"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, OCTOBER 2

16th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross Martyrs Trophymos, Sabbatios, and Dorimedontos God Parent Sunday

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 9:30 am Akathist to St. John

90th Anniversary Weekend Celebration SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

4:00 pm. Metropolitan Gregory welcomed (with bread and salt) before Great Vespers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian **9:30am** Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with responses

sung by the St. Nicholas Homestead Choir

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Gospel: Luke 5-11

Tone 8; Liturgical Color: Gold

12-noon Luncheon at Pittsburgh's Grand Hall at The Priory (614 Pressley St., Pgh, PA 15212)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

6:00 PM Feast Day Vespers

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

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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/

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Excerpt from:

A Guide to Church Etiquette: How to Show Proper Respect and Reverence in Church

The Holy Orthodox Church is perhaps one of the last social institutions where dignity, protocol, respect, and reverence are maintained. This is primarily because when we come to the church and its services we are entering the Kingdom of God on earth, His habitation, and we choose to honor this sacred place by our attentiveness to what is proper and ordered. We have the opportunity to reflect the image of Christ within us by our actions. "You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." (1 Peter 2:9

From time to time we need to remind ourselves how to conduct ourselves in God's Holy House. This guide is meant for personal reflection and not as a means of judging others. Keep in mind that there are different traditions even among the Orthodox faithful. We come to church to pray and worship God above all else, and that should be our focus. While the following references the Divine Liturgy, it should be noted that proper etiquette should be applied to all the Divine Services of the Church.

GREETING THE BISHOP AND PRIEST

In our modern culture, we greet one another with a handshake. The exception to this is when we greet a member of the clergy. We do not shake a bishop's or priest's hand; ask for a blessing and we kiss it with reverence (for the priest we have 'lost' this practice in our Diocese, but it is coming back in some places. Be mindful that when greeting priests from another Diocese this is the proper etiquette). The proper way to do this is to approach the hierarch or priest with

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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right hand over left, palms facing up, and then bow while saying, "Master, bless" to the hierarch, or "Father, bless" to the priest. If either places his hand in yours while blessing you, this is an appropriate time to kiss his hand. We kiss his hand because we are honoring Christ, whom he represents and receiving His blessing.

LIPSTICK

Do not wear lipstick while taking Holy Communion, or when kissing the cross, an icon, the priest's or bishop's hand, or any sacred object. It is best not to wear it at all in the church. Lipstick looks terrible smeared on icons, crosses, the communion spoon, and the priest's or bishop's hand. Hand-written icons have been ruined by lipstick; and even though the cross or spoon can usually be cleaned after everyone venerates, it's not very considerate to those who follow. What is the answer? If one insists on wearing lipstick to church, please blot your lips well before venerating.

RECEIVING THE ANTIDORAN (BLESSED BREAD)

When receiving the antidoron (literally translated, "instead of the gifts") after venerating the cross at the end of Divine Liturgy, be mindful not to allow the crumbs to drop, since this is blessed bread. Children will need assistance so that they do not take too many pieces, and so they are not careless in handling the bread.

Some Additional Reminders:

- * We should all make an effort to be present at the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, but *if we do* come late, we are asked to enter quietly and without disrupting the service of those in attendance.
- * Please minimize movement (entering, leaving, lighting candles) during the reading of the Epistle or Gospel, and during the Homily. If you enter while these things are already taking place, please stand in the back of the pews until after the reading is finished. * We are asked to remove lipstick or lip gloss before kissing icons or receiving the Eucharist.

- * Just before and after partaking of Holy Communion, do not venerate the icons. When the chalice is in the nave of the church, this is where all attention belongs. Also, it is important to remain to the end of the Liturgy to thank our Lord and receive the final blessing from the priest.
- * We are encouraged to stand while the Holy Gifts (The Body and Blood of Christ) are present in the nave out of respect and honor for the presence of Christ among us (until the clergy return with the chalice to the altar after Communion).

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RELOCATION UPDATE

New Counter Offer – This past week a counter offer was sent to the Allison Park Church of \$275,000 along with our properties.

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

- * 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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- *** Donors Requested As the Anniversary luncheon approaches, the parish will cover the costs for the clergy and their families coming to the luncheon. If you would like to be a sponsor towards this, please see the curator 'on the door'. We are also looking for donations towards the flowers that will be used to decorate the church and the banquet hall tables.

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- *** **Bread** Please contact Fr. Dave if interested in making bread for <u>Saturday</u> evening to welcome the Metropolitan.
- ** CANCELLED: Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic scheduled for Sunday, October 2 has been canceled.

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*** LAST CALL for Home Blessings – Our Annual Home Blessings began in August 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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* 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.

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*** Distinguished Diocesan Donors (DDD) — We invite you to join with other St John's faithful in giving to the annual DDD program. This program greatly supports our ministry at Camp Nazareth and other programs in our diocese. For more information, please get a brochure in the vestibule, see Larry Martin (our local ambassador) or Fr. Dave, or visit www.acrod.org/ministries/dddprogram/

Checks payable to: Distinguished Diocesan Donors can be mailed to: Diocesan Chancery, 312 Garfield St., Johnstown, PA 15906.

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** Yearly Meeting Highlights:

Attendance: 14 parishioners at the meeting.

- Garage Sale: Went well this year and more help is needed for events in the future.
- 90th Anniversary: the weekend is not an internal event. "For those who came before us and for generations to come." The deadline for the luncheon is Sunday, September 25. (see details above)
- **Sunday School**: Teachers are needed. Commitment from families are needed. A survey will be sent to parents with the following ideas/questions:

Would a different time slot (weekday evening or Saturday) be better through the week?

What about 2 Sundays each month (1st and 3rd)?

- Diocesan Sobor: 3 proposals to be presented at the Sobor were shared (1. Robert's Rules most be followed, 2. The use of Diocesan Tax ID number and online giving guidance, and 3. Reaffirm our Orthodox Faith and Christian Values in the world today). Each was approved by the parishioners.

- Stewardship Needs:

Additional Curators are needed.

<u>Turkey Bingo</u>: Sharon will lead the event only if 11 stewards will offer their time for the event to happen.

<u>December Maintenance and Decorating Morning</u>: Saturday, December 10

<u>Tree Removal</u>: Someone will look into a tree cutter to cut and remove the fallen tree from a previous storm (unless someone from *within* could do it)

Mold Report: A majority of the church has mold. It will be treated soon.

- **Relocation**: Looking at the big picture, we need to look at the reality of our current facilities and make a new offer.
- Election of the 2022-2023 Parish Council: President: Lawrence Martin; Vice-President: Matthew Peifer; Treasurer: Timothy Martin, Reader; Financial Secretary: Rich Mirilovich; Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Radomsky; Chief Auditor: Robert Fall; Auditors: Gina Fall, Mary Jane Hudak, Kathy Schrmack, with the 4th and 5th positions left vacant.
- **Meeting Time**: 11:16 am to 12:20 pm +++ +++

** Thank You! to those who have previously served on the Parish Council! Your time and talents helped in many many ways! Thank you and may our Lord continue to bless you!

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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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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:	\$ 84
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 74
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 608
Community Outreach:	\$ 70
Total Collections:	\$ 836
Fundraising Account (Garage Sale):	\$ 155
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 50
Relocation Fund:	\$ 50

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Pani Brancho; Eleanor Sanger; Kathy Schrmack

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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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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

6 Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation."

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³ We put no obstacle in any one's

way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, 'truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and vet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. +++

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ "For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; 15 to one he gave five talents, a to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him. 'Well done. good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saving, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.

Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'

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Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday after the Cross) ¹⁶ Knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. ¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

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Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 (Sunday after the Cross)

³⁴ And He called to Him the multitude with His disciples, and said to them, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." ⁹ And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing

here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

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Sunday before the Cross Gospel: John 3:13-17

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life." ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY MARTYRS TROPHYMOS, SABBATIOS AND DORIMEDONTOS

Commemorated on September 19

The Holy Martyrs Trophymos, Sabbatios and Dorimedontos suffered for Christ during the reign of the Roman emperor Probus (276-282). One time in the city of Antioch a pagan feastday was being celebrate - the sacrificial offerings were brought, the wine was poured, and the vile acts were done. The Christians Trophymos and Sabbatios arrived in the city, and with grief looking upon this loud and indecent spectacle, they be sought the Lord to guide the errant onto the way of salvation. They were arrested and taken to the governor. At the interrogation, the saints firmly confessed their faith, and to the demand that they renounce their faith, they answered with a resolute refusal. During the time of fierce tortures Saint Sabbatios died, and Saint Trophymos was sent off, for even more terrible tortures, to the city of Synnada to the governor Frigius Dionysius, infamous as a torturer and executioner. Shod in iron sandals with sharp nails, Saint Trophymos for three days went on foot, driven on by a cavalry guard. The skilled torturer used all manners of torture to break the will of the brave Christian – but Saint Trophymos merely repeated the words of Scripture: "many an affliction hath the righteous one, but from them all wilt the Lord deliver him" (Ps. 33 [34]: 20). They threw the sufferer into prison, where he was visited by a secret Christian - the senator

Dorimedontos. He attended to Saint Trophymos, washing and binding his wounds. When this came to the attention of the torturers, they began to demand Saint Dorimedontos renounce Christianity, and then they threw him together with Saint Trophymos for devouring by wild beasts. But the martyrs remained untouched. Then they beheaded them with the sword.

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Melanie, Maria, Metropolitan Gregory, Gina, Joshua, George, John, Beverly, Kelly, 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.

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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The 25th Diocesan Sobor will be held in Johnstown from Sunday, October 16 through Wednesday, October 19. Please pray for a successful and worthwhile meeting!

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.



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.



ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES

How to Greet an Orthodox Priest or Bishop Properly

From: www.saintjohnchurch.org/greet-orthodox-priest/

You may have seen an Orthodox priest or bishop before and just never realized it. They are hard to miss, honestly, with their beautiful vestments and their (most of the time) long beards. In the Orthodox Church, we hold incredible respect for the clergy. This is because they serve at the altar on behalf of the people and are spiritual fathers who live as icons of Christ. Therefore, when we greet a member of the clergy, we don't just shake their hand and say, "Hey, nice to meet ya!" In this post, we explain the proper way to greet an Orthodox priest or bishop.

Who are the *clergy*?

Clergy is the generic term we use to describe the formal religious leadership within the Orthodox Church. The clergy are set aside to take care of the ritual aspects of the Church's religious life, teach, and help in spreading Orthodox doctrine and practices. They are, essentially, the New Testament version of the Levites.

All clergy in the Orthodox Church are male. Moreover, there is a certain hierarchy in place within the conciliar structure of the global Church. There are four holy orders of governance in the Church: laity (parishioners), deaconate, priesthood, and episcopate (bishops). In this post, we focus on the last two.

Greeting with a kiss

In modern American culture, people usually greet each other by shaking hands, hugging, or a peck on the cheek. When greeting a member of the clergy, though, we do things a bit differently. We don't shake his hand or kiss his cheek. Instead, we kiss his right hand and ask for a blessing. We do this because we seek to honor Christ, whom the priest/bishop represents.

How to greet an Orthodox priest or bishop

Here we explain how to greet a priest or bishop in the Orthodox Church.

- 1. **Cup your hands in front of you.**Place your right hand over your left, and turn your palms to face upward.
- 2. Bow slightly at the waist and say, "Father/Master bless."

Asking for a blessing lets the priest or bishop know that you wish to greet him, and he will bless you with the <u>sign of the cross</u>, extend his hand to you, and place it in your cupped palms.

3. Kiss the back of the priest or bishop's hand.

This kiss serves as both a greeting and an acceptance of the blessing the priest/bishop has given you.

Why kiss them, though?

The kiss is an ancient custom signifying love, respect and reverence. The Orthodox keep this practice alive during divine services and fellowship. It is as natural to us as breathing. We kiss icons, holy relics, the Cross, the Gospel, the priest's hand, and sometimes, the Holy Chalice. And we also often greet each other with a kiss (or two or three) upon the cheek, as people did in Eastern Europe and the Middle East for centuries. We do this because we encounter and experience Christ Himself through these holy things and through one another. If you ever visit an Orthodox Church, expect to see us kissing things (and each other) quite a bit.

Why ask for a blessing?

We greet clergy by asking for and receiving a blessing for a couple reasons. **First**, it honors the sacred office of the priest or bishop. After all, the hands of these men touch the Holy Body and Blood of Our Lord. Their hands prepare the Holy Gifts for all of us, so we may partake of Holy Communion and experience God in His fullness. The Orthodox fully recognize that the priest is a man, and that he sins, just like we do. But though he is unworthy, he has received the Grace of God to impart spiritual gifts and blessings.

Secondly, asking for blessings is a sign of a humble heart. It reveals a deep faith in the power of God. For example, the woman with a flow of blood touched Christ's garment to obtain healing, and the Lord praised her great faith. The sinful woman kissed the Lord's feet in repentance (Lk 7:38). And in the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father runs out to meet the repentant young man and kisses him (Lk 15:20). The Orthodox follow the examples of these individuals, approaching our clergy with humility and faith.

Other times it is appropriate to kiss the hand

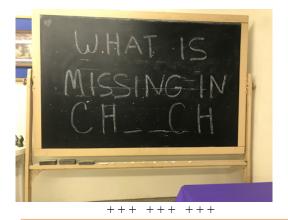
The most common use of the hand-kiss in Orthodox tradition and custom is in receiving a blessing from a priest or bishop. But there are other times it might also be acceptable to do this:

- Saying hello or goodbye
- Asking for a blessing before traveling
- Receiving the prayer of absolution at <u>Holy</u> Confession

One time we should *never* kiss the priest's hand (or the Chalice) is during Holy Communion. Attempting to do this may cause an accident and result in the Holy Gifts being spilled.

Conclusion

It is important to show respect and reverence to Orthodox priests and bishops when greeting them. After all, they are not just "one of the boys." They serve as your spiritual fathers, your guides. They are icons of Christ we should all seek to emulate. When you kiss their hands, you show respect for their office — they are the ones who "bless and sanctify" you and who offer the holy gifts on your behalf. So, next time you greet your priest or bishop, do not shake his hand. Instead, ask for his blessing.



ADDITIONAL DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS

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.

"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* +++ +++ +++

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, 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, 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.

October Namedays:

John Kirish - Venerable John Kukuzelis the Singer (10/14)

Kenneth Parks - Venerable Cainnech (10/24) ...May God grant them many and blessed years! +++ +++ +++

October Birthdays:

Genevive Martellotti (10/3), Matthew Mirilovich (10/6), John Gaydos, III (10/7), Sophie Jesko (10/7), Father's sister, Melissa Ditmore (10/11), Father's mother, Andrea Urban (10/11), Kevin Anton (10/12), Sheila Jesko (10/13), Frank Martellotti (10/15), Cameron Watson (10/17), Rhonda Gogal (10/19), Fr. Robert Buczak (10/20), Alyssa Duray (10/23), Fr. Daniel Vaskalis (10/24), Paula Watson (10/25), Doloris Bowser (10/26), Kaitlyn Duray (10/26), Fr. Mark Leasure (10/26), Mareena Shuster (10/29), Ryan Schrmack (10/30), Noah Winkler (10/31) ...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed vears! +++ +++ +++

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

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

+++ +++ +++ October Anniversaries:

Rich & Renee Mirilovich (10/1) Allen & Anastasia Dzambo (10/2) Brian & Rhonda Gogal (10/5) Chi-Wing & Deborah (Brancho) Chow (10/08) John & Jane Gaydos (10/9)

Meredith & Ryan Blobner (10/12) ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas

+++ +++ +++ For Pregnant Mothers... Carly (due in December), Erica (April)

...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou. +++ +++ +++

For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil

Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky and Trevor Meegan ...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

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* 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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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

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