of Life** and participates already in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who **"hear the word of God and keep it."** (Luke 11:27-28)

Tropar

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity.

In failing asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.

You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, and by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death.

Kondak

Neither the tomb, nor death,

could hold the Theotokos, who is constant in prayer

and our firm hope in her intercessions.

For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life,

by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb.

The services of the feast repeat the main theme, that the Mother of Life has "passed over into the heavenly joy, into the divine gladness and unending delight" of the Kingdom of her Son. (Vesper verse) The Old Testament readings, as well as the gospel readings for the Vigil and the Divine Liturgy, are exactly the same as those for the feast of the Virgin's nativity and her entrance into the Temple. Thus, at the Vigil we again hear Mary say: **"My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."** (Luke 1:47) At the Divine Liturgy we hear the letter to the Philippians where St. Paul speaks of the self-emptying of Christ who condescends to human servitude and ignoble death in order to be "highly exalted" by God his Father. (Philippians 2:5-11) And once again we hear in the Gospel that Mary's blessedness belongs to all who **"hear the word of God and keep it."** (Luke 11:27-28)

Thus, the feast of the **Dormition of the Theotokos** is the celebration of the fact that all men are "highly exalted" in the blessedness of the victorious Christ, and that this high exaltation has already been accomplished in Mary the Theotokos. The feast of the Dormition is the sign, the guarantee, and the celebration that Mary's fate is, the destiny of all those of "low estate" whose souls magnify the Lord, whose spirits rejoice in God the Saviour, whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the Word of God which is given to men in Mary's child, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

Finally it must be stressed that, in all of the feasts of the Virgin Mother of God in the Church, the Orthodox Christians celebrate facts of their own lives in Christ and the Holy Spirit. What happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience, and love. With her all people will be "blessed" to be "more honorable than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim" if they follow her example. All will have Christ born in them by the Holy Spirit. All will become temples of the living God. All will share in the eternal life of His Kingdom who live the life that Mary lived.

In this sense everything that is praised and glorified in Mary is a sign of what is offered to all persons in the life of the Church. It is for this reason that Mary, with the divine child Jesus within her, is call in the Orthodox Tradition the **Image of the Church**. For the assembly of the saved is those in whom Christ dwells. It is the custom in some churches to bless flowers on the feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos.