

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*

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

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

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

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UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025 VOL. XI

20th Sunday after Pentecost
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE
7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (787)
CARPATHO-RUSYN DAY IN NORTH AMERICA
Reception of Hekuran Ballanca into the
Catechumenate

Additional donation requested for our community
outreach this month, Christ the Savior Seminary

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

9:30 – 11:30 Church Open for Private Prayer
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

21st Sunday after Pentecost
9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Tone 4; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20; Gospel: Luke 16:19-31
Church School
12-noon Anton Baptism

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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

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Code” for reading the bulletin:

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

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

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*** **Thank You** – Last Sunday a number of us went
for a hayride to the pumpkin patch and corn maze at
Shenot Farm. Everything was fun and we got to the
cars before the rain started. Thank you to everyone
who came out!

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*** Parish Council Meeting Highlights

✘ A Chair Lift will be installed from the vestibule to
the hall. The cost will be \$6,700 and paid for by an
anonymous donor.

✘ Winter Maintenance and Decorating Morning will
be on **Saturday, December 13.**

✘ A temporary laminate floor will be installed
between the solea and the pews in the nave of the
church. As ideas and cost analysis continue about
the ceiling in the church proper, the flooring will
visually “dress up” the area until work on the floor
happens in the future (*after the ceiling and walls
and as funds are available*). When that time comes,
the laminate flooring can be used elsewhere in the
building. The cost is less than \$1,000.

✘ Our Community Open House has been rescheduled
for **Sunday, December 14.** We will invite our
neighbors over for coffee and lunch.

✘ A new approach to the Coffee Social: 4 people bring
1 item each. A modified sign-up sheet will be
available. (*If someone wants to host the entire event,
that is still an option.*) Also, the Kitchen Crew, led
by Liz, will be the “point person” for signing up.

✘ Church School – Our Youth Ministry Leader, Kathy
S., will be the main contact for parents to update
teachers on whether their kids will be at class.

✘ Next Parish Council meeting will be **Wednesday,
November 19.**

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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

** **2025 Carpatho-Rusyn Day Events** –
Everyone is invited to join the Southwestern PA
Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society for these
FREE activities in honor of the one day in history that
Rusyns had a separate country in 1918. All events will
be at the Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Center
(915 Dickson St., Munhall, PA 15210).

Sunday, October 26, 2 PM: Rusyn History

Join The C-RS founder/President Emeritus, scholar,
and tour guide extraordinaire, John Righetti for Part
One of his three-part presentation: "The Carpatho-
Rusyns: A Complex History, a Distinctive Culture."

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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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*** **Health Care Kits** – IOCC Youth Health Kit
Drive & Assembly will be on **Saturday, November 8**
at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church (Mt Lebanon,
PA) from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. All youth are
welcome to come and help!

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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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* **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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*** **St. Matrona Cookie Walk** – The 22nd Annual
event will be held on **Saturday, December 13**, from
10 AM to 2 PM, or until sold out at Ss. Peter and Paul
Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd,
Carnegie). Most cookies sold by the pound. No online
orders. For questions, please contact Fr. Dave

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*** **Pop Can Tab Collection** – Join the National Jr.
ACRY in supporting the Ronald McDonald House. A
collection bin for *Can Tabs* has been placed in the
vestibule near the bin for repurposed Greeting Cards.
During the next year, please help fill the container
with your pop can tabs.

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*** **Community Open-House RESCHEDULED** –
Our Open-House ~~and Cook-Out~~ has been rescheduled
(*with some changes*) to **Sunday, December 14.** We
will invite our neighbors to join us at the church for
coffee, lunch, meet our community, and see our parish.
The details are still be ironed out. If you would like to
be on the prep team for this, please contact Gina or Fr.
Dave.

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** **Free ACRY Annuals** – Feel free to take a past
edition of the Diocesan Yearbook, the ACRY Annual.
They are on the ledge in the vestibule by the window.

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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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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 270
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 91
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 515
Total Collections:	\$ 876
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 105
<i>Participating Souls at Sunday's Liturgy: 57</i>	

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

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS	
<i>Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave</i>	
Nov 2:	Matt & Kim Opsitos
Nov 9:	?
Nov 16:	Sr. ACRY

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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, to be fully prepared, you will receive the Mystery (Sacrament) of Holy Anointing (Unction).

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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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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE	
Diocesan Website:	www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth:	www.campnazareth.org
FB:	www.facebook.com/acroddioocese
Twitter:	twitter.com/acrodnews
YouTube:	youtube.com/acroddioocese

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19
Paul's Vindication of His Apostleship
¹¹For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹²For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; ¹⁴and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, ¹⁶was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus.
¹⁸Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

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Gospel: Luke 8:5-15
⁵"A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."
The Purpose of the Parables
⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they

are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

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Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16 (Holy Fathers)
⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go forth to him outside the camp, and bear the abuse he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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Gospel: John 17:1-13 (Holy Fathers)
Jesus Prays for Himself
¹⁷Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ²as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given

Him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
Jesus Prays for His Disciples
⁶"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.
⁹"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*. ¹²While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

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PRAYER CORNER
For the Health of... Liliana, Melanie, Mary, Austin, Janet, Boyde, Maryellen, Carrie, David, Clifford, Lindsay, 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...
+Carlene (10/18) ...*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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ONLINE BONUSES

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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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Orthodox perspectives on ghosts and speaking to the dead

It is dangerous territory for anyone who desires to follow Christ. Our full focus as Orthodox Christians should be on Christ, and nothing should distract us from that. So, we focus on Christ, and treat/see others the way Christ sees/treats them. We ask for the departed to be granted peace and mercy by God, and trust He will do so, as He desires. We ask the Saints for their prayers, because we believe them to be alive in Christ and with Christ. Any other contact or communication is suspect, because it is so easy for the Evil One to deceive us, given the fickleness of our "feelings", and because it simply takes our eyes off of the One [God] who is supposed to consume our entire existence. - Fr. Marty Watt

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In Orthodox Christianity, the perspective on ghosts and communicating with the dead is quite clear and rooted in Scripture and the teachings of the Church Fathers. Here’s a structured explanation:

1 Life After Death in Orthodoxy

- ✂ The soul continues after the body dies.
- ✂ The dead cannot return to influence the living in normal circumstances.
- ✂ Prayer is offered for the dead, but this is through God, not through direct communication with spirits.

2 Orthodox View on Ghosts

- ✂ Ghosts, as spirits of the dead lingering among the living, are generally not acknowledged.
- ✂ Apparitions or unusual experiences are often interpreted as demons or spiritual tests, rather than souls of the departed.
- ✂ The Church warns against trying to contact the dead, as this can open one to spiritual harm.

3 Speaking to the Dead

- ✂ Practices like mediumship, séances, or talking to spirits are considered forbidden (sinful) in Orthodoxy.
- ✂ The Church teaches that the living should pray for the dead, not try to communicate with them.
- ✂ Scriptural support:
 - ✂ Deuteronomy 18:10–12 forbids consulting the dead.
 - ✂ Luke 16 (*parable of the rich man and Lazarus*) shows the dead are in their place and cannot freely return.

4 Encounters with Apparitions

- ✂ If someone sees or feels a presence, Orthodox guidance often suggests:
 1. Pray for protection.
 2. Seek guidance from a priest.
 3. Do not try to summon or speak to the spirit.
- ✂ Saints sometimes had visions or encounters, but these are God-given revelations, not casual contact with the dead.

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Another Response:

In the Orthodox Church, the question of ghosts and speaking with the dead is approached with great caution. While the Church does not outright deny that people may experience apparitions, it teaches that the vast majority of these are not truly the souls of the departed but demonic deceptions, permitted by God as a test of faith. The Fathers frequently warn that demons can assume the likeness of the dead in order to sow fear or to tempt the living into superstition. St. Ignatius Brianchaninov, for instance, writes that “*the majority of apparitions are nothing other than demonic illusions*” (On Prelest). Because of this, the Church strictly forbids any attempt to summon or converse with the dead through mediums, séances, or

occult practices, since these fall under the category of *necromancy*, which Scripture explicitly condemns: “*There shall not be found among you... a consulter with familiar spirits, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord*” (Deuteronomy 18:10–12).

Instead of seeking direct contact, the Orthodox path is to pray for the departed, asking God to forgive their sins and grant them rest. St. John Chrysostom affirms the value of such prayers, saying, “*Let us help them as much as we can... by offering prayers and alms on their behalf*” (Homily on Philippians 3:4). In this way, the living remain united with the departed in Christ, not through conjuring but through love and intercession. At the same time, the Church makes a clear distinction between ordinary souls of the departed and the saints. We do not seek conversations with the dead, but we do ask the prayers of the saints, who are alive in God and intercede for us before His throne (cf. Luke 20:38, Revelation 5:8). **Thus, the Orthodox perspective views most ghostly phenomena as spiritual dangers, warns against all forms of necromancy, and directs the faithful instead toward prayer, memorial services, and trust in God’s mercy.**

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY MARTYRS KARPOS, BISHOP OF PHIATIREA, DEACON PAPILA, AGATHODOROS AND AGATHONIKA THE SISTER OF PAPILA

Commemorated on October 26/13

The Holy Martyrs Karpos, Bishop of Phiatirea, Deacon Papila, Agathodoros and Agathonika the sister of Papila, suffered during a time of persecution against Christians under the emperor Decius in the III Century. The governor of the district where the saints lived became aware, that Karpos and Papila did not celebrate the pagan feasts. He gave orders to arrest the transgressors and first to try to persuade them in the veracity of the Roman pagan-religion. The saints answered, that it would be improper to worship false gods. The judge then ordered them to be bound and led through the city in iron chains, and then to be tied to horses and dragged to the nearby city of Sardis.

Agathodoros and Agathonika voluntarily followed after Karpos and Papila. In Sardis they choked Agathonika to death with ox sinews, and beheaded Karpos, Papila and Agathodoros. Saint Papila during life was known for his gift of treating the sick; – after his martyr's death he invariably gives healing to all who have recourse to him with faith.

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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*** **RJT Concert** – The Rankin Jr Tamburitzans will have their Annual Concert on **Saturday, November 15** at 4:00 pm at the Turtle Creek Elementary Steam Academy (126 Monroeville Avenue, Turtle Creek, PA 15145). Guest groups for the concert will be Slavjane Carpatho-Rusyn Group and the St. Nick’s Serbian Group. A social reception will following immediately after at the Rankin Croatian Home (236 Fourth Ave., Rankin, PA 15104). An a la carte dinner will be offered. Music will be provided by Orkestar Zabava for your listening and dancing pleasure.

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*** **Christmas Candy Sale** – We will be selling Anderson Candy as a winter fundraiser this year. Brochures are on the tables in the hall and in the multi-purpose room. Orders are due to Tim Martin, Reader, by **November 30**. Orders can be picked up on **December 1**. *The monies raised from this go into our Fundraising Account which is mainly used for our parish community outreach to help others.*

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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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*** **Initiation of the Catechumens** - On Sunday, October 26, we enrolled Hekuran into the catechumenate. He begins his next step in becoming a member of the Orthodox Church. Let us continue to keep Hekuran in our personal prayers! Many Years!

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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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* **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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* **2025 Fall Encounter at Camp Nazareth 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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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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www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

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

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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

9:30 – 11:30 Church Open for Personal Prayer

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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 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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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.

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:

✘ *** Outside Green Space: Recently, a gardening specialist and Landscape Architect came to the church and shared some of their expertise for the idea of having a Perennial Pollinator Garden. More details to come...

✘ * **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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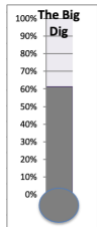
ACRY NEWS

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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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* **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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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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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%	12%	Tithe 10%	9%	Upper Range Giving 8%	7%	6%	Middle Range Giving 5%	4%	3%	2%	Lower Range Giving 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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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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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 3:30pm OR by appointment.

Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

Parish Phone Tree - Please call Fr. Dave to be added.

Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

Holy Communion/Eucharist – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not prepared or not of the Orthodox Faith may receive a blessing from the chalice.

How to receive - Please remember the following helpful hints aimed at helping to preserve the solemnity and safety of the Holy Mystery. Anyone wearing lipstick should remove it before receiving. Be sure to offer your baptismal name to the priest before receiving. Please take great care that the red cloth held by the acolytes (servers) is fully under your chin (you should not hold it), then use the centuries-old practice of receiving: please fully open your mouth, tilt your head back, receive the Holy Gifts, wait until They are securely in your mouth and so that none of the holy and precious Body and Blood of Christ is accidentally spilled. Thank you for your cooperation, and may God have mercy on us all!

Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home and we want you to come back! Generally speaking, sincere and regular participation in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and in the Mysteries of Confession and Communion are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

Parishioners in “good standing” are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John’s Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish

through regular attendance of services, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these Mysteries no less than once a year); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and share their stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures which includes financially supporting the parish.

Baptisms – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Fr. Dave for more details.

Adult Chrismation – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

Marriages – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays in the church. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (before arrangements are made for the hall). It is critical that marriages are blessed in the church.

Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual responsibilities and their stewardship. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

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

The Jesus Prayer

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

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

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

Prayer requests – During the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, prayers are said for the sick and those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin. If silent prayers are requested, they will be offered quietly at the Altar at all services. All those listed in the “Prayer Corner” are prayed for during the Proskomedia (Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our prayer list.

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

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

For the Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Stephen B., Fr. Thomas B., Protodeacon

Gregory B., Stephanie B, Kevin, Michael L., Laura & family, 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.

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

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

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!

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

For those preparing for Marriage... Nicholas & Cassie, Nicholas & Camile ...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

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 (due in November), 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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