

“THE VOICE” *Our Periodic Parish Newsletter*

John the Baptist said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ (Jn 1:23)

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Glory be 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.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025 VOL. XI

**FEAST OF PENTECOST, TRINITY SUNDAY,
THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; “RUSALJA”**
Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost following Liturgy
Potluck Coffee Social

A FAST FREE WEEK

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SUNDAY, JUNE 15

1st Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of All Saints
9:30 am Third Hour and Reader’s Service
Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2
Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33,37-38,19:27-30
Tone 8; Liturgical Color: **Green**

MONDAY, JUNE 16 #APOSTLESFAST

APOSTLES’ (PETER AND PAUL) FAST BEGINS
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SUNDAY, JUNE 22 #APOSTLESFAST

2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of Regional Saints (*American and Rusyn*)
9:30 am Third Hour and Reader’s Service
Epistle: Romans 2:10-16
Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23
Tone 1; Liturgical Color: **Green**

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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

3rd Sunday after Pentecost
+St. Tychon, Bishop of Amathus in Cyprus (425)
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS IS A THREE-WEEK BULLETIN

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*** **Today we return** to including “O Heavenly King” to our prayers and kneeling in prayer. This is also a Fast Free Week.

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*** **Golf Anyone?** – Numerous churches will have their annual golf outings soon. If you are interested in being a part of a SJB foursome, please see Bob Fall.

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*** **Collection Items** – Our Community Outreach this month is for Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City. Along with a monetary donation that we will collect throughout the month, they can use items listed in the outreach section below. **The deadline to bring items in is Sunday, July 6.**

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*** **Is your child registered yet?** – The Pittsburgh Deanery Week at Camp Nazareth (339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137) is from **July 20-26**. Registration deadline is June 15! Register your child (aged 8-18) today for the Pgh 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! For information and registration is at: www.campnazareth.org.

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** **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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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH



A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*

Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*

Subdeacon Ryan Ferko; Readers: Kris Carlisle, Nicholas Ditmore, & Timothy Martin 412-748-0148, *Talk or Text*

Stephen Brancho & Subdeacon Ryan Ferko, *Cantors*

Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*

www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-Allison-Park

2201 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, Pa 15101

www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com

OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

Instagram: SJB_Orthodox_Pittsburgh

Twitter: @SJB_OrthodoxPGH

*** **A Note for Summer Travel** – Where we travel, whenever we go, we take our faith with us, for as it says in the Psalms, "God is with us!" Keeping that in mind, please remember when traveling over the weekends to plan ahead and check for the location of the nearest Orthodox Christian Church. The Orthodoxy in America web site, www.OrthodoxyInAmerica.org, is a great resource which has a multi-jurisdictional listing of all Orthodox parishes. Remember, "God is with us" always. Let’s not forget to invite Him!

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*** **The Holy Apostles’ Fast (Peter and Paul Fast)**
This is one of the four fasting seasons of the Orthodox Christian year that culminates with our celebration of Saints Peter & Paul on July 12th.

Apostles Fast (by Fr. Ed Pehanich) The Apostles’ Fast begins **June 16**. While many ignore this fast it has a very important purpose for us. St. Leo the Great in the 5th century wrote:

After the Feast of Pentecost, fasting is especially necessary to purify our thoughts to render us worthy to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We engage in increased prayer and fasting in order to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self-control. Need these in your life? Work at increased prayer and fasting during the weeks ahead.

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

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***Live-Broadcast** – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online: www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/

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“Code” for reading the bulletin:

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

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

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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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* **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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* **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. 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. 29-Sep. 2** – ACRY Convention
- **Aug. 31** – Blessing of Flowers and Herbs
- **Sep. 7** – Parish Picnic at "The Cabin"

Please, Save the Dates!

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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* **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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**ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH
AND OUR DIOCESE**

*** **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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*** Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:**

- **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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*** **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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* **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). Signup deadline is July 20. For more information, contact Bob Perevuznik Jr. (412) 952-6962 / rpvuznik@gmail.com or Den harms (412) 667-2396 / dwhalh200@aol.com

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*** 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

Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City is our Community Outreach this month. Along with monetary donations that we will collect throughout the month, here is last year's list that they requested assistance with:

- ✓ AA Batteries
- ✓ Zip lock bags
- ✓ Tuna in water
- ✓ Canola oil
- ✓ Cooking spray
- ✓ Facial Tissues
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Napkins
- ✓ Toilet paper
- ✓ Tall white kitchen trash bags
- ✓ Clorox Clean-up (large refill size)
- ✓ Simple green (gallon size)
- ✓ Windex
- ✓ Dawn dish soap (large size)
- ✓ Tide liquid laundry detergent
- ✓ Bathroom cleaner (any kind)

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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.

*** **Third Hour** – Prior to recent Liturgies, we have been chanting the Paschal Canon. After Ascension, we return to chanting (or reading) the Third Hour. *This does not need to be done by the Liturgy Chanter*. If you would like to be in the rotation for this (or have any questions), please see or contact Fr. Dave.

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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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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave
June 15: Tim Martin

Father's Day Special

* June 22:	_____?
* June 29:	_____?
* July 6:	_____?

** meatless during the fast*

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* **New Food Ministry at Church** – 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 or Gina Fall of this and they 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.

* **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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ACRY NEWS

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*** **Sr. ACRY Meeting** – The next Sr. ACRY meeting will be on **Sunday, June 29**. Please contact Subdeacon Ryan Ferko with any questions about the organization.

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

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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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*** **ACRY Convention** – The 80th Senior and 40th Junior National ACRY Convention will be Labor Day weekend from **Aug 29 to Sep 1** at 7 Springs. For more information, visit <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/2025-acry-convention/items>

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 135
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 49
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 935
Community Outreach:	\$ 80

Total Collections: \$ 1199
Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 4041

Participating Souls at Sunday Liturgy: 30

All Soul’s Saturday Liturgy: 6

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Rich & Renee Mirilovich; Cindy Pavilonis

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May Financial Report:

General Stewardship = \$ 3,176.64
(includes \$ 337.64 from online stewardship)

***Expenses = \$ 6,805.61**

Net Loss = \$ 3,628.97

Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 534

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 37

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

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Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Report:

(September through last month)

General Stewardship = \$ 67,469

***Expenses = \$ 61,354**

Net Gain = \$ 6,114

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 40

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

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

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

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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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Glorify 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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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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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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Bulletin Sponsor - If you wish to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (nameday, birthday, anniversary, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested. *Remember, sponsoring a bulletin in memory of someone does not replace having a Panachida (Memorial Service) for them.*

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Stewardship of Treasure Guide

Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?

Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe 15%	Tithe 10%	Upper Range Giving 9%	8%	7%	Middle Range Giving 6%	5%	4%	Lower Range Giving 3%	2%	1%
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60

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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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

PENTECOST Epistle: Acts 2: 1–11

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and wondered, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Par’tians and Medes and E’lamites and residents of Mesopota’mia, Judea and Cappado’cia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phryg’ia and Pamphyl’ia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to

Cyre’ne, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

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PENTECOST Gospel: John 7: 37– 52; 8: 12

Rivers of Living Water

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, “If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Division among the People

⁴⁰ When they heard these words, some of the people said, “This is really the prophet.” ⁴¹ Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Is the Christ to come from Galilee?” ⁴² Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?” ⁴³ So there was a division among the people over him. ⁴⁴ Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The Unbelief of Those in Authority

⁴⁵ The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why did you not bring him?” ⁴⁶ The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this man!” ⁴⁷ The Pharisees answered them, “Are you led astray, you also?” ⁴⁸ Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? ⁴⁹ But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed.” ⁵⁰ Nicode’mus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, ⁵¹ “Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?” ⁵² They replied, “Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee.”

Jesus the Light of the World

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

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Sunday, June 15: Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2

³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword,

won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Example of Jesus

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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Sunday, June 15: Gospel:

Matthew 10:32-33,37-38,19:27-30

³² So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

²⁷ Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?” ²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many that are first will be last, and the last first.

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Sunday, June 22: Epistle: Romans 2:10-16

¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹ For God shows no partiality.

¹² All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴ When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them ¹⁶ on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

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Sunday, June 22: Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zeb’edee and John his brother, in the boat with Zeb’edee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

²³ And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

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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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PRAYER CORNER

Return to Kneeling in Prayer – At the Vespers service Sunday evening on Pentecost, the kneeling prayers are recited. *(We started them this morning after the Divine Liturgy.)* The Orthodox community now returns to kneeling in prayer *(except on Sundays)* and reciting *O Heavenly King*.

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O Heavenly King (Carju Nebesnyj)
O heavenly King, the Comforter; the Spirit of Truth, Who are in all places and fill all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and dwell within us and cleanse us from every blemish and save our souls, O blessed One. Amen.

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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 Health of...

Michael, Sophia, Andrea, Diane, Jeanette, Boyde, Mark, Michelle, Megan, Lindsay, Brian, Rhonda, Carlene, Jason, Bella, David, Barbara, Paul, Juliana, Fredrick, and Michael ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer*

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For the 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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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 Dzadony (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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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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June Anniversaries:

Adam & Jean Zak (6/2)
Matt and Kim Opsitos (6/4)
Stephen & Jennifer Brancho (6/6)
Kira & Michael Fischer (6/7)
Audrey & Florian Rajakovich (6/9)
Ken & Joyce Dzadovsky (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 Pregnant Mothers...

Lindsay (*due in June*), Caitlin (*August*) ...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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Spiritual Vitamin:

"The power of God is effective when a person asks for help from God, acknowledging his own weakness and sinfulness." +St John Maximovitch

For the souls of the newly departed...

+Annette Avicolli (5/17),

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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* 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.*

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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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ONLINE BONUSES

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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

Saint John the Russian and the Atheist Doctor

In the 1960's, a doctor who was a staunch atheist became ill with cancer of the rectum, one of the most serious cancers of that time, although now one of the more curable. After the diagnosis, the doctor fell into despair and for the first time in his life began to pray, "O God, I've never believed in You. I thought that all belief was nonsense, and that man should believe only in man and science. Now all my philosophy has lost its value. Accept my repentance, and if you think this prayer worthy, heal me in the name of St. John the Russian."

As he finished his prayer someone knocked at the door. A young doctor entered the room. "How are you doing, colleague?" he asked.

"What can I say?" the sick man answered, "I am dying." "No, you won't die," answered the young doctor, "I'm taking your illness on myself."

But the old doctor didn't believe him. "I have been practicing for a long time. I know what my disease means. Who are you?"

"I'm the one you asked for help," the young man said, and left the room.

The old doctor followed him out into the hall, but could no longer see him. He asked the staff, but they replied there had been no such doctor, and suggested that he was hallucinating from the shock of the diagnosis. But the old man was sure he had been talking to the saint. He insisted on another round of tests and the second exam showed that he was completely healthy. Dozens of specialists were called in to look at the x-rays; the one showing the cancer, and the second completely clear.

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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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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* **2025 Bob Pervuznik 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 Pervuznik Jr. (412) 952-6962 / email rpvuznik@gmail.com or Den harms (412) 667-2396 / dwhalh200@aol.com

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THIRD HOUR

Please let Fr. Dave know if you are interested in reading or chanting the Third Hour at 9:15 am

June 29:	_____?
July 6:	_____?
July 13:	_____?

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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

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 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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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY DISCIPLE CARPUS
Commemorated on May 26
The Holy Disciple Carpus (from the 70) – was a disciple and companion of the holy Apostle Paul. In the 2nd Epistle to Timothy, the apostle mentions the name Carpus, at the house of whom in Troias he left a phelon and books (2 Tim. 4: 13). Knowing Carpus as a man of virtue and possessing a mind of lofty purity, the Apostle Paul made him bishop of Thracian Bereia. The disciple Carpus went preaching the Gospel to the island of Crete. Here he encountered Saint Dionysios the Areopagite (Comm. 3 October). In his reminiscences Dionysios recounts about a miraculous vision to the disciple Carpus.
The holy disciple Carpus died peacefully at Bereia (according to other histories he received a martyr's end during the persecution under the emperor Nero).

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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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