

“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, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

VOL. XI

21st Sunday after Pentecost

+ GreatMartyr Artemios (362)

Church School

12-noon Maxwell (Thaddeus) Anton Baptism

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

FEAST OF THE GREAT MARTYR DEMETRIUS

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

+Martyr Nestor (306)

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Tone 4; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39 (*6th Sunday of Luke*)

Monthly Memorial (Panachida) for +Stephen

Fucsko, Jr. (3-year), +Mary Ann Kirish (3-yr),

+William Sanders (10-yr), +Olga Radick (5-yr),

+Richard Radick (35-yr), +Irving Liberman (1-

yr), +John Potoski (33-yr), +Donald Bodnar, Sr

(5-yr), +Mark Bodnar (5-yr), +*Francis (Smoley)*

Zatorsky (6-yr), +Sandra Hricak (2-yr), the Priest,

+Protopresbyter John Gido (4-yr), +Kelly Leone

(6-yr), +Justine Kailyar (49-yr), the Priest,

+Protopresbyter Michael Hanas (29-yr), +Nancy

Horvath (7-yr)

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** **Initiation of the Catechumen** - On Sunday, October 26, Hekuran was enrolled 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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** **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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*** **RJT Concert** – The **Rankin Jr Tamburitians** 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 are selling Christmas Candy as a winter fundraiser. Brochures are on the table leading into the hall. Orders are due to Tim Martin, Reader, by **November 30**. Orders can be picked up after December 14. *The monies raised from this go into our Fundraising Account which is mainly used for our parish community outreach to help those who are in need.*

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** **Thank You** – On Sunday 10/19 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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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

** **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 or join in at the committee meeting during the Coffee Social next week, November 9.

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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 re-used elsewhere (i.e. offices downstairs). 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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* **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.

* **The St. Nicholas Charity Dinner Luncheon**, a fundraiser for our seminary, is set for **SATURDAY, December 6 at 12:30 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. Rumor has it you should go quite early to get in line! Please contact Fr. Dave for more info.

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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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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 174
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 66
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 710
Community Outreach:	\$ 125

Total Collections: \$ 1075

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 0

Participating Souls at Sunday’s Liturgy: 38

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

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

Nov 9: Tuna Salad (Larry), Pirohi,

Pumkin Pie, ?

Nov 16: Sr. ACRY

Nov 23: ? ?, ? ?, ? ?, ? ?

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:

✠ *** **Temporary Flooring** has been added between the Solea and the start of the pews in the nave of the church. This “dresses up” this area until the ceiling and walls are finished (*plan still being finalized*). When the day comes to do the floor in the nave, this laminate can be re-used elsewhere (i.e. offices downstairs). Thank you and God’s blessings to members of the Construction Crew who worked on this project. Many Years!

✠ *** **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. Due to the costs involved in their proposals, at this time we will leave the space as is.

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Glory to God for All Things!

Through your generosity and dedication, everything 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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COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting monetary donations for the **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)**. This agency, that is under the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, represents Orthodox Christians in North America and understands its work to include developing in Orthodox Christians a commitment to philanthropy and global cooperative involvement in the work of the Orthodox Church. They have a yearly campaign called a “day of giving Sunday” before Thanksgiving. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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THIS MONTH’S SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Church School

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

FEAST OF THE GREAT MARTYR DEMETRIUS

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Monthly Memorial (Panachida)

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Youth Sunday
Church School

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

6:00 pm Moleben to St. Nectarios with Anointing
6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (*All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting*)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

FEAST OF THE SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL
MICHAEL AND THE OTHER BODILESS POWERS
9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 - IOCC SUNDAY

9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

6:30 pm Moleben of Thanksgiving

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 #NativityFast

NATIVITY FAST BEGINS (PHILIP’S FAST / FILIPOVKA)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 #NativityFast

9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Church School
12-noon Moleben for the Nativity Fast

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AND Looking FURTHER Ahead...

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

- Dec 4 – Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos
- **Dec 6** – St. Nicholas Charity ~~Dinner~~ Luncheon Banquet to benefit Christ the Savior Seminary
- **Dec 13** – Decorating and Maintenance Morning
- Dec 19 - Feast of St. Nicholas

Please, Save the Dates!

SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

¹⁶yet who know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. ¹⁷But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. ¹⁹For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

The Rich Man and Lazarus

¹⁹“There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Laz’arus, full of sores, ²¹who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; ²³and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Laz’arus in his bosom. ²⁴And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Laz’arus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Laz’arus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm [*gulf*] has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house, ²⁸for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.’”

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of...

Brian, Ernie, Maryann, Anna, Liliana, Melanie, Carrie, 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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November Namedays:

Urban Family – Holy Disciple Urban of the 70 (11/13)
Makaela Kirish - Archangel Michael (11/21)
Cindy Pavilonis - Saint Cyntianus (11/28)
Matthew Mirilovich - Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (11/29)

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

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November Birthdays:

Fr Joseph Birthisel (11/2), Subdeacon Ryan Ferko (11/4/85), Matt Opsitos (11/4), Jason Shelpman, Jr (11/4), Nicholas Kubis (11/6), Deborah Harris (11/8), Caitlin Carlisle (11/9), Michael Fischer (11/11), Dustin Kovats (11/12), Fr. James Blomeley (11/14), Cindy Pavilonis (11/14), Kim Opsitos (11/21), Fr Michael Rustick (11/21), *Father’s sister*, Suzanne Verbanick (11/25), Stephen Branch (11/26), Fr. Michael Ellis (11/26/75), Pañi Peggy Teklinski (11/26), Victor Zerby (11/27), Pañi Ileana Bennett (11/28), Chi-Wing Chow (11/29), Liam Kovats (11/30) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!*

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November Anniversaries:

Doug & Elizabeth (Radomsky) Delaney (11/1)
Thomas & Harmonie (Scherer) Torchia (11/12/11)
Alisha and Aaron Zak (11/15/15)
...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas

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For the souls of the newly departed...

+Carlene Smith (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

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

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

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST: JEWISH PROPHET AND CHRISTIAN SAINT

By John Strugnell (updated 08 2025)
downloaded October 17, 2025 from Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/>

St. John the Baptist (born 1st decade bce, Judaea, Palestine, near Jerusalem—died 28–36 ce; feast day June 24) was a Jewish prophet of priestly origin who preached the imminence of God's Final Judgment and baptized those who repented in self-preparation for it; he is revered in the Christian church as the forerunner of Jesus Christ. After a period of desert solitude, John the Baptist emerged as a prophet in the region of the lower Jordan River valley. He had a circle of disciples, and Jesus was among the recipients of his rite of baptism. In Roman Catholicism, John the Baptist is invoked as the patron saint of baptism, monastics, hermits, converts, tailors, prisoners, and many other occupations and causes.

Sources of information about John

The primary sources for information about John's life and activity are the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), The Acts of the Apostles, and the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus's The Antiquities of the Jews. In using these works for historical reconstruction, allowances must be made for the known tendencies of each writer. All four Gospels recognize in John the start of the Christian era, and each in its own way tries to reconcile John's

precedence in time and Jesus' acceptance of his message and of a baptism of repentance from his hands (elements suggesting subordination to John) with the author's belief in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God. The Gospel According to Mark presents Jesus as the hidden Messiah, known only to a narrow circle, and John as the one who had to "come first to restore all things" but who also remained hidden and suffered death with little acknowledgment of his true status (Mark 9).

Matthew and Luke are thought to further develop Mark's narrative. The Gospel According to Matthew emphatically identifies John as a new or returning Elijah, herald of the kingdom of God (Matthew 3). For Matthew, John's death, like that of Jesus, illustrates the old Israel's hostility to God's offer of salvation. In The Gospel According to Luke and in The Acts of the Apostles, Luke neglects the identification with Elijah but describes John as Jesus' forerunner and as inaugurator of the time of fulfillment of prophecy. Luke's account of the infancy of John and of Jesus uses material perhaps transmitted by former disciples of the Baptist. It depicts the coming of Jesus and John in two parallel series of scenes, each with an angelic annunciation, a conception, a marvelous birth, a circumcision, hymns greeting the child and predicting his destiny, and an infancy. Even in his mother's womb John recognizes Jesus—also still in his mother's womb—as his Lord (see also the Visitation).

The Gospel According to John reduces the Baptist from an Elijah to a model Christian preacher, a mere voice; it omits any description of Jesus' baptism. Its tendency has often been labeled a polemic against a continuing group of disciples of John, but it is more plausibly explained by the evangelist's desire that this ideal witness recognize the full character of the Christ and as a necessary consequence of the tension between the highly developed understanding of Christ in this Gospel and those details in early Christian tradition that suggested Jesus' subordination to John. The Gospels are thus primarily interested in the relations between John and Jesus.

Compared with the Christian accounts, that of Josephus sought to present Jewish religious phenomena in Hellenistic categories and to

deemphasize any political elements unfavorable to Roman imperial control.

Life and work

After allowances are made for the tendencies of each of these sources, the following items about John appear relatively trustworthy. He was born somewhere in Judaea (localized at ‘En Kerem from at least 530 ce) to Zechariah, a priest of the order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, a relative of Mary, the mother of Jesus. His formative years were spent in the Judaeen desert, where monastic communities, such as the Essenes (a strict Jewish sect that existed from about the 2nd century bce to the end of the 1st century ce), and individual hermits often educated the young in their own ideals.

In 27/28 or 28/29 John attained prominence, not as a priest but as a prophet. He was active in the region of the lower Jordan valley, from "Aenon near Salim" (near modern Nablus) to a point east of Jericho. His austere camel's hair garment was the traditional garb of the prophets, and his diet of locusts and wild honey represented either strict adherence to Jewish purity laws or the ascetic conduct of a Nazirite (a Jew especially vowed to God's service). His mission was addressed to all ranks and stations of Jewish society. His message was that God's judgment on the world was imminent and that, to prepare for this judgment, the people should repent their sins, be baptized, and produce appropriate fruits of repentance.

Certain problems about the meaning of John's message continue to be debated: In Matthew 3, John says, "He who is coming after me is mightier than I"; this might refer to God himself, a human messiah, or a transcendent divine being. He also says, "I baptize you with water...; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire"; this second baptism might symbolize the judgment the one coming would carry out.

John's followers were characterized by penitent fasting, beyond the demands of Jewish Law, and special prayers. John's ethical call for justice and charity in Luke 3 requires righteousness from everyone.

Although, like earlier prophets, John had an inner circle of disciples, baptism was not an admission rite into this group. It was a rite (immersion in running water) that symbolized repentance in preparation for

the coming world judgment and was to be accompanied, before and afterward, by a righteous life. It was hardly conceived as a sacrament, in the Christian sense, conveying forgiveness, or as superseding Judaism and marking off a new people, including both Jews and Gentiles, prepared for God's final kingdom. Nor is a hypothesis that it symbolized a new Israel's crossing of the Red Sea toward a new national deliverance demonstrable. Equally unprovable is that it was a rite symbolizing man's reunion with divinity and return to his heavenly home—a sacrament of salvation and rebirth. The Jewish rite of baptism of converts differs fundamentally and is not its source. There were several other baptizing groups found about the same time and place, but none of these various and little-known baptisms can be shown to have inspired John's. His may have resembled in parts the initiatory baptism of the Essenes, though their other baptisms were more concerned with maintaining their community's ritual purity. John's baptism probably symbolized not so much anticipated entrance into the kingdom of God as an anticipatory submission to the coming world judgment, which was represented as a coming second "baptism" by the Holy Spirit in a river of fire.

Sometime after baptizing Jesus, John was imprisoned by Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee and central Transjordan. His crime was hardly the innocuous moral message Josephus presents, nor would his message, as found in the Gospels, have had much more immediate political bite. Herod had married (illegally, by Jewish Law) Herodias, the divorced wife of his half brother, after divorcing his first wife, the daughter of King Aretas IV of the Nabataeans, an adjacent Arab people. John's denunciation of this marriage doubtless presented Herod with the danger that his Jewish subjects would combine with his semi-Arab subjects in opposition to him. John's execution certainly preceded Aretas's victory over Herod in 35–36, a defeat popularly considered to have been divine vengeance on Herod for killing John. According to the Gospels, John's death preceded Jesus'; any greater chronological precision depends on the dates of Jesus' ministry and death. It is probable that John's followers recovered and buried his body and revered his tomb. The traditional burial site, at Sebaste (originally

Samaria), near "Aenon by Salim," is attested from 360 onward.

Possible relationship with the Essenes of St. John the Baptist

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls drew attention to the numerous parallels between John's mission and that of the Essenes, with whom John may have received some of his religious training. Both were priestly in origin, were ascetic, and had intense and, in many respects, similar expectations about the end of the world. But John neither belonged to nor intended to found any organized community, he did not stress study of the Mosaic Law, and his message was more widely directed (to the poor, to sinners) than was that of the Essenes.

Jesus, who was baptized by John, saw in John the last and greatest of the prophets, the one who prepared for the coming of God's kingdom (Mark 9, Matthew 11, Luke 7), and in many ways his ministry continued and developed John's. Whether John, who probably expected a divine Son of Man, recognized him in Jesus is not clear, but many of his disciples later followed Jesus.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY GREATMARTYR ARTEMIOS

Commemorated on November 2 / October 20

The Holy GreatMartyr Artemios was a prominent military leader during the reign of the Equal-to-the-Apostles emperor Constantine the Great (306-337, Comm. 21 May), and later – also of his son and successor Constantius (337-361). Artemios held many awards for distinguished service and courage, and he was appointed viceroy of Egypt. In this official position he did much for spreading and strengthening Christianity in Egypt. The emperor Constantius was succeeded on the throne by Julian the Apostate (361-363). Julian in his desire to restore paganism carried on an implacable struggle with Christianity, sending hundreds to their death. At Antioch he ordered the torture of two bishops unwilling to forsake the Christian faith. During this time Saint Artemios arrived in the city and publicly denounced Julian for his impiety. The enraged Julian subjected the saint to terrible tortures, after which they threw the Great-

martyr Artemios into prison. During the time of prayer which the saint offered to the Lord, Christ Himself appeared to him surrounded by angels and said: "Take courage, Artemios! I am with thee and wilt preserve thee from every hurt which the tormentors may inflict upon thee, and already have I preared thy crown of glory. Wherefore as thou hast confessed Me before the people on earth, so also shalt I confess thee before Mine Heavenly Father. Therefore, take courage and rejoice, – thou shalt be with Me in Mine Kingdom". Hearing this of the Lord Himself, Artemios rejoiced and began fervently to offer up glory and thanksgiving to Him.

On the following day Julian demanded that the Great-martyr Artemios honour the pagan gods. Meeting with steadfast refusal, the emperor resorted to torture. The saint endured all without a single moan. The saint then predicted to Julian that he would soon receive just recompense for the evil done by him to Christians. Julian became furious and resorted to even more fiercesome tortures, but they did not break the will of the saint, and finally the Great-martyr Artemios was beheaded (+ 362).

His remains were buried by Christians.

And after the death of the holy Great-martyr Artemios, his prophecy about the impending perishing of Julian the Apostate came true.

Julian left Antioch for a war with the Persians. Near the Persian city of Ctesiphon he came upon an elderly Persian, who agreed to betray his countrymen and guide Julian's army. But the old man deceived Julian and led his army into an impassable place in the Karmanite wilderness, where there was neither food nor water. Worn down by hunger and thirst, the Graeco-Roman army of Julian had to do battle against fresh Persian forces.

Divine retribution caught up here with Julian the Apostate. At the time of battle he was mortally wounded by an unseen hand and an unseen weapon. Julian groaned deeply, and dying, he said: "Thou hast conquered, Gallileian!" After the perishing of the apostate-emperor, the relics of the Great-martyr Artemios were transferred with honour from Antioch to Constantinople.

ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

*** **Journey to Orthodoxy** – Congratulations and God’s choicest blessings to Maxwell (Thaddeus) Anton who was received into the Orthodox Faith and our parish family on Sunday afternoon, November 2. May God grant to His newly-illuminated servant, Maxwell (Thaddeus), Many Years of Peace, Health, Happiness and Salvation! Blessings also to his sponsor, Timothy Martin, Reader. Many Years! Mnohaya L’ita!

* **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!

“Code” for reading the bulletin:
*** = new news ** = 2nd time in the bulletin
* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online: www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral//live/

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

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

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

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

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



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

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES
PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

* **Ride Share** – We were blessed to have a number of college students with us last week for our Student Blessing. When their schedules work out, they will need rides from Point Park, Duquesne, or Pitt. We have also received requests from a couple other people who are interested in getting a ride to the church.

Please contact Fr. Dave or Larry if you would be able to bring your “neighbor” to the church.

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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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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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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.

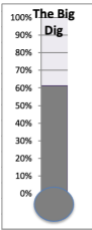
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On-Line Giving is available from our parish website to donate to the: General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund. The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2nd best is to mail 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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* **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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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%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4	\$2
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6	\$3
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14	\$7
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18	\$9
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22	\$11
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30
1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving). 2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE% would be.												

SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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 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.

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

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November Namedays:
Urban Family – Holy Disciple Urban of the 70 (11/13)
Makaela Kirish - Archangel Michael (11/21)
Cindy Pavilonis - Saint Cynitianus (11/28)
Matthew Mirilovich - Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (11/29)
...*May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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November Birthdays:
Fr Joseph Borthisel (11/2), Subdeacon Ryan Ferko (11/4/85), Matt Opsitos (11/4), Jason Shelpman, Jr (11/4), Nicholas Kubis (11/6), Deborah Harris (11/8), Caitlin Carlisle (11/9), Michael Fischer (11/11), Dustin Kovats (11/12), Fr. James Blomeley (11/14), Cindy Pavilonis (11/14), Kim Opsitos (11/21), Fr Michael Rustick (11/21), *Father’s sister*, Suzanne Verbanick (11/25), Stephen Branchio (11/26), Fr. Michael Ellis (11/26/75), Pañi Peggy Teklinski (11/26), Victor Zerby (11/27), Pañi Ileana Bennett (11/28), Chi-Wing Chow (11/29), Liam Kovats (11/30) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!*

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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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November Anniversaries:
Doug & Elizabeth (Radomsky) Delaney (11/1)
Thomas & Harmonie (Scherer) Torchia (11/12/11)
Alisha and Aaron Zak (11/15/15)
...*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. Dzadoovsky
...*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.



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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