

“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 12, 2025 VOL. XI
18th Sunday after Pentecost
+Uncovering of the relics of St. John the Wonderworker of Shanghai and San Francisco (‘93)
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), Pani Donna Smoley (6-month)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13
6:30p Feast Day Vespers & Orthodoxy 101 (till 8p)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14
FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
19th Sunday after Pentecost
+ Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas (1 c)
9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Gospel: Luke 7:11-16 (*3rd Sunday of Luke*)
Tone 2; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
God-Parent/God-Children Sunday
Youth Sunday; Church School
12-noon Pumpkin Patch & Hayride at Shenot Farms

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

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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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!

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

⁶The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

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Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

³¹And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

³³And if you do good to those who do good to you,

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** Godparent Sunday** – Our Annual Godparent Sunday celebration will be **NEXT WEEK, 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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**** Youth Sunday and Church School** – Next week will be full with our Youth Sunday as well as our next Church School Class. We always look forward to seeing all of the kids in church

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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 NEXT WEEK, **October 19**, for an afternoon of fun! (Coordinate this with having Godparents come with you!) 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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***** Environmentally Friendly Supplies** – A little reminder that when bringing in supplies for the church, please make environmentally friendly choices. Let’s continue to avoid styrofoam, bottles of water, etc.. Our little choices will make an impact! Also, when recycling at the church, please rinse bottles before putting them in the recycle bin and do not put garbage (plates, cups, utensils, food...) in with the recyclables.

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***** Pascha 2026** – Mark your digital calendars with these important Liturgical dates so you are prepared next year:

The Great Fast Begins: Monday, February 23
Palm Sunday & Holy Week: Sunday, April 5
Pascha: Sunday, April 12

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*** Walk for Missions** – The annual Walk for Missions, hosted by the Pittsburgh Clergy Brotherhood, will be **today, Sunday, 10/12** (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 info, visit www.holycrosspgh.org/ministries

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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 Cook-Out canceled** – Our community Open-House and Cook Out scheduled for Saturday, October 25 has been canceled. A rescheduled date has not been set.

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*** **Fall Food Fair** – Our sister parish of St. Nicholas (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120) will have their Fall Food Fair on **Saturday, November 1** from 11 am to 6 pm. Slavic Foods, Baked Goods, Basket Raffle, and more!

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

Oct 19:	Sr ACRY
Oct 26:	_____?
Nov 2:	_____?

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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: Prophora 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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* **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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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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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 184
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 99
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 685
Total Collections:	\$ 968
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 200

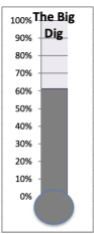
Participating Souls at Sunday’s Liturgy: 48
Monday AM Akathist: 4

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Carol & Tom Lorenzi; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Cindy Pavidonis (*for health of Alison & Michael McLean Marriage*); Kathy Schrmack; Melanie Paieski

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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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** **The Big Dig Update** – Through the end of September, \$27,542 has been collected towards our \$45,000 bill from the recent excavation project. All of your additional generosity is greatly appreciated! May God bless you! Many Years!

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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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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

“Only One Is Holy”
“If anyone is holy, let him come; if not, let him repent.”
- *The Didache: The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles*

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“Truly only One is holy by nature; but we are also holy, though not by nature but through participating in the sacraments; the struggle to overcome our passions and prayer.”
+*St. Cyril of Jerusalem*

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“We must not avoid Holy Communion because we deem ourselves sinful. We must approach it more often for the healing of our souls and purification of the Spirit, but with such humility and faith that considering ourselves unworthy... we would desire even more medicine for our wounds. It is much better if, in humility of heart, knowing that we are never worthy of the Holy Mysteries we would receive them every Sunday for the healing of our diseases, rather than, blinded by pride, think that after one year we become worth of receiving them.”
+*St. John Cassian*

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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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 HOLY SPOON AND PROPER HYGEINE

by Rev. Fr. Stylianos Muksuris

A concern often expressed by certain Orthodox Christians who attend the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and who receive the precious Body and Blood of our Lord, is having to share the same Communion spoon with others. Indeed, as concelebrating clergy commune from the same chalice, so too do the lay people commune from the same spoon. A fear often verbalized is contracting infection or germs or some other disease by coming into contact with another person’s saliva or lipstick that may come off on the spoon when receiving Holy Communion. The question I would like to address in this article is: Is there any reason to fear such a possibility?

The immediate answer is no. From a purely microbiological perspective, the sweet red wine used in Communion is typically high in alcoholic content. This means that the chances of bacteria or germs surviving in it are virtually minimal to non-existent. Although each of us communes the Body and Blood of Christ, the invisible microbes that may enter our mouths from the previous communicant are harmless. From a purely experiential perspective, every chalice on Sundays is consumed in its totality by the priest, after several mouths have communed from it. No priest, including the writer of this column, has ever become ill or incapacitated after consuming the Holy Gifts. And finally, from a purely spiritual perspective,

the Holy Gifts are exactly that: they are sacred, in that they have become imbued with the fullness of God’s presence and grace, and they are divine (not human) gifts, “for every good and perfect gift is from above, coming from [You] the Father of lights” (*Prayer behind the Amvon in the Divine Liturgy*). If we truly believe in God, we know quite well that God would never allow harm to come to us, most especially in the reception of Holy Communion.

While there is no fear then of disease, it is pertinent that all Orthodox Christians follow certain basic rules of hygiene before approaching the holy chalice. First, it is important for us to wipe our mouths well after receiving Holy Communion. This prevents the elements from accidentally dripping onto the ground. Also, it is important for women who wear lipstick to wipe it off before receiving Communion or not to wear any lipstick at all when attending church. Not only does this show the proper respect to the Body and Blood of Christ, but it also shows respect to the woman’s fellow communicants who wish to commune the Holy Bread and Cup *and nothing else!* Finally, when receiving Communion, some individuals may wish to simply open their mouths wide and allow the priest to ‘drop’ the Communion into their mouths, thus not allowing the spoon to make contact with their mouths.

It is important for us to know that the early Christians used to receive Holy Communion in a completely different manner than the present practice in the East. They received from the celebrant a portion of the consecrated Bread into their hands, and they communed directly from the chalice, exactly the way priests do today. In fact, some of the more ancient liturgies, such as the Alexandrian Liturgy of St. Mark and the Jerusalemite Liturgy of St. Iakovos, still call for the lay people to commune in this way. Because of the fear of accidents, the Church adopted, in time, the use of tongs, with which the elements were mingled together and placed carefully into the mouths of the communicants through this instrument. By the ninth century, the Church changed over to the Communion spoon for the same practical reasons, and it is this practice that remains in place today

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Uncovering Of The Relics Of St. John Of Shanghai And San Francisco The Wonderworker

Commemorated on September 29

Archbishop John was born on June 4, 1896 in Kharkov province, to the pious aristocrats Boris and Glafira Maximovitch; at baptism he was given the name Michael. Even in childhood Michael displayed a certain striving toward holiness, similar to that displayed by his distant relative, the renowned Siberian missionary Holy Hierarch John of Tobolsk, who was glorified by God through his working of miracles and the witness of his incorrupt relics. Michael was a sickly child with a poor appetite. He would take his toy soldiers and make them into monks, and the fortresses into monasteries. The Sviatogorsk Monastery, not far from the Maximovitch estate, provided the impetus for young Michael to take a seriously contemplative attitude toward life. Under the influence of the youth Michael, his governess converted to Orthodoxy.

In 1914, Michael completed the Poltava Military Academy, and entered the Kharkov Imperial University school of law. He was an excellent student, although he devoted part of his time to studying saints’ lives and other religious literature.

In the religious life of Kharkov, the young Michael was provided with the first step along the path of piety. In the crypt under the Kharkov cathedral church lay the relics of the Miracle-Worker Archbishop Melety Leontovitch, who spent his nights standing, with arms uplifted in prayer. Michael came to love this saint, and began to emulate his podvig [spiritual struggle] by staying awake all night. Thus, gradually, young Michael began to develop the desire to dedicate himself fully to God, and as a concomitant, began to manifest exalted spiritual qualities: abstinence and strictness toward himself, profound humility, and compassion for the suffering.

Even before his departure from Russia, young Michael made the acquaintance of the Most-blessed Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky), founder of the Russian Church Abroad. At the close of the civil war, Michael and his entire family emigrated to Yugoslavia, where he enrolled in the Department of

Theology of Belgrade University, from which he graduated in 1925. Metropolitan Anthony came to greatly love Michael, and kept the youth near him. In 1926, Metropolitan Anthony tonsured Michael to the monastic rank with the name John (after St. John, Metropolitan of Tobolsk), and soon thereafter ordained him a hierodeacon. On the Feast of the Entry of the Most-holy Theotokos into the Temple, monk John became a hieromonk. In 1929 he began to teach at the Serbian high school, and soon, with his capacity for inspiring lofty Christian ideals in his students, won their love.

As a hieromonk, John continued to practice the podvig of strict asceticism, to which he joined a podvig of all-night prayer, a podvig beyond the capacity of most people. It was during this time that, at the request of local Greeks and Macedonians, he began to serve in Greek for them. Like Holy Righteous John of Kronstadt, Vladyka served the Liturgy daily, acquiring thereby great spiritual strength, and having fanned within him the flame of love for God and for men. Hieromonk John began to visit hospitals and to search out the sick, those in need of prayer, consolation, and Communion. Inasmuch as Hieromonk John’s renown was constantly growing, the bishops abroad resolved to elevate him to the episcopate. Wishing to decline such a lofty calling, Hieromonk John emphasized the fact that he had a speech impediment; the bishops remained unmoved, pointing out to him that the Prophet Moses had also had a speech impediment.

Hieromonk John’s consecration, and his assignment to the Diocese of Shanghai, China, took place in May 1934. The newly-consecrated Vladyka arrived in Shanghai at the end of November, and immediately made efforts to restore church unity. He established ties with the local Orthodox Serbs, Greeks, and Ukrainians. At the same time, he began the work of erecting a huge cathedral church dedicated to Surety of Sinners Icon of the Mother of God, as well as a three-storey parish house and bell tower. Gifted with boundless energy, Vladyka John served as the inspiration for the building of churches, hospitals, and orphanages, and played an active part in many benevolent undertakings in Russian Shanghai.

But despite such frenetic activities, Vladyka John

continued to live as if in another world. In order to avoid secular glory and human praise, he from time to time pretended to act the fool. He remained in constant prayer, and if he did not serve in the church, then he would read the daily cycle of services himself. Often Vladyka would walk barefoot, even on the coldest of days. He would eat once a day, and during the fasts of the church would eat nothing by prosphoras. Each morning, to quicken his spirit, he would pour cold water over himself. He did not make social visits, but those in need of help he would visit, at unpredictable times and in bad weather. He would visit those he knew to be sick on a daily basis, taking with him the Holy Gifts. He possessed the gift of clairvoyance, and the gift of powerful prayer. There is documented a multitude of instances in which miraculous help came through the prayers of Vladyka John.

In 1939, a certain parishioner, beset by a number of tribulations, began to lose her faith. Once, upon entering the Church while Vladyka was serving, she witnessed a flame, shaped like a large tulip, descend into the Chalice during the consecration of the Holy Gifts. After seeing this miracle, her faith returned to her, and she repented of her faint-heartedness.

It once happened that as the result of constantly being on his feet, Vladyka's leg became very swollen, and the physicians, fearing the possibility of gangrene, prescribed that he be hospitalized. After much pleading with him, they succeeded in talking Vladyka into entering the Russian Hospital. But he did not remain there long. The same evening, he secretly left and went to the cathedral, where he served the All-night vigil. By the next day, the swelling had completely gone.

Vladyka used to visit prisons, and he served the Liturgy for those under St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco, Mural, NW side of our cathedral arrest. Often, upon seeing Vladyka, the spiritually ill would become calm, and would piously receive Communion. Once, Vladyka John was asked to commune a dying patient at the Russian Hospital in Shanghai. On that occasion, Vladyka took a priest along with him. Upon their arrival, he noticed a gregarious young man of about 20, playing a harmonica. The lad was to be discharged the following day. Vladyka John called to him and said: "I want to give you Communion right

now." The young man immediately confessed his sins and received Communion. The astonished priest asked Vladyka why he had tarried with an apparently healthy young man instead of going to the one who was dying. Vladyka answered: "He will die tonight, and the other one, who is seriously ill, will live for many years." And so it came to pass.

An enormous feat of charity was Vladyka's building in Shanghai of an orphanage to serve orphans and needy children. At first, there were only 8 orphans living there, but over the years, the orphanage gave shelter to hundreds of children, with an overall total of 1,500. Vladyka himself gathered up ailing and starving children from the streets of the Shanghai slums.

It once happened that during the war, there was not enough food in the orphanage to feed the children. Vladyka prayed all night, and in the morning, the doorbell rang. The representative of some charitable organization had brought a substantial donation to the orphanage. During the Japanese occupation, Vladyka declared himself to be the temporary head of the Russian colony, and showed great courage in defending Russians before the occupying Japanese powers.

In Shanghai, there was a voice teacher named Anna Petrovna Lushnikova who taught Vladyka proper breathing and enunciation, thereby improving his diction. At the end of each lesson, Vladyka paid her \$20.00. During the war, in 1945, she was gravely wounded, and happened to be in a French hospital. Sensing that she might die during the night, Anna Petrovna begged the nurses to call Vladyka John, so that he might give her Communion. Because, as the result of war-time conditions the hospital was locked up at night, the nurses refused. On that stormy night, Anna Petrovna was beside herself, and kept calling upon Vladyka. Suddenly, about 11:00 PM, Vladyka appeared in the ward. Unable to believe her eyes, Anna Petrovna asked Vladyka whether she was dreaming or whether he had actually come to her. Vladyka smiled, prayed, and administered Holy Communion. Afterwards, she calmed down and slept. The next morning she felt healed. As the hospital had been tightly secured, no one believed Anna Petrovna's report that Vladyka had visited her during the night. However, a patient in a neighboring bed confirmed

that she had also seen Vladyka. The greatest surprise was the discovery of a \$20 bill under Anna Petrovna's pillow. In this way, Vladyka left material evidence of his visit.

Archpriest George Larin, who had been an altar boy of Vladyka's in Shanghai, relates: "Despite Vladyka's strictness, all of the altar boys loved him very much. To me, Vladyka was an ideal, one which I wanted to emulate in every way. Thus, during Great Lent, I would not sleep in bed, and instead lay on the floor. I would not eat my usual meals with the family, but instead would partake of bread and water in solitude....My parents became worried and took me to Vladyka. Hearing them out, the prelate asked the guard to go to the store and bring a sausage. In response to my tearful cries that I did not wish to violate Lent, the wise prelate admonished me to eat the sausage and to always remember that obedience to parents is more important than personal accomplishment. "How then should I proceed, Vladyka?" I asked, hoping nonetheless to "especially" apply myself. "Go to church as you always did, and at home, do what your mother and father ask." I remember how grieved I was that Vladyka did not assign to me some "special" deeds to accomplish."

With the coming of the Communists to power, the Russians in China were once again forced to flee, most through the Philippine Islands. In 1949, approximately 15,000 refugees from the Chinese mainland were living in a camp on the island of Tubabao. Every night, he made a circuit of the island, and by his prayers and the sign of the Cross, protected the island from the seasonal typhoons, something acknowledged by the Filipinos themselves. By the lobbying efforts of Vladyka in Washington, a law regarding Russian refugees was amended, with the result that many Russians were permitted to enter the United States. It was during this trip to Washington in 1949, that on September 11th, the Feastday of the Beheading of St. John the Forerunner, Vladyka founded our parish.

In 1951, Vladyka was appointed to head the Diocese of Western Europe, with his cathedra in Paris. Vladyka expended great efforts to unite to the Church Abroad parishes of the French Orthodox Church, and he helped establish the Orthodox Church of Holland. Vladyka turned his attention to the existence of local

saints who had lived in antiquity but who were heretofore unknown to the Orthodox Church. At his initiative, the Synod passed a resolution with respect to veneration of a host of saints who had lived in the West prior to the schism of 1054. Vladyka was constantly travelling across Europe, and he sometimes would celebrate the Divine Liturgy in Dutch, in French; later he also served in English. Many revered him as an unmercenary-healer.

E.G. Tchhertkoff reminisces about the time during which Vladyka was in Western Europe: "On several occasions, I visited Vladyka while he was living in the Cadet Corps building near Parish. He occupied a small cell on the top floor. In the cell, there was a table, an armchair and several chairs, and in the corner, icons and a lectern with books upon it. There was no bed in the cell, as Vladyka did not lie down to sleep, but rather prayed while leaning on a staff topped with a cross-bar. Sometimes he prayed on his knees. It was likely that when he prostrated himself, he would fall asleep for a little while in that position on the floor. That is how he brought himself to exhaustion! Sometimes during our conversation, he appeared to doze. But whenever I stopped talking, he would immediately say, "Continue, I hear you!"

"Whenever he did not serve, but remained home, he usually walked barefoot (to mortify the flesh) even on during the hardest frosts. He would be walking barefoot in the cold, along the rocky road from the military school, which was on a hill inside a park, to the church at the gate. Once he happened to injure his foot. The doctors were unable to heal it, and they feared the possibility of sepsis. They were forced to hospitalize Vladyka, but he refused to lie down in the bed. However, at the urging of the administration, Vladyka finally acceded, and lay down in the bed, but only after placing a boot under himself to make himself uncomfortable. The French hospital nurses said "You have brought us a saint!" Each morning, a priest would come to serve a Liturgy, and Vladyka would receive Communion."

"Since for a long time our church did not have a permanent priest, once a priest from another parish came to us to celebrate Vespers. The whole service lasted only 45 minutes (usually it takes 2 and a half hours)! We were horrified! So many parts of Vespers

were skipped that we decided to tell about this to Vladika. We hoped that he will influence the priest to follow the established order of Orthodox services. But Vladika pleasantly smiling said to us: `How difficult is to please you people. I celebrate too long and he too short!' With such kindness and meeknes he taught us not to judge."

Vladika's reputation for holiness, too, spread among the non-Orthodox as well as the Orthodox population. In one of the Catholic churches of Paris, a priest strove to inspire his young people with these words: "You demand proofs, you say that now there are neither miracles nor saints. Why should I give you theoretical proofs, when today there walks in the streets of Paris a Saint - Saint Jean Nus Pieds (Saint John the Barefoot)." Many people testify to the miracles worked by the prayers of Archbishop John in Western Europe.

V. D. recounts: "Many were aware that it was not necessary to ask Vladika to visit someone. The Lord Himself inspired him where and to whom to go. Vladika John was known to many in the French hospitals and was admitted therein at any time. Besides, Vladika unerringly directed himself where he was needed. My brother, when wounded in the head, was taken to the hospital. The x-ray revealed a large fracture of the skull. His eyes swelled and became sanguinous; he was in critical condition. Vladika, who did not know my brother, somehow found him in the hospital, prayed over him and gave him communion. When my brother underwent a follow up of head x-rays, there was no fracture to be found. My brother recuperated very fast. The doctor was dumbfounded!"

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ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

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FEAST DAY FEATURE

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)
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*** **Presentation about Rusyn Culture** - In the Cathedral of Learning, Room 332 at 3:00 pm on **October 19**, Jana Tomková will speak about her doctoral research on Rusyn culture in Czechia, especially as it relates to music and identity. *The afternoon will close with a reception in the Braun Room, 12th floor of the Cathedral of Learning. While the reception will be catered, you're welcome to bring a snack or non-alcoholic beverage to contribute.*

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*** **New Camp Nazareth Director** – Fr. Nathaniel Choma has been named the New Camp Director! You may remember that Fr. Steve Loposky, the current director, was named Chancellor of the Diocese back in January. The search for a new director has been ongoing since then. Fr. Nate, Pañi Nicole, and their two daughters will be in the process of moving to the Camp from their parish in Endicott, NY. We pray and ask God’s blessings on Fr. Nate and family as they take on this new vocation of operating our Camp Nazareth! *Many years!* We also pray that Fr. Steve, Pañi Daria, and family will find their move to Johnstown to take up that new mantle will be peaceful, easy, and in the grace of God! *Many years!*

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*** **St. Michael’s Parish Feast Day Dinner** - The Feast Day celebration at our sister parish in Rankin will be on **Sunday, November 16** following the Divine Liturgy. All reservations must be in by Sunday, Nov. 2. Contact Fr. Dave for more details.

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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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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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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

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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

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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,

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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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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH
AND OUR DIOCESE

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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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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!*

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

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

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 3:30pm OR by appointment.
Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.
Parish Phone Tree - Please call Fr. Dave to be added.
Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.
Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.
Holy Communion/Eucharist – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not prepared or not of the Orthodox Faith may receive *a blessing* from the chalice.
How to receive - Please remember the following helpful hints aimed at helping to preserve the solemnity and safety of the Holy Mystery. Anyone wearing lipstick should remove it before receiving. Be sure to offer your baptismal name to the priest before receiving. Please take great care that the red cloth held by the acolytes (servers) is fully under your chin (*you should not hold it*), then use the centuries-old practice of receiving: please fully open your mouth, tilt your head back, receive the Holy Gifts, wait until They are securely in your mouth and so that none of the holy and precious Body and Blood of Christ is accidentally spilled. Thank you for your cooperation, and may God have mercy on us all!
Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home and we want you to come back! Generally speaking, sincere and regular participation in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and in the Mysteries of Confession and Communion are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.
Parishioners in “good standing” are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John’s Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish

through regular attendance of services, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (*and receive these Mysteries no less than once a year*); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and share their stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures which includes financially supporting the parish.
Baptisms – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Fr. Dave for more details.
Adult Chrismation – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.
Marriages – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays in the church. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall). It is critical that marriages are blessed in the church.
Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual responsibilities and their stewardship. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

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“*The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning.*” - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica
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The Jesus Prayer

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

(*Repeat until your heart is calm...*)

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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

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 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, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin, David, Donna, George, *our diocesan seminarians:* Dcn Peter S, Dcn Maximus C, Alexander H, Monk David M, Nicholas C, John B, John F, Bradley S, Clay W, *and our Parish Council and Curators:* Lawrence, Subdeacon Ryan, Timothy, Rich, Elizabeth, Robert, Gina, John, Kimberly, Matthew, Katherine, Kenneth and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches *...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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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 Ditmire (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, Nicholas & Camile
...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 (Branchio) 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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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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