

“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, SEPTEMBER 18
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Prophet Zachariah and Elizabeth
Panachida Bishop +John R Martin (38-yr), +Irene
(Rusnak) Kurtz (25-yr), +Mary Mirilovich (20-yr)
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
* **6:00 pm** Feast Day Vespers (*note the time change*)
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 & Panachida
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross
Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity
Venerable Athanasii of Serpukhov (1401)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Cor. 4:6-15; Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46
Sunday before the Cross: Gal. 6:11-18; John 3:13-17
Tone 6; Liturgical Color: **Red**
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 - A day of strict-fasting
FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
(*Vespers on Monday will not be offered on the NS*)
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
9:30 am Akathist to St. Sophia
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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)

Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church
services, please pray along with our Cathedral online:
www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/
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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)
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Parish Council Meeting Highlights:
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Relocation – the Parish Council discussed how we
will proceed, but no final decision was made.
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*** **90th Anniversary Weekend** – On **Saturday, October 8** we will welcome Metropolitan Gregory for Vespers at 5:00 pm. On **Sunday, October 9**, the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 am. At 12-noon, Pittsburgh’s Grand Hall at The Priory (614 Pressley Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212) will welcome us for a Lunch buffet and fellowship gathering. The deadline to sign up for the luncheon is **Sunday, September 25**. To sign up, please email OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com, call/text 412-748-0148, or sign up TODAY on the sheet in the church hall. Pricing for the luncheon is: Adults: \$30 and Youth (age 5 to 15): \$15 (4 and under Free). *** *Please contact Fr. Dave if interested in making a loaf of bread for Sunday morning to welcome the Metropolitan.*

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*** **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped in any way with this year’s garage sale! It was another beautiful year of helping out our community in this outreach! Our two day total was \$1984.
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*** **Flowers for the Holy Cross** – It is customary to decorate around the Holy Cross with flowers for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. If you would like to decorate, please contact Fr. Dave.
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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

Home Blessings – Our Annual Home Blessings began last month after the Lesser Blessing of Water. Fr. Dave is looking forward to visiting *every home* this Fall. Please schedule with him today.

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Romanian Food Festival - Come and enjoy homemade authentic Romanian food **TODAY, Sunday, September 18 from 1 to 5** at Saint Andrew the Apostle Romanian Orthodox Church (56 Glenn Way McKees Rocks, PA 15136). A sample of the foods will be: grilled pork sausages, roasted potatoes, cabbage salad, Carpathian cheese pastry, famous mititei (Romanian skinless sausage), crepes, Amandina cakes, beer and more

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Homestead Fall Festival will be held on Friday and Saturday, **September 23 and 24** from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the parish hall (903 Ann Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15120).

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Mediterranean Food Festival will be held on Friday and Saturday, **September 30 and October 1**, from Noon to 8pm and Sunday, **October 2**, from Noon to 6pm at St. George Orthodox Church (3230 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017)

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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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*** **CANCELLED: Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic** scheduled for **Sunday, October 2** has been canceled.

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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.

This Bulletin Is Sponsored
In Memory Of +Peter Silon (23-yr anniversary)
May his memory be eternal!

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 310
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 116
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 135
Total Collections:	\$ 561
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 30
Fundraising Account (Garage Sale):	\$ 25
Relocation Fund:	\$ 50

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Melanie Shuster; Tim Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Mirilovich Family; Lawrence Martin

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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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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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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.

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

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4
²¹ But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; ²² he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. **2** ¹ For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. ² For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? ³ And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. ⁴ For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14
The Parable of the Wedding Banquet
And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, ³ and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷ The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰ And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY PROPHET ZACHARIAH AND HOLY RIGHTEOUS ELIZABETH
Commemorated on September 18/5

The Holy Prophet Zachariah and Holy Righteous Elizabeth were the parents of the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. They were descended from the lineage of Aaron: Saint Zachariah, son of Barach, was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and Saint Elizabeth was the sister of Saint Anna, – the mother of the MostHoly Mother of God. The righteous spouses, "comporting themselves through all the commandments of the Lord blameless (Lk. 1: 5-25), suffered barrenness, which in the Old Testament times was considered a punishment from God. One time during the occasion of service in the Temple, Saint Zachariah received the news from an Angel, that his aged wife would bear him a son, who "wilt be great before the Lord" (Lk. 1: 15) and "wilt go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias" (Lk. 1: 17). Zachariah was doubtful of the possibility of the fulfilling of this prediction, and for his weakness of faith he was punished by becoming unable to speak. When Righteous Elizabeth gave birth to a son, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit she announced that his name was John, although earlier in their family line no one had been given such a name as this. They asked Righteous Zachariah and he likewise wrote down on the writing-board the name John. Immediately the gift of speech returned to him, and inspired of the Holy Spirit, he began to prophesy about his son as being the Forerunner of the Lord.

The Holy Prophet Zachariah
When impious king Herod heard from the Magi about the birth of the Messiah, he decided to kill at Bethlehem and its surroundings all the infants up to 2 years old, hoping that in this number would be also the new-born Messiah. Herod well know about the unusual birth of John and he wanted to kill him, fearing that he was the foretold

King of the Jews. But Righteous Elizabeth hid herself away with the infant in the hills. The murderers searched everywhere for John. Righteous Elizabeth, catching sight of her pursuers, began tearfully to implore God concerning their safety, and immediately the hill opening up concealed her together with the infant from their pursuers. In these tragic days Saint Zachariah was taking his turn making services at the Jerusalem Temple. Soldiers sent by Herod tried in vain to learn from him the whereabouts of his son. Then, by command of Herod, they murdered this holy prophet, having stabbed him betwixt the offertory and the altar (Mt. 23: 35). Righteous Elizabeth died 40 days after her spouse, and Saint John, preserved by the Lord, dwelt in the wilderness until the day of his appearance to the nation of Israel.

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 now to Oct 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!

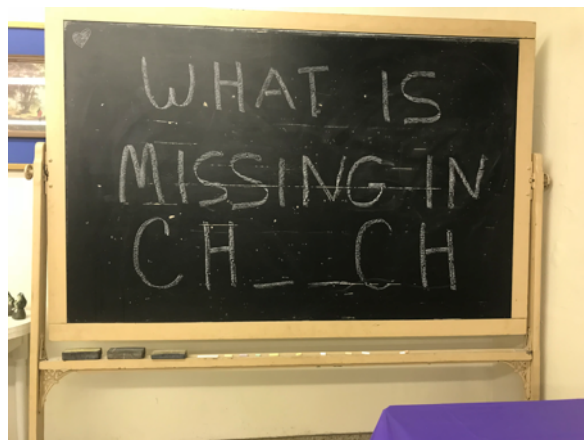
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An Abundant Love
“It is obvious that when someone admonishes another and in the process he himself suffers more grief over it than the person being rebuked, he is not doing this in order to cause grief but to show what keep love he has for the other.”
+St. Ambrosiaster,
Commentary on Paul’s Epistles

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Maria, Metropolitan Gregory, Gina, 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...
+Donna (Wetzel) Jedlicka (8/9),
+Peter Benyo, the Priest (8/8)
...*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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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.



DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS

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 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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A 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, Den. Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, 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,

