

“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, OCTOBER 5, 2025

VOL. XI

17th Sunday after Pentecost
+Martyr Phocas the Gardener of Sinope (320)
Blessing of the Parish Council
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
(followed by an outdoor work party)
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

18th Sunday after Pentecost
+Uncovering of the relics of St. John of Shanghai
and San Francisco the Wonderworker (1993)
9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Tone 1; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Gospel: Luke 6:31-36 *(2nd Sunday of Luke)*
Monthly Memorial Panachida for +Mary Schrmack
(1-year), +Christopher Kurtz (4-yr), +Christine
Zolkowski (3-yr), +Albert Dzuka (1-yr), +Ann
Kunsak (27-yr), +Kathie Pasikoski (2-yr), +Melissa
(Hanas) Caldwell (6-yr), +Richard Radick (35-yr)
Presentation offered during Coffee Social

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

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Melanie, Mary, 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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October Namedays:

John Kirish - Venerable John Kukuzelis the Singer (10/14)
...May God grant them many and blessed years!

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October Birthdays:

Nicholas Sarandou (10/3), Matthew Mirilovich (10/6),
John Gaydos, III (10/7), Emma Fischer (10/9), *Father’s*
sister, Melissa Ditmore (10/11), *Father’s mother*, Andrea
Urban (10/11), Kevin Anton (10/12), Rhonda Gogal
(10/19), Fr. Robert Buczak (10/20), Alyssa Duray (10/23),
Fr. Daniel Vaskalis (10/24), Dolores Bowser (10/26/35),
Kaitlyn Duray (10/26), Fr. Mark Leasure (10/26), Sarah
Fucsko (10/27), Ryan Schrmack (10/30), Waylon
Gavulich (10/31), Noah Winkler (10/31) *...May God*
allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their
lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!

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October Anniversaries:

Rich & Renee Mirilovich (10/1)
Allen & Anastasia (Martin) Dzambo (10/2)
Brian & Rhonda Gogal (10/5)
Chi-Wing & Deborah (Brancho) Chow (10/08/05)
John & Jane Gaydos (10/9)
Meredith & Ryan Blobner (10/12)
Robert and Trona Paganico (10/18)
...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas

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For the souls of the newly departed...

+Dortha Wilt (9/10), +James Hudak (9/9), +Bella
Gardner (9/9), +Jeanette Ellis (9/8)
...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where
there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be
Eternal in God’s Memory!

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

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols?

For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will live in them and move among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Therefore come out from them,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch nothing unclean;

then I will welcome you,

¹⁸ and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.”

⁷ Since we have these promises, beloved, let us
cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and
spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

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Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

⁵ While the people pressed upon him to hear the word
of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennes’aret.

² And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen
had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he
asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat
down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ And when
he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out
into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

⁵ And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night
and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the
nets.” ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a
great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking,

⁷ they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to
come and help them. And they came and filled both
the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon
Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying,

“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” ⁹ For
he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the
catch of fish which they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were
James and John, sons of Zeb’edee, who were partners

with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be
afraid; henceforth you will be catching men.” ¹¹ And
when they had brought their boats to land, they left
everything and followed him.

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **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). No RSVP needed. Make a
donation or become a sponsor at www.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 / kevinsreck@gmail.com.

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** SJB will host the next **St. Xenia Girls Gathering**
on **Saturday, October 11** from 1-4 PM. This group is
open to girls in grades 2 through 6 in the Greater
Pittsburgh area. Please RSVP to Fr. Dave. *(Please let*
Fr Dave know if you would like to help with snacks for
the event)

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*** **Presentation at Coffee Social** – On **Sunday,**
October 12, a presentation will be shared during our
coffee social. Come learn about how your property
affects the *greater watershed*. Tom Getting, Penn
State Extension Master Watershed Steward, will
present the “Watershed Friendly Property Certification
Program”. Reducing stormwater runoff, reducing
water pollution, conserving water, and supporting
wildlife and pollinators are critical elements of
healthy, watershed-friendly properties. This program
offers guidance and resources and allows property
owners to complete a simple online application to
qualify for watershed-friendly property certification.
(This presentation is free and so is the property
certification.) For more information, visit
[https://extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-](https://extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-stewards/watershed-friendly-pa)
[stewards/watershed-friendly-pa](https://extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-stewards/watershed-friendly-pa)

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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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*** **Pumpkin Patch** – Who is interested to head over to Shenot's Farm & Market (3754 Wexford Run Rd., Wexford, PA 15090) after the Coffee Social and Church School on **October 19** for an afternoon of fun! For \$5 you can take a hayride to a pumpkin patch and corn field mazes ☺ fun for all ages! It is only 17 minutes (8.6 miles) from our church. **Please RSVP to Fr. Dave.** Visit their website for more info: www.shenotsonlinemarket.com/pumpkin-patch-2025

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*** **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.

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** **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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** **Welcome Back students & teachers!** After looking closer at the tentative schedule for our **Church School Year**, classes will be offered each month on the **1st, 3rd, and if there is a 5th Sunday**. 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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*** **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...

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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.

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS	
<i>Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave</i>	
Oct 12:	Fr. Dave
Oct 19:	Sr ACRY
Oct 26:	_____?

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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: Prosphora 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!

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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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✂ **LAST CALL: 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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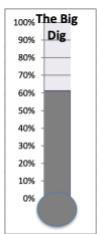
* **Liturgy Sermon Series** - Fr. Dave will continue to break down the Liturgy answering some questions of *why we do what we do*. Each week he will focus on a certain part of the service. The “homily” will occur prior to that part of the service. Come – learn about our Faith!

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 200
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 250
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 588
Community Outreach:	\$ 95
Total Collections:	\$ 1133
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 0
<i>Participating Souls at Sunday's Liturgy: 46</i>	
<i>Monday AM Akathist: 2</i>	

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Fred & Juliana Anton; Mary Jane Hudak; Lawrence Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Melanie Paieski; Cindy Pavilonis

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September Financial Report:
General Stewardship = \$ 4909.64
(includes \$ 417.64 from online stewardship)
***Expenses = \$ 5374.50**
Net Deficit = \$ 464.86
Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 1519
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 43
**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Seminarians and Christ the Saviour Seminary**. Please continue to pray for our Diocesan Seminarians! Thank you in advance for your prayers for our seminarians and offerings for the seminary!

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*** **The St. Nicholas Charity Dinner Luncheon**, a fundraiser for our seminary, is set for **SATURDAY, December 6** at 1:00 pm at the Bulgarian-Macedonian Hall in West Homestead. More details coming soon...

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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

THIS MONTH’S SERVICE SCHEDULE

- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Blessing of the Parish Council
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
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22
6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting)
- THURSDAY, 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
Additional donation requested for our community outreach this month,

Church SHOULD BE YOUR Excuse FOR MISSING EVERYTHING ELSE.

- 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!
- Make plans to go to Camp Nazareth in 2025!
✱ 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

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY MARTYR PHOCAS THE GARDENER
Commemorated on October 5 / September 22
The Holy Martyr Phocas the Gardener came from the city of Sinope, situated on the southern shore of the Black Sea. Having a small garden, he lived modestly: he sold what he grew and on the proceeds he maintained himself, he helped the needy and paid the housing of vagrants. The Christian piety of the saint had an influence on other people. Even pagans deferred to him with deep respect. Under his influence they often abandoned their error and accepted the

Christian faith.
But the governor of the district, aware that Saint Phocas was spreading Christian teachings, gave orders to find and kill him. The saint himself accidentally came upon those sent after him, and not mentioning his name he courteously received them, dined them and prepared them a place for night-lodging. At night he went into the garden, he prepared a grave and the place for his burial; he even was able to make arrangements that all his possessions would be distributed after death to the poor. In the morning Saint Phocas declared to the strangers that it was he here for whom they were searching. And he asked that they fulfill the duty entrusted to them. The visitors were distressed, not wanting to kill the kindly saint, they felt honour bound to spare Saint Phocas. But he would not hear of their good intent and bent down humbly his head beneath the sword.
They buried the holy Martyr Phocas in the grave that he himself had prepared in the garden. The place of his burial was glorified by miracles, and later a church was built there. An accurate account of the martyr's death was collected by Asterios of Amasia (+ c. 410), through the testimony of whom the memory of the holy Martyr Phocas is especially venerated by sea-farers.

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
Conception of St. John the Baptist
Some Historical Background from the Old Testament

Epistle from Feast of Conception of St. John the Baptist: Galatians 4:22-27
For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise.
Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is

Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written,
“Rejoice O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married.”

On October 6 (September 23), we celebrate the feast of the Conception of St. John the Baptist. His two parents, Zacharias and Elizabeth, were both advanced in years and unable to have children. Their story is told in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. The Epistle lesson, taken from St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, refers to the Old Testament. In the book of Genesis, we read that Abraham and his wife Sarah, were not able to conceive children. In Genesis 16, we read that Sarah (at the time called Sarai) told Abraham (at that time called Abram) that he should be with her maid, Hagar, since she could not give him children. So, Abram went with Hagar and she conceived an illegitimate son, whom she named Ishmael. It was told by an angel that Ishmael “shall be a wild ass of a man, his hand against every man and every man’s hand against him” (Genesis 16:12). Later, after God made a covenant with Abraham, He promised that Sarah would conceive in her old age. So, now Abraham ended up with two sons, one illegitimate and one the product of his union with Sarah. Saint Paul refers to these two sons, comparing the two women to two allegories. Hagar represents the Old Covenant, given on Mount Sinai in the Ten Commandments. This covenant gave order, just like the conception by Hagar gave Abram a son. But neither was an ending. Ishmael did not play out to a good ending and neither did the Old Covenant. A New Covenant came through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. The New Covenant is perfect and permanent. It has replaced the Old Covenant. Our hope is not found in keeping good order but in the sacrificial love that Christ showed to us. We are descended from Abraham; not from the line of Ishmael, but through the line of Isaac, Jacob, David, and ultimately to Jesus.

Before the Incarnation of Christ was the birth of His forerunner, John the Baptist. Before John was born, while Elizabeth was pregnant, this is when the Annunciation took place. Like Sarah, Elizabeth was an older woman when she conceived. John was the product of a miracle made by God and the faith of his parents, Zacharias and Elizabeth. So, if we were to mark the real beginning of the New Testament and the advent of the New Covenant, in terms of events, the first event would be the conception of John the Baptist, followed by the Annunciation, the Nativity of John the Baptist and the Nativity of Christ. The Epistle lesson for the Conception of St. John the Baptist is also read on [December 22/9](#), the Conception of the Virgin Mary by Joachim and Anna. Like Zacharias and Elizabeth, they were both advanced in age and God granted them a miracle to give birth to the Virgin Mary. This event, the conception of the Virgin Mary, is not recorded in Scripture and is the first of the immediate precursors to the coming of the Messiah. The second is the conception of St. John the Baptist, which is the first one that is recorded in Scripture.

Knowing our history helps us know where we come from and how we came to be where we are. We are reminded today that we are descendants of Abraham through Isaac and not Ishmael, and that we are followers now of the New Covenant and not the Old Covenant. The change begins in the Scriptures with the Conception of St. John the Baptist, which we commemorate on October 6 (September 23).

+Fr. Stavros

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FEAST DAY FEATURE

Apolytikion, Feast of the Conception of St. John the Baptist

Sing now, o barren one who did not bear before, for you have indeed conceived the burning lamp of the Sun; and he will illuminate all the world afflicted with spiritual blindness.

Dance, O Zacharias, and now openly cry out: “The one who is to be born is a Prophet of the Most High God.”

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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*** **Godparent Sunday** – Our Annual Godparent Sunday celebration will be on **Sunday, October 19**. ALL are encouraged to contact your Godparents and Godchildren and invite them to Allison Park for the Divine Liturgy. Additional prayers will be added during the service. *It is a day to honor them and to encourage the growth of this spiritual relationship. We need to keep the Spiritual bonds alive with our God-parents and God-children. Even more important, we need to keep our life united with our Lord, Jesus Christ. This unites us with one another.*

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* **2025 Fall Young Adult Retreat**

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

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

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* **2025 Fall Encounter at Camp Nazareth**

Sponsored by the National Jr. A.C.R.Y. November 7–9, 2025 • Mercer, PA

The National Jr. A.C.R.Y. invites all youth ages 8–18 to gather for the 2025 Fall Encounter at Camp Nazareth this Veterans Day Weekend, **November 7-9!** This year’s Encounter continues the theme from this

past summer at Camp Nazareth with the story of Moses, the Israelites, and the Exodus: “*The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation*” (Exodus 15:2). Now our children will hear the story of Joshua and the people of Israel as they enter the Promised Land, drawing strength from the command of the Lord: “*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go*” (Joshua 1:9).

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

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

Dates: November 7–9, 2025

Location: Camp Nazareth, Mercer, PA

Cost: \$120 per participant (ages 8–18)

Registration: [Register here](#)

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

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

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

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“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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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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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

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES

PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

*** 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.

*** 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.

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

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The Jesus Prayer

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

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

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ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

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

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

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Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions #

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

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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, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin, David, Donna, George, our diocesan seminarians: Dcn Peter S, Dcn Maximus C, Alexander H, Monk David M, Nicholas C, John B, John F, Bradley S, Clay W, and our Parish Council and Curators: Lawrence, Subdeacon Ryan, Timothy, Rich,

Elizabeth, Robert, Gina, John, Kimberly, Matthew, Katherine, Kenneth and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

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October Namedays:

John Kirish - Venerable John Kukuzelis the Singer (10/14)

...May God grant them many and blessed years!

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October Birthdays:

Nicholas Sarandou (10/3), Matthew Mirilovich (10/6), John Gaydos, III (10/7), Emma Fischer (10/9), Father’s sister, Melissa Ditmore (10/11), Father’s mother, Andrea Urban (10/11), Kevin Anton (10/12), Rhonda Gogal (10/19), Fr. Robert Buczak (10/20), Alyssa Duray (10/23), Fr. Daniel Vaskalis (10/24), Dolores Bowser (10/26/35), Kaitlyn Duray (10/26), Fr. Mark Leasure (10/26), Sarah Fucsko (10/27), Ryan Schrmack (10/30), Waylon Gavulich (10/31), Noah Winkler (10/31)

...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers...

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

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For those preparing for Marriage...

Nicholas & Cassie, Allison & Michael, Camile & Nicholas ...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

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October Anniversaries:

Rich & Renee Mirilovich (10/1)
Allen & Anastasia (Martin) Dzambo (10/2)
Brian & Rhonda Gogal (10/5)
Chi-Wing & Deborah (Brancho) Chow (10/08/05)
John & Jane Gaydos (10/9)
Meredith & Ryan Blobner (10/12)
Robert and Trona Paganico (10/18)
...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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