

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*

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

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS! Glory to Jesus Christ! (responded with: *Glory forever!*)
Slava Isusu Christu! (*Slava na viki!*) We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning. We pray for 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, FEBRUARY 9, 2025 vol. X

- **TRIODION BEGINS**

Translation of the relics (437) of St. John Chrysostom

Monthly Memorial (Panachida) for +Mary Archondis (1-year), +Diana Archondis (22-yr), +Patricia Deluca (2-yr), +Joann Radomsky (32-yr), +Jane Barrett (6-yr), +Anna (Gaydos) Buhonick (19-yr), Most Reverend Metropolitan Orestes P Chornock (48-yr), +Mary (Gaydos) Daniella (47-yr), +Elizabeth (Kailyar) Sichak (25-yr)

A FAST FREE WEEK

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS: ST. BASIL THE GREAT, ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, AND ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers and Blessing of Candles

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 (40 days after Nativity)

FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy; Blessing of Candles
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Holy and Righteous Symeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess (1st c.)

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 Divine Liturgy; Blessing of Candles

Youth Sunday

Tone 1; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** **Why Fast Free?** There is no fasting this week because of the message from the Publican & Pharisee. All foods are permitted. Unlike the joyful fast-free weeks after Nativity, Pascha, and Pentecost, this week should serve as a reflection on how we live our lives, especially in preparation for the Great Fast
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* **Souper Bowl of Caring – Today, 2/9 (and all month long)**, we ask that you bring in unexpired cans of soup for our February Community Outreach collection for Saint Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry at St Mary’s Orthodox Church on the South Side. The collection bin is in the vestibule.
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** **Blessing of Candles** – As is customary, candles will be blessed following the Feast Day Vespers and Divine Liturgy on **Friday and Saturday, February 14 and 15 as well as on February 16**, the Sunday after the Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord, the 40th day after Nativity (Christmas) that remembers the presentation of the infant Jesus into the Temple. It is recorded in the Gospel of Luke (2:22-39) that on this day the elder Simeon recognized the infant Jesus as “*a light for revelation to the Gentiles*”. Thus we highlight the use of candles, as they remind us that Christ is the true Light of the World. There will be candles available for a donation and all are encouraged to bring in candles from home to be blessed after these two Liturgies. Please place your candle(s) on the table near the icon of Christ. Let’s light up the world with our blessed candles!

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS

THEMES / GOSPEL READING

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Fast - Free Week
FEBRUARY 9th



Publican and the Pharisee
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15
Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.

Normal Fast Week
FEBRUARY 16th



The Prodigal Son Returns!
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, “Today I will be humble.” Use up/freeze meats this week.

*** **Food Drive** – This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting unexpired food and donations to delivery to **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry** (at Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church, 105 S. 19th St., Pgh, PA 15203). *Volunteers are needed every other Thursday from 5:15 to 6:45 to assist in the distribution of these goods. (If interested, please contact Fr Patrick first at 412-431-6428)* Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! Here is a list of food items that they are looking for (also found at: stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html)

- ✓ Ready to eat canned fruit or vegetables
- ✓ Peanut Butter
- ✓ Jelly
- ✓ Canned Soups
- ✓ Canned Chili
- ✓ Macaroni & Cheese
- ✓ Spaghetti Sauce
- ✓ Pasta
- ✓ Noodle/Rice Mixes
- ✓ Small Package of Rice or Noodles
- ✓ Canned Stews
- ✓ Canned or Pouches of Tuna, Salmon or Chicken
- ✓ Boxed Meals ready to be prepared
- ✓ Baked Beans
- ✓ Canned and Boxed 100% Juice
- ✓ Crackers
- ✓ Tuna Helper Box
- ✓ Instant Cereal
- ✓ Boxed Cereal
- ✓ Canned Pastas (Chef Boyardee, Ravioli, etc.)
- ✓ Canned Meats

** **Pre-Lenten Breakfast** will be on **Sunday, February 23**. Please sign up in the hall so we have a rough idea of how many will stay for the fellowship.
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** **All-Soul Saturday (Zadušna Subota)** Liturgies with Panachidas for 2025 will begin on **March 1 (rescheduled from 2/22)**. On these days, we especially pray for the departed loved ones of our families. If you are not working on a Saturday, come to church, pray with us, and light two candles for your living and departed loved ones. **Please inform Fr Dave if there are any additions to be made to your Commemoration Diptychs (Hramoty)**. Envelopes and cards are available in the vestibule. [*** *This is different from the “Monthly Memorial” that we will be having on the 2nd Sunday of each month which is specific to each month.*]
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* **Calling all scouts!** For our youth in Scouting and to our Adult Leaders, please send Fr. Dave your Unit Number, location, current rank, and any office or position you hold in your organization **As Soon As You Can** so we can set up our Scout Sunday
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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave

February 16: Sr. ACRY

February 23: Pre-Lenten Breakfast

March 2: ____?____

* **Congratulations** and God’s choicest blessings to our 2024 First Confession Class: Joshua Mainolfi, Maria Urban, and Sophia Urban who were recognized last Sunday as they took part in another Mystery (*Sacrament*) of the Orthodox Church, one that will serve them well in their spiritual growth all the days of their lives. Many thanks to their parents and teachers in preparing them for this Mystery. *May God Grant to our First Confession Class*, Joshua Mainolfi, Maria Urban, and Sophia Urban, *Peace, Health, and a Long-Life for Many Happy and Blessed Years! Many Years!*

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 65
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 36
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 355
Community Outreach:	\$ 50
Total Collections:	\$ 506
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 21
<i>Participating Souls – Sunday Liturgy: 28</i>	

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Anonymously; Rich and Renee Mirilovich; Kathy Schrmack; Cindy Pavilonis

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January Financial Report:
General Stewardship = \$ 7801.05
<i>(includes \$ 447.05 from online stewardship)</i>
*Expenses = \$ 7943.24
Net Loss = \$ 142.19
Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 745
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 38
<i>*details listed on the church hall bulletin board</i>

Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Report:
<i>(September through last month)</i>
General Stewardship = \$ 43,062
*Expenses = \$ 32,857
Net Gain = \$ 10,205
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 37

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** **Pittsburgh Penguins** – Would you be interested in a parish family outing to a Pittsburgh Penguin hockey game? Please contact Fr Dave ASAP so we can start arranging this! Let’s Go Pens!

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<i>Spiritual Vitamin:</i>
“If there is a moral quality almost completely disregarded and even denied today, it is indeed humility. The culture in which we live constantly instills in us the sense of pride, of self-glorification, and of self-righteousness... Even our churches - are they not imbued with that same spirit of the Pharisee? Do we not want our every contribution, every “good deed,” all that we do “for the Church” to be acknowledged, praised, publicized?... How does one become humble? The answer, for a Christian, is simple: by contemplating Christ.”
<i>Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, “Great Lent”</i>

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* **Holy Water Reminders**
* **2025 Holy Water Available To Take Home** - Plan to take our Theophany Holy Water home with you! Bring in a container (or pick up a *Holy Water Bottle* from our bookstore), fill it up, and use it. Drink Holy Water every morning (or at least when you are not feeling well). Throw a splash into your cooking. Also, together with the sign of the Cross, you may bless one another with it prior to tests for our children in school, big days at the office, before doctor appointments, etc. Please cut out the devotional prayer this week (in the prayer corner section) and use it with your Holy Water.

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* **Do Not Hoard Old Holy Water** - While Holy Water does not “go bad”, it is best to refresh your water each year. Holy Water from the previous Theophany should be poured outside (*preferably on the corner of your house or in a garden where people are not going to walk on it*). **The best scenario, though, is to use your Holy Water** (see above for examples).

<i>Spiritual Vitamin:</i>
“Drink holy water as often as possible. It is the best and most effective medicine. I’m saying that not just as a priest but also from my experience as a doctor.”
<i>+St. Luke the Physician of Crimea</i>

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15
¹⁰Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Ico’nium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹²Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

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Gospel: Luke 18:10-14
¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Valerie, Jon, Joseph, Felix, Bella, Reed, Maria O., Cheryl, Christina, Daniel, Elizabeth, Robert, David, Suzanne, 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*

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For the souls of the newly departed...
+Miroslaw Tschaikowsky, +Julian Naumenko, +George Lavra (1/11), +Warren Hern, +Michael Miklos, the Priest (1/3) *...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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[“By the Waters of Babylon” is the entire Psalm 137, sung to a plaintive melody, during Matins (the morning service). It is only sung in church the three Sundays that precede Great Lent: Sunday of the Prodigal Son, The Last Judgment (Meatfare), and Forgiveness (Cheesefare).]

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**A Prayer in Exile (Psalm 137):
Longing for Zion in a Foreign Land**
By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.
²On the willows there
we hung up our harps.
³For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
⁴How shall we sing the LORD’s song
in a foreign land?
⁵If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!
⁶Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy!
⁷Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom
the day of Jerusalem,
how they said, “Raze it, raze it!
Down to its foundations!”
⁸O daughter of Babylon, you who are devastated!
Happy shall he be who requites you
with what you have done to us!
⁹Happy shall he be who takes your little ones
and dashes them against the rock!

ONLINE BONUSES

TRIODION: GETTING READY FOR LENT

The significance of the four Sundays.
The word Triodion is used frequently and it is used to denote the three-odes used during the matins canon that are specifically Lenten. During the time before Lent, the Church in Her wisdom offers us five preparatory Sundays (Russian Tradition) to get us ready to enter the season of Great Lent. The Lenten Triodion officially begins with the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee.

First Sunday: Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican

To get our attention, the Church's Gospel this week focuses on true and false repentance by comparing actions and words. The Pharisee correctly 'practiced the faith' in regards to Jewish prayer and fasting, but within him the love of God was not present. The publican outwardly lived a sinful life as a tax collector for Rome, but inwardly realized the sin that was dominating him. The Pharisee demanded God's approval while the publican pleaded for God's mercy. The lesson for us is to diligently practice the 'outward' aspects of our Faith while inwardly realizing nothing we can do will earn God's favor and that we need to constantly seek His mercy. The central theme of this Gospel is the need for humility.

Second Sunday: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Modern dictionaries often translate 'repentance' as 'regret' or 'feeling sorry' for having done something. However, the true meaning of the word metanoia (repent) in the New Testament is to 'change one's mind (nous) or purpose' (*Vines*). Just as the Prodigal son left his father, realized the misery of his 'new' life, and returned to ask forgiveness, we too must realize that we have left our Father for the world and need to 'change' our life and return to Him. This Gospel gives us the assurance that God the Father will joyfully welcome us back if we turn from the sin in our life. This Sunday emphasizes repentance and the loving embrace of the Father.

Third Sunday: Sunday of the Last Judgment

James 2:17 states "...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." The corporal (physical) works of mercy, which the Lord uses to pass judgment, are a

reflection of the love or lack thereof in the hearts of the 'sheep and goats'. Individual repentance and love of God has been emphasized in the first two Sundays: love of neighbor, 'icons of Christ', is the central focus here. Giving alms and other exterior actions of love are also a vital part of the Lenten journey. This parable does not imply that we can 'work' our way into heaven but rather if our soul shows no active love for man then we really don't have true love of God.

Fourth Sunday: Forgiveness Sunday

This Sunday summarizes the readings of the previous three weeks and prepares us for Lent. Like the Prodigal we must turn and leave behind the things of the world, of the past. We must forgive others or God will not forgive us. Why? Because we ask God to do that each time we pray the Lord's Prayer! We must not be like the Pharisee and draw attention to our fasting by trying to gain sympathy or praise of men. Finally, we must begin to store spiritual treasure in heaven by using our earthly treasure to help others through alms and other works of mercy. With this attitude we are ready for a successful Lent.

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Spiritual Vitamin:

“Throughout the day,
try to remember God more often.
If you feel bad, turn to Him:
“Lord, I feel bad, help me.”
If you feel good, “Lord, glory to You, thank You
for this joy!”
If you are worried about someone: “Lord, I am
worried about him, help him.”
Whatever happens, turn it into prayer.”
St Ambrose of Optina

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Translation of the relics (437) of St. John Chrysostom
Commemorated on February 9 / January 27

Sainted John Chrysostom – a great ecumenical teacher and hierarch, died in the city of Comene in the year 407 on his way to a place of exile, having been condemned by the intrigues of the empress Eudoxia because of his daring denunciation of the vices ruling over Constantinople. The transfer of his venerable relics was made in the year 438: after 30 years following the death of the saint during the reign of Eudoxia's son emperor Theodosius II (408-450).

Saint John Chrysostom had the warm love and deep respect of the people, and grief over his untimely death lived on in the hearts of Christians. Saint John's student Saint Proclus, Patriarch of Constantinople (434-447), making Divine-services in the Church of Saint Sophia, preached a sermon which in glorifying Saint John he said: "O John! Thy life was filled with difficulties, but thy death was glorious, thy grave is blessed and reward abundant through the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. O graced one, having conquered the bounds of time and place! Love hath conquered space, unforgetting memory hath annihilated the limits, and place doth not hinder the miracles of the saint". Those who were present in church, deeply touched by the words of Saint Proclus, did not allow him even to finish his sermon. With one accord they began to entreat the Patriarch to intercede with the emperor, so that the relics of Saint John might be transferred to Constantinople. The emperor, overwhelmed by Saint Proclus, gave his consent and made the order to transfer the relics of Saint John. But the people dispatched by him were by no means able to lift up the holy relics – not until that moment when the emperor realising his oversight that he had not sent the message to Saint John, humbly beseeching of him forgiveness for himself and for his mother Eudoxia. The message was read at the grave of Saint John and after this they easily lifted up the relics, carried them onto a ship and arrived at Constantinople. The reliquary coffin with the relics was placed in the Church of the holy Martyr Irene. The Patriarch opened the coffin: the body of Saint John had remained without decay. The emperor, having approached the coffin with tears, asked

forgiveness. All day and night people did not leave the coffin. In the morning the reliquary coffin with its relics was brought to the Church of the Holy Apostles. The people cried out: "Receive back thy throne, father!" Then Patriarch Proclus and the clergy standing at the relics – saw Saint John open his mouth and pronounce: "Peace be to all".

In the IX Century the feastday in honour of the transfer of the relics of Sainted John Chrysostom was written into church singing.

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FEB. COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Food Drive – This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting unexpired food and donations in order to make a delivery to **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry** (at Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church, 105 S. 19th St., Pgh, PA 15203). Volunteers are needed on Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:45 to assist in the distribution of these goods. (If interested, please contact Fr Patrick first at 412-431-6428) Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! Here is a list of food items that they are looking for:

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- ✓ Small Package of Rice or Noodles
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- ✓ Canned or Pouches of Tuna, Salmon or Chicken
- ✓ Boxed Meals ready to be prepared
- ✓ Baked Beans
- ✓ Canned and Boxed 100% Juice
- ✓ Crackers
- ✓ Tuna Helper Box
- ✓ Instant Cereal
- ✓ Boxed Cereal
- ✓ Canned Pastas (Chef Boyardee, Ravioli, etc.)
- ✓ Canned Meats

stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stcyrilfoodpantry.html

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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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**** A Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas** – The new book, *Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas*, is a publication of the Diocesan Carpatho-Rusyn Heritage Working Group. It contains Rusyn and American Christmas Carols (Koljady) in English and Rusyn plus the text for the Holy Night Supper (Svjatyj Večer) prayer service (Velija). We now have it in our parish bookstore and a \$10 donation per book is requested.

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*** Important Upcoming Liturgical Dates:

The Great Fast Begins: Monday, March 3
Palm Sunday / Holy Week: Sunday, April 13
Pascha: Sunday, April 20

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**** Annual Church Picnic** – “The Cabin” in North Park is booked for **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025** for our end of summer picnic. **Please Save The Date!**

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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“Code” for reading the bulletin:

*** = new news ** = 2nd time in the bulletin
* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

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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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*** Random Tidbits...** Father Dave 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 (Sacrament) of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES

*** **STEWARD**, translated from the Greek word *oikonomos*, means a caretaker, a faithful manager of all of God’s gifts. As Stewards, each of us are called upon to respond to God’s gifts through offering our gifts of time, talent and treasure. This is our form of supporting our parish and it leaves us with the question, “How will I respond to God’s gifts this year?” Our gifts represent who we are and how we care about God and His Church. How can we live with the framework of being a caretaker of the blessings God gives us?

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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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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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.

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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 Schmack

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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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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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Stewardship of Treasure Guide

Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?															
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe	Tithe	Upper Range Giving	Middle Range Giving	Lower Range Giving	15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%
\$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's would be.

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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!

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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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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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MONTHLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Zacchaeus Sunday
9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
take down remaining Christmas decorations
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
6:30 pm Akathist to St. Xenia and holy anointing
7:15 pm Exploring Orthodoxy 101

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - TRIODION BEGINS
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Monthly Memorial (Panachida)

A FAST FREE WEEK

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS: ST. BASIL
THE GREAT, ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, AND
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers
Blessing of Candles
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 (40 days after Nativity)
FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Candles

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 Divine Liturgy
Youth Sunday
Blessing of Candles

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 pm Divine Liturgy
Pre-Lenten Breakfast

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FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

KONDAK HYMNS OF THE FEASTS:

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Coming Soon...
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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 3:30pm 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

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 Proskomedie (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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Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions *

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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., Stephanie 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:* Den 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.*

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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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February Namedays:

Timothy Martin, Reader – Apostle Timothy of the 70 (2/4)

Dolores Bowser - Virgin-martyr Dorothea (2/19)
Father's Godson, Zachariah Kalaluhu – Prophet Zachariah (2/21)

...*May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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February Birthdays:

Fr. Marc Wisnosky (2/1), Chris Bowser (2/6), Fr. Edward Pehanich (2/4), Pañi's mother, Alexandrina Liana Popescu (2/6), Charles Kretchek (2/8), Richard Gedid (2/9), Harmonie Torchia (2/11), Pañi Kathy Buczak (2/11), Fr. James Gleason (2/12), Matthew Peifer (2/13), Samantha Ditmore (2/14), James Hanchulak (2/17), Barbara Leone (2/19), Carly Jozwiskowski (2/21), Barbara Kirish (2/22), *Father's nephew*, Brian Verbanick, Jr (2/22), Fr Stephen Krivonak (2/23), Fr William Bennett (2/28), His-All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew I (2/29/40)

...*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...

Raymond, Kathryn, 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... Nicholas & Cassie, Allison & Michael ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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February Anniversaries:

Cynthia & Jeffrey Morrison (2/5)

Joanne & Ron Nelson (2/10)

Derek and Ashley (Wertz) Andrekovich (2/18)

Carly & Kyle Jozwiskowski (2/29)

...*through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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For Pregnant Mothers...

Mallory (*due in 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.*

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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