

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*

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

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025

VOL. X

6th Sunday of Pascha

Sunday of the Man Born Blind

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

APODOSIS (LEAVE-TAKING) OF PASCHA

~~Canceled: 6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers~~

St. Alexander Nevsky: 7:00 pm Feast Day Vigil

THURSDAY, MAY 29

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

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There is no kneeling in prayer for 50 days

(until Pentecost) and omit the prayer

“O Heavenly King” as we anticipate the Holy Spirit

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SUNDAY, JUNE 1

7th Sunday of Pascha

Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13

Liturgical Color: **White**

FAMILY DAY AT CAMP NAZARETH

MONDAY, JUNE 2

9:30 – 11:30 am church open for personal prayer

ALL-SOUL’S SATURDAY (*Zadušna Subota*) JUNE 7

9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (*5th of 5*)

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Glory to Jesus Christ! (*responded with: Glory forever!*) Slava Isusu Christu! (*Slava na viki!*)

We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning. We 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.

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** PHASE 1 Complete of the Big Dig: French Drain and Regrading

– Due to some of the rain conditions and a couple other factors, our excavation project has been turned into Phase 1 and Phase 2. Completed so far are: French Drain on the right side of the front of the church (below the sign), dry wells are added for each of the downspouts on the right side and courtyard area, the side grass area around to the “courtyard” in the back has been regraded (to prevent water from seeping in through the block), and the section in the back by the AC units has been leveled better for 3 parking spots. Due to other projects of the company, Phase 2 will begin in July. The Capital Improvement Project will cost over \$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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*** Welcome to the Newly-Baptized! **Charlotte Kimberly Sikora** was baptized and initiated into the Orthodox faith last Sunday. May God give strength to her as she begins her Christian life and bless her, her parents, God-Parents, and families! Many Years!

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*** Many Years! and Congratulations to Lindsay and Timothy Sikora who last Sunday were united together in the Mystery of Holy Matrimony. Through the prayers of Saints Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs, May God grant you many years!

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



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* Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **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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*** 2025 Bob Perevuznik Sr. Memorial Golf Outing

- Will be on **Saturday, August 2** at Manor Valley Golf Course (2095 Denmark Manor Rd., Export, Pa 15632). Team scramble format – shotgun start: 8 a.m. Signup and payment deadline is July 20. Entry fee is \$100 which includes golf, cart, gift, coffee & donuts, hotdog, snacks, drink, buffet dinner, beer, & pop. Team cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place. Skill contests include: \$5,000 hole in one – beat the pro – Par 3 closest to pin – Longest drive – longest putt – Mulligans. There will also be a 50-50 raffle and prize auction. For more information, contact Bob Perevuznik Jr. (412) 952-6962 / email rpvuznik@gmail.com or Den harms (412) 667-2396 / dwhalh200@aol.com

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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://campnazareth.org). Visit 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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** 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 (339 Pew Rd, Mercer) 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](https://2025seniorretreat.org) to register for the event. Visit campnazareth.org for more information. You may also call (724-662-4840) or email the Camp at campnazareth@acrod.org for more information. Registration closes Monday, June 2.

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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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* 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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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

June 1: Matt and Kim Opsitos

in honor of the wedding anniversary

June 8: _____?

June 15: _____?

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 140
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 34
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 530
Community Outreach (for April):	\$ 50
Total Collections:	\$ 754
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 246
Participating Souls at Sunday Liturgy: 29	

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Cindy Pavilonis

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.

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

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Acts 16: 16– 34

Paul and Silas in Prison

¹⁶As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. ¹⁷She followed Paul and us, crying, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” ¹⁸And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. ¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; ²⁰and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, “These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. ²¹They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” ²²The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one’s fetters were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰and brought them out and said, “Men, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³²And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. ³³And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. ³⁴Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

Gospel: John 9: 1– 38

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

⁹As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man’s eyes with the clay, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Silo’am” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, “Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he”; others said, “No, but he is like him.” He said, “I am the man.” ¹⁰They said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Silo’am and wash’; so I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. ¹⁵The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” There was a division among them. ¹⁷So they again said to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age, ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe”; and he worshiped him.

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of...

Andrea, Diane, Jeanette, 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

For the souls of the newly departed...

+Annette Avicolli (5/17), +Cheryl Marcy (4/20), +Thomas Jackson (4/17), +Joseph P. Huron (40-d) ...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

VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

SAINTED EPIPHANIOS, BISHOP OF CYPRUS

Commemorated on May 25/12

Sainted Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus, lived during the IV Century in Phoenicia. By descent he was Jewish, and in his youth he received a fine education. He was converted to the Christian faith after he saw how a certain monk, Lucian by name, gave away his own clothing to a poor person. Struck by the compassion of the monk, Epiphanius besought him to instruct him in Christianity. He accepted Baptism and settled in the monastery, organised by his teacher Lucian. At the monastery he pursued asceticism under the guidance of the experienced elder Ilarion, and he occupied himself with the copying of Greek books and progressing in the monastic life. Saint Epiphanius for his ascetic deeds was granted the gift of wonderworking, but in order to avoid human glory, he set out from the monastery into the Spanidriion wilderness. Robbers caught him there and held him for three months in captivity. By his talk about repentance, the saint brought one of the gang of robbers to the holy faith in the True God. When they set free the holy ascetic, with him also went the robber. Saint Epiphanius took him to his monastery and baptised him with the name John. And from that time he became a faithful disciple of Saint Epiphanius, and he carefully recorded in writing about the life and miracles of his preceptor. Reports about the righteous life of Saint Epiphanius spread far beyond the bounds of the monastery. The saint set out a second time into the wilderness with his disciple John. But even in the wilderness disciples started to come to him. Thus emerged a new monastery. After a certain while Saint

Epiphanius undertook a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for veneration of its holy artifacts and from there returned to the Spanidriion monastery. The people of the city of Lycia dispatched the monk Polybios to Saint Epiphanius with a request to occupy the bishop's throne of their dead archpastor. But the perspicacious ascetic, having learned of this intention, secretly set out into the Pathysian wilderness to the great ascetic Ilarion (Comm. 21 October), under whose guidance he pursued asceticism in his youthful years. The saints spent two months in mutual prayer, and then Ilarion sent Saint Epiphanius to Salamis. Bishops were gathered there for the selecting of a new archpastor in place of one recently died. The Lord revealed to the eldest of them, Bishop Papios, that the Monk Epiphanius arriving in the city should be chosen bishop. When Epiphanius arrived, Saint Papios led him into the church, where in obedience to the will of the participants of the Council, Epiphanius was obliged to give his consent. Thus occurred the elevation of Saint Epiphanius to the bishop's cathedra of Salamis in about the year 367.

Sainted Epiphanius won reknown upon the archpastoral chair by his great zeal for the faith, love and charity towards the poor, and simplicity of character. He underwent much from the slander and enmity of some of his clergy. For his purity of life, Sainted Epiphanius received the granting to see at Divine Liturgy the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Gifts. One time the saint, celebrating the Mystery, was deprived of this vision. He then became suspicious of one of the clergy and quietly said to him: "Depart, my son, since today thou art unworthy to participate at the celebrating of the Mystery".

On this event the writings of his disciple John break off, since he then fell sick and died. The further record of the life of Saint Epiphanius was continued by a second of his disciples, Polybios (afterwards bishop of city of Rinocyreia).

Through the intrigues of the empress Eudoxia and the Alexandria patriarch Theophilus, towards the end of his life Saint Epiphanius was summoned to Constantinople for a church council, which was convened for judgement upon the great saint, John Chrysostom (Comm. 14 September and 13 November). But Saint Epiphanius, not wanting to take

part in a lawless council, left Constantinople. While sailing upon the ship, the saint sensed the nearness of his death, and he gave his disciples final instructions – to keep the Commandments of God and to preserve the mind from impure thoughts – and two days later he died. The people of Salamis met the body of their archpastor with carriages, and on 12 May 403 they buried him with reverence in a new church built by the saint.

The Seventh OEcumenical Council (Sobor) named Sainted Epiphanius as a Father and Teacher of the Church. In the writings of Saint Epiphanius, the "Panarion" and the "Ankhoratos" contain refutation of the Arian and other heresies. In others of his works are encountered valuable church-historical traditions and directives on the Greek translation of the Bible.

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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as an ordinance forever.

Exodus 12:14

Today's verse from Exodus was told to Moses by God at the time of the Passover and exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. God told Moses that the Passover should be commemorated forever, so that every generation would remember this critical event in the history of their ancestors.

In marking Memorial Day this year, we should remember the sacrifices of men and women who have not only served our country, but who have given their lives in the service of our country. It takes a special person to knowingly step in the way of harm. It takes a special person to pack their life into a backpack, to leave the comfort and security of home, to go overseas, and to work every day, keenly aware that each day, even each hour, could be their last.

As the saying goes, "Freedom isn't free." I wouldn't be sitting behind a computer, writing a reflection, with the freedom to express myself, without the sacrifice of the thousands upon thousands of soldiers who have fought and have died so that I and we can be free. In the middle of our family outings, and relaxing holiday, let us pause for a moment to remember them. Let's pause for a

moment to tell our children to remember them. Let us never forget them!

Heavenly Father, thank you for the sacrifices of those who have fought and died in defense of freedom, in defense of our country, in defense of the downtrodden of other countries. Receive their souls into Your heavenly kingdom and number them among the saints who have pleased You throughout the ages. Comfort their grieving families, especially those who have left behind children. Help them to know that their husband, their wife, their mom or dad, their son or daughter, died doing something noble. Bless all of the men and women who serve in our armed forces. Keep them safe and out of harm's way. Lord we ask that You bring peace into areas of conflict, both in our country and overseas. Help us to preserve freedom. Help us to know that the ultimate freedom is found in our faith in You. As we observe Memorial Day, help us always to remember and to never forget those who died so that we can enjoy the freedoms we enjoy today. Amen.

God bless all of our troops, veterans, and all families who have laid a soldier to rest. God bless America!

By Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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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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***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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Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **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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* **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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* **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](https://2025familycamp.org). Visit campnazareth.org for more information.

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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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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:

- **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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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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CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE
Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:
✂ **PHASE 1 Complete of the Big Dig: French Drain and Regrading** – Due to some of the rain conditions and a couple other factors, our excavation project has been turned into Phase 1 and Phase 2. Completed so far are: French Drain on the right side of the front of the church (below the sign), dry wells are added for each of the downspouts on the right side and courtyard area, the side grass area around to the “courtyard” in the back has been regraded (to prevent water from seeping in through the block), and the section in the back by the AC units has been leveled better for 3 parking spots. Due to other projects of the company, Phase 2 will begin in July. The Capital Improvement Project will cost over \$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.
✂ * **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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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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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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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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*  **meal train** 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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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%	Tithe 10%	Upper Range Giving 9%	Upper Range Giving 8%	Upper Range Giving 7%	Middle Range Giving 6%	Middle Range Giving 5%	Middle Range Giving 4%	Lower Range Giving 3%	Lower Range Giving 2%	Lower Range Giving 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. Dzadoovsky ...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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