

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” Our Parish Bulletin

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

1.

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, JANUARY 18, 2026 ## STRICTFAST DAY VOL. XI

32nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday before Theophany

+ Prophet Micah (9th B.C.)

Youth Sunday

10:45 am 2nd Holy Night Supper (*Lunch*)

11:00 – 11:30 am Church School

~12-noon Great Compline (Velikij Povečerije)

Vigil Service with the Great Blessing of Water

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

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*)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

9:30 - 11:30 am Church open for private prayer

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

33rd Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY AFTER THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND

SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY

+ St. Sava I, first archbishop of Serbia (1235)

9:20 Theophany Canon

9:30 Divine Liturgy

Tone 8; Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 (Sunday after)

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday after)

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

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Spiritual Vitamin:

“Drink holy water as often as possible.

It is the best and most effective medicine.

I'm saying that not just as a priest, but also from my experience as a doctor.”

+ St. Luke the Physician of Crimea

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of...

John, Anthony, Edward, Valerie, Thomas, Angelo, Craig, Timothy, Patrick, Melissa, Christopher, Melanie, Carrie, 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), + Mary McNeil, + 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: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday before Theophany)

⁵ As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

⁶ For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

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Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 (Sunday before Theophany)

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before thy face,
who shall prepare thy way;

³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight—”

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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*** **2025 Summary** – If you would like a statement of your 2025 SJB Donation Summary, please see or contact Rich Mirilovich or Fr. Dave.

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*** **University Tamburitzan Show** – There will be a Tamburitzan show this **Saturday, January 24**, at 3:00 pm in Monroeville. For more information, please contact Fr. Dave.

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* **Caring for Others through Visitation Ministry**

Ministry – A ministry of caring is an important part of parish life. Join us on **Sunday, January 25** during the coffee social in the MPR (Multi-Purpose Room) for a 20-minute presentation with our guest presenter, Amy Armanious. She will lead us on ways to reach out in love to those in our church families who are homebound, coping with challenging health conditions, and/or experiencing other life difficulties. No need to sign up – just come and learn how God is opening your heart and mind to *Visitation Ministry*. We will discuss how we can make a difference through such activities as prayer, making phone calls to those who live alone, creating small gifts for the homebound, baking cookies, delivering soup, mailing cards to those who need an encouraging word, home visitation, and much more! This ministry is a way for individuals to live out the great commandment “Love one another.” Come and see where God is leading you in the giving of your time & talent. We need all – young and old – for this new outreach ministry!

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* **Yum-Raising** – A different candy fundraiser has been started online for the church. Various options are out there for purchase. Valentine’s orders begin shipping January 14. Help us reach our goal – order by **Friday, January 30**. Visit:

<https://www.yumraising.com/store/valentines-day-2026-st-johns-orthodox-church-allison-park-pa-8eb7/TimMar14872>

(from the online bulletin you should be able to just click this link – if not, please contact Fr. Dave)

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*** **Calling All Scouts!** For our youth in Scouting and to our Adult Leaders, please send Fr. Dave your →Unit Number, →location, →current rank, and →any office or position you hold in your organization **As Soon As You Can**. Our Scout Sunday will be on **Sunday, February 8th**.

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*** **Souper Bowl of Caring** –

On **Sunday, February 8th** we ask that you bring in unexpired cans of soup for our February Community Outreach collection for Saint Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry at St Mary’s Orthodox Church on the South Side.

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* **Greeting Cards** – Please repurpose your greeting cards (and if you do not frame them, calendar icons) after the season concludes. The collection box is in the vestibule for the *Holy Transfiguration Monastery*. Thank you for giving back! *Please Note – this collection is taken year round...*

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* **THANK YOU** to everyone who brought something in for our Christmas Pot-Luck. May God grant you many years!

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*** **Holy Water Reminders** – While Holy Water does not “go bad”, it is best to refresh your Jordan Water each year. Holy Water from the previous year(s) should be poured outside (*preferably on the corner of your house or in a garden where people are not going to walk on it*). The best scenario, though, is to **use the water**: take a drink every morning when you are sick, use it in your cooking, etc. After you finish using what you have at home, plan to refill your container the next time you come to church. If you don’t have a ‘Holy Water container’, talk with Fr. Dave. All are encouraged use their Holy Water year-round!

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 300

Candle Stewardship: \$ 30

Envelope Stewardship: \$ 570

Total Collections: \$ 900

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 1120

Participating Souls at: *Sunday’s Liturgy*: 29

Tuesday Feast Day Vespers: 6

Wednesday Feast Day Liturgy: 5

Friday Royal Hours: 1

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Cindy Pavilonis

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The **Christ Candle Cross** was offered last week by Donald Gavulich in memory of his father, +Daniel Gavulich. May His Memory Be Eternal! *Vičnaya Pamyat!*

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* **Framed Icons** – Please consider framing your previous church calendar tops: cut them out, use a 5x7 frame, and hang them on your walls. Each year you can add an icon to another room in your home. This is also a nice project to do with our youth!

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* **North Hills Pan-Orthodox Worship** – Our Presanctified Liturgy schedule will be a bit different this year compared to the past couple. There will be one single shared service at Holy Trinity on **March 11** at 6:30 pm with a meal following. (Next year we will all gather at either St. Alexander Nevsky or our parish.)

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*** **Outdoor Divine Liturgy and Annual Parish Picnic** – We will gather at *The Cabin* in North Park on **Sunday, August 30** for our end of summer outdoor Liturgy and picnic. Save The Date!

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A PRAYER BEFORE CONSUMING ANTIDORON AND/OR HOLY WATER

O Lord my God, may Your holy gift and Your holy water be for the remission of my sins, for the enlightenment of my mind, for the increase of my spiritual and bodily strengths, for the health of my soul and body, for the overcoming of my passions and infirmities, through Your boundless mercy, through the prayers of Your Most-holy Mother, and of all Your Saints. 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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* **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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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

HOLY THEOPHANY: JANUARY 19th

By Fr. Jonathan Bannon

Bring a container to receive Holy Water

In the early centuries of Christianity, Nativity and Theophany were celebrated on the same day, because in both, Christ reveals Himself: first to the Magi and shepherds, and then at the Jordan, to the world.

The Church hears an echo of Genesis here. Just as the Spirit "brooded" over the waters at creation, so again the Spirit descends over the waters as Christ enters the Jordan. Christ, the Second Adam, refashions humanity within Himself. He is the Christos, the "Anointed One", not because He needs purification (He is purity personified), but because at every step of His saving work: conception, birth, in and out of Egypt, baptism, even death; He reclaims us and restores communion between God and man.



See the icon: there is a horizontal and vertical axis. Horizontally, to Christ's right stands St. John the Baptist (as humanity), and to His left, the angels (as the heavens). Heaven and earth meet in Christ, who unites both in His Incarnation and baptism. Vertically, Christ stands in the earthly Jordan as a man (human, *anthropos*), yet the Father bears witness "This is My beloved Son", and the Spirit descends as a dove. Indeed the shepherds who watched over the unblemished lambs of

sacrifice raised in the valley of Bethlehem now by the desert-shepherd of souls John the Baptist, Christ is called "the Lamb of God" come to offer Himself as both High-priest and offering. (lots going on with these two feasts indeed.)

We do not hear condemnation raining down, but a peaceful dove, like Noah's, announcing that Paradise is opened again, and the flow of fallen life toward the Dead Sea are being reversed. As Psalm 113 proclaims: "The Jordan turned back." The flow of wounded humanity turns away from the sea of death, figuratively and literally, and toward Life.

The feast of the Nativity was then given its own respective day 9 months from the March 25th feast of the conception of Christ at the Annunciation. So it is we celebrate it with fullness and joy, the virgin birth, then the feast of Theophany.

Theos-phania = Theophany.

Stichera for the Feast:

You wrapped Yourself in the waters of the Jordan, O Savior who puts on light as a garment. You bowed Your head before the Forerunner, O Lord who measured the heavens with the span of Your hand, so as to turn the world back from error and to save our souls

WHY DO WE BLESS WATER?

To the ancient mind, water was believed to be in everything. It is a symbol of life. While Christ was baptized he did not need to be. His actions in himself, refashion us. There is however a paradox. While Christ is baptized, he is also Purity personified, in the flesh. If water then symbolizes all matter, all created things, then what happens when God steps into, descends within the water? And the Holy Spirit descends upon Him in those waters... all of creation is blessed. So to bless water is two-fold: 1) We offer back to God what is his. We are stewards of his creation, both men and women make up what is called The Royal Priesthood. We collect and cultivate the created world and give it back to God that it make give glory to Him. Water is blessed so we can then use it sacramentally for baptisms, for blessing and setting apart, purification of people, places, things. The incarnate God (Christmas) the baptized God (Theophany) the God who reveals His Face to us and becomes one of us is a statement that Orthodoxy is "Matter-affirming." We do not disdain he created order. We uplift it, offer it, and receive it back blessed. We drink the Holy Water, we ask God to purify our mind, body and soul

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

"Why were the heavens opened? To inform you that at your baptism also this is done, God calling thee to your country on high. But why in the fashion of a dove? Gentle is that creature, and pure. Forasmuch then as the Spirit too is "a Spirit of meekness" (Gal 6:4)."

+St. John Chrysostom

Homily 12 on Matthew 3, 4th Century

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY PROPHET MICAH

Commemorated on January 5

The Holy Prophet Micah was a companion of the holy prophet Elias. He prophesied the ruin of King Ahab in a war with the Assyrians, for which he was put into prison. Set free after the downfall of Ahab (3 Kings 22: 8-22), the holy prophet Micah died a martyr in the IX Century BC.

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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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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* **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 are available in our Gift Shop.

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave
January 25: Sr. ACRY

February 1: soup, __?__, __?__, __?__
February 1: __?__, __?__, __?__, __?__

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ACRY NEWS

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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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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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* **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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* **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 PRIOR TO each scheduled class (1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays)

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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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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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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 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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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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*** The Big Dig Update – ONLY 5% LEFT!

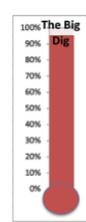
Through the end of December, \$42,800 has been collected towards our \$45,000 expense from the excavation project (*completed in May and July*). All of your additional generosity is greatly appreciated! May God bless you! Many Years!

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| 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

100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%



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

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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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

Check back later...

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FEAST DAY FEATURE

Tropar for the Feast of the Theophany

At Your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, worship of the trinity was revealed, for the Father's voice bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, who appeared and enlightened the world, glory to You!

Kondak for the Feast of the Theophany

You have appeared today to the inhabited earth, and Your light, O Lord, has been marked upon us, who with knowledge sing Your praise. You have come, You are made manifest, the Light that no man can approach.”

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

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/hem* 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., Carolyn U., 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; 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), Elizabeth Fucsko (1/7), Jason Shelpman (1/9), David Turner (1/12), 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), Thomas Lorenzi (1/23), Mary Ann Brady (1/26), Fr Frank Miloro (1/26), Allison Kretschek (1/29)

...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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For Pregnant Mothers...

Kimberly (due in March), Blaire (Evgenia) (April)
...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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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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A Prayer for Peace

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

Amen.



A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

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A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (*name*), and our spiritual father (*name*), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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