

“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!

Christ is risen! (*responded with: **Indeed He is risen!***) Christos voskrese! (*Voistinu voskrese!*) 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, APRIL 27 #THOMAS SUNDAY

2nd Sunday of Pascha: ANTIPASCHA, ST. THOMAS
Breaking of the Artos Bread
Monthly Memorial Panachida
12:00 pm Blessing of Graves

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*There is no kneeling in prayer for 50 days
(until Pentecost) and omit the prayer*

*“O Heavenly King” (replacing with Christ is risen 3
times) as we anticipate the Holy Spirit*

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SUNDAY, MAY 4

3rd Sunday of Pascha: Sts. Myrrh-Bearing Women,
righteous Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus
9:20 am Paschal Canon; 9:30 pm Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 6:1–7; Gospel: Mark 15:43–16:8
Liturgical Color: **White**

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

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PASCHAL GREETING:

(use instead of ‘hello’, before ‘good morning’, etc.)

Christ is risen!

(responded with: **Indeed He is risen!**)

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle Acts 5:12–20

The Apostles Heal Many

¹² Now many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor.

¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

The Apostles Are Persecuted

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sad’ducees, and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. ¹⁹ But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, ²⁰ “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

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Gospel: John 20:19–31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” ²² And when he had

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** Paschal Notes** – The prayer to the Holy Spirit, “O Heavenly King”, is **not said** at home or in church during this season until the Feast of the Decent of the Holy Spirit: Pentecost. Instead, we say or sing the Paschal Tropar, “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down...” (*three times*) until the Feast of Ascension. For 40 days from Pascha (Easter) until Ascension, we greet each other by saying, “Christ is risen!” and respond with “Indeed, He is risen!”. (*Some translations use “Truly, He is risen!”*.) We can also adjust our before and after meal prayers. During the 50 days from Pascha to Pentecost, we **do not kneel in prayer or make prostrations** in church or at home in keeping with the joyful and festal character of the season. We begin to kneel (and prostrations) again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost that Sunday evening.

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**** UPDATED Faith Night with Mp. Gregory** - Faith Night at PNC Park will be on **Saturday, May 10** at 4:05pm (Pirates vs. Braves). Metropolitan Gregory will be joining us at the ballpark and **on Sunday, May 11** for our 1st Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in Allison Park. All Tickets Must Be Prepaid for the game and it is 1st come - 1st serve. Reservations and payments need to be made to Cindy Pavilonis by this **Wednesday, April 30**. Get your tickets today! Limited seats are reserved in Sec. 322 (*rows U,V,W,X*) at \$20 per seat (this includes a \$1 donation to the CAP Fund). Let’s go BUCS!

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***** Parish Council (PC) Meeting Highlights** –Here are just a few highlights from our recent PC Meeting:

- ✕ Prayer Ministry Team – a new ministry will be explored by Fr. Dave – more details to come
- ✕ Hampton community days – the idea came up of having a table at the upcoming local community day
- ✕ Chair Lift – adding a chair lift has been suggested. Contact Bob if you have any recommendations
- ✕ CPR – we will host a CPR training at some point in 2025. Contact Gina if interested in helping with this

said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.”

²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

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Paschal Greeting in Church Slavonic:

Christos voskrese! (*Voistinu voskrese!*)

*If greeted in a language you are unfamiliar with,
translate, respond in English, then learn the response*

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Paschal Greeting in Greek:

Χριστός Ανέστη

Christós anésti! Krees-TOHS Ah-NEH-stee

(*Αληθώς Ανέστη*)

Alithós anésti! Ah-lee-THOS Ah-NEH-stee)

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** **Grass Maintenance** – Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested in being a part of a rotation of folks who will maintain the grass throughout the summer.

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** **THANK YOU** to everyone who brought something in for our Pot-Luck Paschal Meal or helped in anyway preparing over the past few weeks for the Feast of Feasts!

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** **Clergy Convocation** - Fr. Dave will be at Camp Nazareth from **Monday thru Thursday, April 28 – May 1** for our Diocesan Clergy Convocation. In case of a pastoral emergency, since cell reception is poor at the camp, either call the camp (724-662-4840) or Fr. John Mikita (412-366-4647). For general questions, please call and leave Fr Dave a voicemail, text, or email.

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** **Calling All Graduates** – Please notify Fr. Dave of your graduation information by **May 11**. Graduate Sunday will be at the end of May or early June High School Students; *your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, and where you will attend in the Fall with your intended major in college (or undecided at this time)*. Trade School, College, Graduate and Post-Graduate Students; *where you went, your field of study, and degree you will earn*.

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** **Restarting the Jr. ACRY** – Are you (or your child) between the ages of 8 and 18? Let’s restart our Jr. ACRY! This year’s Annual Convention will be hosted by Homestead and will be held at Seven Spring on Labor Day Weekend. Please see Nick Ditmore, Reader, or Subdeacon Ryan Ferko if you (or your child) are interested in being a part of the Jr. ACRY. Let’s have some representation at this year’s convention!

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** **LAST CALL for the Collection Project** - It's about that time for spring cleaning! If you have any **books, DVDs, or puzzles** that you can pass on, our Sr. ACRY is collecting them to bring to low income assisted living facilities in the area. *(A bin is in the vestibule.)* We want to freshen up their activity areas, and it will freshen up your home space at the same time - win, win! Thank you so much for your donations!

COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS		
<i>Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave</i>		
May 4:		_____?
May 11:	Sr ACRY <i>(all groups)</i>	
May 18:		_____?

** **Camp Nazareth Family Camp: Friday, May 30 – Sunday, June 1** Our Diocese is pleased to announce its 11th annual Family Camp at Camp Nazareth in conjunction with Family Day. The event is exactly what it sounds like. Families “camping” together in the Camp cabins and participating in a weekend of services, games, discussions, activities and challenges that are all designed to help families deepen their relationship with God and with one another. This year’s theme – *The “Puzzle” that is Your Family... Discovering why God has put us Together!* Our families were given by God. He has joined the “pieces” of our family’s “puzzle” together. Come discover what all the “pieces” mean to your family and what they mean to a world in need of your family! The schedule includes time to pray together, have fun together, relax together and learn together. In addition, kids and parents will also have their own activities and discussions separate from one another as well. This years’ Keynote Speaker for the adults is Rev. Timothy Paproski, our parish priest at St. Nicholas Church in Warren, OH. This years’ leader for the kids is Pani Hailey Paproski. We are excited to have both of them as part of this years’ Family Camp! Each year we have a wonderful time together! Come, be a part of it! Don’t miss out on this opportunity for you and your family in the beautiful environment of the Camp! Space is limited, so be sure to register soon! Online Registration is NOW OPEN! Visit the following link to register: [2025 Family Camp](#). Visit [campnazareth.org](#) for more information.

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* **Registration is Open!** You can now register your child (aged 8-18) for Camp Nazareth this summer. Don’t delay! Early Bird special runs until May 1. If financial assistance is needed, please let Fr. Dave know. Let’s get our kids to camp! If you have any questions – please see Nick Ditmore or Fr. Dave.

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 1235
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 202
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 3400
Community Outreach:	\$ 15
Total Collections:	\$ 4852
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 187
<i>Participating Souls at Sunday Liturgy: 114</i>	
<i>Bright Monday Liturgy: 6</i>	
<i>Bright Wednesday Akathist: 11</i>	
<i>Bright Friday Liturgy: 8</i>	

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Fred & Juliana Anton; Carol & Tom Lorenzi; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Carol Fuscko; Cindy Pavilonis

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The **Eternal Lamp** was offered last week by Matthew Peifer in memory of his parents. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Christ is risen!

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** **The Big Dig: French Drain and Regrading** – Our next big endeavor is preventing future water from coming into the church. Next week, a French Drain will be added along the front of the church. Also, the side grass area and the “courtyard” in the back will be regraded to prevent water from seeping in through the block. The Capital Improvement Project will cost about \$35,000. Any donation towards this will be greatly appreciated as we try and stay above water!

ORTHODOX WORDS OF THE WEEK

Bishop – The bishop is the first and highest degree of the clergy in the Orthodox Church (*episkopos* in Greek, which means overseer).
Metropolitan – The title of archbishop or metropolitan may be granted to a senior bishop, usually one who is in charge of a large ecclesiastical jurisdiction. He may or may not have auxiliary bishops assisting him. In the Slavonic and Antiochian traditions, a metropolitan outranks an archbishop. The reverse is the situation in the Greek tradition.

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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

GREETING THE BISHOP AND PRIEST
Excerpt from: A Guide to Church Etiquette: How to Show Proper Respect and Reverence in Church
In our modern culture, we greet one another with a handshake. The exception to this is when we greet a member of the clergy. We do not shake a bishop’s or priest’s hand; ask for a blessing and we kiss it with reverence (for the priest we have ‘lost’ this practice in our Diocese, but it is coming back in some places. Be mindful that when greeting priests from another Diocese this is the proper etiquette). The proper way to do this is to approach the hierarch or priest with right hand over left, palms facing up, and then bow while saying, “Master, bless” to the hierarch, or “Father, bless” to the priest. If either places his hand in yours while blessing you, this is an appropriate time to kiss his hand. We kiss his hand because we are honoring Christ, whom he represents and receiving His blessing.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMIN
“Wherever the bishop shall appear, there let the multitude also be; even as, wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Church.” +St. Ignatius of Antioch

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Madelyn, Annette, Boyde, Mark, Michelle, Megan, Lindsay, Christine, Brian, Rhonda, Patrick, Melanie, Carlene, Jason, Bella, Daniel, David, Barbara, Paul, Robert, Kelly, Juliana, Fredrick, 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...
+Cheryl Marcy (4/20), +Thomas Jackson (4/17), +Joseph P. Huron (4/12), +Pani Donna Smoley (4/11), +Kenneth Parks (3/31), +Peter Mercurio (3/28), +Dn. Robert Conjelko (3/26), +Janet Riding (3/19), +Gary Fall (3/14) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God’s Memory!*

ONLINE BONUSES

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING
DOWN DEATH BY DEATH AND UPON THOSE IN
THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!

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Paschal Greeting in Romanian:
Hristos a înviat! (*Adevărat a înviat!*)

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Paschal Greeting in Spanish:
¡Cristo ha resucitado!
(*¡En verdad ha resucitado!*)

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Paschal Greeting in Arabic:
El Messieh kahm! (*Hakken kahm!*)

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Paschal Greeting in Swahili:
Kristo amefufukka! (*Kweli amefufukka!*)

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Paschal Greeting in Slovak:
Christos vstal z mŕtvych!
(*Vpravde vstal z mŕtvych!*)

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Paschal Greeting in Italian:
Cristo è risorto! (*È veramente risorto!*)

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Paschal Greeting in Gaelic:
Taw creest ereen! (*Taw shay ereen guhdyne!*)

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Paschal Greeting in French:
Le Christ est réssuscité!
(*En verite il est réssuscité!*)

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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

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

The Holy Orthodox Church is perhaps one of the last social institutions where dignity, protocol, respect, and reverence are maintained. This is primarily because when we come to the church and its services we are entering the Kingdom of God on earth, His habitation, and we choose to honor this sacred place by our attentiveness to what is proper and ordered. We have the opportunity to reflect the image of Christ within us by our actions. “You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.” (1 Peter 2:9
From time to time we need to remind ourselves how to conduct ourselves in God’s Holy House. This guide is meant for personal reflection and not as a means of judging others. Keep in mind that there are different traditions even among the Orthodox faithful. We come to church to pray and worship God above all else, and that should be our focus. While the following references the Divine Liturgy, it should be noted that proper etiquette should be applied to all the Divine Services of the Church.

GREETING THE BISHOP AND PRIEST
In our modern culture, we greet one another with a handshake. The exception to this is when we greet a member of the clergy. We do not shake a bishop’s or priest’s hand; ask for a blessing and we kiss it with reverence (for the priest we have ‘lost’ this practice in our Diocese, but it is coming back in some places. Be mindful that when greeting priests from another Diocese this is the proper etiquette). The proper way to do this is to approach the hierarch or priest with right hand over left, palms facing up, and then bow while saying, “Master, bless” to the hierarch, or “Father, bless” to the priest. If either places his hand in yours while blessing you, this is an appropriate time to kiss his hand. We kiss his hand because we are honoring

Christ, whom he represents and receiving His blessing.
LIPSTICK

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

RECEIVING THE ANTIDORAN (BLESSED BREAD)

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

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Some Additional Reminders:

* We should all make an effort to be present at the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, but *if we do* come late, we are asked to enter quietly and without disrupting the service of those in attendance.
* Please minimize movement (entering, leaving, lighting candles) *during the reading of the Epistle or Gospel, and during the Homily*. If you enter while these things are already taking place, please stand in the back of the pews until after the reading is finished.
* We are asked to remove lipstick or lip gloss before kissing icons or receiving the Eucharist.
* Just before and after partaking of Holy Communion, *do not* venerate the icons. When the chalice is in the nave of the church, this is where all attention belongs. Also, it is important to remain to the end of the Liturgy to thank our Lord and receive the final blessing from the priest.
* We are encouraged to stand while the Holy Gifts (The Body and Blood of Christ) are present in the nave out of respect and honor for the presence of Christ among us (until the clergy return with the chalice to the altar after Communion).

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Paschal Greetings from Around the World

The **Paschal greeting** is a custom among Orthodox Christians, consisting of a greeting and response. Instead of "hello" or its equivalent, one is to greet another person with "Christ is Risen!". The response is "Truly, He is risen!" (or "Indeed, He is risen!"). This greeting is used during liturgical services and informally at other times, starting with the [feast of Pascha](#) and lasting until [Ascension](#) – the period known as the *Paschal season* or *Paschaltide*.

In practice, this greeting is typically used only with people that one already knows are Orthodox. In some cultures (for example in Russia), it was also customary to exchange a triple kiss after the greeting. Orthodox Christians often compile lists of the greeting in various languages, as it is used around the world, and these are sometimes recited in church or in other formal settings as an act of Orthodox unity across languages and cultures.

Language	Greeting	Response
Aleut:	Khristus anahgrecum!	Alhecum anahgrecum!
Aleut:	Khris-tusax agla-gikux!	Agangu-lakan agla-gikux!
Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall!	Vertet U Ngjall!
Alutuq:	Khris-tusax ung-uixtuq!	Pijii-nuq ung-uixtuq!
Amharic:	Kristos tenestwal!	Bergit tenestwal!
Anglo-Saxon:	Crist aras!	Crist sodhlice aras!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav ee merelotz!	Orhnial eh harootyunuh kristosee!
Athabaskan:	Xristosi banuytashtch'ey!	Gheli banuytashtch'ey!
Bulgarian:	Hristos voskrese!	Vo istina voskrese!
Byelorussian:	Khrystos uvaskros!	Saprawdy uvaskros!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole!	Queshi fuhuole!
Coptic:	Pehristos aftooun!	Alethos aftooun!

Language	Greeting	Response	Language	Greeting	Response
Czech:	Vstal z mrtvých Kristus!	Vpravdě vstal z mrtvých!	Javanese:	Kristus sampun wungu!	Tuhu sampun wungu!
Danish:	Kristus er opstanden!	Ja, sandelig opstanden!	Korean:	Kristo gesso!	Buhar ha sho nay!
Dutch:	Christus is opgestaan!	Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!	Latin:	Christus resurrexit!	Vere resurrexit!
English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!	Latvian:	Kristus ir augšam sales!	Teyasham ir augšam sales vinsch!
Eritrean-Tigre:	Christos tensiou!	Bahake tensiou!	Lugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Amajim ajukkide!
Esperanto:	Kristo levigis!	Vere levigis!	Norwegian:	Christus er oppstanden!	Sandelig han er oppstanden!
Estonian:	Kristus on üles tõusnud!	Ta on tõesti üles tõusnud!	Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal!	Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!	Exai' ab-her eokala!	Portuguese:	Cristo ressuscitou!	Em verdade ressuscitou!
Finnish:	Kristus nousi kuolleista!	Totisesti nousi!	Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adevărat a înviat!
French:	Le Christ est réssuscité!	En verite il est réssuscité!	Russian:	Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Gaelic:	Taw creest ereen!	Taw shay ereen guhdyne!	Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha!	Satvam upastitaha!
Georgian:	Kriste aghsdga!	Cheshmaritad aghsdga!	Serbian:	Hristos vaskrse!	Vaistunu vaskrse!
German:	Christus ist auferstanden!	Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!	Slovak:	Christos vstal z mŕtvych!	Vpravde vstal z mŕtvych!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!	Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Hawaiian:	Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!	Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!	Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka!	Kweli amefufukka!
Hebrew:	Ha Masheeha houh quam!	Be emet quam!	Swedish:	Kristus är uppstånden!	Han är sannerligen uppstånden!
Hungarian:	Krisztus feltamadt!	Valoban feltamadt!	Syriac:	M'shee ho dkom!	Ha koo qam!
Ibo (Nigeria):	Jesu Kristi ebiliwo!	Ezia o' biliwo!	Tlingit:	Krisdos kuḡ wudigút!	X'éiga kuḡ wudigút!
Indian (Malayalam):	Christu uyirthezhunnettu!	Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!	Turkish:	Hristos diril - di!	Hakikaten diril - di!
Indonesian:	Kristus telah bangkit!	Benar dia telah bangkit!	Ugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Kweli ajukkide!
Italian:	Cristo e' risorto!	Veramente e' risorto!	Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu!	Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!	Welsh:	Atgyfododd Crist!	Atgyfododd yn wir!
			Yupik:	Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq!	Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!
			Zulu:	UKristu uvukile!	Ngempela uvukile!
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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Sainted Martin The Confessor, Pope Of Rome,
Commemorated on April 27/14

Sainted Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome, was a native of the Tuscany region of Italy. He received a fine education and entered into the clergy of the Roman Church. After the death of Pope Theodore I (642-649), presbyter Martin was chosen to the throne.

At this time the peace of the Church was disturbed by the Monothelite heresy, which had become widespread.

The endless disputes of the Monothelites with the Orthodox took place in all levels of the population. Even the emperor Constans (641-668) and the Constantinople Patriarch Paul II (641-654) were adherents of the Monothelite heresy. The emperor Constans published the heretical "Pattern of Faith" (Tupos), obligatory for all the population. In it was forbidden all further disputes.

The heretical "Pattern of Faith" was received at Rome in the year 649. Holy Pope Martin, a firm supporter of Orthodoxy, convened at Rome the local (Lateran) Council, which condemned the Monothelite heresy. At the same time Saint Martin sent a letter to the Constantinople Patriarch Paul with an exhortation to return to the Orthodox confession. The enraged emperor ordered the military commander Olympios to bring Saint Martin to trial. But Olympios, being at Rome, feared the clergy and the people who had descended upon the Council, and he dispatched a soldier to secretly murder the holy Pope. When the assassin approached Saint Martin, he was unexpectedly blinded. The terrified Olympios hastily journeyed to Sicily and was soon killed in battle.

In 654 the emperor with his former aim sent to Rome another military commander, Theodore, who accused Saint Martin of the serious charges of being in secret correspondence with the enemies of the empire

– the Saracens, and of blaspheming the Most Holy Mother of God, and of uncanonically entering upon the papal throne. Despite the presenting by Roman clergy and laity of proof of full innocence of the holy Pope, the military commander Theodore with a detachment of soldiers seized hold of Saint Martin by night and took him to one of the Cycladian islands, – Naxos, in the Aegean Sea. Saint Martin spent an entire year on this almost unpopulated island, suffering deprivation and abuse from the guards. Then they sent the exhausted confessor for trial to Constantinople.

They brought the sick elder on a stretcher, but the judges callously ordered him to raise himself up and give answer standing. Again there came an interrogation, and soldiers propped up the saint weakened by illness. At the trial false-witnesses came forward, slandering the saint and imputing treasonous relations with the Saracens. The biased judges did not even bother to hear the defence of the saint. In profound grief he said: "To the Lord is known, what great kindness ye would show me, if quickly ye would deliver me over to death".

After suchlike trial they brought forth the saint in tattered garb to the jeering of a crowd, which they forced to shout: "Anathema to Pope Martin!" But those who knew the holy Pope was suffering innocently, withdrew in tears. Finally the sakellarios (shield-bearer), sent by the emperor, approached the military commander and declared the sentence – to deprive the Pope of his dignity and deliver him to death by execution. They put the half-naked saint into chains and dragged him to prison, where they locked him up with thieves. These were more merciful to the saint than the heretics.

Amidst this the emperor went to the dying Patriarch of Constantinople Paul and told him about the trial over Saint Martin. That one turned away from the emperor and said: "Woe is me! Yet another deed towards my judgement", – and he besought that the tortures of Saint Martin be stopped. The emperor again sent a notary and other persons to the saint in prison for continued interrogation. The saint answered them: "If even they smash me up, I wilt not have relations with the Constantinople Church while it dwelleth in bad-faith". The torturers were astonished at the boldness of the confessor and they commuted his

death by execution with exile in the faraway Tauridian Chersonesus.

There also the saint died, exhausted by sickness, want, hunger and deprivations (+ 16 September 655). He was buried outside the city in the Blakhernae church in the name of the Most Holy Mother of God.

The Monothelite heresy was condemned at the VI OEcumenical Council in the year 680. The relics of the holy confessor Pope Martin were transferred to Constantinople, and thence to Rome.

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD
ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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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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** **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!**

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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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“Code” for reading the bulletin:

*** = new news ** = 2nd time in the bulletin

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

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ACRY NEWS

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** **Sr. ACRY Meeting** – The next ACRY meeting will be scheduled soon! In the meantime, please contact Subdeacon Ryan Ferko with any questions about the organization.

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AND Looking FURTHER Ahead...

Some 2025 dates of interest at St. John’s:

- **April 20** – Pascha, the Feast of Feasts
- **April 20-26** – Fast Free Week
- **April 27** – Cemetery Grave Blessings
- **May 6** – Feast of St. George
- **May 14** – Feast of Mid-Pentecost
- **May 29** – Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord
- **May/Jun. ???** – Graduate Sunday
- **May 30-Jun. 1** – Family Camp at Camp Nazareth
- **Jun. 1** – Family Day at CN
- **Jun. 7** – 3rd Finding of the Head of St. John
- **Jun. 7** – 5th All Soul’s Saturday
- **Jun. 8** – Feast of Pentecost
- **Jun. 8-14** – Fast Free Week
- **Jul. 16** – Apostles’ Fast begins
- **Jul. 7** – Feast of the Nativity of St John
- **Jul. 12** – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
- **July 20-26** – Pgh Deanery Camping Week at CN
- **Aug. 2** – Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias
- **Aug. 3** – Blessing of Chariots
- **Aug. 10** – Blessing of Students and Teachers
- **Aug. 10-13** - Science & Nature Camp (age 8-18) at CN
- **Aug. 14** – Dormition Fast Begins, Lesser Blessing of Water, and Home Blessings Begin
- **Aug. 19** – Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Blessing of Fruit and Vegetables
- **Aug. 24** – Blessing of Fruit and Vegetables
- **Aug. 28** – Feast of the Dormition and Blessing of Flowers and Herbs
- **Aug. 31** – Blessing of Flowers and Herbs
- **Sep. 7** – Parish Picnic at “The Cabin”

Please, Save the Dates!

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH
AND OUR DIOCESE

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* **Make plans to go to Camp Nazareth in 2025!**

- ✦ May 30 - June 1 - Family Camp
- ✦ June 1 - Family Day
- ✦ July 20-26 - Pgh Deanery Camping Week
- ✦ Aug 10-13 - Science & Nature Camp (ages 8-18)
- ✦ October 10-12 – CN Alumni Weekend
- ✦ Oct 31-Nov 2 - Young Adult Retreat (ages 18-35)
- ✦ November 7-9 - Fall Encounter (ages 8-18)

*Please, Save the Dates and head to
339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137*

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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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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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** **Grass Maintenance** – Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested in being a part of a rotation of folks who will maintain the grass throughout the summer.

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** **Third Hour** – Prior to upcoming Liturgies, we will be chanting the Paschal Canon. After Ascension, we will return to chanting (or reading) the Third Hour (starting at about 9:15). If you would like to be in the rotation for this, please let Fr. Dave know.

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** **Ride Share** – We have received a couple requests from people who are interested in getting a ride to the church. Please contact Fr. Dave or Larry if you would be willing to bring someone to the church.

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** **Did you know...** we have about 30 active families at SJB. If each family committed to one Sunday a year for the coffee social – that takes care of more than half the year! Please consider signing up in advance to host the coffee social (*you are more than welcome to combine with someone else if you wish!*)

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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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CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:

- ❖ **** The Big Dig: French Drain and Regrading of our side and back property** – Our next big endeavor is preventing future water from coming into the church. Beginning in May, a French Drain will be added along the front of the church. Also, the side grass area and the “courtyard” in the back will be regraded to prevent water from seeping in through the block. The Capital Improvement Project will cost about \$35,000. Any donation towards this will be greatly appreciated as we try and stay above water!
- ❖ *** Church Proper** – Not much has changed in the nave of the church. Most focus of late has been on electrical upgrades, the kitchen, and the hall. *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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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.


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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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*  **New Food Ministry at Church** – *Contact Fr. Dave if you would like to lead this stewardship opportunity.* When someone in our community cannot get to the grocery store or make their own meals (after a major surgery, a new baby, or for any other reason is in need), this program will help allow us to help them! Here is an example: *Someone has a major surgery and will not be able to cook for themselves for 2 weeks. They notify Fr. Dave of this and he sets up an account for them on this website. Someone else from the parish decides to make a big pot of soup and freeze some for the one in need. They can then either deliver the food to their house or bring it to the church on Sunday and someone else will deliver it that week.* The idea is this: that through our stewardship we will help each other out when we are able to! Please visit: www.MealTrain.com to learn more about it. Here are some basic terms from their website:

- ❖ **Meal Train:** Organized meal giving around a significant life event. One meal from one person per day.
- ❖ **Organizer:** The person who sets up the meal train.
- ❖ **Recipient:** Those who will receive the meals.
- ❖ **Participant/Giver:** The person who will make and take a meal.

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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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Giving at the Church – The opportunities to give your stewardship treasures at SJB are:

- ❖ hand your offering to the curator who sits at the desk in the vestibule (to the right after you enter),
- ❖ drop your offering in one of multiple baskets around the church, or
- ❖ place your offering in the box in the candle stand after saying your prayers when lighting 2 candles.

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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%	Tithe 12%	Upper Range Giving 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.												

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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.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)**. This is the organization that puts out the Coin Boxes that we have been using through the Great Fast. Please bring in your coin boxes on Pascha. (There will also be an additional offering requested on our regular last Sunday of the month.) *“Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share” (1 Tim 6:18)*

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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.

“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

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 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.

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions *

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., 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: 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 were reset back on 3/1/24. If one of your special days is missing – please let Fr Dave know ASAP. See Fr. Dave with any questions.

April Namedays: Bonnie Carlisle – St. Mary of Egypt Pañi’s brother Florin Popescu and Pañi’s mother Liliana Popescu – Palm (Flowery) Sunday Subdeacon Ryan Ferko – St. Thomas Sunday Thomas Lorenzi – St. Thomas Sunday ...May God grant them many and blessed years!

April Birthdays: Sonia Kretchek (4/1), Tristan Bowser (4/5), Bryce Blobner (4/10), Rich Mirilovich (4/13), Kris Carlisle, Reader (4/14), Melanie Paieski (4/14), Father’s Uncle Dan Urban (4/15), Father’s Father Dave Urban (4/15), John Kirish (4/18), Father’s Brother-In-Law Christopher Ditmore (4/19), Dr. Lawrence Martin (4/20), Max Anton (4/22), Donald J. Gavulich (4/23/19), Fred Anton (4/24), Fr Peter Paproski (4/24), Donna Tongel (4/24), Fr Jonathan Bannon (4/29), Maryhelen Hoffman (4/29), Sharon Peifer (4/29)

...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... Raymond, Kathryn, Maxwell, Barbara, Tyler ...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.

For those preparing for Marriage... Nicholas & Cassie, Allison & Michael ...through the prayers of Ss. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

April Anniversaries: ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas

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For Pregnant Mothers...

Lindsay (*due in June*), Caitlin (*August*)
...*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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