

“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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UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 #NATIVITYFAST

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
+ GreatMartyr Anastasia

11:00 – 11:30 am Church School

MONDAY, JANUARY 5 #NATIVITYFAST

6:30 pm Royal Hours of Nativity

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 #NATIVITYFAST

A Day of Strict Fasting

7:00 pm Great Compline (Velikij Povečerije)
Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9:15 am Nativity Canon & Carols (*Koljady*)

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Parish Family Photo

Nativity Pot-Luck Meal

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FAST FREE until the eve of Theophany (*Sviatki*: “Holy Days”)

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 – 2ND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

FEAST OF THE SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 – 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS

FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

Sunday after Nativity

Sunday of the Holy Ancestors (*Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, Holy Righteous David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord*)

9:15 am Nativity Canon & Carols (*Koljady*)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Tone 6; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 (*Sunday after*)

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23 (*Sunday after*)

Monthly Memorial (Panachida)

take down the manger scene during the coffee social

Sr. ACRY Meeting after coffee social

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

Leavetaking (*Apodosis*) of the Nativity of Christ

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD

FEAST OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

9:20 am Theophany Canon

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

9:30 am Royal Hours of Theophany

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VOL. XI



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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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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Anthony, Jane, Nicholas, Sharon, Diana, Edward, Valerie, Thomas, Angelo, Craig, Timothy, Patrick, Melissa, Christopher, Melanie, Carrie, Lindsay, Jason, Barbara, Paul, Juliana, 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... +Robert Paganico (1/5), +Frederick Anton (12/28), +Carol Spirnak (12/10) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God’s Memory!*

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

⁹ By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your descendants be named.” ¹⁹ He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰ By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his burial.

The Faith of Moses

²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. ³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life.

³⁶ Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

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Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ and Ram the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab, and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa, ⁸ and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, ⁹ and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, ¹⁰ and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi'ah, ¹¹ and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. ¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of She-al'ti-el, and She-al'ti-el the father of Zerub'babel, ¹³ and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, ¹⁵ and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. ¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; ¹⁹ and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; ²¹ she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman'u-el” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **The Nativity Fast** – We are *all* called to increase our prayer, fasting, and charity. The fasting periods in the church are prescribed as an opportunity to strengthen our faith. It is for all of us. Fasting is personal, but let's embark on this discipline and journey together! If you have any questions, please see Fr. Dave.

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** **Second Coat Drive** – After the coats that were collected in August were donated, the need for more coats was noticed. If you have a new or gently used clean coat available for one who does not have one – please bring it to the church and hang it on the coat rack in the hallway downstairs (past Fr. Dave's office). Coats will be taken to the Neighborhood Resilience Project in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. Thank you for your generosity!

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*** **Christmas Eve Vigil** – Our service on **January 6**, Great Compline, will not begin at our usual evening service time, but rather at **7:00 pm** to allow for more time to eat out Strict Fast Holy Night Supper. Everyone of all ages is encouraged to come!

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* **Annual Christmas Pot-Luck** – After the Divine Liturgy and Parish Family Photo on **January 7th** we will have a community pot-luck meal. As the Three Wise Men brought gifts to the newborn Child, please bring a bite to share with everyone on the Nativity of our Lord. Please sign up in the hall with what you are able to bring (which will help in getting a variety of goodies!).

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** **School Excuse** – Parents are invited to get an excused absence request letter from Fr. Dave for bringing your family to the Feast of the Nativity Liturgy on **January 7th**.

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*** **Sr. ACRY Meeting** – The next Sr. ACRY Meeting will be on **Sunday, January 11** after the coffee social. New members are always welcome! Please see Subdeacon Ryan or Nick Ditmore, Reader, if you have any questions.

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** **2nd Holy Night Supper** – Theophany Eve is a day of Strict Fasting. This is sometimes referred to as a Second Holy Night Supper after the fast-free period between Nativity and Theophany ends (*one practice is to freeze any leftovers from Christmas Eve Supper*). This year, Fr. Dave will host a Strict Fast Dinner at the church on **Sunday, January 18 at 5:00 pm**. (*Please talk to him if you would like to contribute anything to the meal.*) Following dinner, the Virgil Service for the Theophany of our Lord will be celebrated at **6:30 pm**, concluding with the Great Blessing of Water, Church Sanctification, and distribution of the Holy Water to the faithful.

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 2700
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 141
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 680
Community Outreach:	\$ 130

Total Collections: **\$ 3551**

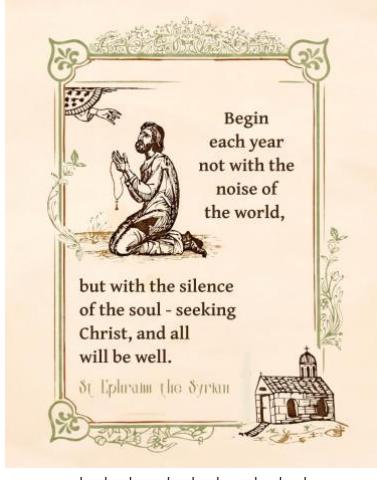
Capital Improvement Fund: **\$ 210**

Participating Souls at: *Sunday's Liturgy: 38*

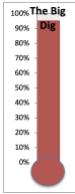
Friday Morning Moleben: 3

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

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*** **The Big Dig Update** – ONLY 5% LEFT! Through the end of December, **\$42,800** has been collected towards our **\$45,000** expense from the excavation project (*completed in May and July*). All of your additional generosity is greatly appreciated! May God bless you! Many Years!

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* **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped in any way for the St. Nicholas Breakfast! A beautiful tradition of our parish! May God grant you many years!

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* **2026 Calendars** – The newly formatted Church Calendars are in the vestibule upstairs and in the hallway downstairs.

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* **2026 Offering Envelopes** are in the hallway downstairs. If you previously did not get envelopes and are interested in getting them for next year, please see Larry or Fr. Dave.

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ACRY NEWS

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* **Lots-O-Luck Calendars** – The National ACRY Lots-O-Lucky Calendars are available. \$25 per ticket gets you a year's worth of prizes totaling \$10,000! Please see Subdeacon Ryan Ferko for tickets.

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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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* **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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* **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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* **Online Community** - Please email Fr. Dave at OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com to receive the weekly bulletin (along with other announcements) via email each week.

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A REMINDER TO MAKE TIME FOR YOUR NATIVITY FAST CONFESSON

“Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” (Lk. 5:12)

As we prepare for the Feast of the Nativity, it is time to prepare the “Manger of our soul” for the coming of the Messiah.

Fr. Dave will be available for confessions after ALL services or by appointment (including Saturdays).

“There is more mercy in God than there are sins in us. Confess your sins at once, whatever they may be.”

+St Tikhon of Zadonsk

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave
January 7: Community Pot-Luck

January 11: _____?____, _____?____, _____?____, _____?____

January 18: _____?____, _____?____, _____?____, _____?____

January 25: _____?____, _____?____, _____?____, _____?____

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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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* **St. Nicholas Charity Luncheon** fundraiser event on 12/20 was another success! THANK YOU to those who attended, who donated items, who donated monetarily, and to those who pray for our seminary! Next year we pray that more people can attend this event that supports our diocesan Christ the Saviour Seminary.

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CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:

* *** De-icing Wire** – A heating wire has been added to the front of our roof above the vestibule to prevent ice from causing any issues.

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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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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

THE CANON OF THE NATIVITY

OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

Ode 1: Christ is born, glorify him! Christ comes from heaven, meet Him! Christ is an earth, be exalted! O all the earth, sing to the Lord, and sing praises in gladness, all people, for He has been glorified.

Ode 3: To the Son Who was begotten of the Father without change before all ages, and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin, to Christ our God, let us cry aloud:

You have raised up our horn, holy are You, O Lord!

Ode 4: Rod of the root of Jesse, and flower that blossomed from his stem, O Christ, You have sprung forth from the Virgin. From the mountain overshadowed by the forest You came, made flesh for her that knew not wedlock, O God not formed from matter. Glory to Your power O Lord!

Ode 5: As You are God of Peace and Father of mercies, You have sent to us Your Angel of Great Counsel, granting unto us peace. So are we guided towards the light of the knowledge of

God. And watching by night, we glorify You, O Lover of mankind.

Ode 6: The sea monster spat forth Jonah as it had received him, like a babe from the womb: while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh: came forth from her yet kept her undefiled. For being Himself not subject to decay. He preserved His Mother free from harm.

Ode 7: Scorning the impious decree, the three children brought up together in godliness feared not the threat of fire: but standing in the midst of the flame they sang: "O God of our fathers, blessed are You!"

Ode 8: The furnace moist with dew was the image of a wonder past nature. For it burned not the children whom it had received, even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which It had descended. Therefore in praise, let us sing: let the whole creation bless the Lord, and exalt Him above all forever.

Ode 9: I behold a strange and wonderful mystery. The cave has become heaven, the throne of the Cherubim, the Virgin. The manger a noble place where lies Christ our God Who cannot be contained. Let us praise Him in song and magnify You!

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Orthodox Apps

Good things do exist online! Here are three Apps to consider for your smart phones to help us stay connected throughout the week!

- ✖ The PrayAlways app is full of wonderful prayers when we are without our prayer book,
- ✖ The Ancient Faith Radio App brings the hymns of the church, podcasts, and more to the palm of our hands
- ✖ This OrthodoxCalendar follows the Old Calendar traditions of our parish and is an easy resource to read the Lives of the Saints, Scripture Readings for the day, as well as other helpful information



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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE GREATMARTYR ANASTASIA THE ALLEVIATRIX-OF-CAPTIVES (UZORESHITEL'NITSA)

Commemorated on December 22

The GreatMartyr Anastasia the Alleviatrix-of-Captives (Uzoreshitel'nitsa), a Roman by birth, suffered for Christ during the time of the persecution against Christians under Diocletian. Her father was a pagan, her mother – secretly a Christian. The teacher of Saint Anastasia in her youth was an educated and pious Christian named Chrisogenes. After the death of her mother, her father gave Saint Anastasia in marriage to a pagan named Pomplius, but under the pretext of a contrived illness, she preserved her virginity.

Clothing herself in the garb of a beggar, and accompanied by only one servant, she visited the prisons: she fed, doctored and often ransomed captives that were suffering for their faith in Christ. When her servant told Pomplius about everything, he subjected his wife to a beating and locked her up at home. Saint Anastasia then began secretly to correspond with Chrisogenes, who bid the saint to be patient, to conform all thoughts to the Cross of Christ and prepare herself to serve the Lord; he foretold also the impending perishing of Pomplius in the sea. And after a certain while Pomplius did indeed drown, having set out with a delegation to Persia. After the death of her husband, Saint Anastasia began generously to distribute her property to the poor and suffering.

A report was made to Diocletian that the Christians, who filled the prisons of Rome, stoically endured the tortures. He thereupon gave orders in a single night to kill them all, and for Chrisogenes to be dispatched to him at Aquileia. Saint Anastasia followed her teacher at a distance.

The emperor personally interrogated Chrisogenes, but being unable to incline him to a renunciation of faith, the emperor then gave command for him to be beheaded and thrown into the sea. The body and severed head of the holy martyr were carried by the waves to shore. There by a Divine prompting they were found by a certain presbyter named Zoilus who, having put them within a coffin, concealed them at his home. Chrisogenes appeared to Zoilus and informed him that martyrdom was near for Agapia, Chiona and Irene – youthful Christians living not far away, and bid him to send Saint Anastasia to them. For Zoilus himself, Chrisogenes foretold a quick and peaceful death. Chrisogenes likewise in a vision guided Saint Anastasia's path to Zoilus. Having come to the presbyter, she prayed at the relics of Saint Chrisogenes, and afterwards she spiritually strengthened the three maidens before their tortures. When these three martyrs gave up their souls to the Lord, she herself buried them.

Having carried out the bequest of her teacher, the saint began her wanderings. And having gained proficiency in the medical arts of the time, she zealously cared for captives far and wide. Through her exploits, Saint Anastasia earned for herself the name Aleviatrix-of-Captives (Uzoreshitel'nitsa), since by her many efforts she delivered from agony of long-time suffering many a confessor of the Name of Christ.

One time she made the acquaintance of the pious young widow Theodotia and found in her a faithful helper. Both soon suffered persecution. They arrested Saint Anastasia when she was in Illyria. This occurred just after all the Christian captives there had been murdered in a single night by order of Diocletian. Saint Anastasia had come to one of the prisons, and

finding no one there, she began to weep loudly. The jailers realised that she was a Christian and led her off to the governor of the district, who tried to persuade the saint to recant Christ by threatening torture. He then handed her over to the Capitolian pagan-priest Ulpian. The cunning pagan offered Saint Anastasia the choice between luxury and riches, or grievous sufferings. He set before her on the one side gold, precious stones and clothing, but on the other side – fearsome tools of torture. The pagan guile was put to shame by the bride of Christ – Saint Anastasia refused the riches and chose the tools of torture. But the Lord prolonged the course of the earthly deeds of the saint. Charmed by the beauty of Anastasia, the pagan-priest decided to profane her purity, but during his first yearnings to touch her he suddenly became blind. Losing his wits under this affliction, he dashed to run off to a pagan temple to appeal to the idols for help, but along the way he fell down and died. Saint Anastasia was set free and together with Theodotia she again devoted herself to the care of imprisoned Christians. Before long, Saint Theodotia and her three sons accepted a martyr's death. Her eldest son, Evodus, stood bravely before the judge and without protest endured beatings. After lengthy torture, they threw all of them into a red-hot oven.

Saint Anastasia was caught again and condemned to death

by starvation. She stayed in prison without food for 60 days. Saint Theodotia appeared to the martyr every night and gave her courage. Having seen that hunger caused Saint Anastasia no harm whatsoever, the judge sentenced her to drowning together with condemned criminals. Among these people also was Eutykhian, condemned for his Christian faith.

When the ship went out into the open sea, the soldiers bored holes in it and transferred themselves into a boat. Saint Theodotia appeared to the captives and commanded the ship to shore. Having come to dry land and being saved by the miracle, the 120 men believed in Christ and were baptised by Saints Anastasia and Eutykhian. All were soon captured and given over to a martyr's death. They stretched Saint Anastasia between four posts cross-shaped over a red-hot bon-fire. A certain pious woman Apollinaria buried in a garden her body, unharmed by the fire. In the V Century the relics of Saint Anastasia were transferred to Constantinople, where a church in her name was built. They later transferred the head and an hand of the GreatMartyress to the monastery of Saint Anastasia Uzoreshitel'nitsa (Alleviatrix-of-Captives), located near holy Mount Athos

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ONLINE BONUSES

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org

Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org

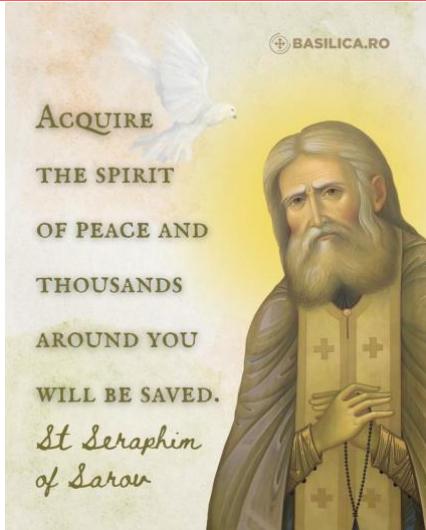
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese

Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews

YouTube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS



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CHRISTMAS TO-DO-LIST

- ~~buy~~ ^{BE} presents
- ~~wrap~~ ^{SOMEONE IN A HUG} gifts
- Send gifts ^{PEACE}
- ~~shop for~~ ^{DONATE} food
- ~~see~~ ^{BE} the lights

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the Orthodox Christian Network. The Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) is an official agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. **MyOCN is YourOCN!** Visit www.myocn.net to see the variety of materials they provide online! *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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**ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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* **Proofreader Request** – Fr. Dave is looking for someone to assist with emails and the bulletin. This person needs to be a competent proofreader to find any number of typos that occur. This includes, but is not limited to, incorrect dates, wrong times, incorrect Liturgical color, copy'n'paste errors from previous years... the list goes on. To apply, please text Fr. Dave at your earliest convenience.



* *A Carpatho-Rusyn Christmas* book is a publication of the Diocesan Carpatho-Rusyn Heritage Working Group. It contains Rusyn Koljady and Western Christmas Carols in English and Rusyn PLUS the text for the Holy Night Supper (Svijatyj Večer) prayer service (Velija). Cost is \$10 per book and will be available in our Gift Shop *after we get more from Johnstown.*

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“Code” for reading the bulletin:

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

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

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

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

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

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Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

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

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Random Tidbits... Father Dave is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 2:30pm OR by appointment...

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

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

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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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2 #NATIVITYFAST

9:30 am Prefestive Moleben (Prayer Service) of the Nativity

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 #NATIVITYFAST

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

9:15 am Nativity Canon & Carols (*Koljady*)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

11:00 – 11:30 am Church School

MONDAY, JANUARY 5 #NATIVITYFAST

6:30 pm Royal Hours of Nativity

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 #NATIVITYFAST

A Day of Strict Fasting

7:00 pm Great Compline (Velikij Povečerije)

Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9:15 am Nativity Canon & Carols (*Koljady*)

9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy

Parish Family Photo

Nativity Pot-Luck Meal

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FAST FREE until the eve of Theophany (Sviatki: “Holy Days”)

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 – 2ND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

FEAST OF THE SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 – 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS

FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

Sunday after Nativity

Sunday of the Holy Ancestors (*Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, Holy Righteous David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord*)

9:15 am Nativity Canon & Carols (*Koljady*)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
 Monthly Memorial (Panachida)
take down the manger scene during coffee social
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13
 Leavetaking (*Apodosis*) of the Nativity of Christ
 6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14
 FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISON OF OUR LORD
 FEAST OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT
 9:20 am Theophany Canon
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16
 9:30 am Royal Hours of Theophany
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 ##STRICT FAST DAY
 Sunday before Theophany
 9:20 am Theophany Canon
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
 Youth Sunday
 11:00 – 11:30 am Church School
 5:00 pm 2nd Holy Night Supper
 6:30 pm Great Compline (Velikij Povečerije)
 Vigil Service with the Great Blessing of Water

MONDAY, JANUARY 19
 FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD
 9:20 am Theophany Canon
 9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
 FEAST OF THE SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (*All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting*)
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 25
 SUNDAY AFTER THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND
 SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST
 ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY
 9:20 Theophany Canon
 9:30 Divine Liturgy
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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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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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Financial Reports	December	Fiscal Year	Calendar Year
General Stewardship	\$10,350.05	\$33,960	\$79,047
* Expenses	\$6,127.11	\$23,552	\$79,498
Yield +/-	\$4,222.94	\$10,408	-\$451
Capital Improvement Fund	\$2,343.00	\$16,777	\$31,844
Sunday Participation Average	41	41	39

* detailed report is on the bulletin board in the hall

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Giving at the Church – The opportunities to give your stewardship treasures at SJB are to:

- ✖ hand your offering to the curator who sits at the desk in the vestibule (to the right after you enter),
- ✖ drop your offering in one of multiple baskets around the church, or
- ✖ place your offering in the box in the candle stand after saying your prayers when lighting 2 candles.

The ministries of the church cannot happen without your dedication and support.

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On-Line Giving is available from our parish website to donate to the: General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund. The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2nd best is to mail it in to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue it’s ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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Bulletin Sponsor - If you wish to sponsor a bulletin *In Honor of* (nameday, birthday, anniversary, etc.) or *In Memory of* someone, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested. *Remember, sponsoring a bulletin in memory of someone does not replace having a Panachida (Memorial Service) for them.*

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A Prayer of Stewardship

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the good steward, who redeemed Adam and Eve of their failed stewardship by offering Yourself for the life of the world. You did teach us in the feeding of the multitudes that whatever we give to God is returned to us multiplied. You did praise those good and faithful servants in the parable of the talents who returned to the Master their gifts. So help us to learn the joy of stewardship, remembering that everything we have comes from You and belongs to You. We know, Lord, that we often live in fear of the future and insecurity. Help us to remember the lilies of the field and so to trust in Your providence. Grant to us a cheerful and generous spirit. Enkindle in the hearts of all Your people a zealous love for You. For You are the Good Steward, and to You we give thanks, praise and glory, together with Your Father and Your all holy good and life-giving Spirit now and ever and onto the ages of ages. Amen.

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Stewardship of Treasure Guide

Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?												
Weekly Income	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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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

Check back later...

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FEAST DAY FEATURE

Check back later...

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ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

Check back later...

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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 Maximus C, Nicholas C, John B, John F, Bradley S, Clay R, Ignatios L., and *our Parish Council and Curators*: Lawrence, Elizabeth, Timothy, Rich, Robert, Gina, Mary Jane, Raymond, 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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January Namedays:

Juliana Anton – Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (1/3)
Stephen Branco - Holy Protomartyr & Archdeacon Stephen

(1/9)

Ashley Wertz Andrekovich - Venerable Anthony the Great (1/30)

Anthony Winkler - Venerable Anthony the Great (1/30)

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

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January Birthdays:

Carol Lorenzi (1/2)

Joshua Mainolfi (1/3/12)

Elizabeth Fucsko (1/7/16)

Jason Shelpman (1/9/86)

David Turner (1/12/79)

Paňi Kathy Fester (1/13)

Fred G. Anton (1/16)

Paňi Fedornock (1/16)

Father's Godson, Alex Schreiber (1/18)

Father's Goddaughter, Jenna Schreiber (1/18)

Kevynn Christina Anton (1/19)

Nicholas Ditmore (1/19)

Fr Joseph Fester (1/19)

Katherine Schrmack (1/22)

Father's niece, Abiagel Verbanick (1/22/11)

Thomas Lorenzi (1/23)

Mary Ann Brady (1/26)

Fr Frank Miloro (1/26)

Allison Kretchek (1/29/88)

...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, 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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January Anniversaries:

...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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NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENGE 2025

Met. 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

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A Prayer for Peace

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise.

Amen.

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A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood.

Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear.

Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving

Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

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A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that

they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory.

Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (*name*), and our spiritual father (*name*), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful

God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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