

“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.

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UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

VOL. XI

Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

16th Sunday after Pentecost

+Great-martyr Nicetas the Goth (372)

*** **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 ***** *NEW DATE!*

9:30 am Akathist to St. Sophia

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

17th Sunday after Pentecost

+Hieromartyr Phocas the Gardener (117)

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Tone 8; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle 2 Cor. 6:16–7:1

Gospel Luke 5:1–11

Church School

2:00 pm Carlisle Baptism

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

9:30 am Akathist to St. John

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday after the Cross)

¹⁶ Knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. ¹⁷ But if,

in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

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Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 (Sunday after the Cross)

³⁴ And He called to Him the multitude with His disciples, and said to them, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” ⁹ ¹ And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

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Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

⁶ Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, “At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation.” Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³ We put no obstacle in any one’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, ⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God;

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ “For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not

winnowed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’

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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*

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Jean Colantoni (9/28), +Dortha Wilt (9/10), +James Hudak (9/9), +Bella Gardner (9/9), +Jeanette Ellis (9/8), +Millie (Amelia) Skaine (40-day) ...*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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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** **Regular Coffee Needed** – It’s that time of year - we are in need of regular 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. If you are able, please pick one up and add it to the shelf just in the room and on the left. Thank you for your stewardship to the church!

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

Oct 5:	_____?
Oct 12:	_____?
Oct 19:	_____Sr ACRY

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*** **Yearly Meeting Highlights** – Here are a few of the topics presented or discussed at September’s Yearly Meeting:

✂ **Building Ministry:** RECAP OF THE PAST YEAR: the electrical issue was resolved; the lights and ceiling were updated in the main hall, kitchen, and multi-purpose room; kitchen was updated with a stainless steel back splash, shelves, and new refrigerator (with ice); excavation project occurred adding 2 french drains, re-grading the grounds, and adding 3 parking spots in the back; IDEAS GOING FORWARD: ceiling in nave, AED machine, stair lift, street sign, iconostasis, chandelier, fans, outside cross, commemoration walkway

✂ **Kitchen Committee:** RECAP: storage room shelving organized; kitchen cabinets labeled; IDEAS: it takes a village to care for the parish – all help is appreciated!

✂ **Landscape Leaders:** 6 signed up to cut the grass

✂ **Garden Guild:** RECAP/IDEAS: Pollinator Garden ideas are coming together

✂ **Capital Campaign Ministry:** RECAP: excavation project thermometer; IDEAS: buy-a-brick fundraiser

✂ **Outreach Ministry:** RECAP: Uber Fund established to assist college students to get to church; donations made to St. Constantine Orthodox School; ACRY’s Lenten puzzle, book, and dvd drive; IDEAS: community cook-out/open house; soup sale; pysanki workshop

✂ **Youth Ministry:** RECAP: Youth Sunday; Church School; IDEAS: need more teachers; getting a theme for the year; commitment from parents to get kids to church

✂ **Prayer Ministry:** IDEAS: a new ministry that Fr. Dave will start soon

✂ **Sts. Spyridon and Nicodemus Bakers Ministry:** RECAP: Prospora workshop to happen soon; IDEAS: pascha bread and koliva workshops

✂ **New Business:** Diocesan Sobor postponed a year; Christmas candy sale

✂ **Amended By-Law Passed:** That we remove the requirement of tenure to hold an auditor position on the Parish Council as long as you are a member of good standing.

All were thanked for their stewardship to the parish!

2025-26 SJB PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS
President: Larry Martin
Vice-President: Liz Radomsky
Treasurer: Tim Martin, Reader
Financial Secretary: Rich Mirilovich
Recording Secretary: Gina Fall
Chief Auditor: Bob Fall
Auditors: Mary Jane Hudak, Ray Kilmer, Kim Opsitos, Matt Opsitos, and Kathy Schrmack

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*** SJB will host the next **St. Xenia Girls Gathering** the afternoon of **Saturday, October 11**. This group is open to girls in grades 2 – 6 in the Greater Pittsburgh area. Please RSVP to Fr. Dave.

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*** **Welcome Back students & teachers!** At this time, **Church School** will be offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Remember that Church School begins at the start of the Divine Liturgy. At the Final Blessing of the Liturgy, have the coffee social host come first followed by the students, parents, and teachers. Class should begin about 10 minutes after you get downstairs. Parents – please plan for your child(ren) to stay until 11:30. May God bless our parish! Many Years!

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* **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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** **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 Gina, Larry, or Fr. Dave.

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD
Stewardship Offerings: \$ 1080
Candle Stewardship: \$ 61
Envelope Stewardship: \$ 535
Total Collections: \$ 1676
Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 100
Participating Souls at Sunday’s Liturgy: 33
Friday Feast Day Vespers: 9
Saturday Feast Day Liturgy: 4

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

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

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* **Liturgy Sermon Series** returned last week 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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* **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.

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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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* **End of an era** – The bulletin covers from Vestal Publishing are no longer being offered. 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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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

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

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The devil appeared to three monks and said to them: if I gave you power to change something from the past, what would you change?

The first of them, with great apostolic fervor, replied: "I would prevent you from making Adam and Eve fall into sin so that humanity could not turn away from God."

The second, a man full of mercy, said to him: "I would keep you far from God so that you condemn yourself eternally."

The third of them was the simplest and, instead of responding to the tempter, he got on his knees, made the sign of the cross and prayed saying: **"Lord, free me from the temptation of what could be and was not"**.

The devil, giving a raucous cry and shuddering with pain, vanished.

The other two, surprised, said to him: "Brother, why have you responded like this?"

He replied: "First: **we must never dialogue with the devil.**

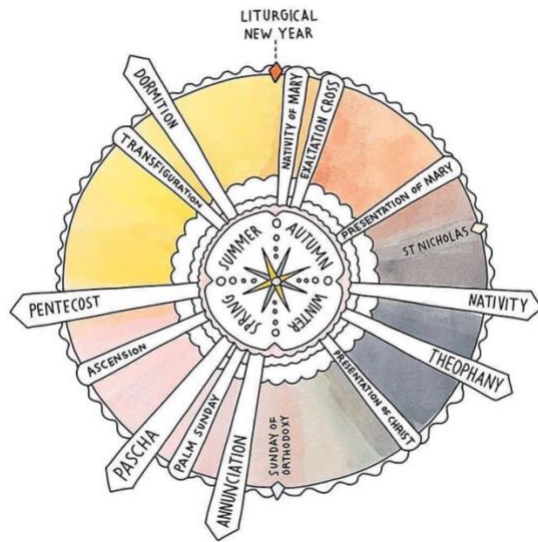
Second: **Nobody in the world has the power to change the past.**

Third: Satan's interest was not to prove our virtue, but to trap us in the past, so that we neglect **the present, the only time God gives us His grace and we can cooperate with Him to fulfill His will."**

Of all the demons, the one that catches the most men and prevents them from being happy is that of "What could have been and was not".

The past is left to the mercy of God and the future to his Providence. Only the present is in our hands. "Live in God, in the moment."

ONLINE BONUSES



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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.com/acrodnews
YouTube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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*** **Youth & Young Adult Sunday** - The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America has designated **Sunday, September 28, 2025** as Youth & Young Adult Sunday. Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM), a national agency of the Assembly of Bishops, strengthens the Church's ministry with young people by connecting, supporting, and equipping the vibrant work already happening across jurisdictions. We believe no one should feel alone in ministry—which is why we build networks of youth workers, families, and parishes rooted in Christ and each other. By sharing vetted resources, providing training, and fostering collaboration across jurisdictions, we help ensure that every young person encounters an authentic and impactful experience of the Orthodox faith. Join us in building up the family of Christ, one relationship at a time. Visit www.theOYM.org for more info

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FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

THE ELEVATION OF THE VENERABLE AND LIFE-CREATING CROSS OF THE LORD:

Commemorated on September 27/14

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Adrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and upon the

hill fashioned there to set up a pagan temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter. Pagans gathered on this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains – the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This occurred under the Equal-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part, becoming in the year 323 the sole-powerful ruler of the vast Roman empire. In 313 he had issued the so-called Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalised and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he had signed the Milan Edict to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict about toleration extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Equal-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine, having with the assistance of God gained victory over his enemies in three wars, had seen in the heavens the Sign of God – the Cross and written beneath: "By this thou shalt conquer".

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Equal-to-the-Apostles Constantine sent to Jerusalem his mother, the pious Empress Helen (Comm. 21 May), having provided her with a letter to the Jerusalem patriarch Makarios. Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and idol-statues overshadowing Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her searchings remained unsuccessful. Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly hebrew by the name of Jude who stated, that the Cross was buried there, where stands the pagan-temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan-temple and, having made a prayer, they began to excavate the ground. Soon there was detected the Sepulchre of the Lord and not far away from it three crosses, a plank with inscription having been done by order of Pilate, and four nails,

which had pierced the Body of the Lord. In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Saviour was crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord was placed to it, the dead one came alive. Having beheld the rising-up, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found. Christians, having come in an innumerable throng to make veneration to the Holy Cross, besought Saint Makarios to elevate, to exalt the Cross, so that all even afar off, might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual chief personages raised up high the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy", reverently made poklon/prostration before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326. During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross there occurred also another miracle: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The starets/elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Kuriakos (ie. lit. "of the Lord") and afterwards was ordained Bishop of Jerusalem. During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363) he accepted a martyr's death for Christ (Comm. of Priest-Martyr Kuriakos is 28 October). The holy empress Helen journeyed round the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Saviour – the reason for more than 80 churches – raised up at Bethlehem the place of the Birth of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives from whence the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Saviour prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after the falling-asleep. Saint Helen took with her to Constantinople part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails. The Equal-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine gave orders to raise up at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honour of the Resurrection of Christ, including in itself also the Sepulchre of the Lord, and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about 10 years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple; she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on 13 September 335. On the following day, 14 September, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.

On this day is remembered also another event

connected to the Cross of the Lord, – its return back to Jerusalem from Persia after a 14 year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Phokas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khozroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and led off into captivity both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zacharios (609-633). The Cross remained in Persia for 14 years and only under the emperor Herakles (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khozroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes – was the Cross of the Lord returned to Christians from captivity. With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Herakles in imperial crown and porphyry(purple) carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. Alongside the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates, by which they ascended onto Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed further. The Holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an Angel of the Lord blocked his way, since He That bore the Cross onto Golgotha for the expiation of the world from sin, made His Way of the Cross in the guise of Extreme Humiliation. Then Herakles, removing the crown and porphyry, donned plain garb and without further hindrance carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete (Comm. 4 July) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true gathers together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast".

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY GREATMARTYR NIKITA

Commemorated on September 15

The Holy GreatMartyr Nikita was a Goth (a Germanic tribe). He was born and lived on the banks of the Danube River, and suffered for Christ in the year 372. The Christian faith was then already widely spread throughout the territory of the Goths. Saint Nikita believed in Christ and accepted Baptism from the Gothic bishop Theophilus, a participant in the First OEcumenical Council. Pagan Goths began to oppose the spread of Christianity, which resulted in

internecine strife.

After the victory of Fritigern, – heading a Christian army and inflicting defeat on the pagan Athanarik, the Christian faith began to spread increasingly among the Goths. Bishop Wulfil, the successor to Bishop Theophilus, created a Gothic alphabet and translated into the Gothic language many priestly books. Saint Nikita worked intensely among his fellow Goths at spreading Christianity. By his personal example and inspired words he brought many pagans to the Christian faith. However, Athanarik after his defeat again contrived to gather his own forces, return to his own country and reestablish his former power. Having remained a pagan, he continued to hate Christians and persecute them. Saint Nikita, having undergone many tortures, was thrown into a fire, where he died in the year 372. The friend of Saint Nikita, a Christian named Marianus, by night retrieved the body of the martyr, – unharmed by the fire and illumined by a miraculous light, and gave it over to burial in Cilicia. Afterwards it was transferred to Constantinople. Part of the relics of the GreatMartyr Nikita were later transferred to the monastery of Vysokie Dechany in Serbia.

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

*** **Fall Festival** – Do you know of a Church Fall Festival coming up or your local Community Day that would be good for in the bulletin? Please let Fr. Dave know today.

*** **Bourbon Tasting** – Mark your calendars for an upcoming IOCC fundraiser - **Thursday, October 23** at 7 pm at Leaf & Bean (3525 Washington Rd., McMurray, PA 15317). Tickets will include a Leaf & Bean gift, three bourbon samples, and light hors d’oeuvres. More details coming soon...

** **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!

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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.

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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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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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2025 Home Blessings

How to prepare for your home blessing?

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

Home blessings will take place from August 14 through October 14

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

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“Code” for reading the bulletin:

*** = new news ** = 2nd time in the bulletin
* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin
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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online: www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/

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

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Calendar - Future Services are updated online at: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar (Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)

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

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Speaking With Your Priest - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers. With love in Christ, Fr. Dave

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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

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Church School
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
9:30 am Akathist to St. John

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Monthly Memorial Panachida
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13
6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14
FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Youth Sunday
God-Parent/God-Children Sunday
Church School
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23
FOUNDING OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY IN 1932
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE

7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (787)
CARPATHO-RUSYN DAY IN NORTH AMERICA
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
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AND Looking FURTHER Ahead...

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

- Oct - Home Blessings Continue
- Nov 8 – Feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius
- Nov 21 – Feast of the Holy Archangels
- Nov 26 – Moleben of Thanksgiving (6:30 pm)
- Nov 28 – Nativity Fast begins
- Dec 4 – Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos
- Dec 6 – St. Nicholas Charity Dinner Luncheon Banquet to benefit Christ the Savior Seminary
- Dec 19 - Feast of St. Nicholas

Please, Save the Dates!

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Make plans to go to Camp Nazareth in 2025!

- ✦ October 10-12 – CN Alumni Weekend
- ✦ Oct 31-Nov 2 - Young Adult Retreat (ages 18-35)
- ✦ November 7-9 - Fall Encounter (ages 8-18)

Please, Save the Dates and head to 339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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* 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 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:

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✂ * **Church Proper** – Not much has changed in the nave of the church, BUT other work has been done. The building committee and Parish Council continue to discuss our plan of action going forward with work in the church proper. Please be patient with us! *Also, remember that for a project like the one that we are undertaking, work goes top down so the ceiling and walls will be done before the floor. As mentioned, please be patient with us!*

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Glory to God for All Things!

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

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ACRY NEWS

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

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Why Should I Join the Local ACRY? The ACRY is an Orthodox Christian family fellowship dedicated to the purpose of encouraging spiritual growth through charitable and apostolic missionary works, prayer and fellowship for the Glory of God and the building up of the Church and our Diocese. The local ACRY focuses on outreach to the community in various forms and fellowship within. This could be a fundraiser or family event at the church grounds to introduce people to our parish, or the volunteering of our time to help support a community event. In addition to these, the ACRY has the opportunity to branch out and meet other members of our diocesan ACRY community through deanery and nation events and partake in outreach at a broader level.

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

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

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

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On-Line Giving is available from our parish website to donate to the: General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund. The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2nd best is to mail it in to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring

donation online. For our parish to continue it’s ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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

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A Prayer of Stewardship

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the good steward, who redeemed Adam and Eve of their failed stewardship by offering Yourself for the life of the world. You did teach us in the feeding of the multitudes that whatever we give to God is returned to us multiplied. You did praise those good and faithful servants in the parable of the talents who returned to the Master their gifts. So help us to learn the joy of stewardship, remembering that everything we have comes from You and belongs to You. We know, Lord, that we often live in fear of the future and insecurity. Help us to remember the lilies of the field and so to trust in Your providence. Grant to us a cheerful and generous spirit. Enkindle in the hearts of all Your people a zealous love for You. For You are the Good Steward, and to You we give thanks, praise and glory, together with Your Father and Your all holy good and life-giving Spirit now and ever and onto the ages of ages. Amen.

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6 REASONS WHY TITHING IS GOOD FOR AN ORTHODOX PARISH

Excerpt from Fr Andrew Stephen Damick

Tithing is good for the Orthodox Christian and therefore good for the Orthodox parish. So why don’t more Orthodox Christians tithe? We know the usual reasons: We’re not used to it. Back in the old country the government paid for the church. The parish was founded on the “dues” model. Tithing

is “Protestant.” Orthodox people are stingy. We just don’t have it in our culture. Those things are all true in one way or another, but I don’t think those are the real reasons that we do not tithe very much as Orthodox Christians. There are some who do, of course, but it’s not very many of us. So what is the reason why we’re so terrible at tithing? *I believe that it is because we don’t know why we tithe.* And because we don’t know why, we don’t do it. And when we don’t do it, then we come up with the various reasons given above as the cause of our non-tithing. But those aren’t the real reasons. It’s because we don’t know why we should tithe. Now, the reasons I am going to list below are not all equally important. Indeed, if I had to answer the question, “Why should I tithe?” I would answer only with #1. That’s the real reason. #2 through #6 are essentially useful effects of tithing that should help us to focus on #1. So here are six of my reasons. #1 is the most important and really the point of all of it.

1. TITHING ENABLES US TO BE SAVED

As Christians, we want to be saved. We want to be healed. We want to “go to heaven” rather than to hell when we die (setting aside for the moment all the details). We want to become like Christ. Tithing doesn’t purchase all that for us, but tithing is a powerful way that we give of ourselves, that we turn over what we have to God so that we are opened to receiving His healing and blessing. It’s a basic principle of Christian spiritual life that we cannot receive God’s blessing if we are holding back on Him. Why? We can’t be filled with God if we remain full of ourselves. Tithing helps us to empty ourselves. Don’t get me wrong—giving money is not the *only* way that we work out our salvation and become open to receiving blessings. But whatever we have, we have to give to God. And if we have money, then we have to give money. If we don’t have money, then of course we don’t have to give it. But we have to give what we have, whatever it is, and with the way our culture is so grasping and possessive about money, it really is one of the *best* things for us to give if we can.

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

2. TITHING SHOWS THAT WE’RE SERIOUS

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

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

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

3. TITHING IS ABSOLUTELY ORTHODOX

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

The purpose in tithing is not because it is an “absolute requirement” in order to be saved. It’s not. But how can we be saved if we do not nurture a truly generous heart? And how can we nurture that generous heart without becoming disciplined about giving all that we have? The Orthodox Church understands how to become disciplined. We understand asceticism. This is one of the best ways to do it.

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

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

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

4. TITHING BECOMES MINISTRY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. TITHING CHANGES A PARISH CULTURE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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 Proskomedie (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
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For Pregnant Mothers...
Carley, Morgan (due in January)
...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the
Theotokos, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.
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***For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil
Authorities...*** Thomas R. Dzadovsky
...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr
& Wonderworker.
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This is to be used for the special intentions of our
brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a
prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave
know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (*in the
case of answered prayers*) to our Parish List. The words of
the Gospel are true: it is good to pray for one another. Let
this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the
help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is
NOT limited to only Orthodox Christians.*
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A Prayer for Peace
Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of
all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the
nations and their leaders in the ways of justice
and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice,
prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us
to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach
us to cease the storing and using of implements of
war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom.
Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of
peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and
oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony
and friendship as brothers and sisters created in
Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen.
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A prayer for our Neighborhoods
by Archbishop Demetrios of America
I pray to you, God, for the families of my
neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out
of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that
devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to
life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships
among members of different families whom I know
or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our
area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving
Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes
the disappearance of peace from souls, and the
escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while
more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace
along with the night. Let the harshness of the day
and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

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

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