

"THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER" *Our Parish Bulletin*

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

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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 23, 2025 - IOCC SUNDAY VOL. XI

24th Sunday after Pentecost

+Holy Martyr Orestes (304)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9:30 – 11:30 church open for private prayer

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

6:30 pm Moleben of Thanksgiving

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 #NativityFast

NATIVITY FAST BEGINS (or PHILIP'S FAST / FILIPOVKA)

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 #NativityFast

25th Sunday after Pentecost

+St. Gregory the Wonderworker of Neo-Caesarea (266)

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

Tone 8; Liturgical Color: **Red**

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21 (*9th Sunday of Luke*)

Church School

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

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** **Church School Next Week** – A reminder to the parents that next **Sunday, November 30**, is the 5th Sunday of the month and we will have Church School classes (focusing on the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple). Please let Kathy S. know if your child(ren) will be attending.

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*** **Congratulations!** to Carley and Donald Gavulich and their families on the birth of Greyson Lee Gavulich born 11/12 at 6:57pm (5 lbs 13 oz). Welcome to our Parish Family!

"Preserve her and this child which she has borne. Cover her with the shelter of thy wings from this day until her final end, through the prayers of the most Holy Theotokos and of all the saints. Amen" – from *Prayers for a Woman on the First Day after Childbirth*

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** **Chair Lift** – As discussed at the yearly meeting, 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. Installation will be soon.

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THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN IS SPONSORED

in memory of +Millie (Amelia) Skaine. May she be remembered in God's Memory forever! Eternal Memory!

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* **LAST CALL Christmas Candy Sale** – We are selling Christmas Candy as a winter fundraiser. Orders are due to Tim Martin, Reader, by **Next Week: November 30**. Orders can be picked up after 12/14.

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*** **Winter Maintenance and Decorating Morning** - On **Saturday, December 6 (DATE CHANGE)** our periodic parish maintenance morning will return! All are asked to come and help repair some little things, tidy-up, and decorate for Christmas. Please sign up on the sheet in the hall if you are able to offer stewardship of your time that morning.

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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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*** **Free Community Lunch** – On **Sunday, December 14** from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm we will open our doors and invite our neighbors and local First Responders over for coffee and lunch. This lunch is not limited to just our Allison Park neighbors – everyone invite someone to come and see the church that afternoon! Please see Gina if you would like to assist in organizing this event. All are invited and encouraged to stay after our regular coffee social to mingle and meet new people that day.

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** **The St Nicholas Charity Dinner Luncheon**, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Deanery to benefit our Christ the Saviour Seminary, is a bit different this year moving to a Saturday and up to lunch time, but with the same great food!

Join us on **SATURDAY, December 20th (DATE CHANGE)** at the Bulgarian-Macedonian Hall - BMNECC *which is handicap accessible* (449 West Eighth Ave., West Homestead, PA 15120). Doors open at **12:30 pm** with a Buffett LUNCHEON at **1:00 pm**. Menu from the Cooked Goose includes: Roast Beef, Stuffed Chicken Breast with Gravy, Vegetable Lasagna, Mashed Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Green Beans Almandine, and Rolls. Ticket prices: Adults: \$40; Teens 13-18: \$30; Ages 5-12: \$15; Up to Age 4: Free (*checks payable to "Pittsburgh Deanery"*). If anyone (or organization) would like to "sponsor a seminarian" (or part of their family), please see Father. (*Our seminarians and their families are invited to come for free. Your donation would help cover this expense.*) Order your tickets by **Sunday, December 14**. See Larry or Fr. Dave for tickets. *Come enjoy the fellowship, the carol sing-a-long, the "Rusyn Auction", meet the seminarians along with a special guest, and keep this tradition alive! Let's get our kids to the wonderful event!*

COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

* Nov 30: pirohi, __?__, __?__, __?__
 * December 7: __?__, __?__, __?__, __?__
 * December 14: Sr. ACRY

* *meatless during the fast*

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* **A new approach to the Coffee Social:** 4 people bring 1 item each. A modified sign-up sheet is now available. (*If someone wants to host the entire event, that is still an option – just sign your name through all 4 boxes.*) Also, the Kitchen Crew, led by Liz, will be the “point person” for signing up or any questions. **Please consider hosting a coffee social in honor of someone’s Nameday, Birthday, Anniversary, or in memory of a departed loved one near their anniversary.**

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* **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, 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!

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 348
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 285
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 340
Total Collections:	\$ 973
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 87

Participating Souls at Sunday’s Liturgy: 41

Wednesday Moleben: 7

Thursday Feast Day Vespers: 4

Friday Feast Day Liturgy: 6

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

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The **Eternal Lamp** was offered last week by Cindy Pavidonis in memory of +George Huron. May His Memory Be Eternal!

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** **\$10,000** – We recently received 2 generous \$10,000 donations. Your continued generosity will help us Grow His Kingdom as we work forever heavenward! Many Years!

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

¹⁴ For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom

the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

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Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read?” ²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered right; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, ³⁴ and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed mercy on him.” And Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of...

Cassandra, Melissa, David, Christopher, 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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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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IOCC Thanksgiving Prayer for Those in Need

O Heavenly King, Comforter, who grants all blessings, we thank You for Your abundant grace and mercies. Help us to be good stewards of Your treasury through the ministry of IOCC. Help us to strip ourselves of our earthly adornment, so that the poor may be sufficiently clothed and fed. And, by so loving our neighbor, adorn us with the everlasting pearls of virtue instead. Where there is suffering, help us to bring Your mercy; where there is despair, Your hope. Where there is war, allow us to present You who are the Prince of Peace; where there is pain, You who are the Comforter; Where there is hatred, You who are Love; where there is death and destruction; You who are the Resurrection and Life. Daily guide our work in and through IOCC so that we may do all things, in every place and at all times, for Your glory. Amen.

ONLINE BONUSES

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org

Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org

FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese

Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews

YouTube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

“LORD, IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE!”

Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann, the late Dean of [Saint Vladimir's Seminary](#), celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the last time on Thanksgiving Day 1983. Two weeks later, on December 13, he fell asleep in the Lord. As is well known, Father Alexander had devoted his entire life to teaching, writing and preaching about the Eucharist—the Greek word eucharist means thanksgiving. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Father Alexander took from his pocket a short-written sermon, in the form of a prayer, which he proceeded to read. This was uncharacteristic of Father Alexander, since he never wrote his liturgical homilies, but delivered them extemporaneously. These were his words, which proved to be the last ever spoken by him from the ambo in Church. It is a beautiful reflection as we close the Thanksgiving Day weekend.

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THANK YOU, O LORD!

Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

- ❖ Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.
- ❖ Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church.
- ❖ Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the “one thing needed;” Your eternal Kingdom.
- ❖ Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to Worship You.
- ❖ Thank You, O Lord, for this school (and all Orthodox Seminaries), where the name of God is proclaimed.
- ❖ Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.
- ❖ Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything.

Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles.

Lord, it is good to be here!

Amen.

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S'BOHOM: GO WITH GOD!

The Rusyn language originally did not have words for “Hello” or “Good-bye” – their greetings were *Glory be to Jesus Christ!* and *Go with God!*

Here is an excerpt from “Insights into the Orthodox Faith” pages 66-67

“Go in peace. This is the way the Divine Liturgy concluded according to the late fourth century work entitled *Apostolic Constitutions*, which most scholars believe originated in Syria and reflects the practices of the Christian East... After [the Amvon Prayer], the deacon simply says, “Go in peace,” with no further ceremony. Most of the early Christian liturgical texts that exist end this way – with a simple “Go in peace” or “Go with God”... This was, in all probability, simply the way that believers said good-bye to each other.

“In many languages this dismissal was accepted into common speech, even after the dismissal changed. Consider, for example, the practice of saying *S'Bohom* (*Go with God*) in the Carpatho-Rusin language as a popular way to say good-bye.”

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HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN ORESTES (CHORNOCK)

Today (11/23) we celebrate the Patron Saint, St. Orestes, of the first Hierarch of our Diocese, Metropolitan Orestes.

source: www.ACROD.org

On July 11, 1883, in the rectory of the Greek Catholic village church in Ortutova, Saris, in Austro-Hungary, His Eminence, Metropolitan Orestes Chornock was born to Reverend Father John Chornock and his wife, Pani Mary. Orestes completed his elementary schooling in Bardijov, then graduated to the Royal Gymnasium in Prešov where he studied for eight years and graduated with honors. Young Orestes entered the theological academy of Prešov, completing his studies, becoming a candidate for Holy Orders

He was united in marriage to Yolanda Molchany on July 17, 1906, a union that was to last for thirty-one years, broken by Pani Yolanda's death in 1937. Seminarian Orestes was ordained to the Priesthood on August 28, 1906 on the Holyday of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary in the Cathedral of Presov by the Most Reverend Bishop Dr. John Valyi. The newly-ordained priest was assigned the village church in Osturna, County of Spis, where he labored for two years. On November 17, 1908, the young Father Chornock came to America, along with other priests to minister to the needs of the hundreds of thousands of Carpatho-Russians who emigrated to the United States. Father Chornock served parishes in Burnside-Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland, Ohio; and Duquesne, Pennsylvania. On March 25, 1911, he became pastor of St. John's Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut where he labored for some 45 years. The parish was one of the largest in the country.

By 1936 there was turmoil in the Greek Catholic Church after repeated pleas for recall of the decrees of celibacy and latinization which had been imposed on parishes. After no

response, parishes met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at a Church Council. On February 6, 1936, those parishes selected the Reverend Orestes P. Chornock as administrator for the establishment of a new diocese. The following year, on November 23, 1937, hundreds of delegates and priests gathered again in Pittsburgh and, by unanimous vote, elected Father Chornock as Bishop-designate.

On September 18, 1938, Father Chornock was elected and consecrated Bishop by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Three Metropolitans: Germanos, Constantine and Dorotheos were the consecrating bishops. Bishop Orestes was consecrated with title to the See of Agathonikeia, which means "Good Victory". The new Bishop would single-handedly steer the new Diocese on its course through 1966 when he would receive an auxiliary bishop in the person of the Most Rev. Bishop John R. Martin to assist him. Shortly before that, in 1965, Bishop Orestes was elevated to the rank of Metropolitan by the Ecumenical Patriarch. His Eminence passed to life eternal on February 17, 1977, with his funeral on the first day of Lent in St. John the Baptist Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Highlights of Metropolitan Orestes' Episcopacy

- ✠ He founded a canonical, self-governing American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.
- ✠ He established the seat of the Diocese in Johnstown, PA where Christ the Saviour Cathedral was built.
- ✠ Founded in **1940** Christ the Saviour Seminary for the training of diocesan clergy.
- ✠ Originated the Diocesan Youth Organization, A.C.R.Y. in **1939**.
- ✠ Promoted the publishing of the Diocesan newspaper, *The Church Messenger (Vistnik Cerkov)*.
- ✠ Instituted a systematized program for Sunday Church Schools and teacher training.
- ✠ Inaugurated the first religious award for Orthodox Scouting in **1954** which became the basis for the present Alpha Omega Award.
- ✠ Pioneered the use of English in the Divine Services.
- ✠ Spearheaded the founding of mission parishes by the Diocese, especially in newly-established communities.
- ✠ Began the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage (Otpust) at Christ the Saviour Cathedral and Christ the Saviour Seminary in Johnstown.

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY MARTYR ORESTES

Commemorated on November 23/10

The Holy Martyr Orestes lived at the end of the III Century in the city of Tiana in Cappadocia during the time of the emperor Diocletian. He was an illustrious and capable soldier, and from childhood Saint Orestes was truly a good Christian.

By order of the emperor, the military-officer Maximinus was dispatched to Tiana for dealing with Christianity, which then had spread widely throughout Great Cappadocia. Orestes was among the first brought to trial to Maximinus. He bravely and openly confessed his faith in our Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ. The prosecutor offered the saint riches, honours and reknown for renouncing the One True God, but Saint Orestes was unyielding. By order of Maximinus, they took Orestes to a resplendid pagan temple and again demanded he

worship idols. When he refused, 40 soldiers, taking turns one after the other, beat the holy martyr with lashes, with canes, with rawhide, and then they tormented him with fire. Saint Orestes cried out to the Lord: "Oh God, make with me a sign of blessing, let those hating me see it and be put to shame". And the Lord heard His true servant. The earth began to tremble, and the idols fell down and were smashed. Everyone rushed out of the temple, and when Saint Orestes came out, the very temple tumbled down.

Infuriated, Maximinus ordered the holy martyr to be locked up in prison for seven days giving him neither food nor drink, and on the eighth day to continue with the torture. They wedged nails into the heels of the martyr, and then tied him to a wild horse. Dragged over the stones, the holy martyr expired to the Lord in the year 304. His relics were thrown into the sea.

When many years had passed, in 1685, a certain monk of the Kievo-Pechersk Lavra (Dimitrii, afterwards the Sainted-Hierarch of Rostov, Comm. 28 October) was copying from an ancient manuscript the Life of Saint Orestes. He became tired and fell asleep. The holy martyr appeared to him in a dream vision and, having shown him the deep wound in his chest and the lacerated sinews of his arms and bruised knees, he bid him to add these into his life, since not all the torments which befell the saint were recorded in the ancient manuscript. The humble monk carried out the wish of the holy Martyr Orestes and he gave praise to God, Who is Wondrous in His Saints.

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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*** **Prayer Service of Thanksgiving** – We will offer the Moleben of Thanksgiving on **Wednesday, November 26** on the eve of our local holiday.

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*** **#GivingTuesday** is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated the **Tuesday** following Thanksgiving after the widely recognized shopping events **Black Friday** and **Cyber Monday**, #GivingTuesday (**December 2**) kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. If you will be donating online, please consider supporting the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops or one of its official affiliates (such as IOCC, OCF, OCMC, OCPM, OVC, OYM, OCAMP, FOCUS-NA. To see their full names visit: www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/affiliates/) or other Orthodox organizations such as EOCS, OCEC, OCN...

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*** **OCMC: Celebrating 40 years of missionary service** -

St. John the Baptist Church in Canonsburg invites you to join us for a celebration of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's 40 years of sending missionaries all over the world. On Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm, Fr. Chris Rowe from the OCMC staff will be at St. John's to talk about what the Mission Center has accomplished in its 40 years. OCMC missionary Kristina Mantasasvili will also make a presentation, live from Buenos Aires.

The evening will begin with Vespers at 6:00 pm, followed by some light refreshments. The presentation, which is part of our lecture series in honor of Metropolitan Theodosius, will begin at 7:00 pm.

St. John's is hosting this presentation because we would like to encourage churches in the Pittsburgh area to actively support the work of OCMC, both financially and by encouraging their members to become involved with this important Orthodox ministry. If you would like to find out more about what you and your parish can do for the OCMC, please join us!

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* **Church School Participation** – Our Youth Ministry Leader, Kathy S., will be the main contact for parents to update the teachers on whether their kids will be at class. **Parents** – please update Kathy before each scheduled class (1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays)

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* **New Bulletin Format** – As previously mentioned, Vestal Publishing will no longer be offering their weekly bulletin covers. Fr. Dave has finished repurposing the old covers. Today begins experimentation with a different format! For those who read the bulletin from their phones, PLEASE contact Fr. Dave with feedback on this format.

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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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* **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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“Code” for reading the bulletin:

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

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online:

www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/

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

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Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

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

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CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:

✠ ** A **Temporary Sidewalk** has been modified and updated which wraps from the double doors in the middle around to the back of the church (ending at the shed). The 2' pavers were found online for free and the stewardship of members of the construction crew installed them.

✠ * **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). The cost is less than \$1,000. 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 their expertise for creating 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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Random Tidbits... Father Dave is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 2:30pm OR by appointment...

Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email... **Parish Phone Tree:** Please call Fr. Dave to be added... **Emergency Sick Calls:** Please notify Fr. Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery (Sacrament) of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

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

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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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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!

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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ACRY NEWS

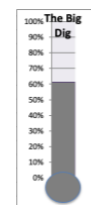
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* **Joining the ACRY** – If you would like to become a part of our philanthropic organization of the ACRY (*American Carpatho-Russian Youth*), which is open to anyone over age 8, please contact Subdeacon Ryan Ferko.

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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 October, \$28,930 has been collected towards our \$45,000 expense from the recent excavation project. All of your additional generosity is greatly appreciated! May God bless you! Many Years!

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Financial Reports	October	Fiscal Year
General Stewardship	\$ 4062.05	\$ 8972
* Expenses	\$ 6727.36	\$ 12,102
Yield +/-	- \$ 2665.31	- \$ 3130
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 1388.00	\$ 2907
Sunday Participation Average	44	43

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

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

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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.

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

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

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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 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...

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.



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.

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.

NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENGE 2025

Metropolitan Gregory asks each member of our Diocese, either as a family or individually, to pray this every evening of the Nativity Fast.

We praise, bless and give thanks to You, O Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal Son of the Father! Taking upon Yourself the redemption of the human race, You did not disdain the Virgin's womb. You, the King of Glory, were humbly born amidst poverty in a stable to raise up fallen humanity and enrich it with Your grace. As a newborn Child, You were bound in swaddling clothes to release us from the bondage of sin and death. What can we give You, O Christ, for Your boundless love for us? Instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, accept the offering of our whole life to You. As we now prepare to joyfully remember Your Nativity, grant peace to the world, growth to Your Church, stability to our country, wisdom to all civil authorities, and unity to our families. Make us worthy to celebrate the coming feast and to join with the angelic choirs in singing and glorifying You, O Emmanuel—"God with us"—unto ages of ages. Amen