

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” Our Parish Bulletin

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

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Glory be 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. We wish God’s Blessings to all who are with us today and hope you come again soon! Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024 vol. X
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (787)
18th Sunday after Pentecost
+Venerable Paraskeva
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29
9:30 – 11:30 am Church open for personal prayer
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31
9:30 – 11:30 am Church open for personal prayer
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024 vol. X
19th Sunday after Pentecost
+Venerable Hilarion the Great (371)
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31 (5th Sunday of Luke)
Tone 2; Liturgical Color: Gold
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5
9:30 – 11:30 am Church open for personal prayer
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8
FEAST OF THE GREAT MARTYR DEMETRIUS
9:30 Festal Divine Liturgy
COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS
Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave
November 3: LEFTOVERS
November 10: ?
November 17: Sr. ACRY – Team B

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)
*** Online Bulletin Online – Due to printer issues this past week, today’s bulletin is online only.
*** Welcome to the Newly-Baptized! Waylon John Gaydos was baptized and initiated into the Orthodox faith last Sunday (10/20). May God give strength to him as he begins his Christian life and bless him, his parents, God-Parents, and families! Many Years!
*** Congratulations! to Patrick and Lexi Wertz and their families on the birth of Patrick Dean Wertz born on 10/20 at 12:30 pm (9 lb 4 oz). Welcome to our Parish Family!
“Preserve her and this child which she has borne. Cover her with the shelter of thy wings from this day until her final end, through the prayers of the most Holy Theotokos and of all the saints. Amen” – from Prayers for a Woman on the First Day after Childbirth
* 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 iocc.org/pittsburgh, or mail checks payable to IOCC to Nick Terezis (306 Marberry Dr.,
*** St Constantine School Miracles of the Harvest Fall Gala – A fundraiser event will be held on November 16 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm at The Ballroom at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral to support the St. Constantine Orthodox School in Pittsburgh. Your donation is also tax deductible. The Saint Constantine School is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. An auction will include Pirates autographed memorabilia, golf outings, baskets, and

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

much more! Your generosity in purchasing a table in advance of the gala creates momentum for the event. By inviting friends into our mission as guests, you can exponentially impact reaching our goal! Get ready to be entertained, delighted, and inspired! Single tickets are available at \$100 each. Kids are welcome! Pizza with supervision will be provided. Learn more about TSCS by emailing pittsburgh@saintconstantine.org or to set up a tour of our campus.
*** RJT Concert – The Rankin Jr Tamburitians will have their Annual Concert on Saturday, November 16 at 4:00 pm at the Turtle Creek Elementary Steam Academy (126 Monroeville Avenue, Turtle Creek, PA 15145). Guest groups for the concert will be RJT Alumni and Otets Paissi (Bulgarian) Children’s Group. A social reception will following immediately after at the Rankin Croatian Home (236 Fourth Ave., Rankin, PA 15104). An a la carte dinner will be offered. Music will be provided by Orkestar Zabava for your listening and dancing pleasure.
*** Orthodoxy on Tap (Café Edition for Young Adults) - Come enjoy a talk by Fr. Thomas Soroka, coffee, treats, fellowship, and discussion about Bridging Divides: How Orthodox Christians can love across political lines on November 17 at 5pm at Fresh Start Café, 46 W Pike Street, Canonsburg, PA 15317.
* Christmas Candy Sale – We will be selling Anderson Candy as a winter fundraiser this year. Brochures are on the tables in the hall and in the multi-purpose room. Orders are due to Tim Martin, Reader, by November 24. Orders can be picked up on December 1. The monies raised from this go into our Fundraising Account which is mainly used for our parish community outreach to help others.
** Victims of Hurricane Helene - In behalf of Metropolitan Gregory, we petition you for your

prayers in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene for all those who have been storm-effected. After recent assessment, and together with Fr. Dean Peter Zarynow (Washington DC Deanery), we wish to inform you that there has been minimal damage to Diocesan parish properties in North Carolina, although the Asheville area has been generally met with huge damage. Our parishes in Florida have fared well. The priests in heavily storm-effected areas have asked for your prayers. And so we petition "Lord have mercy". Sincerely, Very Rev. Protopresbyter Frank P. Miloro, Chancellor
** Ceiling... Walls... Floor... – The building committee and Parish Council continue to discuss our plan of action going forward with work in the church proper. Please be patient with us! Also, remember that for a project like the one that we are undertaking, work goes top down so the ceiling and walls will be done before the floor. As mentioned, please be patient with us!

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 1616
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 267
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 733
Community Outreach:	\$ 5
Total Collections:	\$ 2595
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 140
Participating Souls - Sunday Liturgy: 38	
Friday Akathist: 4	

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Carol and Tom Lorenzi; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Fred and Juliana Anton; Melanie Paieski; Cindy Pavilonis; Barbara Fitzgerald

LIVING OUR FAITH

Halloween Thoughts – Keep it Spooky and Silly; not Scary and Evil. Be mindful that what we look upon will always be in our minds. Keep Halloween fun and not push it too close to the line of where our mind, heart, and soul should not go.

+++ +++ +++

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE NUN PARASKEVA THE SERBIAN

Commemorated on October 14

The Nun Paraskeva the Serbian was born into a pious Bulgarian family, living during the XI Century in the village of Epivato, betwixt Silistra and Constantinople. One day, while listening to Divine-services, the words of the Lord pierced her heart like an arrow: "Whoso doth wish to come follow Me, let him deny himself" (Mt. 16: 24). From that time she began to give away her clothing to the needy, for which reason she endured much grief from her family. Upon the death of her parents, the saint was tonsured into monasticism and withdrew to the Jordan valley, where she famously asceticised into old age.

But two years before her death an Angel appeared to the Nun Paraskeva and bid her return to her native-land, which she did. The saint died peacefully. Her relics, resting at the cathedral temple at Yassa, are marked by incorruptibility and many an healing.

+++ +++ +++

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

TBD - Blessing of the Parish Council
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6
FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7
9:30 am Akathist to St. John

+++

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Monthly Memorial Panachida
~12:00 pm Feast Day Vespers
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14
FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16
6:00 pm Moleben to the Theotokos with Anointing
6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (*All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting*)

+++

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Youth Sunday
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23
FOUNDING OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY IN 1932
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
9:30 am Akathist to St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
CARPATHO-RUSYN DAY IN NORTH AMERICA

+++

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (787)
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

+++ +++ +++



+++ +++ +++



LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD IN 2024
➤ 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!
+++ +++ +++

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16 (*Holy Fathers*)
⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go forth to him outside the camp, and bear the abuse he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

+++

Gospel: John 17:1-13 (*Holy Fathers*)
Jesus Prays for Himself
¹⁷Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ²as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
Jesus Prays for His Disciples
⁶“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept

Your word. ⁷Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.
⁹“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We *are*. ¹²While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

+++ +++ +++

ORTHODOX WORDS OF THE WEEK

Icon – pictorial representations of Biblical scenes from the life of Jesus Christ, historical events in the life of the Church, and portraits of the saints [saints are images of Christ in His people].

+++ +++ +++

Veneration - a way to show great respect and love for the holy. It is to treat something or someone with reverence, deep respect, and honor. Veneration is distinct from worship, for worship is a total giving over of the self to be united with God, while veneration is showing delight for what God has done. There can be confusion because one may venerate what one worships as well as venerate others. Veneration is part of worship to the Orthodox faithful, but they show love and respect to more than the God they worship.

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Liliana, Sophia, Isaac, Robert, Joshua, Matthew, David, Thomas, Stephanie, Angelo, Patricia, Edward, Joseph, Suzanne, Nicholas, Sherry, Charles, William, Boyd, Millicent, Barbara, Paul, Robert, Kelly, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, and

Michael ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer*

+++ +++ +++

For the souls of the newly departed...

+Helen Sarraf (10/12), +Thomas Blaschak, the Priest (10/7) +Albert Dzuka (10/2), +Theodore Polas (9/15)
...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory!*

+++ +++ +++

A Prayer in Front of an Icon of Christ

We bow in worship to Your most pure icon, O Good One, and ask You to forgive our sins, O Christ our God: for of Your own good will, You were please to ascend the Cross in the flesh, that You might free from slavery to the enemy those whom You had created. Therefore, we cry out to You: You have filled all things with joy, O our Saviour, for You cam to save the world. Amen.

+++

A Prayer in Front of an Icon of the Theotokos

Make us worthy of mercy, O Theotokos, fountain of tenderness. Look upon us sinners and reveal your power as you always do, for we have put our hope in you. We cry to you, "Rejoice," as Gabriel, the leader of the angels, once did. Amen.

+++ +++ +++

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.*

+++ +++ +++

2024-25 SJB PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Lawrence Martin
Vice-President: Elizabeth Radomsky
Treasurer: Timothy Martin, Reader
Financial Secretary: Rich Mirilovich
Recording Secretary: Gina Fall
Chief Auditor: Robert Fall
Auditors: Subdeacon Ryan Ferko,
John Kirish, Kimberly Opsitos,
Matthew Opsitos, and Kathy Schrmack

OCT. COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Seminarians and Christ the Saviour Seminary**. Please continue to pray for our Diocesan Seminarians! Thank you in advance for your prayers for our seminarians and offerings for the seminary!

+++ +++ +++

*The St. Nicholas Charity Dinner, a fundraiser for the seminary, is set for **Sunday, December 8** at the Bulgarian-Macedonian Hall in West Homestead.*

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

ONLINE BONUSES

+++ +++ +++

ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Football Raffle We are raffling off 2 tickets to the December 8th Steelers/Browns game in Pittsburgh—Section 215, Row N, Seats 3&4. Tickets are \$10.00 each and the drawing will be held on October 27. Please see Teri Jouver and take a few to sell to your friends and relatives!

+++ +++ +++

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:

- ✘ *** The building committee and Parish Council continue to discuss our plan of action going forward with work in the church proper. Please be patient with us! Also, remember that for a project like the one that we are undertaking, work goes top down so the ceiling and walls will be done before the floor. As mentioned, please be patient with us!
- ✘ ** At the yearly meeting, a vote passed 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*). Due to supply chain and other issues, this work will be done in the spring. A contract has been signed. The cost will be over \$30,000. Donations to the Capital Improvement Fund are requested.
- ✘ ** Multiple breakers for the upstairs lights have been transferred from the electrical panel in the kitchen to the one in the sacristy.

+++

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!

+++ +++ +++

Mystery of Confession – Father is available to hear Confessions after every service *or* by appointment.

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

(Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)

+++ +++ +++

“Code” for reading the bulletin:

*** = new news

** = 2nd time in the bulletin

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

coming soon...

+++ +++ +++

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



**TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES
PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**

+++ +++ +++



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.

+++

Why Should I Join the Local ACRY?

The ACRY is an Orthodox Christian family fellowship dedicated to the purpose of encouraging spiritual growth through charitable and apostolic missionary works, prayer and fellowship for the Glory of God and the building up of the Church and our Diocese. The local ACRY focuses on outreach to the community in various forms and fellowship within. This could be a fundraiser or family event at the church grounds to introduce people to our parish, or the volunteering of our time to help support a community event. In addition to these, the ACRY has the opportunity to branch out and meet other members of our diocesan ACRY community through deanery and nation events and partake in outreach at a broader level.

+++

* **Lots–O–Luck Calendars** – The National ACRY Lots-O-Luck Calendars are available. \$25 per ticket gets you a years worth of prizes totaling \$10,000! Please see Subdeacon Ryan Ferko for tickets.

+++

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)*

+++

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!

+++

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.

+++

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.

+++

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%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	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.

+++

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.

+++

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.

+++

“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

+++

The Jesus Prayer

(*Inhale*) O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,
(*Exhale*) have mercy on me, a sinner!

(*Repeat until your heart is calm...*)

+++

ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & other needs*

+++

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.

+++

For the Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Stephen B., Fr. Thomas B., Protodeacon Gregory B., Kevin, 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., 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.*

+++

***** 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.

+++

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:

Nicholas Sarandou (10/3), Matthew Mirilovich (10/6), John Gaydos, III (10/7), *Father's sister,*

Melissa Ditmore (10/11), *Father's mother,* Andrea Urban (10/11), Kevin Anton (10/12), Rhonda Gogal (10/19), Fr. Robert Buczak (10/20), Fr. Daniel Vaskalis (10/24), Doloris Bowser (10/26), Fr. Mark Leasure (10/26), Sarah Fucsko (10/27), Ryan Schrmack (10/30), Waylon Gavulich (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 years!

+++

For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Maxwell, Barbara, Tyler *...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

+++

For those preparing for Marriage...
Isabelle & Robert, Allison & Michael, Francis & Alexandra *...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

+++

October Anniversaries:

Rich & Renee Mirilovich (10/1/94)
Allen & Anastasia (Martin) Dzambo (10/2/04)
Brian & Rhonda Gogal (10/5)
Chi-Wing & Deborah (Brancho) Chow (10/08/05)
John & Jane Gaydos (10/9/93)
Meredith & Ryan Blobner (10/12/13)

...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas

+++

For Pregnant Mothers... Lexi (*due in October*), Mallory (*March*), Lindsay (*April*) *...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

+++

For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky
...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

+++

* 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.*

+++

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.

+++

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.

+++

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.

+++



+++ ++

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 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.

+++ ++

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.