

“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, MAY 3, 2026

VOL. XI

4th Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Paralytic

+Righteous Tabitha

Church School

TUESDAY, MAY 5

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

Lesser Blessing of Water

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST & FEAST OF ST. GEORGE

9:20 am Paschal Canon

9:30 am Divine Liturgy Worship Service

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SUNDAY, MAY 10, *MOTHER'S DAY*

5th Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan Woman

9:20 am Paschal Canon;

9:30 am Divine Liturgy Worship Service

Liturgical Color: **White**

Monthly Memorial (Panachida) for +Floyd Wensel (5/1),

+Stephen Pitto (5/2), +Eleanor Sanger (5/2), God loving

Bishop +Matthias Morriak (5/4), +William George, the Priest

(5/5), +Raphael Sotak, the Priest (5/5), +Mary Creedon Donley

(5/16), God loving Bishop +Methodios Kanchuha (5/16), God

loving Bishop +Peter Shymansky (5/17), +Jeffrey Mustovic

(5/22), +Elaine Talley (2023), +William Talley (2019)

* *please let Fr Dave know if someone is missing*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

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

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of...

Lori, Patti, Melissa, Mary, Evelyn, 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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May Namedays:

Robert Fall - St Robert, Abbot of Blois (5/8)

Mark Tongel - St. Mark the Evangelist (5/8)

Renee Mirilovich - Great-martyr Irene (5/18)

Christopher Bowser; Kris Carlisle, Reader; Christopher Kubis -
Martyr Christopher (5/22)

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

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May Birthdays:

Oberon O'Koon-Latuch (5/2), Anna Dzadony (5/3), Fr Matthew

Stagon (5/4), Donald Bodnar (5/6), Fr Thomas Soroka (5/6),

Ethan Gogal (5/7), Ella Kovats (5/9), Jillian Gaydos (5/14),

Robert Mozes (5/16), Pañi Alexandra Urban (5/16), Natasha

Kretchek (5/19), Patrick Wertz (5/19), Linda Gavulich (5/20),

Elias Mainolfi (5/24), Kira Fischer (5/24), Luca Paganico

(5/24), Alexander Hanchulak (5/27), Fr Jonathan Tobias (5/27)

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

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May Anniversaries:

Lynn and Joseph Mainolfi (5/6/06)

Father's Godparents, Dick & Andrea Babbie (5/7)

Father's Best Man, Joe & Sarah Lavra (5/7)

Derek and Ashley (Wertz) Andrekovich (5/16)

Melissa & Christopher Ditmore (5/17)

Fr Dave's Ordination to the Priesthood (5/17)

Ernest & Claudia (Herbert) Pido (5/19)

Fr Dave & Pañi Alexandra (5/25)

Jim & Katherine Schrmack (5/26)

*...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 the souls of the newly departed...

+Eleanor Bullied (4/22), +Octavian Manole (4/18) *...May the*

Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain

sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory!

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Acts 9:32–42

The Healing of Aeneas

³² Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aene'as, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed.

³⁴ And Peter said to him, "Aene'as, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. ³⁵ And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Peter in Lydda and Joppa

³⁶ Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And

she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. ⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

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Gospel: John 5:1-15

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

⁵ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³ In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed. ⁵ One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" ⁷ The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me."

⁸ Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked.

Now that day was the sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." ¹¹ But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'" ¹² They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk?'" ¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. ¹⁴ Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

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THE REST OF THIS MONTH'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MAY 17

6th Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Man Born Blind

9:20 am Paschal Canon; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Youth Sunday

Church School

Putting the tomb away during Coffee Social

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 - APODOSIS (LEAVE-TAKING) OF PASCHA

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

THURSDAY, MAY 21 - FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

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SUNDAY, MAY 24

7th Sunday of Pascha: Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

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

ALL-SOUL'S SATURDAY, MAY 30 (Zadušna Subota)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy, Panachida, and reading the

Commemoration Diptychs (*5th of 5*)

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SUNDAY, MAY 31

FEAST OF PENTECOST, TRINITY SUNDAY, THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (RUSALJA)

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

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11; Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

Liturgical Color: **Green**

Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost following Liturgy

Church School

PASCHAL GREETING:

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

Christ is risen!

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

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BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **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!"*.) * 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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* **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

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** **Blessing of Graves** – In following church tradition, we annually bless graves at the cemeteries after Pascha (and typically before Ascension, but it's not limited to that window of time). This year, this will be offered by request only. Please contact Fr. Dave to schedule a time to meet at the cemetery where your loved one is buried. May their memory be eternal! Christ is risen!

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*** **Slavjane Has Been Revived & Recreated** - Pittsburgh's Slavjane Rusyn Folk Ensemble presents a variety show with other Rusyn ensembles **THIS Friday, May 8**, at the Rankin Croatian Home (236 4th Ave., Rankin, PA 15104). It's a great opportunity to enjoy the traditional songs and dances from the Carpathian region in a relaxed setting. Doors open at 6:00 PM with the performance starting at 6:30. Admission is free and there will be a cash bar. The fun continues after the performance with a social hour where attendees can meet the performers and enjoy even more live music and dancing. Contact Fr. Dave for more info.

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 450
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 33
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 670
Community Outreach:	\$ 110
Total Collections:	\$ 1263
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 60
Participating Souls at - <i>Sunday Liturgy</i> : 32	

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

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Financial Reports	April	Fiscal Year
General Stewardship	\$ 10,410.82	\$64,775
* Expenses	\$ 9,446.43	\$56,685
Yield +/-	\$ 964.39	\$8,090
Capital Fund	\$ 1273.00	\$23,283
<i>Sunday Average Participation</i>	62	43

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

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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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

May 10 (Mother's Day): Tim Martin

May 17: Sr. ACRY (Group: Kathy, Liz, etc.)

May 24 (Memorial Day): ___? __, ___? __, ___? __, ___? __

**** Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:**

➤ **May 5-10** – St Nicholas (419 S Dithridge St., Oakland Pittsburgh) *Greek*

➤ **May 9** – St Vladimir (73 South 18th St., South Side Pittsburgh) *Ukrainian*

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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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* **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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* **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 Pavidonis. Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!

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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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Paschal Greeting in Spanish:

¡Cristo ha resucitado!

(¡En verdad ha resucitado!)

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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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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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Paschal Greeting in Greek:

Χριστός Ανέστη

Christós anésti! Krees-TOHS Ah-NEH-stee

(Αληθώς Ανέστη

Alithós anésti! Ah-lee-THOS Ah-NEH-stee)

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

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

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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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

St George the Great-martyr Film

Trisagion Films is a producer of short videos (averaging about 25 minutes each) on many Orthodox subjects. It is a great website to go to. The films are all very interesting. All are encouraged to watch the one on St. George whose Feast Day is on Wednesday (and any of the other Trisagion Films that are available). Click on this link to find the St. George film: <https://www.trisagionfilms.com/videos#/saints/>

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The Uniting of Pascha and Pentecost

The fifty days following Pascha until the Feast of Pentecost are known as the period of the Pentecostarion in the Orthodox Church.

At the mid-point between these great feasts of Pascha and Pentecost, on the twenty-fifth day which is always a Wednesday, is one of the most beloved feasts for the most devout Orthodox Christians known quit simply as Mid-Pentecost. Mid-Pentecost is to the Pentecostarion what the Third Sunday of Great Lent which honors the Holy Cross is to the period of Great Lent. It is a day which helps us focus on the central theme of the entire period. Whereas the mid-point of Great Lent reminds us to bear up the Cross of Christ bravely so that we may daily die with Christ in order to experience the Resurrection of our Lord, so also the mid-point of the Pentecostarion enlightens us regarding the theme of the fifty days following Pascha - which is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit poured out as a gift upon all the faithful who partake of the living water which is Christ Himself.

The central theme woven throughout the period of the Pentecostarion therefore is water. This becomes the central

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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theme of the period because it is the central theme of the Gospel of John which we read in its entirety during the Pentecostarion and which naturally flows into the Acts of the Apostles which is also read during this period in its entirety. This theme appears for the first time on Pascha itself in the joyous Canon of the Feast of Feasts written by Saint John the Damascene when he invites us to "drink a new drink," not "brought forth from a barren rock," as in the Old Testament under Moses, but which rather "springeth forth from the grave of Christ." Then during the Paschal Divine Liturgy the priest processes with the Gospel and chants loudly from Psalm 67:27 saying: "In the congregations bless ye God, the Lord from the well-springs of Israel."

When Renewal or Bright Week is over the Church wisely sets up two Sundays in which to abolish all doubts concerning the Resurrection of Christ, that of the Sunday of Saint Thomas and the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women. This is done in order to ensure that we all partake of the living water that only the risen Lord can give. The following three Sundays, as we approach Pentecost, the theme of water becomes more and more central in the hymns of the Church. Thus we are found one Sunday at the Sheep's Pool with the Paralytic, then at the Well of Jacob with the Samaritan Woman, and finally at the Pool of Siloam with the Blind Man. During this festive period we hear concerning the "living water" which if one partakes of "he will never thirst". We are taught that it is our Savior Himself who is this living water, and we partake of Him through the baptismal waters and the Cup of Life which issued forth from His side at His crucifixion unto remission of sins and life everlasting. Then on Pentecost we have grace rained upon our parched souls and bodies so that we may be fruitful and have a great harvest as we hear from the holy Gospel on that day: "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink". Finally the Pentecostarion concludes with the Feast of All Saints, that is those who partook of the "waters of piety", which is the harvest of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Fathers teach us that the feast of Mid-Pentecost stands in the middle of the fifty-day period from Pascha to Pentecost as a mighty flowing river of divine grace which have these two great feasts as its source. Pascha and Pentecost are united in Mid-Pentecost. Without Pascha there is no Pentecost and without Pentecost there is no purpose to Pascha. We read the following entry in The Great Horologion that further explains the details of the feast:

"After the Saviour had miraculously healed the paralytic, the Jews, especially the Pharisees and Scribes, were moved to envy and persecuted Him, and sought to slay Him, using

the excuse that He did not keep the Sabbath, since He worked miracles on that day. Jesus then departed to Galilee. About the middle of the Feast of Tabernacles, He went up again to the Temple and taught. The Jews, marveling at the wisdom of His words, said, 'how knoweth this man letters, having never learned?' But Christ first reproached their unbelief and lawlessness, then proved to them by the Law that they sought to slay Him unjustly, supposedly as a despiser of the Law, since He had healed the paralytic on the Sabbath.

"Therefore, since the things spoken of by Christ in the middle of the Feast of the Tabernacles are related to the Sunday of the Paralytic that is just passed, and since we have already reached the midpoint of the fifty days between Pascha and Pentecost, the Church has appointed this present feast as a bond between the two great Feasts, thereby uniting, as it were, the two into one, and partaking of the grace of them both. Therefore today's feast is called Mid-Pentecost, and the Gospel Reading, 'At Mid-feast'—though it refers to the Feast of the Tabernacles—is used.

"It should be noted that there were three great Jewish feasts: the Passover, the Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. Passover was celebrated on the 15th of Nissan, the first month of the Jewish calendar, which roughly coincides with our March. This feast commemorated that day on which the Hebrews were commanded to eat the lamb in the evening and anoint the doors of its houses with its blood. Then, having escaped bondage and death at the hands of the Egyptians, they passed through the Red Sea to come to the Promised Land. It is called 'the feast of Unleavened Bread,' because they ate unleavened bread for seven days. Pentecost was celebrated fifty days after Passover, first of all, because the Hebrew tribes had reached Mount Sinai after leaving Egypt, and there received the Law from God; secondly, it was celebrated to commemorate their entry into the Promised Land, where also they ate bread, after having been fed with manna forty years in the desert. Therefore, on this day they offered to God a sacrifice of bread prepared with new wheat. Finally, they also celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles from the 15th to the 22nd of 'the seventh month,' which corresponds roughly to our September. During this time, they lived in booths made of branches in commemoration of the forty years they spent in the desert, living in tabernacles, that is, in tents (Ex. 12:10-20; Lev. 23 LXX). "

The Feast of Mid-Pentecost is celebrated for an entire week until the following Wednesday, making it an eight day feast. During this entire time the hymns of Mid-Pentecost are joined with that of Pascha. Because of the theme of water, traditionally the Church celebrates the Lesser Blessing of the Waters on this day, preferably with a procession with the Holy Cross to a water spring.

The theme of the feast not only invokes water, but even more central to the Gospel chronology it honors Christ as Teacher and Wisdom as He reveals Himself between the stories of the Paralytic and that of the Blind Man. During this time we are told: "Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught...Jesus answered them, and said, 'My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself'" (John 7:14-30). The icon

for this feast depicts the young Jesus teaching the elders in the Temple (Luke 2:46, 47) at which time Jesus first revealed Himself as a teacher or rabbi. Traditional Orthodox icons will depict Jesus as larger than the elders, showing his superior spiritual status.

Since the hymns of the Church invoke and praise our Lord as the Wisdom of God spoken of in the Book of Proverbs, it is traditional that all churches named after Holy Wisdom or Hagia Sophia celebrate their feast on this day. In fact, Greek scholar Constantine Kalokyre has written a study titled "The Churches of the Wisdom of God and the Date of their Celebration", which appeared in the periodical Saint Gregory Palamas, no. 71 (723) (1988), pp. 538-617. In this study he comes to the conclusion that the Great Church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople celebrated its feast day on Mid-Pentecost.

Source: <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/04/feast-of-mid-pentecost-and.html>

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Paschal Greeting in French:

Le Christ est réssuscité!
(En verite il est réssuscité!)

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Paschal Greeting in Arabic:

El Messieh kahm! (Hakken kahm!)

+ + + + +

Paschal Greeting in Slovak:

Christos vstal z mŕtvych!
(Vpravde vstal z mŕtvych!)

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Paschal Greeting in Gaelic:

Taw creest ereen! (Taw shay ereen guhdyne!)

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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!

Language	Greeting	Response
Alutuq:	Khris-tusaq ung-uixtuq!	Pijii-nuq ung-uixtuq!
Amharic:	Kristos tenestwal!	Bergit tenestwal!
Anglo-Saxon:	Crist aras!	Crist sodhlice aras!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav ee merelotz!	Orhnial 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!
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 réssuscité!	En verite il est réssuscité!
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!
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 voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha!	Satvam upastitaha!
Serbian:	Hristos vaskrse!	Vaistunu vaskrse!

Language	Greeting	Response
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

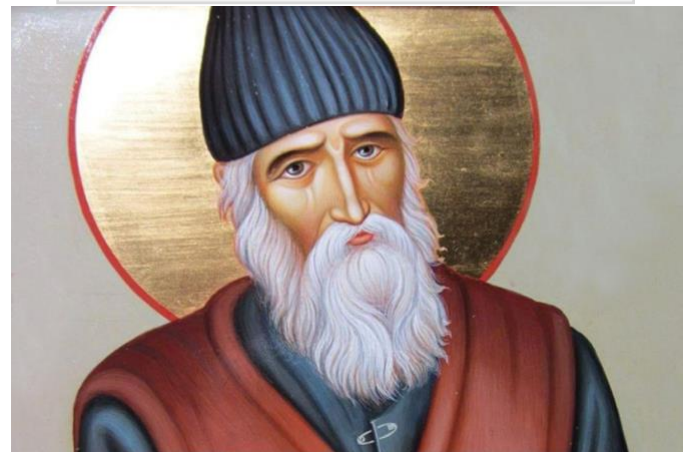
THE RIGHTEOUS SAINT TABITHA

Commemorated on 4th Sunday of Pascha, October 25

The Righteous Saint Tabitha (I), a virtuous and kindly woman, belonged to the Christian community in Joppa. Being grievously ill, she happened to be dying. At the time not far from Joppa, the Apostle Peter was preaching at Lydda. Messengers were sent to him with an urgent request for help. When the apostle arrived at Joppa, Tabitha was already dead. On bended knee, the First-Ranked Apostle Peter made a fervent prayer to the Lord. Then he went to the bed and called out: "Tabitha, arise!" She got up completely healed (Acts 9: 36).

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS



The most powerful prayer and deliverance from evil is humility. When we ask for forgiveness, we humble ourselves, and when we humble ourselves, the devil's power disappears at that moment.

St. Paisios of Mount Athos

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Spiritual Vitamin:

“God wants us, above all, to be happy and to enjoy inner peace. God is not a tyrant who pesters and intimidates us, but instead he wants us to be free. The devil is very crafty. He is constantly trying to find a weak spot in everybody. Guarding your mind and your thoughts is the most important thing. Satan’s handiwork is to constantly put malicious and damaging thoughts in people’s minds.”

- Sayings by +St. Paisios

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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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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Upcoming Orthodox Food Festivals:

- **May 5-10** – St Nicholas (419 S Dithridge St., Pittsburgh) *Greek*
- **May 9** – St Vladimir (73 S. 18th St., Pittsburgh) *Ukrainian*
- **June 8-12** – All Saints (601 West McMurray Rd., Canonsburg) *Greek*
- **June 11-13** – Koimissis (2111 Davidson St., Aliquippa) *Greek*
- **June 15-19** – Holy Cross (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh) *Greek*
- **June 26-28** – Holy Dormition (12 Washington Ave., Oakmont) *Greek*

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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 (**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, MAY 3

4th Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Paralytic
9:20 am Paschal Canon
9:30 am Divine Liturgy Worship Service
Church School

TUESDAY, MAY 5

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers
Lesser Blessing of Water

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST & FEAST OF ST. GEORGE
9:20 am Paschal Canon
9:30 am Divine Liturgy Worship Service

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SUNDAY, MAY 10, *MOTHER'S DAY*

5th Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan Woman
9:20 am Paschal Canon
9:30 pm Divine Liturgy
Monthly Memorial (Panachida) for +Floyd Wensel (5/1), +Stephen Pitto (5/2), +Eleanor Sanger (5/2), God loving Bishop +Matthias Morriak (5/4), +William George, the Priest (5/5), +Raphael Sotak, the Priest (5/5), +Mary Creedon Donley (5/16), God loving Bishop +Methodios Kanchuha (5/16), God loving Bishop +Peter Shymansky (5/17), +Jeffrey Mustovic (5/22), +Elaine Talley (2023), +William Talley (2019)

** please let Fr Dave know if someone is missing*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

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

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SUNDAY, MAY 17

6th Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Man Born Blind
9:20 am Paschal Canon
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Youth Sunday
Church School
Putting the tomb away during Coffee Social

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

APODOSIS (LEAVE-TAKING) OF PASCHA
6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers

THURSDAY, MAY 21

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

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SUNDAY, MAY 24

7th Sunday of Pascha: Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

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

ALL-SOUL'S SATURDAY, MAY 30 (*Zadušna Subota*)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy, Panachida, and reading the Commemoration Diptychs (*5th of 5*)

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SUNDAY, MAY 31

FEAST OF PENTECOST, TRINITY SUNDAY, THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (RUSALJA)

9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Liturgical Color: **Green**
Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost following Liturgy
Church School

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

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

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

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

Check back later...

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FEAST DAY FEATURE

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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May Namedays:

Robert Fall - St Robert, Abbot of Blois (5/8)
Mark Tongel - St. Mark the Evangelist (5/8)

Renee Mirilovich - Great-martyr Irene (5/18)
Christopher Bowser; Kris Carlisle, Reader; Christopher Kubis
- Martyr Christopher (5/22)
...May God grant them many and blessed years!
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May Birthdays:

Oberon O’Koon-Latuch (5/2), Anna Dzdony (5/3), Fr
Matthew Stagon (5/4), Donald Bodnar (5/6), Fr Thomas
Soroka (5/6), Ethan Gogal (5/7), Ella Kovats (5/9), Jillian
Gaydos (5/14), Robert Mozes (5/16), Pañi Alexandra Urban
(5/16), Natasha Kretchek (5/19), Patrick Wertz (5/19), Linda
Gavulich (5/20), Elias Mainolfi (5/24), Kira Fischer (5/24),
Luca Paganico (5/24), Alexander Hanchulak (5/27), Fr
Jonathan Tobias (5/27)
...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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May Anniversaries:

Lynn and Joseph Mainolfi (5/6/06)
Father’s Godparents, Dick & Andrea Babbie (5/7)
Father’s Best Man, Joe & Sarah Lavra (5/7)
Derek and Ashley (Wertz) Andrekovich (5/16)
Melissa & Christopher Ditmore (5/17)
Fr Dave’s Ordination to the Priesthood (5/17)
Ernest & Claudia (Herbert) Pido (5/19)
Fr Dave & Pañi Alexandra (5/25)
Jim & Katherine Schrmack (5/26)
...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days
of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!
+++ +++ +++

For Pregnant Mothers...

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.
+++ +++ +++

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!*)

+++ +++ +++