

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church



100th Anniversary

THE FORERUNNER

St John the Baptist Orthodox Church - 211 Cable Avenue – East Pittsburgh, PA 15112
 HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN GREGORY OF NYSSA
 American Carpatho-Russian Diocese-Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
 The Very Reverend Protopresbyter Joseph Fester Rectory: 412-824-0246
 Mobile: 412-607-7039 Email: protopresbyterjoseph@gmail.com Website: www.sjbeastpitt.org –
 Facebook: @stjohneastpitt
 Subdeacon Gary Grysiak, Cantor; Reader Justin Rosco, Choir Director;
 Ron Kitsko, Parish Council President

SUNDAY SERVICES STREAMED LIVE ON FB <https://www.facebook.com/stjohneastpitt>

3 Sunday	4 Monday	5 Tuesday	6 Wednesday	7 Thursday	8 Friday	9 Saturday
Holy Fathers 9:00 Divine Liturgy Group 1	Forefeast of Nativity	Forefeast of Nativity	Nativity Eve 9am Vespers Liturgy 7pm Nativity Vigil	Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh 9am Festal Liturgy	Synaxis of the Theotokos 9am Festal Liturgy	5pm Great Vespers/Confessions
FAST DAY	FAST DAY	FAST DAY	STRICT FAST DAY	FAST FREE	FAST FREE	FAST FREE

WE SAY- to all who are with us today at St. John's for the first time, *you are welcome here!* We pray that you will consider making St. John's your spiritual home. Please join us after Liturgy downstairs for fellowship.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD- Sometimes we miss a Sunday and the opportunity to offer our financial gift to the Lord. If we do, *please catch up* with your gifts. Whether we are here or not, our parish bills continue. Thanks, and God bless!

Sunday, December 27, 2020 - Attendance 18 - Weekly Offering, \$765 - Building Fund, \$85 - Vigil Candles, \$129 - Needy Fund, \$150- Membership Dues, \$122 - Donation Candle Sand, \$40 - Bake Sale, \$20 - Christmas Flower and Candles, \$30 - Advance for Christmas Flowers, (\$125) - Total \$1216

THE 2021-Offering Envelopes are ready for pickup in the Church Hall. If you need our envelopes mailed or delivered or if you would like to pick them up during the week, please let Fr. Joseph know so we can make the necessary arrangements. You will notice that there is no longer a Parish Membership envelope. That is because we have moved to our Pledge System. There continues to be a Diocesan membership envelope. That amount is \$75 per adult member 18 and older.

O Master Who loves mankind, illuminate our hearts with the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our mind to understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, that we may overcome all carnal desires, entering upon a spiritual life and understanding and acting in all things according to Your holy will. For You are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, O Christ God, and to You we give glory together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS - <http://holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/index.htm>

Monday	Heb 11:17-23,27-31	Mark 9:42-10:1	Great-martyr Anastasia of Rome
Tuesday	Heb 12:25-26;13:22-25	Mark 10:2-12	St Nahum Enlightener of Bulgaria
Wednesday	Heb 1:1-12	Luke 2:1-20	Eve of the Nativity of Christ
Thursday	Gal 4:4-7	Matt 2:1-12	Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh
Friday	Heb 2:11-18	Matt 2:13-23	Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos
Saturday	Acts 6:8-15;7:1-5,47-48	Matt 21:33-42	Holy Protomartyr Stephen
Sunday	Gal 1:11-19	Matt 2:13-23	Sunday After Nativity Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, Holy Righteous David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

Please note that for all of these services listed, EVERYONE is invited!

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

8am Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (note time)
 7pm Vigil for the Feast of the Nativity followed by the singing of Christmas Carols
 Strict Fast Day

Thursday, January 7, 2021

9am Festal Liturgy for the Feast for the Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ in the Flesh
 Fast-free

Friday, January 8, 2021

Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity
 9am Festal Liturgy for the Synaxis of the Theotokos
 Fast-free

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS –Michael Kapeluck, our Iconographer, Thomas Planiczki, Josephine Sofelkanik, Michael Sterchak, John Edward Stagon, Kathryn Rogulin, Cathy Pervuznik, Wally Perkins, Gina Marie Gaspar, Dannette Wargo, Aubrey Welch, Marti and Cathilynn Baran, Annie Weiland, Fr Daniel Prez (Joe Monde’s brother), Fr. George Livanos, Fr. Patrick Carpenter, Fr Michael Hatrak, Michael O’Brien, Ann Weiland, Matushka Susanne Senyo, Pani Betty Baranik, Bob Pervuznik, Jr., Katina, Diane, Ernie, all healthcare and frontline workers and for all sick with COVID-19 virus. Please keep Father Joseph informed on changes to anyone’s health status so he can minister to them.

January Birthdays

Zachariah Kalaluhı 1/4, Rebecca Pervuznik 1/10, Kathy Fester 1/13, Teagan Olivia Mercer 1/17, Fr. Joseph Fester 1/19, Luke Grysiak 1/20, John Stagon Jr. 1/21, Maverick Andrew Yeagers 1/25, Elizabeth Buck, 1/30

Anniversary David & Christal Stagon

JANUARY MEMORIALS- Newly Departed- Fr John Baranik, William Evansky. One-Year; Robert Pervuznik, Sr., Michael Fitzurka, Perpetual - Eva Ruzanic, John Hreha, Katherine Fedak, John Uram Sr., Ann Uram, John Maskaly III, John Babich Sr, John & Florence Slaby, John Michalov, Ann Babich, John Bergel, Krestina Hopta, Helen Bires.

Fr Jacob Myers, John Sotak, Anna Hrenko, George Sidorwich, Sr., John Dugan, Jr., Olga Stepanic, Andrew Chernega, Sr., Katherine Fedak, Katherine Gollon, Wilburt Weidenhof, Tony Cvetnich, Andrew Kranik, Michael Drago, Paul Michalov, Michael Sabo, Ethel Havarar, John Solanik, Anna Regrut, Carl Hersak, Mary Stepanic, Gordon Danielson, Mary Pervuznik, Louis Matkowski, John Zenuh, John Hrenko, Ann Volk, Leslie Ptaszak, Anna Kuzemka

Make ready, O Bethlehem, for Eden is opened!
Prepare, Ephratha, for Adam and Eve are renewed!
Salvation enters the world and the curse is destroyed;
make ready, O hearts of righteous men!
Instead of myrrh, bring hymns as an offering of wisdom;
receive salvation and immortality of your souls and bodies!
Behold, the Master lying in the manger
urges us to complete our spiritual songs.
Let us cry out to Him unceasingly, //
“O Lord, glory to You!”

(From Vespers for the Forefeast of the Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh)

BECAUSE OF THE-increased cases of the COVID virus, home blessings this January will be postponed until both the vaccine has been distributed and taken by a significant percentage of our parish population and overall infection rates have gone down to acceptable levels. Once things are safer for all of us home blessings will commence.

**Candle Intentions-
Health**

Bires, Alice - Scott & Sharon
Bires, Alice - Benjamin
Bires, Alice - Happy Birthday Bob
Carlisle
Bires, Alice - Fr Will, Pani Iilena &
Children
Bires, Alice -Helen, David, Joseph
Bires, Alice -Wally
Bires, Alice - George
Bires, Alice - Annie Weiland
Bires, Alice - Abigail and Unborn Child
Bires, Alice - John E Stagon
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Luke & Alexis
Grysiak, Gary - Janet
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Benjamin
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Basil & Irene
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Deborah
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Burkett Family
-
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Josie
Sofelkanik
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Bob & Miryam
Knutson
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Wally Perkins
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - John E. Stagon
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Anthony
Macchiaroli
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Blessed 2021
Kiss, Marge - Jim, Lesa, Donna, Dorothy
Sabeh, Nancy - George
Sabeh, Nancy - Family
Stagon, George & Barbara - Fr. Matthew,
Pani Eleni, Seraphim, Luka, Harikila,
Xenia
Stagon, George & Barbara - Jeffery,
Nicole, Jillina Payton
Stagon, George & Barbara - Connie and
Tyler

Special Intentions

Alice Bires
Kudravy, Beth

Memory

Bires, Alice - Parents
Bires, Alice- Brother-in-law
Bires, Alice- Helen
Bires, Alice-Margie
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Mother, Helen
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Father, Charles
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Mother, Irene
Barney
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Father, Edward
Barney
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Metropolitan
Nicholas
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Bill Evansky
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - V.Rev. John
Baranik

Kudravy, Beth - Mom and Dad
Stagon, George & Barb- Parents, George,
Beatrice, Nicholas

AS YOU CAN SEE-if you are at church today or watching from home, we are now blessed to have our newest icon installed in the altar high place, the icon of the Communion of the Apostles. The icon was installed last Monday. We will be in contact with His Eminence to see if his schedule permits him to come and bless the icon. May God bless our iconographer, Michael Kapeluck and to all of you who contributed to this phase of our Church Beautification Project. And we would be remiss if we did not keep in our prayers the memories of Mary Alice Cole and Donald Pollock who also contributed from the legacy gifts from their estates to St. John's. May their memory be eternal!

In the **Orthodox Church "icons** have always been understood as a visible gospel, as a testimony to the great things given man by God the incarnate Logos". ... Further, Jesus Christ himself is called the "image of the invisible God" in Colossians 1:15, and is therefore in one sense an **icon**. Our new icon of the Communion of the Apostles is the visible manifestation and testimony not only of the Lord's Mystical Supper with His disciples but that we too partake of that never-ending Supper of the Lord when we partake of His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. And, being united with Him, in the Eucharist, we truly become His Children and Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!