

“THE WEEKLY FORERUNNER” *Our Parish Bulletin*
O Holy John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of the Lord, pray to God for us!

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
 ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2026

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS THEMES / GOSPEL READING HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

<p>Meatfare FEBRUARY 15th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY</p> 	<p>The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46</p>	<p>Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.</p>
<p>Cheesefare FEBRUARY 22nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY</p> 	<p>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21</p>	<p>Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.</p>

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UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026 **VOL. XI**
 FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD (*40 days after Nativity*)
 Blessing of Candles
 Youth Sunday
 Meatfare Sunday
 Pre-Lenten Breakfast: *Fašiangy* (**see online bulletin*)
 Church School

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16
 9:30 – 11:30 am Church open for private prayer

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20
 9:30 – 11:30 am Church open for private prayer
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FORGIVENESS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22
 Cheesefare
 9:15 Third Hour; 9:30 Divine Liturgy
 Tone 4; Liturgical Color: **Gold → Purple**
 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
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Mystery of Confession – Father is available to hear Confessions after every service or by appointment.
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**** Important Upcoming Liturgical Dates:**
 The Great Fast Begins: **Monday, February 23**
 Palm Sunday / Holy Week: **Sunday, April 5**
 Pascha: **Sunday, April 12**

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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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)
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***** Assembling A Few Items** – There is at least 7 items (benches, shelves, etc) at the church that need assembled. If this is up your alley, please let Fr Dave know. Your stewardship is needed at the church!

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***** Paper Request** – Recently the format for the bulletin was changed from being on *legal size* to *letter size* paper. If you have an excess of *letter size* paper that you could donate to the church, please let Fr. Dave know. If you can use any *legal size* paper – there’s over a case and a half ready to be donated. (By the way, the newsletter will continue to be published on legal size.)

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**** Orthodoxy On Tap** – TODAY, **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.

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**** 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](#)

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** **“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.*”

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* **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.

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** **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.

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** **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)

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** **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.

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** **Presanctified Liturgies** – Our 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!

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*** **North Hills Pan-Orthodox Anointing (Unction) Service** – Mark your calendars now for **Wednesday, September 16th** for our Inaugural combined Mystery of Holy Anointing Service. More details will be coming – but get it on your calendar now. Let’s fill the church as we do for the combined Presanctified!

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** **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)

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** **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...

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** **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>

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 227
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 90
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 260

Total Collections:	\$ 577
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Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 852
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Participating Souls at: *Sunday’s Liturgy:* 40

Tuesday AM Liturgy: 8

Wednesday PM Feast Day Vespers: 5

Thursday AM Feast Day Liturgy: 3

Saturday PM Feast Day Vespers:

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Juliana Anton; Rich & Renee Mirilovich; Kathy Schrmack; Melanie Paieski; Cindy Pavilonis

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*** **The Final Big Dig Update** – WE DID IT! The additional monies donated last week towards our Capital Improvement Fund took us over the **\$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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** **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!

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** **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

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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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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

⁸ Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

The Rights of an Apostle

⁹ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? ² If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.



Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

The Judgment of the Nations

³¹ "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? ³⁸ And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? ³⁹ And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and you did not visit me, and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' ⁴⁶ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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Epistle: Hebrews 7:7-17 (*Meeting of the Lord*)

⁷ It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. ⁸ Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. ⁹ One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, ¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchiz'edek met him.

Another Priest, Like Melchizedek

¹¹ Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchiz'edek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? ¹² For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. ¹³ For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

¹⁵ This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchiz'edek, ¹⁶ who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchiz'edek."

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Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 (*Meeting of the Lord*)

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word;

³⁰ for mine eyes have seen thy salvation

³¹ which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to thy people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; ³⁴ and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,

"Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against

³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phan'u-el, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, ³⁷ and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



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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* **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/stcyrilfoodpantry

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of...

Trona, Mioara, Tatiana, John, Anthony, Edward, Valerie, Angelo, Craig, Timothy, 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

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For the souls of the newly departed...

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

Spiritual Vitamin:

“Candles remind us that before anything else, the Creator of the world created light, and after that, everything else in Order: “And God said, let there be light: and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). And so it must be so also at the beginning of our spiritual life...so that before anything else, the light of Christ’s truth would shine in us. From this light of Christ’s truth, subsequently, every good is created, springs up, and grows in us.”

+St. Nikolai of Zica

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[“*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).]

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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.
² On the willows there
we hung up our harps.
³ For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
⁴ How shall we sing the LORD’s song
in a foreign land?
⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!
⁶ Let 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!
⁷ Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom
the day of Jerusalem,
how they said, “Raze it, raze it!
Down to its foundations!”
⁸ O daughter of Babylon, you who are devastated!
Happy shall he be who requites you
with what you have done to us!
⁹ Happy shall he be who takes your little ones
and dashes them against the rock!

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A PRAYER WHEN LIGHTING A CANDLE

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Set our hearts on fire with love for You, O Christ our God, so that in its flame we may love You with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, so that by keeping Your commandments we may glorify You, the giver of all good gifts. Amen.

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ONLINE BONUSES

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

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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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THIS MONTH'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

TRIODION 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

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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 (*Fašiangy*)

Church School

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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

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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

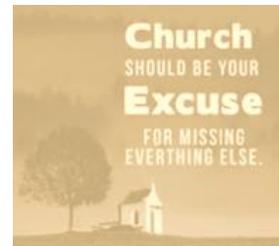
CLEAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 #TheGreatFast

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 #TheGreatFast

??? 11 am – 1 pm Confessions Offered

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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

14 Things you should know about traditional Slovak Fašiangy

Forget about summer holidays. Visit Slovakia during the coldest months of year – they are traditionally dedicated to voluptuary parties, tasty caloric food and strong spirits.

Fašiangy, pust, mjasopust, maslenice. However they've called it, our ancestors always found the first and coldest quarter of year somehow special. Wedged between the Christmas festivities and pre-Easter fasting, the period between 7 January and end of February was giving a green light to various gourmet, social and even amorous events and celebrations. Visiting rural areas of Slovakia might still give you an opportunity to observe some of the typical Fašiangy traditions and customs. However, thought it might not be clearly visible at the first glance, many of historic folk traditions have transformed into the modern customs that can still be found even in the biggest Slovak cities. Here are 14 fun facts about Slovak Fašiangy you might want to know.

1# Fašiangy is not Slavic invention. It's roots could be traced back into the ancient Egypt and transformed through the cultures of ancient Greece and Roman Empire into many medieval European cultures. Thought each community developed its own traditions, the essence stayed the same – this period is sacrificed to happiness, joy, wild parties, good food and strong drinks.

2# The word Fašiangy is derived from German “vast-schane”, which can be loosely translated as “last drink”. This symbolizes the upcoming pre-Easter fasting.

3# Old Slavs during the pre-Christian era have known this period as “maslenice” and it was typical for them to eat the most caloric meals to fight the freezing weather and natural scarcity of vegetables during these months.

4# Traditional carnivals and processions in masks all took place in this period of year. Masks were often scary or animal-like, popular were also masks of soldiers with long swords which were soon covered by impaled goodies from local women.

5# Among the traditional masks was always “turoň” – a bull-like creature with bells hanging from its long horns and large, opening mouth. The mask was sometimes so big it had to be carried by two persons. During the processions turoň had to roll over the dunghill in every household and be symbolically undercut – the dunghill gained magical force this way, which later resulted in rich harvest.

6# Various guilds and craftsmen also celebrated this period by their own customs. Young apprentices were ritually accepted into the guilds, often having to showcase their courage and willingness by passing some tricky tests – like bathing in the cold and then hot water. Colorful parades of artisans showing of their skills took place. These attractive traditions have, sadly, entirely vanished because of the World War I.

7# Unlike today, when most of the weddings are accumulated into the hottest months of year, old Slovaks were often waiting for the Fašiangy period to get married. Several days lasting celebrations full of heavy drinks and caloric food probably felt somehow better when there was no work waiting in the fields.

8# And, talking about drinking, it was quite common and acceptable for the fun to be somehow wilder during Fašiangy. Even the biggest gentlemen and the most genteel ladies could be found in the taverns turning upside down one shot after another.

9# The last of Fašiangy parties resembled a ritual funeral of a bass. This symbolized ending of the merriness that will soon be replaced by serious and godly Easter. Those willing to engage in wild jamborees will have to wait until May when the tradition of May pole rising will give them another opportunity to celebrate.

10# If you have a sweet tooth, you will surely appreciate one of the most typical Fašiangy meal – “šišky” with homemade jam. They are in fact something like a distant cousins of donuts – except for they should be originally deep-fried in the pork fat.

11# Pork is, actually, another typical Fašiangy meal. But it's also much more than that. Traditional pig slaughter occurring during the Fašiangy time is a unique cultural phenomenon. Whole families engage into this several days lasting meat processing accompanied by drinking, talking and other means of socializing.

12# Another traditional meal of this season was classical meshed eggs. In some villages, reeves wife made them in a giant pan on some central place to feed all of its citizens.

13# If you want to experience traditional Fašiangy traditions, you should head to the north-west of Slovakia. In the open-air museum of traditional Slovak rural architecture called Čičmany you can be a part of colorful and vivid celebrations replicating the Fašiangy festivities of past.

14# Traditional folk gatherings of the past have transformed into sophisticated contemporary balls – in fact Fašiangy are known today as the “Ballroom season” with many opulent events full of well-dressed, renowned or even famous people engaging into the waltz dancing and finger food eating.

<https://www.slavorum.org/14-things-you-should-know-about-traditional-slovak-fasiangy/>

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Be the Candle!

By Fr. Gabriel, February 8, 2021

<https://www.st-marymagdalene.org/parish-blog/2021/2/8/be-the-candle>

“O Almighty God, Pre-Eternal God, Who didst command Thy servant Moses to make ready a preparation of purest oil to be a light before Thy presence: Do Thou mercifully pour out the grace of Thy blessing upon these candles, that they might bring brightness to the people outwardly, as by Thy gift the brightness of the Holy Spirit shines inwardly in our thoughts, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom is due all glory, honor, and worship, together with Thee, O Father without beginning, and Thy Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.” Orthodox Prayer for the Blessing of Candles

Let's all shut our eyes for a minute and remember a time when we were sitting with our family in the living room or at the dinner table during a big storm that was raging outside. The lights in the house began to flicker and everyone stopped what they were doing to look around at this temporary break from normalcy. We shrugged it off and then continued to go about our business until we heard: “bzzt!” The lights all went out, leaving our families to freeze in their tracks.

Before the invention of flashlights on our phones, what did we do? The kids would scream while the adults stretched out their hands to try and gain an idea of where they were at in the room. Bruised knees were practically a given as we slammed into the coffee table, trying to remember where we kept the matches and the candles. Once we found them, and with a quick “swatch” of the match against the box, the small flame illuminated our entire room. We then quickly found a large candle so that the light could continue to shine until full power had been restored.

This is the primary purpose candles serve isn't it? They help us to keep light in the midst of darkness...to bring clarity in the midst of chaos. If a small flame can do that in the middle of a dark room, how much more can our Savior...the True Light...illuminate the dark recesses of the world which we find ourselves in?

On the feast of the Presentation of our Lord, it is the custom to bless candles in the Church. One of the things that I am reminded of this day is how similar our own spiritual life is to a candle. The flame...the Light and Love of Christ...is ignited within us at Chrismation, providing within us a natural illumination to protect us from the darkness.

St. Nikolai of Zica once said: *“Candles remind us that before anything else, the Creator of the world created light, and after that, everything else in Order: “And God said, let there be light: and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). And so it must be so*

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).

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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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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!

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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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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

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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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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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

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A Prayer of Stewardship

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

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Stewardship of Treasure Guide

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

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

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

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

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

Check back later...

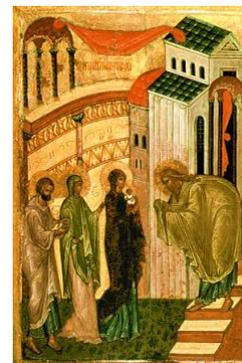
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FEAST DAY FEATURE

ON THE FEAST OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD
Commemorated on February 2

On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Lk 2: 22-40). On the 40th day after birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple – the centre of religious life of the God-chosen nation. By the Law of Moses (Lev 12) a woman, having given birth to a child of the male gender, was forbidden for 40 days to enter into the Temple of God. After this interval the mother came to the Temple with the child, so as to offer to the Lord thanksgiving and a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, did not have need for purification, since without defilement she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity, but in profound humility she submitted to the precepts of the Law.

At this time there lived at Jerusalem the righteous elder Simeon (the account about him is located under the day of his commemoration – 3 February). It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold Christ the Saviour. By inspiration from above, the pious elder went to the Temple at that very moment when the Most Holy Mother of God and Righteous Joseph had brought there the Infant Jesus, so as to fulfill the ritual ceremony of the Law. The God-Bearer Simeon took the God-Infant in his arms, and having given thanks to God, he uttered a prophecy about the Saviour of the world: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, O Lord, with peace according to Thy word, wherefore hath mine eyes beheld Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to the enlightening of gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Lk 2: 29-32). Righteous Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, This One is set for the fall and rising up of many in Israel and for the sign spoken against, and for Thee Thyself a sword shalt pierce the soul, so that the thoughts of many hearts might be revealed" (Lk 2: 35).



At the Temple also the 84 year old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (Comm. 3 February), "who did not leave the temple, serving God both day and night in fasting and prayer. And she also at that time, having drawn near, glorified the Lord and spake about Him (the God-Infant) to all awaiting deliverance at Jerusalem" (Lk 2: 37-38).

Before the Birth of Christ, all righteous men and women lived by faith in the Future Messiah the Saviour of the world, and they awaited His coming. The final righteous ones of the closing Old Testament – Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna – were deemed worthy to meet at the Temple the Bearer of the New Testament, in the Person of Whom both Divinity

and humanity do meet.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. It is known, that on the day of this solemnity were proclaimed sermons by Sainted Bishops Methodios of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphylokios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). But in spite of its early origin, this feast was not so solemnly celebrated until the VI Century. During the reign of Justinian in the year 528, a catastrophe befell Antioch – an earthquake, in which many people perished. And upon this misfortune there followed others. In the year 544 there appeared a pestilential plague, daily carrying off several thousand people. During these days of widespread travail, it was revealed to a certain pious christian that the celebration of the Meeting of the Lord should be done more solemnly.

When at the day of the Meeting of the Lord the all-night vigil was finally made with church procession, the disasters at Byzantium ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established in 544 that the Meeting of the Lord should be done more solemnly.

Church melodists adorned this feast with many a church work of song: in the VII Century – Sainted Andrew Archbishop of Crete; in the VIII Century – Sainted Cosma Bishop of Maium, Monk John Damascene, Sainted Germanos Patriarch of Constantinople; and in the IX Century – Sainted Joseph the Studite, Archbishop of Thessalonika.

With the event of the Meeting of the Lord is associated the icon of the Most Holy Mother of God named: "the Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy", which it is necessary to distinguish from the icon "Seven Arrows".

The icon "Simeon's Prophecy" symbolises the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous elder Simeon: "for Thee Thyself a sword shalt pierce the soul" (Lk 2: 35).

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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/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Special Intentions of...

His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Stephen B., Fr. Thomas B., Protodeacon Gregory B., 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:* 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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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)

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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 Ditmore (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!

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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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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!

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For Pregnant Mothers...

Kimberly (*due in March*)

...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.

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A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America

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

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A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

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

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