

## “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, MAY 11, 2025 – YOUTH SUNDAY VOL. X

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Paralytic  
1<sup>st</sup> Hierarchical visit of Met. Gregory to Allison Park  
Monthly Memorial (Panachida) for departed Mothers and Godmothers, +Floyd Wensel (2-year), +Stephen Pitto, +Eleanor Sanger (1-yr), God loving Bishop Matthias Morriak (1-yr), The Priest William George (8-yr), The Priest Raphael Sotak (33-yr), God loving Bishop Methodios Kanchuha (43-yr), God loving Bishop Peter Shymansky (61-yr), +Jeffrey Mustovic (1-yr), +Elaine Talley (2-yr), +William Talley (6-yr)

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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 18

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan Woman  
9:20 am Paschal Canon; 9:30 pm Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30; John 4:5-42  
Liturgical Color: **White**  
12-noon - Sikora Baptism

### PASCHAL GREETING:

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

**Christ is risen!**

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

*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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**A Warm Welcome to His Eminence,  
Metropolitan Gregory, who has joined us for the  
Pittsburgh Pirate game yesterday and the First  
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in Allison Park!**

We are overjoyed to be visited by His Eminence!  
We ask God’s continued blessings for our  
guiding shepherd and teacher.

Welcome, dear Master! Vitajte, Vladiko!



*Paschal Greeting in Greek:*

Χριστός Ανέστη

Christós anésti! Krees-TOHS Ah-NEH-stee

(*Αληθώς Ανέστη*)

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

### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

### 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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\*\*\* **The Big Dig: French Drain and Regrading** – Our next big endeavor of preventing future water from coming into the church has begun! A French Drain is being added along the front of the church, dry wells are being added for each of the downspouts, and the side grass area around to 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! We have about 40% raised to cover this project.

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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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\*\*\* **Volunteer Week at Camp** – Our Diocesan Faithful are asked and encouraged to volunteer their stewardship of time and talents during Camp Nazareth’s Volunteer “Week” from **Tuesday, May 13 to Friday, May 23**. *Camp has been blessed over the years to have had many volunteers including parishes, groups of parishes, men’s groups, societies, and individuals and their families offering their time and talents to help get the Camp ready for each summer season.* Camp is offering an opportunity for our Diocesan faithful to do the same! Come for ANY number of days, a day, or even just part of a day. Camp will provide all meals and lodging (free-of-charge) and will provide leaders to help guide the work that needs to be done. If you have any questions, please call 724-662-4840 or email [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto:campnazareth@acrod.org). Register today and come help us prepare for 2025!

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\*\*\* **Iveron Icon Returns** – The Wonderworking and Myrrh-Streaming “Hawaiian” Iveron Icon of the Mother of God will embark on a sacred pilgrimage to churches and monasteries throughout the Midwest and the East Coast of the USA. This grace-filled visitation offers the faithful a rare opportunity to venerate the Miraculous Icon, which has been a source of comfort, healing, and spiritual renewal for Orthodox Christians around the world. Visit [www.ohiia.org](http://www.ohiia.org) for more information. O Most Holy Theotokos, Save Us!

**Tuesday, May 20**

*Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration*

321 Monastery Lane, Ellwood City, PA 16117

**8:30am** Arrival of the Wonderworking Iveron Icon and Akathist to the Theotokos

*Saint Basil the Great Orthodox Church*

1449 Ridge Road, Belle Vernon, PA 15012

**6:15pm** Arrival of the Wonderworking Iveron Icon

**6:30pm** Moleben and Akathist to the Holy Theotokos

**Wednesday, May 21**

*Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church*

601 Boone Avenue, Canonsburg, PA 15317

**9:00am** Arrival of the Wonderworking Iveron Icon and Akathist to the Theotokos

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**"Code" for reading the bulletin:**

\*\*\* = new news    \*\* = 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the bulletin

\* = at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in the bulletin

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\* **Family Camp at Camp Nazareth** – Cabins are still available for this year's Family Camp from **Friday, May 30 to Sunday, June 1** at Camp Nazareth (339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137). This is an awesome way to introduce young children to staying at camp! Online Registration is open at the following link: [2025 Family Camp](https://www.campnazareth.org). Visit [campnazareth.org](https://www.campnazareth.org) for more information or contact Fr. Dave.

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\* **Family Day at Camp Nazareth** will be on **Sunday, June 1**. Divine Liturgy will be at 10 am followed by a delicious brunch, live music and all kinds of games and activities for kids and adults alike! Adults: \$10, Children 5-13: \$6, under 5: free. *A Family Price of \$30 includes 2 parents and all children under age 13.* This is a great way to start our summer together! There is no registration for Family Day. Come one! Come all! Contact Fr. Dave with any questions.

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\*\* **Summer Camp** – Less than 70 days till we head to Camp Nazareth from **July 20-26** – Registration is open! Register your child (aged 8-18) today for the Pittsburgh week at CN. Don't delay! If financial assistance is needed, please let Fr. Dave know. If you have any questions – please see Nick Ditmore, Reader, or Fr. Dave. Let's get our kids to camp!

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\*\* **Altar Boy Retreat** – The Knights of the Altar will gather in Johnstown from **June 29 to July 2** for the Annual Diocesan Altar Boy Retreat. The cost is \$150 per child. Outside of the registration that the families will pay, they are requesting donations to help cover the expenses. Donations should be made out to "Diocesan Altar Boy Retreat" and send care of Fr. Michael Chendorain, 145 Broad Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861.

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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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\* **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

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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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\* **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!

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**COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS**

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

May 18:	_____?
May 25:	_____?
June 1:	_____?

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**OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 190
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 69
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 118
Community Outreach:	\$ 5
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 382</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<i>Participating Souls at Sunday Liturgy: 36</i>	

**Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials** were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Fred and Juliana Anton; Kathy Schrmack; Cindy Pavilonis

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**April Financial Report:**

**General Stewardship = \$ 10,863.05**  
*(includes \$ 527.05 from online stewardship)*

**\*Expenses = \$ 8530**

**Net Gain = \$ 2333.05**

**Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 399**

**Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 65**

*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

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**Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Report:**

*(September through last month)*

**General Stewardship = \$ 64,292**

**\*Expenses = \$ 54,549**

**Net Gain = \$ 9743**

**Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 40**

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

- ✂ 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.
- The ministries of the church cannot happen without your dedication and support.*

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

**VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE**

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddiocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](https://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

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**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.

**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





**Before I Was a Mom...**

– Author Unknown

*Before I was a Mom...*

I made and ate hot meals.

I had unstained clothing.

I had quiet conversations on the phone.

*Before I was a Mom...*

I slept as late as I wanted and never worried about how late I got into bed.

I brushed my hair and my teeth everyday.

*Before I was a Mom...*

I cleaned my house each day.

I never tripped over toys or forgot words to lullabies.

*Before I was a Mom...*

I didn’t worry whether or not my plants were

poisonous. I never thought about Immunizations.

*Before I was a Mom...*

I had never been puked on, pooped on, spit on, chewed on, peed on or pinched by tiny fingers.

I had complete control of my mind, my thoughts, and my body. I slept all night.

*Before I was a Mom...*

I never held down a screaming child so that doctors could do tests or give shots.

I never looked into teary eyes and cried.

I never got gloriously happy over a simple grin.

I never sat up late hours at night watching a baby sleep.

*Before I was a Mom...*

I never held a sleeping baby just because I didn’t want to put it down.

I never felt my heart-break into a million pieces when I couldn’t stop the hurt.

I never knew that something so small could affect my life so much.

I never knew that I could love someone so much.

I never knew I would love being a Mom.

*Before I was a Mom...*

I didn’t know the feeling of having my heart outside my body.

I didn’t know how special it could feel to feed a hungry baby.

I didn’t know that bond between a mother and her child.

I didn’t know that something so small could make me feel so important.

*Before I was a Mom...*

I had never gotten up in the middle of the night every 10 minutes to make sure all was okay.

I had never known the warmth, the joy, the love, the heartache, the wonderment, or the satisfaction of being a Mom.

I didn’t know I was capable of feeling so much - before I was a Mom.

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**SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

***Epistle:** Acts 9:32–42*

The Healing of Aeneas

<sup>32</sup>Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. <sup>33</sup>There he found a man named Aene’as, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. <sup>34</sup>And Peter said to him, “Aene’as, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. <sup>35</sup>And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Peter in Lydda and Joppa

<sup>36</sup>Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, “Please come to us without delay.” <sup>39</sup>So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, rise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup>And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her

alive. <sup>42</sup> And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

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***Gospel:** John 5:1–15*

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

**5** After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Beth-za’tha, which has five porticoes.

<sup>3</sup> In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed. <sup>5</sup> One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” <sup>7</sup> The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your pallet, and walk.” <sup>9</sup> And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked.

Now that day was the sabbath. <sup>10</sup> So the Jews said to the man who was cured, “It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet.” <sup>11</sup> But he answered them, “The man who healed me said to me, ‘Take up your pallet, and walk.’” <sup>12</sup> They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your pallet, and walk?’” <sup>13</sup> Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. <sup>14</sup> Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you.” <sup>15</sup> The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

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**LIVES OF THE SAINTS**

**THE RIGHTEOUS SAINT TABITHA**

Commemorated on 4th Sunday of Pascha and Oct 25

The Righteous Saint Tabitha (I), a virtuous and kindly woman, belonged to the Christian community in Joppa. Being grievously ill, she happened to be dying. At the time not far from Joppa, the Apostle Peter was preaching at Lydda. Messengers were sent to him with an urgent request for help. When the apostle arrived at Joppa, Tabitha was already dead. On bended knee, the First-Ranked Apostle Peter made a fervent prayer to the Lord. Then he went to the bed and called out: "Tabitha, arise!" She got up completely healed (Acts 9:36).

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

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**PRAYER CORNER**

***For the Health of...***

Jeanette, Annette, Boyde, Mark, Michelle, Megan, Lindsay, Christine, Brian, Rhonda, Melanie, Carlene, Jason, Bella, Daniel, David, Barbara, Paul, 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 (40-day), Theodore Torlidas (40-day) ...*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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CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING  
DOWN DEATH BY DEATH AND UPON THOSE IN THE  
TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!

THE ANGEL EXCLAIMED TO HER, “FULL OF GRACE,  
REJOICE O PURE VIRGIN. AGAIN I SAY REJOICE,  
YOUR SON IS RISEN FROM HIS THREE DAYS IN THE  
TOMB, AND HE HAS RAISED ALL THE DEAD. LET  
ALL PEOPLE REJOICE!”

O SHINE, O SHINE, O NEW JERUSALEM: FOR THE  
GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON YOU. O ZION,  
SING WITH JOY AND REJOICE. AND YOU, PURE  
MOTHER OF GOD, REJOICE IN THE RESURRECTION  
OF YOUR SON.

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ONLINE BONUSES

"If I read a hundred prayers in the silence of Mount Athos a day and you, in the noise of the city, with work and family responsibilities, read three prayers, then we are in the same position."  
+St. Ephraim of Katounakia  
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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!)

+ + + + + + + + +  
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:	Pchristos aftooun!	Alethos aftooun!
Czech:	Vstal z mrtvých Kristus!	Vpravdě vstal z mrtvých!
Danish:	Kristus er opstanden!	Ja, sandelig opstanden!
Dutch:	Christus is opgestaan!	Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!
English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Eritrean-Tigre:	Christos tensiou!	Bahake tensiou!
Esperanto:	Kristo levigis!	Vere levigis!
Estonian:	Kristus on üles tõusnud!	Ta on tõesti üles tõusnud!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!	Exai' ab-her eokala!
Finnish:	Kristus nousi kuolleista!	Totisesti nousi!
French:	Le Christ est réssuscité!	En verite il est réssuscité!
Gaelic:	Taw creest ereen!	Taw shay ereen guhdyne!

Language	Greeting	Response
Georgian:	Kriste aghsdga!	Cheshmaritad aghsdga!
German:	Christus ist auferstanden!	Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Hawaiian:	Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!	Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!
Hebrew:	Ha Masheeha houh quam!	Be emet quam!
Hungarian:	Krisztus feltamadt!	Valoban feltamadt!
Ibo ( Nigeria):	Jesu Kristi ebiliwo!	Ezia o' biliwo!
Indian (Malayalam):	Christu uyirthezhunnettu!	Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!
Indonesian:	Kristus telah bangkit!	Benar dia telah bangkit!
Italian:	Cristo e' risorto!	Veramente e' risorto!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu!	Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Javanese:	Kristus sampun wungu!	Tuhu sampun wungu!
Korean:	Kristo gesso!	Buhar ha sho nay!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit!	Vere resurrexit!
Latvian:	Kristus ir augsham sales!	Teyasham ir augsham sales vinsch!
Lugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Amajim ajukkide!
Norwegian:	Christus er oppstanden!	Sandelig han er oppstanden!
Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal!	Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal!
Portuguese:	Cristo ressuscitou!	Em verdade ressuscitou!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adevărat a înviat!
Russian:	Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha!	Satvam upastitaha!
Serbian:	Hristos vaskrse!	Vaistunu vaskrse!
Slovak:	Christos vstal z mŕtvych!	Vpravde vstal z mŕtvych!

Language	Greeting	Response
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka!	Kweli amefufukka!
Swedish:	Kristus är uppstånden!	Han är sannerligen uppstånden!
Syriac:	M'shee ho dkom!	Ha koo qam!
Tlingit:	Krisdos kuḡ wudigút!	X’éiga kuḡ wudigút!
Turkish:	Hristos diril - di!	Hakikaten diril - di!
Ugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Kweli ajukkide!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!
Welsh:	Atgyfododd Crist!	Atgyfododd yn wir!
Yupik:	Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq!	Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!
Zulu:	UKristu uvukile!	Ngempela uvukile!
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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS		
(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)		
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*Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online: <a href="http://www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral//live/">www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral//live/</a>		
+++ +++ +++		
*Calendar - Future Services are updated online at: <a href="http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar">www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar</a> (Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)		
+++ +++ +++		
*Mystery of Confession – Father is available to hear Confessions after every service or by appointment.		
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Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **May 4-10** – St Nicholas (419 S Dithridge St., Pittsburgh) *Greek*
- **June 2-6** – All Saints (601 West McMurray Rd., Canonsburg) *Greek*
- **June 9-13** – Holy Cross (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh) *Greek*
- **June 12-14** – Koimissis (2111 Davidson St., Aliquippa) *Greek*
- **June 27-29** – Holy Dormition (12 Washington Ave., Oakmont) *Greek*

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\* **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](http://2025.Family.Camp). Visit [campnazareth.org](http://campnazareth.org) for more information.

\*\*\* **Rescheduled Sts. Joachim and Anna “Senior” Retreat** - Our Diocese is pleased to announce its sixth annual Sts. Joachim and Anna Senior Retreat which will take place at Camp Nazareth Retreat and Conference Center in Mercer, PA from **June 6–8**. The Retreat will feature keynote addresses by Very Rev. Nicholas Ferencz. You can read [Fr. Nik’s biography here](#). His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory is inviting all our Diocesan “Seniors”, ages 55 and over, to come and enjoy 2 days of fellowship, prayer, reflection and fun. The Theme of the Retreat – **Matthew 22: The BIG Questions We should ALL want to Talk about and Answer!** The schedule will include worship, fellowship, learning, fun, time for reflection and relaxation, and great activities! Registration is online. Visit [2025 Senior Retreat](http://2025.SeniorRetreat) to register for the event. Visit [campnazareth.org](http://campnazareth.org) for more information. You may also call (724-662-4840) or email the Camp at [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto:campnazareth@acrod.org) for more information. Registration closes Monday, June 2, 2025.

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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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**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    \*\* = 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the bulletin  
\* = at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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\* **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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**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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Finding of the Head of St. John
- **Jun. 7** – 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddioocese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioocese](https://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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**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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**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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**2024-25 SJB PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS**

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

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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](http://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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**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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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%	Middle Range Giving 8% 7% 6%			Lower Range Giving 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**

Coming Soon...

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**THIS MONTH’S SERVICE SCHEDULE**

Coming Soon...

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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 Proskomedia (Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our prayer list.

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**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:* Dcn Peter S, Alexander H, Joshua H, Bradley S, *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 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.*

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**May Namedays:**

Robert Fall - St Robert, Abbot of Blois (5/8)  
Mark Tongel - St. Mark the Evangelist (5/8)  
Renee Mirilovich - Great-martyr Irene (5/18)  
Christopher Bowser; Kris Carlisle, Reader;  
Christopher Kubis - Martyr Christopher (5/22)  
*...May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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**May Birthdays:**

Anna Dzadony (5/3), Fr Matthew Stagon (5/4), Donald Bodnar (5/6), Fr Thomas Soroka (5/6), Ethan Gogal (5/7), Ella Kovats (5/9), Jillian Gaydos (5/14), Robert Mozes (5/16), Pañi Alexandra Urban (5/16), Natasha Kretchek (5/19), Patrick Wertz (5/19), Linda Gavulich (5/20), Elias Mainolfi (5/24), Alexander Hanchulak (5/27), Fr Jonathan Tobias (5/27)  
*...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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**May Anniversaries:**

Lynn and Joseph Mainolfi (5/6)  
*Father’s Godparents*, Dick & Andrea Babbie (5/7)  
*Father’s Best Man*, Joe & Sarah Lavra (5/7/05)  
Derek and Ashley (Wertz) Andrekovich (5/16/20)  
*Father’s sister*, Melissa & Christopher Ditmore (5/17)  
Fr Dave’s Ordination to the Priesthood (5/17/15)  
Ernest & Claudia (Herbert) Pido (5/19/90)  
Fr Dave & Pañi Alexandra (5/25)  
Jim & Katherine Schrmack (5/26/79)  
Tom & Judy Figura (5/31/69)

*...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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