

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)

20 Sunday	21 Monday	22 Tuesday	23 Wednesday	24 Thursday	25 Friday	26 Saturday
9:00 Divine Liturgy Group 1 6pm Great Vespers with Litiya	Nativity of the Theotokos 9am Festal Liturgy	11am Deanery Meeting	7pm CCE CLASS FAST DAY			5pm Great Vespers with Litiya and Placing of the Cross FAST DAY

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 38 - Weekly Offering, \$2434 - Building Fund, \$235 - Needy Fund, \$98 - Icon Fund, \$350 - Vigil Candles, \$219, Miscellaneous, \$3.- Total \$3333

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

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.

TONIGHT-at 6pm we celebrate Great Vespers with Litiya for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Everyone is invited to participate and celebrate Mary's Birthday.

TOMORROW-at 9am the Festal Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos will be celebrated.

NEXT SUNDAY- is the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross. BOTH GROUPS 1 and 2 may come to church for the great feast of the Church.

WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL!!!! - with contribution last week, we have reached our \$20,000 goal for Phase III of our Icon Project! However donations continue to be made and that is fine! Thanks to Bob and Cheryl and Dennis and Adrienne for the additional \$350 in gifts. 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://holyltrinityorthodox.com/calendar/index.htm>

Monday	Phil 2:5-11	Luke 10:38-42;11:27-28	Nativity of the Theotokos
Tuesday	Gal 4:28-5:21	Mark 6:55-7:16	Sts Joachim and Anna
Wednesday	Gal 6:2-10	Mark 7:14-24	Venerable Paul the Obedient
Thursday	Eph 1:1-9	Mark 7:24-30	Ven. Silouan Elder of Mt Athos
Friday	Eph 1:7-17	Mark 8:1-10	Leavetaking of the Nat. of Theotokos
Saturday	I Cor 2:6-9	Matt 10:37-11:1	Great-Martyr Ketevan of Georgia
Sunday	I Cor 1:18-24	Jn 19:6-11,13-20,25-28,	Feast of the Elevation of the Cross 30-35

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.

PAULA LOCANTE-is retiring from Pitt. Congratulations and God Bless you.

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 Sleantz, William Plichta, Anna Di Battista, Michael Dyacom, Anna Rusko Elascat, 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

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| 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 | Nut-Roll Baking |
| December 11 | Nut-Roll and Cookie Sales (Take out only) |

THE PITTSBURGH DEANERY-will meet here at St. John’s on Tuesday at 11am.

September 13- 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 & Sandyl
Bires, Alice - Happy Anniversary, Denny & Adrienne
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
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Fr Marc Winosky-
Ordination to the Priesthood
Harms, Denny & Adrienne- Benjamin
Harms, Denny & Adrienne-Grandson Cameron,
Good luck @ Eastcoast Spartans Hockey
Harms, Denny & Adrienne- Grandson Noah, St.
Rose College
Harms, Denny & Adrienne-Fr Joseph & Kathy,
Happy Anniversary
Harms, Denny & Adrienne-Happy 35th
Anniversary, Denny and Adrienne
Locante, Paula - Family
Kocan, Nicki - Family
Locante, Paula - Marlene Davrora
Perevuznik Jr, Bob- Mom
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Emily, Rebecca, Tanner,
Tyler
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Kelly, Lauren, Michael
Perevuznik Jr, Bob- John Stagon
Perevuznik Jr, Bob- Marti Baran
Perevuznik Jr, Bob- Fr Marc Winoski-Axios!
Perevuznik Jr, Bob- Fr Joseph and Pani Kathy
Perevuznik, Cathy - Alice
Perevuznik, Cathy - Garrett
Sabeh, Nancy - Justin & Band
Sabeh, Nancy - Kitsko
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
Nancy Sabeh

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- Irene Fazio
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - 9/11 Victims
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims
Harms, Denny & Adrienne-Mother & Father
Bozsik
Harms, Denny & Adrienne-Mother & Father
Harms
Locante, Paula - Mary Alice Cole
Perevuznik Jr, Bob - Dad
Perevuznik, Cathy - Husband Bob
Perevuznik, Cathy - Mary Alice Cole
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

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

Today we will share what some Pledge Cards look like. These are samples from other churches. In addition to financial commitments and just as importantly are our pledges of Time and Talents. There are many ways we can offer our Time and Talents to the Lord. One example and a beautiful one, is decorating the Festal Icons for Feasts of the Church.

You will notice on the sample Pledge Cards, you will see that some have a table of Percentages of Giving. As I said last week, some of us have given the same dollar amount to St. John's for a long time. The percentage table puts what we are currently giving in relation to a percentage of our income. Why is this important?

As stated last week, in 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, “ if a faithful Jew gave 10% to God, what should a good follower of Christ offer to God who gave everything for our salvation? “

So the Pledge Card is a means for us to state our commitment to God as a member of St. John's. As it were, it makes us “state our intentions” when it comes to our Faith and believe in God and the mission of our parish community. This is important because if we are not careful, our Faith in God and the life of our parish, can be taken for granted. Nothing in this life is a certainty except that we are born, and the day will come when we die. Everything in between is open for uncertainty.

Another important consideration is how a Pledge Card and Pledge System helps our parish administration plan for the upcoming year. Every year around this time, the Parish Council has one meeting set aside for nothing but planning the proposed budget for the coming year. Up to now, the parish council knows pretty well what the expenses of the parish will be for the new year. But, we have no real idea what the income will be. So we just guess. We guess because we have no way of know what parishioners will offer. We can take a shot at what it might be by looking at the previous years, and that is ok, but still, it's a guess. With Pledge Cards, we can be more certain at knowing what our income will be.

If we as a parish decide to move away from a dues system and to a Pledge System at St. John's then this year's Pledge Cards won't necessarily help us to craft this year's budget because of timing, but we will get a chance to use a Pledge Card for the first time, and then next year, the month of September and every September would be designated PLEDGE MONTH. It would be the month that we make our Pledges for the following year so that our parish administration can

plan how we will do the ministry of Christ and the spreading of the Gospel in the new year.

So take a look at the sample Pledge Cards. We will create our own for St. John's because every parish is unique so their Pledge Card needs to be unique to reflect the needs of the parish.

Questions? I hope you have questions. It is important to get your input. I will be asking for questions because your question may be the same as others. Please ask me. Next week, answers to your questions .

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTThe parish council met last Tuesday. Here are some highlights of the meeting.

An update on the Icon Project was given by Fr. Joseph. He shared that we had reached our \$20,000 goal for the new icon of the Communion of the Apostles but that we are also accepting and have received additional funds. How those additional funds will be used is to be determined.

Fr. Joseph also shared that the deanery had raised over \$2500 for the Outreach Project to benefit the needs of the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg. The funds will be given over this coming week to the monastery.

The council reviewed the dates for the upcoming fundraising projects: Spaghetti Dinners on October 11 and 18. Also the Nut roll and Cookie Sale on December 11. We will bake the Nut rolls on November 7. Parishioners are asked to bake cookies at home and deliver them the week of December 11th to the Church Hall. All

orders for both events will be TAKE-OUT. The Nut roll sale will be publicized in the East Pittsburgh Shamrock newsletter and with signs and website and Facebook ads.

The council is accepting bids to repair and resurface the upper church parking lot. We have one bid for \$8300 and will get more. Parishioners are encouraged to contribute to this project

The new ONLINE GIVING option is now up and running on our parish website. A review of this new option was made and it's use

The Church school program is still in flux due to COVID but our new Church School materials will be shared in this week's bulletin as we decide if we will have in-person classes, remote only or a combination.

An update on the Pledge system was made by Fr. Joseph. He shared some sample Pledge Cards which are part of today's bulletin. We will be ordering 85 boxes of envelopes for 2021.

The parish council voted to have the Annual Meeting in person and an option to participate remotely due to COVID.

Finally, our Parish Council President Bob Pervuznik, Jr. announced that he will not run for that position at the Annual Meeting. He is willing to continue to be a council member. Many thanks, Bob for you many years of service. God bless you.