

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 Rector: 412-824-0246  
 Mobile: 412-607-7039 Email: protopresbyterjoseph@gmail.com Website: www.sjbeastpitt.org -  
 Facebook: @stjohnneastpit  
 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/stjohnneastpitt](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnneastpitt)

27 Sunday	28 Monday	29 Tuesday	30 Wednesday	1 Thursday	2 Friday	3 Saturday
<b>Feast of the Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross</b> 9:00 Divine Liturgy Groups 1 and 2 Blessing of Icons			7pm CCE CLASS  FAST DAY		FAST DAY	NO VESPERS

**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 20, 2020 - Attendance 36 - Weekly Offering, \$795.39 - Building Fund, \$129 - Needy Fund, \$22 - Membership Dues, \$344 - Vigil Candles, \$147, Miscellaneous, \$2, Lot's of Luck, \$25- Total \$1317.39**

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

**THERE IS ONE MORE LOTS-A-LUCK**-calendar left to benefit the ACRY. \$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.

**TODAY-**at the end of Liturgy we will bless two new icons, both gifts to our church. One, over the back doors of the Church is "Our Lady, Protector of Pittsburgh" and the other is "The "Inexhaustible Cup" Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos, which is dedicated to people who struggle with additions. Both icons were written by Gerontissa Theophano, Abbess of the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg, PA. Our deanery is planning a Pilgrimage to the Monastery sometime before the end of the year. More details will be shared as they become available.

**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! Please keep our iconographer, Michael Kapeluck in your prayers.

**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	Eph 1:22-2:3	Mark 10:46-52	St Joseph, abbot of Alaverdi
Tuesday	Eph 2:19-3:7	Mark 11:11-23	Great-martyr Euphemia
Wednesday	Eph 3:8-21	Mark 11:23-26	Martyrs Sophia, Faith, Hope, Love
Thursday	Eph 4:14-19	Mark 11:27-33	Ven. Eumenes, bishop. of Gortyna
Friday	Eph 4:17-25	Mark 12:1-12	Martyr Zosimas, hermit of Cilicia
Saturday	I Cor 14:20-25	Matt 25:1-13	Ven. Oleg, prince of Briansk
Sunday	II Cor 6:16-7:1	Matt 15:21-28	Leavetaking of the Feast of the Cross

**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.

**THERE WILL BE NO VESPERS NEXT SATURDAY.**

**OCTOBER 11-18-**Spaghetti Dinners will be available for take out. Take a couple home and let us do the cooking!

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** –Michael Kapeluck, our Iconographer, Thomas Planiczki, Josephine Sofelkanik, Michael Sterchak, John Edward Stagon, Kathryn Rogulin, Cathy Perevuznik, Wally Perkins, Fr Lawrence Barriger, Gina Marie Gaspard, Dannette Wargo, Aubrey Welch, Marti and Cathilynn Baran, Metropolitan Theodosius, 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**

Frank Betz 9/27 Linda Stagon 9/28 Diane Betz 9/30

**Anniversaries**

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**

<b>September 27</b>	<b>Feast of the Elevation of the Cross</b>
<b>October 11 and 18</b>	<b>TAKE HOME SPAGETTI DINNERS (Cooking October 10)</b>
<b>November 7</b>	<b>Nut-Roll Baking</b>
<b>December 11</b>	<b>Nut-Roll and Cookie Sales (Take out only)</b>

## September 20- 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, Gary & Janet  
Bires, Alice - Pat Byrnes  
Chuprinko, Marylyn-Bob& Cheryl Hosken  
Chuprinko, Marylyn - Fr Richard Wesolowski  
Chuprinko, Marylyn - Paul, Sonya, Pierce, Shelby  
Chuprinko, Marylyn- Rebecca & Matthew  
Chuprinko, Marylyn - Neil, Barb, Bren  
Chuprinko, Marylyn - Sharon & Joe Monde  
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  
Hosken, Bob & Cheryl-Jim & Peg Hosken  
Hosken, Bob & Cheryl- Kathryn Baron  
Kitsko Family- Stacy Kitsko  
Sabeh, Nancy - Stacy Kitsko  
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  
Nancy Sabeh

### Memory

Bires, Alice - Parents  
Bires, Alice- Brother-in-law  
Bires, Alice- Helen  
Bires, Alice-Margie  
Chuprinko, Marylyn - Ed  
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 & Barb - Parents, George,  
Beatrice, Nicholas

## 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 Pervuznik  
Bob Pervuznik, 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 27- Groups 1 and 2 (FEAST DAY)**

**L**ast week I asked for questions about our Stewardship Program that will be discussed at our next Annual Meeting and I got a few. If you have more questions, please let me know because it is important to get your input.

**F**irst question – “If I sign a Pledge Card and my economic circumstances change, am I obligated to continue my pledge at the same amount or can I change it?”

**T**his is a common question and a good one when a parish wants to move from a dues system to a pledge system. The quick answer is “Yes” you can change your pledge amount to the parish. None of us know what the future will bring and sometimes our circumstances change in such a way that we have to adjust our “outflow” because our “inflow” of earnings take a hit. Unlike other pledges we make, like, a car payment, a mortgage payment, credit card payments, the church is not going to foreclose on you or take away your car or freeze your credit cards if you don’t fulfill your pledge. Your pledge can always be adjusted. And, remember, it can be changed in the other direction too, if you get a raise, if you come into an inheritance or some other event that changes your income for the better!

**I**f we always put God first in our lives, then our priorities are set up in the right way. That is what is most important.

**A**nother question received was important. “You talk about Tithing. That’s 10%. What if I can’t do that. Am I still a member in good standing in the parish?”

**T**his was a great question and sometimes people think that if they don’t give 10% they are “in trouble!” Nothing could be further from the truth. What is important to remember is that when a person tithes, at any amount, they are putting giving to the Lord first. That’s what the Tithe was in the Old Testament and it wasn’t abolished with the coming of Christ. Remember, our Lord said that he “came to fulfill the Scriptures not abolish them.” In this case, the Scriptures He was referring to was the Old Testament. So we should we should give to the Lord, “off the top”, “first” before anything else; not off the bottom or what is left over. Why? Because that is what our Lord did for us. He gave all of Himself for our salvation and the promise of eternal life in His Kingdom. So when we make a pledge, it should be as a percentage of our gifts given to us to steward. Maybe that is 1% or 2% or 10% as some do already. We should set as a spiritual goal to increase what we currently give, if possible, so we can respond the best way we can as a parish to grow and respond to the needs we have as a faith community and how the Lord directs us.

**I**f we can do this, in grateful thanksgiving to God for all He has given us, then when we put together our parish budget, we will be able to do so in a prayerful, thoughtful, and responsible manner. We will be able to better fulfill His plan for us here in East Pittsburgh as members of St. John the Baptist Church.