

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 Protospesbyter Joseph Fester Rector: 412-824-0246  
 Mobile: 412-607-7039 Email: protospesbyterjoseph@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>

| 13 Sunday                      | 14 Monday | 15 Tuesday               | 16 Wednesday            | 17 Thursday | 18 Friday | 19 Saturday        |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 9:00 Divine Liturgy<br>Group 2 |           | 7pm ONLINE<br>PC Meeting | 7pm ONLINE<br>CCE Class |             |           | 5pm ONLINE VESPERS |
| FAST DAY                       | FAST DAY  | FAST DAY                 | FAST DAY                | FAST DAY    | FAST DAY  | 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, December 6, 2020 - Attendance 28 - Weekly Offering, \$3862 - Building Fund, \$120 - Vigil Candles, \$144 - Nut Roll Sales, \$60 - Christmas Flowers & Candles, \$7 - Needy Fund, \$37 - Total \$4230**

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

**AND MANY THANKS-**to everyone who baked and worked at yesterday's Food Sale. God bless you all.

**NEXT SUNDAY-**we will move the celebration of St. Nicholas from Saturday to Sunday and combine it with our Resurrection Sunday Liturgy. The reason for this is that Fr. Joseph and

Pani Kathy will both be in quarantine starting December 15 when Kathy returns from Texas. This is being done so that they can be with their son and daughter-in-law for December 25<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Marc Wisnosky will celebrate the Liturgy here at St. John's next Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact Fr. Joseph.

**AS YOU KNOW-**Allegheny County has issued a voluntary STAY AT HOME order. People are asked to not gather in groups, wear masks and limit their travel only to essential trips. With the large spike in cases and the inevitable family gatherings during the holidays in the county and in conjunction with the parish council, I am making the following adjustments to our worship schedule until the end of December.

1. Great Vespers on Saturdays until January via FB.
2. CCE classes will be ONLINE.
4. We will suspend Fellowship Hour until January.
5. We will suspend Church School until January. Lessons will be sent to families with children.
6. Worship Groups 1 and 2 are still in effect during this period. As in the past, we are grateful to God

*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    | 2 Tim 2:20-26   | Luke 19:37-44 | Prophet Nahum                    |
| Tuesday   | 2 Tim 3:16-4:4  | Luke 19:45-48 | Prophet Habakkuk                 |
| Wednesday | 2 Tim 4:9-22    | Luke 20:1-8   | Prophet Zephaniah                |
| Thursday  | Titus 1:5-2:1   | Luke 20:9-18  | Great-martyr Barbara and Juliana |
| Friday    | Titus 1:15-2:10 | Luke 20:19-26 | Ven. Sabbas the Sanctified       |
| Saturday  | Heb 13:17-21    | Luke 6:17-23  | St Nicholas the Wonderworker     |
| Sunday    | Col 1:12-18     | John 17:12-19 | St Ambrose of Milan              |

**TUESDAY-** the Parish Council will meet ONLINE.

**WEDNESDAY CCE CLASS-**will be ONLINE. If you would like to participate please give Fr. Joseph your email address and he will send you an invite.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** –Michael Kapeluck, our Iconographer, Thomas Planiczki, Josephine Sofelkanik, Michael Sterchak, John Edward Stagon, Kathryn Rogulin, Cathy Perevuznik, 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, 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.

### **December Birthdays**

Robert Carlisle 12/13 Logan Grguric 12/14 Kaye Sabo 12/21 Linda Novak 12/21 Andrew Kocan Jr. 12/22 Josephine Sofelkanik 12/23 Cathy Skidmore 12/26

### **December Memorials**

**Newly Departed**, Patriarch Irieji, August Futryk

**Perpetual:** Anna Gaydos, John Tovtin, Michael Toth, John Hopta, Mary and Peter Rozkov, Ann Planiczki, Stephen Bergel, Beatrice Stagon, John Stagon Sr. Maksym and Theresa Periak, Michael Barovian, Michael Chernega,

Walter Futryk, Barbara Hreha, Mary Zeba, Victoria Gezzer, Julia Harrison, Frank Kurtz, Anna Bench, John Evashavik, Alex Kosarich, Steve Bunga, Mary Tucker, Mary Mutmasky, James Toth, John Ivanco, George Drago, Marie Johnson, Michael Povanda, Stanley Lunio, Michael Kranik, Catherine Jacobs, Helen Youshack, Mildred Ruzanic, Mary Kolesar, John Sapida, John Miholovich, Olga Yonkavich, Mary Suvak, Georgetta Salapac, John P Dugan, Andrew Popovich, John Zura, Rosemary Durmis, Dean Lester Hough

**OUR CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS**-are spearheading a charitable outreach to collect warm winter clothing for the homeless and needy. What a wonderful expression of love and I know that all of us will support this effort. We will also accept cash donations so warm clothing can be purchased. What types of clothing? Coats, Sweaters, Socks, Mufflers, Knit Hats. Bins for your clothing donations will be set up in the Church Hall. All collected clothes will be donated to Light of Life Mission. For information about this organization, here is the link: <https://give.lightoflife.org/for/lol/full>. If you have any questions, please talk to Juliana Kitsko.

**THE 2021 WALL CALENDARS**-have arrived. Pick up your copy in the church hall today.

**WREATHS across AMERICA**-is a nationwide program that purchases fresh wreaths for a veteran’s grave in the North Huntington Cemetery. All wreaths will be placed during a ceremony on Saturday, December 19, 2020. You can order a wreath online at [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/PAO435P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/PAO435P) A order form will be part of Sunday’s bulletin also.

"Christians are not distinguished from the rest of humanity by country or language or customs ... This doctrine (i.e., the Apostolic Proclamation) has not been discovered by them through any inventive faculty or the discursive thought of pretentious men; they are not champions of a man-made principle, as some are. While they live in cities both Greek and oriental, as falls to the lot of each, and follow the customs of the country in dress, food, and general manner of life, they display the remarkable and confessedly surprising status of their citizenship. They live in countries of their own, but as sojourners. They share all things as citizens; they suffer all things as foreigners. Every foreign land is their native place, every native place is foreign ... They pass their life on earth; but they are citizens in heaven. They obey the established laws, but they out-do the laws in their own lives. They love all people; and are persecuted by all. They are not understood and so condemned. They are put to death, and yet made alive."

-- the Letter to Diognetus (anonymous, second century)

### **Candle Intentions-**

#### **Health**

Bires, Alice - Scott & Sharon  
Bires, Alice - Benjamin  
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  
Carlisle, Sandy - Happy Birthday - Bob  
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Neil, Barb Bren  
Chuprinko, Marilyn-Paul, Sonja, Pierce, Shelby  
Chuprinko, Marilyn-Rebecca & Matthew  
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  
Kiss, Marge - Jim, Lesa, Donna, Dorothy  
Sabeh, Nancy - Family  
Sabeh, Nancy - George  
Sabey, Nancy - Annie Weiland  
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 Jr., John -John & Jessica  
Stagon, Jr. John-David II, Christal,  
Weston  
Stagon, Jr. John David, Linda, Johnny

#### **Special Intentions**

Alice Bires

#### **Memory**

Bires, Alice - Parents  
Bires, Alice- Brother-in-law  
Bires, Alice- Helen  
Bires, Alice-Margie  
Bires, Alice - Mildred Sukal  
Carlisle, Bob & Sandy -Walter Futryk  
Carlisle, Bob & Sandy -August Futryk  
Chuprinko, Marilyn-Neighbors Jan, De,  
Dorothy  
Chuprinko, Marilyn-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 - V. Rev. Dean  
John Hutnyan  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims  
Stagon, George & Barb- Parents, George,  
Beatrice, Nicholas

### **God did not abandon His people.**

He made a covenant with Noah (Gen. 9:13–17) that He would never destroy the earth with a flood again.

He made a covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15) that God would be a Father to Abraham and all of His descendants. The sign of the covenant was circumcision (Gen. 17).

God gave deliverance from famine through Joseph (Gen. 41).

He gave deliverance to His people, the Israelites, from the oppression of Pharaoh (Exod. 14).

God gave order to the people of Israel through the Ten Commandments (Exod. 20).

He gave His people judges, kings and prophets in every generation, to let them know that they were not forgotten by Him.

Throughout the Old Testament, there are prophecies foretelling of the coming of Christ the Messiah, who will save His people from their sins. *“But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son to redeem those under the Law (Gal. 4:4).”*

This is the Feast of the Nativity. The story of the Nativity is told in Prophecy (Old

Testament), the Gospels (New Testament), the Epistles (New Testament), and hymns and prayers (from the liturgical tradition).

All will be used on our journey to the Nativity.