

“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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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.

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UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 2026 #THOMAS SUNDAY VOL. XI

2nd Sunday of Pascha: ANTIPASCHA

Breaking of the Artos

Monthly Memorial Panachida for +Julia Nimick Pitto (56-year anniversary), +Jack Scherer (6-yr), +Bessie Miller (42-yr), +Alice Fall (22-yr), +Philip Fall (6-yr), +Pañi Anna Hanas (33-yr), +Pañi Donna Smoley (1-yr), +Joseph Huron (1-yr), +Nicholas Buhonick (17-yr), +Katherine Silon (38-yr), +Viola Peifer (5-yr), +Joseph Pavilonis (52-yr), +Alexander Zerby (7-yr)
Church School

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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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SUNDAY, APRIL 26

3rd Sunday of Pascha: Sts. Myrrh-Bearing Women, righteous Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

9:20 am Paschal Canon

9:30 pm Divine Liturgy Worship Service

Epistle: Acts 6:1–7

Gospel: Mark 15:43–16:8

Liturgical Color: **White**

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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 Descent 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!”*.) * During the 50 days from Pascha to Pentecost, we **do not kneel in prayer or make prostrations** in church or at home in keeping with the joyful and festal character of the season. We begin to kneel (and prostrations) again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost that Sunday evening.

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PASCHAL GREETING:

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

Christ is risen!

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

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* **Orthodoxy On Tap** – TODAY, 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* TODAY, Sunday, April 19 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Stamoolis Brothers (2020 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Tickets are \$35. Walk in guests are also welcome.

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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 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 is Sunday, April 26.

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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.*

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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Paschal Greeting in Greek:

Χριστός Ανέστη
Christós anésti! Krees-TOHS Ah-NEH-stee
(Αληθώς Ανέστη
Alithós anésti! Ah-lee-THOS Ah-NEH-stee)

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* **Blessing of Graves** – Our annual grave blessings at the N.S. cemeteries have not been scheduled yet. 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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*** **Family Camp at Camp Nazareth** – This is an awesome way to introduce young children to staying at camp as families will have an entire cabin to themselves! Families are invited to come enjoy all that Camp has to offer at this year’s Family Camp from **Friday to Sunday, June 5 - 7** at Camp Nazareth (339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137). The theme this year is “Traveling with Your Family: Lessons from Joshua’s “Hike” to the Promised Land”. The schedule will include services, meals together, games and activities, hiking, evening events, Ropes Course activities, keynote speakers and learning together, as well as plenty of free-time. Online Registration is open at campnazareth.org. See Fr. Dave or any of the college students for more information. Please also see Fr. Dave if financial assistance is needed.

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*** **Family Day at Camp Nazareth** will be on **Sunday, June 7**. Divine Liturgy will be at 10 am followed by a delicious brunch and all kinds of games and activities for kids and adults alike! Pricing for lunch is: Adults: \$10, Children 5-12: \$6, under 5: free. *A Family Price of \$30 includes 2 parents and all children under age 13.* This is a great way to start out the summer! There is no registration for Family Day. Come one! Come all! Contact Fr. Dave with any questions. *If You Have Never Been To Camp Before – Please Plan To Go For Liturgy And Lunch*

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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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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD	
Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 2000
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 246
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 3635
Community Outreach:	\$ 121
Total Collections:	\$ 6002
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 810
Participating Souls at - <i>Sunday Liturgy: 114</i>	
<i>Bright Monday Liturgy: 2</i>	
<i>Bright Wednesday Akathist: 8</i>	
<i>Bright Friday Liturgy: 4</i>	

Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Juliana Anton; Kathy Schrmack; Cindy Pavilonis

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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 **Tuesday to Thursday, 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_Senior_Retreat) 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

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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. Three Raffles are being run to help defray the cost.

- 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
- Deadline is April 24. You can purchase tickets in the hall.

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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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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS	
<i>Please sign up by the kitchen or by contacting Fr. Dave</i>	
April 26:	__?__, __?__, (possible freezer clean-out?)
May 3:	__?__, __?__, __?__, __?__
May 10 (Mother's Day):	__?__, __?__, __?__, __?__

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

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Paschal Greeting in Japanese:
Harisutosu fukkatsu! (ハリストス復活)
Jitsu ni fukkatsu! (実に復活)

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**** 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! Mnohaja L’ita!

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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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**** 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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**** 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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**** Jack R. Scherer Memorial Fundraiser for Mental Health Awareness & 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 & 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. Also, contributions can be made through their GoFundMe account: Support The Jack R, Scherer Memorial Fund.

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

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

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

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

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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

Saint Thomas Sunday: Antipascha

+Proto. Thomas Hopko, from *The Orthodox Faith*, vol. 2

Every day during the week of Easter, called Bright Week by the Church, the paschal services are celebrated in all their splendor. The Easter baptismal procession is repeated daily. The royal gates of the sanctuary remain open. The joy of the Resurrection and the gift of the Kingdom of eternal life continue to abound. Then, at the end of the week, on Saturday evening, the second Sunday after Easter is celebrated in remembrance of the appearance of Christ to the Apostle Thomas “after eight days” (Jn 20.26).

It is important to note that the number eight has symbolical significance in both Jewish and Christian spiritual tradition. It signifies more than completion and fullness; it signifies the Kingdom of God and the life of the world to come since seven is the number of earthly time. The sabbath, the seventh day, is the blessed day of rest in this world, the final day of the week. The “first day of the week,” the day “after Sabbath”; stressed in all of the gospels as the day of Christ’s Resurrection (Mk 16.1, Mt 28.1, Lk 24.1, Jn 20.1, 19), is therefore also “the eighth day,” the day beyond the confines of this world, the day which stands for the life of the world to come, the day of the eternal rest of the Kingdom of God (see Heb 4).

The Sunday after Easter, called the Second Sunday, is thus the eighth day of the paschal celebration, the last day of Bright Week. It is therefore called the Antipascha, and it was only on this day in the early church that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world.

In the Church services the stress is on the Apostle Thomas’ vision of Christ and the significance of the day comes to us in the words of the gospel:

Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe” (Jn 20.27–29).

We have not seen Christ with our physical eyes nor touched His risen body with our physical hands, yet in the Holy Spirit we have

seen and touched and tasted the Word of Life (1 Jn 1.1–4), and so we believe.

At each of the daily services until Ascension Day we sing the Easter Troparion. At each of the Sunday services beginning with Antipascha, we sing the Easter canon and hymns, and repeat the celebration of the “first day of the week” on which Christ rose from the dead. At all of the liturgies the epistle readings are taken from the Book of Acts telling us of the first Christians who lived in communion with the Risen Lord. All of the gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of Saint John, considered by many to be a gospel written particularly for those who are newly-baptized into the new life of the Kingdom of God through death and new birth in Christ, in the name of the Holy Trinity. The reason for this opinion is that all of the “signs” —as the miracles in Saint John’s Gospel are called—deal with sacramental themes involving water: wine and bread. Thus, each of the Sundays after Thomas Sunday with the exception of the third, is dedicated to the memory of one of these “signs.”

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

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SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle Acts 5:12–20

The Apostles Heal Many

¹² Now many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. ¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

The Apostles Are Persecuted

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sad’ducees, and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. ¹⁹ But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, ²⁰ “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

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Gospel: John 20:19–31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his

hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

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Paschal Greeting in Gaelic:
Taw creest ereen! (*Taw shay ereen ghudhne!*)

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PRAYER CORNER

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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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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... +Octavian Manole (4/18), +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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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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Paschal Greeting in French:
Le Christ est réssuscité!
(*En verite il est réssuscité!*)

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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/acroddioocese
 Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
 YouTube: youtube.com/acroddioocese

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Spiritual Vitamin:

"Men never showed so much hate for God as when they crucified Him, and God never showed more love for man than when He resurrected.

Men even wanted to make God mortal, but God by His Resurrection made man immortal. The crucified God is Risen and has killed death. Death is no more."

+St. Justin Popović

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

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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

Y2AM - Orthodox Christian Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Yesterday at 7:57 AM ·

Thomas Sunday reminds us that faith isn't about pretending we never have questions. Faith is about bringing those questions to Christ with honesty and courage. When the Apostle Thomas struggled to believe, Jesus didn't reject him; He met Thomas right where he was and invited him to come closer. That moment shows us that doubt isn't a dead end, but rather it is a doorway to deeper faith.

Today, Christ offers you the same invitation: to reach toward Him, even if you're unsure, overwhelmed, or searching for clarity. Thomas didn't stay stuck in uncertainty. Instead, he moved toward Jesus, and that changed everything. You can do the same by choosing to stay connected to God, to your Church, and to the people who help you grow.

As you leave the Divine Liturgy today, carry this truth with you: Christ wants a real relationship with you, not a perfect performance. So take one concrete step this week. It can be to pray for a minute each day, read a few verses of Scripture, or show kindness to someone who needs it.

Let your faith move from your mind into your actions, just like Thomas did. Go out with courage, curiosity, and the confidence that Christ is ready to meet you exactly where you are.

[#Thomas](#) [#Sunday](#) [#Orthodox](#)

7 miracles performed by Christ after His Resurrection

⊕ BASILICA.RO



Luke 24:31
He vanished from the sight of disciples Luke and Cleopas after He broke the bread.

Luke 24:45
He opened the disciples' understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

John 20:19-20
He entered a room with locked doors, where His disciples stood, saying 'Peace be with you'.

John 21:6-11
He helped His disciples catch 153 large fish at the Sea of Tiberias.

John 21:18-19
He prophesied about how St Peter would die.

1 Corinthians 15:6
He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once.

Mark 16:19
He ascended into Heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

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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:	Khris-tusax agla-gikux!	Agangu-lakan agla-gikux!
Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall!	Vertet U Ngjall!
Alutuq:	Khris-tusaq ung-uixtuq!	Pijii-nuq ung-uixtuq!
Amharic:	Kristos tenestwal!	Bergit tenestwal!
Anglo-Saxon:	Crist aras!	Crist sodhlice aras!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahn!	Hakken kahn!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav ee merelotz!	Orhniah eh harootyunuh kristosee!
Bulgarian:	Hristos voskrese!	Vo istina voskrese!
Byelorussian:	Khrystos uvaskros!	Saprawdy uvaskros!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole!	Queshi fuhuole!
Coptic:	Pchristos 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!

Language	Greeting	Response
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 feltamad!	Valoban feltamad!
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 învîiat!
Russian:	Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha!	Satvam upastitaha!
Serbian:	Hristos vaskrse!	Vaistunu vaskrse!
Slovak:	Christos vstal z mŕtvych!	Vpravde vstal z mŕtvych!
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 METHODIOS, ARCHBISHOP OF MORAVIA

Commemorated on April 19/6

The Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles First-Teachers and Enlighteners of the Slavic Peoples, the Brothers Cyril and Methodius came from an illustrious and pious family living in the Greek city of Solunea (Thessalonika). Saint Methodius was the oldest of seven brothers, Saint Contantine (Cyril – was his monastic name) was the youngest. Saint Methodius was at first in the military profession and was governor in one of the Slavic principalities dependent to the Byzantine empire – probably Bulgaria, which made it possible for him to learn the Slavic language. Having dwelt there for about 10 years, Saint Methodius afterwards accepted monastic orders at one of the monasteries on Mount Olympos (Asia Minor). Saint Constantine from his early years distinguished himself by great aptitude and he studied together with the emperor Michael during that one's youth – under the finest teachers in Constantinople, among which were Photios, future Patriarch of Constantinople. Saint Constantine, having attained knowledge in all the sciences of his time and also many languages, also with particular diligence studied the works of Sainted Gregory the Theologian. Because of his keen mind and penetrating perception, Saint Constantine received the title "Philosopher" (wise). Upon the completion of his education, Saint Constantine accepted the dignity of priest and was appointed curator of the patriarchal library at the church of Saint Sophia, but he soon quit the capital and went off secretly to a monastery. Discovered there and having returned to Constantinople, he was appointed teacher of philosophy in the highest level of the Constantinople schools. The wisdom and strength of faith for the still rather young Constantine was so great, that he won the victory in a debate with the leader of the heretic-iconoclasts Ananias. After this victory Constantine was sent by the emperor to dispute in a debate about the Holy Trinity with the Saracens (musselmans) and again he gained the victory. Having returned, Saint Constantine went off to his brother Saint Methodius on Olympos, spending the time in unceasing prayer and reading the works of the holy fathers.

The emperor soon summoned forth both of the holy brothers from the monastery and dispatched them to preach the Gospel to the Khazars. Along the way they stayed for some time in the city of Korsun, making preparations for preaching. There the holy brothers in miraculous manner discovered the relics of the Priestmartyr Clement, Pope of Rome (Comm. 25 November). There also at Korsun Saint Constantine found a Gospel and Psalter written in "Russian letters" [i.e. Slavonic], and a man speaking in Slavic, and he began to learn from this man to read and to speak in his language. After this, the holy brothers set off to the Khazars, where they gained the victory in a debate with Jews and Moslems by preaching the Gospel teaching. On the way home the brothers again visited Korsun and, taking up the relics of Saint Clement there, they returned to Constantinople. Saint Constantine remained in the capital, but Saint Methodius received the hegumenate at the small Polychronion monastery – not far from Mount Olympos, where he pursued asceticism as before.

Soon there came to the emperor messengers from the Moravian prince Rostislav, otherwise pressured by German bishops – with a request to send teachers to Moravia, who

would be able to preach in the vernacular Slavic tongue. The emperor summoned Saint Constantine and said to him: "It is necessary for thee to go thither, where it be better for thee that no one realise this". Saint Constantine prepared for the new task with fasting and prayer. With the help of his brother Saint Methodius and the students Gorazd, Clement, Savva, Naum and Angelyar he composed a Slavonic alphabet and translated into the Slavic tongue books – without which it would be impossible to celebrate Divine-services: the Gospel, Epistles, Psalter and collected services. This occurred in the year 863.

After completing the translation, the holy brothers set off to Moravia, where they were received with great honour, and they began to teach the Divine-services in the Slavic language. This aroused the malice of the German bishops, who celebrated Divine-services in the Moravian churches in the Latin language, and they rose up against the holy brothers, convinced that Divine-services must be done only in one of three languages: Hebrew, Greek or Latin. Saint Constantine answered them: "Ye recognise only three languages by which to give glory to God. But David sang: Come to the Lord, all nations, praise the Lord all peoples, let everything that hath breath praise the Lord! And in the Holy Gospel it says: Go teach all nations...". The German bishops were humiliated, but they became all the more bitter and sent off a complaint to Rome. The holy brothers were summoned to Rome for a decision on this question. Taking with them the relics of Saint Clement Pope of Rome, Saints Constantine and Methodius set off to Rome. Knowing that the holy brothers were bringing along with them these relics, Pope Adrian met them along the way with his clergy. The holy brothers were greeted with honour, the pope of Rome gave permission for Divine-services in the Slavonic language, and the books translated by the brothers he ordered to be placed in Roman churches and to make liturgy in the Slavonic language.

At Rome Saint Constantine fell ill and, in a miraculous vision from the Lord advising of the nearness of death, he accepted the monastic schema-order with the name of Cyril (Kirill). 50 days after the accepting of the schema, on 14 February 869, Saint Cyril died at 42 years of age. In expiring to God, Saint Cyril commanded his brother Saint Methodius to continue with their common task – the enlightening of the Slavic peoples with the light of the true faith. Saint Methodius entreated the pope of Rome to send the body of his brother for burial in their native land, but the pope commanded the relics of Saint Cyril to be placed in the church of Saint Clement, where miracles began to occur from them.

After the death of Saint Cyril, the pope in fulfilling the request of the Slavic prince Kotsel, sent Saint Methodius to Pannonia, – having ordained him Archbishop of Moravia and Pannonia, on the ancient throne of the holy Disciple Andronikes. In Pannonia Saint Methodius together with his students continued to propagate Divine-services in books inscribed in the Slavonic language. This again aroused the wrath of the German bishops. They obtained an arrest and held a trial over Saint Methodius, who was sent in chains to Swabia, where during the course of two and an half years he underwent many sufferings. Having been set free by order of the Pope of Rome, John VIII, and restored to the rule of his archdiocese, Saint Methodius continued to preach the Gospel among the Slavs. He baptised the Czech prince Borivoi and his spouse Liudmila (Comm. 16 September), and also one of the Polish princes. The German bishops started a persecution

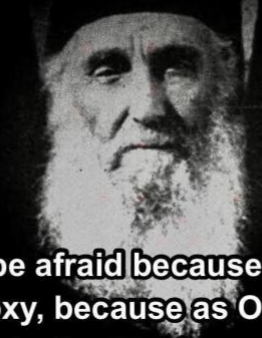
against the saint for a third time, – for not accepting the Roman teaching about the procession of the Holy Spirit from both the Father and from the Son. Saint Methodius was summoned to Rome, but he justified himself before the pope, and preserved in its purity the Orthodox teaching, and was sent off again to the capital of Moravia, Velehrad.

Here in the ensuing years of his life Saint Methodius with the help of two of his priest-students translated into the Slavonic language all the Old Testament except for the Book of Maccabees, and even the Nomokanon (Rule of the holy fathers) and books of the holy fathers (Paterikon).

Sensing the nearness of death, Saint Methodius decreed one of his students – Gorazd, as worthy successor to himself. The sainted-bishop predicted the day of his death and he died on 6 April 885 at an age of about 60 years. The burial service of the saint was done in three languages – Slavonic, Greek and Latin. He was buried in the cathedral church of Velehrad.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS



Do not be afraid because of your Orthodoxy, because as Orthodox Christians in the West, you will often be isolated and in a small minority. Do not make compromises but do not attack other Christians.

✙ St. Amphilochios of Patmos (April 16)

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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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 ioccc.org/pgh. Contact Fr. Dave for more info.

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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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* **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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* **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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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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“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

(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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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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THIS MONTH’S SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 #THOMASUNDAY

2nd Sunday of Pascha: ANTIPASCHA

Breaking of the Artos

Church School

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SUNDAY, APRIL 26

3rd Sunday of Pascha: Sts. Myrrh-Bearing Women, righteous Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

9:20 am Paschal Canon

9:30 pm Divine Liturgy Worship Service

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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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* **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 Divine Liturgy Worship Service and picnic.

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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 did for the combined Presanctified service!

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STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET



TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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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
Sunday Average Participation	45	40

* detailed report is on the bulletin board in the hall

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

- ✘ hand your offering to the curator who sits at the desk in the vestibule (to the right after you enter),
- ✘ drop your offering in one of multiple baskets around the church, or

✘ place your offering in the box in the candle stand after saying your prayers when lighting 2 candles.

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

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

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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.

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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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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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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 15%	Tithe 12%	Upper Range Giving 10%	Middle Range Giving 8% 7% 6%			Lower Range Giving 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

Check back later...

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ORTHODOX WORD OF THE WEEK

Check back later...

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

How to receive - Please remember the following helpful hints aimed at helping to preserve the solemnity and safety of the Holy Mystery. Anyone wearing lipstick should remove it before receiving. Be sure to offer your baptismal name to the priest before receiving. Please take great care that the red cloth held by the acolytes (servers) is fully under your chin (*you should not hold it*), then use the centuries-old practice of receiving:

please fully open your mouth, tilt your head back, receive the Holy Gifts, wait until They are securely in your mouth and so that none of the holy and precious Body and Blood of Christ is accidentally spilled. Thank you for your cooperation, and may God have mercy on us all!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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The Jesus Prayer

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

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

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ONLINE PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions

This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: it is good to pray

for one another. Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. (This prayer list is not limited to only Orthodox Christians.)

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A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant(s) *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/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 Outreach *...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...

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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Paschal Greeting in Romanian:

Hristos a înviat! *(Adevărat a înviat!)*

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Paschal Greeting in Swahili:

Kristo amefufukka! *(Kweli amefufukka!)*

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