



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
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 Website: www.sjbeastpitt.org – Facebook: @stjohneastpit
 Subdeacon Gary Grysiak, Cantor; Reader Justin Rosco, Choir Director;
 Robert Perevuznik, Jr., Parish Council President

ALL SERVICES STREAMED LIVE ON FB <https://www.facebook.com/joseph.fester>

14 Sunday -Group 1	15 Monday	16 Tuesday	17 Wednesday	18 Thursday	19 Friday	20 Saturday
ALL SAINTS 9:00 Divine Liturgy			7pm CCE Class on the Divine Liturgy			9am Church work crew 5pm Great Vespers and 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, June 7, 2020 - Attendance 35 - Weekly Offering, \$3248 - Building Fund, \$590 - Needy Fund, \$191 - Estate of Don Pollack and Rhodes Family \$9500 - Vigil Candles, \$319 - Sale of case of Vigil Lights, \$36 - Icon Fund, \$100 - Church Dues, \$122 - Total \$14,088 (This is a report from the last two weeks)

TODAY-we have moved to the GREEN STAGE protocols in Allegheny County which means that groups larger than 25 can gather following all other COVID-19 safety protocols. With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory we are combining our 4 worship groups into 2. Previous groups A and B are now Group 1 and Groups C and D are Group 2. We will alternate Groups for the next several weeks and then assess how things are working. Next week, Group 2 is invited to church.

WEDDING BANS- Irene Grysiak will be united the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony to Basil Dixon on Saturday, July 4th at 3pm at St. John's.

THIS WEDNESDAY- our CCE class continues with the video presentations of Sister Vassa Larin on the Divine Liturgy. We will meet ONLINE. If you would like to join the class online, please give Fr. Joseph your email address and he will forward you the link to the class. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET and would like to participate, you may join the class in person. Please wear a mask. The class will originate in the church office not the hall. Please let Fr. Joseph know if you are coming in person. Again, this is for parishioners who don't have Internet, otherwise, see you online.

NEXT SATURDAY- starting at 9am we will have a work crew to take care of some exterior work that needs to be done to spruce up the church for the Grysiak/Dixon wedding. The work will include weeding and mulching around the Cross, painting the fence on Cable, some concrete work on Sycamore Street. We need lots of help so we can accomplish all these tasks. If you can help, please let Denny Harms know. Many Thanks in advance.

OUR PARISH-was blessed with a gift from the residual of the Estate of our late parishioner and dear man, Don Pollack. After all his bills were paid, the executor of his estate, Diane Rhodes (Don's cousin) contacted us to say that she would like to give the balance of his estate to his parish, St. John's. Diane contributed a separate amount to "round up" the total gift to \$9500. We are truly grateful for this generous gift and we look forward to using a portion of it as a fitting remembrance to Don for his many years of faithful membership at St. John's. May his memory be eternal.

TOMORROW-begins the Apostle's Fast which concludes with the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on July 12. One way we can observe this season is by coming to Saturday Vespers a regular part of your weekly schedule!

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

Monday	Romans 2:28-3:18	Matthew 6:31-34;7:9-11	Start of the Apostles Fast
Tuesday	Romans 4:4-12	Matthew 7:15-21	Martyr Lucillian and those with him
Wednesday	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 7:21-23	St Metrophanes, 1 st Pat. of Constantinople
Thursday	Romans 5:10-16	Matthew 8:23-27	Hieromartyr Dorotheos, Bishop of Tyre
Friday	Romans 5:17-6:2	Matthew 9:14-17	Venerable Bessarios Wonderworker of Egypt
Saturday	Romans 3:19-26	Matthew 7:1-8	Hieromartyr Marcellinus, Pope of Rome
Sunday	Romans 2:10-16	Matthew 4:18-23	All Saints of Carpatho-Rus and North America

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS –Thomas Planiczki, Josephine Sofelkanik, Michael Sterchak, John Edward Stagon, Kathryn Rogulin, Cathy Perevuznik, Fr. Michael and Matushka Susanne Senyo, Wally Perkins, Fr Lawrence Barriger, Gina Marie Gaspard, Dannette Wargo, Pani Marie Brancho, Rose Hollis, Marti and Cathilynn Baran, Aubrey Welch, Fr Daniel Prez (Joe Monde's brother), Frank and Diane Betz, 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.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries- Kathryn Rogulin 6/3, Juliana Kitsko 6/10, Mark Popovich 6/14, Deborah Grysiak 6/16, George Paul Stagon 6/16, Adrienne Harms 6/22, Mitchell Leopold Kalaluhu 6/28, Gina Marie Gasper 6/29. Happy Anniversary to Justin and Amanda Rosco 6/27.

June Memorials - Newly Departed: Fr. Michael Psenechunk, Archpriest Paul Lazor, Protopresbyter George Hutnyan, Archimandrite Elias (Bitar), Pani Patsy Joseph, John Lee

Perpetual: Michael & Pauline Sabo, Andrew & Susan Himchak, Elizabeth Babich, John & Helen Sabol Katherine Totin, Peter Regrut, Tekla Orange, Catherine Wilson, Mary Kattalia, Anna Wukich, Nicholas Chernega, John Kasenohak, Martha Sisak, Carol Sisco, Robert Dugan, Irene Holowaty-Mancak, Edward Chuprinko, and for all victims of the COVID-19 virus.

JUST A REMINDER- that Fr. Joseph has a new cell-phone number. **412-607-7039**. Please update your records.

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!

PLEASE-continue to observe all of the necessary health and safety guidelines that are enforce by State and Federal agencies. Be safe. Be patient and be careful. It's going to be this way for a good while longer and things won't get back to normal until there is more testing, better treatment and a vaccine.

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.
6. There will be no coffee hour until further notice.



In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

The Mother of God and the Saints whose memory we keep today, those who are known to us because God has revealed them, and because they have been understood and recognised, either by their contemporaries, or years, at times - centuries later, all the Saints are the response of the earth to the love of God. And this response is given by them not only in their own name but in the name of all creation and in our names also; because each of us has the privilege to be called by one name, our Christian name, the name of one of those Saints. And the Saints whose names are ours stand before God and pray that their name should not be made unworthy in the eyes of the Lord. The Saints of God embrace the whole of Creation in their love, in their intercession, in their prayer, in their real, continuous presence. How wonderful it is that we belong to this vast family of men, of women, of children who have understood what the Lord meant when He came, and lived, taught and died for us! They responded with their own heart, they understood with all their mind, and they accepted His message with all their determination, to overcome in themselves all that have been the cause of the crucifixion; because if only one person on earth had strayed, fallen away from God, Christ would have come to save at the cost of His life. This is His own testimony to a Saint of the early centuries who had been praying that the sinners should be confounded; and He appeared to him, and said, Never pray that way! If one sinner existed, I would have died for him...

The Saints are people who responded to love by love, people who realised that if someone can die for them, their only response of gratitude is to become such that he should not have died in vain. To take up our cross means exactly this: to turn away from all those things which are Christ's death and crucifixion, from all those things which surrounded Christ with hatred and lack of understanding. We are all free to do this, more than those who lived in His time because they could be mistaken in Him in those days; but in our days, after two thousand years, when we can read the Gospels, and see emerging from the story the stature, the Person of Christ, when we have got millions of witnesses that tell us that He truly gave His life for us, and that the only response we can give is to give our lives for one another in His name - how can't we respond?

Let us therefore, on this day make a new resolve: to listen in the way in which they listened, with all their heart, all their mind, all their will, all their self to see what happened, to hear what He said, to respond by gratitude and by determination. And then, if we offer this little to God - our gratitude and our good will - the strength, the power for us also to grow into the stature which God has willed, dreamt for us, - the power will be of God; as He had said, *My strength deploys itself in weakness, My grace sufficeth...* And Paul, who knew that, added, in another passage, *All things are possible unto us in the power of Christ Who sustains us...* There is no doubt: we can, if we only will allow God to save, to carry us from earth to heaven.

Let us make a new start, so that the Saints whose names we wear should rejoice in us, so that the Mother of God Who gave Her Son unto death that we may respond, that we may understand, that we may be saved should rejoice, and that Christ should see that it is not in vain that He lived, taught, and died. Let us be His glory, a light; it may be a small light, just like a small candle, it may be a bright light as one of the great Saints - but let us be a light that lights the world and makes it less dark! Let us be joy so that others may learn to rejoice in the Lord. Amen! (*Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) 25 June 1989*)

SATURDAY, JUNE 20- we will have a work crew doing some cleanup and repairs around the church. We will start at 9am and hopefully be finished by 1pm. Work to do includes-

- Cutting back parking lot
- Weeding and Mulching Cross area
- Paint Cable St fence
- Stain rectory fence

June 14- Candle Intentions

Health

Bires, Alice - Benjamin

Bires, Alice - Fr Will & Pani Illeana

Bires, Alice - Scott & Sharon

Bires, Alice - Wally

Bires, Alice - Marti Baran

Bires, Alice - Bob Carlisle

Bires, Alice - Helen, David, & Joseph

Bires, Alice - Azariah Mihaly - Baptism

Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Benjamin

Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Luke & Alexis

Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Irene & Basil

Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Janet

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 - Bob Carlisle

Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Kevin Henry

Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Marti Baran

Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims

Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Healthcare & Grocery
Workers

Locante, Paula - Irene

Locante, Paula - Patty Davis

Locante, Paula - R. McFarland

Locante, Paula - Family

Perevuznik, Cathy - Grandchildren

Perevuznik, Bob Jr. - Mom

Perevuznik, Bob Jr. - Emily, Rebecca, Tanner,
Tyler

Perevuznik, Bob Jr. - Kelly, Karen & Michael

Perevuznik, Bob Jr. - John E Stagon

Perevuznik, Bob Jr. - Marti Baran

Perevuznik, Bob Jr. - Fr Joseph & Kathy

Perevuznik, Bob Jr. - Alexandra Maskaly

Perevuznik, Bob Jr. - M. Walker

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

Babich, Sandy - Ron Babich

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

Perevuznik, Cathy - Bob

Perevuznik, Bob Jr. - Dad

Sabeh, Nancy - Family Members

Stagon, George & Barbara - Mom and Dad

Stagon, John Jr. - Wife Anna

Stagon, John Jr. - Father, Mother, Brothers

Sterchak, Cindy & Dave - Brother Gary

Sterchak, Cindy & Dave - Mother Veronica

Sterchak, Michael - Son, Gary Sterchak

Sterchak, Michael - Wife, Toots

Stakel, Peggy - Parents Nick & Betty Babich

Worship Groups During Pandemic Under GREEN Stage -starting June 7

GROUP 1

Marianne Allen and Bill Welch

Rebecca Barclay

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
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 Yeagers and children

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 - Updated 6.5.20

June 21 - Group 2
June 28 - Group 1
July 5 - Group 2
July 12 - Group 1
July 19 - Group 2
July 26 - Group 1

PLEASE CONTINUE-to keep Frank and Diane Betz in your prayers. Frank had a heart and is awaiting a heart procedure to correct his cardiac issues.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS- as we now are in the GREEN STAGE which means that crowd sizes can be more than 25 but less than 250 how this is applied in our various ACROD parishes may seem inconsistent with one parish saying everyone can come to church and others, like ours, organizing into two worship groups. Why is this?

It depends on the actual size of the church building. Our church building is the smallest in our deanery, much smaller than Homestead, Northside, Ambridge and Rankin. Having the smallest building but close to the second largest church membership in the deanery, this poses a challenge.

For example, Homestead is the largest church in physical size and population. Because it is so large it can safely accommodate more people while Rankin and Ambridge have smaller memberships but large churches so they can let everyone come and still be 6ft or more apart. But for us, if everyone came to church there is no way that we can stay 6ft apart. So "one size" doesn't fit all when it comes to how each parish implements the safety protocols that Metropolitan Gregory has blessed. In fact, in a recent phone call he shared that he has 80+ different situations that need unique answers.

Wearing a mask in church is not ideal. It makes it more difficult to sing and even maybe breath, but let me share with you something I read today. A Roman Catholic parish here in Pennsylvania has had 17 parishioners die from COVID-19! Can you imagine the sad impact that these deaths have had on the priests and laity of that community? I want all of you to be safe and I hope that you will understand that the safety protocols we have in place are for your health and safety and for the health and safety of your friends and loved ones at St. John's.

This has nothing to do with any political agenda or suppression or infringement of religious rights. This is a plague, a pandemic that is still killing 1000 people a day in the USA. This virus will not just go-away. It will only stop being a threat to our health when a vaccine is found, and we can be immunized. In the meantime, we have to do our part so that we don't become infected and spread it to someone else. It is really that simple.

So, I ask you again, please try and understand why we are doing what we are doing and don't absent yourselves from church over this unless you have a medical condition that warrants your absence. The amount of time we are asked to wear a mask, for example, in church is only a couple of hours. That is a small price to ask to keep us safe, isn't it?

There is a Russian word, "Podvig" and it means "spiritual struggle." The roots of this word and its meaning can be best seen in the words of our Lord when he said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Let us deny ourselves a bit now for the sake of the least of the brethren in our midst. Let us humble ourselves for the sake of our neighbor. That is Christ's way and ours to follow.

The above is a repeat from last Sunday but I wanted to share it again.

THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING PENTECOST- is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

Saint Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

Saint Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to Saint Peter's five categories. The list of Saint Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. Saint Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, Saint John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men" (LADDER, Step 26:31).

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living "in the world." Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Saints Joachim and Anna, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, Saint Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of Saint Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated. (Taken from OCA Website)