"THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER" Our Parish Bulletin

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

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

VOL, XI

ECCLESIASTICAL (LITURGICAL) NEW YEAR

14th Sunday after Pentecost

+Venerable Simeon the Stylite (459) 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

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 Tone 6; Liturgical Color: Blue

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11 (Theotokos)

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Theotokos) Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday before the Cross)

Gospel: John 3:13-17 (Sunday before the Cross)

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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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.

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

²¹ But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; ²² he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. 2 1 For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. ² For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? ³ And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. ⁴ For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, ³ and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.' 5 But they made light of it and went off, one to

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' 10 And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; 12 and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** Thank You – Last week's outdoor Liturgy and Picnic were a lot of fun! It was a blessing to be around everyone and to celebrate the Eucharist in nature. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this possible! Glory to God for all things!

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*** Axios - Fr. Marc Wisnosky celebrated his 5-year anniversary to the Priesthood yesterday and at the end of the service was blessed to wear the Pectoral Cross by Metropolitan Gregory. Many Years, Fr. Marc! Axios (he is worthy)!

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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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*** Pittsburgh River Blessing – The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh has organized a River Water Blessing to be held on Sunday, September 21 at 4 pm at the Dormition of the Theotokos Orthodox Church (12 Washington Ave., Oakmont, PA 15139). See Fr. Dave for more info

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** 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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*** Real Break Presentation - On Sunday, September 28, Nicholas Ditmore, Reader, will give a presentation during Coffee Social reflecting on his Real Break Trip to Romania back in May.

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* Community Open-House & Cook-Out -On Saturday, October 4 we will host a community Open-House and Cook-Out 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. +++++++++

*** Oktoberfest Happy Hour to Benefit the IOCC will be on Thursday, October 9 from 6-9 PM at the Rusty Gold Brewing Company (43 W. Pike St., Canonsburg, PA 15317). There will be live Oktoberfest Music with Oktoberfest Food Available (20% of food & beverage proceeds will benefit IOCC). Donations also welcomed (100% of which will go to IOCC). No RSVP needed. Make a donation or become a sponsor at https://iocc.org/pittsburgh or make checks payable to IOCC and mail to Kevin Reck (105 Sycamore Dr., MacMurray, PA 15317). Questions? Contact Kevin at 724-344-5610 or kevinsreck@gmail.com.

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*** <u>Big events coming at CN</u> – This fall has some great events happening at Camp Nazareth (*339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137*) including:

₩ CN Alumni Weekend - Oct 10-12

¥ Young Adult Retreat (ages 18-35) - Oct 17-19

¥ Fall Youth Encounter (ages 8-18) - Nov 7-9

More information on each event is in the online "Additional Announcements" section.

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*** Walk for Missions – The annual Walk for Missions, hosted by the Pittsburgh Clergy Brotherhood, will be on Sunday, October 12 (Registration at 12:30; Walk begins at 1:00) at South Park Children's Playground (2406-2498 Brownsville Rd, South Park Township, PA 15129). For more information, visit https://www.holycrosspgh.org/ministries

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*** Iconography Camp – The first-ever iconography Camp will be held at the St. Sava Shadeland Church Camp (Springboro, PA) from October 13-18. This unique project is intended exclusively for adult artists, offering a rare opportunity to study and practice the sacred art of iconography in a prayerful, immersive environment. Participants will deepen their understanding of Orthodox theology and iconographic tradition while working under experienced guidance. All proceeds and donations from this project will go directly to support Shadeland Camp, ensuring its continued mission of service and hospitality. Registration includes lodging, meals, and materials. Early Bird (by tomorrow, Sept 14): \$750. Regular: \$1,000 (payment plans available). Contact Fr. Dave for more details!

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*** End of an era – Last week was the final weekly bulletin cover from Vestal Publishing. After almost 60 years, they have discontinued printing *The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin*. In the coming weeks, Father will be "using up" leftover covers from previous weeks. (Vestal will still be printing the yearly wall calendars.)

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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.

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD AUGUST 24, 2025

Stewardship Offerings: \$690
Candle Stewardship: \$32
Envelope Stewardship: \$185

Total Collections: \$907
Capital Improvement Fund: \$54

Participating Souls at Sunday's Liturgy: 35

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 110
Candle Stewardship: \$ 36
Envelope Stewardship: \$ 538
Community Outreach: \$ 5

Total Collections: \$ 689
Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 100

Participating Souls at Sunday's Liturgy: 49
Feast Day Vespers: 10
Feast Day Morning: 3

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Cindy Pavilonis; Julianna & Fred Anton

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + August Financial Report:

General Stewardship = \$ 4958.84 (includes \$ 413.84 from online stewardship)

*Expenses = \$ 5356.75 Net Deficit = \$ 397.91

Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 4130 Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 38 *details listed on the church hall bulletin board

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Fiscal Year Financial Report:

(September through last month)
General Stewardship = \$80,347

*<u>Expenses = \$ 80,861</u> Net Deficit = \$ 513

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 39

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SPIRITUAL VITAMIN:

"To be stewards of the Gospel, we need to be stewards of our parish. This requires the vision to see the parish, not as it is, but as it could be."

- source unknown

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* <u>Home Blessings</u> — 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.**

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of...

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

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Dorathia (9/10), +James Hudak (9/9), +Bella Gardner (9/9), +Jeanette Ellis (9/8), +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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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

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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

* Tending to His garden – We are called, as Orthodox

* 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 Pollinator 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 plants.

+ + + + + + + + + + + Highlighting a Native Perennial Plant of the Week

Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Milkweed) Carex cherokeensis (Cherokee Sedge) Liatris spicata (Blazing Star)

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Monarda bradburiana (Eastern Beebalm) - These fragrant, pale purple blooms have a unique appearance and like all Monarda attract hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators. Also tolerates deer, drought, dry soil, and shallow-rocky soil tolerant.



Plant Type: Flower Mature Height (in feet): 1-2' Width/Spread: 1-2'

Estimated Growth Rate: Medium

Bloom Time: Spring

Bloom Color: Pink to pale purple **Sun/Shade Requirement:** Full Sun-

Partial Shade

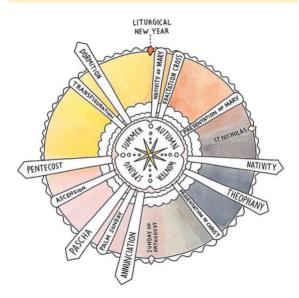
Soil Moisture Requirement: Dry-Medium **Soil Texture:** Clay loam, silt loam, shallow rocky

Planting Distance: 3-6'

- + +

Upcoming plants: Penstemon digitalis (White Beardtongue)

ONLINE BONUSES





LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MONK SIMEON THE STYLITE

Commemorated on September 1

The Monk Simeon the Stylite was born in the Cappadocian village of Sisan in the Christian family of Susotian and Martha. At 13 years of age he began to tend his father's flock of sheep. To this his first obedience he concerned himself attentively and with love. One time, having heard in church the Gospel commands of the Beatitudes, he was struck by their profundity. Not trusting to his own immature judgement, he turned therefore with his questions to an experienced elder. The elder readily explained to the

lad the meaning of what he had heard and it strengthened in him finally the resolve to follow the Gospel path. Instead of heading homewards, Simeon set off to the nearest monastery and, after tears of entreaty, he was accepted after a week into the number of the brethren. When Simeon became age 18, he took monastic vows and devoted himself to feats of the strictest abstinence and of unceasing prayer. His zealousness – beyond strength for the other monastic brethren – so alarmed the hegumen (abbot) that he suggested to the monk that he either moderate his ascetic deeds or leave the monastery. The Monk Simeon thereupon withdrew from the monastery and settled himself by day upon a very high column, where he was able to carry out his austere vows unhindered. After some time, Angels appeared in a dream vision to the hegumen, which commanded him to bring back Simeon to the monastery. The monk however did not long remain at the monastery. After a short while he settled into a stony cave, situated not far from the village of Galanissa, and he dwelt there for three years, all the while perfecting himself in monastic feats. One time, he decided to spent the entire Fortyday Great Lent without food and drink. With the help of God, the monk endured this strict fast. From that time he always completely refrained during the entire period of the Great Lent even from bread and water – twenty days he prayed while standing, and twenty days while sitting – so as not to permit the corporeal powers to relax. A whole crowd of people began to throng to the place of his efforts, wanting to receive healing from sickness and to hear a word of Christian edification. Shunning worldly glory and striving again to find his lost solitude, the monk chose a yet unknown mode of asceticism. He went up a pillar 4 meters in height and settled upon it in a little cell, devoting himself to intense prayer and fasting. Reports about the Monk Simeon reached the highest church hierarchy and the imperial court. The Antioch Patriarch Domninos II ((441-448) visited the monk, made Divine Liturgy on the pillar and communed the ascetic with the Holy Mysteries. Fathers pursuing asceticism in the wilderness all heard about the Monk Simeon, who had chosen such a difficult form of ascetic striving. Wanting to test the new ascetic and determine whether his extreme ascetic feats were

pleasing to God, they dispatched messengers to him, who in the name of these desert fathers were to bid the Monk Simeon to come down from the pillar. In the case of disobedience they were to forcibly drag him to the ground. But if he offered obedience, they were entrusted in the name of the desert fathers to bless his continued ascetic deeds. The monk displayed complete obedience and deep Christian humility.

The Monk Simeon was brought to endure many temptations, and he invariably gained the victory over them – relying not on his own weak powers, but on the Lord Himself, Who always came to him in help. The monk gradually increased the height of the pillar on which he stood. His final pillar was 40 cubits in height. Around him was raised a double wall, which hindered the unruly crowd of people from coming too close and disturbing his prayerful concentration. Women in general were not permitted beyond the fence. In this the monk did not make an exception even for his own mother, who after long and unsuccessful searchings finally succeeded in finding her lost son. Not having gained a farewell, she thus died, nestled up to the fence encircling the pillar. The monk thereupon asked that her coffin be brought to him; he reverently bid farewell to his dead mother – and her dead face then brightened up with a blissful smile.

The Monk Simeon spent 80 years in arduous monastic feats – 47 years of which he stood upon the pillar. God granted him to accomplish in such unusual conditions an indeed apostolic service – many pagans accepted Baptism, struck by the moral staunchness and bodily toughness which the Lord bestowed upon His servant.

The first one to learn of the end of the monk was his close pupil Anthony. Concerned that his teacher had not appeared to the people over the course of 3 days, he went up upon the pillar and found the dead body stooped over at prayer (+ 459). The Antioch Patriarch Martyrios performed the funeral of the monk before an huge throng of clergy and people. They buried him not far from the pillar. At the place of his ascetic deeds, Anthony established a monastery, upon which rested a special blessing of the Monk Simeon.

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave
Sept 21: Sr ACRY
Sept 28: ____?__
Oct 5: ?

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*** CN Alumni Weekend - Calling all Diocesan Camp Nazareth Alumni (current and former campers, volunteers, clergy and staff) who are Seniors in college or older!! Camp is hosting an Alumni Weekend October 10-12 at the Camp. There'll be time for hanging out, hiking, visiting the Gift Shop, for stories and getting to know each other, and for prayer and church services. Entertainment, a guest speaker and an alumni forum are also a part of the schedule. We have a few surprises for you as well! So don't miss out! Come gather together for a great weekend with your Camp family through the generations. Come from all those cities "far and near" to our "beautiful place in among the mountains." You can register for the Alumni Weekend online https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/xbsvxvk

Diocesan Alumni and their families are welcome. Cost for the weekend is \$150. Children 7 and under are free. Remember, this is for Diocesan Alumni who are Seniors in college or older. On Friday, October 11th check-in at Camp will be between 6-7:30pm. Check-out on Sunday, October 13th will be by 3pm. After you register online, you will be sent further information about the event including a schedule, packing list, etc.

2025 Fall Young Adult Retreat

JOHNSTOWN, PA – The Fall Young Adult Retreat will take place from Friday, October 17- Sunday, October 19th, 2025 at Camp Nazareth, Mercer, PA. The Fall Retreat is sponsored by American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Y2M, The OCA Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church USA. It is open to ages 18-35.

Our guest speaker will be Very Rev. Dr. Nicholas Ferencz will speak about "To Believe or Not to Believe, that is the Question." Along with some outdoor activities, fellowship and worship. The Retreat will begin with the arrival and registration on Friday, Octboer 17th at 7:00pm and will conclude on Sunday, October 19th at Noon following the Divine Liturgy at 9:00am and Brunch following.

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2025 Fall Encounter at Camp Nazareth Sponsored by the National Jr. A.C.R.Y. November 7–9, 2025 • Mercer, PA

The National Jr. A.C.R.Y. invites all youth ages 8–18 to gather for the 2025 Fall Encounter at Camp Nazareth this Veterans Day Weekend, **November 7-9!** This year's Encounter continues the theme from this past summer at Camp Nazareth with the story of Moses, the Israelites, and the Exodus: "The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation" (Exodus 15:2). Now our children will hear the story of Joshua and the people of Israel as they enter the Promised Land, drawing strength from the command of the Lord: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

The theme will help us discover how courage and faithfulness are essential for following Christ, the "New Joshua," who leads us into the true Promised Land of His Kingdom through the life of the Church. Through discussions, worship, and fellowship, participants will reflect on what it means to take courageous steps in their own spiritual lives and to trust Christ as He opens the way before us to His Kingdom.

The Fall Encounter will include all the hallmarks of the weekend at Camp Nazareth: worship in the Camp Church, campfires, sports, great food, activities, time with friends, and the joy of being together in Christ.

Dates: November 7–9, 2025

Location: Camp Nazareth, Mercer, PA **Cost:** \$120 per participant (ages 8–18)

Registration: Register here

Drop-off on Friday, 11/7 is between 6-7:30pm. Pick-up on Sunday, 11/9 is between 11am-11:30am.

Thanks to the generosity of the National Sr. A.C.R.Y., financial assistance is available to families who may need help with the cost. Please contact Fr. Matthew Dutko, Jr. A.C.R.Y. Spiritual Advisor, at 404-268-6359 for more information.

Come, seek Christ, find courage to carry your Cross, and be renewed in faith and hope at the 2025 Fall Encounter at Camp Nazareth!

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* 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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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!

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + ** "Code" for reading the bulletin:

*** = new news ** = 2^{nd} time in the bulletin * = at least the 3^{rd} time in the bulletin + + + + + + + +

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.

Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

(Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)

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Random Tidbits... Father Dave is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 2:30pm OR by appointment... Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email... Parish Phone Tree: Please call Fr. Dave to be added... Emergency Sick Calls: Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery (Sacrament) of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

H + + + + + + + + + + + + + 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

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!

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THIS MONTH'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

9:30 am Moleben to St. Nectarios with anointing

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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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

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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 Presentation by Nicholas Ditmore, Reader, on his Real Break Trip to Romania

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:30 am Akathist to St. Sophia

AND Looking FURTHER Ahead...

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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 +++++++++

ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES + + + + + + + + + +

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.

+ + +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:

+ + +

* 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.

+++ +++ +++ 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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* * meal train 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
- **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:

▼ * 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! + + +

Glory to God for All Things!

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

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* Joining the ACRY – If you would like to become a part of our philanthropic organization of the ACRY (American Carpatho-Russian Youth), which is open to anyone over age 8, please contact Subdeacon Ryan Ferko.

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. +++ +++ +++

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.

+++ +++ +++ 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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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 *vour* 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/roadsfromemmau s/2015/10/27/6-reasons-why-tithing-is-good-for-anorthodox-parish/

Weekly	Beyond a Tithe		Tithe	Upper Range Giving			Middle Range Giving			Lower Range Giving		
Income	15%	12%	10%	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

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 <u>not</u> 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 <u>does not</u> permit cremation.

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The Jesus Prayer

(Inhale) O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, (Exhale) have mercy on me, a sinner!

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

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ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

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

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Prayer requests – During the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, prayers are said for the sick and those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin. If silent prayers are requested, they will be offered quietly at the Altar at all services. All those listed in the "Prayer Corner" are prayed for during the Proskomedia (Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Daye 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) name(s). Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver him/her/them from sickness and bitter pain. Heal him/her/them so that he/she/they may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

For the Special Intentions of... His All Holiness
Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr.
Stephen B., Fr. Thomas B., Protodeacon Gregory B.,
Stephanie B, Kevin, Michael L., Laura & family,
Carlene, Georgia, Stephen, David, Anastasia,
Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason,
Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose,
Charles, Justin, David, Donna, George, our diocesan
seminarians: Den Peter S, Den 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.

+++++++++ **September Namedays:**

Paňi'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), Paňi Deborah Zak (9/7), Tina Scherer (9/11), Tzveti Gintcheva (9/13), Paňi Andrea Cochran (9/14), Paňi Daria Loposky (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 Magadalene, & 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.

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

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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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.

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen.

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A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America
I pray to you, God, for the families of my
neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out
of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that
devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to
life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships
among members of different families whom I know
or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our
area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving
Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes
the disappearance of peace from souls, and the
escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while
more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace
along with the night. Let the harshness of the day
and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

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A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (name), and our spiritual father (name), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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