



# All Saints Greek Orthodox Church

3528 West Street ~ P.O. Box 128 ~ Weirton, WV 26062

Phone: (304) 797-9884 ~ Fax: (304) 797-1725

Web: [www.allstswv.org](http://www.allstswv.org) ~ Office E-mail: [office@allstswv.org](mailto:office@allstswv.org)

Rev. Fr. Frank A. Milanese, Priest ~ E-mail: [priest@allstswv.org](mailto:priest@allstswv.org)



March 31, 2020

Dear parishioners and friends of All Saints Church,

By now, you have received the April Vineyard and hopefully have read through it, noting the changes to our Lenten service schedule and encouragement to “virtually attend” services from those churches in our area that are live-streaming their services on the Internet and by other means. We want to assure you that even though All Saints Church does not have this capability, we are celebrating services under the guidelines and restrictions of the State and Federal government as well as the directives from our Metropolis of Pittsburgh and the Archdiocese of America.

As the Covid-19 Coronavirus continues to spread across the United States, President Trump has extended the federal “Stay-at-home” directive through at least the end of April. This means that any April services held in our churches will still be closed to all parishioners except those necessary to conduct the services, including Holy Week and Pascha.

While we are dealing with these troubling times, we want to assure you that church services will continue throughout Lent, Holy Week and Pascha. The power of prayer is our strongest defense against all types of adversity.

Through the previous weeks, a number of churches throughout the Archdiocese have created a way for your prayer needs to be offered in church through a "virtual candle" initiative. If you would like to have candles lit for loved ones (either deceased or living), please send us the following:

1. Your list of names of living and departed listed separately
2. How many candles and whether you want the regular or 7 day candles
3. A donation to cover the cost of the candles

Once we receive your names and your candle donation, we will have someone here at the church lighting the candles for you and I will offer your names in prayer for your loved ones.

Checks should be made payable to:

**All Saints Greek Orthodox Church**

Memoed: Virtual Candles

Mail your checks to:

All Saints Greek Orthodox Church

3528 West Street, Box 128

Weirton, WV 26062

You may also submit your stewardship payment the same way (please indicate in the memo that this check is for Stewardship). While this is not about money, *your donations are appreciated as our church is only sustained through your generosity, especially with the impact of indefinite church closure.*

As we know, many of us have relatives that are not Orthodox. Within the petitions of the Divine Liturgy, we indeed pray for the whole world. However, for those who are Eastern Orthodox, we have the special privilege of offering their names for commemoration during the preparation of the Holy Gifts that will be offered for the Divine Liturgy. Before the Divine Liturgy, I offer a service called the Proskomidi which is a service that basically prepares the gifts (the bread and wine). During that service I commemorate the Orthodox names of both the living and of those departed by cutting a morsel of bread for each name and I place them on the patten.

Immediately after Holy Communion is distributed to our faithful, the priest takes all the dedicated morsels of bread (for the living and departed) and pours them into the chalice containing the Body and Blood of Christ offering the following prayer: *"Wash away, O Lord, by Your holy Blood, the sins of all those commemorated, through the intercessions of the Theotokos and all Your saints. Amen."* It really is an amazing connection I share with you as your priest while offering the Divine Liturgy.

If possible, please email your names to me at [priest@allstswvv.org](mailto:priest@allstswvv.org) (first names only. No nicknames or last names or thea or theo.... just their first names). Please list them as Orthodox Living, Orthodox departed, Non-orthodox living and Non-orthodox departed. Also, please limit your names to your immediate family members for both the living and departed. If you don't have access to a computer or cell phone that allows you to send E-mail, then either type your names or **print very clearly** your names on the enclosed form and mail them to the church.

Simply list them like:

<u>Orthodox Living</u>	<u>Orthodox Departed</u>	<u>Non-Orthodox Living</u>	<u>Non-Orthodox Departed</u>
John	Anna	Fred	Steve
Joanne	Michael	Diane	Mary Beth
Mary	Demetrios		

Although our church will be without your physical presence during the coming weeks, please know that you can add your presence in a very powerful way by submitting names for commemoration, not just during this pandemic, but whenever you have need.

On behalf of Nick Tranto - Parish Council President, and Harry Psaros – Stewardship Committee, and with pastoral love and prayers for your health and safety during this national crisis I remain,

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Fr. Frank A Milanese

**“Virtual Candles” Name Form**

Please light a candle and pray for:

<u>Orthodox Living</u>	<u>Orthodox Departed</u>	<u>Non-Orthodox Living</u>	<u>Non-Orthodox Departed</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Beeswax Taper (suggested donation \$2.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_

7-Day Candle (suggested donation \$5.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal \$\_\_\_\_\_

Light candle(s) for the next \_\_\_\_\_ week (s) x Subtotal = Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, payable to: **All Saints Church** Memo: **Virtual Candles**

Submitted by: (your name) \_\_\_\_\_

***Remember that your donations toward the candles, toward your stewardship pledge or just general donations are appreciated as our church is only sustained through your generosity, especially with the impact of indefinite church closure.***

Mail form and checks to:  
 All Saints Greek Orthodox Church  
 3528 West Street, Box 128  
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