

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*

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

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ! (*responded with: Glory be forever!*) Slava Isusu Christu! (*Slava na viki!*) We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning. We wish God’s Blessings to all who are with us today and pray that you come again soon! Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.

+++ + + + + + + + +

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 VOL. XI

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Youth Sunday

Church School Year Begins

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:30 – 11:30 am Church Open For Personal Prayer

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

+++

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Tone 7; Liturgical Color: **Red**

During Coffee Social: Presentation by Nicholas

Ditmore, Reader, on his Real Break Trip to Romania

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:30 am Akathist to St. Sophia

+++ + + + + + + + +

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Liliana, Mary, Judith, Austin, Janet, Boyde, Maryellen, Carrie, David, Carol, Clifford, Lindsay, 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 souls of the newly departed... +Dortha Wilt (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!*

+++ + + + + + + + +

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** **Yearly Meeting Highlights** – will be presented in next week’s bulletin.

+++ + + + + + + + +

*** **Welcome Back** students & teachers! Many Years!

+++ + + + + + + + +

** **Pittsburgh River Blessing** – The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh has organized a River Water Blessing to be held **TODAY, 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

+++ + + + + + + + +

** **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.

+++ + + + + + + + +

*** **Community Open-House & Cook-Out RESCHEDULED** – Our community Open-House and Cook-Out has been rescheduled to **Saturday, October 25** 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.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor* + + + 2201 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, Pa 15101
www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com + + + 412-748-0148 (*Talk or Text*) + + + OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 290

Candle Stewardship: \$ 94

Envelope Stewardship: \$ 610

Total Collections: \$ 994

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 1165

Participating Souls at Sunday’s Liturgy: 42

Attendance at Yearly Meeting: 25

Feast Day Vespers: 8

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Mary Jane Hudak; Tim Martin; Julianna & Fred Anton; Rich & Renee Mirilovich; Kathy Schrmack; Cindy Pavilonis

+++ + + + + + + + +

** **Thank You** – Our 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!

+++ + + + + + + + +

** **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)!

+++ + + + + + + + +

* **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.**

+++ + + + + + + + +

* **Liturgy Sermon Series** returns today, **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!

+++ + + + + + + + +

** **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://ioccc.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.

+++ + + + + + + + +

** **Big events coming at CN** – 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.

+++ + + + + + + + +

** **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>

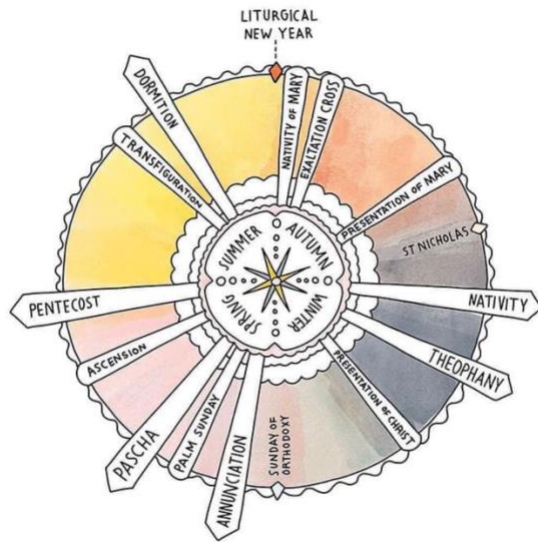
+++ + + + + + + + +

** **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.)

+++ + + + + + + + +

* **“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.

ONLINE BONUSES



+++ +++ +++

VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

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

+++ +++ +++



+++ +++ +++

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Feast Day: Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

+++

Feast Day: Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; ⁴² one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her."

True Blessedness

²⁷ As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that nursed you!" ²⁸ But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

+++ +++ +++

Sunday before the Cross Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Final Admonitions and Benediction

¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they

may glory in your flesh. ¹⁴ But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶ Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God.

¹⁷ Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

+++

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

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life." ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

+++ +++ +++

Sunday: Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

⁶ For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake,

so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

+++

Sunday: Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

The Question about David's Son

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, ⁴² saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand,

till I put thy enemies under thy feet?'

⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?"

⁴⁶ And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.

+++ +++ +++

ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

ANAPHORA - The central prayer of the Eucharist is the anaphora (Greek ἀναφορά for "offering up"), although in the West it is also called the "Eucharistic Prayer," (*Structure: Despite some variety in the structure of early anaphoras, the "Antiochene" or "West Syrian" pattern that is found in the liturgies of St John Chrysostom, St Basil, and St James, took shape by 400 AD.*)

+++

EPICLESIS - In the Epiclesis (or epiklesis), God's Holy Spirit is called on to come down "*upon us and upon these gifts*" (the bread and wine), so that they may become "*truly the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*". A distinction is usually made between the invocation over the people (called a 'communion' epiclesis) and the one over the Gifts of bread and wine (called a 'consecratory' epiclesis). This

is the main supplication in the anaphora. (Clarification: The Epiklesis was a great dispute between Orthodox Church and other churches that needed to know *how the change takes place* and *at what moment does it take place*. The Orthodox Church has always held the view that it is a mysterious reality, and that it is not within the power of our minds to apprehend it. It comes by the way of prayers. Not a *moment of consecration*. They look upon the entire Eucharistic Prayer as forming a single and indivisible whole, so that the three main sections of the prayer, Thanksgiving, Anamnesis, and Epiclesis, all form an integral part of the one act of consecration. So, such a *moment of consecration* cannot come until the *Amen* of the Epiclesis.)

+++ +++ +++

FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY MOTHER OF GOD AND EVERVIRGIN MARY: Commemorated on September 21/8

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Mother of God and EverVirgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time, when people had reached such limits of decay of moral values, that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. The best minds of this era were aware and often said openly, that God mustneeds come down into the world, so as to restore faith and not tolerate the ruination of the race of mankind.

The Son of God chose for the salvation of mankind to take on human nature, and the All-Pure Virgin Mary, – alone worthy to contain in Herself and to incarnate the Source of purity and holiness, – He chose as His Mother.

The Birth of Our Most Holy Lady Mother of God and EverVirgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, on this radiant day was born the MostBlessed Virgin Mary, – having been forechosen through the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God, and She is revealed as the Mother of the Saviour of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joakim from the tribe of

the King and Prophet David, and Anna from the tribe of the First-Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren. Having reached old age, Joakim and Anna did not lose hope on the mercy of God. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to solve the barrenness of Anna – even in her old age, as He had once solved the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joakim and Anna made a vow to dedicate the child which the Lord might bestow on them, into the service of God in the Temple. Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joakim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joakim brought his sacrifice in offering to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, – considering him to be unworthy since he was childless. Saint Joakim in deep grief went into the wilderness and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for the granting of a child. Saint Anna, having learned about what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple, wept bitterly; never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed, asking God's mercy on her family. The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious spouses had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling – to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Archangel Gabriel brought Joakim and Anna the joyous message: their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a MostBlessed Daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World. The Most Holy Virgin Mary of Herself in purity and virtue surpassed not only all mankind but also the Angels; – She was manifest as the Living Temple of God, such that the Church sings in its festal verses of song: "the Heavenly Gate, bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I have cried", Tone 6).

The Birth of the Mother of God marks the change of the times, wherein the great and comforting promises of God begin to be fulfilled about the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil. This event has brought nigh to earth the grace of the

Kingdom of God, – a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and life immortal. Our Mother FirstBorn of All Creation is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we steadfastly recourse with filial devotion.

+++ +++ +++

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

ST. LUCIAN, ABBOT OF ALEXANDROV (1654) Commemorated on September 21/8 He was born in the city of Galich (Kostroma Government) and accepted monasticism in the Nativity of the Theotokos monastery near Pereyaslavl Zalesk. Having come to the Alexandrovsky Village and found out that near it in the forest stood an empty decrepit church with a wonderworking icon of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos, whole and perfectly intact, the Venerable Lucian decided to settle near it. Soon, having heard about his holy solitary life, pious men began to flow to him and to accept tonsuring from him. With the increase in the number of brothers, the church was renewed and a monastery arose which exists to this day. Driven away from the monastery by the slander of his enemies, the Venerable Lucian was returned by the petition of a god-fearing benefactor, a stoker for the Tsar, Alexander Barkov. Besides the Nativity of the Theotokos Hermitage, St. Lucian founded the Dormition Women's Monastery.

In 1650 a priest's widow came to the Venerable Lucian and accepted tonsuring, and after she was tonsured she became a venerable woman. During the participation of the Venerable Lucian and with the approval of the Tsar Alexis Michaelovich near the Alexandrovsky Village there also was raised up the Dormition Women's Monastery, which was under the supervision of the Venerable One. In his life the Venerable Lucian endured much evil and suffering from his malevolent ones. Besides his strict ascetic life, he was known for his touching gift of words and gift of insight. For two years he predicted a contagious plague epidemic, warning about the necessity for repentance. Having reached old age and feeling the enfeeblement before one's death, the Venerable Lucian asked that he be brought into the church, where he prayed for a long time before the wonderworking icon

of the Mother of God, entrusting It to the protection of the monastery against enemies visible and invisible; then he was taken out of the temple, and, according to his wishes, he was laid on the grass; the brothers approached him for his blessing. The Venerable Lucian died in 1655. The monasteries founded by him still exist to this day (see Vladimir Diocese).

+++ +++ +++

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 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)
Monarda bradburiana (Eastern Beebalm)

+++

Penstemon digitalis (White Beardtongue)
 Attractive showy tubular flowers that attracts pollinators and will self-seed in the right location.
Plant Type: Flower
Mature Height (in feet): 2-4'
Width/Spread: 1.5-2'
Estimated Growth Rate: Rapid

Bloom Time: Spring, Summer
Bloom Color: White
Sun/Shade Requirement: Partial Shade-Full Shade
Soil Moisture Requirement: Dry-Medium
Soil Texture: Loam, clay loam, sandy loam
Planting Distance: 1.5-2'

++++ + + + + + + + +
Some Gardening Saints of the Orthodox Church:
The Holy Martyr Konon the Gardener
The Holy Martyr Phocas the Gardener
Saint Kristo the Gardener of Albania
+ + + +

Saint Tryphon the Great Martyr,
Commemorated Feb 14/1
The Martyr Tryphon was born in Phrygia, in the village of Lampsacus. From his early years the Lord granted him the power to cast out demons and to heal various maladies. He once saved the inhabitants of his native city from starvation. St. Tryphon, by the power of his prayer, turned back a plague of locusts that were devouring the grain and devastating the fields. When the emperor Decius assumed the imperial throne, he began a fierce persecution of Christians. The saint was arrested, subjected to interrogation, and harsh tortures, during which he fearlessly confessed his faith. The holy martyr prayed before his execution, thanking God for strengthening him in his sufferings. He also asked the Lord to bless those who should call upon his name for help. This event occurred in the city of Nicea in the year 250.

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

ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS
(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)
+ + + + + + + + + +
*** **Coffee Needed** – We are in need of coffee for our coffee social. We prefer the bigger containers from Costco or Sam’s as they fit nicely on the shelf in our Kitchen Storage Room.
+ + + + + + + + + +

COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS
Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave
Sept 28: _____?
Oct 5: _____?
Oct 12: _____?

+ + + + + + + + + +
** **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. Cost: \$1,000 (payment plans available). Contact Fr. Dave for more details!

+ + + + + + + + + +
** **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 at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/xbsvxxvk> 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.
+ + + + + + + + + +
** **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!
+ + + + + + + + + +
* **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/>

+ + + + +

“Code” for reading the bulletin:

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

* = at least the 3rd 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/

+ + + + +

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)

+ + + + +

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!

+ + + + +

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.

+ + + + +

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!*

+ + + + +

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

+ + +

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

+ + +

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

+ + +

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...

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!

+++ + + + + + + + +

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:

+++

* **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

+++ + + + + + + + +



* **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:

✂ ***

✂

✂ * **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!

+++ + + + + + + + +



ACRY NEWS

+++

* **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.

+++ + + + + + + + +

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.

+++ + + + + + + + +

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.

+++ + + + + + + +



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 our 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/>

+++ ++

Stewardship of Treasure Guide													
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?													
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe	Tithe	Upper Range Giving				Middle Range Giving				Lower Range Giving		
	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	

+++ ++

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.

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.

+++
“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

+++ ++

The Jesus Prayer

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

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

+++ ++

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.

+++ ++
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 Proskomedion (Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our prayer list.

+++ ++
Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions #
+++ ++
A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant(s) *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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

+++ +++ +++

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!*

+++ +++ +++

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 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 Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

+++ +++ +++

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)

Ray & Kathy Kilmer (9/21)

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.*

+++ +++ +++

For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky

...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

+++ +++ +++

This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (*in the case of answered prayers*) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: it is good to pray for one another. Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to only Orthodox Christians.*

+++ +++ +++

A Prayer for Peace

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

+++ +++ +++



+++ +++ +++

A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America

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

+++ +++ +++

A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

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

+++ +++ +++