

# “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 be to Jesus Christ!** *(responded with: **Glory be 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 pray that you come again soon! Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025 VOL. XI

+Venerable Thomas Of Mt. Maleon (10<sup>th</sup> c.)

Youth Sunday

\*\*\* *Liturgy Sermon Series Begins*

Coffee Social offered in honor of Ray and Kathy

SUNDAY, JULY 27

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16 *(for Holy Fathers)*

Gospel: John 17:1-13 *(for Holy Fathers)*

Tone 6; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM)

Awareness Sunday *(additional offering requested)*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

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

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

**“Code” for reading the bulletin:**

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

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

PRAYER CORNER

**For the Health of...** Shawn, Louis, Bilyana, Gregory, Denise, Boyde, Lindsay, Brian, Rhonda, Carlene, Jason, Bella, Barbara, Paul, Juliana, Fredrick, and Michael *...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer*

**For the souls of the newly departed...**

Linda Lippert (7/16) *...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God’s Memory!*

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Epistle:** *Romans 12:6-14*

<sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

**Marks of the True Christian**

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

**Gospel:** *Matthew 9:1-8*

**Jesus Heals a Paralytic**

9 And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. <sup>2</sup> And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” <sup>3</sup> And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” <sup>4</sup> But

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor* + + + 2201 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, Pa 15101

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Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? <sup>5</sup> For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? <sup>6</sup> But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, take up your bed and go home.” <sup>7</sup> And he rose and went home. <sup>8</sup> When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*\* Liturgy Sermon Series** – Starting today, **Sunday, July 20**, Fr. Dave will break down the Liturgy answering some questions of *why we do what we do*. Each week he will focus on a certain part of the service. Come – learn about our Faith!

**\* New Ministry Starting this Fall: Saints Spyridon and Nicodemus Prosphora Bakers Ministry** – Prosphora is the bread that is used during the Divine Liturgy for the Eucharist. In some parishes, the people bake all of the bread. In other parishes, the priest bakes the bread (as part of his prayer rule). We will start a hybrid of these two practices starting this fall. Please let Fr. Dave, Larry, or Liz know if you are interested in being a part of this ministry in our parish. A hands-on workshop will be held to kick it off. *Through the prayers of Saint Spyridon, Saint Nicodemus, and our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.* \*\*\* Coming to the workshop is not a commitment going forward. Anyone is welcome to come and check it out!

**\* Garden Guild** – Do you have a ‘green’ thumb? Would you be interested in being a steward of your talents by joining the SJB Garden Guild? If so, please let Fr. Dave know ASAP as a meeting will be occurring very soon.



**\*\* Annual Blessing of Chariots** – Fr Dave will bless vehicles *(cars, boats, bicycles...)* in our parking lot after Services on **Friday, Saturday,** and **Sunday - August 1-3.** We bless vehicles in honor of the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias *(celebrated August 2)* who was carried to heaven in a fiery chariot *(see 2 Kings chapter 2 in the Old Testament).*

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 335
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 51
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 260
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 646</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 391</b>
<i>Participating Souls at Sunday’s Liturgy: 30</i>	

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

**\* Journey to Orthodoxy** – **Congratulations** and **God’s choicest blessings** to Raymond (John) Kilmer and Kathleen (Kathryn) Kilmer who were recently received into the Orthodox Faith and our parish family. May God grant to His newly-illuminated servants, Raymond (John) and Kathleen (Kathryn), Many Years of Peace, Health, Happiness and Salvation! **Blessings** also to their sponsor, Elizabeth Radomsky. Many Years! Mnohaja L’ita!

**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.*

\*\*\* **Calling All Church School Teachers** – Please contact Kathy Schrmack (*Youth Ministry Leader*) or Fr. Dave if you are interested in being a teacher in the upcoming year’s Church School Program. *A meeting will be held after coffee social on a Sunday in August.*

\*\*\* **Church School Registration** – We are looking for all parents of children age 5 through 18 to register their child(ren) for this year’s Church School Program. Forms are in the vestibule. Please see Kathy Schrmack (*Youth Ministry Leader*) or Fr. Dave with any questions.

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

*Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:*

- ✖ \*\*\* **Excavation Phase 2** – Round 2 of our French Drain and Excavation project has begun! To date, \$ 21,797 has been collected for the project.
- ✖ \* **Church Proper** – Not much has changed in the nave of the church, BUT 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!*

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!

\* **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](http://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!

\* **ACRY Convention** – The 80<sup>th</sup> Senior and 40<sup>th</sup> 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> or contact Alisha Zak at 724-554-8148 / [zak.alisha@gmail.com](mailto:zak.alisha@gmail.com).

\* **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!

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

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

July 20:	Sr. ACRY
July 27:	_____?
Aug 3:	_____?

**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.

\* **Third Hour** – If you would like to be in the rotation for chanting (or reading) the Third Hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (or have any questions), please see or contact Fr. Dave. *This does not need to be done by the Liturgy Chanter.*

THIRD HOUR

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

July 20:	_____?
July 27:	_____?
Aug 3:	_____?

ONLINE BONUSES



VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

**Venerable Thomas Of Mt. Maleon**  
Commemorated on July 20/7

Saint Thomas of Mt. Maleon was a military commander before accepting monasticism. Powerful and brave, he had participated in many a battle, and he brought victory to his countrymen, for which he gained glory and esteem. But, striving with all his heart towards God, Thomas left the world with its honours and he took monastic vows.


With great humility he visited monastic-elders, asking of them guidance in the spiritual life. After

several years Thomas received the blessing for solitary wilderness life and, strengthened in particular by a revelation through the holy prophet of God Elias, he settled on Mount Maleon (eastern part of Athos). Dwelling in complete seclusion, Saint Thomas fought with invisible enemies with suchlike a courage, as before he had against the visible enemies of his country.

The life and deeds of Saint Thomas were not able to be concealed from the surrounding area. People began to flock to him seeking spiritual guidance, and even those suffering from sickness, since he received from God the blessing to heal infirmities.

Many believers received help through the prayers of the monk and upon his departure to God (X).

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES

PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- \* **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** – If you would like to be in the rotation for chanting (or reading) the Third Hour prior to the Divine Liturgy (or have any questions), please see or contact Fr. Dave. *This does not need to be done by the Liturgy Chanter.*

- \* **Coffee Social** – Did you know that 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!*)
- \* **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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**\*\* 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 anyone over age 8, 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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**On-Line Giving** is available from our parish website to donate to the: General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund. The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2<sup>nd</sup> best is to mail it in to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue it’s ministries,

outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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### 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%	12%	10%	Tithe 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	\$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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### ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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### “Code” for reading the bulletin:

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

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

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**Food Ministry at SJB** –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](http://www.MealTrain.com) to learn more about it. Here are some basic terms from their website:

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

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**\*\* Calling All Rusyn Writers & Readers!** – Last summer, the Carpatho-Rusyn Society launched its new online publication—[Our People](#). Through member stories, event announcements, book reviews, and more, *Our People* connects you to C-RS and Carpatho-Rusyn culture. Now, we’re asking for your help to keep this publication vibrant.


*Our People* is looking for **two volunteers** to join our team. One volunteer will write short, original stories for *Our People*, while the other will help us re-publish articles from the *New Rusyn Times* archives. If you have a little bit of writing experience, or know your way around a PDF, check out the volunteering details below.

- **1 Republishing Volunteer**
  - **Time Commitment:** 2-3 hours per week, fully remote.
  - **Role:** Transcribing articles from *New Rusyn Times* (and other archival sources) for republication on the C-RS website and in the C-RS email newsletter *Our People*.
  - **Expectations:** You will transcribe two articles per month.
  - **Qualifications:** Some experience with Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Word, or similar programs. Basic proofreading skills. Experience need not be from your work history, but can come from other volunteer positions, community roles, or personal projects.
  - **Get Involved:** Send a note to Dani Stuchel ([dstuchel@c-rs.org](mailto:dstuchel@c-rs.org)), introducing yourself and your relevant experience.

- **1 Research & Writing Volunteer**
    - **Time Commitment:** 3-5 hours per week, fully remote.
    - **Role:** Creating short (500-700 word) articles on topics of interest to our members, to be included on the C-RS website and in the C-RS email newsletter *Our People*.
    - **Expectations:** You will write two articles per month.
    - **Preferred topics:** Carpatho-Rusyn history in Europe, Carpatho-Rusyn language and linguistics, contemporary art by Carpatho-Rusyns, Carpatho-Rusyn food history, contemporary life in Carpatho-Rusyn areas of Europe.
    - **Qualifications:** Some experience with Internet-based research (finding reliable sources, tracking references, etc.) Some experience writing for a general audience. Some experience proofreading your own writing. Experience need not be from your work history, but can come from other volunteer positions, community roles, or personal projects.
    - **Get Involved:** Send a note to Dani Stuchel ([dstuchel@c-rs.org](mailto:dstuchel@c-rs.org)), introducing yourself and your relevant experience. Propose 2-3 ideas for newsletter articles. No need to send a formal resume or cover letter.
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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:**
- 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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- Make plans to go to Camp Nazareth in 2025!**
- ✂ 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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- \* **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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- \***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/](http://www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/)
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- \***Calendar** - Future Services are updated online at: [www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar) *(Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)*
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, our additional collection will be for **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM)** whose **mission** is to serve those who are incarcerated and their families, and provides resources, training and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed and God is glorified. **Core values:** Accept that each person is made in the image and likeness of God; Love with compassion and respect; Integrity; Committed to excellence; Team-oriented

For more information on this organization, please visit: [www.theocpm.org](http://www.theocpm.org). Thank you in advance for your prayers and offering this month!

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THIS MONTH’S SERVICE SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, JULY 6 #APOSTLESFAST**  
9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
12-noon Feast Day Vespers

**MONDAY, JULY 7 #APOSTLESFAST**  
FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

**FRIDAY, JULY 11 #APOSTLESFAST**  
6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

**SATURDAY, JULY 12**  
FEAST OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL  
9:30am Festal Divine Liturgy

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**SUNDAY, JULY 13**  
9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Monthly Memorial Panachida  
? Sr. ACRY meeting

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**SUNDAY, JULY 20**  
9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Youth Sunday

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**SUNDAY, JULY 27**  
Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

9:15 am Third Hour  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 30**  
6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting *(All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting)*

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FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

**The Nativity Of The Holy Forerunner And Baptist Of The Lord, John:**  
*Commemorated on July 7 / June 24*

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Lk. 1: 57-80) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist – the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth, lived in the ancient city of Hebron, and reached old age being childless, since Elizabeth was barren. One time, Saint Zachariah was making Divine services at the Jerusalem Temple and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the incense offertory. He predicted, that Saint Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Saviour – the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. And it was given to him – it appeared at the same time as a chastisement for his unbelief: Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

Saint Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision over the lateness of her pregnancy, she kept it secret for five months, until there came visiting her distant relative the All-Blessed Virgin Mary, to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. And together with her Saint John also – in the womb of his mother Righteous Elizabeth – did greet "with leaps as in song" the MostHoly Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnated within Her.

It became time, and Saint Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accord with the law of Moses, was made the circumcision. His mother named him John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in their family had been named such. When they asked Saint Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "John is his name" – and immediately the

binding of his tongue at the prediction of the archangel was unbound, and Saint Zachariah, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, glorified God and pronounced the words of prophecy about the Advent-Coming into the world of the Messiah, and about his own son John – the Forerunner of the Lord.

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all the infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Saint Zachariah as a priest was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered, that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The lad John, protected by an Angel, dwelt in the wilderness until such time, when he came preaching about repentance and was himself vouchsafed worthy to baptise the Lord Who was come into the world.

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**The Holy, Glorious And All-Praised Leaders Of The Apostles, Peter And Paul**

*Commemorated on July 12 / June 29*

**The Holy Apostle Peter**

The son of Jonah and brother of Andrew the First-Called, of the tribe of Simeon and the town of Bethsaida, he was a fisherman and was at first called Simon, but the Lord was pleased to call him Cephas, or Peter (JN 1:42). He was the first of the disciples to give clear expression to his faith in the Lord Jesus, saying, *"Though art the Christ, the Son of the Living God."* (MT 16:16) His love for the Lord was very strong and his faith in Him went from strength to strength. When the Lord was put on trial, Peter denied Him three times, but he needed only one look into the face of the Lord and Peter's soul was filled with shame and repentance. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Peter became a fearless and powerful preacher of the Gospel. After his first sermon in Jerusalem, about 3,000 souls were converted to the Faith. He preached the Gospel throughout Palestine and Asia Minor, in Italy and in Illyria. Peter was condemned to death on the order of the wicked Emporer Nero. After installing Linus as Bishop of

Rome and exhorting and encouraging the flock of Christ there, Peter went to his death with joy. When he saw the cross before him, he asked the executioner to crucify him upside-down, because he felt himself to be unworthy to die in the same way as his Lord. And so, this great servant of the greatest Master went to his rest and received a crown of eternal glory!

**The Holy Apostle Paul**

Born in Tarsus and of the tribe of Benjamin, he was formerly called Saul and studied under the teacher Gamaliel. He was a Pharisee and fierce persecutor of Christians. Saul was wondrously converted to the Christian Faith by the Lord Himself, who appeared to him on the road to Damascus. He was baptized by the Apostle Ananias, named Paul and enrolled in the great work of the Apostles. He preached the Gospel everywhere with burning zeal, from the borders of Arabia to the land of Spain, among both the Jews and Gentiles (heathens) and receiving the title *'Apostle to the Gentiles'*. His fearful sufferings were matched only by his superhuman endurance. Through all the years of preaching, he hung from day to day like a thread between life and death. Filling his days and nights with toil and suffering for Christ, organizing the Church in many places and reaching a high level of perfection, he was able to say, *"It is not I who lives, but Christ who lives in me."* (Galatians 2:20) Paul was brutally beheaded in Rome in the reign of Nero, at the same time as St. Peter.

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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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PRAYER CORNER

**Special Intentions** – Did you ever wonder for what reasons would a person’s name go under “For the Special Intentions of...” on our Prayer Page? A special intention request is very diversified! It could be when one is under extreme job stress, struggling with spiritual issues, infertility, dealing with the loss of a loved one... the list goes on. As with the other lists on our page, one does not have to be Orthodox to be added.

**Prayer requests** – During the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, prayers are said for the sick and those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin. If silent prayers are requested, they will be offered quietly at the Altar at all services. All those listed in the “Prayer Corner” are prayed for during the 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.

**Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions \***

**A Prayer For The Sick:** O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant(s) **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 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

**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.

**July Namedays:**

Rich Mirilovich - St. John the Baptist (7/7)  
Craig Bowser - Holy and All-glorious Apostle Peter (7/12)  
Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak - Great Martyr Marina of Antioch (7/30)  
...May God grant them many and blessed years!

**July Birthdays:**

Joanna Delaney (7/2), Pañi Stacey Mihaly (7/5), Felix Matolyak-Ferraz (7/6), Charles Deluca (7/8), Jessica Winkler (7/8), *Father’s Godfather*, Richard Babbie (7/9), *Pañi’s Grandmother*, Maria Alexe (7/11), Emilia Zak (7/11), Jean Zak (7/12), Ben Scherer, Sr. (7/14), Pañi Joanna Ferencz (7/17), Mark Tongel (7/17), Alaina Anton (7/18), Fr Michael Chendorain (7/18), Fr Luke Mihaly (7/18), *Father’s Godson*, Nathaniel Salio (7/21), Jennifer Brancho (7/22), Robert Fall (7/22), Lynn Mainolfi (7/23), Carol Fucsko (7/27), Barbara Gedid (7/27), Ryan Gogal (7/27), Demetrie Pido (7/27), Samuel Schrmack (7/27), Doug Delaney (7/28), Fr Stephen Lopusky (7/28), Luke Tongel (7/30), Pañi’s brother, Florin Popescu (7/30), Fr. George Ellis (7/31)  
...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!

**For our Catechumens & Inquirers...**

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

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

**July Anniversaries:**

Fred & Juliana Anton (7/20)  
Alexei & Patrick Wertz (7/24)  
...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas

**For Pregnant Mothers...**

Caitlin (due in August), Morgan (January)  
...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.

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

\* 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.

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