



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

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Subdeacon Gary Grysiak, Cantor; Reader Justin Rosco, Choir Director;

Robert Pervuznik, Jr., Parish Council President

15 Sunday	16 Monday	17 Tuesday	18 Wednesday	19 Thurs	20 Friday	21 Saturday
8:30 Ch School 9:00 Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 3pm Mission Vespers- Ambridge 2-6 Visitation 5:30 Panahida for Paul Haurilesko – Dobrinick's Trafford	10:00 Funeral for Paul Haurilesko, Dobrinick Funeral Home, Trafford		6pm Confession 7pm Presanctified Liturgy NO Fellowship Meal		9am Presanctified Liturgy NO CCE. Class is available on-line	Nutroll making POSTPONED 5:00 Great Vespers 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, March 8, 2020 – Attendance 59 – Weekly Offering, \$1819 – Building Fund, \$170 – Membership Dues, \$100 – Needy Fund, \$67 – Lenten Food Sales, \$7 – Easter Flowers, \$5 – Patriarchal pence, \$2 – Vigil Candles – \$237 – Total \$2407

TODAY- at 3pm Mission Vespers at St. John the Baptist in Ambridge. Also today, between 2-6, Visitation for Paul Haurilesko and 5:30 Panihida at Dobrinick Funeral Home in Trafford.

PLEASE BRING YOUR- your non-perishable foods and sundry items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc to help the needy and benefit the Rankin Food Shelter. Any questions, ask Irene Grysiak. We also have an outreach effort to women in abusive situations that we will roll out soon.

OUR CCE- class will suspend meeting in person until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However you can still participate ONLINE at:

www.agape-restoration-society.org/athanasius

We are studying “The Incarnation” using the very important text of St. Athanasius of Alexandria who stood up against Arius who preached the heresy that Christ was a created being and not the Immortal Son of 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 enlightener of our souls and bodies, O Christ God, and to You we give glory together with Your eternal Father an Your all-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday	Isaiah 8:13-9:7	Genesis 6:9-22	Proverbs 8:1-21	Venerable Piama, virgin-martyr
Tuesday	Isaiah 9:9-10:4	Genesis 7:1-5	Proverbs 8:32-9:11	St. Daniel, Prince of Moscow
Wednesday	Isaiah 10:12-20	Genesis 7:6-9	Proverbs 9:12-18	Monk-martyr Adrian
Thursday	Isaiah 11:10-12:2	Genesis 7:11-8:3	Proverbs 10:1-22	Venerable Job of Solovki
Friday	Isaiah 13:2-13	Genesis 8:4-21	Proverbs 10:31-11:12	Venerable Emilian of Rome
Saturday	Hebrews 10:32-38		Mark 2:14-17	Venerable Theophylactus
Sunday	Hebrews 4:14-5:6		Mark 8:34-9:1	Sunday of the Holy Cross

PLANNING AHEAD

Sunday March 15	3pm	Mission Vespers-Ambridge
Saturday, March 21	8-4pm	Nut Roll Making and Sale - POSTPONED
Sunday, March 22	3pm	Mission Vespers-East Pittsburgh- NO MEAL
Saturday, March 28	9am	Lenten Retreat-Homestead
Sunday, March 29	9am	Mission Vespers-Northside

Vespers and Confessions Every Saturday at 5pm

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY-this coming Wednesday and Friday however we are suspending the Lenten meals due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PLEASE KEEP- John Edward Stagon has been transferred to Concordia Healthcare in Monroeville for physical therapy. Marti Baran is still at LGAR in Turtle Creek and Wally Perkins is improving after a heart procedure. Cards and phone calls are always welcome. If you need any contact information, please contact Fr. Joseph.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Metropolitan Gregory has issued an Archpastoral Letter (attached) with guidelines to keep our communities safer during this Pandemic. It is very important that people with underlying health condition, especially lung, respiratory, and autoimmune conditions take extra care and precautions, if necessary, **STAY HOME**. If you are not feeling well, **STAY HOME**. If you believe you have been exposed to the virus, **STAY HOME**. We are just at the start of this Pandemic in Western Pennsylvania. The first reported cases in Allegheny Country are now confirmed. As testing starts, the number of confirmed cases will increase exponentially. This is not said to panic anyone but to simply express the reality of how these pandemic's progress. Here at St. John's: **NO** kissing of icons, cross or priest's hand. The Kiss of Peace will be exchanged with a bow. Fellowship Hour is postponed and Lenten communal meals and in person CCE class on Fridays. Wash your hands. Use the provided hand sanitizers. All surfaces are being wiped down with disinfectant after every service. Open **WIDE** your mouths with receiving the Eucharist. Pray. If you have any questions, talk to Fr. Joseph. Expect updates.



Sundays of Great Lent

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

In one of the Psalms we can read the following words: Those who have sown with tears will reap with joy... If in the course of weeks of preparation, we have seen all that is ugly and unworthy in us mirrored in the parables, if we have stood before the judgement of our conscience and of our God, then we have truly sown in tears our own salvation. And yet, there is still time because even when we enter into the time of the harvest, God gives us a respite; as we progress towards the Kingdom of God, towards the Day of the

Resurrection, we still can, at every moment, against the background of salvation, in the face of the victory of God, turn to Him with gratitude and yet, broken-

hearted, and say, 'No, Lord! I am perhaps the worker of the eleventh hour - but receive me as Thou promised to do!'

Last week we have kept the day of the Triumph of Orthodoxy, the day when the Church proclaimed that it was legitimate and right to paint icons of Christ; it was not a declaration about art, it was a deeply theological proclamation of the Incarnation. The Old Testament said to us that God cannot be represented by any image because He was infinite mystery; He had even no Name except the mysterious name which only the High Priest know. But in the New Testament we have learned, and we know from experience that God has become Man, that the fullness of the Godhead has abided and is still abiding forever in the flesh; and therefore God has a human name: Jesus, and He has got a human face that can be represented in icons. An icon is therefore a proclamation of our certainty that God has become man; and He has become man to achieve ultimate, tragic and glorious solidarity with us, to be one of us that we may be one of the children of God. He has become man that we may become gods, as the Scripture tells us. And so, we could last week already rejoice; and this is why, a week before, when we were already preparing to meet this miracle, this wonder of the Incarnation, softly, in an almost inaudible way, the Church was singing the canon of Easter: Christ is risen from the dead! — because it is not a promise for the future, it is a certainty of the present, open to us like a door for us to enter through Christ, the Door as He calls Himself, into eternity.

And today we remember the name of Saint Gregory Palamas, one of the great Saints of Orthodoxy, who against heresy and doubt, proclaimed, from within the experience of the ascetics and of all believers, proclaimed that the grace of God is not a created Gift — it is God Himself, communicating Himself to us so that we are pervaded by His presence, that we gradually, if we only receive Him, open ourselves to Him, become transparent or at least translucent to His light, that we become incipiently and ever increasingly partakers of the Divine nature.

This is not simply a promise; this is a certainty which we have because this has happened to thousands and thousands of those men and women whom we venerate as the Saints of God: they have become partakers of the Divine nature, they are to us a revelation and certainty of what we are called to be and become.

And today one step more brings us into the joy, the glory of Easter. In a week's time we will sing the Cross — the Cross which was a terror for the criminals, and has become now a sign of victory and salvation, because it is to us the sign that God's love has no measure, no limits, is as deep as God is deep,

all-embracing as God is all-embracing, and indeed, as tragically victorious as God is both tragic and victorious, awe-inspiring, and shining the quiet, joyful light which we sing in Vespers.

Let us then make ourselves ready to meet this event, the vision of the Cross, look at it, and see in it the sign of the Divine love, a new certainty of our possible salvation; and when the choir sings this time more loudly the canon of the Resurrection, let us realise that step by step God leads us into a victory which He has won, and which He wants to share with us.

And then we will move on; we will listen to the Saint who teaches us how to receive the grace which God is offering, how to become worthy of Him; and a step more — and we will see the victory of God in Saint Mary of Egypt and come to the threshold of Holy Week. But let us remember that we are now in the time of newness, a time when God's victory is been revealed to us, that we are called to be enfolded by it, to respond to it by gratitude, a gratitude that will make us into new people — and also with joy! And joy full of tears in response to the love of God, and a joy which is a responsible answer to the Divine love. Amen!

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS – Adrienne Harms, Thomas Planiczki, Josephine Sofelkanik, Michael Sterchak, John Edward Stagon, Kathryn Rogulin, Cathy Pervuznik, 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, Kalina Walker and the child to be born of her, Ashley Yeagers and the child to be born of her. Fr. John Dixon, Fr. Jonathan Tobias, Fr Daniel Prez (Joe Monde's brother), Michelle Clayton. Please keep Father Joseph informed on changes to anyone's health status so he can minister to them.

March Memorial – Newly Departed, Paul Haruilesko, Michael Fitzurka, Milos Konjevich.

Perpetual: Metropolitan Nicholas, John Suvak, Rosella Lapato, Helen Marchak, Pauline and Michael Sabo, Darrel Weiss, Julia and Frank Kranik, Michael Sabo, George Wazso, Anna Bergel, Michael Seredich.

Pauline Dyakon, Helen Bloom, John Lillicotch, Andrew Kasenchak, Anna Gaydos, John Kokojko, Anna Lopovich, Michael Stripay, George Rela, Anna Suvak, Peter Danchik, Veronica Sterchak, Mary Zwisdak, Michael Orange, Helen Kosarich, Margaret Papinchak, Anna Ressatar, Paul Kobasa, Sr., Rose Plichta, Anna Rosenbayger, George Golofsky, Mary Gezzer, Joseph Papinchak, William Varhula, Mary Uram, Gregory Papinchak, Emma Evashavik, Eugene Brancho, John Begey.

MANY YEARS ! – and Happy Birthday to Sandra Babich 3/17 Cheryl Stagon 3/19 Sharon Monde 3/23 David Kalaluhi 3/24 Eileen Buck 3/25 Alexandra Maskaly 3/25 William Brancho 3/28

We do not glorify three gods, but only one divinity. In truth, we honor three Persons: the Father unbegotten, the Son begotten of the Father, and the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father, the Trinity of one God, and in faith, we glorify each with the name of God.

(From Sunday Matins for the 2nd Sunday of Great Lent)