

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*

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

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Glory 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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UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025

VOL. X

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (*All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting*)

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

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

*** *will include June Memorials (see Prayer Corner)*

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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 8

FEAST OF PENTECOST, TRINITY SUNDAY,

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; “*RUSALJA*”

9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11; Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

Liturgical Color: **Green**

Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost following Liturgy

A FAST FREE WEEK

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: *Acts 20:16–18, 28–36*

¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

Paul Speaks to the Ephesian Elders

¹⁷ And from Mile’tus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you all the time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ²⁸ Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” ³⁶ And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

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Gospel: *John 17:1–13*

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

¹⁷ When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, ² since thou hast given him power over all flesh, to give eternal

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

life to all whom thou hast given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. ⁴ I glorified thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do; ⁵ and now, Father, glorify thou me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made.

⁶ “I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them to me, and they have kept thy word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that thou hast given me is from thee; ⁸ for I have given them the words which thou gavest me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from thee; and they have believed that thou didst send me. ⁹ I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom thou hast given me, for they are thine; ¹⁰ all mine are thine, and thine are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in thy name, which thou hast given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** **Garden Blessing** – The time of year has come for getting our gardens blessed. (*The format of the blessing is similar to our annual home blessing.*) Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested.

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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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** **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 on May 18. 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 were united together in the Mystery of Holy Matrimony on Sunday, May 18. Through the prayers of Saints Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs, May God grant you many years!

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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 / dwhalb200@aol.com

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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](#) 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 f or 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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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 185
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 28
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 150
Community Outreach:	\$ 30
Total Collections:	\$ 393
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 0
<i>Participating Souls at Sunday Liturgy: 16</i>	

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Melanie Paieski, Cindy Pavilonis
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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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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS	
<i>Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave</i>	
June 8 (<i>Pentecost</i>):	_____?
June 15:	_____ACRY
* June 22:	_____?
<i>* meatless during the fast</i>	

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THIS MONTH’S SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JUNE 1
Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
TUESDAY, JUNE 3
6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (*All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting*)
ALL-SOUL’S SATURDAY JUNE 7 (*Zadušna Subota*)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy & Panachida (*5th of 5*)
*** *will include June Memorials (see Prayer Corner)*
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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 8
FEAST OF PENTECOST, TRINITY SUNDAY, THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; “RUSALJA”
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost following Liturgy
A FAST FREE WEEK
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SUNDAY, JUNE 15
Sunday of All Saints
9:30 am Third Hour and Reader’s Service
MONDAY, JUNE 16 #APOSTLESFAST
APOSTLES’ (PETER AND PAUL) FAST BEGINS
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SUNDAY, JUNE 22 #APOSTLESFAST
Sunday of Regional Saints (*American and Rusyn*)
9:30 am Third Hour and Reader’s Service
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FRIDAY, JUNE 27 #APOSTLESFAST
9:30 am Akathist to Sts. Peter and Paul
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SUNDAY, JUNE 29 #APOSTLESFAST
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
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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*
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June Namedays:
Tristan Bowser - St. Dunstan (6/1)
Jane Sarandou – St. Ioanna (6/27)
...May God grant them many and blessed years!
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June Birthdays:
Joanne Nelson (6/1), June Sefscik (6/1), Jane Sarandou (6/5), Pañi Eleni Stagon (6/5), Emily Opsitos (6/6), Lindsay Sikora (6/6), Maverick Torchia (6/6), Justin Winkler (6/7), Gina Fall (6/8), Christina (Brancho) Chow (6/12), Makaela Kirish (6/12), Fr. Nicholas Mihaly (6/13), Kylee Winkler (6/14), John Fucsko (6/15), Rebecca Zak (6/15), Julia Lanick (6/16), Aaron Zak (6/16), Katherine Chow (6/20), Donna (Lanick) Staub (6/20), Pañi Melissa Chendorain (6/20), Mary Jane Hudak (6/23), Margaret Spirnak (6/24), Pañi Marianna Bannon (6/25), Ryan Dzacony (6/28), *Father’s niece*, Aislinn Verbanick (6/28), Fr. Paul Abernathy (6/29), Colton Gavulich (6/29), John Radick (6/29), Elizabeth Radomsky (6/29), Fr Miles Zdinak (6/29)
...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!
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June Anniversaries:
Adam & Jean Zak (6/2/12)
Matt and Kim Opsitos (6/4/94)
Stephen & Jennifer Brancho (6/6)
Kira & Michael Fischer (6/7)
Audrey & Florian Rajakovich (6/9)
Ken & Joyce Dzacovsky (6/9/90)
Father’s Parents, Dave & Andrea Urban (6/16)
John & Sarah Fucsko (6/18)
...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas
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For the souls of the newly departed...
+Annette Avicolli (5/17), +Cheryl Marcy (40-d),
And for June Memorials: Fathers and Godfathers, +Nora (2023), +Anntoinette Kuneman (2011) Mirilovich,+Frank Wasko, +Helen Wasko, +John Gaydos, Sr (6/14), +Catherine Gaydos (6/15), +Sister Nymphodora (+Eleanor Dussling) (6/17/20), +Steven Gaydos (6/20), +Michael Urban (6/21), +Andrew Talarovich (6/27/15), +Margaret Wensel (6/30)
...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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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

SAINT PATRIKIOS

Commemorated on May 19

Saint Patrikios lived during the I Century and was bishop of the city of Prussa in Bythnia (Asia Minor). He openly and boldly preached the teachings of Christ the Saviour and denounced the error of the pagans. For this he was taken together with the three presbyters – Akakios, Menander and Polienos, and led for interrogation to the governor of the city, Julius. At the time Julius was on journey for treatment at an hot-springs, and he gave orders to bring along after him also the Christian bishop with the presbyters, bound in iron chains. Having washed in the hot-springs, Julius offered sacrifice to his gods and, summoning Saint Patrikios and the other prisoners, he demanded them to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, threatening punishments in case of refusal.

Saint Patrikios replied to this: "I am a Christian and I worship the One True God, Jesus Christ, Who hath created the heavens and the earth and these warm springs for the benefit of all mankind". On the command of Julius they threw the saint into the hot spring, and with firm faith the martyr prayed for help: "Lord, Jesus Christ, help me, Thy servant", – and he remained unharmed.

In a rage of impotence Julius gave orders to cut off the head of Saint Patrikios and his three presbyters.

The end for the martyrs occurred in about the year 100 after the Birth of Christ.

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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

At the First Ecumenical Council, Saint Spyridon, the Bishop of Tremithus in Cyprus, displayed the unity of the Holy Trinity in a remarkable way. He took a brick out of the oven with his bare hands and squeezed it. At that instant fire shot up from it, water dripped on the ground, and only dust remained in the hands of the wonderworker.

“There was only one brick,” Saint Spyridon said, “but it was composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are three Persons, but only one God.”

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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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*** **Orthodox Christians For Life** - On **Wednesday, June 11**, *Orthodox Christians For Life* will host a Moleben (Prayer) Service for Victims of Abortion at 7 pm followed by a talk by guest speaker Hayley Horner (Registered Nurse, Network of Life), “The Journey of the Client” at St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral (8290 Thompson Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237). Refreshments will be provided.

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*** **Golf Outing** – St. Alexander Nevsky’s annual golf outing will be on **Monday, July 14** at Connoquenessing Country Club (1512 Mercer Rd., Ellwood City, PA

16117). Deadlint to register is June 27. Contact Alex Glisan more details at 724-831-6466.

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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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* **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:

- 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

* Make plans to go to Camp Nazareth in 2025!

- ✂ 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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COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Coming Soon...

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FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

KONDAK HYMNS OF THE FEASTS:

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Coming Soon...

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:

✂ 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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Joining the ACRY – If you would like to become a part of our philanthropic organization of the ACRY (*American Carpatho-Russian Youth*), which is open to all ages, please contact Subdeacon Ryan Ferko.

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Why Should I Join the Local ACRY?

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

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* New Food Ministry at Church –

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

❖ **Meal Train:** Organized meal giving around a significant life event. One meal from one person per day.

❖ **Organizer:** The person who sets up the meal train.

❖ **Recipient:** Those who will receive the meals.

❖ **Participant/Giver:** The person who will make and take a meal.

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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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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%	12%	10%	Tithe 10%	9%	8%	7%	Upper Range Giving 6%	Middle Range Giving 5%	4%	Lower Range Giving 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.

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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.
+++ +++ +++
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.*
+++ +++ +++
*** 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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June Namedays:
Tristan Bowser - St. Dunstan (6/1)
Jane Sarandou – St. Ioanna (6/27)
...May God grant them many and blessed years!
+++ +++ +++
June Birthdays:
Joanne Nelson (6/1), June Sefscik (6/1), Jane Sarandou (6/5), Pañi Eleni Stagon (6/5), Emily Opsitos (6/6), Lindsay Sikora (6/6), Maverick Torchia (6/6), Justin Winkler (6/7), Gina Fall (6/8), Christina (Brancho) Chow (6/12), Makaela Kirish (6/12), Fr. Nicholas Mihaly (6/13), Kylee Winkler (6/14), John

Fucsko (6/15), Rebecca Zak (6/15), Julia Lanick (6/16), Aaron Zak (6/16), Katherine Chow (6/20), Donna (Lanick) Staub (6/20), Pañi Melissa Chendorain (6/20), Mary Jane Hudak (6/23), Margaret Spirnak (6/24), Pañi Marianna Bannon (6/25), Ryan Dzacony (6/28), *Father's niece*, Aislinn Verbanick (6/28), Fr. Paul Abernathy (6/29), Colton Gavulich (6/29), John Radick (6/29), Elizabeth Radomsky (6/29), Fr Miles Zdinak (6/29)
...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!
+++ +++ +++
For our Catechumens & Inquirers...
Raymond, Kathryn, Maxwell, Barbara, Tyler *...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*
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For those preparing for Marriage... Nicholas & Cassie, Allison & Michael *...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*
+++ +++ +++
June Anniversaries:
Adam & Jean Zak (6/2/12)
Matt and Kim Opsitos (6/4/94)
Stephen & Jennifer Brancho (6/6)
Kira & Michael Fischer (6/7)
Audrey & Florian Rajakovich (6/9)
Ken & Joyce Dzacovsky (6/9/90)
Father's Parents, Dave & Andrea Urban (6/16)
John & Sarah Fucsko (6/18)
...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas
+++ +++ +++
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. Dzacovsky *...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.



A prayer for our Neighborhoods
by Archbishop Demetrios of America
I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.
+++ +++ +++
A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy
O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (*name*), and our spiritual father (*name*), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
+++ +++ +++