

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*


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

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 vol. X
12th Sunday after Pentecost
Venerables Anthony (1073) and Theodosius (1074)
of the Pečerskaya Lavra (Kiev Caves)
Youth Sunday
Parish Yearly Meeting following Liturgy
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
9 – 11 am Church open for personal prayer
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42
Tone 4; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers
Enthronement of the Holy Cross
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 - *A day of strict-fasting*
FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
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Mystery of Confession – Father is available to hear
Confessions after every service *or* by appointment.
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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church
services, please pray along with our Cathedral online:
www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/
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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)



BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)
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** **Pittsburgh Water Blessing** – The Orthodox
Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh has
organized a River Water Blessing to be held on
Sunday, September 15 at 4 pm at the Dormition of the
Theotokos Orthodox Church (12 Washington Ave.,
Oakmont, PA 15139). See Fr. Dave for more info
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*** **Feast Day Vespers** – In the Orthodox Church,
Vespers is prescribed to be done on a daily basis
(which happens in a lot of monasteries). Great
Vespers is appointed to be served on Saturday nights
and on the eves of all Feast Days (ranked higher than
Fourth Class). We will offer this service on **Friday at
6:30 pm** on the eve of the Feast of the Nativity of the
Theotokos.
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** **Romanian Food Festival** - Enjoy homemade
authentic Romanian food on Saturday (from 12-6) &
Sunday (1-5), **September 21 & 22** at St. 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 mici
(Romanian skinless sausage), crepes, Amandina
cakes, and more!
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** **Sr ACRY** – Our next St. ACRY meeting will be
on **Sunday, September 29** after the coffee social.
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 * **Home Blessings** – Our Annual Home
Blessings began on **August 14** after the Lesser
Blessing of Water was called for. Fr. Dave is looking
forward to visiting every home this Aug, Sept, or Oct.
Schedule with Fr. Dave today.
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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor* +++ 2201 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, Pa 15101
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com +++ 412-748-0148 (Talk or Text) +++ OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:
✘ ** The Parish Council voted to go with Kodiak
Excavating to install a French Drain in the front
of the church and for the ground on the side and
back to be re-graded (to keep water away from
the building). The cost will be about \$31,000.
Donations to the Capital Improvement Fund are
requested.
✘ *** A new refrigerator has been purchased.
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Glory to God for All Things!
Through your generosity and dedication, all of
this is coming together – one thing at a time!
Thank you! Many stewards keep coming to the
church and working very hard to make
improvements. May God grant you many years!

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD
SEPTEMBER 1

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 110
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 132
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 168
Total Collections:	\$ 410
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 1513.98

*Participating Souls - Sunday Liturgy: 33
Wednesday Moleben: 6*
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SEPTEMBER 8

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 146
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 88
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 296
Total Collections:	\$ 530
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 726

(\$411 from the Parish Picnic)
*Participating Souls - Sunday Liturgy: 65
Tuesday Feast Day Vespers: 7
Wednesday Feast Day Liturgy: 4
Saturday Lesser Blessing of Water: 2*

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were
offered the past 2 weeks by the Nelson Family; Carol
and Tom Lorenzi; Kathy Schrmack; Fred and Juliana
Anton; Cindy Pavilonis; Lawrence Martin; Tim
Martin; Rich and Renee Mirilovich
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August Financial Report:
General Stewardship = \$ 3101.72
(includes \$ 314.72 from online stewardship)
***Expenses = \$ 9536.21**
Net Deficit = \$ 6434.49
Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 190
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 39
**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Report:
(September through last month)
General Stewardship = \$ 86,061
***Expenses = \$ 78,085**
Surplus = \$ 7,976
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 35

* **Church School Teachers** are needed! Please
contact Fr. Dave if you are interested.
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* **Coat Drive LAST CALL** - 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 downstairs hallway this month.
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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS
Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave
September 22: Fr Dave
September 29: Matt & Kim Opsitos
October 6: _____?

“Code” for reading the bulletin:

*** = new news

** = 2nd time in the bulletin

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

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*** **2025 Parish Picnic** – When should we have our picnic in 2025: June? July? August? Or September? Contact Fr. Dave with your vote today!

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* **St Macrina Orthodox Homeschool Co-op** - The Mission of the St. Macrina Orthodox Homeschool Co-op strives to * promote spiritual growth for children and parents * cultivate friendships among children and parents * provide learning opportunities in subject areas that fall outside what is focused on at home * go on field trips and other group outings. They meet weekly on **Tuesdays from 9am-1pm** at St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland, Pittsburgh, PA. The day begins with a brief Matins service and a short lesson in the church. The children then head to the gym for an organized game, sport, or exercise. They then split into groups based roughly on age for further lessons or activities. They finish with a potluck meal and free time. Parents are expected to volunteer in some capacity - the amount of commitment varies from season to season and year to year. The group currently includes students from grades preK to 6th, plus a nursery room for younger children. If you are interested in more information, please fill out the form at: <https://forms.gle/3qpwyv7gTEbby1lw9>. Any other questions? email mariagavrilos13@gmail.com or powell.laurabeth@gmail.com

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** **Oktoberfest Happy Hour** to Benefit the IOCC will be on **Thursday, October 10** from 6–9 PM at the Rusty Gold Brewing Company (43 W. Pike St., Canonsburg, PA 15317). Donations welcome and 20% of food and beverage proceeds will benefit the IOCC. For more info: contact Kevin Reck at 724-344-5610 or kevinsreck@gmail.com

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* **Resignation** – In August Mary Jane Hudak resigned from her Parish Council position. We thank her for her years of stewardship to the parish! May God grant you Many Years!

SEP. COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)**. The OCF is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the *Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA*. OCF is charged with connecting Orthodox college students (and those interested in the Orthodox Christian faith) to Christ and His Church.

The vision of the OCF is to be the loving presence of Christ and the Orthodox Church on college campuses; to be an integral part of students’ spiritual formation by challenging them to explore the Faith; and to inspire students to commit to living an Orthodox Christian way of life daily. This is accomplished via a growing network of on-campus OCF chapters led by talented students, clergy, and lay advisors, as well as through programs such as Reginald Retreats, College Conferences, Real Break, and the Summer Leadership Institute.

Visit www.ocf.net for more info. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The Resurrection of Christ

15 Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, ²by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called

an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

The Rich Young Man

¹⁶And behold, one came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” ¹⁷And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸He said to him, “Which?” And Jesus said, “You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰The young man said to him, “All these I have observed; what do I still lack?” ²¹Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²²When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

²³And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁵When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” ²⁶But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Patricia, Edward, Carol, David, Joseph, Suzanne, Nicholas, Sherry, Charles, William, Boyd, Millicent, Michelle, Mary, Sianna, Kevin, Helen, Barbara, Thomas, Paul, Mary, Cheryl, Robert, Joanne, Jason, Carlene, Kelly, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, and Michael ...*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...

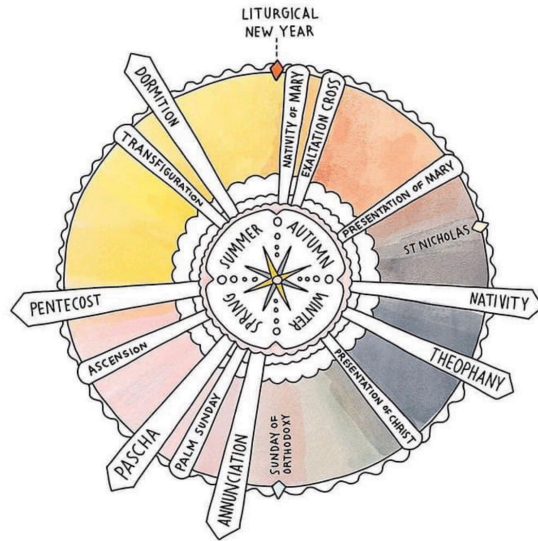
+Sister Dorothy Dolak (9/1), +Alva Ferraz (8/30), +David French (8/14), +George Myers (8/12), +Gwen Patten (8/10), +Albert “Terry” Kulics (8/9), +Nicholas Fuga (8/8), +Kathleen Mahar (8/7) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God’s Memory!*

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A Prayer of Stewardship

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the good steward, who redeemed Adam and Eve of their failed stewardship by offering Yourself for the life of the world. You did teach us in the feeding of the multitudes that whatever we give to God is returned to us multiplied. You did praise those good and faithful servants in the parable of the talents who returned to the Master their gifts. So help us to learn the joy of stewardship, remembering that everything we have comes from You and belongs to You. We know, Lord, that we often live in fear of the future and insecurity. Help us to remember the lilies of the field and so to trust in Your providence. Grant to us a cheerful and generous spirit. Enkindle in the hearts of all Your people a zealous love for You. For You are the Good Steward, and to You we give thanks, praise and glory, together with Your Father and Your all holy good and life-giving Spirit now and ever and onto the ages of ages. Amen.

ONLINE BONUSES



Ecumenical Patriarch shares opening message for Season of Creation
August 30, 2024

“The environmental threat is a dimension of the extended crisis in contemporary civilization,” stated the Ecumenical Patriarch. “In this sense, confronting the problem cannot be successful on the basis of the principles of the same civilization, of the rationale behind it, which created it in the first place.”
He reiterated the conviction that churches and religions can contribute significantly to a vital spiritual and evaluative conversion for the sake of the future of humanity and the planet. “The Christian faith recognizes the supreme value of humanity and creation alike,” he said. “Faith in the God of wisdom and love inspires and supports the creative forces of humankind, strengthening it in the face of challenges and trials, even when overcoming these appears humanly impossible.”

He also emphasized the need to understand that the contemporary ecological crisis impacts first and foremost the poorer inhabitants on earth. “There is a close and indissoluble bond between our care of creation and our service to the body of Christ, just as there is between the economic conditions of the poor

and the ecological conditions of the planet,” he said. “Scientists tell us that those most egregiously harmed by the current ecological crisis will continue to be those who have the least.”

† B A R T H O L O M E W

By God’s Mercy Archbishop Of Constantinople-New Rome And Ecumenical Patriarch

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To The Plenitude Of The Church Grace, Peace And Mercy From The Maker Of All Creation Our Lord God And Savior Jesus Christ

Most reverend brother Hierarchs and beloved children in the Lord,

Thirty-five whole years have lapsed since the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate established September 1st, the Feast of the Indiction and opening of the ecclesiastical year, as a Day of Prayers for the Protection of the Natural Environment. This blessed initiative had a great resonance and borne bountiful fruit. The multidimensional ecological activities of the Holy Great Church of Christ today center around the phenomenon of climate change—or rather, the climate crisis—which has caused a “planetary state of emergency.”

We appreciate the contribution of the environmental movements, the international agreements for the environment, the related engagement on the part of scientists with this problem, the contribution of environmental education, the ecological sensitivity and mobilization of countless people and especially representatives of the younger generation. However, we insist that what is needed is an axiological “Copernican turn,” a radical change of mentality globally, a substantial revision of the relationship between humankind and nature. Otherwise, we will continue to treat the catastrophic consequences of the ecological crisis, while leaving intact and active the roots of the problem.

The environmental threat is a dimension of the extended crisis in contemporary civilization. In this sense, confronting the problem cannot be successful on the basis of the principles of the same civilization, of the rationale behind it, which created it in the first place. We have repeatedly expressed our conviction that churches and religions can contribute significantly to a vital spiritual and evaluative

conversion for the sake of the future of humanity and the planet. Genuine religious faith dissolves the arrogance and titanism of humankind, inasmuch as it constitutes the embankment of its transformation into a “man-god,” who abolishes all standards, boundaries, and values, while declaring himself “the measure of all things” and instrumentalizing both his fellow human beings and nature for the satisfaction of his unquenchable needs and arbitrary pursuits.

The centuries-long experience teaches us that, without an “Archimedean” spiritual and evaluative support, humanity cannot avoid the risks of a nihilistic “anthropologism.” This is the legacy of the classical spirit, as articulated by Plato through the principle that “God is the measure of all things for us” (Laws 716c). This understanding of humanity and its responsibility through its relationship with God is expressed through the Christian teaching about the creation of Adam “in the image of God” and “according to His likeness,” as well as about the assumption of human nature by the incarnate pre-eternal Word of God for our salvation and the renewal of all creation. The Christian faith recognizes the supreme value of humanity and creation alike. In this spirit, then, respect for the sacredness of the human person and the protection of the integrity of the “very good” creation are inseparable. Faith in the God of wisdom and love inspires and supports the creative forces of humankind, strengthening it in the face of challenges and trials, even when overcoming these appears humanly impossible.

We have struggled and still strive for an inter-Orthodox and inter-Christian collaboration for the protection of humanity and creation, as well as for the introduction of this subject in interfaith dialogue and common actions of religions. Moreover, we particularly emphasize the need to understand that the contemporary ecological crisis impacts first and foremost the poorer inhabitants on earth. In the document of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, entitled “For the Life of the World: Toward a Social Ethos of the Orthodox Church,” this topic is underlined emphatically along with the essential concern of the Church in light of the consequences of climate change: “We must understand that serving our neighbour and preserving the natural environment are

intimately and inseparably connected. There is a close and indissoluble bond between our care of creation and our service to the body of Christ, just as there is between the economic conditions of the poor and the ecological conditions of the planet. Scientists tell us that those most egregiously harmed by the current ecological crisis will continue to be those who have the least. This means that the issue of climate change is also an issue of social welfare and social justice.” (Paragraph 76)

In conclusion, we wish you, most honorable brothers and most beloved children, a new ecclesiastical year full of divine blessings and productivity, invoking upon you all, through the intercession of Panagia Pammakaristos, whose wondrous and miraculous icon we honor and celebrate on this day and humbly venerate, the life-giving grace and boundless mercy of the Creator of all and God of wondrous things.

September 1, 2024

† Bartholomew of Constantinople

Fervent supplicant for all before God

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LIVING OUR FAITH

2024 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 (or white napkin) 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 Father 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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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MONK ANTHONY OF PECHERSK

Commemorated on July 10, September 2

The Monk Antonii (Anthony) of Pechersk was born in the year 983 not far from Chernigov, at the locale of Liubech. Possessing the fear of God from his youthful years, he desired to be clothed in the monastic form. Attaining maturity of age, he set off wandering, and having reached Athos, he burned with the desire to emulate the deeds of its holy inhabitants. Here he received monastic tonsure and in everything the young monk pleased God in his asceticising upon the path of virtue; he thrived especially in humility and obedience, such that all the monks did rejoice to look upon his holy life.

The hegumen foresaw within Saint Antonii the great future ascetic, and on an inspiration from God, he sent him off back to his native land, saying: "Antonii! It is time for thee to guide others also into an holy life. Return to thine own Russian Land, and be thou upon thee the blessing of Holy Mount Athos, so that from thee shalt come a multitude of monks".

Having returned to Rus', Antonii began to make the rounds of the monasteries about Kiev, but nowhere did he find that strict life, which had drawn him to Athos.

Through the Providence of God, on one of the hills of Kiev at a steep bank of the River Dneipr, reminiscent for him of the beloved Athos, in a forested area near the village of Berestovo, he espied a cave, dug out by the Priest Ilarion (who afterwards became Metropolitan of Kiev, Comm. 21 October). He began to asceticise there in prayer, fasting, vigil and work, eating over the course of a day but a bit of food, and sometimes he did not eat throughout the week. People began to come to the ascetic for blessing and counsel, and some decided to remain thereafter with the saint. Among the first disciples of the Monk Antonii was Saint Nikon, who in the year 1032 tonsured at the monastery the similarly arrived Monk Theodosii (Feodosii) of Pechersk (+ 1074, Comm. 3 May).

The holy life of the Monk Antonii brightened all the Russian Land with the beauty of monastic striving. Saint Antonii received with love those

yearning for monasticism. After instructions on how one ought to follow Christ, he bid Blessed Nikon to tonsure those willing. When 12 men had gathered about the Monk Antonii, the brethren together dug out a large cave and within it was built a church and cells for the monks. Saint Antonii, having appointed Blessed Varlaam as hegumen over the brethren, himself withdrew from the monastery, and having dug out for himself a new cave, he secluded himself within it. But there also, around the place of his seclusion, monks soon began to settle. Thus were formed the Nearer and Farther Cave monasteries. Afterwards over the Farther Caves was built by the monk a small wooden church in honour of the Uspenie-Dormition of the Mother of God.

At the insistence of prince Izyaslav, the hegumen Varlaam withdrew to the Dimitriev monastery. With the blessing of the Monk Antonii and with the general agreement of the brethren, there was chosen as hegumen the meek and humble Theodosii. During this time the number of brethren had already reached an hundred men. The Kiev Great-prince Izyaslav (+ 1078) gifted to the monks the hill, on which was built the large church and cells, and around it was built a palisade wall. Thus was established the reknown monastery, which was called the Pechersk, foundationed over the caves. Giving the account of this, the chronicler remarks, that many a monastery exists built by rich emperors and nobility, they however cannot compare with those, which are built up by the prayers of saints, and by their tears, fasting and vigil. And thus though the Monk Antonii possessed not gold, he raised up by his efforts a monastery, incomparable with others, which became the first spiritual centre of Rus'.

For his holiness of life, God glorified the Monk Antonii with the gift of foresight and wonderworking. In an especial instance this occurred during their construction of the Great Pechersk church. The Most Holy Mother of God Herself stood before him and the Monk Theodosii in the Blakhernae church (in Byzantium), whither they had been miraculously transported and enraptured, without having left their Pechersk monastery (Vide account of this under 3 May, regarding the Kiev-Pechersk Icon of the Most Holy Mother of God). Having received gold from the

Mother of God, the saints commissioned master-architects, who on the command of the Queen of Heaven set off (from Byzantium) to the Russian Land for building the church at the Pechersk monastery. During this appearance the Mother of God foretold the impending death of the Monk Antonii, which occurred at age 90 on 7 May 1073. The relics of the Monk Antonii, through Divine Providence, remain concealed.

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ST. THEODOSIUS, ABBOT OF THE KIEV CAVES MONASTERY AND FOUNDER OF CENOBITIC MONASTICISM IN RUSSIA (1074)

Commemorated on May 3, August 14 and Sept. 2

"Our righteous Father Theodosius was born in 1009, not far from Kiev, and brought up in Kursk. From early childhood he showed the wisdom of an elder, avoiding childish games and refusing to wear anything but the poorest of clothing. When he was about thirteen years old, and his father died, he began to humble himself even more, going out to work with the serfs in the field. His mother went so far as to beat him in her attempts to make him behave more respectably. Hearing of the labours of Saint Anthony of Kiev, he fled to him secretly and was accepted by him as his disciple. He was tonsured at the age of twenty-four by Saint Anthony's disciple Nikon, and was elected Abbot of the Caves Monastery in 1057, since Saint Anthony refused this out of humility, and lived his whole life as a hermit. It was Saint Theodosius who introduced in Russia the cenobitic rule of the Monastery of Studium in Constantinople, and under his guidance many monks attained to great holiness, and the monastic life spread. When Prince Svyatoslav drove out his elder brother the pious Prince Isyaslav, and ascended to the throne of Chernigov in his place, Saint Theodosius courageously rebuked him, and continued reproving him even when threatened with exile. At the request of Prince Shimon, the son of a Varangian (Viking) prince, the Saint wrote a prayer for the nobleman's forgiveness of sins, and, at his behest, had it placed in his coffin, whence arose this custom in Rusia. He reposed on May 3, 1074, being sixty-five years of age." (Great Horologion)

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

After-feast Of The Dormition
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

6:00 pm Moleben to St. Nectarios with Anointing
6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (*All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting*)
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
God-Parent Sunday
Monthly Memorial Panachida
~11:30 am Parish Family Picnic w/ Pot-luck meal

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - *A day of strict-fasting*

FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
Panachida for those who lost their lives from terrorist attacks

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

ECCLESIASTICAL (*LITURGICAL*) NEW YEAR
9:30 am Moleben for the New Year
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Youth Sunday
Parish Yearly Meeting following Liturgy

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 - *A day of strict-fasting*

FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:30 am Akathist to St. Sophia
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LOOKING *FURTHER* AHEAD IN 2024

- Oct 6 - Feast of the Conception of St. John
- Oct 14 - Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos
- Oct 23 - Founding 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 28 - Moleben of Thanksgiving
- Nov 28 - Nativity Fast begins
- Dec 4 - Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos
- Dec 8 – St. Nicholas Charity Dinner to benefit Christ the Savior Seminary
- Dec 19 - Feast of St. Nicholas

Please, Save the Dates!

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FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

The Beheading Of The Prophet, Forerunner Of The Lord, John The Baptist

Commemorated on Sept 11/Aug 29

The Beheading of the Prophet, ForeRunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt. 14: 1-12) and Mark (Mk. 6: 14-29) provide accounts about the Martyr's end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, holding one-fourth the rule of the Holy Land as

governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and into each part put a governor. Herod Antipas received from the emperor Augustus the rule of Galilee). The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife – the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead co-habiting with Herodias, – the wife of his brother Philip (Lk. 3: 19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. The daughter of Herod, Salome, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl he swore to give her anything, whatsoever she would ask, anything up to half his kingdom. The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked, that she be given at once the head of John the Baptist on a plate. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He feared also the people, who loved the holy ForeRunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of Saint John and to give it to Salome. By tradition, the mouth of the dead head of the preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, thou ought not to have the wife of Philip thy brother". Salome took the plate with the head of Saint John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod was possessor of a parcel of land (the Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated 24 February). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebasteia, there where the wicked deed had been done. After the murder of Saint John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain while. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent to him the bound Jesus Christ, over Whom he made mockery (Lk. 23: 7-12).

The judgement of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way for her such that

her body was in the water, but her head trapped beneath the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now flailing helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck. The corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of Saint John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter made war against Herod. Having suffered defeat, Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain. And there they were from view.

In memory of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, the feastday established by the Church is also a strict day of fast, – as an expression of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. On this day the Church makes remembrance of soldiers, killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of a war of Russia with the Turks and the Poles.

Spiritual Vitamin:

Tropar for the Feast of the Beheading of St. John

The remembrance of the Just is worthy of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner; for it has shown that you are indeed more worthy of honor than the Prophets. You were found worthy to baptize the Lord Who you foretold. Thereafter you suffered for the truth and rejoicing, also announced the good news to those in the abyss that God had appeared as man taking away the sins of the world and granting to all of us the abundance of mercy.

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The Nativity Of The Theotokos, Our Most Holy Lady Mother Of God And Ever Virgin Mary
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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The Elevation Of The Venerable And Life-Creating Cross Of The Lord
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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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Code" for reading the bulletin:
*** = new news
** = 2nd time in the bulletin
* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin
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***** Alumni Weekend** - Calling all Diocesan Camp Nazareth Alumni (current and former campers, volunteers, clergy and staff) who are Seniors in college or older!! Camp is hosting an Alumni Weekend **October 11-13** at the Camp. There'll be time for hanging out, hiking, visiting the Gift Shop, for stories and getting to know each other, and for prayer and church services. Entertainment, a guest speaker and an alumni forum are also a part of the schedule. We have a few surprises for you as well! So don't miss out! Come gather together for a great weekend with your Camp family through the generations. Come from all those cities "far and near" to our "beautiful place in among the mountains." You can register for the Alumni Weekend online at:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/xbsvxvk> Diocesan Alumni and their families are welcome. Cost for the weekend is \$150. Children 7 and under are free. Remember, this is for Diocesan Alumni who are Seniors in college or older. On Friday, October 11th check-in at Camp will be between 6-7:30pm. Check-out on Sunday, October 13th will be by 3pm. After you register online, you will be sent further information about the event including a schedule, packing list, etc.
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***** Fall Retreat** - Young Adults, join us for an enriching weekend at Camp Nazareth for our upcoming Fall Retreat on **October 25-27** hosted by The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Y2AM, the Orthodox Church in America and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church USA. We are SO blessed to welcome Alex Balouris to talk about Caring for God's Creation: The Self. Register here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/2jpqh2e>
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***** Bourbon Tasting** to Benefit the IOCC will be on **Thursday, November 7** at 7 pm at the Leaf & Bean (3525 Washington Rd., McMurray, PA 15317). Tickets are \$60 and include a Leaf & Bean gift, three bourbon samples, and light hors d'oeuvres. Register at ioccc.org/pittsburgh, or mail checks payable to IOCC to Nick Terezis (306 Marberry Dr.,
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 **Joining the ACRY** – If you would like to become a part of our philanthropic organization of the ACRY (American Carpatho-Russian Youth), which is open to all ages, please contact Subdeacon Ryan Ferko at 484-744-2771 or rferko85@yahoo.com.
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**** Ride Share** – We were blessed to have a number of college students with us for our Student Blessing. When their schedules work out, they will need rides from Point Park, Duquesne, or Pitt. We have also received requests from a couple other people who are interested in getting a ride to the church. Please

contact Fr. Dave or Larry if you would be able to bring your "neighbor" to the church. ALSO – the idea of having an Uber Fund was brought up last week...
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2023-24 SJB PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS
President: Lawrence Martin
Vice-President: Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
Treasurer: Timothy Martin, Reader
Financial Secretary: Rich Mirilovich
Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Radomsky
Chief Auditor: Robert Fall
Auditors: Gina Fall, John Kirish, Mary Jane Hudak, Kathy Schrmack (5th position open)

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Speaking With Your Priest - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers. With love in Christ, Fr. Dave
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Mystery of Confession – Father is available to hear Confessions after every service *or* by appointment.
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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online: www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/
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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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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET
TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES
PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:
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Garbage and Recycling – Did you ever notice that we do not have a dumpster at the church? Being non-residential without pick up in Allison Park, all of our garbage and recycling heads to stewards' houses. If

you would be willing to stick around at the end of coffee social and take a bag, please let Larry know. *(please grab the coffee grounds before taking the bag)*

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Additional Church Curators Needed – A synonym for *curator* is *steward*. Please see Larry Martin if you are interested in being a *steward of their time* and be “on-the-door”. Our curator list needs expanded!

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Giving at the Church – The “flow of traffic” is a little different in Allison Park, but the ways to give your stewardship treasures has not changed. One can:

- ✂ hand your offering to the curator who sits at the desk in the vestibule (to the right after you enter),
- ✂ there are multiple baskets around the church for you to drop your offering in, or
- ✂ when saying your prayers and lighting 2 candles, put your donation in the box in the candle stand.

We will continue to not “*pass the basket*” which interrupts our focus on our prayers.

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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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Stewardship of Treasure Guide													
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?													
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe 15%	12%	Tithe 10%	Upper Range Giving 9%	8%	7%	Middle Range Giving 6%	5%	4%	Lower Range Giving 3%	2%	1%	
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4	\$2	
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6	\$3	
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8	\$4	
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5	
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6	
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14	\$7	
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8	
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18	\$9	
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10	
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22	\$11	
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20	
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30	

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).

2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE% would be.

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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. *Remember, sponsoring a bulletin in memory of someone does not replace having a Panachida (Memorial Service) for them.*

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A Prayer of Stewardship

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the good steward, who redeemed Adam and Eve of their failed stewardship by offering Yourself for the life of the world. You did teach us in the feeding of the multitudes that whatever we give to God is returned to us multiplied. You did praise those good and faithful servants in the parable of the talents who returned to the Master their gifts. So help us to learn the joy of stewardship, remembering that everything we have comes from You and belongs to You. We know, Lord, that we often live in fear of the future and insecurity. Help us to remember the lilies of the field and so to trust in Your providence. Grant to us a cheerful and generous spirit. Enkindle in the hearts of all Your people a zealous love for You. For You are the Good Steward, and to You we give thanks, praise and glory, together with Your Father and Your all holy good and life-giving Spirit now and ever and onto the ages of ages. Amen.

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 2:30pm 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 prepared or not of the Orthodox Faith may receive *a blessing* from the chalice.

How to receive - Please remember the following helpful hints aimed at helping to preserve the solemnity and safety of the Holy Mystery. Anyone wearing lipstick should remove it before receiving. Be sure to offer your baptismal name to the priest before receiving. Please take great care that the red cloth held by the acolytes (servers) is fully under your chin (*you should not hold it*), then use the centuries-old practice of receiving: please fully open your mouth, tilt your head back, receive the Holy Gifts, wait until They are securely in your mouth and so that none of the holy and precious Body and Blood of Christ is accidentally spilled. Thank you for your cooperation, and may God have mercy on us all!

Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home and we want you to come back! Generally speaking, sincere and regular participation in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and in the Mysteries of Confession and Communion 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 in the church. 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 the 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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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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ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & 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(s) *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. Stephen B., Fr. Thomas B., Protodeacon Gregory B., Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin, David, Donna, George, *our diocesan seminarians:* Dcn Peter S, Nicolas W., Seamus M., Samuel L., Timothy P., Nicholas L., Alexander H., *and our Parish Council and Curators:* Lawrence, Subdeacon Ryan, Timothy, Rich, Elizabeth, Robert, Gina, John, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth 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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*** **Nameday, Birthday, and Anniversary Prayer List is being reset** – Our parish prayer list of key dates and special occasions in our lives will be reset going forward (starting 3/1/24). If one of your special days is missing – please let Fr Dave know ASAP. See Fr. Dave with any questions.

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September Namedays:
Pañi’s grandmother Maria Alexa - Nativity of Mary (NC 9/9)
Cora Dzadony - Martyr Coralia (9/14)
Maria Urban - Nativity of Mary (9/21)
Sophia Urban - Martyr Sophia (9/30)
...May God grant them many and blessed years!
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September Birthdays:
Samuel Mainolfi (9/1), Dexter Torchia (9/1), Timothy Martin, Reader (9/2), Ruth Herbert (9/2), Ashley Wertz Andrekovich (9/2), Fr. Bob Teklinski (9/3), Pañi Deborah Zak (9/7), Tina Scherer (9/11), Pañi Andrea Cochran (9/14), Pañi Daria Loposky (9/16), Cindy Morrison (9/17), Bonnie Carlisle (9/18), 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), Ron Nelson (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), Juliana Anton (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... Maxwell, Barbara, Tyler *...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*
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For those preparing for Marriage... Allison & Michael, Francis & Alexandra *...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*
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September Anniversaries:
Marianne & Steven Kubis (9/6/14)
Father’s sister, Suzanne & Brian Verbanick (9/8/01)
Barbara & Richard Gedid (9/17/83)
Thomas & Carol Lorenzi (9/19/70)
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... Anna (*due in September*), Lexi (*October*), Mallory (*March*), Lindsay (*April*) *...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*
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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky *...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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Special Intentions – Did you ever wonder for what reasons would a person’s name go under “For the Special Intentions of...” on our Prayer Page? A special intention request is very diversified! It could be when one is under extreme job stress, struggling with spiritual issues, infertility, dealing with the loss of a loved one... the list goes on. As with the other lists on our page, one does not have to be Orthodox to be added.
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Prayer requests – During the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, prayers are said for the sick and those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin. If silent prayers are requested, they will be offered quietly at the Altar at all services. All those listed in the “Prayer Corner” are prayed for during the Proskomedia (*Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion*). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (*in the case of answered prayers*) to our prayer list.
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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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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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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.