

“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, SEPTEMBER 7

VOL. XI

13th Sunday after Pentecost

+Holy Apostle Titus of the Seventy (1st c.)

SERVICES AT 1370 Ingomar Road, Allison Park, PA

Parish Picnic w/ Pot-luck meal following Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

7:30 – 8:00 pm “Orthodoxy 101”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - *A day of strict-fasting*

FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Panachida for those who lost their lives from
terrorist attacks

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

ECCLESIASTICAL (*LITURGICAL*) NEW YEAR

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Tone 5; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4;

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Monthly Memorial (Panachida) for +Hugh Martin (50-
year), +Irene (Rusnak) Kurtz (28-yr), +Mary Huron
(42-yr), +Eric Dussling (32-yr), +Derek Christopher
Anton (52-yr), +Peter Silon (26-yr), +Mary
Mirilovich (23-yr), +Anna Radick (30-yr),
+Anastasia Martin (14-yr), +Leona (Smoley) Hawke
(5-yr), God-loving Bishop John R Martin (41-yr)

Parish Yearly Meeting following Liturgy

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

7:30-8:00 pm “Orthodoxy 101”

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Final Messages and Greetings

¹³ Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous,
be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.

¹⁵ Now, brethren, you know that the household of
Steph’anas were the first converts in Acha’ia, and they
have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; ¹⁶ I
urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow
worker and laborer. ¹⁷ I rejoice at the coming of
Steph’anas and Fortuna’tus and Acha’icus, because they
have made up for your absence; ¹⁸ for they refreshed my
spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men.

¹⁹ The churches of Asia send greetings. Aq’uila and
Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you
hearty greetings in the Lord. ²⁰ All the brethren send
greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. ²² If any
one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our
Lord, come! ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.
²⁴ My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

³³ “Hear another parable. There was a householder who
planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a
wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to
tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴ When the
season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the
tenants, to get his fruit; ³⁵ and the tenants took his
servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned
another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the
first; and they did the same to them. ³⁷ Afterward he sent
his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’

³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to



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

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

412-748-0148, *Talk or Text*

OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

Instagram: SJB_Orthodox_Pittsburgh

Twitter: @SJB_OrthodoxPGH

themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and
have his inheritance.’ ³⁹ And they took him and cast him
out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ When therefore
the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to
those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those
wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard
to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their
seasons.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in
the scriptures:

‘The very stone which the builders rejected has become
the head of the corner; this was the Lord’s doing, and it
is marvelous in our eyes’?

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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* **Coat Drive LAST CALL** - Do you have a clean coat
or two that you have not worn since before our last coat
drive but it is still in good condition? We are now
collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to the
Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) [*Formerly*
FOCUS Pittsburgh (who provide Food, Occupation,
Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter to those who are
in need)]. Please place your clean coat(s) on the coat
rack in the downstairs hallway this month.

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* **SJB Yearly Parish Meeting** will be on **Sunday,**
September 14th following the Divine Liturgy.
New Proposals for the meeting need to be submitted to
Larry Martin or *Liz Radomsky* no later than
September 7th. All proposals are much appreciated!
Also, anyone interested in **being an officer** on the
Parish Council, please see Larry or Liz. This is the **3rd**
Official Notice for the meeting.

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*** **Remembering the Feast of the Beheading** –
Saint John was a holy prophet and an innocent man (*see*
Mark 6:14-30). His beheading was a preview of the
crucifixion of Our Lord; the Innocent Lamb Who is
greater than all the prophets. **A Strict Fast from meat**
and dairy is observed on his Feast Day, **September 11**,
in commemoration of the murder of the man Jesus
called, “the greatest man born of woman.” Also, in
commemoration of the way that St. John was martyred,
pious Rusyn Orthodox will not eat from a plate, but
only from a bowl, will not use knives to eat with, and
will not eat foods that are round or come as a ‘head’
(cabbage, lettuce, etc.). Use these as teaching tools for
those around us. **Vespers** the evening before will be at
6:30 pm (followed by “Orthodoxy 101”). **Divine**
Liturgy (and Panachida) on 9/11 will be at **9:30 am**.

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*** **Bulgarian Folk Concert** – Fresh from their
Bulgaria Tour, the Otets Paissii Performing Folk
Ensemble is thrilled to present an unforgettable evening
for their American audience! Join them on **Saturday,**
September 13 at 5:30 pm at Steel Valley High School
(3113 Main Street, Munhall, PA) for their 70th
Anniversary Performance, featuring Otets Paissii, along
with other guest groups (including The Tamburitians).
After the show, celebrate with them at the BMNECC
(449 W. 8th Avenue, W. Homestead, PA) for a
reception with food, drinks, & entertainment. Doors
open at 7:30 pm with the band, kitchen, & bar at 8 pm.
Concert: \$25 (under 11yrs free); Reception: \$15. *Menu*
includes: Cevapi (meat sausages), Banitsa (cheese /
spinach), Shopska salata, Kupus salata (cabbage),
Krempita (phyllo & custard dessert). Tickets will be
sold at the door & online (cash, credit card, &
check accepted): [www.showclix.com/event/70th-](http://www.showclix.com/event/70th-anniversary-performance)
[anniversary-performance](http://www.showclix.com/event/70th-anniversary-performance)

*** **Liturgy Sermon Series** will return **September 21** as Fr. Dave breaks 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. The “homily” will occur prior to that part of the service. Come – learn about our Faith!

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* **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. We need to have 3 different class levels made available to the children of the parish. *A meeting will be held after coffee social on a Sunday in August.*


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* **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. Classes being **Sunday, September 21**

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* **Congratulations!** to Kris and Caitlyn Carlisle and their families on the birth of Grant Cassian born on Aug. 20th at 6:24am (7lbs 7oz). Welcome to our Parish Family!

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 * **Home Blessings** – Our Annual Home Blessings began on **August 14** after the Lesser Blessing of Water was called for. Fr. Dave is looking forward to visiting *every home* this Aug, Sept, or Oct. **Schedule with Fr. Dave today.**

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** **Congratulations and God Bless** to Fr. Robert Teklinski. This past weekend he celebrated his 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood and he was elevated to wear the Gold Cross at Saturday’s Anniversary Liturgy! May God be merciful to his servants Fr. Bob and Pañi Peggy and bless them and may He grant them peace!. Many Years! Mnohaja l’ita!

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* **“Buy a Brick”** – Have you worked on a committee elsewhere on a “buy a brick” fundraiser? Please contact Fr. Dave or Larry as we would love your thoughts on a few questions.

* **Community Cook-Out** – On **Saturday, October 4** we will host a community Cook-Out and Open House from 11 am to 2 pm. We will invite our neighbors to join us at the church, meet our community, and see our parish. If you would like to be on the prep committee for this, please contact Larry or Fr. Dave.

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2025 Home Blessings
How to prepare for your home blessing?

1. See Fr. Dave today, email him today, call him today, or text him today with your preferred windows of time for him to visit.
2. Have a white cloth (*or white napkin*) placed on the dining room or kitchen table, an icon and/or a cross, and a candle to be lit. (*Fr Dave will provide the Holy Water for the blessing.*)
3. Have a list of names of those who live in the home (*including your pets*) and a list of the departed members of your family and friends you wish to have prayed for during the service.
4. Have all TVs, radios, and cell phones turned off.
5. Have on the table anything to be blessed (*such as an Icon, Cross, etc.*).
6. Participation is important! Have everyone in the family gather around the table and join in the blessing. Invite neighbors and friends over to be a part of this beautiful tradition as well!
7. If you need to discuss a personal matter, this is a good time to do so!

Home blessings will take place from August 14 through October 14

It would be ideal if Father could come on a weekday between 8:30am and 3:30pm. If this is not possible, certain evening, Saturday, and Sunday times will be available. Fr Dave looks forward to spending this time with your family!

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“Code” for reading the bulletin:
*** = new news ** = 2nd time in the bulletin
* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

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

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

 This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)**. The OCF is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the *Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA*. OCF is charged with connecting Orthodox college students (and those interested in the Orthodox Christian faith) to Christ and His Church. The vision of the OCF is to be the loving presence of Christ and the Orthodox Church on college campuses; to be an integral part of students’ spiritual formation by challenging them to explore the Faith; and to inspire students to commit to living an Orthodox Christian way of life daily. This is accomplished via a growing network of on-campus OCF chapters let by talented students, clergy, and lay advisors, as well as through programs such as Reginald Retreats, College Conferences, Real Break, and the Summer Leadership Institute. Visit www.ocf.net for more info. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

THIS MONTH’S SERVICE SCHEDULE

- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**
9:30 am Moleben to St. Nectarios with anointing
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- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**
*** All Services In North Park
1370 Ingomar Road, Allison Park, PA 15101
9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Followed by Parish Family Picnic w/ Pot-luck meal
- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**
6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers
7:30-8:00 pm Orthodoxy 101
- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - A day of strict-fasting**
FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
Panachida for those who died from terrorist attacks
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- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**
ECCLESIASTICAL (*LITURGICAL*) NEW YEAR
9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Monthly Memorial (Panachida)
Parish Yearly Meeting following Liturgy
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**
6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers
7:30-8:00 pm Orthodoxy 101
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- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**
FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross
9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
Youth Sunday
Church School Year Begins
- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**
6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers
Enthronement of the Holy Cross
7:30-8:00 pm Orthodoxy 101
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 - A day of strict-fasting**
FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
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- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**
Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross
9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**
9:30 am Akathist to St. Sophia



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AND Looking *FURTHER* Ahead...

Some 2025 dates of interest at St. John's:

- Sep/Oct - Home Blessings Continue
- **Sep 7** – Parish Picnic at The Cabin in North Park
- **Sep 14** – Annual Yearly Meeting
- **Sep 21** – Church School Year Begins
- Oct 6 – Feast of the Conception of St. John
- Oct 14 – Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos
- **Oct 19** – God-Parents/God-Children Sunday
- Oct 23 – Founding of St John's Parish in 1932
- Oct 26 – Carpatho-Rusyn Day in North America
- Nov 8 – Feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius
- Nov 21 – Feast of the Holy Archangels
- **Nov 26** – Moleben of Thanksgiving (6:30 pm)
- Nov 28 – Nativity Fast begins
- Dec 4 – Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos
- **Dec 6** – St. Nicholas Charity ~~Dinner~~ Luncheon Banquet to benefit Christ the Savior Seminary
- Dec 19 - Feast of St. Nicholas

Please, Save the Dates!

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Make plans to go to Camp Nazareth in 2025!

- ✧ 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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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

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**** Ukrainian Food Festival** Ss Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Mansfield Ave, Carnegie) will have their Food Festival **Friday & Saturday, Sept 12 & 13**. 11 AM to 7 PM. Pirohi, Holubki, Halushki, outdoor grill, Pastries, Vendors, Basket Raffle and much more! For more info call 412-527-5359 or visit www.orthodoxcarnegie.org/ukranianfoodfestival

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**** Romanian Food Festival** - Enjoy homemade authentic Romanian food on Saturday (from 12-6) & Sunday (1-5), **September 20 & 21** at St. Andrew the Apostle Romanian Orthodox Church (56 Glenn Way

McKees Rocks, PA 15136). A sample of the foods will be: grilled pork sausages, roasted potatoes, cabbage salad, Carpathian cheese pastry, famous mici (*Romanian skinless sausage*), crepes, Amandina cakes, and more! [*Highly recommended by Fr. Dave!*]

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* **Ancient Faith Singles Retreat** – An Orthodox Christian Singles Retreat (for ages 30+) is scheduled for **January 15-18, 2026** at Antiochian Village in Bolivar, PA full of socializing, church services, speaker sessions, trivia, games, speed dating, and free time for relaxation and fellowship. More details are in the online bulletin section or at:

<https://www.ancientfaith.com/events/singles-retreat/>

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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* **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.*

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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*

Sept 14:	_____?
Sept 21:	_____?
Sept 28:	_____?

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* **Ride Share** – We were blessed to have a number of college students with us last week for our Student Blessing. When their schedules work out, they will need rides from Point Park, Duquesne, or Pitt. We have also received requests from a couple other people who are interested in getting a ride to the church. Please contact Fr. Dave or Larry if you would be able to bring your “neighbor” to the church.

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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

* **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!*)

COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

Sept 14 (Yearly Meeting):	_____?
Sept 21:	Sr ACRY
Sept 28:	_____?

*  **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 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.

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:

- ✧ * **Perennial Pollinator Flower Beds** – The design of our greenspace is underway! Cardboard and wood chips have been spread to begin prepping a couple areas for perennial pollinator flowers to be planted this fall. (*Contact Fr. Dave if you would like to help!*)
- ✧ * **Phase 2 Complete** – Our French Drain and Excavation project is completed! The dry wells and regrading is finished. The cost for the total project was \$45,000. Additional donations to the Capital Improvement Fund are much appreciated!
- ✧ * **Church Proper** – Not much has changed in the nave of the church, BUT other work has been done. The building committee and Parish Council continue to discuss our plan of action going forward with work in the church proper. Please be patient with us! *Also, remember that for a project like the one that we are undertaking, work goes top down so the ceiling and walls will be done before the floor. As mentioned, please be patient with us!*

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Glory to God for All Things!

Through your generosity and dedication, all of this is coming together – one thing at a time! **Thank you!** Many stewards keep coming to the church and working very hard to make improvements. May God grant you many years!



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! Please see Nick Ditmore, Reader, or Subdeacon Ryan Ferko if you (or your child) are interested in being a part of the Jr. ACRY.

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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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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 85
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 124
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 350
Community Outreach:	\$ 100
Total Collections:	\$ 659
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 0
<i>Participating Souls at Sunday's Liturgy: 21</i>	
<i>AUGUST 24 REPORT TO BE SHARED NEXT WEEK</i>	

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

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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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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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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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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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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

“Orthodoxy is not an ideology; it is a way of life, founded upon faith that has been articulated in doctrine so that it may be preserved and passed down by the faithful.” – Fr. Andrew Steven Damick

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6 REASONS WHY TITHING IS GOOD FOR AN ORTHODOX PARISH

Excerpt from Fr Andrew Stephen Damick

Tithing is good for the Orthodox Christian and therefore good for the Orthodox parish. So why don’t more Orthodox Christians tithe?

We know the usual reasons: We’re not used to it. Back in the old country the government paid for the church. The parish was founded on the “dues” model. Tithing is “Protestant.” Orthodox people are stingy. We just don’t have it in our culture.

Those things are all true in one way or another, but I don’t think those are the real reasons that we do not tithe very much as Orthodox Christians. There are some who do, of course, but it’s not very many of us. So what is the reason why we’re so terrible at tithing?

I believe that it is because we don’t know why we tithe. And because we don’t know why, we don’t do it. And when we don’t do it, then we come up with the various reasons given above as the cause of our non-tithing. But those aren’t the real reasons. It’s because we don’t know why we should tithe.

Now, the reasons I am going to list below are not all equally important. Indeed, if I had to answer the question, “Why should I tithe?” I would answer only with #1. That’s the real reason. #2 through #6 are essentially useful effects of tithing that should help us to focus on #1.

So here are six of my reasons. #1 is the most important and really the point of all of it.

1. TITHING ENABLES US TO BE SAVED

As Christians, we want to be saved. We want to be healed. We want to “go to heaven” rather than to hell when we die (setting aside for the moment all the details). We want to become like Christ. Tithing doesn’t purchase all that for us, but tithing is a powerful way that we give of ourselves, that we turn over what we have to God so that we are opened to receiving His healing and blessing.

It’s a basic principle of Christian spiritual life that we cannot receive God’s blessing if we are holding back on Him. Why? We can’t be filled with God if we remain full of ourselves. Tithing helps us to empty ourselves. Don’t get me wrong—giving money is not the *only* way that we work out our salvation and become open to receiving blessings. But whatever we have, we have to give to God. And if we have money, then we have to give money. If we don’t have money, then of course we don’t have to give it. But we have to give what we have, whatever it is, and with the way our culture is so grasping and possessive about money, it really is one of the *best* things for us to give if we can.

Money is one of the places where we spiritually hurt the most! So we need to pay attention to that wound.

2. TITHING SHOWS THAT WE’RE SERIOUS

When I speak of tithing here, I am referring most obviously to giving 10% of income, but for this article, you can define tithing as **serious giving**. 10% is serious for most of us. For some of us who are more affluent, 10% is not that serious, and we should do more because we can. And for some of us, 10% is unaffordable, so we need to be serious with another percentage. But the point is to be serious. So if you’re not serious, get serious.

How do you know if you’re serious? Well, to start with, if you’re spending more on cable TV or other forms of entertainment every month than you’re giving to the Church, it’s a safe guess that you’re not being serious about giving.

I love the phrase “put your money where your mouth is.” It’s definitely true. Jesus says almost exactly the same thing when He says, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6:21, Luke 12:34). Where we put our money proves where are hearts are. Where is *your* heart?

3. TITHING IS ABSOLUTELY ORTHODOX

Some people say that tithing is not Orthodox. This is nonsense. Giving is Orthodox. Asceticism is Orthodox. Generosity is Orthodox. Ministry is Orthodox. Discipline is Orthodox.

The purpose in tithing is not because it is an “absolute requirement” in order to be saved. It’s not. But how can we be saved if we do not nurture a truly generous heart? And how can we nurture that generous heart without becoming disciplined about giving all that we have?

The Orthodox Church understands how to become disciplined. We understand asceticism. This is one of the best ways to do it.

Tithing was a *minimum* set up in the Old Covenant (and there were multiple tithes, equaling about 23%). 100% is the standard in the New Covenant (Acts 4), and when the Fathers talk about tithing, they say that because the New is superior to the Old, we give *more* than the Old Covenant people did.

So perhaps it’s true that “tithing is not Orthodox.” But that’s not because we give *less* than 10%, but because we give *more* than 10%.

God is merciful, of course, and if we’re not ready to meet that standard, we can work toward it. But are we working toward it? If not, let’s get on it.

4. TITHING BECOMES MINISTRY

There are things that a parish would love to do but just can’t because they don’t have the money for it. Perhaps they could improve or repair the building or build a new one. They could start that iconography project. They could get an assistant priest. They could hire a youth director. They could give to charities. They could fund continuing education for the priest, the choir director, or other parish workers. They could bring in special speakers. They could sponsor kids to summer camp. They could sponsor people to go on pilgrimages. They could do a lot more outreach. They could feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

The possibilities really are almost endless. The point is that God takes what we give, blesses it, and then returns it to us for our sanctification. When we give our money, God turns it into *ministry*.

And sometimes ministry is just the most basic things, like keeping the priest from having an outside secular job, keeping health insurance in place for him and his family, paying the parish’s utility bills, buying supplies, etc.

When we tithe, that’s what God does with our money. It doesn’t go to lining anyone’s pockets. Most clergy—not just Orthodox, but all clergy—are actually rather underpaid for their level of education, experience and the labor they put in. And almost none of them ever get a raise for preaching about tithing. *And a lot of them are tithing themselves.* In many parishes, the priest is one of the top givers, and he usually does it on a salary far below the parish average.

5. TITHING ENDS MONEY PROBLEMS FOR THE PARISH, ONCE AND FOR ALL

If a mission parish has 25 tithing families who each make roughly the national average (\$50k/yr.), the collective income for the parish would be \$125k, which is usually plenty for a mission to function on.

If a parish has 50 tithing families who make that average, pledge income would be \$250k. We are now well above the income of most medium to small parishes.

If there are 100 families who tithe like that, the income would be \$500k. And they’re probably about to burn any mortgage, buy new land, build something new or start a new mission. Or maybe they’re hiring a couple more clergy, a secretary, etc. How many 100-family parishes have half a million dollars to use every year? Even if half the families in a parish start tithing or even if that same half started giving just 5%, the parish would probably never have any more money problems ever.

6. TITHING CHANGES A PARISH CULTURE

Related to #5, I sometimes hear that, if only the membership knew all the money problems in their parish, they would be inspired to give a little bit more. But usually the people who say that, knowing full well the financial situation of their parish, have not themselves increased their pledge. Giving information and insight to the unmotivated usually doesn’t accomplish much.

But what if we started thinking about parish life in a whole new way?

What if we stopped talking and worrying about paying for things and started thinking about why each of us needs to become generous, serious givers? We have to put the horse before the cart: We don’t develop a culture of generosity by complaining about money problems. We develop a culture of generosity, and our money problems go away.

A tithing parish sees itself as a group of people ministering to one another, not as a group of people who are paying for something or expect to get something. And that’s the kind of parish that’s truly Christian, because they have love for each other (John 13:35).

From: <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/roadsfromemmaus/2015/10/27/6-reasons-why-tithing-is-good-for-an-orthodox-parish/>

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<u>Stewardship of Treasure Guide</u>													
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?													
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe 15%	12%	Tithe 10%	Upper Range Giving			Middle Range Giving			Lower Range Giving			
	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%				
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4	\$2	
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6	\$3	
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8	\$4	
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5	
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6	
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14	\$7	
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8	
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18	\$9	
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10	
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22	\$11	
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20	
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30	

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).
 2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE% would be.

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* **Tending to His garden** – We are called, as Orthodox Christians, to care for God’s creation – tending to His garden. There are many ways to do this including: living a minimalist life, recycling, and simply having a garden that gives back to the ecosystem. Patriarch Bartholemew is referred to as “the Green Patriarch” for his many efforts to care for the environment and should be an inspiration to all of us. At St John’s, we are looking to add a perennial bee and butterfly flower garden adjacent to the church. If you have thoughts or ideas about this, please see Fr. Dave. The Gardening Guild is still in it’s infancy, but work has begun! Over the next few weeks we will learn about a few Orthodox Saints connected to gardening along with information about some local (or native) perennial plant.

Highlighting a Native Perennial Plant of the Week

***Liatris spicata* (Blazing Star)** - Spikes with many purple pollens provide dramatic color to gardens and attract pollinators. Prefers soils high in organic matter.

Plant Type: Flower

Mature Height (in feet): 3-6'

Width/Spread: 3"-1.5'

Estimated Growth Rate: Medium

Bloom Time: Summer

Bloom Color: Purple, lavender

Sun/Shade Requirement: Full sun

Soil Moisture Requirement: Dry-Medium

Soil Texture: Sandy clay loam, sandy loam, silt loam

Planting Distance: 1-3'

***Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly Milkweed)**

***Carex cherokeensis* (Cherokee Sedge)**

Upcoming plants...

***Monarda bradburiana* (Eastern Beebalm)**

***Penstemon digitalis* (White Beardtongue)**

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.

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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) *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...
James, Mary, Judith, Austin, Janet, Boyde, Maryellen, Carrie, David, Carol, Clifford, Lindsay, Brian, Rhonda, Carlene, Jason, 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, Dcn Maximus C, Alexander H, Monk David M, Nicholas C, John B, John F, Bradley S, Clay W, *and our Parish Council and Curators:* Lawrence, Subdeacon Ryan, Timothy, Rich, Elizabeth, Robert, Gina, John, Kimberly, Matthew, 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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September Namedays:
Pañi's grandmother Maria Alexe –Nativity of Mary (NC 9/9)
Cora Dzadony - Martyr Coralia (9/14)
Maria Urban - Nativity of Mary (9/21)
Sharon Peifer - Righteous Anna (9/22)
Sophia Urban - Martyr Sophia (9/30)
...*May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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September Birthdays:
Samuel Mainolfi (9/1), Dexter Torchia (9/1), Timothy Martin, Reader (9/2), Ruth Herbert (9/2), Ashley Wertz Andrekovich (9/2), Fr. Bob Teklinski (9/3), Pañi Deborah Zak (9/7), Tina Scherer (9/11), Tzveti Gintcheva (9/13), Pañi Andrea Cochran (9/14), Pañi Daria Lopusky (9/16), Cindy Morrison (9/17), Bonnie Carlisle (9/18), Fr. Vincent Dranginis (9/19), Fr. Kenneth Ellis (9/19), Fr. Dave Urban (9/19), Fr. Matthew Moriak (9/20), Fr. David Smoley (9/20), Ron Nelson (9/22), *Father's brother-in-law*, Brian Verbanick, Sr (9/22), Margaret (Peggy) Rusnak (9/24), Fr. R. Michael Zak (9/24), AJ (Matolyak) Ferraz (9/26), Cora Dzadony (9/28), Andrew Mirilovich (9/28), Juliana Anton (9/29), Fr Dcn Art Steinstra (9/30) ...*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...
Hekuran, 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, Camile & Nicholas ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*
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September Anniversaries:
Marianne & Steven Kubis (9/6/14)
Father's sister, Suzanne & Brian Verbanick (9/8/01)
Barbara & Richard Gedid (9/17/83)
Corey & Lauren Cavlovich (9/18)
Thomas & Carol Lorenzi (9/19/70)
Charles & Allison Kretchek (9/26/15)
John & Barbara Kirish (9/28/96)
...*through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*
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For Pregnant Mothers...
Carley, Morgan (due in January)
...*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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For the souls of the newly departed...
+ Bella Gardner (9/9), +Millie (Amelia) Skaine (8/17)
...*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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ONLINE BONUSES

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Some Gardening Saints of the Orthodox Church:
The Holy Martyr Konon the Gardener
The Holy Martyr Phocas the Gardener
Saint Tryphon the Great Martyr,

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Saint Kristo the Gardener of Albania
Commemorated on February 25/12

The holy New Martyr Kristo was an Albanian who worked in a vegetable garden. At the age of forty, he decided to go to Constantinople to seek better business opportunities.

One day he was negotiating with a Turk who wished to purchase his entire stock of apples, but they were unable to agree on a price. The Turk became angry and accused Kristo of expressing a desire to become a Moslem. Kristo was brought before the authorities, and false witnesses were found to testify that he had indeed stated his intention to convert.

Kristo declared that he never said that he wished to become a Moslem. His testimony was discounted, however, because he was a Christian, and Moslem witnesses had contradicted him.

The saint was beaten and tortured the next day, but remained steadfast in his confession of Christ. Kaisarios Dapontes, a well known monk and author, visited Saint Kristo and got him freed from the place where he was chained. He brought food for him, but he refused to eat. “Why should I eat?” he asked. “I do not expect to live, so I may as well die hungering and thirsting for Christ.”

Since he refused to abandon the Orthodox Faith, Saint Kristo was sentenced to be beheaded. Before they led him away, Kristo gave Dapontes a metal file and told him to sell it and use the money to have memorial services offered for him.

On February 12, 1748 Saint Kristo the Gardener was beheaded, thereby receiving an imperishable crown of glory from Christ.

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***Saint Prochorus the Gardener** and Wonderworker of the Kievan Caves Monastery (1107)*

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The Green Patriarch and Ecological Sin
By Chris Durante on September 3, 2021

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the enthronement of Patriarch Bartholomew I to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in 1991. As is well known, Patriarch Bartholomew has been dubbed the “Green Patriarch” for his longstanding commitment to environmental issues. He recently marked the dawn of 2021 by holding the 4th Halki Summit on the environment, from the 26th to the 28th of January of this year. Beginning in 2012, the Halki Summits have been the most recent instantiation of the Patriarch’s commitment to the environment and is part of a long line of ecumenical, interfaith and interdisciplinary conferences he has held on environmental issues since his Patriarchy began. One of the watershed moments that earned Bartholomew his ecological moniker was when he first expressed the idea of ecological sin while delivering a speech in Santa Barbara, California in 1997. He claimed,

For humans to cause species to become extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God’s creation... For humans to degrade the integrity of Earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the Earth of its natural forests, or destroying its wetlands... For humans to injure other humans with disease, for humans to contaminate the Earth’s waters, its land, its air, and its life, with poisonous substances... These are sins.

(Address at the Environmental Symposium, Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, Santa Barbara, California, November 8, 1997)

Yet, what is a sin? In Greek, the word for “sin” is: amartia, which literally means to “miss the mark.” Sin as amartia makes sense within the framework of a teleological, or goal-oriented, ethics and therefore we could say that “sin” means to fall short of attaining our personal and communal goals of becoming virtuous persons striving to live the good life within excellent communities as we pursue closeness and union with the divine. In other words, the concept of sinning does not necessarily imply a breach of law but also speaks to the goals we pursue, the mindset we adopt, and the type of ethos we foster as persons and communities; all of

which influence the ways in which we relate to: one another, the natural world, and the divine. More recently in 2015, Patriarch Bartholomew spoke of “the need to broaden our narrow and individualistic concept of sin^[1]”. Patriarch Bartholomew’s comment calls attention to the fact that it is not only individuals but also collectives that are capable of sin. We often recognize the phenomena of group agency and communal identity and the shared goals, values and characteristics they embody. When an entire civilization abides by a shared value system and engages in shared behavioral patterns that result in common dispositions, habits and lifestyles, we may wish to call this a *civilizational ethos*. By guiding the patterns of thought and behavior, the values and ideals that inform a civilization’s ethos help determine whether that civilization will act sinfully and miss the mark attaining the good life or if it will pursue a virtuous way of life....

the highest pursuit of humanity is not economic enrichment or economic expansion...We cannot live by economic development alone, but we must seek...the values and principles that transcend economic concerns. Once we accept this, the economy becomes a servant of humanity, not its master.

(Address at Davos Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, 1999: Orthodoxy Today)

...

We need a new way of thinking about our own selves, about our relationship with the world and with God. Without this revolutionary “change of mind,” all our conservation projects, however well intentioned, will remain ultimately ineffective.

(Message at the International Conference on Ethics, Religion, and Environment, University of Oregon, April 5, 2009)

Ultimately, we must heed Bartholomew’s call and cultivate an ethos grounded in a sincere sense of belonging to a larger ecological and intergenerational community and discover ways in which our socio-economic thinking can go beyond financial considerations to incorporate genuine human well-being into the ways in which we determine what is best; not only for our bank accounts but for our future generations and our living planetary home. A good place to begin our journey toward an ecologically

sustainable future would be to return to the traditional Christian virtues of prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice, as a measure of excellence as well as the communal and relational ethos that accompanied it.

Full Article found at:
<https://fordhamorthodoxy.org/green-patriarch-and-ecological-sin/>



LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE DISCIPLE FROM THE 70 TITUS
Commemorated on September 7 / August 25

The Disciple from the 70 Titus was a native of the island of Crete, the son of an illustrious pagan. In his youthful years he studied attentively at Hellenistic philosophy and the ancient poets. Preoccupied by the sciences, Titus led a virtuous life, not devoting himself to the vices and passions characteristic of the majority of pagans. He preserved his virginity, as the Priest-martyr Ignatios the God-bearer (comm. 20 December) testified about him. For such a manner of life the Lord did not leave him without His help. At age twenty in a dream Saint Titus heard a voice, suggesting to him to abandon the Hellenistic wisdom, not providing salvation for his soul, but rather to seek out that which would save him. After this dream Saint Titus waited still another year, since it was not actually like a command, but it guided him to familiarise himself with the teachings of the prophets of God. The first that he happened to read was the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Having opened it to the 47th Chapter, he was struck by the words, speaking as it were about his own spiritual condition.

When news reached Crete about the appearance in Palestine of a Great Prophet, and about the great miracles worked by Him, the governor of the island of Crete, an uncle of Titus by birth, sent him there. This

Prophet was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, incarnated of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and having come into the world for the redemption of the race of mankind from its oppression of the original sin. At Jerusalem Saint Titus beheld the Lord; he heard His preaching and believed in Him. He was a witness of the suffering on the Cross and death of the Saviour, His glorious Resurrection and Ascent to Heaven. On the day of Pentecost the future disciple heard, standing in the crowd, how the 12 Apostles, – after the descent upon them of the Holy Spirit, spoke in various languages among which was the Cretan language (Acts 2: 11). Saint Titus accepted Baptism from the Apostle Paul and became his closest disciple. He accompanied the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys, time and again he fulfilled entrusted tasks, was involved in the establishing of new churches, and was with him in Jerusalem. Saint Titus was numbered among the 70 Disciples and was ordained by the Apostle Paul as bishop of Crete. Around the year 65, not long before the second imprisonment, the Apostle Paul dispatched a pastoral epistle to his selected one (Tit. 1-3). When the Apostle Paul was taken like a criminal to Rome to stand trial before Caesar, Saint Titus for a time left his flock in Crete and went to Rome to be of service to his spiritual father. After the death by martyrdom of the Apostle Paul, the Disciple Titus returned to the chief city of Crete – Gortyn.

The Disciple Titus peacefully guided his flock and toiled at enlightening the pagans with the light of faith in Christ. He was granted by the Lord the gift of wonderworking. During a time of one of the pagan feasts in honour of the goddess Diana, Titus preached to a gathered crowd of pagans. When he saw, that they would not listen to him, he prayed to the Lord, so that the Lord Himself would show to the mistaken people the non-entity of idols. By the prayer of the Disciple Titus, the idol of Diana fell down and shattered before the eyes of all. Another time the Disciple Titus prayed, that the Lord would not permit the completion of a temple under construction raised up to Zeus, and it collapsed. By such miracles the Disciple Titus brought many to faith in Christ. Having enlightened with the light of faith the surrounding regions, the Disciple Titus died peacefully in the extreme old age of 97. At death his face shone like the sun.

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ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

Coming Soon...

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FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

Coming Soon...

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **Ancient Faith Singles Retreat** – Join us at Antiochian Village in Bolivar, PA, for a long weekend for Orthodox Christian singles (age 30 and up) full of socializing, church services, speaker sessions, trivia, games, speed dating, and free time for relaxation and fellowship. *Get out of your comfort zone and meet other singles from all over the country!*
When? January 15-18, 2026
Where? Antiochian Village Conference Center in Bolivar, PA
Who? 130+ Orthodox Christian singles
What's on the Schedule?
* Speed Dating: Break the ice and get to know your fellow retreat attendees! Whether you are extroverted or introverted, speed dating will give you the excuse to meet every other single in attendance.
* Trivia Night: Start studying, because at this year's singles retreat, we will host a trivia night with questions written by Ancient Faith staff and contributors! Get ready for a fun challenge and teamwork!
* Interactive, Speaker-Led Sessions: Hear from Drs. Mary and David Ford and Fr. Nick Belcher and engage in fruitful discussion on being single and Orthodox today.
* Film Screening of American Orthodox: Watch and discuss a brand new documentary about the lives of the early American saints arriving on the West Coast and their presence with us today.
* Church Services (of course!): We will worship together at Vespers and Matins each day and celebrate Divine Liturgy on Sunday. We will also serve a


supplication service at the relics of St. Raphael of Brooklyn.
* And Much More: We will enjoy the beautiful grounds of Antiochian Village, eat our meals together in the Cedars Dining Hall, and have free time to rest, pray, and fellowship with one another.
Who is Invited? If you are...
* a single (unmarried, divorced, widowed) man or woman,
* at least thirty years old,
* an Orthodox Christian,
* and living in the world (non-monastic):
YOU are invited!
<https://www.ancientfaith.com/events/singles-retreat/>
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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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ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

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.