

“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**

+++
 Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*
 +++

2201 Duncan Avenue,
 Allison Park, Pa 15101

+++
 www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com

+++
 412-748-0148 (*Talk or Text*)

+++
 OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com

+++ +++ +++

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2026

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
---------	-------------------------	---------------------

Normal Fast Week
FEBRUARY 8th



The Prodigal Son Returns!
 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.

Meatfare
FEBRUARY 15th
 FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY



The Last Judgement
 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2
 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.

+++ +++ +++

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026 VOL. XI
 +St. Xenophontes, Maria, Arkadios, and John
 Monthly Memorial (Panachida) for +Joann Radomsky (33-year), +Jane Barrett (7-yr), +Anna (Gaydos) Buhonick (20-yr), Most Reverend Metropolitan +Orestes P Chornock (49-yr), +Barbara Banofsky (7-yr), +Julia Setar (49-yr), +Mary (Gaydos) Daniella (48-yr), +Elizabeth (Kailyar) Sichak (26yr), +Orania Sarandou (27-yr), Oscar Anton

Souper Bowl of Caring

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
 +Venerable Ephraim the Syrian (373)
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
 11:00 am Pittsburgh Clergy Brotherhood Meeting hosted at our parish (*If anyone would like to assist with providing lunch for the meeting, please contact Fr. Dave*)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
 6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 - SYNAXIS OF THE 3 HIERARCHS:
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
 6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers and Blessing of Candles

+++

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 (*40 days after Nativity*)

FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD

9:15 am Third Hour
 9:30 am Festal Divine Liturgy
 Tone 3; Liturgical Color: **Gold**
 Blessing of Candles

Youth Sunday
 Pre-Lenten Breakfast (*Meatfare Sunday*)
 Church School

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (*All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting*)

+++

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22
 Cheesefare
 9:15 Third Hour
 9:30 Divine Liturgy
 Rite of Forgiveness
 ? 12-noon Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

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.

+++ +++ +++

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

+++ +++ +++

* **Pre-Lenten Breakfast** will be **NEXT Sunday, February 15.** Please sign up in the hall so we have a rough idea of how many will stay for the fellowship.

+++ +++ +++

* **Blessing of Candles** – As is customary, candles will be blessed following the Feast Day Vespers and Divine Liturgy on **Saturday, February 14 and Sunday 2/15**, the Sunday after the Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord, the 40th day after Nativity (Christmas) that remembers the presentation of the infant Jesus into the Temple. It is recorded in the Gospel of Luke (2:22-39) that on this day the elder Simeon recognized the infant Jesus as “*a light for revelation to the Gentiles*”. Thus we highlight the use of candles, as they remind us that Christ is the true Light of the World. There will be candles available for a donation and all are encouraged to bring in candles from home to be blessed after these two Liturgies. Please place your candle(s) on the table near the icon of Christ. Let's light up the world with our blessed candles!

+++ +++ +++

*** **Penn State THON** – Are you willing to help make a difference? Penn State THON is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world dedicated to fund research and provide support to children affected by cancer! Starting February 20th, thousands of students will unite for a 46-hour dance marathon to fight pediatric cancer. Last year, nearly \$18 million was raised for the Four Diamonds organization! Would you be willing to support Penn State THON and help find a cure for pediatric cancer? Thank you! - Matthew Mirilovich

(Thon Rules & Regulations Committee)
<https://donate.thon.org/participants/133215>

+++ +++ +++

*** **LAST CALL** – There are still a number of poinsettias in the vestibule free for anyone to take home. After next Sunday they will disappear.

+++ +++ +++

*** **Orthodoxy On Tap** – On **Sunday, February 15** at 5:00 pm Fr. Anastasios Athanasiou will present “Lent, Love, and Letting Go” at Monterey Pub (1227 Monterey St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212). Following the presentation, plan to stay and enjoy the fellowship and lively discussion with other young adults. Contact Fr Dave with any questions.

+++ +++ +++

*** **IOCC Benefit** – There will be a Happy Hour fundraiser on **Thursday, February 19** from 6 to 9 pm at Allusion Brewing Company (1701 Duncan Ave., suite 2, McCandless, PA 15101) where 20% of the proceeds will benefit IOCC's global humanitarian work. Go and fellowship with other parishioners before Great Lent is upon us and get introduced to IOCC's mission and the chapter here in Pittsburgh. The event page can be found online at the following address: [Pittsburgh Happy Hour to Benefit IOCC](#)

+++ +++ +++

*** **Important Upcoming Liturgical Dates:**

The Great Fast Begins: **Monday, February 23**
Palm Sunday / Holy Week: **Sunday, April 5**
Pascha: **Sunday, April 12**

+++ +++ +++

*** **“Clean Week” Services Week of Feb. 22** – The first week of the Great Fast is known as “Clean Week”. We will have services each evening. All are encouraged to come to as many services as your schedule allows. **The Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew of Crete** was “written in the 7th century, *The Great Canon still maintains relevance for the modern age. It is the backbone of Orthodox services for the first week of Great Lent and sets the tone for a Christian's self reflection and repentance appropriate to the season.*”

+++ +++ +++

 ** **Calling All Scouts!** Our Scout Sunday is **being rescheduled**. 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**.

+++ +++ +++

*** **Bring an Icon to Church** – On **March 1, Sunday of Orthodoxy**, you are encouraged to bring an icon from home to hold during the Divine Liturgy and to use in our procession of icons at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

+++ +++ +++

*** **Sunday of Orthodoxy Service** - The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh is hosting the annual service on **Sunday, March 1** at 4:00 pm at All Saints Orthodox Church (601 W. McMurray Rd., Canonsburg, PA)

+++ +++ +++

*** **Fellowship Meals** - Got Soup? A small ‘t’ tradition in many Orthodox parishes is to have soup (or other light meal) following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts during the Great Fast. We will have this meal after our Wednesday evening services at our parish and when we travel for the North Hills Pan-Orthodox service. A sign up sheet is in the church hall for those interested in bringing in food.

+++ +++ +++

*** **Presanctified Liturgies** – Our Presanctified Liturgy schedule will be a bit different this year compared to the past couple. There will be one single *North Hills Pan-Orthodox Worship Service* at Holy Trinity GOA Church (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh) on **March 11** at **6:30 pm** with a meal following. This does not change our desire to nurture a greater fellowship among our parishes and communities as we will be adding other combine activities later in the year!

+++ +++ +++

*** **Deanery Lenten Mission Schedule** – All are encouraged to attend services at our sister parishes this spring. Not only is it beautiful fellowship with other Orthodox, but each church is unique and you get to see the differences firsthand.

3:30 *Confessions, 4:00 Vespers, and Fellowship Meal following*

March 8: St John’s (2201 Duncan Ave., Allison Park)

March 15: St John’s (450 Glenwood Ave., Ambridge)

March 22: St Michael’s (146 Third Ave., Rankin)

March 29: St John’s (211 Cable Ave., East Pittsburgh)

+++ +++ +++

*** **Lenten Retreat** – Save the date for the Central Region Lenten Retreat on **Saturday, March 28** starting at 10 am at St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (903 Ann St., Homestead, PA 15120). More details coming...

+++ +++ +++

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 565
Candle Stewardship: \$ 365
Envelope Stewardship: \$ 695
Community Outreach: \$ 55

Total Collections: \$ 1680

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 25

Participating Souls at: *Sunday’s Liturgy: 34*

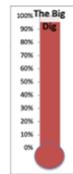
Friday morning Akathist: 6

Saturday evening All-Soul Parastas: 4

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

+++ +++ +++

*** **The Big Dig Update** – **ONLY 1% LEFT!** Through the end of January, **\$44,565** 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!



+++ +++ +++

Financial Reports	January	Fiscal Year
General Stewardship	\$ 9,099.64	\$ 43,060
* Expenses	\$ 10,411.50	\$ 33,964
Yield +/-	\$ 1,311.86	\$ 9,096
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 1,765	\$ 18,542
<i>Sunday Participation Average</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>40</i>

** detailed report is on the bulletin board in the hall*

+++ +++ +++

*** **Seminary Donation** – Another thank you goes out to anyone who supported the St Nicholas Charity Luncheon back in December. The total donation to our seminary by our Pittsburgh Deanery parishes totaled \$4,630 (of which \$2,047 came from the day of the banquet)! May God grant you many years!

+++ +++ +++

+ + + + + + + + +

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



ACRY NEWS

+ + +

** **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!

+ + + + + + + + +

Make plans to go to Camp Nazareth events this year!

- ✘ **March 13-15** - Young Adult Spring Retreat
- ✘ **March 20-22** – Lenten Spring Jr. Encounter (ages 8-18)
- ✘ **May 5-7** - Sts. Joachim & Anna Seniors Retreat (age 55 & over)
- ✘ **June 5-7** - Family Camp
- ✘ **June 7** - Family Day
- ✘ **July 26 - Aug 1** - Pgh Deanery Camping Week (ages 8-18)
- ✘ **August 9-12** - Science & Nature Camp (ages 8-18)
- ✘ **October 9-11** - Camp Alumni Weekend
- ✘ **October 23-25** - Young Adult Fall Retreat
- ✘ **November 6-8** - Fall Jr. Encounter (ages 8-18)

Save the Dates and head to 339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137

+ + + + + + + + +

** **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!**

+ + + + + + + + +

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

+ + + + + + + + +

* **Greeting Cards** – Please repurpose your greeting cards (*and if you do not frame them, calendar icons*) after the season concludes. They are only looking for the front of the cards, not the personalized messages inside. 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...*

+ + + + + + + + +

“Code” for reading the bulletin:

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

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

+ + + + + + + + +

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

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

+ + + + + + + + +

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

+ + + + + + + + +

Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

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

+ + + + + + + + +

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

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

* **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.

+ + + + + + + + +

** **Food Drive** – This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting unexpired food and donations for **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry** (at Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church, 105 S. 19th St., Pgh, PA 15203). Volunteers are needed on Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:45 to assist in the distribution of these goods to those in need. (If interested, please contact Fr Patrick first at 412-431-6428) Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month! Here is a list of the items that they are looking for:

- ✓ Ready to eat canned fruit or vegetables
- ✓ Peanut Butter
- ✓ Jelly
- ✓ Canned Soups
- ✓ Canned Chili
- ✓ Macaroni & Cheese
- ✓ Spaghetti Sauce
- ✓ Pasta
- ✓ Noodle/Rice Mixes
- ✓ Small Package of Rice or Noodles
- ✓ Canned Stews
- ✓ Canned or Pouches of Tuna, Salmon or Chicken
- ✓ Boxed Meals ready to be prepared
- ✓ Canned Meats
- ✓ Baked Beans
- ✓ Canned and Boxed 100% Juice
- ✓ Crackers
- ✓ Tuna Helper Box
- ✓ Instant Cereal & Boxed Cereal
- ✓ Canned Pastas (Chef Boyardee, Ravioli, etc.)
- ✓ Canned Meats
- ✓ Can Openers

www.stmaryorthodoxchurch.net/stecyrlfoodpantry

+ + + + + + + + +

* **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!

+ + + + + + + + +

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

+ + + + + + + + +

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Glorify God in Body and Spirit

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”--and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.” ¹⁷But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

+++

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

¹¹And he said, “There was a man who had two sons; ¹²and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.’” ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; ²³and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; ²⁴for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. ²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It

was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.”

+++

PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of...

Timothy, Tatiana, Mary Jane, John, Anthony, Edward, Valerie, Angelo, Craig, Timothy, Patrick, Melissa, Christopher, Carrie, Jason, Barbara, Paul, Juliana, and Michael
...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer

+++

For the souls of the newly departed...

+Milutin Lazich (2/9), +Jane Benedetti (2/7),
+Thomas Figura (1/28), +Mary Lou Diffindale (1/26),
+Ann Marie Kline (1/18), +Mary McNeil (1/6),
+Robert Paganico (1/5), +Frederick Anton (12/28)
...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning.
May they be Eternal in God's Memory!

+++

[“By the Waters of Babylon” is the entire Psalm 137, sung to a plaintive melody, during Matins (the morning service). It is only sung in church the three Sundays that precede Great Lent: Sunday of the Prodigal Son, The Last Judgment (Meatfare), and Forgiveness (Cheesefare).]

+++

A Prayer in Exile (Psalm 137):

Longing for Zion in a Foreign Land

By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.
²On the willows there
we hung up our harps.
³For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
⁴How shall we sing the LORD’s song
in a foreign land?
⁵If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!
⁶Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy!
⁷Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom
the day of Jerusalem,
how they said, “Raze it, raze it!
Down to its foundations!”
⁸O daughter of Babylon, you who are devastated!
Happy shall he be who requites you
with what you have done to us!
⁹Happy shall he be who takes your little ones
and dashes them against the rock!

+++

ONLINE BONUSES

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

THIS MONTH'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

TRIDION BEGINS

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

Un-decorating the church during coffee social

A FAST FREE WEEK

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:30 am Akathist to St. Xenia with holy anointing

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - *All Soul Saturday (1 of 5)*

6:30 pm Parastas and Panachida with reading of names

+++

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9:15 Third Hour
9:30 Divine Liturgy
Scout Sunday

Monthly Memorial (Panachida) which includes
Souper Bowl of Caring

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
11:00 am Pittsburgh Clergy Brotherhood Meeting hosted at our parish (*If anyone would like to assist with providing lunch for the meeting, please contact Fr. Dave*)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 - SYNAXIS OF THE 3 HIERARCHS:

ST. BASIL THE GREAT, ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN,
AND ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers
Blessing of Candles

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 (*40 days after Nativity*)

FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD
Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)

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

Youth Sunday
Blessing of Candles
Pre-Lenten Breakfast (*Meatfare Sunday*)
Church School

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (*All are welcome to come and listen to the discussions at the meeting*)

+++

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Cheesefare
9:15 Third Hour
9:30 Divine Liturgy
Rite of Forgiveness
? 12-noon Forgiveness Sunday Vespers

CLEAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 #TheGreatFast

THE GREAT FAST BEGINS
A DAY OF STRICT FASTING

6:30 pm Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

CLEAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 #TheGreatFast

6:30 pm Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

CLEAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 #TheGreatFast

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
with fellowship meal following

CLEAN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 #TheGreatFast

6:30 pm Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

CLEAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 #TheGreatFast

9:30 am Great Canon of Repentance of St. Andrew

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 #TheGreatFast

11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered

+++ +++ +++

AND Make plans to go to Camp Nazareth events this year!

- ✦ **March 13-15** - Young Adult Spring Retreat
- ✦ **March 20-22** - Lenten Spring Jr. Encounter (ages 8-18)
- ✦ **May 5-7** - Sts. Joachim & Anna Seniors Retreat (age 55 and over)
- ✦ **June 5-7** - Family Camp
- ✦ **June 7** - Family Day
- ✦ **July 26 - Aug 1** - Pgh Deanery Camping Week (ages 8-18)
- ✦ **August 9-12** - Science & Nature Camp (ages 8-18)
- ✦ **October 9-11** - Camp Alumni Weekend
- ✦ **October 23-25** - Young Adult Fall Retreat
- ✦ **November 6-8** - Fall Jr. Encounter (ages 8-18)

Please, Save the Dates and head to
339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137

+++ +++ +++



+++ +++ +++

LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the Lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.

+ + + + +

God & Logic

Fr. John Wallace, St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church, Charlotte, NC

Have you ever noticed that most popular songs are romantic in nature? They almost always are about the romantic relationship between two people. The challenge for an artist is to make his song distinctive through whatever means he can find. I am reminded of a song from some years ago with the title, I believe, "Baby, You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet." In order to make the song memorable (and have a little fun) the artist purposely stuttered the first syllable of "Baby" so that it came out "Be-Be-BE-Baby, You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet". Keep that idea in mind, that "you ain't seen nothin' yet", and I will come back to it.

In the Gospel according to Mark we read, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's sake will save it" (Mark 8:34-35). As the second verse points out, this life we live basically boils down to one question: Will we sacrifice this life for the next one or the next one for this one? This life or the next one? That is our choice.

Let us say you decide to dedicate this life for the life to come and want to know how to go about doing it. The first verse tells us how. It describes picking up your cross, denying yourself, and following Christ. A handy way to remember that is PDF. No, I am not talking about a file you email to someone, but an easy way to remember our path. "P" stands for Picking-up your cross, "D" stands for Denying yourself, and "F" stands for Following Christ.

Picking-up your cross means accepting the everyday burdens of this life, like homework, chores, paying the mortgage, and mowing the grass; not to mention a host of other tasks and obligations. It means accepting the burdens and pains of this life, the uncertainty, stress, and trouble that come along our way. It means accepting them, not fleeing from them. We handle them as best we can with God's help. But picking-up your cross also involves more than the ordinary troubles of life, heavy as they can be; it also means we have to pick-up our own cross of love for God and neighbor. This leads us to denying ourselves. This means doing what needs to be done, what should be done in loving service to God and others, instead of what we want to do. A parent does this for his/her children. A husband does this for his wife as she does for him. Sometimes we are called to do this for our parents when they can no longer do for themselves. This means we may have to help someone at a time that is inconvenient for us. We may have to go to the grocery store when we would rather be out on a walk. We may have to attend some function when we would rather be watching TV.

But if we do these things, we are denying ourselves and more importantly, following Christ. Think about it. What did He do?

He did not have to leave Heaven. He did it for our sake, not His. Look at scripture. Where did Jesus go? We see Him in the temple worshipping God. We see Him helping and healing others. We see Him witnessing to the goodness and glory of God. We see Him enduring with grace when His words are twisted out of context, when He is falsely accused, and when He is beaten and murdered. We see that before His death on the Cross, He died many small deaths in the interruptions and inconveniences of His ministry for us. Likewise, we are called to endure many mini-deaths in the sacrifice of our time, attention, and energy for the well-being and benefit of others. If we accept our cross, deny ourselves, and follow Christ in His life, service, and death, we will follow Him in His resurrection and ultimately into His kingdom. Take every blessing you have experienced in this life and expand it exponentially and you have not even begun to conceive of what the kingdom of God is like. If you think this present life is too good to pass up, then as the songwriter said about the kingdom of God, "Be-Be-BE-Baby, You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet". Amen.

+ + + + +

SPIRITUAL VITAMINS

+ + + + +

Spiritual Vitamin:
 "The soul of man cannot remain empty and devoid of everything. If passions have been eradicated, then the opposing virtues must immediately be planted in their stead. Otherwise, the passions will return and, not having received gratification for an extensive time, they will begin to torment the person even more intensely, as if seven demons had entered instead of one."
 Archbishop Averky (Taushev)
The Struggle for Virtue: Asceticism in a Modern Secular Society p.128

+ + + + +

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE MONK XENOPHONTES, HIS SPOUSE MARIA AND THEIR SONS ARKADIOS AND JOHN

Commemorated on February 8 / January 26

The Monk Xenophontes, his spouse Maria and their sons Arkadios and John, were noted citizens of Constantinople and lived in the V Century. Despite riches and position, they distinguished themselves by their simplicity of soul and goodness of heart. Wishing to give their sons John and Arkadios a more complete education, they sent them off to the Phoenician city of Beirut. Through Divine Providence the ship on which both brothers sailed became ship-wrecked. The brothers were pitched by the waves onto shore at different places. Aggrieved at being separated, the brothers dedicated themselves to God and accepted monasticism. For a long time the parents received no news about their children and presumed them to have perished. Xenophontes, however, now already quite old, maintained firm hope in the Lord and consoled his wife Maria, telling her not to sorrow but to believe that their children were watched over by the Lord. After several years the spouses made pilgrimage to the Holy places and at Jerusalem they met their sons, pursuing asceticism at different monasteries. The joyful parents gave thanks to the Lord for providently re-uniting the whole family. For the remainder of their lives, the monastics Xenophontes

and Maria dedicated themselves to God and accepted monasticism. The Monks Arkadios and John, having taken leave of their parents, went out into the wilderness, where after long ascetic toil they were glorified by gifts of wonderworking and perspicacity. The monastic elders Xenophontes and Maria, having pursued asceticism in silence and strict fasting, also received of God the gift of wonderworking.

+++ + + + + + + +

ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

+++ + + + + + + +



**** All-Soul Saturday (Zadušna Subota)** services for 2026 will began on **February 7 (rescheduled from 2/14)**. On these days, we especially pray for the departed loved ones of our families. If you are not working on a Saturday,

come to church, pray with us, and light two candles for your living and departed loved ones. **Please inform Fr Dave if there are any additions to be made to your Departed Commemoration Diptychs (Hramoty)**. Envelopes and cards are available in the vestibule. [*** This is different from the "Monthly Memorial" that we have on the 2nd Sunday of each month which is specific to each month.]

*** The commemoration diptychs are the lists of the names of the dead that we pray for during the Divine Liturgy on the 5 All-Soul Saturdays.

Historically, a diptych was two pieces of wood joined together at the center upon which were icons or other symbols or writing. Since ancient times, churches have kept lists of living and dead to pray for throughout the year, with the names of the living written on one tablet, and those of the dead on the other. In modern usage, we keep the names of the dead on a list, but we still call that list a "diptych"; another name for this list is hramota.

+++ + + + + + + +

Reschedule Date To Be Determined



*** TO BE RESCHEDULED Caring for Others through Visitation Ministry** – A ministry of caring is an important part of parish life. Join us on POSTPONED **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!

+++ + + + + + + +

COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

February 15: Pre-Lenten Breakfast

February 22: ?? Sr. ACRY

* March 1: __?__, __?__, __?__, __?__

**meatless during the fast*

+++ + + + + + + +

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:

✘ *** **Ceiling in Nave** – Additional pricing has been researched for ways to complete the ceiling in the nave (church proper).

+++

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!

+++ + + + + + + +

* **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.**

+++ + + + + + + +

* **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)

+++ + + + + + + +

"Code" for reading the bulletin:

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

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin

+++ + + + + + + +

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

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

+++ + + + + + + +

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

+++ + + + + + + +

Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

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

+++ + + + + + + +

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

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

+++ + + + + + + +

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

+++ + + + + + + +

2025-26 SJB PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

- President:* Larry Martin
- Vice-President:* Liz Radomsky
- Treasurer:* Tim Martin, Reader
- Financial Secretary:* Rich Mirilovich
- Recording Secretary:* Gina Fall
- Chief Auditor:* Bob Fall
- Auditors:* Mary Jane Hudak, Ray Kilmer, Kim Opsitos, Matt Opsitos, and Kathy Schrmack

+++ + + + + + + +

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES

+++ + + + + + + +

PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

+++ + + + + + + +

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.

+++ + + + + + + +

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.

+++ + + + + + + +

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.

+++ + + + + + + +

Stewardship of Treasure Guide

Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?

Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe 15%	12%	10%	Tithe 9%	Upper Range Giving 8%	7%	Middle Range Giving 6%	5%	4%	Lower Range Giving 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.

+++ + + + + + + +

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.*

+++ + + + + + + +

SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parishioners in “good standing” are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John’s Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular attendance of services, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (*and receive these Mysteries no less than once a year*); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and share their stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures which includes financially supporting the parish.

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

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

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

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

+++

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

+++ +++ +++

The Jesus Prayer

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

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

+++ +++ +++

ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions

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

+++ +++ +++

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

Amen.

+++ +++ +++

For the Special Intentions of...

His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Stephen B., Fr. Thomas B., Protodeacon Gregory B., Carolyn U., Stephanie B, Kevin, Michael L., Laura & family, Georgia, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin, David, Donna, George, *our diocesan seminarians:* Den 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.*

+++ +++ +++

February Namedays:

Timothy Martin, Reader – Apostle Timothy of the 70 (2/4)
Raymond (John) Kilmer – 3 Holy Hierarchs (2/12)
Dolores Bowser - Virgin-martyr Dorothea (2/19)
Father’s Godson, Zachariah Kalaluhu – Prophet Zachariah (2/21)

+++ +++ +++

February Birthdays:

Anthony Winkler (2/1), Fr. Marc Wisnosky (2/1), Audrey Rajakovich (2/3), Chris Bowser (2/6), Fr. Edward Pehanich (2/4), *Pañi’s mother, Alexandrina Liana Popescu (2/6), Charles Kretchek (2/8), Richard Gedid (2/9), Harmonie Torchia (2/11), Pañi Kathy Buczak (2/11), Fr. James Gleason (2/12), Matthew Peifer (2/13), Samantha Ditmire (2/14), James Hanchulak (2/17), Barbara Leone (2/19), Carly Jozwiskowski (2/21), Barbara Kirish (2/22), Father’s nephew, Brian Verbanick, Jr (2/22), Fr Stephen Krivonak (2/23), Fr William Bennett (2/28), His-All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew I (2/29/40)*

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

+++ +++ +++

For our Catechumens & Inquirers...

Hekuran, Tyler

...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

February Anniversaries:

Cynthia (Gavulich) & Jeffrey Morrison (2/5)

Joanne & Ron Nelson (2/10/73)

Ashley (Wertz) and Derek Andrekovich (2/18/23)

Carly & Kyle Jozwiskowski (2/29/20)

...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days
of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!

+++ +++ +++

For Pregnant Mothers...

Kimberly (due in March)

...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the
Theotokos, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.

+++ +++ +++

For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...

Thomas R. Dzadovsky

...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr &
Wonderworker.

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

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

+++ +++ +++

A Prayer for Peace

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

Amen.



+++ +++ +++

A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America

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

+++ +++ +++

A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

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

+++ +++ +++