

*14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8/25/24*

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) For the Parish Family

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Dolores Weiss (req. by Christine Skidmore)

11:00 AM (E) ✨ George Adams, Sr. (req. by Sally Bojarski)

*BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST 8/29/24*

Thursday: 6:30 PM (E) Friend ✨ Igor (req. by Oleksii Fedunyshyn)

*15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9/1/24*

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✨ John Dorich (req. by neighbors)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Paul and ✨ Ethel Pangratz (req. by Paul &amp; Doris Pangratz)

11:00 AM (E) For the Parish Family

**OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:**

08/18/24

**\$555.00****CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD AUGUST COLLECTION – Relish***Proverbs 14:31 – “Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God.”***EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION**

God with Us Eastern Catholic Formation is the official catechetical apostolate of the Eastern Catholic Bishops of the United States. The website address is: [www.godwithusononline.org](http://www.godwithusononline.org) This website now makes available radio podcasts, online lectures, a monthly newsletter, books and other education materials which serve to promote a better understanding of Eastern Catholics and their expression of the Catholic faith in the United States. The resource material on this website is constantly updated or changed to better meet the needs of its users.

**UNIONTOWN PILGRIMAGE – Saturday & Sunday, August 31 and September 1**

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great invite you to the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help of Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA. In 1934 Pope Pius XI gave an icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to the Sisters of St. Basil and asked them to spread devotion to the Mother of God under this title. More information is available at [www.sistersofstbasil.org](http://www.sistersofstbasil.org). *Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Our Rock, Our Refuge and Our Strength.*

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Byzantine Catholic Archdiocese of Pittsburgh in 1924, a Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by Archbishop William and Bishops Kurt and Robert on Saturday, October 12, at 10:30 AM in the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. Later that day at 6:00 PM a banquet will be held at Epiphany of Our Lord Church, Annandale, Virginia. More information can be found at [www.archpitt.org](http://www.archpitt.org).

**BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST – August 29**

Jewish King Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, who ordered the massacre of the children of Bethlehem, dismissed his first wife and unlawfully cohabited with Herodias, the wife of his brother, Philip. St. John the Forerunner, publicly rebuked Herod for the scandal he was giving; and for this, he had to pay with his life. Herodias took revenge on him in a foul manner, by inducing Herod to have him beheaded.

*Clearing Out Clutter*

We lead very cluttered lives. Whether it is junk mail, junk e-mail, the junk in our personal spaces (homes, offices, vehicles), we have too much junk! Junk detracts us from doing what really needs to get done.

Junk can affect us emotionally. If we carry excess “baggage,” whether it be anger, anxiety, fear, or other negative emotions, it can negatively affect the quality of our lives.

We need to take time from our busy lives to rid ourselves of the “junk” that separates us from God, and to go to our own “private place” with Him, to be rejuvenated. For some, that “place” may be a church, for others a scenic meadow, for still others, their private room. Wherever that “place” may be, in order to be spiritually healthy, we need to visit it frequently to find God’s will for us in our lives. Only there, can peace be found. However, we need to make the first step to separate ourselves from the busy-ness of our lives. We need to clear out the “junk” in our lives to make a space for God so that He may fill us with His Presence and lead us on the paths of righteousness. The first step is ours, not God’s, to take.

**REFRESHING DEW**

The dew is a source of freshness. It is nature’s provision for renewing the face of the earth. It falls at night, and without it, vegetation would die. It is this great renewal value of the dew that is so often recognized in the Scriptures and used as a symbol of spiritual refreshment. Just as nature is bathed in dew, the Lord renews His people. In Titus 3:5, the same thought of spiritual refreshment is connected with the ministry of the Holy Spirit and referred to as “renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

Dew will never appear while there is either heat or wind. The temperature must fall, the wind cease, and the air come to a point of coolness and rest – absolute rest – before the invisible particles of moisture will become dew to dampen any plant or flower. The grace of God does not come forth to bring rest and renewal to our soul until we completely reach the point of stillness before Him.

**FROM THE DESERT FATHERS**

There is rich symbolism in the pruning process when applied to Christian life. Pruning seems to be destroying the vine and the gardener appears to be cutting everything away. Yet he sees the future and knows that the final result will be a healthier vine and a greater abundance of fruit.

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***JESUS PRAYER** – Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner*