

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST OUTREACH

DECEMBER 2024



## ST. MARIA OF PARIS – OUR NEW PATRON SAINT

St. Maria Skobtsova of Paris, our Outreach patron saint, was born in Latvia in 1891 and like many of the pre-Revolutionary Russian intelligentsia, she was an atheist and a political radical in her youth. She gradually came to accept the truths of the Faith and with a small community of fellow-believers, she established “houses of hospitality” for the poor, the homeless, the alcoholic and mentally ill. As Nazi persecution of Jews in France increased, her work expanded to include protection and care of the most helpless. It is believed that Mother Maria’s last act was to take the place of a Jewish woman who was being sent to death in the gas chambers, voluntarily dying in her place. St. Maria was one of the great saints of the last century. May St. Maria intercede for our us.



Julianna Cario, Tryphon Kennedy, Nicholas Likiardopoulos, Lorie Strennen, Matushka Myra Oleynik, Reader John Thompson, Meredith Bonasso, Matushka Pam Onest, and Brandon Hensley --- Julie Simko & Marcie Killmeyer (not pictured)

## WHO ARE WE?

Do you enjoy meeting new people and sharing the beauty of our faith through service? Then, think about joining our ministry or helping with a specific task of interest (big or small) this year. Talk to Julianna Cario, our chair, or any member of the Committee to learn more or to share new ideas. We usually meet after Coffee Hour on the 3rd Sun. of the month.

Please pray for the Outreach Committee and get to know us!



## PARISH BOOKSTORE ON THE ROAD

Reader John Thompson and his team of parish volunteers once again sponsored a booth at the Canonsburg Oktoberfest (Sept. 20–21) AND at the Pumpkinfest (Oct. 11–13) in nearby Houston, PA. It was a joy to meet members of our nearby communities and to chat about Orthodoxy.

Our Parish Bookstore is available year round and is filled with books for all ages. There are also many books available upstairs in our parish library to browse and borrow.

## NEW SLAT WALL

Outreach purchased the new slat walls in our stairwell. Take a minute to stop and learn more about our parish ministries. Where might your talents lead you? Thank you to Reader Anthony Cario and his father for hanging it and to the “O” Club for donating the brochures!





# WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?

## SPEAKER SERIES

We schedule and fund SIX  
"Light from the Church on the Hill"  
guest speakers each year.  
Stay tuned for our 2025 schedule  
Bring a friend!



Outreach and fellow parishioners served  
over 1000 cups of FREE hot chocolate during the  
Canonsburg Christmas Days/Nights in early December

## OCL NEWS

- Outreach sponsored a table for 10 again this year for interested parishioners who wanted to attend the "Network for Life" annual banquet at The Westin in Pittsburgh.
- Our OCL ministry's Fall Diaper Drive received \$50 cash, 3,934 diapers, 84 pkgs of wipes, 5 cans of formula, lots of hangers and baby clothing which we shared with Genesis in Washington



**ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE.  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

- We surprise our college students during finals with gifts cards and care packages several times a year.
- In 2025 we'd like to expand our efforts to Orthodox Christian Fellowships at local colleges. Please see Reader John Thompson if you'd like to help with this new endeavor. For more info... ocf.net
- We welcome newly received Orthodox Christians with a light reception and gift on their Baptism/Chrismation Day.
- Outreach coordinates our parish food collection and drop-offs to the Washington County Food Helpers. Thanks to our parish, we've donated apx. 3000 lbs of food & \$2000 in monetary donations! God bless you!!!

Outreach mails copies of the Forerunner each week to our homebound parishioners and coordinates visits and caroling to their homes and healthcare facilities.

Thank you to the Junior "O" Club  
for generously filling gift bags again  
for us to deliver.



### PLEASE NOTE...

Everyone is welcome to  
join us for caroling **TODAY**.  
See Diane Yarosh for time & schedule.

**You'll be so glad you did!**

## HOMEBOUND CONNECTIONS

