

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>

27 Sunday	28 Monday	29 Tuesday	30 Wednesday	31 Thursday	1 Friday	2 Saturday
9:00 Divine Liturgy Group 2			7pm ONLINE CCE Class		Happy New Year	Memorial Liturgy 9am January Memorial Liturgy 5pm Great Vespers/Confessions
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 20, 2020 - Attendance 24 - Weekly Offering, \$1285 - Building Fund, \$60 - Vigil Candles, \$159 - Food Sale + Donation, \$73 - Christmas Flowers & Candles, \$120 - Needy Fund, \$75- Membership Dues, \$75 - Total \$1849

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.

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 8:7-13	Mark 8:11-21	Ven. Paul of Mt. Latros
Tuesday	Heb 9:8-10,15-23	Mark 8:22-26	Prophet Haggai
Wednesday	Heb 10:1-18	Mark 8:30-34	Holy Prophet Daniel & 3 Youths
Thursday	Heb 10:35-11:7	Mark 9:10-16	Martyr Sebastian of Rome
Friday	Heb 11:8,11:16	Mark 9:33-41	Ss George & Sava of Georgia
Saturday	Gal 3:8-12	Luke 13:18-29	Saturday before Nativity
Sunday	Heb 11:9-10,17-23-32-4	Matt 1:1-25	Sunday before Nativity

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.

REMINDER- all services for Christmas and Theophany will be open to both worship groups.

THIS SATURDAY-we will offer a Memorial Liturgy for those who have reposed in the Lord in the month of January. These include: **Newly Departed-** Fr John Baranik, William Evansky. 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.

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 Perevuznik, Louis Matkowski, John Zenuh, John Hrenko, Ann Volk, Leslie Ptaszak, Anna Kuzemka

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, Michael O’Brien, Ann Weiland, Matushka Susanne Senyo, Pani Betty Baranik, 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

Cathy Skidmore 12/26

December Memorials

Newly Departed, Fr John Baranik, William Evansky, 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,

Protodeacon Gregory Hatrak, 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

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

O Master, Who delivered the holy youths from the fire and Daniel from the lions' mouths, Who blessed Abraham, and Isaac Thy servant, and Jacob his son, Whose good will it was to become like unto us through their seed: our forefathers, that had fallen in the past, hast Thou saved by Thy Cross and Resurrection; and, having broken the bonds of death, with Thyself Thou hast raised all among them, dead of ages past, that worshipped Thee, O Christ, King of the ages.

(From Vespers for the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers)

Thy faithful and holy youths, that walked amid the fiery flame as in dew, mystically prefigured Thy coming forth from the Virgin, which hath shown upon us without consuming us; and the righteous Daniel, wondrous among the prophets, manifestly revealing Thy divine Second Coming beforehand, saith that he hath beheld the thrones set up, and the Judge seated, and the river of fire flowing. By their prayers may we be delivered therefrom, O Master Christ.

(From Vespers for the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers)

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 - Michael O'Brien
 Bires, Alice - Abigail and Unborn Child
 Bires, Alice - John E Stagon
 Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Luke & Alexis, Safe Travel
 Grysiak, Gary - Janet
 Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Benjamin
 Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Basil & Irene, Safe Travel
 Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Deborah
 Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Burkett Family
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 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
 Novak, Linda - Mom, Josie on her Birthday
 Novak, Linda -Caregivers of Golden Heights
 Novak, Linda -My children, Philip (Amy), Brandon (Angela, Christopher)
 Novak, Linda -My husband, Richard- "Nick"
 Sabeh, Nancy - George
 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

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
 Novak, Linda - Dad, Vic on Birthday
 Novak, Linda -Baba Anna Sofelkanik
 Novak, Linda -Betty Danielson-Aunt & Grandmother
 Novak, Linda -Elvira & Abe Comunak
 Novak, Linda -Bea Stagon
 Novak, Linda - John Maskaly
 Novak, Linda -Bob Perevuznik
 Novak, Linda -Uncle Bob Krause
 Novak, Linda -Cousin J.R. Danielson
 Novak, Linda - Cousin Bob Gutnald
 Novak, Linda - Brother in Law Ted Novak on Birthday
 Sabeh, Nancy - William Evansky
 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!