

“THE VOICE” *Our Periodic Parish Newsletter*

John the Baptist said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ (Jn 1:23)



CHRIST IS RISEN!

*Christ is Risen From The Dead, Trampling
Down Death By Death and To Those In The
Tombs Bestowing Life!*

INDEED HE IS RISEN!

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 #Pascha, THE FEAST OF FEASTS

9:00 am Resurrection Matins with outdoor procession

~9:40 am Paschal Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Color: **White**

Blessing of Artos Bread (*with children assisting*)

Blessing of Paschal Baskets (*upstairs in the church*)

Paschal Potluck Meal

Candy Hunt

MONDAY, APRIL 13 #BRIGHTWEEK

9:30 am Paschal Liturgy Worship Service & outdoor Gospel Procession

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 #BRIGHTWEEK

THEOTOKOS KASPEROV ICON

6:00 pm Akathist to the Holy Resurrection

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 #BRIGHTWEEK

THEOTOKOS LIFEGIVING SPRING ICON

9:30 am Paschal Divine Liturgy Worship Service

11:00 am Bacon Breakfast (*See Father Dave*)

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SUNDAY, APRIL 19 #THOMASSUNDAY

9:15 am Paschal Canon

9:30 pm Divine Liturgy Worship Service

Breaking of the Artos

Monthly Memorial Panachida

PASCHAL GREETING:

(use instead of ‘hello’, before ‘good morning’, etc.)

Christ is risen!

*(responded with: **Indeed He is risen!**)*

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BRIGHT WEEK is A FAST FREE Week! Let us Imitate Christ & the Saints and Feast (*in moderation!*)

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There is no kneeling in prayer for 50 days (until Pentecost) and omit the prayer

“O Heavenly King” (replacing with Christ is risen 3 times) as we anticipate the Holy Spirit

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TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1 In the first book, O The-oph’ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, ⁵ for John baptized



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*

Subdeacon Ryan Ferko; Readers: Kris Carlisle, Nicholas Ditmore, & Timothy Martin

Stephen Brancho & Subdeacon Ryan Ferko, *Cantors*

Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*

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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Christ is risen! (*responded with: **Indeed He is risen!***) Christos voskrese! (*Voistinu voskrese!*)

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.

with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samar’ia and to the end of the earth.”

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Gospel: John 1:1-17

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God; ³ all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not.

Paschal Greeting in Church Slavonic:

Christos voskrese! (*Voistinu voskrese!*)

If you are greeted in a language you are unfamiliar with, translate, respond in English, then learn the response

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¹¹ He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. ¹⁵ (John bore witness to him, and cried, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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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

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CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING
DOWN DEATH BY DEATH AND UPON THOSE IN THE
TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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** **Bright Friday Bacon Breakfast** – What is this Bacon Breakfast? A couple years ago after the Friday Paschal Liturgy, all those in attendance went out for breakfast. Being Friday of Bright Week, there was no fasting, so we jokingly called it the Bright Friday Bacon Breakfast. Come join us this year!

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** **Pro-Life March & Rally** – The First Pittsburgh Pro-Life March will be held on **Bright Saturday, April 18**. The schedule will be as follows:

10 am - Pre-rally music and pro-life tables in Schenley Plaza (4100 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15260)

11 am - Orthodox participants gather at St. Nicholas Cathedral (419 S Dithridge St.)

12 pm - Pittsburgh Pro-Life March through Oakland
Following the march, a Moleben (Prayer Service) will be held on the green space at St. Nicholas.

Faithful are asked to bring icons, banners, and other Orthodox accoutrements for the march. This inaugural event is being organized by many organizations with the Orthodox participation organized by the Orthodox Christians for Life (ministry at St. Alexander Nevsky) and the Pittsburgh Clergy Brotherhood. *Celebrating Life in our City* is a great opportunity for Pittsburgh to see Orthodox unity and to participate in promoting life. *Parking will not be available at St. Nicholas. Suggested lots are Soldiers and Sailors (4390 Bigelow Blvd.) or Forbes Semple Garage (210 Meyran Ave.)* More info can be found at: www.pittsburghprolifemarch.com.

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* **Orthodoxy On Tap** – On **Sunday, April 19** at 5 pm, Jonathan Cader will present “The Science of Hymnology: Dissecting the Faith Through Sacred Hymns” at Monterey Pub (1227 Monterey St., Pgh, PA 15212). Following the presentation, plan to stay and enjoy the fellowship and discussion with other young adults. Contact Fr Dave with any questions.

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* **Bright Bites** – Join the Pittsburgh IOCC for a night of fellowship and celebration of Pascha around the world with Greek, Italian, and Middle Eastern hors d’oeuvres, as well as red and white wines, for *Bright Bites: Food & Fellowship* on **Sunday, April 19** from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Stamoolis Brothers (2020 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Tickets are \$35. Register Online at iocc.org/pittsburgh by April 14. (Walk in guests are also welcome).

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*** **Calling All Graduates** – Please notify Fr. Dave of your graduation information by **May 10**. Ideally, Graduate Sunday will be at the end of May or early June High School Students: your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, and where you will attend in the Fall with your intended major in college (or undecided at this time). Trade School, College, Graduate and Post-Graduate Students: where you went, your field of study, and degree you will earn.

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* **Blessing of Graves** – Our annual grave blessings at the N.S. cemeteries have not been scheduled yet. (Thomas Sunday will not work for Fr. Dave this year.) If you have a suggested Saturday or Sunday to have this, please talk with Fr. Dave. *** *If your loved ones are not at one of the two cemeteries on the North Side, please schedule a time with Fr. Dave to meet (if possible) before the Feast of Ascension.*

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* **Icon Workshops** – Archangel Icons-Michael Kapeluck is offering five Intensive Icon Workshops in 2026 (**April 20-24; May 18-22; June 15-19; July 13-17; August 17-21**). There will only be 6 students per workshop which are open to beginners as well as more experienced students. All workshops will take place in his studio in Carnegie, PA. Each workshop will create a 12”x16” icon using JoSonja acrylic techniques. Classes will also include prayer, discussions on technique, history, and theology of the icon. Students will also have access to the studio’s 300+ book library. The workshop fee is \$600 and includes 40 hours of instruction and all materials. (Meals are not included.) If you are interested, please contact Fr. Dave for more information or visit: www.archangelicons.com

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* **Spring Fundraiser Gala** – Join us on **Thursday, April 30** from 7:00 - 10:00 pm for an evening celebrating the *light at work* in the hearts of the students at *The Saint Constantine School of Pittsburgh*. This benefit event ensures that the mission of *Education in Pursuit of Virtue, Wisdom, and Joy* remains accessible to all families who desire it. Magical entertainment, beautiful music, a moving program, buffet dinner, cash bar, and childcare are all provided at this *formal* gala for adults ages 18+ at Holy Trinity Center (985 Providence Blvd., Pittsburgh). Cost break down is: Single ticket is \$150; Multiple tickets bought together are \$125 each. Thank you for helping us to form young minds and souls. For more information on the school, visit: <https://pittsburgh.saintconstantine.org>. Please let Fr. Dave know if you are interested in attending.

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** **Faith Night** – The 2026 Pittsburgh Pirate’s Faith Night will be on **Saturday, May 2** at 4:05pm. Tickets this year will be in section 131 and cost \$25 each (and include a free T-Shirt). Deadline for ordering and paying for tickets with Cindy will be Sunday, April 26.

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* **Pittsburgh Marathon - Walk or Run with Team IOCC** - Help change lives around the world! Join us on **Saturday, May 2** at the Pittsburgh Marathon Weekend. Choose a Race as a Solo Participant or Form Your Own Team! (5K, 4-Mile Fitness Challenge, Kids Marathon, Pet Walk, Toddler Trot, Champions Mile) Sign up at iocc.org/pgh. Contact Fr. Dave for more info.

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* **Sts. Joachim and Anna Senior Retreat** – The 7th annual Sts. Joachim and Anna Senior Retreat will take place at Camp Nazareth from **May 5-7**. It will feature presentations, church services, time for fellowship, and great evening events. His Eminence, Met. Gregory, is inviting all our Diocesan Seniors, ages 55 and over, to join him for fellowship, prayer, and learning. The Theme of the Retreat is "**Living and Dying Orthodox in the 21st Century**". Visit [2026 Senior Retreat](http://2026.SeniorRetreat.com) to register for the event. Visit campnazareth.org or acrod.org for more information. Go enjoy the beauty of our Camp! For those staying at Camp, the Retreat cost is \$160. Without lodging at Camp, the Retreat cost is \$110. Don’t miss out on our annual Sts. Joachim and Anna Senior Retreat! Registration closes April 28

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Dear Fellow Parishioners, Catechumens & Guests
Christ is Risen! *Indeed He is Risen!*

Now, at the completion of our Lenten journey, we joyfully celebrate our Risen Lord. May our parish family continue to grow in spirit and in outreach. And may your Paschal celebration uplift you heavenward!

Many Years and a Blessed Pascha!
Larry Martin, *SJB Parish Council President*

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*** **NEW DATE SCHEDULED** **Caring for Others through Visitation**

Ministry – A ministry of caring is an important part of parish life. Join us on **Sunday, June 28** 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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*** **Registration is Open!** You can now register your child (aged 8-18) for Camp Nazareth this summer. The Pittsburgh week is **July 26 – August 1**. Don’t delay! *If financial assistance is needed, please let Fr. Dave know.* Let’s get our kids to camp!

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Paschal Greeting in Greek:
Khristós anésti! (*Alithós anésti!*)

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THE ANGEL EXCLAIMED TO HER, "FULL OF GRACE,
REJOICE O PURE VIRGIN. AGAIN I SAY REJOICE,
YOUR SON IS RISEN FROM HIS THREE DAYS IN THE
TOMB, AND HE HAS RAISED ALL THE DEAD. LET
ALL PEOPLE REJOICE!"

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O SHINE, O SHINE, O NEW JERUSALEM: FOR THE
GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON YOU. O ZION,
SING WITH JOY AND REJOICE. AND YOU, PURE
MOTHER OF GOD, REJOICE IN THE RESURRECTION
OF YOUR SON.

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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 Worship Service and picnic. Save The Date!

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*** **Jack R. Scherer Memorial Fundraiser for
Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention** –
On **Sunday, September 6**, the family is hosting a
fundraiser at 1:00 at Deer Lakes Park Minnow Pavilion.
There will be a Chinese Auction and 50/50 raffle along
with Corn Hole tournament (\$5 entry fee), bounce
house, face-painting, ice cream truck and
entertainment. Food will arrive at 2:00 and include
Appetizers and a variety of main course options.
*Proceeds benefit The American Foundation for Suicide
Prevention and Deer Lakes High School for a
scholarship, in Jack's name, for excellence in
Chemistry and Math.* Please help us make this event a
success! (Please contact Fr Dave if you wish to donate
a Gift basket for the auction.) Check donations can be
made payable to: The Jack R. Scherer Memorial Fund.
Additionally, contributions can be made through their
GoFundMe account: Support The Jack R, Scherer
Memorial Fund.

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* **North Hills Pan-Orthodox Anointing (Unction)
Service** – Mark your calendars now for **Wednesday,
September 16** for our Inaugural *North Hills Pan-
Orthodox Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) 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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Looking FURTHER Ahead...

Some 2025 dates of interest at St. John's:

- **May 6** – Feast of Mid-Pentecost & of St. George
- **May 21** – Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord
- **May 30** – 5th All Soul's Saturday
- **May 31** – Feast of Pentecost
- **Jun. 1-6** – Fast Free Week
- **May/Jun. ???** – Graduate Sunday
- **Jun. 5-7** – Family Camp at Camp Nazareth
- **Jun. 7** – Family Day at Camp Nazareth
- Jun. 7 – 3rd Finding of the Head of St. John
- **Jun. 8** – Apostles' Fast begins
- Jul. 7 – Feast of the Nativity of St John
- Jul. 12 – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
- **Jul 26-Aug 1** - Pgh Deanery Camping Week at CN
- Aug. 2 – Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias and
Blessing of Chariots
- **Aug. 9 (or 16)** – Blessing of Students and Teachers
- **Aug 9-12** - Science & Nature Camp (age 8-18) @CN
- Aug. 14 – Dormition Fast Begins, Lesser Blessing
of Water, and Home Blessings Begin
- Aug. 19 – Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord
and Blessing of Fruit and Vegetables
- **Aug. 23** – Blessing of Fruit and Vegetables
- Aug. 28 – Feast of the Dormition and Blessing of
Flowers and Herbs
- **Aug. 30** – Blessing of Flowers and Herbs
- **Aug. 30** – Parish Picnic at "The Cabin"

Please, Save the Dates!

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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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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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Paschal Greeting in Romanian:
Hristos a înviat! (*Adevărat a înviat!*)

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES

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*** **THANK YOU** to everyone who brought
something in for our Pot-Luck Paschal Meal
or helped in anyway preparing over the past few weeks
for the Feast of Feasts! Many Years to you!

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** **Spring Maintenance Morning** – THANK YOU to
everyone who came to help around the parish! It was
amazing to watch the teamwork and accomplishments
that happened throughout the day! May God grant you
many years!

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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*** **Grass Maintenance** – Please contact Fr. Dave if
you are interested in being a part of a rotation of folks
who will maintain the grass throughout the summer.

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*** **Ride Share** – We have received a couple requests
from people who are interested in getting a ride to the
church. Please contact Fr. Dave or Larry if you would
be willing to bring someone to the church.

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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

April 19: _____ Sr ACRY

April 26: _____ ? ? ? ?

May 3: _____ ? ? ? ?

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* **A different approach to the Coffee Social:** 4 people
bring 1 item each. A modified sign-up sheet is
available. (*If someone wants to host the entire event,
that is still an option – just sign your name in all 4
boxes.*) Also, the Kitchen Crew, led by Liz, will be the
“point person” for signing up or any questions.
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 BUILDING UPDATE

Here is a brief update from the past few weeks:
✘ ** **River Rock** was spread around the periphery
of the church during our maintenance morning.
✘ * the **laminated floor** in the front of the nave now
extends all the way to the walls (under the heat
enclosures)

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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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*** **Third Hour** – If you would like to be in the rotation
for chanting (or reading) the Third Hour prior to the
Divine Liturgy (or have any questions about doing it),
please see or contact Fr. Dave. *This does not need to be
done by the Divine Liturgy Chanter.*

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*** **Yum-Raising** - A different candy fundraiser is
running online for the church. Click [THIS LINK](#) from
the online bulletin to see various options that are out
there for purchase *throughout the year!* (contact Tim or
Fr. Dave if the link does not work)

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ACRY NEWS

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*** **2026 National ACRY Family and Friends
Weekend** - This year's Memorial Day Weekend
National ACRY gathering will be in Cleveland, OH
from **May 22-25**. It will feature Golfing, Bowling, trips
to the Rock n Roll Hall of Fame, the Cleveland
Aquarium, Museum of Illusion, or Museum of Art,
dancing, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, and the Grand
Banquet. A **Meat Raffle** and a **Cash Bash Raffle** are
being run to help defray the cost. Deadline is April 24.
Please see Fr. Dave for tickets

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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.

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 395
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 92
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 780
Community Outreach:	\$ 50

Total Collections: \$ 1317

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 135

Participating Souls at - *Sunday Liturgy: 60*

Sunday Matins: 10

Monday Presanctified Liturgy: 17

Tuesday Vespereal Liturgy: 9

Wednesday Mystery of Holy Anointing: 23

Thursday Vespereal Liturgy: 7

Thursday Matins: 20

Friday Royal Hours: 7

Friday Burial Vespers: 52

Saturday Vespereal Liturgy: 11

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Carol & Tom Lorenzi; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Cindy Pavilonis; Melanie Paieski

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The **Theotokos Candle Cross** was offered last week by Cindy Pavilonis for the health of her sister Joanne. Many Years! Mnohaya Lita!

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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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Financial Reports	March	Fiscal Year
General Stewardship	\$ 6433.64	\$ 54,365
* Expenses	\$ 6111.20	\$ 47,239
Yield +/-	\$ 322.44	\$ 7,126
Capital Fund	\$ 2180.00	\$ 22,010
<i>Sunday Average Participation</i>	45	40

* detailed report is on the bulletin board in the hall

LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

9 Interesting Facts About Easter Eggs

Easter eggs are more than just decoration — they also carry spiritual meaning.

Here are 9 facts about their role in Orthodox tradition:

1. Symbol of the Resurrection

The egg symbolizes Christ’s tomb: hard on the outside, but containing life within. Just as a chick hatches from an egg, so did Christ rise from the grave.

2. Red Color — Symbol of Christ’s Blood

The most traditional color is red, symbolizing the blood of Christ. Today, many colors are used, but red remains central due to its significance.

3. Eggs Are Dyed on Holy Thursday

Traditionally, eggs are dyed on Holy Thursday after the Liturgy as part of preparing for Pascha. In some regions, it's done on Holy Saturday.

4. St. Mary Magdalene and the First Easter Egg

According to tradition, Mary Magdalene gave a red egg to Emperor Tiberius, proclaiming, “Christ is Risen!” — the origin of the custom.

5. Egg as a Message of Eternal Life

An egg has no beginning or end — it symbolizes eternity and the imperishable nature of the soul through Christ’s Resurrection.

6. Other Colors for Easter Eggs

Besides red, traditional colors include blue (symbol of the Heavenly Kingdom) and green (spiritual renewal). Today, colors are often chosen based on aesthetic preference.

7. Christian Greeting with Eggs

On Pascha, we say: “Christ is Risen!” — “Truly He is Risen!” In later centuries, in some countries, the tradition of egg tapping was added to this greeting — symbolizing the spiritual victory of life over death. The egg that remains uncracked is symbolically the “winner” in this festive game.

8. Eggs Are Not Just Decoration

They are theological symbols that unite the physical with the spiritual, the visible with the invisible.

9. A Gift for Loved Ones and Neighbors

Giving eggs is a festive act of charity and an expression of joy in the Resurrection — “shared joy is multiplied joy.”

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*** **Paschal Notes** – The prayer to the Holy Spirit, “O Heavenly King”, is **not said** at home or in church during this season until the Feast of the Decent of the Holy Spirit: Pentecost. Instead we say or sing the Paschal Tropar, “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down...” (*three times*) until the Feast of Ascension. For 40 days from Pascha (Easter) until Ascension, we greet each other by saying, “Christ is risen!” and respond with “Indeed, He is risen!”. (*Some translations use “Truly, He is risen!”.*) We can also adjust our before and after meal prayers. During the 50 days from Pascha to Pentecost, we **do not kneel or make prostrations** in church in keeping with the joyful and festal character of the season. We begin to kneel and do prostrations again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost that Sunday evening.

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PRAYER CORNER

*** **Journey to Orthodoxy** – Congratulations and God’s choicest blessings to Tyler (Isaac) Duda who was received into the Orthodox Faith and our parish family **on Holy Saturday**. May God grant to His newly-illuminated servant, Tyler (Isaac), Many Years of Peace, Health, Happiness and Salvation! Blessings also to his sponsor, Cindy Pavilonis. Many Years! Mnohaya L’ita!

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For the Health of... Patti, Mary Jane, Melissa, Mary, Evelyn, Beverly, Theresa, Janet, Matthew, Trona, Mioara, Tatiana, Anthony, Valerie, Angelo, Craig, Timothy, 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... +Frank Rolley (3/13), +James Schrmack (Jim’s uncle), +Theodore Mozes, the Priest (3/9), +Karen Davis, +Irene (Labas) Dzubak (3/6) *...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning.*

May they be Eternal in God’s Memory!

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Paschal Greeting in Swahili:
Kristo amefufukka! (*Kweli amefufukka!*)

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PASCHAL COMMEMORATIONS

Processional Candles At Vespers:

For The Health Of The Newly-Illumined Tyler (Isaac)

Censer (Kadilo) Incense:

In Memory Of +John & +Catherine Gaydos

Censer (Kadilo) Charcoal:

For The Health Of The Sarandou Family

Graveside Candles:

IMO +Fred Anton

Vespereal Litiya Loaves:

IMO Departed From The Kuneman & Mirilovich Families

Vespereal Litiya Wheat:

For The Health Of The Mirilovich Family & Friends

Vespereal Litiya Wine:

IMO +Peter & +Katherine Silon And +Francis & +Mary Schrmack

Processional Candles At Matins:

IMO Departed SJB Parishioners

Priest’s Paschal Candle:

IMO Departed Mothers

Prosporan (Eucharistic Bread):

For The Health Of Gaydos Family

Sacramental Wine:

IMO Gaydos Family

Pascha Bulletin:

IMO +Michael & +Olga Tongel

Altar Candelabra:

For The Health Of The Kilmer Family

2 Altar Vigil Candles:

For The Health Of The Martin Family

2 Preparation Table Candles:

IMO Departed From The Hudak & Shelpman Families

2 Deacon Table Candles:

IMO Departed From The Martin Family

Altar Server Candles:

For The Health Of SJB Parishioners

4 Iconostasis Candles:

IMO +Alexander & +Mark Zerby

2 Tetrapod Candles:

For The Health Of The Hudak & Shelpman Families

Altar Flowers:

IMO +Ronald Dzadovsky

Tetrapod Flowers:

IMO +Jack & +Viola Peifer

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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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DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FOR BRIGHT WEEK

The Paschal Hours is sung for all the Hours, Compline, Midnight Office, Prayers after Communion, and Private Devotions (Morning and Evening Prayers) for all of Bright (Renewal) Week. (*It is also sung on the leave-taking of Pascha, the eve of Ascension*)

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PASCHAL HOURS *When said privately at home*

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. (3 times)
The Resurrection Prayer (Kievan Tone 6 samohlasen)

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, * let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, * the only sinless one. * We venerate your Cross, O Christ, * and we praise and glorify your holy Resurrection, * for You are our God, * and we know no other than You: * we call on your Name. * Come, all you faithful, * let us venerate Christ's holy Resurrection. * For behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. * Let us ever bless the Lord, * praising his Resurrection, * for by enduring the Cross for us, *** He has destroyed death by death. (3 times)

Hypakoe (Ipakoje) of Pascha (Tone 4 Samopodoben)

Before the dawn Mary came with the women * and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.* And they heard from the angel: * “He abides in life everlasting. * Why seek Him among the dead as if He were a man? * Behold the burial shroud! * Go and proclaim to the world: * ‘That the Lord is risen and has conquered death.’ * For He is the Son of God, *** and He is the Savior of mankind!”

Kondak of Pascha (Tone 8)

You descended into the grave, O Immortal One; * yet You destroyed the power of death. * As Conqueror, You arose, O Christ God, * saying to the myrrh-bearing women: "Rejoice," * granting peace to your apostles *** and offering resurrection to the fallen.

Tropar of the Paschal Office (Tone 8)

When your Body was in the tomb and your Soul was in hell, * when You were in paradise with the thief, * You were at the same time, O Christ, as God upon your throne *** with the Father and the Spirit, infinite and filling all things.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. O Christ, your tomb, the fount of our resurrection * is indeed a giver of life more splendid than Paradise *** and more radiant than any royal chamber.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Hail, holy and divine dwelling of the Most High, * for through you, O Theotokos, * joy has been given to those who cry out: *** “Blessed are you among women, O Lady most pure!”

Lord, have mercy. (40 times)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O shine, O shine, O new Jerusalem: * for the Glory of the Lord is risen upon you. * O Zion, sing with joy and rejoice. * And you, pure Mother of God, *** rejoice in the Resurrection of your Son.

Lord, have mercy. (3 times) O Lord, bless us!

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

[When the Paschal Hours is said in place of Compline or Evening Prayers, we insert the following Prayer of St. Basil the Great prior to the last “Christ is risen”

Blessed are you Lord, Master almighty, who made the day light with the light of the sun and the night radiant with the rays of fire; who have granted us to pass through the length of the day and to draw near the beginnings of the night. Hear our supplication and that of all your people. And pardoning all of us our offences, voluntary and involuntary, accept our evening entreaties and send down the multitude of your rich mercy and acts of compassion on your inheritance. Wall us about with your holy Angels; arm us with the arms of justice; fence us with the rampart of your truth; guard us by your power; deliver us from every misfortune and from every trick of the adversary. Grant us also that both the present day with the coming night and all the days of our life may be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, without stumbling, without dreams, through the intercessions of the All-holy Theotokos and of all the Saints who have been well-pleasing to you since time began. For Yours it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.]

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. (3 times)

ONLINE BONUSES

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Paschal Greeting in Arabic:
El Messieh kahm! (*Hakken kahm!*)

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)**. This is the organization that puts out the Coin Boxes that we have been using through the Great Fast. Please bring in your coin boxes on Pascha. (There will also be an additional offering requested on our regular last Sunday of the month.) *“Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share” (1 Tim 6:18)* More information is available at www.ocmc.org.

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Paschal Greeting in Spanish:
¡Cristo ha resucitado!
(*¡En verdad ha resucitado!*)

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GUEST HOMILY

PATRIARCHAL ENCYCLICAL FOR HOLY PASCHA

+ **BARTHOLOMEW**

By God’s Mercy

*Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and
Ecumenical Patriarch*

To the Plenitude of the Church:

*May the Grace, Peace and Mercy of Christ Risen in
Glory be with you All*

Most honourable brother Hierarchs and blessed children in the Lord,

Having arrived, through fasting, prayer, and solemnity, at the radiant and all-festal day of Holy Pascha, we hymn and glorify the world-saving Resurrection of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ, which marks the manifest victory of life over death, renews all creation, and opens to humanity the way of deification by grace. The Church of Christ preserves the paschal experience in her liturgical life, in the labours of the Saints and Martyrs of the faith, in the eschatological impulse of monasticism, in the proclamation of the

Gospel “to the ends of the earth,” in theology and the ecclesial arts, in the good witness of the faithful in the world, in the culture of love and solidarity, and in the immovable certainty that evil does not have the final word in history.

The Resurrection of the Lord is lived as a Christ-bestowed freedom, which inspires, nourishes, and strengthens the creative powers of the human person and the good struggle for “whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable,” (Phil. 4:8) while reminding us all that the journey toward the Resurrection is inseparably bound to the Cross. The joy of the Cross and the Resurrection has preserved the people of God from identifying themselves with the spirit of this world, while at the same time safeguarding them from barren insularity and a spirituality devoid of dynamism and hope-bearing breath. The life of the faithful, in the crucified and risen Christ “for us men,” still today refutes every alien narrative of Christian ethos as a “morality of the weak,” supposedly embodied in humility, forgiveness, sacrificial love, asceticism, the Lord’s saying “but I say to you, do not resist the evil one,” (Matt. 5:39) and other principles and dispositions that belong to the very core of our identity. Nothing could be further from the truth than this reading of the ethos of Christianity — of sacrificial love that “does not seek its own,” a love interwoven with courage, boldness, and existential authenticity. Pascha is a hymn to this freedom, to faith “working through love,” (Gal. 5:6) which is not our own achievement but grace and a gift from above, and which is lived in the holy Sacraments of the Church and in the “mystery” of service to one’s neighbour. Indeed, “love for God does not in any way tolerate hatred toward one’s fellow human being.” (*St. Maximus the Confessor, Chapters on Love, I.15. PG 90, 964*)

The Church of Christ — the “salt of the earth,” the “light of the world,” the city “set on a hill,” the lamp placed “on the lampstand” (Matt. 5:13-15) — bears active witness in the world, before the signs of the times, about the grace that has come and “the hope that is in us.” (1 Pet. 3:15) The message of the Cross and the Resurrection resounds today as a Gospel of peace, reconciliation, and justice. War, hatred, and injustice stand opposed to the fundamental Christian principles

for whose realization and establishment the people of God pray and labour each day. In the light of the Resurrection, we beseech the Lord on behalf of the victims of wartime violence, the orphans, the mothers who mourn their children, and all those who bear in body and soul the effects of human cruelty and callousness. “Christ is risen” is a denial and condemnation of violence and fear and an invitation to a life of peace. War brings forth lamentation and death; the Resurrection conquers death and bestows incorruptibility.

Before the daily images of the cruelty of war, the Church raises her voice and proclaims the sacredness of the human person — of every concrete human being anywhere on earth — and the duty of absolute respect for that dignity; and she calls upon us to “know our own worth, honour the Prototype, recognise the power of the mystery, and understand for whose sake Christ died.” (*St. Gregory the Theologian, Oration 1, On Holy Pascha and on Tardiness, PG 35, 397*) The Resurrection of the Lord is the restoration of the human being to his pre-eternal calling. As the “beginning of another eternal life,” it heals alienating relationships and establishes the peace “which surpasses all understanding” (Phil. 4:7) — a peace that encompasses worldly reconciliation and pacification.

Inspired by God, the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church — the tenth anniversary of whose convocation we honour this year — underlined the duty of the Church “to encourage whatever truly serves the cause of peace (Rom. 14:19) and opens the way to justice, brotherhood, true freedom, and mutual love among all the children of the one heavenly Father, as well as among all peoples who make up the one human family.” (*The Mission of the Orthodox Church in Today’s World, C, § 5*)

Holy Pascha is the whole of our spiritual civilization, the very core of our piety. The Resurrection of the Lord is also our own resurrection in the present age, and at the same time a prefiguration and foretaste of the “common resurrection of all human beings” and of the renewal of the whole creation. Illumined by the all-radiant light of the face of the Risen Christ, and glorifying in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs His all-holy Name — the Prince of Peace, who is with us “always, unto the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20) — we

wish you a blessed Resurrection, a paschal season filled with divine gifts, and every day of your lives likewise, crying out the universal proclamation of joy: “Christ is risen! Truly the Lord is risen!”

Phanar, Holy Pascha 2026

✠ **BARTHOLOMEW of Constantinople**
*fervent supplicant for you all
to the Risen Lord*

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Paschal Greeting in Italian:
Cristo è risorto! (*È veramente risorto!*)

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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

The Pascha Basket

Carpatho-Rusyn Easter Food and Basket

After the midnight Paschal Liturgy, we all gather together to bless the Pascha baskets. These baskets have been carefully prepared with many of the foods from which we’ve been fasting for the past month and a half during Great Lent. There are several foods traditionally included in the basket. These are: a yeast bread, a bitter herb, wine, cheese, meat, butter, salt, and a red egg. Each has symbolic significance:

...

○ **Eggs (decorated / colored red):** (Pysanky - pronounced - pi-sun-ki) Hard boiled eggs brightly decorated with symbols and markings made with beeswax. Indicative of new life and resurrection. The red egg is likened to the tomb or sepulchre from which Christ arose. As the egg is sealed, but holds life in itself, and that life in the shell breaks it open and comes out as a new life, so was the grave of Christ sealed, but it contained life eternal which burst its seals and gave to us a new eternal life. This is because of the miracle of new life which comes from the egg, just as Christ miraculously came forth from the tomb.

The red coloring of the egg recalls to us that by the blood of Jesus upon the Cross we were freed from sin and death. Tradition also says that Mary Magdalene gave the first egg to the Roman emperor Tiberius, when she was brought before him and accused of being a Christian. She took the egg and by it demonstrated the belief of Christians in eternal life,

and by her presentation, was able to persuade the emperor to stop the persecution of Christians.
...

These articles are placed in a wicker basket and a ribbon or bow is tied to the handle. A decorated candle is placed in the basket and is lit at the time of blessing. A linen cover usually embroidered with a picture of the Risen Christ or symbol with the words "Christ is Risen" is placed over the foods when brought to the church. In some places a large Easter Bread (Paska) is made and brought separately in a large linen cloth. Thus each of the foods in the Pascha basket have rich meaning, as does everything in Orthodoxy. Glory to God!

*This reprint courtesy of the Greek Catholic Union
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Text by: Rev. Basil Kraynyak

https://www.wirnowski.com/Carp/Pas_Basket.html

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Paschal Greetings from Around the World

The **Paschal greeting** is a custom among Orthodox Christians, consisting of a greeting and response. Instead of "hello" or its equivalent, one is to greet another person with "Christ is Risen!". The response is "Truly, He is risen!" (or "Indeed, He is risen!"). This greeting is used during liturgical services and informally at other times, starting with the [feast of Pascha](#) and lasting until [Ascension](#) – the period known as the *Paschal season* or *Paschaltide*.

In practice, this greeting is typically used only with people that one already knows are Orthodox. In some cultures (for example in Russia), it was also customary to exchange a triple kiss after the greeting. Orthodox Christians often compile lists of the greeting in various languages, as it is used around the world, and these are sometimes recited in church or in other formal settings as an act of Orthodox unity across languages and cultures.

Language	Greeting	Response
Aleut:	Khristus anahgrecum!	Alhecum anahgrecum!
Aleut:	Khristus aglagikux!	Agangu-lakan aglagikux!
Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall!	Vertet U Ngjall!

Language	Greeting	Response
Alutuq:	Khristus unguixtuq!	Pijii-nuq unguixtuq!
Amharic:	Kristos tenestwal!	Bergit tenestwal!
Anglo-Saxon:	Crist aras!	Crist sodhlice aras!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav eemerelotz!	Orhniah eh harootyunuh kristosee!
Bulgarian:	Hristos voskreshe!	Vo istina voskreshe!
Byelorussian:	Khrystos uvaskros!	Saprawdy uvaskros!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole!	Queshi fuhuole!
Coptic:	Pchistos aftooun!	Alethos aftooun!
Czech:	Vstal z mrtvých Kristus!	Vpravdě vstal z mrtvých!
Danish:	Kristus er opstanden!	Ja, sandelig opstanden!
Dutch:	Christus is opgestaan!	Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!
English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Estonian:	Kristus on üles tõusnud!	Ta on tõesti üles tõusnud!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!	Exai' ab-her eokala!
Finnish:	Kristus nousi kuolleista!	Totisesti nousi!
French:	Le Christ est ressuscité!	En verite il est ressuscité!
Gaelic:	Taw creest ereen!	Taw shay ereen guhdyne!
Georgian:	Kriste aghsdga!	Cheshmaritad aghsdga!
German:	Christus ist auferstanden!	Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Hawaiian:	Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!	Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!
Hebrew:	Ha Masheeha houh quam!	Be emet quam!
Hungarian:	Krisztus feltamadt!	Valoban feltamadt!

Language	Greeting	Response
Ibo (Nigeria):	Jesu Kristi ebiliwo!	Ezia o' biliwo!
Indian (Malayalam):	Christu uyirthezhunnettu!	Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!
Indonesian:	Kristus telah bangkit!	Benar dia telah bangkit!
Italian:	Cristo e' risorto!	Veramente e' risorto!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu!	Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Korean:	Kristo gesso!	Buhar ha sho nay!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit!	Vere resurrexit!
Latvian:	Kristus ir augsham sales!	Teyasham ir augsham sales vinsch!
Norwegian:	Christus er oppstanden!	Sandelig han er oppstanden!
Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal!	Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal!
Portuguese:	Cristo ressuscitou!	Em verdade ressuscitou!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adevărat a înviat!
Russian:	Khristos voskreshe!	Voistinu voskreshe!
Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha!	Satvam upastitaha!
Serbian:	Hristos vaskrse!	Vaistunu vaskrse!
Slovak:	Christos vstal z mrtvych!	Vpravde vstal z mrtvych!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka!	Kweli amefufukka!
Swedish:	Kristus är uppstånden!	Han är sannerligen uppstånden!
Syriac:	M'shee ho dkom!	Ha koo qam!
Turkish:	Hristos diril - di!	Hakikaten diril - di!
Ugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Kweli ajukkide!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!
Welsh:	Atgyfododd Crist!	Atgyfododd yn wir!

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

SAINTED SOPHRONII, BISHOP OF IRKUTSK AND WONDERWORKER OF ALL SIBERIA *Commemorated on April 12 / March 30*

Sainted Sophronii, Bishop of Irkutsk and WonderWorker of all Siberia, known under the family-name Kristalevsky, was born in Malorussia in the Chernigov region in 1704. His father, Nazarii Fedorovich, was "a common man in his affairs, and Sophronii they named Stefan", in honour of the first-martyr archdeacon Stephen. He had two brothers and a sister Pelagia. The name of one brother was Paul. The name of the other older brother is unknown, but there is an account, that he was afterwards head of the Krasnogorsk Zolotonoshsk monastery.

The childhood years of Stefan were spent in the settlement of Berezan' in the Pereyaslavl' district of the Poltava governance, where the family settled after the father's discharge from service. When he came of age, Stefan entered the Kiev Theological Academy, where at the time studied two other future sainted-hierarchs – Joasaph, future bishop of Belgorod (Comm. 4 September and 10 December), and Paul, future metropolitan of Tobol'sk.

Having received a religious education, Stefan entered the Krasnogorsk Transfiguration monastery (afterwards changed to Pokrov / Protection monastery, and in 1789 transformed into a women's monastery), where his elder brother already pursued ascetic life. On 23 April 1730 he took monastic vows with the name of Sophronii, – honour of Saint Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem (Comm. 11 March).

On the night after his taking of monastic vows, the monk Sophronii heard a Voice in the Pokrov church: "When thou shalt become bishop, raise up a church in the name of All Saints", – predicting of his future service. After two years, in 1732, they summoned him to Kiev, in the Sophia cathedral of which they ordained him to the dignity of monkdeacon, and then to priestmonk. Concerning the following period of the life of Saint Sophronii, it says the following in his service-form: "After having taken vows he was treasurer at that Zolotonoshsk monastery for two years, and then he was taken by decree of His Grace Arsenii Berlov of the Pereyaslavl' diocese into the

house of his archbishop, in which he was steward for 8 years subject to the Alexander Nevsky monastery, from which during the course of those years he was sent to Saint-Peterburg on hierarchical business, for which in advocacy he spent two years".

These facts testify readily enough to the connections of the saint with his original Pokrovsk monastery. During his obedience under the presiding hierarch at Pereyaslav', he often visited at his monastery, spending the day in quiet contemplation and work, giving example in the making of a monastic brother.

During the time of priestmonk Sophronii's sojourn on hierarchical business to the Synod, they showed particular attention to him. And when it became necessary to increase the brethren at the Alexander Nevsky monastery in Saint Peterburg, – 29 monks then in number having been summoned from various monasteries in Russia, in January 1742 was summoned also the future saint. A year later they appointed him treasurer of the monastery, and in 1746 he was appointed to the office of head of the monastery, which he fulfilled for seven years more.

For helping him he summoned his fellow countryman, a native of the city of Priluk, – the priestmonk Synesii, and made him the organiser of the Novo-Sergiev monastery, which was associated with the Alexander Nevsky monastery. From this period of time the friendship of the two ascetics, – priestmonk Sophronii and priestmonk Synesii – was strengthened into a single pastoral effort, and they were inseparable until their end in the Siberian land. During these years Saint Sophronii laboured much at the managing of the monastery and improvement of teaching at the seminary located near it. Together with Archbishop Theodosii he concerned himself with the needs of adding to the monastic library.

A two-level church was built by him: the top – in the name of Saint Theodore Yaroslavich, older brother of Saint Alexander Nevsky; and the lower – in the name of Saint John Chrysostom.

In 1747 the bishop of Irkutsk, Innokentii II (Nerunovich) died. For six years afterwards the territory of the Irkutsk diocese remained without a spiritual head.

Finally, the empress Elizaveta Petrovichna (1741-

1761) by decree on 23 February 1753 recommended to the Holy Synod the pious head of the Alexander Nevsky monastery Sophronii, as "a person, not only worthy of bishop's dignity, but also quite entirely able to fulfill the wishes and the hopes of the state and the Synod – to take up the burden of episcopal service on the far frontier and satisfy the needs of his flock in that harsh land, amidst wild primitives and lawless people".

On 18 April 1753, Thomas Sunday, priestmonk Sophronii was ordained bishop of Irkutsk and Nerchinsk in the Great Uspensky cathedral.

Foreseeing difficult service on the distant Siberian frontier, the newly-established bishop did not immediately set off to the Irkutsk eparchy, but rather began to gather up educated and spiritually experienced co-workers. During this period Saint Sophronii visited at his original Krasnogorsk monastery. Also at the holy places of Kiev, he sought the blessings of the Kievo-Perchersk Saints for his service. The constant companion of the saint, just as before, was the priestmonk Synesii, ardently sharing in the life's work of his friend.

At Moscow, the Archbishop of Moscow and Sevs'k Platon, – who participated in the ordination of then priestmonk Sophronii, provided him further assistance. He taught him fatherly precepts for his impending task, since he was quite familiar with the peculiarities of the Siberian religious manner of life, he forewarned him about the self-willed local authorities, and advised him to gather together trustworthy helpers.

On 20 March 1754 the saint arrived at Irkutsk. He went at first to the Ascension monastery – the place of residence of his predecessor, and prayed at the grave of bishop Innokentii (Kul'chitz), imploring his blessing on his impending task.

Having familiarised himself with the state of affairs in the diocese, the saint set about the re-organisation of the Spiritual consistory, monasteries and parishes, and turned to the Holy Synod with an appeal to dispatch worthy people for priestly service to the Irkutsk eparchy.

Before the arrival of Sainted Sophronii, the Irkutsk monasteries had already a century-old history. The founders of these monasteries were motivated by a fervent desire for ascetic monastic life. The sagacious

sainted-bishop appointed as heads of the monastic communities people of piety, wisdom, virtue, and with great experience both of life and things spiritual. In 1754 His Grace Sophronii raised up his friend and companion priestmonk Synesii to be archimandrite of Ascension monastery. This memorable monastic head served the monastery for thirty-three years until his blessed end. In September 1754 the sainted-bishop issued an ukaz (decree), in which concern was noted for the education and upbringing of the children of clergy. By his ukaz to the clergy he considered as a duty the education of their children in the Chasoslov, the Psalter, singing and letters, and this instruction "ought to happen with all industriousness and extremest diligence, so that the children might be able to accomplish the responsibilities of sacristan and deacon according to their due ability".

Studying closely both people and circumstances, the sainted-bishop in his sermons and conversations incessantly exhorted all to an higher moral ideal. He devoted particular attention to the reverent and correct doing of Divine-services and priestly Sacraments, and he also watched after the moral purity of laymen; he was concerned about the position of women in the family, and defended them against their unjust inequality. The sainted-bishop attempted everywhere to set straight the ustav (rule) of Divine-services, for which purpose he summoned to himself priests, deacons, sub-deacons and sacristans, who during the time of hierarchical Divine-services participated in the choir or sub-deacons.

Journeying about the diocese, the saint noted that not everywhere was the proper attention given to the ringing of bells and incensing, and therefore by means of ukaz he restored the proper censing and ringing of bells.

Called to apostolic service in this frontier region, Sainted Sophronii realised, that in addition to the enlightening of believing christians, it availed him to bring to the faith idol-worshippers, who were very numerous in Siberia.

To bring pagans to the Church of Christ was difficult, especially since from time to time there was no one to serve in churches, and to borrow for missionary activity made matters all the worse. Knowing how that the hierarchical Divine-services

would have a salutary effect on non-Russians, the saint not only himself served with reverence, but also required it of all his clergy.

Sainted Sophronii concerned himself over the manner of life of the lesser nations and he contributed to the development of a stable culture among the local people. He offered them monastic lands for settlements and in every way he endeavoured to isolate them from the influence of paganism. A throng of visitors constantly arrived and came from faraway places for a blessing.

But amidst his many cares, he did not forget about his inner spiritual life and eternity – he also led an ascetic life. There is preserved an account about this from the cell-attendant of Sainted Sophronii, which relates, that the saint "used food simple and in small quantity, he served quite often, spent the greater part of the night at prayer, slept on the floor under a sheepskin or if fur – a deerskin or bear hide, and a small simple pillow – this was all his bedding for a sleep of short duration".

The spirit of his ascetic life fit in with the general uplift of the Christian spirit in Russia following the glorification of Sainted Dimitrii of Rostov (Comm. 21 September), Theodosii of Chernigov (Comm. 9 September), and in particular the uncovering of the undecayed relics of his predecessor – Sainted Innokentii of Irkutsk (Comm. 9 February). This event inspired Sainted Sophronii with greater strength and encouraged his hope for the help of Sainted Innokentii in his task of building up the diocese.

Until the end of his days Sainted Sophronii kept his love for the Krasnogorsk Zolotonoshsk monastery, which had nurtured him in the days of his youth. He constantly contributed support for its upkeep, sending off the necessary means for this.

Having sensed a deterioration in his health, Sainted Sophronii made a petition to the Synod to discharge him for rest. But they tarried with an answer from Peterburg, since it was difficult to immediately choose a worthy successor.

The final days in the life of Sainted Sophronii were spent in prayerful asceticism.

The light, which shone on the good deeds of Sainted Sophronii, continues to the present to testify to the glory of the Heavenly Father, "mercifully having

strengthened His saints". And now not only in Siberia at the place of his final deeds, but also at the place of his first deeds, there is reverently preserved the holy memory of Sainted Sophronii.

A second commemoration of Sainted Sophronii is made on 30 June (glorification, 1918).

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Paschal Greeting in Slovak:
Christos vstal z mŕtvych!
(Vpravde vstal z mŕtvych!)

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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 (WHICH BROADCASTS MORE THAN JUST SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES):

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

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*** **ACRY Raffles Update** - The ACRY is holding their Family and Friends Weekend over Memorial Day Weekend in Cleveland, OH. They are selling three different raffles in conjunction with this event. You can purchase tickets in the hall:

- Cash Bash Raffle: \$20/ticket, prizes every day in May 2026.
- Meat Raffle: \$1000 worth of Meat. \$20/ticket, only 250 tickets sold. Raffle goes off on June 1.
- Weekend Giveaway: \$20/ticket. Only 250 tickets sold. Win a Weekend at the 2026 Friends and Family Weekend in Cleveland Ohio, May 22–25

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

- ✘ **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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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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Why Should I Join the Local ACRY? The ACRY is an Orthodox Christian family fellowship dedicated to the purpose of encouraging spiritual growth through charitable and apostolic missionary works, prayer and fellowship for the Glory of God and the building up of the Church and our Diocese. The local ACRY focuses on outreach to the community in various forms and fellowship within. This could be a fundraiser or family event at the church grounds to introduce people to our parish, or the volunteering of our time to help support a community event. In addition to these, the ACRY has the opportunity to branch out and meet other members of our diocesan ACRY community through deanery and nation events and partake in outreach at a broader level.

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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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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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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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Stewardship of Treasure Guide

Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?												
Weekly Income	Beyond 15%	Tithe 12%	Upper Range 10%	Giving 9%	Upper Range 8%	Giving 7%	Middle Range 6%	Giving 5%	Lower Range 4%	Giving 3%	Lower Range 2%	Giving 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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Paschal Greeting in Gaelic:
Taw creest ereen! (Taw shay ereen guhdyne!)

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FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH

Check back later...

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Paschal Greeting in French:
Le Christ est réssuscité!
(En verite il est réssuscité!)

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ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

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

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

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For the Special Intentions of...

His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Stephen B., Fr. Thomas B., Protodeacon Gregory B., 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*: Fr. Peter S, Dcn. Maximus C, Fr. Alexander H, Bradley S, Nicholas C, John B, John F, Spyridon R, Clay W, and 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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April Namedays:

Pañi's brother Florin Popescu and Pañi's mother Liliana Popescu – Palm (Flowery) Sunday
 Subdeacon Ryan Ferko – St. Thomas Sunday
 Thomas Lorenzi – St. Thomas Sunday
 ...*May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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April Birthdays:

Sonia Kretchek (4/1), Tristan Bowser (4/5), Nicholas Thorn (4/9), Bryce Blobner (4/10), Rich Mirilovich (4/13), Kris Carlisle, Reader (4/14), Melanie Paieski (4/14), *Father's Uncle Dan Urban (4/15), Father's Father Dave Urban (4/15), John Kirish (4/18), Christopher Ditmore (4/19), Lawrence Martin (4/20), Max Anton (4/22), Donald James Gavulich (4/23), Fr Peter Paproski (4/24), Donna Tongel (4/24), Jaxson Maruscak (4/25), Fr Jonathan Bannon (4/29), Maryhelen Hoffman (4/29), Sharon Peifer (4/29)*
 ...*May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers...

Diana, Hekuran
 ...*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, Nicholas & Sienna
 ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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April Anniversaries:

...*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*), Lauren (*due in September*)
 ...*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... ...*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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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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