

“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 17, 2026 VOL. XI

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

+Holy Virgin Pelagia

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

7:30 pm Orthodoxy 101: "Fullness of Faith" video

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

*** **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy *** Note The Time Change

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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

Liturgical Color: **White**

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36; Gospel: John 17:1-13

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*)

changing from white to green following service

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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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THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN IS SPONSORED

for the health of Pañi Alexandra Urban on her 50th birthday.

May God grant her many years! Mnohaya Lita! La Mułti Ani!

Christ is risen! Christos voskrese! Hristos a înviat!

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*** **Parish Pirate Game** – For a few reasons, we did not get tickets for Faith Night this year. Our rescheduled Parish Pirate Game will be on **Sunday, June 28 at 1:35**. The Family Fun Zone on Federal Street starts after our Divine



Liturgy. We are reserving seats in Section 311 (picture shows the view from the seats). Tickets will be \$30 each and will come with a \$10 credit towards food or merchandise AND for kids under 14 - it's an Eat'n Park Smiley Cookie Giveaway game! Also, plan to stay after the game for Kids Run the Bases. Please order and pay for your tickets with Cindy by Sunday, June 14. Let's Go Bucs!

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** **CABINS ARE STILL AVAILABLE for 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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** **Camp Nazareth July 26 – August 1** - Registration is open at www.campnazareth.org to register your child(ren) (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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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 207
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 272
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 190
Community Outreach:	\$ 5
Total Collections:	\$ 674
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 359
Participating Souls at - <i>Sunday Liturgy</i> : 37	

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

The **Christ Candle Cross** was offered last week by Tim Martin in memory of his departed Mother, Godmother, and grandmothers. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Christ is risen!

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The **Eternal Lamp** was offered last week by Cindy Pavilonis IMO her departed mother and grandmothers. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

This month, at the request of local hierarchs, we will be collecting donations to benefit **The Saint Constantine School** (<https://pittsburgh.saintconstantine.org/>). As the only Orthodox primary and secondary school in the area, it provides a vital ministry to our parishioners and the to the wider community offering a high-quality education steeped and formed in our Orthodox Christian faith. While we tend to think of the school as directly benefitting only its own students, all our parishes gain when we have better formed and more knowledgeable parishioners coming out from the school to help lead our communities. There will be an additional offering requested on our regular last Sunday of the month.

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Acts 16: 16–34

Paul and Silas in Prison

¹⁶As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. ¹⁷She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; ²⁰and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. ²¹They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." ²²The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. ³³And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. ³⁴Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

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Gospel: John 9: 1–38

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

⁹As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Silo'am" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." ¹⁰They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Silo'am and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. ¹⁵The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. ¹⁷So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if any one should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.

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PRAYER CORNER

For the Health of... Mitchell (father), Cali, Lori, Melanie, Patti, Melissa, Mary, Maxine, Evelyn, Theresa, Janet, Matthew, Trona, Mioara, Tatiana, 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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ONLINE BONUSES

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

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

"If you wish, you can be a slave of passions, and if you wish, you can remain free and not submit to their yoke; for God has created you with that power."
+St. Anthony the Great
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LIVING THE ORTHODOX FAITH

Mental Health Ministries

on www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/mentalhealth/
An initiative to identify and respond to the mental health needs of Orthodox Christian faithful.

The website includes:

- ✦ Directory of Orthodox Christian Mental Health Professionals
- ✦ Peace of Mind: a composite training program on mental health crisis response, that includes:
 - a clinically-based course (Mental Health First Aid™, owned by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing)
 - augmented by a theologically-based presentation developed by the Assembly of Bishops
- ✦ Resources on Faith and Mental Health

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Estair Kotsagrellos (5/8), +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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CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD,
TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH
AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!

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An Orthodox Prayer For Mental Health

O Master, Lord my God, in Whose hands is my destiny: Help me according to Your mercy, and leave me not to perish in my transgressions, nor allow me to follow them who place desires of the flesh over those of the spirit. I am Your creation; disdain not the work of Your hands. Turn not away; be compassionate and humiliate me not, neither scorn me, O Lord, as I am weak. I have fled unto You as my Protector and God. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You. Save me for Your mercy's sake, for I have cleaved unto You from my youth; let me who seeks You not be put to shame by being rejected by You for my unclean actions, unseemly thoughts, and unprofitable remembrances. Drive away from me every filthy thing and excess of evil. For You alone are holy, alone mighty, and alone immortal, in all things having unexcelled might, which, through You, is given to all that strive against the devil and the might of his armies. For unto You is due all glory, honor and worship: To the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

1 In 4 People Suffer From A Mental Illness

Please check in on your friends and family - you never know who may be suffering in silence

MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION
MENTALHEALTHFOUNDATION.ORG

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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.

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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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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 Japanese:

Harisutosu fukkatsu! (ハリストス復活)

Jitsu ni fukkatsu! (実に復活)

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Paschal Greeting in Hawaiian:

Ua ala hou 'o Kristo! *(Ua ala 'I'o no 'oia!)*

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Paschal Greeting in Greek:

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

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Paschal Greeting in Albanian:

Krishti U Ngjall! *(Vertet U Ngjall!)*

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Paschal Greeting in Arabic:

El Messieh kahm! *(Hakken kahm!)*

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Paschal Greeting in Spanish:

¡Cristo ha resucitado! *(¡En verdad ha resucitado!)*

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Paschal Greeting in Turkish:

Hristos diril - di! *(Hakikaten diril - di!)*

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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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Paschal Greeting in Italian:

Cristo è risorto! *(È veramente risorto!)*

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Paschal Greeting in French:

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

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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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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS



If we approach with faith, we too will see Jesus... for the Eucharistic table takes the place of the crib. Here the Body of the Lord is present, wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in the rays of the Holy Spirit.

St. John Chrysostom

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY VIRGIN PELAGIA

Commemorated on May 16 / 4

The Holy Virgin Pelagia lived during the III Century in the city of Tarsis in the Cilician district of Asia Minor. She was the daughter of illustrious pagans and when she heard preaching from her Christian acquaintances about Jesus Christ the Son of God, she believed in Him and desired to preserve her chastity, dedicating her whole life to the Lord. The heir of emperor Diocletian (a youth adopted by him), having seen the maiden Pelagia, was captivated by her beauty and wanted to take her to be his wife. But the holy virgin told the youth, that she was betrothed to the Immortal Bridegroom, – the Son of God, and therefore she had renounced earthly marriage. This

answer of Pelagia caused great anger in the imperial youth, but he decided to leave her in peace for awhile, hoping, that she would change her frame of mind. This same while Pelagia convinced her mother to send her off to her nurse who had raised her in childhood – secretly hoping to locate the bishop of Tarsis Klinon, who had fled to a mountain during a time of persecution against Christians, and to accept Holy Baptism from him. In a dream vision there appeared the form of the bishop – Klinon, profoundly impressing itself upon her memory. Saint Pelagia set off to her nurse in a chariot, in rich clothes and accompanied by a whole retinue of servants, as her mother had desired her to. Along the way Saint Pelagia, through some particular ordering of events by God, met bishop Klinon. Pelagia immediately recognised the bishop, whose image had appeared to her in the dream. She fell at his feet, requesting baptism. At the prayer of the bishop there flowed from the ground a spring of water. Bishop Klinon made the sign of the cross over Saint Pelagia, and during the time of the mystery (sacrament) Angels appeared and covered the chosen one of God with a bright mantle. Having communed the pious virgin with the Holy Mysteries, bishop Klinon raised himself up in prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord together with her, and then sent her off to continue her journey. Having returned to the servants awaiting her, Saint Pelagia preached to them about Christ, and many of them were converted and believed. She tried to convert her own mother to faith in Christ, but the obdurate woman sent a message to the imperial youth, – that Pelagia was a Christian and did not wish to be his spouse. The youth comprehended that Pelagia was lost for him, and not wishing to give her over to torture, he fell upon his sword. Pelagia's mother thereupon became fearful of the wrath of the emperor, tied her daughter and led her to the court of Diocletian as being a Christian and also the probable cause of the death of the heir to the throne. The emperor was captivated by the unusual beauty of the maiden and tried to sway her from her faith in Christ, promising her every earthly blessing and to make her his own wife. But the holy maiden refused the offer of the emperor with contempt and said: "Thou art insane, emperor, telling me such a speech. Know, that I wilt not do thine bidding, and I loathe thy vile marriage, since I have a Bridegroom – Christ, the King of Heaven. I desire not thy imperial, worldly, short-durated crowns, since my Lord in the Heavenly Kingdom has prepared for me three imperishable crowns. The first for faith – since I have believed with all my heart in the True God; the second for purity – because I have entrusted to Him my virginity; the third for martyrdom – since I want to accept for Him every suffering and to offer up my soul because of my love for Him". Diocletian thereupon sentenced Pelagia to be burnt in a glowing red-hot copper oven. Not permitting the executioners to touch her body, the holy martyress herself – signing herself with the sign of the cross, went with a prayer into the red-hot oven – in which her flesh melted like myrrh, filling all the city with fragrance; the bones of Saint Pelagia remained unharmed and were removed by the pagans to outside the city. Four lions then came from out of the wilderness and sat around the bones – letting get at them neither bird nor wild beast. The lions protected the remains of the saint until such time as bishop Klinon came to that place. He gathered them up and buried them with honour. During the reign of emperor Constantine (306-337), when the persecutions against Christians had

stopped, there was built a church at the place of burial of Saint Pelagia.

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ADDITIONAL BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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*** **Expanding Library** – The Lending Library in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) is expanding. Is there an Orthodox subject that you are interested in (i.e. Church History, Theology, Lives of the Saints, Liturgics, etc.)? Please let Fr Dave know and he will set up that section of the library first.

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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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** **Caring for Others through Visitation Ministry** – A ministry of caring is an important part of parish life. Join us on **Sunday, June 28 (New Date)** 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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* **Jack R. Scherer Memorial Fundraiser for Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention** – On **Sunday, September 6**, (Labor Day Weekend) 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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* **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:

- **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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COFFEE SOCIAL STEWARDS

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

May 24 (*Memorial Day*): ___?___, ___?___, ___?___, ___?___
 May 31 (*Pentecost*): ___?___, ___?___, ___?___, ___?___
 June 7 (*Graduate Sunday*): ___?___, ___?___, ___?___, ___?___

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* **Icon Workshops** – Archangel Icons-Michael Kapeluck is offering five Intensive Icon Workshops in 2026 (**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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* **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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*** **Church Etiquette: Appropriate dress** is expected for all services in the church and is especially true of the Divine Liturgy. Consider the Divine Liturgy like going to a wedding. Our present culture assumes that casual dress is appropriate in nearly all events or situations; however, this attitude is not appropriate for us as Christians. We ask for wisdom from the Holy Spirit to dress our lives with the virtue of Jesus Christ and entertain modesty always; our Faith is never to be approached with a casual attitude. We ask those in attendance to respect one another with modesty, which is first expressed in the heart of the individual, worn within, and expressed in our dress. Please avoid casual dress, clothing with writing and logos, shorts, sports T-shirts, shoes that light up etc, and be covered appropriately.

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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
7:30 pm Orthodoxy 101: "Fullness of Faith" video

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)

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
7:30 pm Orthodoxy 101: "Fullness of Faith" video

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*)
changing from white to green following service
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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:

- **Jun. 1-6** – Fast Free Week
- **Jun. 5-7** – Family Camp at Camp Nazareth
- **Jun. 7** – Family Day at Camp Nazareth
- **Jun. 7** – Graduate Sunday
- **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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* **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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* **Different Coffee Social Approach:** 4 people bring 1 item each. *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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Giving at the Church – The opportunities to give your stewardship treasures at SJB are to:

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

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

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Financial Reports	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
Sunday Average Participation	62	43

* detailed report is on the bulletin board in the hall

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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 Treasures Guide

My Income			My Weekly Giving											
Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe			Taking a Step Up								
			15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$ 40,000	\$ 3,333	\$ 760	\$ 115	\$ 92	\$ 77	\$ 69	\$ 62	\$ 54	\$ 48	\$ 38	\$ 31	\$ 23	\$ 15	\$ 8
\$ 60,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,154	\$ 173	\$ 138	\$ 115	\$ 104	\$ 92	\$ 81	\$ 69	\$ 58	\$ 46	\$ 35	\$ 23	\$ 12
\$ 80,000	\$ 6,667	\$ 1,538	\$ 231	\$ 185	\$ 154	\$ 138	\$ 123	\$ 108	\$ 92	\$ 77	\$ 62	\$ 46	\$ 31	\$ 15
\$ 100,000	\$ 8,333	\$ 1,923	\$ 288	\$ 231	\$ 192	\$ 173	\$ 154	\$ 135	\$ 115	\$ 96	\$ 77	\$ 58	\$ 38	\$ 19
\$ 120,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,308	\$ 346	\$ 277	\$ 231	\$ 208	\$ 185	\$ 162	\$ 138	\$ 115	\$ 92	\$ 69	\$ 46	\$ 23
\$ 140,000	\$ 11,667	\$ 2,692	\$ 404	\$ 323	\$ 269	\$ 242	\$ 215	\$ 188	\$ 162	\$ 135	\$ 108	\$ 81	\$ 54	\$ 27
\$ 160,000	\$ 13,333	\$ 3,077	\$ 462	\$ 369	\$ 308	\$ 277	\$ 246	\$ 215	\$ 185	\$ 154	\$ 123	\$ 92	\$ 62	\$ 31
\$ 180,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 3,462	\$ 519	\$ 415	\$ 346	\$ 312	\$ 277	\$ 242	\$ 208	\$ 173	\$ 138	\$ 104	\$ 69	\$ 35
\$ 200,000	\$ 16,667	\$ 3,846	\$ 577	\$ 462	\$ 385	\$ 346	\$ 308	\$ 269	\$ 231	\$ 192	\$ 154	\$ 115	\$ 77	\$ 38
\$ 220,000	\$ 18,333	\$ 4,231	\$ 635	\$ 508	\$ 423	\$ 381	\$ 338	\$ 296	\$ 254	\$ 212	\$ 169	\$ 127	\$ 85	\$ 42
\$ 240,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 4,615	\$ 692	\$ 554	\$ 462	\$ 415	\$ 369	\$ 323	\$ 277	\$ 231	\$ 185	\$ 138	\$ 92	\$ 46
\$ 260,000	\$ 21,667	\$ 5,000	\$ 750	\$ 600	\$ 500	\$ 448	\$ 400	\$ 352	\$ 304	\$ 256	\$ 208	\$ 160	\$ 112	\$ 56
\$ 280,000	\$ 23,333	\$ 5,385	\$ 808	\$ 648	\$ 538	\$ 485	\$ 431	\$ 377	\$ 323	\$ 269	\$ 215	\$ 162	\$ 108	\$ 54
\$ 300,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,769	\$ 865	\$ 692	\$ 577	\$ 519	\$ 462	\$ 404	\$ 346	\$ 288	\$ 231	\$ 173	\$ 115	\$ 58
\$ 350,000	\$ 29,167	\$ 6,731	\$ 1,010	\$ 808	\$ 673	\$ 606	\$ 538	\$ 471	\$ 404	\$ 337	\$ 269	\$ 202	\$ 135	\$ 67
\$ 400,000	\$ 33,333	\$ 7,692	\$ 1,154	\$ 923	\$ 769	\$ 692	\$ 615	\$ 538	\$ 462	\$ 385	\$ 308	\$ 231	\$ 154	\$ 77

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1. Find where you are on the chart (*your income & giving*).
2. Move one block to the left to determine what Grow One % would be for you.

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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 Outreaches *...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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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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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!

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For Pregnant Mothers...

Leland (due in June), 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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