

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;  
 Robert Pervuznik, Jr., Parish Council President

ALL SERVICES STREAMED LIVE ON [FB https://www.facebook.com/stjohneastpitt](https://www.facebook.com/stjohneastpitt)

13 Sunday -Group 1	14 Monday	15 Tuesday	16 Wednesday	17 Thursday	18 Friday	19 Saturday
12th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 Divine Liturgy Group2		7pm PC Meeting	7pm CCE CLASS  FAST DAY		FAST DAY	5pm Great Vespers/Confessions

**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, September 6, 2020 - Attendance 39 - Weekly Offering, \$1950 - Building Fund, \$85 - Needy Fund, \$133 - Icon Fund, \$500 - Vigil Candles, \$162, Membership Dues, \$266.- Total \$3105**

**WEDNESDAY-** our CCE class will continue its study of the Divine Liturgy.

**WE WELCOME-** Fr Prepelka today and thank him for serving Liturgy while Fr. Joseph is at Deacon Marc Winosky's ordination to the Priesthood at St Nicholas, Homestead.

**LOTS-A-LUCK-**calendar tickets to benefit the ACRY are now available at the check-in table in the Church. \$25 a ticket to win \$15,000. There is an envelope at the table to put your checks in. Many Thanks. If you have any questions, direct them to Bob Pervuznik, Jr.

**WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL!!!! - with contribution last week, we have reached our \$20,000 goal for Phase III of our Icon Project!** Many thanks to Michael O'Brien and Justin and Amanda Rosco for putting us over the top! God bless all of you for our generosity Please keep our iconographer, Michael Kapeluck in your prayers. We are almost at goal!

**MANY THANKS-**to everyone keeping up with their weekly support of St. John's God bless you.

*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	I Tim 2;1-7	Luke 4:16-22	Church New Year
Tuesday	Gal 2:11-3:7	Mark 5:24-6:7	Ven. Anthony & Theodosius of Kiev
Wednesday	Gal 3:15-22	Mark 6:7-13	St Phoebe the Deaconess
Thursday	Gal 3:23-4:5	Mark 6:30-45	Holy Prophet Moses
Friday	Gal 4:8-21	Mark 6:45-53	Holy Prophet Zacharia and Elizabeth
Saturday	I Cor 4:17-5:5	Matt 24:1-13	Hieromartyr Cyril Bp. of Gortyna
Sunday	II Cor 1:21-2:4	Matthew 22:1-14	Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

**WITH THE RETURN-**of the choir singing, when the choir is singing, ONLY choir members will be permitted to be in the choir loft. If you not a choir member, please find a pew in the nave of the church. Thank you for your consideration.

**CONFESSIONS-**are heard after Vespers on Saturday or any Feast Day eve and by appointment at any time. If you haven't been to confession recently, now is a good time.

**THE PARISH COUNCIL-**will meet this Tuesday at 7pm.

**MARTI BARAN**-is back home and out of the rehab center. It has been a long and difficult road for her but she is up, walking grateful for all of our prayers. God bless you Marti and welcome back!

**JOHN E STAGON**-is at the Concordia Rehab center in Monroeville. He needs our prayers as he tries to regain his strength.

**FR DANIEL PREZ**- Joe Monde's brother who is a Roman Catholic priest in Erie, is in need of our continued prayers as he is coming to the end of his earthly sojourn. Fr Daniel has been battling cancer and is in pain but he is still serving Mass for his congregation, demonstrating great love and and courage.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** –Michael Kapeluck, our Iconographer, Thomas Planiczki, Josephine Sofelkanik, Michael Sterchak, John Edward Stagon, Kathryn Rogulin, Cathy Pervuznik, Wally Perkins, Fr Lawrence Barriger, Gina Marie Gaspard, Dannette Wargo, Aubrey Welch, Fr Daniel Prez (Joe Monde's brother), 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.

### **HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES-**

#### **Birthdays**

Connie Kimmel 9/1 Lisa Bebin 9/11 Sandy Carlisle 9/11 John Finke 9/11 Gary Grysiak 9/14 Richard Novak 9/16 Amanda Aiello 9/16 Marianne Allen 9/24 Bill Welch 9/16 Elyse Kalaluhi 9/18 Frank Betz 9/27 Linda Stagon 9/28 Diane Betz 9/30

#### **Anniversaries**

David and Linda Stagon 9/1/84 Andrew & Pamela Vasko 9/4 Bob and Cheryl Hosken 9/10/66 Dennis and Adrienne Harms 9/14/85 Bob and Sandy Carlisle 9/18/76 Nick and Linda Novak 9/23 Tom and Mary Planiczki 9/23/89 Gary and Janet Grysiak 9/26/87

### **SEPTEMBER MEMORIAL LIST**

**One Year** - Mary Alice Cole, Gia Kemoklidze, Anna O'Brien

**Perpetual:** Helen Totin, Joseph & Anna Valko, Frank Hnat, Richard Suvak, Anna Karman, Mary Babich, Michael Sofelkanik.

Helen Grysiak, George Tabak, Sr., Mary Andrakulic, George Chester, Anna Matulis, Mary Sidorovich, George Zenuch, Sr., Mary Kostik, Barbara Balok, Peter Guzanic, John Zemenak, Fanny Popovich, Julia Suvak, Anna Varhula, Anna Karman, Mary Schuck, Judy Dunn, Anna Chester, Andrew Popovich, Theresa Semenak, Andrew Dugan, Agnes Papinchak, Mary Sleantzos, William Plichta, Anna Di Battista, Michael Dyacom, Anna Rusko Elaschat, Rosemary Hough,

**IF ANY OF YOU**-have family members or even yourselves, who because of the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown, are in need of some financial assistance, please let Fr. Joseph know, privately. We have a parish Needy Fund and we can help!

#### **SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S**

1. Only the Sycamore Street door will be used for entry and exit. Please park on Sycamore Street for your convenience.
2. All entrants be given a touchless temperature test. The CDC maximum safe human temperature is 100.4. If your temperature is above 100.4, you will be asked to return home. Please let us know if you have taken any fever reducing medication, like Tylenol in the morning before coming to church.
3. All entrants must wear a mask upon entering and during the church service. (The cantor is not required to wear a mask when singing.) There will be cloth masks available to those who do not have one. We encourage you to bring your own mask.
4. All entrants before entering the church will be asked to use the provided hand sanitizer after their temperature is taken.
5. Other than families that live together, please make every effort to be 6ft apart in the pews.

### **PLANNING AHEAD**

**September 15**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**September 21**

**Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**

**September 27**

**Feast of the Elevation of the Cross**

**October 11 and 18**

**TAKE HOME SPAGETTI DINNERS (Cooking October 10)**

November 7  
December 11

**Nut-Roll Baking**  
**Nut-Roll and Cookie Sales (Take out only)**

**September 6- Candle Intentions**

**Health**

Bires, Alice – Scott & Sharon  
Bires, Alice – Benjamin  
Bires, Alice – Fr Will and Pani Ilena  
Bires, Alice –Helen, David, Joseph  
Bires, Alice –Wally  
Bires, Alice – Cathy  
Bires, Alice – John E Stagon  
Bires, Alice – Happy Anniversary, Bob&Cheryl  
Chuprinko, Marilyn- Neil, barb, Bren  
Chuprinko, Marilyn-Paul, Sonja, Pierce, Shelby  
Chuprinko, Marilyn-Rebecca, Matthew  
Chuprinko, Marilyn-Karen, Wally-Anniversary  
Chuprinko, Marilyn-Fr Joseph, Kathy-  
Anniversary  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary – Benjamin  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Luke & Alexis  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Irene & Basil  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary – Deborah  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary – Burkett Family  
Grysiak, Gary - Janet  
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  
Kiss, Marge – Lisa, Dorothy & Donna  
Sabeh, Nancy – Justin & Amanda  
Sabeh, Nancy – Ron, Sonya, Alexis, Julianna  
Sabeh, Nancy - Dylan  
Stagon, George & Barbara – Fr. Matthew, Pani  
Eleni, Seraphim, Luka, Harikila, Xenia  
Stagon, George & Barbara – Jeffery, Nicole, Jillina  
Payton  
Stagon, George & Barbara – Connie and Tyler  
Stagon, John Jr. – John & Jessica  
Stagon, John Jr. – David, Linda & Johnny  
Stagon, John Jr. – David, II, Christal, Weston

**Special Intentions**

Alice Bires

**Memory**

Bires, Alice – Parents  
Bires, Alice- Brother-in-law  
Bires, Alice- Helen  
Bires, Alice-Margie  
Bires, Alice- Mary Alice Cole  
Chuprinko, Marilyn-Ed  
Chuprinko, Marilyn-Kum Nick Jokola  
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  
Stagon, George & Barbara –Parents, George,  
Beatrice & Nicholas  
Sabeh, Nancy- Grandma Helen Totin  
Stagon, John Jr – Wife Anna  
Stagon, John Jr – Father, Mother, Brother  
Stagon, John Jr – Mary Alice Cole

**Worship Groups During Pandemic GREEN Stage**

**GROUP 1**

Marianne Allen and Bill Welch  
Rebecca Barclay  
Gloria Blake  
Chris, Lisa and DJ Bebin  
Diane Betz  
Alice Bires  
Karen and Wally Perkins  
Bill and Eric Brancho  
Eileen Buck  
Bob and Sandy Carlisle  
Marilyn Chuprinko  
Jeffery and Nicole Durmis  
Theresa, John Finke (and Teagan)  
Gina Marie Gaspard  
Debbie Grysiak  
Janet, Irene, Basil Dixon and Benjamin Grysiak  
Shirley Hart  
Bob and Cheryl Hosken  
David, Elyse, Roman, Mitchell, Zechariah and Alexis  
Kalaluhi  
Kathy Bechler  
Ruthanne Barclay  
Ernie Karlar  
Connie Kimmel  
Ron, Sonya, Alexis, Julianna Kitsko  
Nancy Sabeh

**GROUP 2**

Nicki Kocan  
Beth Kudravy  
Paula Locante  
Alexandra Maskaly  
Rosemarie Micholov  
Joe and Sharon Monde  
Sean Nelis  
Richard and Linda Novak  
Michael O'Brien  
Dina and Michael Panchura  
Cathy Perevuznik  
Bob Perevuznik, Jr.  
Dolores Popovich and Ann Weiland  
Sizemore Family  
Cheryl Stagon  
David Stagon  
George Stagon  
Mr. Stagon  
Jeffery Stagon, Nicole, Jillina and Payton  
Cindy Sterchak  
Charles and Barbara Vasko  
Joshua and Brittany Vasko and family  
Sean, Kalina, Mila, and Malachi Walker  
Mark Volk  
Evonne Vojnovich and Thomas Cunningham  
Ashley Yearger and Family

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**Worship Groups ONLY APPLY to Sunday Liturgy. For Saturday Vespers, Weekday Feastday Vespers and Weekday Feastal Liturgy, everyone is welcome to attend. Please remember to have a mask, use the Sycamore Street door, have your temperature taken and use the hand sanitizer**

**Worship Groups Calendar -**

September – 13 – Group 2  
September -20 – Group 1

**September 27- Groups 1 and 2 (FEAST DAY)**

**T**oday we will focus on two questions, “What is Percentage Giving” and “How does a Pledge Card work with our envelope system?”

**P**ercentage Giving is a way of looking at the amount we give to the Lord and our parish. For some, we have given a dollar amount to the parish like, \$10 a week, for example, which has no connection to how much we actually earn or receive in benefits like a pension or Social Security. We have “always given \$10 a week” so that’s what I give!

**B**ut, if we examine how much we earn a month or a week, and apply a percentage to that amount of how much we give to the church, we may discover that our gifts to the Lord may only be a small percentage, maybe less than 1%!

**I**n the Old Testament, a faithful Jew was expected to give the First 10% of his income to God – as a minimum. This is where the idea of a Tithe comes from. On top of that, a faithful Jew gave Offerings in addition to the Tithe. Tithes and Offerings helped support the Temple and the charitable works of the community. St. John Chrysostom once wrote, “that if a faithful Jew gave 10% to God, what should a good follower of Christ offer to God who gave everything for our salvation?”

**S**o the question is, what percentage of our income or benefits (pension, Social Security) do we currently offer to God on a weekly basis? If we give \$5 or \$10 or whatever amount, what percentage is that? How close is it our current giving to a Tithe? Let’s say we currently give 1% to God. Can we give 2% or 5% or 10% or more? A percentage approach moves us out of setting a dollar amount with no connection to our

income. To prayerfully re-examine our giving to God is a spiritual work we should all be willing to do.

**T**he next question to consider is how a Pledge System works with our Envelope System. The quick answer is very well! We make a Pledge to the parish after prayer an reflection and then fulfill that Pledge, God-willing, weekly through our Envelopes. Some parishioners make a monthly donation to the church, others, weekly, how we fulfill our Pledge is up to each person, usually in relation to how one is paid. Some on benefits get their check monthly, so it is easier for them to budget while others are paid every other week or weekly. So, in effect our envelope system is our way to deliver our gifts to the Lord and for our church council to keep track of our gifts.

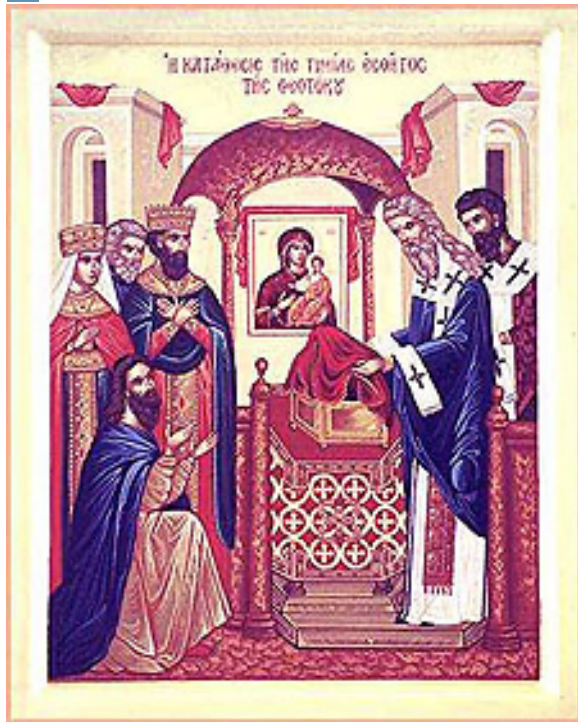
**S**o to recap, our weekly gifts to the Lord, are analogous to the Tithe and our candle donations, feast day, building fund, or special gifts (icon fund) as examples, would be our Offerings using the Tithes and Offerings.

**N**ext week, we will share some Pledge Card samples. The Parish Council will discuss this on Tuesday at our meeting. If you have any questions about this or previous articles, please feel free to reach out to me (Fr Joseph) and I will try my best to answer them.

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## The Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Mother of God

Commemorated on September 13/ [August 31](#)



The Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos in a church of Constantinople's Chalcoprateia district took place during the reign of the emperor Theodosius the Younger. Before this the holy relic, entrusted to the Apostle Thomas by the Mother of God Herself, was kept by pious Christians at Jerusalem after Her Dormition. During the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise (886-911), his wife Zoe was afflicted with an unclean spirit, and he prayed that God would heal her.

The empress had a vision that she would be healed of her infirmity if the Belt of the Mother of God were

placed upon her. The emperor then asked the Patriarch to open the coffer. The Patriarch removed the seal and opened the coffer in which the relic was kept, and the Belt of the Mother of God appeared completely whole and undamaged by time. The Patriarch placed the Belt on the sick empress, and immediately she was freed from her infirmity. They sang hymns of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Theotokos, then they placed the venerable Belt back into the coffer and resealed it.

In commemoration of the miraculous occurrence and the twofold Placing of the venerable Belt, the Feast of the Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos was established. Parts of the holy Belt are in the Vatopedi monastery on Mt. Athos, in Trier monastery, and in Georgia. (OCA Website)

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**NEXT MONDAY**-is the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary. Great Vespers with Litiya will be celebrated next Sunday at 6pm. Liturgy on Monday at 9am.